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4th December 1947

**THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES**

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1947**



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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 4th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

INDUSTRIAL CENSUS IN INDIA.

581.*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any industrial census has so far been taken in India;
- (b) whether Government are aware that such census has been taken more than once in England; and
- (c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of organising such an industrial survey in India at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (c). Government are aware of the value of an industrial survey and have set up a central organisation for this purpose. This organisation took all preliminary action to conduct a census for 1946 of manufacturing industries organised on a factory scale. The necessary powers have been taken under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 which casts the duty on the Provinces to collect the actual figures and on the Central Government to correlate them. The present census will cover 29 industries or approximately 50 per cent of existing factories. It is the intention to extend the census gradually to cover all factories in existence. Unfortunately the Provinces have not as yet up organisations adequate to the task of collecting and checking the returns and only a small proportion of the returns has been received from them. The Government of India are reviewing the entire question and will discuss this with the Provincial Ministers at the ensuing Industries Conference.

(b) Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what the plans of the Government are—in how many years they expect to be able to complete this?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have just explained, our difficulty has been that the Provinces have not checked the returns which they were expected to do under the provisions of the Act. In fact nearly 40 per cent of the industries submitted their returns in 1944, 44 per cent of them submitted returns in 1945 and 70 per cent submitted their returns in 1946, and the Provinces have been able to check not more than 10 per cent for each of these three years. Unless the organisation acts in full co-operation with the Provinces it is very difficult for me to mention a date within which the work will be completed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this census being carried out under the direction of the Economic Adviser or under any other officer, and if so what is the relationship between this organisation and the Economic Adviser?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This is directed by the Statistic Officer, Dr. Kaul, who works under the Ministry of Industries, but I suppose he works in co-operation with the Economic Adviser.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether there is any constitutional difficulty in getting compulsory returns from all factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Factories are expected to file their returns, but the returns have got to be checked by the Provincial Governments, and the Provincial Governments do not have the machinery to do this work.

Shri K. Santhanam: Cannot the Central Government devise the machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is exactly what is now under consideration.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that mostly the industries concerned do not supply correct figures, and will he consider the question of appointing government Inspectors to visit the factories and collect the information?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Nearly about 70 per cent of the manufacturing industries on factory scale did submit their returns. But of course I quite realize the necessity for setting up an organisation which will work in a co-ordinated fashion.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: May I know what is the exact difficulty in the matter of receiving co-operation from the Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Provinces have no organisations of their own and up till now it has not been possible for the Centre to set up an organisation which will work in all the Provinces in India.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether the Government has taken the trouble to enquire about the caustic soda manufacturing factories in India, and if so how many factories there are?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Cannot the Inspectors of Factories take up this work?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is one of the suggestions which we made to the Provinces, but it was pointed out that they are already fully overworked.

Shri M. S. Aney: Cannot Factory Inspectors who were appointed some time ago be used by the Government of India for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I stated just now, in some cases an attempt was made, but they are already so overworked that they cannot do this work properly.

CLOTH RATION IN DELHI.

582. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cloth ration in Delhi has recently been increased and if so, in what proportion;

(b) whether Government are aware that the cloth ration in Delhi is high compared to the ration offered in different provinces;

(c) what quantity of cloth ration per adult is allotted in rural areas; and

(d) whether any effort will be made to increase the cloth ration for the people in the rural areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, the normal cloth ration in Delhi has been multiplied by four during the current quarter. The disturbances in the Punjab, and the consequent traffic dislocations, resulted in heavy accumulations of cloth with Mills and dealers in Delhi, which nobody in the disturbed areas was in a position to accept. It was decided to reduce these accumulations by increasing supplies to consumers in Delhi.

(b) Not the normal Delhi cloth ration.

(c) The normal quartely ration of cloth in Delhi's rural areas is 3 yards a head for adults and 3 yards for children, whereas in the urban area it is 4½ yards for adults and 2½ yards for children. As I have already said, these quotas have been multiplied by four in the current quarter.

(d) In view of what I have already stated, this does not seem necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is it that when Government was faced with the accumulations of cloth in Delhi Government thought it fit to distribute it only to residents of Delhi and not to rural areas or to distribute it to other Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the accumulations in Delhi were concerned, naturally they could be distributed only in Delhi because the main difficulty in the distribution of this cloth was transport. So far as the accumulations in other Provinces are concerned, orders have already been passed and they also are being distributed. I can give the latest figure. Up till this day 49,000 bales have been distributed from the accumulated quantity amongst the different Provinces in India.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that the quota in Delhi compared unfavourably with Calcutta and Bombay all along and it is only in this quarter that this extra quota was given?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that in Bengal and Bombay where there are big rural areas, the population in the cities of Calcutta and Bombay were benefitting at the cost of the rural population and were getting *per capita* greater ration than the people in the urban city of Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: On an average about 10 to 12 yards per head are allotted to each Province, barring a few Provinces in which exceptions were made, like N. W. F. P. and Sind which are outside our calculation today. It remains for the Province concerned to allocate the quota between the urban and rural areas. If in any particular Province the rural areas were given less, the Government of India has no responsibility at all in the matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: But the fact remains that Delhi did get less than what people in Calcutta and Bombay got.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know the approximate amount of cloth contained in each bale?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It comes to about 1,500 yards roughly.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: May I know when Government intend to decontrol cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is coming up as an item in the cut motions and the matter will be discussed then.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: Is he not prepared to give an answer in advance?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be decontrolled as soon as possible.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: What is the meaning of 'as soon as possible'?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

MOTOR CAR MANUFACTURING FACTORIES.

583. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many motor car manufacturing concerns have come into existence in India and where;

(b) their capacity for production of cars;

- (c) the assistance given by Government to them;
- (d) the control that Government have over their management; and
- (e) the plans of Government to establish in India a sufficient number of motor car manufacturing factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Three factories, two at Bombay and the other at Calcutta, are under construction.

(b) Their combined capacity when the entire plant has been installed is expected to be 20,000 vehicles per annum.

(c) Government are giving assistance to the three factories to obtain building materials and foreign technical assistance and have provided dollar facilities.

(d) None, Sir, but the concerns accept advice and instructions given by Government.

(e) Government proposes to promote and assist the establishment of two more factories.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who are the promoters and Directors of these three concerns?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The first one is connected with Birlas; the second with Mr. Walchand Hirachand; and the third is a Gujerati concern.

... Seth Govinddas: By what time do Government expect the first Indian car would come out from these factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: By 1950 or 1951 we expect that the car will be manufactured in India.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know if Government have taken any shares in these companies?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether all the parts of these cars will be manufactured in India or the parts will be imported and they will be merely assembled here?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Now of course they will be assembled in a large proportion, but by 1950 or 1951 it is expected that the cars will be manufactured in India.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to take shares in these companies?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That has not been considered.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know from Government whether Government did not get any other concerns in India than Birlas and others mentioned?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that this motor car manufacturing industry is a standardized one and there are not many risks involved in it, will Government consider the advisability of themselves starting a factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will be considered if necessary.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As the motor car industry is a key industry, does not the Government think that it should take steps to set up some industry by which it may be produced earlier?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The main difficulty will be about the manufacture of the engine and that will require a little time.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Have the Government given any tariff protection to the industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether Government consider that the motor car industry is a standardized industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that in the policy statement published by the Government of India two years ago it was stated this motor car manufacturing industry was considered to be one of those industries in which Government can very conveniently have a controlling interest?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That has not been considered by the present Government.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Do not any of these factories manufacture any part of a car?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Very small proportion now.

PRODUCTION OF MILLYARN AND CLOTH

564. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of mill yarn and cloth has gone down during this year and if so, why;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the pamphlets published by Shree Khandubhai Desai and also by Sri Vadilal Lallubhai about the various mal-practices indulged in by many Textile mill-owners; and

(c) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the margin of profits absorbed by the spinning mills and also the weaving mills, and what are the relative prices of cotton, yarn and cloth of the principal varieties used by the general public?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir, it is a fact that production of mill yarn and cloth has gone down during this year. This is due to the introduction of the 8 hour day, communal disturbances, strikes and absenteeism, and the tendency on the part of mills to change over to finer counts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the inception of cotton textiles control in 1943 Government have reduced the prices of cloth and yarn from time to time. A statement is laid on the table of the House which shows the relative prices as between cotton, yarn and cloth of some of the principal varieties.

Description of cloth	Warp and Weft counts				Cost of Cotton used per pound of grey cloth.	Cost of Yarn consumed per pound of grey cloth	Ex-mill price per pound of grey cloth.		
	Warp	Weft	Reed	Pick.			Rs.	As.	Ps.
1. Dhoti	19	19	40	36	0 11 5	1 1 8	1	7 2	
2. Special sheeting	13.5	15.5	42	38	0 11 5	0 14 1	1	8 0	
3. Twill	20	30	72	60	0 14 2	1 3 3		11 3	
4. Drill Grey	16	20	48/3	40	0 12 9	1 1 5	1	7 9	
5. Cellular Shirting	16	20	32/4	40	0 12 9	1 1 5	1	9	
6. Saree	16	20	40	40	0 12 9	1 1 11		1	
7. Long Cloth	122	30	52	48	0 14 2	1 4 6		0 3	

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, if the mills still are not making a profit in declaring a dividend of 20 to 50 per cent.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that there is a great disparity between the price of cotton, the price of yarn and the price of cloth, taking into consideration the relative cost of production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, the difference is not very wide. Of course the prices also vary. As the Honourable Member knows, the price of cotton is also going up now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, if in order to step up production there is any proposal to establish spinning mills by the State itself in some parts of India where cotton is grown, for instance in the Ceded districts of the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government has no plan under consideration for having its own textile mills.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what steps Government have taken to discourage the tendency on the part of mills to weave finer cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the resolution which was issued by the Government of India a few days ago on this subject. A committee was appointed and a standardized scheme has been adopted. Steps are being taken to enforce that scheme.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the price of fine cloth has not been reduced as compared with coarse cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have not reduced prices but we have reduced the price at which the mills will be paid, and the entire question of prices is being referred to the Tariff Board.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Are Government aware that there is a great disparity between the actual production and the production that is shown to the Textile Board figures?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I know that is what the Honourable Member has always maintained.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government be pleased to state whether the actual production as released corresponds to the actual outturn of the mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This proposition is very much challenged by the millowners themselves. But what we have done recently is we are going to have Unit Production Committees on which representatives of labour and also of the industry will sit. There will also be Regional Committees and we expect to have provincial committees and an all-India committee also to see that there is no waste or leakage so far as production goes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Did the Government however try to verify whether actual production corresponded with the statement submitted by the mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have just explained, we are now going to have a machinery which will make it possible for Government to check and verify the allegations which are now being made.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Have the Government any idea of allotting more yarn for the purpose of manufacturing sewing balls for which there is great demand from all provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If more yarn is produced, then Government will also consider that demand.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: The Bombay Kohinoor Mill is producing more yarn, but the quota is to be increased and distributed to provinces. Provinces require a larger quota and there is a great demand from dealers.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If any representation on that point is received, it will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the Madras Government has withdrawn its Control Officer over the spinning mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a matter for the provincial government to decide.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government, Sir, given any consideration to the resolution passed recently by the All India Congress Committee suggesting that the cloth control should be removed as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Honourable Member is aware that that is one of the matters which the Government has referred to the Tariff Board for advice.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister please state what portion of the decrease in production of yarn and cloth is due to strikes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is very difficult to say, but a large portion is.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Do Government propose to decentralise the production of cloth more and more, in view of the difficulties that have been experienced in its centralised production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as control over production is concerned it may be necessary to maintain it for some time, but Government do contemplate to decentralise so far as distribution is concerned.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai had made certain suggestions regarding increasing production and that at the instance of the Government he introduced those suggestions in his own mill and the production went up by 25 per cent.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: All those suggestions were taken into consideration by the *ad hoc* Committee appointed by the Government, and now we are making a further reference to the Tariff Board.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to know, Sir, whether production had gone up by 25 per cent. or more.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say whether it is 25 per cent., but the production has gone up.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that Mr. Gadgil, a Member of the Government had been deputed to the particular mill to go and verify the claims regarding increase in production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have no personal knowledge.

CONTROL OVER NEWSPRINT AND NEWSPAPERS.

585. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the control over newsprint and newspapers has been removed, a large number of newspapers have come to be started in different provinces;

(b) how many new newspapers, daily and weekly, have thus been started and in what provinces; and

(c) what has been the supply and price position of newsprint since the de-control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Since the removal in April 1947 of restrictions on newsprint, and on the starting of newspapers as well as on purchase and consumption of newsprint by newspapers, a number of newspapers have started publication.

(b) Information regarding the exact number of newspapers is not readily available.

(c) The arrivals of newsprint since the removal of the above mentioned restrictions have been generally satisfactory and compare favourably with the

present monthly consumption of newsprint, which has steadily gone up, as the following figures for 1947 would show:

	Arrivals of newsprint in the country	Consumption of newsprint by newspapers
1947	(Tons)	(Tons)
January	5,333	2,294
February	5,443	2,267
March	4,020	2,755
April	3,272	3,001
May	3,634	3,073
June	3,281	3,170
July	6,047	3,455
August	3,539	3,493
September	2,184	3,275
October	3,465	Figures not yet available.

The prices of newsprint in the manufacturing countries are understood to have slightly increased since April 1947. The Canadian prices are round about £40 per ton c.i.f. Indian port and the price of European newsprint varies from £50 to £55 per ton c.i.f. Indian port.

Seth Govinddas: Are any mills going to be started in India in the near future for producing newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Unfortunately there is no mill yet, but the Central Provinces is going to put up a mill for the manufacture of newsprint and I am informed that about 80,000 tons per year will be manufactured there. Baroda also has made some suggestions in this behalf and we propose to encourage them in carrying out their project.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Government going to purchase any shares as far as the mill proposed in the Central Provinces is concerned? If not, what kind of help is Government going to give to these two new ventures?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If any suggestion comes in this direction, I shall be certainly prepared to consider it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that the prices of Canadian newsprint is lower to the extent of £10—15 per ton than that of British or Norwegian product, will Government try to help the newspapers in getting larger quantities from Canada?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is done already.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has there been any success?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot tell.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the newsprint factory proposed to be started in the Central Provinces, a Government factory or a private enterprise?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think it is a private enterprise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is considerable black-marketing in dealings in this newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: When the Honourable Member is asking that question, I suppose there is black-marketing.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Member be able to tell the House if the Indian factories that are going to be started will be able to supply newsprint at competitive rates?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not gone into the details but I am told that the scheme is being worked out on a proper basis.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, have any steps been taken to stop the black-market in newsprint?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister has not admitted that there is black-marketing; he said that "if the Honourable Member says so, there might be."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is in possession of the unused balance of newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The importers themselves.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if any attempts are being made to manufacture wood pulp in India? There was a proposal some time ago to manufacture wood pulp by growing pine trees in Kashmir; is Government going to do anything in this matter and if so what is the stage at which the matter stands?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say definitely about Kashmir, but so far as the Andamans are concerned, which is a safe territory for the present, investigation has been undertaken by the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute in the direction which the Honourable Member mentions.

CONSTRUCTION OF KANCHARAPARA WORKSHOPS

†586. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on the locomotive factory proposed to be set up at Kancharapara in West Bengal has been commenced;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of shifting the centre to a strategically more convenient place inside the Union area; and

(c) whether the machinery etc., needed for the factory have been purchased and the experts, engineers and mechanics have been obtained, and when the manufacturing work is expected to commence?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The work was commenced in 1946 but was suspended in June 1947.

(b) Surveys of alternative sites in the vicinity of Asansol have been ordered and are now in hand.

(c) Indents for the purchase of machinery and plant have been placed. The services of expert staff will be obtained when necessary. Government have given this work top priority but it is too early to say when actual manufacturing will start.

OVERBRIDGE FOR AMRAOTI RAILWAY STATION.

587. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the present location of the Amraoti railway station is not convenient to the public?

(b) Are Government aware that the railway crossing is too narrow and requires widening and that the existence of the level crossing causes very great inconvenience to the public?

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(c) Do Government propose to construct an over-head bridge for pedestrians?

(d) Are Government aware that for want of such bridge, hundreds of pedestrians and cyclists are continuously held up for long periods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

The Civil Authorities are opposed to any shifting of the present station site.

(b) The Level Crossing in Amraoti Yard is an A class crossing meant for main roads. The width of the roadway is 30' which is according to specifications. So far as is known there have been no complaints either from the Provincial Government or from the public to the effect that the level crossing is too narrow or that it causes any inconvenience. Wicket gates which are provided on either side are being kept closed to prevent cyclists misusing them and exposing themselves to risk of serious accident.

(c) It is not proposed to construct a road over-bridge for pedestrians as the train service is not frequent.

(d) It is not a fact that pedestrians and cyclists are continuously held up for long periods. Whenever the level crossing is closed, some detention is inevitable but such periods are neither long nor frequent.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir, whose opinion the Honourable Member is quoting in giving his reply to part (d) of the question?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, this question was discussed by representatives of the Railway Administration as recently as August 1946 with the local Authorities in Amraoti and they were definitely opposed to the shifting of the site.

Shri M. S. Aney: When did the discussion take place?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The last time that our representatives had discussions with the local Authorities was August 1946.

Shri M. S. Aney: Will the Government make an enquiry into this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is hardly called for in the circumstances.

MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR CARS.

588. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the possibility of manufacture of motor-cars in the country?

(b) Are Government rendering any assistance in this respect? If so, what?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me today to Starred Question No. 588 by Prof. N. G. Ranga.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister if within a reasonable time, say two or three years, there is any chance of plant and machinery for the manufacture of motor cars being obtained from either England or America?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose the Honourable Member refers to manufacture of engines. That is under consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it worthwhile, Sir, producing motor cars in 1950, because by that time probably the world-market would overflow with motor cars?

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter of opinion.

NEW RAILWAY COACHES.

589. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that new Railway coaches for passengers are under construction?

(b) What number of coaches Government propose to put on traffic, during the current year?

(c) What method Government propose to adopt to renew the entire stock of Railway carriages which have been in dilapidated condition, during the last War?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). 96 coaches have already been constructed in Government Railway workshops and put into traffic since the beginning of 1947. 134 B. G. and 97 M. G. coaches are at present under construction in Railway workshops. Of these 28 B. G. and 5 M. G. coaches are expected to be ready before the end of the year. As these coaches are turned out further construction will be undertaken.

There are in addition about 300 B. G. coaches expected from indigenous industry before the end of 1948.

Steps are being taken to rehabilitate the existing stock as quickly as possible and to introduce new stock for which indigenous capacity to the extent available is being obtained.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know from the Honourable Minister to which Railway these 96 coaches that have been newly introduced belong?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are distributed amongst various Railways. I can give the information in greater detail to the Honourable Member later, if he requires.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether they are mostly third-class coaches or upper-class coaches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Mostly third class.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to instal electric fans in third and intermediate class compartments?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid these questions are oft put. It is no use pursuing these questions and wasting the time of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I was not here then, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know, Sir, at this rate in how many years Government will be able to replace all the existing coaches?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

FACILITIES TO LOWER CLASS RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

590. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the promises given to the public in the last Budget session of the Legislative Assembly, to give more facilities to the lower class passengers in our railways?

(b) How far have Government progressed in improving the conditions of travel in Indian Railways?

(c) What are the reactions Government have got so far about the proposed silver arrow train that was exhibited throughout the country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Since the cessation of hostilities, Class I Railways have reintroduced or extended 1146 trains, covering a daily mileage of 70,375.

New coaching stock has been and is being put into traffic as fast as possible. It is realised that the total railway workshop capacity alone on Indian Railways cannot cope with the demands for coaching stock for replacement of over-age stock and for additional traffic. Indigenous capacity is also being utilised to the maximum extent to supplement railway workshop production.

Railways have augmented considerably their cleaning staff for attention to coaches. Mobile gangs are being provided to ensure cleanliness of coaches during the run and at important junctions cleaning staff attend trains during all parts of the day and night. Overhead filling arrangements have been considerably strengthened and a number of additional stations have been provided with these facilities to ensure that there is no shortage of water. The various stores necessary for cleaning carriages have also been sanctioned on a much larger scale than during pre-war years. Gangs for spraying insecticides and deodorants in carriages have been widely employed.

Additional staff are being provided at many stations for the booking of passengers and the number of stations with a 24 hour continuous booking has been increased. Additional waiting rooms and lavatories have been provided at a number of stations, and existing waiting halls are being progressively improved.

Additional hydrants are being provided for supply of water at stations where a pipe water supply is available.

Every effort is being made to provide adequate lighting in trains. Latest reports from railways show that some improvement is being achieved.

Railways are appointing passenger guides at stations to help passengers.

(c) As a result of the opinions obtained on the Silver Arrow, a revised schedule of requirements for design of coaching stock has been drawn up, 11'-8" stock will be built incorporating these requirements which include among other amenities more seating space per passenger, more comfortable seats, improved lighting, more spacious lavatories and drinking water alcoves.

All new stock will be provided with fans in III class compartments in so far as electric equipment is available.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, this question has been thoroughly discussed during the Budget, but I want to put only one supplementary. Why these first-class bogies are not abolished according to the promise of the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter is under consideration. I hope to come to a decision very soon on this question.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to appoint women guides for the convenience of woman passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have they appointed them anywhere?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I believe there are a few women Inspectresses appointed. The appointment of women guides for the benefit of third-class women passengers is a proposal which is being seriously considered at present and is likely to be introduced at an early date.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state the total money spent on providing these facilities to third-class passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think I gave some figures on this point during the general discussion of the Budget.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: No, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The provision that we made for the current year on the pre-partition basis was about a couple of crores. Now, of that, on the post-partition basis, the expenditure that we are going to incur is somewhere about Rs. 170 lakhs. Whether the whole of it will be spent or not during the year will depend upon the availability of materials.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Are Government aware that in many stations third-class passengers are forced to wait in the open air and even spend whole nights for want of sufficient waiting room facilities and what do Government propose to do to mend this state of affairs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is true Sir, that at some stations the position is as described, but we are now trying to remedy it as far as we can.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that during the Budget Session the Honourable Minister had promised to appoint woman guides, and if so, what was the difficulty in appointing them so far?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Since the beginning of June, *i.e.*, three months after I made this promise, it has been difficult for the Railways to perform their normal functions.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I know, but what was being done for three months from April to June, when women guides can be had so easily?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not quite so easy as the Honourable Member thinks.

RECRUITMENT OF DRIVERS.

591. ***Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many drivers have been recruited in the recent emergency from amongst those who offered their services?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of them went away as Government could not give them attractive salaries and warm clothing?

(c) In view of the shortage of trained hands, what action Government propose to take to meet the emergency.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Fifty-two drivers reported themselves for duty on the Eastern Punjab Railway. Of these forty-six were retained. Of the remaining three were returned at their own request, two were found unfit and one went away without authority.

(b) No.

(c) Steps have been taken to provide intensive training for the purpose of making drivers available in the shortest possible time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Arising out of answer to part (c) of the question, may I know from the Honourable Minister whether about 700 employees, out of whom 200 belong to superior staff like drivers, have come out from Pakistan and they have not been provided with service so far. What is the reason, and are they likely to be provided for?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think, Sir, I discussed this question at some length in my Budget speech. We have had about 125 or 126 thousand people from Pakistan who opted for India. Out of that, we have so far provided for about 108 thousand. Posting orders have been issued to them. Now, that is a job of enormous difficulty, but we are doing our best.

So far as the question of drivers is concerned, one way in which we were able to remedy the serious shortage that has occurred was by recruitment of people who have come here from Pakistan.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether for the period they are unemployed, they will get their salaries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not think the Honourable Member is familiar with the difficulties involved in this problem. As a matter of fact, the majority of these people who have come from Pakistan are people who have had to flee from that country. They have not got their papers and when we have to issue posting orders, we have got to base them entirely on what they say about themselves. If a man comes to me and says "I am a driver; I have been a driver for 20 years" I have no option but to take him at his statement. Owing to this situation, serious mistakes have occurred.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that drivers offered themselves for service from South India, but were not treated properly and many of them were discontented and some of them returned to their homes?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is precisely on that point, I have just given the reply: "The statement is entirely inaccurate."

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the South Indian drivers wanted warm clothing and they were refused warm clothing?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They have all been provided with warm clothing.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I ask if those of the employees who have come from Pakistan under the agreement with the Government of India, so long as they are not provided with service, will they be paid their due wages?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir; they will be paid.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it a fact, Sir, that some of them have refused their salaries for the last two months, and they were asked to apply for leave and they were told that their salary will be counted as on leave.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The reason why they refused it was that it was not possible in certain cases to get the necessary documentary evidence on which the posting could be made.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know, Sir, that their salaries will be paid to them after all these formalities have been completed.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It will depend on the circumstances of each case.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF AMERICAN TECHNICAL MISSION.

592. ***Shri K. Santhanam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state which of the recommendations contained in the Report of the American Technical Mission to India in 1942 were adopted?

(b) Which of the recommendations were rejected by the Government of India?

(c) Have the Government of India reviewed the matter in the light of the changed political conditions?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). The position is explained in the Memorandum issued by Government on the Grady Report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(c) No Sir, but the matter will receive attention.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, when the Memorandum was issued?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Memorandum was issued about three years ago, after the Grady Report.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I point out, Sir, that my question is about an up-to-date statement as to which of the recommendations were then not adopted and whether they will be reconsidered since the formation of the new Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The present Government have not considered the matter nor have they reached a decision on it. It is receiving attention now. But if the Honourable Member would specifically ask about any of these items which were covered by the Grady Report, I shall be glad to answer. I have here about 20 different sections dealing with various items which are considered in the Grady Report.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I suggest that the Government may issue a Memorandum now, so that we may not ask questions on every point of detail?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the Government revise their previous decision, then certainly a Memorandum will be issued.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable the Minister if he will place such of the recommendations as were not accepted by the previous Government for re-consideration before the Industrial Conference meets on the 15th and 16th of March?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Department is considering the report.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will that matter be placed before the Conference for consideration?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be considered.

Shri B. Das: The recommendations of the Grady Report were only intended to assist the U. K. and U. S. A. in the war efforts of India and what use will it be for the Free India Government to follow those recommendations which are so antiquated?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report deals with certain matters connected with war activities and at this stage they are completely out of date. But the Report also made certain recommendations regarding India's future industrial development and they might be useful.

DEVELOPMENT OF JUBBULPORE AERO-DROME.

593. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to develop Jubbulpore aerodrome for Civil traffic.

(b) If so, when is the scheme likely to come into operation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir. The plans of the Government of India for the development of civil aviation provide for the development of the Jubbulpore Aerodrome to the standard of a "Minor" aerodrome.

(b) The Jubbulpore Aerodrome is at present an uncontrolled aerodrome and is available only for occasional use by civil aircraft. It is expected that necessary facilities for the operation of scheduled air services will be provided at this aerodrome in the near future.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Member aware, Sir, that Jubbulpore is the second city of the Central Provinces and there cannot be any Civil traffic there unless that Aerodrome there which is in a most wretched condition is improved and that also immediately.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I have just stated that in the near future it will be provided with an aerodrome fit for the operation of scheduled air services.

Seth Govinddas: May I ask if the Honourable Member is aware that real air service has not begun in Jubbulpore on account of the unfitness of the aerodrome?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is true.

Seth Govinddas: Then, Sir, may I know when we can expect the new aerodrome will be built in Jubbulpore.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I have just said in the near future.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member consider the question of constructing an aerodrome at Amraoti, Sir, the third biggest city in the Central Provinces?

Mr. Speaker: The question refers to Jubbulpore aerodrome.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know if Government will consider favourably the building of a suitable aerodrome in Lucknow also?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; Next question.

INDIAN COAL FIELDS COMMITTEE.

594. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government till now on the principal recommendations of the Indian Coal Fields Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not possible within the limitations of time and space to refer here to all the recommendations made by the Indian Coalfields' Committee. The main recommendations, involving matters of policy, pertain to the production, transport and conservation of coal. The broad objectives have been accepted by Government and the action taken is indicated below:—

Production and Transport.—Committee has been set up to draw up a co-ordinated plan of coal production and transport over the next five years with indications of appropriate priority for the various areas and projects. Due to the delay in the receipt of the remarks of certain Provincial Governments and private bodies, which had been consulted in the matter, and other reasons, the Committee has not yet been able to complete its task.

Conservation.—A Committee has been set up to prepare a programme of sand-stowing for the next 10 years.

It will still take some time to put into effect the other recommendations of the Committee regarding conservation of metallurgical coal *e.g.*, (i) prohibition of supplies to other than essential consumers; (ii) beneficiation of lower quality coals by washing and blending; and (iii) curtailment of output.

Enforcement of (i) is deferred until the production of good quality non-metallurgical coal is stepped up sufficiently to meet requirements, *e.g.*, of the Railways. A start on washing is being made shortly when the equipment on order by a private concern arrives. But a good deal of study on the laboratory and pilot plant scales must precede large-scale measures of beneficiation. This will be one of the principal tasks of the Fuel Research Institute when it is ready. Implementation of (iii) must be done in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned who have been already addressed on certain ancillary matters.

2. The action taken on certain other important recommendations is shown below:—

State Acquisition of mineral rights.—The Governments of Bengal and Bihar have been addressed over the procedure and principles of acquisition and their replies are awaited.

Contract system for coal raising/over-burden removal at Railway collieries.—The system has been abolished at three collieries and its abolition at others is under consideration.

Withdrawal of monetary concessions on Export coal.—This is under consideration and an early decision is expected.

Fuel research—The question of extending the scope of the Fuel Research Institute and of starting Field Survey stations for undertaking a classification of Indian coals has been considered by the Fuel Research Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and their recommendations are now being submitted to Government.

3. The recommendations of the Committee regarding administrative machinery for dealing with the coal industry have not so far been considered due to political and constitutional difficulties; but it is hoped to take them up in the very near future.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister please state if any concessions are being extended to Coal miners since the tax concessions given by Government in the past must have been of necessity withdrawn?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am afraid I cannot answer off-hand. If the Honourable Member gives details, I shall examine it.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know what steps are taken to acquire the rights of ownership as recommended by the Indian Coalfields' Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have referred the matter to two Provincial Governments and we shall consider the matter as soon as we get the reply.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know how many coalfields are still being worked by British and other foreign concerns?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Most of the big collieries are still controlled by foreign concerns.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister try to find out some way by which these concerns may come to Indian hands?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a matter of general policy for Government to adopt; we shall bear that in mind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that a Coal Committee reported more than two years ago in favour of the State acquiring mineral rights, how is it that even today Government think it necessary to refer this question back to the provincial Governments and thus waste so much time?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Honourable Member knows very well that the Government which functioned before 15th August, 1947 was not in a position to consider this question involving future State policy.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government consider the urgent need of taking this key industry under State control, specially because the Railway Minister told us the other day that coal was the real bottleneck in the way of improving transport?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is now being considered. As the Honourable Railway Minister stated, it is not want of coal from which the country suffers but on account of transport difficulties coal is not being distributed.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Which are the three collieries where the contract system for recruiting labour has been abolished?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are, (1) Some units of the Giridih Colliery; (2) the Jallandi Colliery and (3) the Savang Colliery.

PRODUCTION OF BENZOL IN INDIA.

595. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the quantity of Benzol produced in India during war time and at present?

(b) How far is it used at present for mixing with petrol as motor fuel and what economies are thereby effected in reducing the imports of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) About 1.2 million gallons and 1.75 million gallons per annum, respectively.

(b) During 1947 about 1.68 million gallons of Benzol will have been used in lieu of Motor Spirit, out of a total estimated supply of 164.325 million gallons of Motor Spirit. This means roughly an Economy of about 1 per cent.?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that it conduces to economy why should they have so much import of petrol which is not produced in this country and manufacture Benzol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The question of making fuller use of Benzol as a substitute is being considered. Of course the economy represents only 1 per cent.

IMPORT OF LOCOMOTIVES

596. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of locomotives which have been obtained for the Indian Railways since the termination of the war from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and any other country?

(b) What is the total number of locomotives for which Government have placed orders in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and any other country and when Government expect to obtain delivery of these locomotives?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Since the official termination of the War, namely 1st April, 1946, 150 Broad Gauge locomotives have been received in India against orders placed during the War years. Of these, 130 are from the United Kingdom and 20 from Canada. An order for 16 Broad Gauge locomotives was placed this year in United States of America and deliveries of these locomotives have just been completed.

351 Metre Gauge locomotives have been purchased from the lease-lend stock. These were in service in India during the War. Negotiations for the purchase of 9 more such Metre Gauge locomotives are in progress.

(b) Orders have been placed for 390 Broad Gauge locomotives in the United Kingdom and 150 Broad Gauge locomotives in Canada. These locomotives are expected to be delivered before August 1950.

The India Supply Mission, Washington, have been asked to place orders for 33 Metre Gauge locomotives.

Orders have also been placed for the manufacture of 10 Broad Gauge and 68 Metre Gauge locomotives in the Ajmer Workshop. Delivery dates of these locomotives are not yet known.

Shri K. Santhanam: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know what the average price of a broad-gauge locomotive is?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It varies greatly according to the design of the locomotive and the source of production. On the most recent order that we have placed and with reference to which I have received quotations I think it is approximately 3½ lakhs; but that is subject to correction.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Were these locomotives purchased at open competitive rates and after inviting tenders?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any locomotives have been ordered from Tata's in this country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are not yet in a position to produce locomotives. At present they are only producing boilers. I think it will take a couple of years before they are in a position to manufacture locomotives.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is no country in the world barring the United Kingdom, United States and Canada in a position to supply locomotives to our country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have been making extensive investigations on that subject, and the basis on which orders are placed is partly a question of price and partly a question of deliveries. With reference to these two considerations we find that for the present it is more convenient from our point of view to place orders in the United Kingdom and the United States. But the question that the Honourable Member raised is very much present to our minds.

Shri K. Santhanam: Can Czechoslovakia supply them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are considering that.

Shri B. Das: Are these orders for locomotives now placed by the London Stores Department or have the Government of India got a department here which analyses all tenders and places orders?

The Honourable Dr.-John Matthai: We do it with the assistance of the London office.

WAGONS FOR TRANSPORTING COAL

597. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps have been taken to remove the delay in turn-round of wagons which is reported to be the cause of the shortage of wagons?

(b) How do Government propose to remove the prevailing disequilibrium in the demand for and the supply of wagons for the movement of coal?

(c) What steps have been taken by Government, from time to time, to adjust the allotment of wagons to the railways and other consumers for transporting coal and how far Government have succeeded in doing so?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what are the quantities of monthly production and the number of wagons of coal despatched since the termination of the war?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As I stated during my Budget speech, there are various causes for delays in the turnround of wagons. The first and the biggest is the slowing down in the handling of goods traffic owing to civil disturbances. Another factor is change in the direction of traffic from that for which yard and track capacity were designed. Thirdly, the deterioration in the quality of service now obtainable from locomotives. Railways are doing everything possible more effectively to regulate traffic through yards and on single line sections, certain works for increasing the capacity of the line are in train and Railways are examining continuously ways and means of speeding up the transit of goods wagons.

(b) It is presumed that this refers to the short-supply of wagons in the Berhal and Bihar coalfields area for the movement of coal. The average daily loadings are now of the order of 2,700 wagons per day. It would interest the Honourable Member to know that on 14 days in November, 1947, loadings exceeded that figure and touched a maximum of 3,121 wagons. This is indicative of the consistent attempts which are being made to improve loadings. Such endeavours will continue.

(c) The allotment of coal to particular consumers is the business of the Coal Commissioner who works under the Ministry of Industry and Supply. It is his duty to distribute, in accordance with the importance of the industries, coal supplies within the number of wagons made available by the Railways from day to day in the coalfields area. So far as Government is aware, generally speaking, industries have been supplied with sufficient quantities of coal so as not to hinder work.

(d) A statement giving details of monthly production of coal and the tonnage despatched by rail will be prepared and laid on the table.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know whether there is an organisation now to control wagon movement similar to what obtained during the war?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a very considerable element of wagon control; otherwise it would be impossible to control the question of priority.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has received representations from the coal mine owners in the Bengal collieries that a good deal of undesirable favouritism is indulged in by the authorities in the matter of distribution of wagons? If so, what steps have been taken to remedy this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which falls within the province of my Honourable colleague the Minister for Industry and Supply.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the short supply of wagons is also due to a large number of wagons being held up in Pakistan—as many as 2,000—where coal was carried by these wagons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I think to some extent that is true. Up to two weeks ago I believe a large number of wagons that were sent to Pakistan, particularly Western Pakistan, was held up for an unduly long period. But I am glad to say that during the past ten days there has been a perceptible improvement in the return of these wagons.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the Pakistan Government's attitude towards us improved, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question hour is over.

(b) *Written Answers*

COAL ECONOMY BY THE RAILWAYS

598. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what economies have the Railways been able to effect in the consumption of higher grade coal for loco purposes and how far the Railways have been able to use lower grade coal for loco traffic?

(b) Have Government investigated the feasibility of using Diesel oil for traction with a view to supplementing supplies of coal used for loco traffic?

(c) Have the Official Committee set up by the Government of India to draw up, in consultation with the interests concerned, a co-ordinated plan of coal production and transportation in the next five years, submitted their recommendations?

(d) If so, what are the principal recommendations of the Committee and what decisions have the Government of India taken on these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Railways are making every endeavour to reduce their consumption of the higher grades of coal.

In 1937-38, 54 per cent. of the coal consumed by railways was of selected grades as compared with a figure of 88 per cent. in 1946-47. As regards the lower grades coal the comparative figures are 5 per cent. and 22 per cent.

(b) Yes. Prior to partition, 30 Diesel electric locomotives were in use on Railways. Proposals to introduce Diesel electric traction on certain sections of the former N. W. Railway were under consideration but they were dropped owing to the partition.

(c) Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

STATE AID TO PRIVATE INDUSTRIES

599. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government propose to give State aid to private agencies which start industries or whether Government will take the initiative in starting industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The matter is now under consideration of Government. Apart from a Special Economic Sub-Committee of Cabinet, various problems relating to the future industrial development of India will also be considered at the Industries Conference to be held on and from the 15th December 1947. The Provincial Ministers and representatives of important Indian States and of Industry and Labour will be present at the Conference. The Government of India hope to be able to announce shortly their future industrial policy.

PRIVATE PLANES COMMANDERED FOR KASHMIR DEFENCE

600. *Mr. B. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of planes from private firms employed during the defence of Kashmir together with the names of the companies which owned them?

(b) How many planes and of what company were manned by Indian pilots, and how many and of what company were piloted by Europeans?

(c) Is it a fact that European pilots on the first day or thereabout before flying demanded higher salary and extra emoluments and refused to pilot until their demands were met?

(d) Do Government propose to see that until all Indian companies employ Indian pilots they will not be granted license?

(e) What steps have Government taken to see that various companies plying plane service train full complement of Indian pilots?

(f) What is the grade of salary and other allowances of a European pilot and that of an Indian?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) About 40 aircraft belonging to various air operating companies, a list of whom I lay on the table of the House, were employed in the air operations to Kashmir.

(b) The number of pilots engaged in the operations was 142, of whom 80 were Indians and the rest of other nationalities, including Europeans. Except for Air India Limited, all of whose pilots are Indian, the air-crews of all the companies include both Indians and Europeans.

(c) No such demand was made to Government.

(d) No, Sir. Such a course will be highly detrimental to the development of air transport in India and will retard progress, specially at this stage, when Indian aviation is still not fully developed.

(e) The question of expanding facilities for the training of Indian Pilots is engaging the attention of Government.

(f) The salaries and allowances of pilots are fixed by the companies concerned in direct relation to the qualifications and experience of the individuals. No distinction is made on grounds of nationality.

List of Air Operating Companies

1. AIR INDIA LIMITE
2. AIR SERVICES OF INDIA, LIMITE
3. MISTRY AIRWAYS LIMITED
4. AIRWAYS (INDIA) LIMITED.
5. AMBICA AIR LINES LIMITED.
6. INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS LIMITED.
7. BHARAT AIRWAYS LIMITED.
8. DALMIA JAIN AIRWAYS LIMITED.
9. JUPITER AIRWAYS LIMITED.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOME AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

601. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) What Government propose to do for the development of home and cottage industries; and

(b) whether Government propose to decentralise certain industries and if so, what those industries are?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Development of Home and Cottage Industries is primarily the responsibility of Provincial Governments. This subject is, however, included in the agenda of the ensuing Industries Conference with a view to discussing what assistance, if any, should be given by the Central Government.

(b) Urgent problems relating to industrial Development of India will be discussed at the forthcoming Conference where all the Provinces and important States will be represented, and the future industrial policy of the Government of India will be determined thereafter.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING AND CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS

602. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to prevent the increasing volume of ticketless travelling; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to stop bribery and corruption in the Railway offices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) To prevent ticketless travel, railways are providing additional booking offices, with opening hours regulated by the demand for tickets, tightening control at station entrances and exits; strengthening their ticket collecting and checking staff; calling upon officers of all departments to co-operate in a drive to counteract this practice, and taking steps to bring home to railway staff that it is their duty to acquire a higher sense of responsibility towards the State and take more effective steps to prevent this leakage of badly needed revenue. As I stated in my budget speech, the problem has gone beyond railway measures and has now also to be tackled as a problem of law and order. In the U. P., where the trouble is particularly acute, I have arranged, after discussion with the Honourable the Premier, for a concerted drive against ticketless travel with an additional police force, and in each district a special magistrate. The Railway Board have approached other Provincial Governments with a request for the utmost co-operation with the railways in their endeavours to suppress irregular travel.

(b) A special police organisation has been in existence since 1942-48 for the apprehension of officials found guilty of corrupt practices. Special tribunals

have been set up for the prompt disposal of detected cases. Railway Administrations have instructions to prosecute with the utmost vigour both parties to detect illegal transactions in respect of reservation of train accommodation. The procedure in reservation offices has been tightened up and supervision and surprise checks have been increased.

PETROL CONSUMPTION IN AJMER-MERWARA

603. *Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the petrol allotments made to Ajmer-Merwara during the years 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48;

(b) the actual consumption of petrol in Ajmer-Merwara during these years and whether any quantity was surrendered out of the allotted quantity during these years and if so, how much and when;

(c) on what basis or principles petrol released for consumption is distributed amongst the various transport operators and the private car owners (basic and Supplementary) in the province, and what was the quantity of petrol released to each operator in the years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47; and

(d) the various routes which Bus service run in the province and the number of buses for which permits have been issued for these routes and whether petrol has been issued for all these buses or to some of them and if not to all, for what reasons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The quarterly petrol quotas allotted to Ajmer-Merwara during the six rationing quarters ending January, 1948, are as follows:—

	Gallons
August—October, 1946	64,000
November, 1946—January, 1947	79,000
February—April, 1947	85,000
May—July, 1947	85,000
August—October, 1947	57,000
November, 1947—January, 1948	41,000

For the February—April, 1942, rationing quarter a quota of approximately 35,000 gallons was allotted. During the intervening period no specific quotas were allocated to any of the Provinces or States, but an overall direction was given to all of them to achieve the maximum possible economy so as to result in a saving of 50 per cent.

(b) I lay on the table a statement showing the actual consumption of motor spirit in Ajmer-Merwara from 1st February 1942 to 31st July 1947. For the subsequent period figures of actual consumption are not available. Out of the allocation of 85,000 gallons for the May—July 1947 quarter, 10,000 gallons were surrendered by Ajmer-Merwara.

(c) The guiding principles to which an Area Rationing Authority should have regard in deciding the amount of motor spirit for which coupons may be issued, are laid down in the Second Schedule appended to the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941.

The information regarding the actual amount of petrol issued to each operator in Ajmer-Merwara during the years 1944-45 to 1946-47 is not available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(d) The information is being obtained and will be placed on the table of the house as soon as available.

Statement showing actual quarterly consumption of motor spirit in Ajmer-Merwara from the quarter February—April 1942.

	(Quantities in gallons)
February—April, 1942	52,568
May—July, 1942	33,152
August—October, 1942	8,738
November—January, 1943	13,244
February—April, 1943	14,936
May—July, 1943	14,028
August—October, 1943	14,688
November—January, 1944	17,964
February—April, 1944	15,248
May—July, 1944	14,010
August—October, 1944	14,188
November—January, 1945	17,078
February—April, 1945	15,028
May—July 1945	15,244
August—October, 1945	20,390
November—January, 1946	23,876
February—April, 1946	26,488
May—July, 1946	27,769
August—October, 1946	31,160
November—January, 1947	43,973
February—April, 1947	45,699
May—July, 1947	52,407

INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PETROL TO AJMER-MERWARA.

604. *Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of buses on these routes are lying idle for want of petrol and the travelling public is being seriously inconvenienced as there is no other means of transport on some of these routes;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take suitable measures to relieve the public of this inconvenience; and

(c) whether Government proposes to consider the advisability of increasing the quota of petrol allotted to Ajmer-Merwara, considering the requirements of the province and the great inconvenience to which the public is being put on account of the inadequate supply of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) So far as the Central Government are aware, no buses in Ajmer-Merwara have been rendered idle due to inadequacy of the petrol allocation.

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

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS IN PAKISTAN

605. *Giani Gurmukhsingh Musatar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in possession of the records of post office cash certificates and Savings Bank accounts of non-Muslims of the Pakistan area; and

(b) in case Government have handed over the records to the Pakistan authorities, the action Government propose to take for the payment of cash certificates and Savings Bank amounts to those who have lost their original cash certificates and pass books in Pakistan?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) No, Sir. There are joint records for both Muslim and non-Muslim investors. These were handed over to the Pakistan authorities in respect of Post Offices located in Pakistan.

(b) Depositors and investors who are not in possession of pass books and cash certificates have been asked to apply to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, India. Their applications are being considered on merits in consultation with the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Pakistan. Those in possession of pass books and cash certificates held in post offices in Western Pakistan are allowed to make partial withdrawals from their Savings Bank Accounts or encash their certificates as the case may be, subject to certain conditions.

UNSATISFACTORY TRAVELLING CONDITIONS ON O. T. RAILWAY

606. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no satisfactory arrangement for the supply of water to passengers on the Oudh Tirhut Railway generally, and on the stations between Barielly and Kathgodam particularly, even during the hot season and that the water-pipes at these stations are either broken or are otherwise unserviceable;

(b) whether Government are aware that the general condition of the passenger trains on this line is dirty, windows and berths are broken, there is no light at all or the same is out of order, there is no water in the lavatories and that there is no satisfactory arrangement for cleansing the compartments regularly; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take to redress these longstanding grievances and improve the general conditions for the benefit of the travelling public?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government understand that adequate arrangements now exist at all stations on the O. T. Railway for the supply of water to passengers either from taps provided on platforms or by watermen specially appointed for the purpose. On the 11 stations on the Bareilly-Kathgodam section 15 watermen are employed permanently and six additional watermen are provided every year during the hot weather. It is reported that water pipes are frequently broken through mis-use by the public, and although an organisation exists for effecting repairs promptly, shortage of materials required for the purpose, sometimes causes delay.

(b) Government are aware that the general condition of the passenger trains on the O. T. Railway leaves much to be desired. Difficulties in replacement and maintenance resulting from war conditions have been aggravated by extensive sabotage of materials and theft of fittings indulged in by certain irresponsible members of the travelling public.

(c) Arrangements have already been made for the provision of cleaning and watering facilities at all terminal points and in addition rake attendants are being appointed to ensure the cleanliness of compartments. Special gangs have been appointed to supervise train lighting arrangements. Steps are being taken to replace overaged and damaged stock as quickly as possible.

NEW MODEL PASSENGER COACHES

607. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many passenger coaches of the new model have been constructed by this time;

(b) whether any improvement has been made in the model exhibited at Delhi and other stations; and

(c) when Government propose to put in service the first train of this model?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Coaches to the new design have not yet been constructed.

(b) When the Silver Arrow train was exhibited at various centres, a questionnaire was issued to the public to determine their reaction to the proposed internal layouts. The replies to the questionnaire have been duly considered and a revised schedule of requirements of design has been prepared. Negotiations are in progress with certain indigenous firms for the building of light weight 11 ft. 8 in. wide IIIrd class coaches incorporating these requirements.

(c) Sample coaches manufactured by indigenous firms are likely to be ready for trials in August 1948. Bulk orders for the new design carriages will be placed thereafter on indigenous firms.

MUSLIM PERSONNEL OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

608. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated Monday the 20th November, 1947 from Badaun (United Provinces) that the Muslim personnel of the post and Telegraph Department who had originally opted for Pakistan have been allowed to resume their duties in Badaun district and that their waiting period will be counted as leave on pay?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes, Sir. They were allowed to rejoin on their changing their original option, which was provisional for Pakistan, to final for India. As to how the waiting period should be treated no decision has yet been reached.

STEEL, IRON AND CEMENT FOR UNITED PROVINCES

609. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply please state:

(a) the quota of steel, iron and cement allotted to the United Provinces;

(b) the basis of allotment;

(c) whether any representation has been made by the Government of the United Provinces for an increase in the quota; and

(d) if so, what steps have Government taken to meet the demand of the Government of the United Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b) 30,300 tons of steel were allotted to the United Provinces, in 1947, and 4,905 tons in period I of 1948. Provincial quotas of steel are calculated on the basis of population (1941 census)—a weightage equal to three times the population being allowed for cities having more than one lakh of inhabitants. Pig iron and cement are not distributed Province-wise.

(c) Representations have been received for the quick despatch of steel against the quota allotted to the United Provinces and for their demands for cement being met in full.

(d) Every endeavour is being made to expedite the delivery of steel and also to meet the demands of cement as far as possible.

NEW BRANCH LINES ON O. T. RAILWAY

610. *Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new branch lines on the Oudh Tirhut Railways in the district of Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and if so, what are the names of all such proposed routes;

(b) whether Government are aware that during the last session of the Bihar Assembly it was decided to move the Government of India for opening a new Railway line from Hajipur to Sugauli, Vaishali, and Kesaria;

(c) whether Government are aware of the need for—

(i) a new Railway line from Hajipur to Sugauli; and

(ii) a new rail route from Sitamardhi to Soubarsa; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, when the above projects will be taken up?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The only line approved for investigation in consultation with the Provincial Government in the district of Muzaffarpur is between Sitamarhi and Sonbarsa.

(b) A copy of the Resolution passed in the Bihar Legislative Assembly on the 3rd October 1947 in regard to the construction of a new railway line from Hajipur to Sagauli via Sahebganj, Govindganj and Areraj has been received from the Bihar Government.

(c) The answer to this is covered by the replies to parts (a) and (b).

(d) The field work for the survey of Sitamarhi to Sonbarsa line has been completed and survey reports are awaited. A decision in regard to the construction will be taken after examination of the Survey Reports. The proposal to construct a line from Hajipur to Sagauli will be placed before the Central Board of Transport for their opinion and, if approved, a survey will be undertaken.

NEW RAILWAY LINE SOUTH INDIA

611. *Shri P. Kakkan: Will the Honourable the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to open a railway line from Madura to Karikudi Malur (Madura District) and Tirupattur (Ramnad District) which was surveyed some years ago by the Railway Board?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Government have at present no proposal to construct a railway line from Madura to Karaikudi via Malur and Tirupattur.

NON-RETURN OF WAGONS FROM PAKISTAN

612. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of wagons carrying coal and other essential goods to Pakistan have not been returned?

(b) If so, what is the total number of such wagons and what steps are being taken to bring them back?

(c) Is it a fact that because of the failure of the Government of Pakistan to return these wagons, the transport of coal in the country has been greatly hampered resulting in loss to commerce and industry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Approximately, 3,856 Broad Gauge and 1,082 Metre Gauge wagons sent to the Pakistan Railways on and after 16th August, 1947 had not been returned by 31st October, 1947. Consequent on the partition, a general upsetting of operational conditions was inevitable. The Director of Wagon Interchange who controls the Broad and Metre Gauge Wagon Pools to which the Pakistan Railways are a party, has been pressing upon the Pakistan Railways to return some of the stock, and has reported that a distinct improvement in the return of wagons by the Pakistan Railways is noticeable from 1st November 1947. With improve-

ment in operational conditions, it is expected that the Pakistan Railways will be in a position to return more wagons, the number to be returned depending upon final allocation to those Railways of the Rolling stock, on division.

(c) No.

PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS BY ANDHRAS

613. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of applications received from Andhras to start or to publish Dailies, Weeklies, and Fortnightlies in Andhra area in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47?

(b) How many of them were granted?

(c) How many of them were rejected and for what reasons?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table. It excludes the applications for starting publication of Dailies, Weeklies and Fortnightlies on paper *other than newsprint*. The information about such applications is not readily available. The applications rejected were due to difficult supply position of newsprint.

Statement referred to in reply to Question No. 613 Newsprint

	1945-1946			1946-1947		
	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly
Applications received	3	10	1	2	8	1
Applications accepted	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Applications rejected	1	7	1	2	8	1

INDEPENDENT TRANSMITTERS IN THE INDIAN UNION

614. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the existence of a number of independent transmitters working in the Indian Union?

(b) Is it a fact that the All India Radio authorities recorded the broadcasts from Amritsar given by "Azad Sikh Radio"?

(c) If so, what action has been taken by Government to stop this?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). Certain broadcasts purporting to have been made by a transmitting station which described itself as "Azad Sikh Radio" were heard by the monitoring station of All India Radio in September last. There have been no further broadcasts since then and Government has not received any other reports from its monitoring stations suggesting the existence of unauthorised wireless transmitters in the Indian Union.

(c) The question does not arise.

ELECTIONS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARDS OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that up to the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Boards of Archæology and Education, 8 nominations in the case of the first and 5 nominations
12 Noon in the case of the second were received. Subsequently one member in the case of the first withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of the two Boards, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

I. Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

- (1) Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu.
- (2) Shri Balwant Rai Gopalji Mehta.
- (3) Shri B. Das.
- (4) Shri R. R. Diwakar.
- (5) Shri Bhagwat Prasad.
- (6) Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, and
- (7) Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar.

II. Central Advisory Board of Education.

- (1) Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
- (2) Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
- (3) Pandit Govind Malaviya.
- (4) Shri Mohan Lal Saxena, and
- (5) Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now discuss the demands for grants in respect of General Budget.

I understand that a list showing the agreed cut motions which will be moved has been circulated to Honourable Members

As regards time limit for speeches, the usual practice has been to fix a limit of 15 minutes for all speakers including movers of the cut motions and 20 minutes for the Honourable Ministers replying. I trust this suits Honourable Members. The Congress Party will now move their cut motions.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Last time during my speech on the Railway budget I pointed out to the House that we have to pass demands going into several crores but we are given only two or three days in which to discuss the cut motions. Here we are required to pass grants amounting to over 239 crores and there are about 175 cut motions. In the Provincial Legislatures the practice is that almost every cut motion is allowed to be discussed and enough time is given for them to be moved and the Minister in charge of this Department himself replies at the end. I therefore wish that in future the Government should take care to give enough time to see that all the cut motions that are tabled are moved, because this is the only time when Members can bring to the knowledge of Government their own experiences. We now have a popular Government and we hope it will be responsive to the wishes of the people. The old Government thought two or three days were enough because they did not care for the people. I hope next time we will have more time to discuss the cut motions. In the United Provinces, we have

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena.]

to pass a budget of Rs. 40 crores only and yet nineteen days are allotted to discuss it. I hope next time at least all the cut motions that are tabled will be allowed to be discussed.

Mr. Speaker: It is not for me to decide. Government will decide what is proper. But it gives me a little shock to hear that 19 days are granted. Of course, I am giving my personal reactions. Every Member must be given opportunities to air his views on subjects which are coming before the House, particularly in connection with the financial matters. At the same time, I may be permitted to point out that the Honourable Members should not repeat the same thing over and over again. Unfortunately, that is what I am noticing. It is my painful duty to invite the attention of Members to this fact.

DEMAND NO. 20.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,55,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,55,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

Economy in Central Administration

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I move:

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

This cut motion is to discuss the question of economy in the Central administration. Sir, the foreign rulers have gone from India, but they have left behind a Frankenstein, the Brown Bureaucracy—bloated up, corrupt and inefficient—which is exploiting India's national economy. So our free India Finance Minister must have as his watchword "Economy and Retrenchment". Without that he will not be able to build up the credit of India as he has foreshadowed in his budget speech.

Sir, I felicitated the Finance Minister and I agree with him that India's credit is sound and it has been maintained in a sound business way since he made his budget speech. In fact that very evening when I was asked what was my opinion about the budget, I said: "Chetty is lucky and it is a lucky budget." My friend did not like the tone of it, but there it was. But I think he is lucky in his budget. He has had no time to think of national economy. He has been overshadowed with the Punjab tragedy and the Punjab calamity. Sir, we have moved this motion, as a mandatory motion, to support him, to give him incentive in his policy of retrenchment and economy in the Central administration departments and all departments that come under the purview of the Government. He will have our full support.

Sir, the country is going to face the same situation as it faced in 1931-32. The writings on the wall are faint but they are getting distinct. They indicate that there will be a world economic crisis about 1951-52 and I do want our Finance Minister to tune the administration in such a way that by the time 1951-52 depression sets in, he would have retrenched all the departments multiplied during the war and over which the nationals of India had no free hand.

The Honourable the Finance Minister talked of inflation. There has been inflation of course due to war conditions and the foreigners' exploitation of this country's resources to the maximum limit. There has been an inflated currency: there has been an inflated executive and a bureaucratic machinery. In fact today the employees of the Government of India are three to four times what they were before the war.

Just before the war India had an unproductive debt of Rs. 229 crores. Today that unproductive debt has increased to Rs. 925 crores—four times the previous amount. Then, again, I find that my honourable friend has only Rs. 5 crores in the Sinking Fund for reduction and avoidance of debt. That was the estimate of his predecessor and he has it in this budget. How many centuries it will take to do away with the 925 crores of unproductive debts which is the result of the foreigner's exploitation. The foreigners fought their own wars in China, Egypt, Arabia and elsewhere and all those debts were accumulated and put into the account of India. They were to the extent of 220 crores before 1939 and today although the foreigners have left they have bequeathed us with a debt of 925 crores. At the rate of 5 crores per year it will take 180 years to cover the debt. In the meantime, if we take into consideration the cycle of world wars, a war comes every 25 years, so that within that period of 180 years ten world wars would have been fought. It is our suggestion and our mandate to the Honourable the Finance Minister that he will so frame his budget for 1948-49 that there will be a greater reduction of this unproductive debt. I do not want posterity 125 years hence to curse us saying that we had mounted up the unproductive debts to such an extent that they were not able to build up their national economy.

Then, Sir, the foreign exploiters have demonetised the silver rupee and thereby created the inflation in the country. What has happened to that money? We are expected to satisfy and pay the American lend-lease silver. The foreigner has exploited the resources of India under Section 126A of the Government of India Act, 1935 and he has demonetised the poor man's silver rupee. Every silver four anna or rupee bit was taken away by the Raisman Ordinance and as a result the countryside is the poorer today. Perhaps the Honourable Finance Minister finds some relief in the fact that there are some silver stock which may meet five years hence the demand of America to discharge our lend-lease obligations.

The Honourable Finance Minister should think of the abolition of certain departments of the Government of India; like the Ecclesiastical Department. We have heard enough from the members of the Cabinet here that ours is a secular state. If it is a secular government why should India spend 26 to 28 lakhs every year in maintaining the churches and their ministers. We are not maintaining Hindu pandits and Muslim maulanas and maulvies. The Ecclesiastical Department should not occur again as a budget head in the national budget of a free India. I suggest that all the churches should be turned into museums or institutions of education. I am glad my Honourable friend the Education Minister is here. He needs a large number of institutions for education and for museums, and I am sure he will welcome such places for his purposes.

I do want the Honourable Finance Minister to carry out retrenchment in certain other departments of the Government as well. The Supply Department has become a cesspool of all corruption, which has demoralised the whole nation. Today the nation is not a pure nation. Corruption resulted from the previous Government's war efforts and the supply policy of the former alien rulers, so that the department is corrupt and stinking. Then there is the Disposals Directorate about which one or two questions were tabled. The materials do not exist in the disposal yard—I may be corrected by my Honourable friend the Supply Minister on it. The public knew that crores and crores of goods and machinery and other articles just do not exist. The officers in the Supply Department and the contractors all confabulate and the goods are spirited away. It is better that we know what the real position is.

Further, I want the Honourable the Finance Minister to do retrenchment in the Railway Department, the Postal and Telegraph Department, Defence, Industries and the Central Secretariat and other heads of departments. It

[Shri B. Das.]

is our misfortune that the railway employee wants to live in a paradise where their motto would be "No work but more and more pay". It is our misfortune that the railway employees, even those who are technical men who are working in the Railway Department, have been multiplied three or four times since 1939-40 but their production has been halved or it is even less than that. They do not want to work but they claim privileges under that curious charter called the Pay Commission's Report. They want more salary, they want more allowances, they want grain allowances and what not. Why should the taxpayer suffer these losses just only to pamper the labour agitation that was inspired, not on the merits of the case, but by Bolshevik ideas borrowed from elsewhere with the idea of paralysing the State and society. The foreign Government has gone and today there is a national government and every worker must work to earn the little money that he gets.

The Pay Commission's report has fixed a lower maxima for the secretariat staff of I.C.S. and other all India services. I would like my Honourable friend the Finance Minister to tell me if all the I.C.S. and other officers that are working today have signed for that lower maxima since the 15th August, 1947. I believe that they have not been able to compel the I.C.S., I.P.S. and other all India services to accept these new scales. There should be economy from now on; otherwise my honourable friend would face similar trouble that was faced in 1931 by the then Government. My honourable friend was himself the Chairman of the Railway Retrenchment Committee and I was myself a member of one of the retrenchment committees. We only tinkered with the problem then. We do not want any tinkering now. We want the appointment of an economy committee which should fix the personnel of every department in the Government of India. Today, "more files and more clerks" is the criterion of good work in the Government of India. I ask my honourable friend to do away with that line of approach. My honourable friend was very familiar with the situation in those days in 1931 to 1935 when the country faced an economic crisis after the Munitions Scandal and other scandals. Today the crisis is coming on. Let us not shut our eyes to it. It may come in 1950 or 1951. But before that the Government of India, apart from the economic crisis, must set their house in order. Today their house is not in order. The Bureaucracy—that Frankenstein of the British rulers—is sitting on the neck and shoulders of the Cabinet and the Government of India and it is very difficult for them to do away with it. What we want is the real Indian spirit. Are we to follow the colonial policy and tradition of the British Government? I do not want you to follow that but I want a new approach to things.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

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

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the otherwise admirable Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister I was greatly surprised to find that there was no reference to the need for economy in the expenditure of the Government of India. Probably the Finance Minister took it for granted. But this absence of reference is likely to give an impression to all the heads of departments of the Imperial Secretariat that they need not bother about retrenchment. Sir, when I wish to speak about economy I do not want to suggest that the total civil expenditure of the Government of India is altogether too high from an abstract standpoint. I hope that in a few years time the finances of the Central Government will be of the order, not of hundreds of crores but of thousands of crores as in Great Britain or America. But we must have work and then spend money properly. Extravagance, I hold, is the greatest enemy of expansion. When the Government of India takes up economic planning, when it takes up social planning, it will

have to incur a great deal of expenditure. But before it begins those projects it must see that the present expenditure is cut down to the barest minimum and that it gets the maximum possible result for every pie of public money that is spent. We are accustomed to hear about war-time inflation. I suggest to the House that the greatest inflation that has taken place in this country is in the Secretariat of the Government of India. During war-time all restrictions were removed, and Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries were added simply at the suggestion of any Member or his Secretary, and more officers are manning these Departments for the same work than was the case before the war. I therefore wish to suggest that the first thing the Finance Minister should do is to go back to the pre-war standard of efficiency. He must see how many Secretaries discharged what work in 1938-39, how far the work has since expanded and in what proportion the Secretariat has expanded. I believe that the Secretariat has expanded in a far greater proportion than the work. It is true that in some Departments work has increased and therefore there is a justification for increase in staff. But the expansion of the Secretariat is certainly for greater than the increase in the work of the Secretariat. That is one point which I hope the Finance Minister will pursue actively. I regret that members have not been supplied with sufficient details in the 'Demands for Grants' to be able to scrutinize each item and find out how the Secretariat has expanded.

The next point I would like to urge is that the House should be told how far the Pay Commission's recommendations have been implemented. Sir, as you know, the maximum salary for a government servant fixed by the Pay Commission is Rs. 3,000. But I believe that there are scores and scores of people today in the Government of India who are getting Rs. 4,000, Rs. 3,500 and all kinds of fancy salaries. For this poor country even this Rs. 3,000 is high enough. I thought that after the 15th of August there will be a declaration on behalf of the popular Ministry that there shall be no official in the Government of India who draws more than Rs. 3,000, but I have been greatly disappointed. I do not know why a salary greater than that recommended is being given. I know of course that there are people in the Government of India who think that they should get Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 5,000 and that otherwise they cannot work. To all such government servants I would like the Finance Minister to say 'If you are too good to serve on Rs. 3,000 you are free to go', and I am sure he will find that the official's Deputies and even Superintendents will do as good if not better work, for a much lower salary. I think it is criminal on the part of the Government of India to pay any one more than the already high maximum fixed by the Pay Commission. I would therefore like to get an assurance from the Finance Minister that this reform of the highest scales of pay will be implemented as early as possible and that, when he presents the next Budget, he will not present a 'Demand' for any official for a salary higher than the maximum scales prescribed by the Pay Commission. I want also to urge that in the case of Ambassadors and others sent to foreign countries the recommendations of the Pay Commission should be implemented. I would like to know if the Ambassadors who have been appointed after the acceptance of the Pay Commission's recommendations have been sent on the salaries as recommended by the Pay Commission or whether any special exemptions have been given, and if so why.

Again, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the system of special pay which has crept into the Secretariat. Sir, I do not know how many crores and crores are given outside the salaries as 'special pay'. If you take any demand, in the Demands for Grants you find these four items: 'Salaries:—Pay of Officers; Pay of establishments; Allowances, Honoraria etc.; and Other Charges'. A large part of this "Allowances, Honoraria,

[Shri K. Santhanam]

etc." consists of special pay. When we are giving high scales of pay for officials I do not know why they should be given special pay, simply because an officer is transferred from one job to another job which he is considered to be competent to perform. I can think of promotions. Let persons who do very good work be promoted. But why should there be special pay? It is said that a particular official takes greater trouble for doing some other special job. I think all these are either metaphysical or fictitious arguments for taking illegitimate, or I would call it wrong, honorarium for service which the government servants are bound to perform according to their service conditions. I think the whole system of 'special pay' should be abolished. Each man should be posted to work for which he is fit and for which an adequate salary is already fixed. If a certain work requires a higher capacity, let it be given to a suitable officer with that pay and let not a person simply be posted to a place and allowed to say 'I want Rs. 200 or 300 special pay'.

What shall we say about the item "Other Charges"? I think the bulk of these Other Charges consists of travelling expenses. The Government of India is, I think, today the biggest tourist agency in the whole world. This tourist agency is the most popular one also because not only do people get travelling at public expense but they make some money out of it. I know that touring is necessary, but I do feel that touring is too frequent and unnecessarily frequent, and a large amount of money is being spent in this tourist traffic. I think the Finance Minister will do well to have a separate Section in his Department to scrutinize every item of travelling to get proper justification for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Then there will be another Deputy Secretary for that.

Shri K. Santhanam: The Accountant-Generals and the Auditors should be instructed to scrutinize the reasons for every particular touring and if necessary the matter should be discussed in the Cabinet and strict rules laid down for the purpose.

Sir, I would like to give the House a brief analysis of one of the items. If Honourable Members will turn to page 85 of the Demands for Grants—'Directors-General and Directorates of Industries and Supplies',—the total cost is Rs. 1,81,82,000. If we analyse it into these four heads we get Rs. 22.62 lakhs for Officers, Rs. 49.21 lakhs for Establishment, 30.97 lakhs for Allowances and Honoraria, and Rs. 28.71 lakhs for Other Charges. Nearly Rs. 60 lakhs out of this Rs. 131 lakhs is spent for Allowances and Honoraria and Other Charges. I think a certain definite proportion should be evolved. There should be a proper ratio between these two. I think the ratio between officers and establishments is unduly high. For example, in one of the items it is 8 lakhs for pay of officers, and for establishments it is 11 lakhs. Sir, I think the pay of officers forms an unduly high proportion because it is the establishment that has to do the work. It shows that there are too many officers for too little work.

There are many departments in the Government of India which are superfluous and which are continuing because there is nobody to look into those matters. Take for instance the establishments of the Constituent Assembly for constitution-making and the Constituent Assembly for legislative functions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member will not discuss that proposition here. It is entirely in the discretion of the President, and if the honourable Member has any remarks to make, he will discuss the matter with the Honourable President of the Constituent Assembly.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, am I free to speak about expenditure of the Constituent Assembly on the constitution-making side?

Mr. Speaker: Not free. That is exactly what I pointed out to the honourable Member. If he has anything to say about it, his only course is to go to the Honourable President of the Constituent Assembly and discuss the matter with him.

Shri K. Santhanam: All right, Sir, I shall not discuss this point.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena (U. P.: General): With your permission, Sir, may I ask whether that demand will not be voted here?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, that demand will be voted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Are we not supposed to make any remarks about that particular demand?

Mr. Speaker: No, for the simple reason that it is the convention that the staff is entirely under the control of the Honourable President and he is supposed to be the head of it, and the convention is whatever he asks for is generally granted by the departments. Departments do not interfere. This is based on the principle of the independence of the legislature.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, My Honourable friend Mr. B. Das, has already referred to the Ecclesiastical Department. It is given as Demand No. 39 on page 55. We are asked to provide for this 7½ months 6·76 lakhs. I expected, Sir, that after August 15 this separate demand will simply go out of the accounts of the Government of India. If there were any expenditure which had continued from the previous regime, it might have gone into Suspense or Miscellaneous or some other head, but to continue a separate Demand for ecclesiastical expenditure in free India seems to me a wholly indefensible proceeding. We do not want to pay any church man, we do not want to pay any priest whatever. We are resolved that our State should be an entirely secular State. Why then should there be this 'demand', and out of this demand a considerable part is transferred to Defence Services. On page 56 we find that Defence Services are paying 9·45 lakhs, and Railways 8·37. Therefore as a matter of fact the actual demand is even much greater than what is given on page 55. I should like to know what explanation the Finance Minister has to offer for these?

Then there are various practices by which government servants practically do no work and the rules allow them to go on leave. Sir, one prominent instance has been brought to my notice. The Secretary of this very Legislative Assembly, I do not know if he continues to be still Secretary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That remark also is subject to the same principle which I have now enunciated.

Shri K. Santhanam: Well, Sir, I would earnestly appeal to the Speaker to see that the expenditure on this Assembly is spent properly. I have got reasons to think that the control was rather lax in the regime previous to this.

What is the procedure adopted by the Finance Department to scrutinize expenditure for every other department? I want the Finance Minister to be not only a mere compiler and presenter of accounts to this House, he must

[Shri K. Sankaranam]

be a scrutinizing officer, he must know that this Assembly will not tolerate any extravagance, and he must be directly responsible to this House. He should be able to tell his colleagues 'I dare not present this demand in this fashion to the House. You should cut it down', and if he is over-ruled, he must be able to come here and say 'I pressed for this cut, it has been over-ruled', so that we can hold a particular Minister responsible. Otherwise when the Finance Department sanctions an expenditure, so far as the House is concerned, it will be presumed that it has been properly scrutinized, that the Finance Officers have found it a reasonable item of expenditure and therefore we shall hold the Finance Department primarily responsible for the expenditure. Where according to the Finance Department there is some extravagance, I think the Finance Department should first refer the matter to the Committee of the department concerned and next to the Finance Committee, and of course if the Finance Committee sanctions that, the responsibility will partly be shifted to the shoulders of the Finance Committee. For every item hereafter before the Budget, we should have the recommendations or the remarks of the committees of each department and the Finance Committee. It is only then that the House will be in a position to know whether a particular item of expenditure is reasonable expenditure and that it has been properly scrutinized and sanctioned. The practices of the last six years have been so corrupt, and have so demoralized the entire Government of India that every proposal for expenditure will be suspect and meet with opposition here.

Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House much further, but I know that there is a strong opposition from every department for any kind of economy, or for any kind of retrenchment. Sir, I want to make no reflection on the officials of the Government of India. I do not want to indulge in the conventional tirade against bureaucracy. So far as I know, taken individually the officials of the Government of India are as competent and as patriotic as officials of any other country, but the bureaucratic machine has its own spirit which overwhelms the spirit of every individual member thereof and the spirit of this bureaucracy is such that it is against economy. It is for extravagance, it is for waste, and it is to prevent this extravagance and waste that I appeal to the Finance Minister. I hope my appeal will not be in vain.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I listened to the very carefully prepared and very pleasant speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister and the whole House was happy, and probably the whole of India was happy, that he did not propose any additional taxation. But, Sir, there were many things which have disappointed many members of the honourable House, and when like my friend Mr. B. Das I was asked by a press correspondent as to what I thought of the Budget speech, I characterized it as a capitalist budget. Since I did not find this remark of mine printed anywhere or published anywhere, I think I had better refer to it in the same way as my friend Mr. B. Das has referred to it.

Next, Sir, I had given notice of a very large number of Cut Motions. I am afraid I will have again to refer to so many of them as is possible to cover in the course of fifteen minutes in my speech. When I asked as to why none of my Cuts found a place in the list of Cuts that were to be moved, I was told by my friend Mr. Ayyangar that this was a sort of an omnibus Cut where I could start speaking from the Cape Comorin and go right up to the North Pole. I do not know how much out of this journey I would be able to cover in the course of fifteen minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from that, Mr. Ayyangar's opinion is not binding on the Chair.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I said, Sir, with respect to the Finance Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I referred to this matter, Sir, purposely, so that the Chair may have reason to correct Mr. Ayyangar.

Now, Sir, this particular Motion is for economy and all honourable Members of this House have already pointed out the paramount need for the appointment of a Committee that will suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister the ways and means to economize. It is quite patent from his speech that he did not think there was much chance of economy. The two honourable members who preceded me have already made it clear that there is ample scope for economizing and that there is also a necessity for investigation as to how economies could be effected.

There is one additional point which I would like to refer to and that is the proverbial red-tapism of the British Administration. The present Government has inherited the British Administration; our grievance is—and so many members who some times lose their temper lose it because they know it—that the inheritance is still intact, that it has not been examined, that there is no effort to uproot it, that there is no effort even to deal with it in a somewhat radical manner. The British red-tapism, Sir, was not a matter of a day; it had grown gradually, and it was essentially because this country was to be governed by and in the interests of a foreign ruler—and a foreign ruler Sir, must distrust everybody. That is the secret or probably the greatest defect of British red-tapism. The British Administration in India was essentially an Administration which distrusted everybody and therefore control upon control had to be devised so that nobody will have any final authority. That is the Administration which the present Government, the Independent Government of India, have inherited and unless they put their shoulders to it and do away with this red-tapism, they will find that they are spending ten rupees where one rupee would be enough.

So, Sir, I would very strongly recommend to my honourable friend a thorough examination of the system of administration in this country so that we may have a new system which will be more economical and more expeditious. This red-tapism not only spends more money, it also spends more time. The Honourable the Finance Member, unless he has himself met some such officers of the Military Department as I have done, may not probably know that even the British Government itself realised during the last War that their method of doing things was wrong in many respects and they had much to learn from the Americans. I met several high Military officers who admitted that on many occasions they knew and they found that the way in which the Americans did things during the War was far more expeditious; it involved much less cost of energy as well as of money and they were getting the things done much quicker than by the British method.

So, Sir, that is one of the recommendations I would make to the Honourable the Finance Minister and if my words are not sufficient to convince him, I will draw his attention to the fact that the Honourable the Railway Minister has decided to send some people to America to learn their methods of Railway Administration. If there is something to be learned from America in Railway administration, I am sure, Sir, there is no shame in admitting that we may have something to learn from America in Departments other than the Railways.

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.]

It is a patent fact, Sir, and anybody who is conversant with actual administration knew it, that the British Government was a Government of the blind leading the blind. It is only for the top man to say a certain thing or for a subordinate to make a certain recommendation, and in 99 cases out of 100 it had the best chances of being accepted. That is how Departments grew, that is how officers were appointed, vacancies created, how those vacancies are filled; and as soon as one office is created or one officer appointed the whole paraphernalia of a stenographer, a superintendent, a record keeper, a daftari and all the rest came in. That is how the present Government of India has grown out of all proportion. It is not only essential to examine whether it is necessary to have all the paraphernalia as it exists, but also to examine whether the same results cannot be obtained by a more direct method of administration and with lesser amount of distrust.

Earlier I referred to the defect in the British Administration which was based on distrust of everybody. I will give you, Sir, a concrete instance. Till some time back, there used to be on the Railways a provision, which had been there for a very large number of years, for a passenger, who was not able to obtain a ticket in time before the train started, by which he could obtain a certificate from the Guard. Now this facility has been entirely stopped. Nobody, however genuine his case may be, however short the interval during which the Booking Office was open,—even the highest in the land—if he happened to be on the platform without a ticket, he has no option but to pay the penalty; and if he is saved from prosecution it is only because of the good offices of the Railway Department. Now, this is one of the things which shows that nobody is to be trusted. The Guard is not to be trusted, the Station Master is not to be trusted, the highest officer is not to be trusted. Nobody can be trusted so as to issue the certificate that this particular gentleman had no time to get a ticket and therefore he should be permitted to obtain a ticket at the hands of the Ticket Collector or at the hands of the next Station Master or a certificate from the Guard.

Then, Sir, another complaint which I should like to make is in regard to the position of the *Kisans* in this country. I shall not go into any details because I shall have an opportunity of doing so when moving specific cuts. I shall now deal with it generally. We have, Sir, had several measures to protect the interests of the labourers or to advance their welfare. The labourers in India are getting very speedily organised and I for one am very happy that this House consists of and contains a very large number of people who sympathise with the labour movement. But what is the proportion of organised industrial labour to the population of India? Some time back it used to be about 13 to 15 lakhs. Supposing the industries in India have grown very much, I do not think the industrial labour has gone up to more than about 30 lakhs. Now, what is 30 lakhs as compared with 30 crores, which consists of 85 to 90 per cent. of *Kisans* who live in the villages and till the land? What is the place given to the *Kisans* in the Budget and in the Administration? Every Legislative Assembly has had representatives of the labourers and the 1935 Act provided for this. But as far as the interests of the *Kisans* are concerned, they are supposed to be looked after by anybody and everybody but nobody in particular. Of course, there are rural constituencies and their representation is there, but my complaint is that just as something special is sought to be done for the labourers, the Government would do well to consider the question of the interests of the *Kisans* also on a special footing. I hope, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Government have paid due attention to the words of Mahatmaji so far as the inclusion of *Kisans* in the Ministry is concerned. Mahatmaji made this suggestion not because we could

have an educated *Kisan* who could add to the efficiency of Government. But only because he alone could possess real sympathy and consideration for this most paramount interest in the country. I hope Sir the present Government and the Honourable the Finance Minister will pay adequate attention to the agricultural labourers also and that whenever there are International Conferences not only the industrial labours but also *Kisans* will receive due representation at the hands of the present Government.

The Government of India are spending lakhs and lakhs if not crores of rupees, which I would characterise as 'indiscriminate expenditure'. They have some time back, probably at the suggestion that we should train people and send them to foreign countries, instituted the system of overseas scholarships. But what is the nature of the scholarships, and who got them? It is only the sons of Government servants who got these scholarships. None of the people in the villages got any chance to win them and the Gazettes which contained the notifications announcing these scholarships hardly ever reached the villages. Sir, this is a problem which requires to be considered. Sir, my time is getting short and it is impossible to deal with this point adequately, but I hope the Ministry will pay attention to this matter and remember that although they are spending so much, so far as these scholarships and concessions are concerned, they do not reach the *Kisans* at all.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): Sir, it certainly would have been in the fitness of things if the Honourable the Finance Minister when presenting his first Budget of a Free and Independent India had indicated some lines on which he thought that economy in the Departments of Government was desirable and that he intended to bring about such economy as soon as it was possible for him to do so. It cannot be denied, Sir, that the expenditure of the Central Government in recent years has gone up by leaps and bounds, and I am sorry that the efficiency of the work that has been turned out by these Departments has certainly not been in accordance with the money that is being spent on them. Therefore, Sir, it would have been greatly welcomed not only in this House but by the country at large if the Honourable the Finance Minister had realised the importance of cutting down this extravagance that has been going on in the Central Government for so long. It was expected of him, and the country was waiting to hear that something would be done. It is a pity that he has not expressed any intention of doing so. We realise that the new Government has been in power only for a few months and it was not possible for the Finance Minister to cut down expenditure in the different Departments of the Government so soon, but an expression of desire on his part to do so would certainly have shown that he realised the importance of this matter from the financial point of view.

Sir, it was repeatedly said on the floor of the House—it was alleged by people from different parts of the country, that India was a poor country and cannot afford such high salaries and top heavy expenditure of the Government. Therefore, when the foreign rule in this country came to an end, it

1 P. M. was expected that some changes would be affected especially with regard to a matter which had come in for such scathing criticism by the country in the past. I am glad that Honourable Members in this House have realized their duty in bringing to the notice of Government that a Committee on economy and retrenchment should be appointed as soon as possible, which would review the whole structure of the Departments and recommend the cutting down of expenditure wherever it was possible to do so.

More than ever, Sir, it is necessary and desirable at the present moment that every avenue for cutting down extra expenditure and wastage should be

[Begum Aizaz Rasul].

explored, because on the attainment of freedom the expenditure of India has gone up by leaps and bounds and great amounts have to be spent on Ambassadorial appointments, nation building activities, Industrial developments and many other important items, and we should therefore try to save in order to meet these necessary requirements of expenditure.

Sir, I do not think that there are many Honourable Members who will disagree that in nearly every department there is great scope for saving and economy. During the war every department of the Government of India became inflated beyond recognition and it is high time that these departments return to normal. To mention a few Railways, Supplies and Communications are costing the tax-payer far more than the results he gets out of them. If the return and efficiency that we get out of these departments and their staff had been satisfactory perhaps increased expenditure may not have been grudged but efficiency has instead deteriorated to a sad degree.

Regarding the Department of Supplies Sir, I will not take up much time of the House by recounting here all the evils that have accrued on account of controls, but we all know how these controls are working and to what a great extent they are responsible for corruption and bribery in the country. They should be removed as soon as possible, and the Department of Supplies should wind up this unnecessary part of its activities and to save a very large amount of money that is at present being spent on it.

Then, Sir, as regards Communications, every member of the House is aware that the Department of Telephones and Posts and Telegraphs is functioning in a most undesirable manner and the inconvenience caused to the public is indescribable. The taxpayer minds this very much as there is no shortage of staff or expense and yet he does not get any return for the money he pays. It would certainly satisfy him if some saving were made in this Department.

I will just say a few words about the 'Grow More Food Campaign' which has cost the Government far more than results justify and the sooner the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is ended the better it will be for the country, as it is clearly a waste of public money and no justifiable results have accrued from it.

I would, therefore, Sir, welcome the Honourable the Finance Minister's pronouncement to the effect that he will consider sympathetically the appointing of a Committee which will go into the details of recommending the effecting of economy in the various Departments of the Government of India. I would like him to behave like a housewife and see that every penny and every anna that is spent through him on the Central Government is spent properly and there is no wastage of any kind. Every man is aware that women never spend unnecessarily and never cause wastage and therefore an advice coming from a woman to the Honourable the Finance Minister will, to act as a woman in the matter of holding the purse strings will I hope be taken in the spirit it is offered.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the discussion initiated by the Motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das. He and I have sat together on the Opposition benches for nearly 12 years in the old legislature and we have taken part in many debates, criticising the extravagance of the administrative machinery. Even though I am sitting in a different place, Sir, my feelings about the scale of expenditure in Government is very nearly the same as it used to be when I was sitting in those benches.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam said that the Finance Minister should not be a mere compiler of figures. I wholeheartedly agree with that observation. The Finance Minister is really the watch-dog of this House. The Finance Ministry does not simply sanction as an automatic measure proposals for expenditure that come before it for scrutiny. In fact the financial implications of every proposal are clearly examined in the Ministry of Finance. Notwithstanding this check exercised by the Ministry, I would welcome the deduction of this House that every possible measure should be taken to reduce the scale of expenditure in the administrative machinery. The Finance Minister is generally the most unpopular of the Ministers amongst his own colleagues, because he often has to perform the unpleasant task of turning down proposals coming from the Ministries of his own colleagues. I can say the function of a real Finance Minister not as that of one who without any meaning, turns down all proposals for expenditure, but who would help all other Departments to spend the money wisely and effectively. That is the true function of a Ministry of Finance and I certainly shall try my utmost to see that the Ministry of Finance discharges its functions in that spirit.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh suggested that some one might go to the United States to find out about the expeditious methods of administration in that country. Well, Sir, it so happens that I was there myself for nearly a year in charge of the Indian Supply Mission. There is no doubt that during the War at least the machinery of administration in the United States moved very fast. In fact I made it a rule in the Supply Mission that there should be no note writing on files. In fact every problem was practically solved by the officer or the Director concerned coming either to the Secretary or to one of the Directors of Supply or coming directly to me in important cases; and I found that the system worked very effectively indeed. In fact I used to put through great deals with the American departments just over the telephone. Under the normal practice of the red-tape it will probably take months of note-writing before a similar problem was solved. I am therefore not merely familiar with the model of a more businesslike administration, but I am fully alive to the need for such an administration in our country. There is no doubt that the scale of expenditure on the administration has gone up enormously during the last few years; probably Honourable Members themselves do not realise the extent to which it has gone up. No doubt during war time there was great demand for the expansion of the activities of departments. But the curious fact here is that after the termination of the war the scale of expenditure on the administrative services is really more than what it was during war time. I will just give one illustration. If you take General Administration, the total expenditure in 1938-39—just before the war—was 1 crore and 87 lakhs; in 1944-45—which was the peak war year—it was 4 crores and 25 lakhs. But curiously enough in 1946-47 it was 6 crores and 23 lakhs; and in 1947-48 the budget figure was 6 crores and 14 lakhs. This was of course the pre-partition budget but the pattern will be applicable even to the post-partition budget. That shows that there is certainly very great scope for retrenchment and economy. But one word of caution must be uttered in studying these figures. There are two factors which have resulted in increase of expenditure over which we have no control. The first and the most important of them is the enormous increase in expenditure resulting from the acceptance of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the higher scales of dearness allowance and pay that we have to give. So a great deal of that will be a reflection of this phenomenon. Another factor which has contributed to increase in administration expense is the system of economic controls. The elaborate mechanism of controls that we maintain is really costing the country quite a good bit of money; but when we succeed in our measures of decontrol this item of expenditure will automatically go down. Notwithstanding these two

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

factors—the importance of which should not be ignored—I feel certain that there is still scope for economy in expenditure. In the nation-building departments the expenditure has no doubt gone up enormously. For instance, in departments like Scientific Departments, Education, Medical, Public Health, etc., the pre-war expenditure in 1938-39 was 2.17 crores; in 1947-48 it was 18.03 crores. But that is developmental expenditure about which we need not quarrel.

Honourable Members were disappointed that I did not make any reference to the need for economy; in my budget speech. I was fully conscious of the need for economy; in fact it was my intention within a few weeks of my assuming office to appoint an economy committee. But on account of the great cataclysm that overtook us I thought the time was not appropriate to set such a committee in action. I have now decided that very shortly I will set up an economy committee which will examine the entire field of administration covered by the activities of the Central Government. In fact I have already given instructions to the Ministry of Finance to prepare the necessary memoranda and the documents so that when the committee is actually appointed within the next month or two the work could be done in an expeditious manner. I have no doubt that the economy committee will keep in mind the desire expressed in all quarters of the House for the utmost economy and retrenchment in expenditure consistent with efficiency.

There is only one other matter about which I should give a reply. Honourable Members rightly criticised the expenditure under the Ecclesiastical Department. The position, I am told, is this that all the British Chaplains will go away before the end of this month, and we are bound to incur expenditure on the maintenance charges of churches and cemeteries only up to the 31st March 1948. Thereafter this charge will not fall upon us and Honourable Members will have no room for criticism. I have no doubt that the House will feel satisfied from the expression of my own opinion that I am one with them in searching all avenues for economy in expenditure.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I ask for leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion. The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock,

*The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.*

DEMAND NO. 19—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

Position of India in International affairs and of Indians in Commonwealth Countries

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, it is indeed a high privilege to be able to move this cut and start this discussion for the first time in free India on our external affairs. For years and years we tried our best to raise a discussion in this House on external affairs but in vain. Our late lamented Satyamurti, the greatest parliamentarian of his age, did yeoman service in order to force that Government to yield this privilege to this House but he too had to admit his failure. Therefore, I am extremely glad that today, we are able to have this discussion.

It is more than one year and two months since Pandit Nehru took charge of this department and ever since, even though technically at that time India was not free, he was able to act and function as the Foreign Minister of free India in actual fact during that time. It is our duty now today to review in as short a pace of time as is possible and see how he has conducted our foreign affairs and placed India on the map of the world. I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that free India has been most fortunate in obtaining his services as its first Foreign Minister and also in giving him the biggest and first opportunity to carve out a rising position for India and India's nationals all over the world.

Sir, when he took charge we found the world divided into two big camps: one headed by the U.S.S.R. and the other by the Anglo-Americans; and the outside world was wondering how Pandit Nehru was going to help India and on what side India was going to range herself. To the chagrin of a large number of foreign experts, Pandit Nehru announced that India was not going to align herself either on the side of Soviet Russia or on the side of the Anglo-Americans, or on the side of the satellites of either side, but was going to steer clear of these shoals to carve out a position for herself in the international forces of these days. But then many people wondered whether it would be possible for the Pandit to achieve success in this direction.

A few days ago, one of my distinguished friends was complaining that because of this policy of Panditji India has failed to secure election to the Security Council. I answered him then and I answer today before this House and also before the world, that indeed it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's policy that has won an enviable position for India in the councils of the world as a result of his refusal to align himself either on that side or this side of these two great powers.

Why do I say so? It is because he has belied the expectations of all foreign experts that there would be no place for any important country unless and until it aligned itself on either side, and he has been able to show, demonstrated to the very hilt, that it is possible to fight for a third position, and that position is a peace front. India has been fighting for this while Soviet Russia has been fighting for her security and for that reason trying to fight with the United States of America and somehow trying to get at the secrets of the atom bomb: while America has been trying to win more satellites and gain more supporters and manufacture more and more atom bombs, India has been pursuing the path of peace.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

Sir, the last year has convinced everybody that it is not possible for any big nation, however big it may be to remain entirely neutral, and some day or other it is bound to be dragged this side or that side. But it should be possible for any country to remain neutral provided it has a positive mission to serve, and I claim that India, thanks to the message of Mahatma Gandhi, and its working by Jawaharlal Nehru in actual practice, has been able to show that not only she can remain independent of these power blocs but also she can build up an independent front. At the same time I maintain that India is not interested in creating any sort of a bloc at all. These blocs are the very bane of international blocs of today. But India is interested in building up a moral front and she has been succeeding in no small measure.

India, Sir, has placed herself at the head of all the Colonial peoples at the U.N.O., has championed their cause. Indonesia came in for India's support and Indonesia was supported so strongly and ably that the Dutch offensive against the Indonesians had to be stopped almost immediately. India again stood up for the independence of all the coloured peoples, especially of Africa. She put up a heroic fight against South Africa and General Smuts in their attempts to go at South West Africa and India has succeeded in that. India has tried until recently to win a place for Indonesia on the Special Commission, at least as an observer, but its representative from India could not succeed: but it was not her fault.

Take again Palestine. There are religious issues there but India steered clear of these. India championed the Arabs of Palestine and it is quite consistent with her policy all along, and India along with other powers had the courage to walk out of the U.N.O. as a protest against their recent decision to partition Palestine in order to satisfy the cupidity, political and economic and religious, of the Americans as well as the British. In this way without saying anything about it India has been able to build up a sort of Colonial People's Freedom Front. It is growing it is having some substantial physical feature also. All the colonial and coloured people appreciated that excellent gesture that Panditji made in inviting four coloured students to this country to study in our universities. I sincerely hope that in the future the number of these students will come to be increased. It has been so much appreciated on that side that it is more than justified from the financial point of view also.

Now what is our stand in regard to the question of the freedom of all peoples? India has been standing for the freedom of all peoples consistently, so much so that on many occasions the leader of the Indian delegation that esteemed sister of our Prime Minister and also the esteemed sister of the whole of India—Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit—had to emphasise that India stood for the freedom of all people in the councils of the United Nations: so much so that Soviet Russia found it necessary to support India on more than one occasion. That gave room to some of the interested people in America and other countries to say that Pandit Nehru is aligning himself with Soviet Russia, because there are too many Communists in India and Panditji himself is a Communist. Through her activities at the U.N.O. India has been able to demonstrate the other day that she is no slave of anybody, that she is not acting as the handmaid or tail of anybody. Nine times out of ten she had the courage to stand up for election in the Security Council and against Ukraine, one of the states of Soviet Russia. Does it not show that India has not really given away her rights of independence to Soviet Russia or anybody else? At the same time, how does it happen that Russia today is much more friendly inclined towards India than towards any other country either in Asia or in Europe? It is because of the democratic practices of India and of the consistent manner in which she has stood up for peace in the world.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

There is however one difficulty. There is the question of the veto. So far as the U.N.O. is concerned India has certainly acquitted herself well by her participation. What attitude is she to take with regard to the veto? As long as this veto remains there it will not be possible for India to make use of the U.N.O. as one of the biggest bulwarks for the peace of the world. India needs the U.N.O. more than any other country, in the world, because she wants peace in order to develop her own people, she wants peace to raise their standard of living. A higher social well being cannot be attained if we were to allow this world to be split up by these two great power blocks into two camps. How can the U.N.O. work successfully and effectively as long as this veto remains. It is on this that I am not able to satisfy myself that India has been able to give the right lead. It is true that India has said that the veto should go but that at the same time it has got to remain there. I personally would like India to take up a firmer stand in regard to this veto and maintain that it is not only these big five powers but also the smaller powers should be brought in to decide whether any particular question should be allowed to be discussed at the U.N.O.

The next question is: what attitude should we take with regard to England? I am not one of those who wish for the continuation of this commonwealth relationship with Great Britain. I want India to become entirely free of any of these political entanglements. At the same time we should be able and willing to maintain the friendliest and closest relationship with Great Britain. We should be able to distinguish between those Tories who strut about the whole of the East and in Pakistan intriguing all the time against India and the Socialist Democracy that is gaining greater and greater hold over the people of the United Kingdom and who today happen to be in power in that country. Therefore I want to see that even much more intimate relationship in foreign affairs than we have been able to establish so far should be sought after and established but that does not mean that we should in any way weaken our stand in favour of colonial peoples and our opposition to Imperialism. It is in this connection that Pandit Nehru has been a beacon light as it were to all the colonial peoples not only of Great Britain but also of the other satellite Imperialist countries of Europe.

Then there is the question of Asia. What is to be her future? We must be very careful about what is happening today in China. China has been made a sort of cockpit as between Soviet Russia and America. Are we going to keep mum about it, are we going to allow her to become an unfortunate victim of these powers as Republican Spain has become? Should we not take some positive stand in regard to this? What exactly it is to be or it can possibly be has got to be left of course to our Foreign Minister.

Lastly I wish to request our Foreign Minister to lend a helping hand to those struggling peasants and their parties in Eastern European countries which are putting up a heroic fight against the Communist Party there. Only recently we heard that so many of these peasant leaders had been hounded out of their countries, some of them hanged, some others forced into exile and many others put into jail. It is necessary that India should raise her voice in their favour, because India stands for democratic freedom and socialism. It is for these reasons that I am glad to say that today Pandit Nehru's policy has been more than justified. It is indeed flattering to us to find Asiatic leaders coming one after the other to this country. Even in other countries Pandit Nehru is known not only as our foreign minister but also as their own champion and for a very good reason too. It is indeed a matter of pride for India and for all the Eastern peoples that today unlike other Foreign Ministers who are somehow or other being feared by other people, our Foreign Minister is being hailed as the greatest champion and architect of the peace of the world and especially of the Peace Front.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Why then does the Honourable Member want to cut the grant?

Mr. Speaker: It is only a parliamentary device to have the opportunity to speak. Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Seth Govinddas (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, today I should like to make my remarks again in English, because it is a subject like that.

I join in the glowing tribute which has been paid to the Honourable the Prime Minister for the way in which he has been handling this question. I can only say that in India there is no better man who could deal with this question than the Honourable Pandit Nehru.

Now, Sir, I am going to deal with the affairs of Commonwealth Relation countries. The problem of Indians there in a nutshell is one of immigration and secondly of the equality of the status. As far as immigration is concerned I want to point out to the Honourable Pandit Nehru that he should make a declaration in unequivocal terms that if the immigration of Indians is going to harm any people living in different countries—I mean Adibassies—we are ready to stop all our immigration. As far as the status of Indians is concerned I want to say that now that India has become a free country Indians will demand their status equal to that of the people living in those countries. And when we want equal status another important question arises about citizenship. It is a very complicated question. We cannot force our Indian brethren to accept the citizenship of different countries. At the same time we understand the difficulty that if they do not accept the citizenship of the countries to which they have gone it is difficult for us to ask for equal status for those people. I want to make a very bold proposition as far as citizenship is concerned. In respect of the countries like Burma, Ceylon which are our neighbouring countries I shall say let there be a common citizenship of these countries and of India. Once Ceylon was called *Lanka* or in certain *Puranas*, *Sinhal*, and Burma was a part of our country for a very long time. If there is a common citizenship of countries like this then I think the question of equality of status and also of citizenship will be easily solved. Sir, England had made a proposal like this to France in the last war. Let these countries not think that India, being a big country, wants to exploit them. That is not our aim. When I say that there should be common citizenship of these countries and India I mean that we are also going to assure certain things to them, for instance defence. Now, these are small countries and if we take upon ourselves the defence of these countries then their defence expenditure would be much less and they would be benefited.

I want now to take the different countries one by one. First of all South Africa is before us. We know that last year the U.N.O. accepted our resolution and we could get a two-third majority for it. This year we could not get that majority, but I think that does not mean that the resolution which was passed last year lapses. In my opinion it does remain and I should like to know from the Honourable the Prime Minister the legal position of that resolution which was passed last year. Satyagraha is still going on in South Africa. A few months ago when the South African Indian leaders, Dr. Dadoo and Dr. Naicker, came to this country they told us that the satyagraha will go on till the Ghetto Act is repealed. For a long time we have not been able to know how many persons are in South African jails and what kind of treatment is meted out to them.

As far as East Africa is concerned, there are two questions in that country which are engaging our attention. One is the Immigration Bill. As far as that Bill is concerned this is the opinion of the East African Indians:

‘The Indian residents in East Africa will receive setback by the Immigration Control Bill which has passed the second reading of all the Provincial Legislatures of East African territories. A joint meeting of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika has been convened on November 28 at Nairobi. The new Bill contains most objectionable clauses and the Indian circles here feel that the Government of India should be aware of the serious implications of the provisions of the Bill which are detrimental to Indian interests. An urgent action of the India Government to the Bill is essential. Otherwise the Bill will become law by the first week of December.’

This is the first week of December and we do not know what has happened to that Bill. Another important question in East Africa is the Inter-territorial organization. As far as this organization is concerned we certainly cannot oppose it on principle, but when we see the implications of this proposition we find that it is in fact being brought before the world in a disguise. The real fact is that the Whites in Kenya have an important position while that is not the position of Whites either in Tanganyika or Uganda. I have been to those countries and I can say that if we leave Kenya the Whites in Tanganyika and Uganda are in a microscopic minority. By bringing all these territories under the same legislature the object is that the Whites should become more important. They want to deprive the Indians in Tanganyika and Uganda also of the privileges which they have enjoyed till now. It is a serious matter and the East African Indian Congress has opposed this Inter-territorial organization. I have myself received a long letter from Mr. Amin, the President of the East African Indian Congress. There is very little time at my disposal; otherwise I would have liked to read certain portions from that letter. They want that the whole matter should be investigated first and that the representation of Indians should be according to the Indian population in that country. Only then they are prepared to consider this question. Otherwise they want that all these three colonies should remain as has been the case hitherto.

As far as Ceylon is concerned, the Prime Minister of Ceylon is coming here. The main question is of the Indian labour there. Just the other day the Honourable the Prime Minister, while replying to certain questions with respect to Ceylon, said that he has taken up the matter and that he would see when the Prime Minister of Ceylon comes what could be done in this respect.

As far as Burma is concerned, the Prime Minister of Burma is here. The Honourable Pt. Nehru must be knowing that we want that the same compensation which is to be given to Europeans in Burma should also be given to the Indians for their lost property. I am against all private property, but so long as the private property institution continues I think we ought to safeguard the interests of the Indians who have lost their properties in Burma. As far as emigration to that country is concerned, there are some people who still have some property in Burma and I wish Sir that preference should be given to these people to go to Burma. Sir, Burma owes 55 crores to us. Let them give this amount in instalments. We do not want it all at once; but we want, Sir, that this amount should be paid back to us in kind; I mean they should give us rice, they should give us oil, they should give us timber. India is in need of these things, and preference as far as these things are concerned should be given to India because Burma has to pay 55 crores back to India.

Now, Sir, as far as the countries of British East Indies are concerned, there is a sufficient number of Indians there. There is sufficient land in British Guiana, Trinidad and other countries. These whites want to keep that land reserved for their sons, grandsons, great grandsons and great great great

[Seth Govinddas.]

grandsons, and so on. Now this should not be the case. There is a colonisation scheme made by the people of those countries and it is for the mutual advantage of the people of this country as well as those Indians who go there.

Then, Sir, Malaya is going to have a new constitution and we have to see that the interests of Indians are safeguarded. Sir, the whole history of Indian emigration shows us that the going of any Indians to any country has not been harmful to them. It has been for the good of those people, and, Sir, when the food problem is so acute in the world, then those lands which are still barren can be made use of and I think Indians will be of great help there.

In conclusion, Sir, I want to point out that now that India has become free, we have to send our Agents to many countries. We should also send in my opinion goodwill missions. Some time ago it was proposed that goodwill missions are to be sent to Trinidad, Mauritius and Fiji. I hear that that idea has been abandoned for the present. But now, Sir, as we have become free, I think it is all the more necessary for our cultural contact and for seeing the real position of the people there, that we should send non-official goodwill missions there.

Sir, I again pay my tribute to the Honourable the Prime Minister, and support the cut moved by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): I also rise to support this cut. Professor Ranga, while supporting the cut, paid encomiums to what we did at the U.N.O. on the issue of the partition of Palestine. We, Sir, walked out as has been our wont always. I do not understand, Sir, why we supported or accepted the division of India into Hindu and Muslim and why we should not accept or support the division of Palestine into Arab and Jew. It passes my comprehension why this should be so. There is no consistency. What is sauce for the gander should be sauce for the goose. The only consistency is to say ditto to Pakistan. That is all.

Then, Sir, with regard to South Africa, there is no progress, not an inch of advance on the question of Indians in that country to what was done by the previous Government in which I happened to be a Member, and I do say with pride there is no advance over what the previous Government did, although the present Government is independent.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Then, Sir, about Ceylon, the less said, the better. The other day my friend Mr. Anev, put a question about Ceylon and was promptly told "The Honourable Member knows it better than I do". That is the position about Ceylon.

Then, Sir, about Burma, our next-door neighbour, which was part of India for a very very long time. Now it is separated from India and I congratulate Burma on its attainment of full independence long before us, and it has stolen a march over us. Burma will be outside the British Empire much before India expects to be so in spite of the fact that there was no non-violent, non-cooperation there. With regard to Burma, Sir, I am rather anxious because we have got huge amount of interest there of our nationals, and I hope something will be done. On this behalf I will offer some suggestions to my Honourable friend the Prime Minister. I want that the rights of our Indian nationals there are safeguarded as far as possible even after the attainment of independence by Burma. The constitution of Independent Burma, Sir, provides that the state is the ultimate owner of all lands and that they can regulate, alter or abolish tenures or resume possession of any land. Such interferences should be compensated in money. This idea is accepted in the said constitution, but in Article 80 of the constitution there is a provision which gives rise to some misgiving. It is said that the legislature may decide in which cases and to what extent compensation can be given. Here lies the rub.

This discretion to legislate as to the cases in which compensation may be given and those in which it need not be given is rather disturbing. It will act to our disadvantage. When once a man's rights of property are interfered with, it is only just and fair and equitable that adequate compensation should be given. This principle has been borne in mind and given effect to in the treaty between England and Burma, but this has not happened in regard to India. I hope it will happen. The note, dated 17th October, 1947 from the Honourable Thakin Nu to Mr. Attlee is illuminating on this point.

On the question of the entry into Burma of Indians who are required there to carry on existing business and occupations, it is necessary, no restrictions should be placed on their entry. In due course, if necessary, businesses may be abridged and the need for Indian service personnel may correspondingly diminish. However, until such time, it is necessary that no restriction should be placed on Indians going to Burma for these purposes, and to the extent rendered necessary by the needs of their business or properties which require to be looked after.

The overall quota of skilled persons may be fixed by the two Governments in consultation, but within the limits of this quota, permits should be granted by the Government of India who will be in a position to estimate the need or the urgency of the persons applying for a permit. That would avoid many of the humiliating handicaps with which persons seeking permits are faced.

Another point that the two Governments should tackle, relates to administrative acts which operate adversely against Indians. For example there is a proposal to interfere on the question of rents payable by a tenant. There is already a Tenancy Act in force which deals with fair rents and which can be worked to the mutual advantage of both the landlord and the tenant. But it is said that a tenant will be required to pay his landlord as rent only twice the amount of the land revenue on his holding. This will have the effect of artificially impairing the value of the land and compelling the landowner to abandon his land. These are points which require to be handled with great sympathy and fairness.

I understand that very soon an agreement will be concluded between the Government of India and the Government of Burma on all outstanding matters. An agreement between a Free India and a Free Burma has been looked forward to with hope and eagerness by both the countries and it is to us a source of very great satisfaction that that happy day has now arrived. Pending the conclusion of such a treaty and pending the negotiations towards it, it is essential that controversial questions should not be decided administratively and one-sidedly as is feared will be done. To do so would embarrass the even tenure of negotiations. The question of compensation for acquired land, the question of free entry of Indians into Burma for existing business purposes, and the question of artificially reducing the rent payable by tenants and similar matters are best decided after free and full negotiations with all the relevant facts before the two countries. And pending such negotiations and with a view to the honourable settlement of all outstanding matters, I would suggest that the Government of India should urge on the Government of Burma that they should stay their hands and not force the issues or reach conclusions before the Government of India have placed their considered views before the Government of Burma.

There can be no doubt that a satisfactory and honourable settlement is perfectly within the reach and competence of the distinguished gentlemen at the head of the Government of India and the Government of Burma.

Now, Sir, with regard to foreign affairs.....

Several Honourable Members: He is reading his speech.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members want to know what the Honourable Member is quoting from.

Dr. N. B. Khare: This is my note prepared by me for helping memory, any one may see it if he likes.

Now, Sir, about foreign affairs, I am very glad that for the first time we have come into our own regarding this ticklish question. When I was in office, I tried my best to have a finger in that pie—of course I succeeded only partially because that was a slave Government then. Now it is a free government, but of course, it is too early to judge its achievements, and I am not a judge—of what status India has got internationally; I will leave it to my friend Prof. Ranga. But I want to say this much, that so far we have only one concrete achievement to our credit: it is that we have sent many of our friends as Ambassadors and Envoys to foreign countries. That is a substantial achievement and I congratulate the Government for what has been done.

مولانا حسرت موہانی : جناب والا ! میرا ارادہ آپ کی اسمبلی کے متعلق بحث میں حصہ لینے کا نہیں تھا کیونکہ میری دلچسپی صرف Constitution کے معاملوں سے ہے اور Legislative سے بہت کم دلچسپی ہے - لیکن میرے دوست مسٹر رنکا نے اپنی تقریر میں world politics کا ذکر چھیڑ دیا اور اس بحث میں آئریبل پروانہ منسٹر جواہر لال نہرو کا بھی اس میں ذکر آیا اور اس میں انکی پالیسی جو اس معاملہ میں ہو سکتی ہے اس کا بھی ذکر آیا اور اس کی طرف اشارہ کیا گیا - اسی وجہ سے مجبور ہوں کہ کچھ نہ کچھ مختصراً عرض کروں - مسٹر رنکا کو اس کٹ موشن پر بولنے کا حق نہیں تھا کیونکہ انہوں نے جواہر لال نہرو کی پوری تائید کی - اگر انہوں نے اس کی تائید کی تو انہیں اس کٹ موشن پر بولنے کی کیا ضرورت تھی ان کے خیال کے مطابق جو انہوں نے جواہر لال نہرو کی پالیسی کے متعلق ذکر کیا ہے اس سے یہ معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ آئندہ جو جنگ ہونے والے ہوں ان کے متعلق جواہر لال نہرو کی یہ پالیسی ہو سکتی ہے کہ ہندوستان neutral رہے گا - آئندہ آنے والے جنگ میں ایک طرف Russia ہوگا اور دوسری طرف امریکہ اور England ہوگا یہ تو میرا خیال ہے - لیکن مجھے اس بات کا یقین نہیں ہے کہ جواہر لال نہرو کی وہی پالیسی ہوگی جو کہ مسٹر رنکا نے ظاہر کی - اگر ایسا ہے تو میں اس پر اعتراض کرتا ہوں اور میں اسی بل پر اس کٹ موشن کی تائید کرتا ہوں - دنیا اب اس سطح پر پہنچ چکی ہے کہ کوئی ملک غیر جانب دار نہیں رہ سکتا اور نہ ہی ایسی صورت نظر آتی ہے کہ کوئی ملک غیر جانب دار رہ سکے - اب صرف ideologies رہ گئی ہیں یا سوشازم یا نیشازم - نیشازم میں اسوقت Capitalist ہی ہیں اور Imperialist بھی ہیں - سوشازم میں اس وقت adicalism اور Socialism اور Communism بھی ہے - میں یہ ظاہر کرنا چاہتا ہوں اور مجھے یقین ہے کہ جو آئندہ جنگ ہونے لگے ان میں ہندوستان غیر جانب دار نہیں رہ سکتا پچھلے جنگ میں ایوان غیر جانب دار رہا تھا - لیکن بعد میں جب کہ ایوان میں ہی اکھاڑا بنایا گیا تو وہ غیر جانب دار نہ رہ سکا - اور اسکو انگریزوں کے

ساتھ دوڑنا پڑا - اور جرمنی اور جاپان سے لونا پڑا - اس ابتدا پر میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ ہمیں اس بات کا فیصلہ کرنا چاہئے۔ آپ اپنے دلوں سے یہ خیال نکل دینا چاہئے کہ ہم آئندہ آنے والی جنگ میں غیر جانب دار رہ سکتے ہیں - ہمیں اس بارے میں اپنی پالیسی کو once for all decide کرنا چاہئے - اس میں شک نہیں کہ غیر جانب دار رہنے کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ ہم peace چاہتے ہیں - لیکن میرے خیال میں یہ ممکن نہیں ہے کہ ہم غیر جانب دار رہ سکیں - اور اگر ایسا ہے تو جواہر لال نہرو کو یہ ظاہر کرنا چاہئے کہ اس بارے میں انکا کیا عقیدہ ہے اور اگر انکا یہی عقیدہ ہے تو انکو اس سے دست بردار ہونا چاہئے - اور اسکا فیصلہ کر دینا چاہئے کہ ہماری پالیسی کیا ہوگی - جو گروپنگ تیسری ورلڈ وار (World War) میں ہلتی ہے اُسے ایک طرف برطانیہ اور امریکہ ہرگا - کیونکہ یہ دونوں Imperialist ہیں اور دونوں Capitalist ہیں اور دوسری طرف Russia ہوگا - چونکہ انگلینڈ اور امریکہ Imperialist اور Capitalist ہیں اسلئے ہمارا رجحان Russia کی طرف ہو سکتا ہے - گروپ ہلتے کے متعلق میرا یہ خیال ہے اور میری یہ خواہش بھی ہے - ایک طرف انگلینڈ اور امریکہ ہوگا اور دوسری طرف Russia ہوگا اور فرانس بیچ میں گیدز بن کر رہیگا اور میرا خیال ہے کہ جب انگلینڈ اور امریکہ ایک طرف ہونگے اور فرانس درمیان میں نہ اُدھر اور نہ اُدھر رہیگا - تو دوسری طرف Russia کے ساتھ ہندوستان کو رہنا چاہئے - فرانس کی حیثیت میں چین بھی ہو سکتا ہے - اسلئے میں جواہر لال نہرو سے گزارش کرونگا کہ وہ اس معاملہ میں اپنے خیالات کی تشریح کریں اور میرے خیال میں انکو ایسا کرنا چاہئے کیونکہ میرے خیال میں ہمیں اپنی tendency کا فیصلہ کرنا چاہئے - اس بنا پر میں اس کت موشن کی تائید کرتا ہوں -

(English translation of the above speech)

Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U. P. Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had not intended to participate in the debates of this Assembly because I am more interested in Constitution than in Legislature. But because, in the course of his speech my friend Mr. Ranga has referred to "world Politics"; because the name of the Honourable the Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, has been mentioned in this connection, and because a mention has also been made of the policy of the Honourable the Prime Minister—what it has hitherto been and what it is likely to be—I feel compelled to say a few words on the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Ranga had no right to speak on this cut motion because he had already supported the policy of Jawahar Lal Nehru. Why should he speak now when once he has enlisted himself under the banner of Jawahar Lal Nehru? From what he has said about the policy of the latter I understand that the Honourable the Prime Minister is going to adopt a policy of neutrality towards those countries which might participate in the war that is likely to take place in the future. The parties that this impending war is likely to involve will be Russia on the one side and England and America on the other. This is what I calculate. But I doubt if Jawahar Lal Nehru pursues the policy that Mr. Ranga has told us. If he does, I oppose him, and on the same ground I

[Maulana Haasrat Mohani.]

support this Cut Motion. The world has reached such a stage that it is impossible for any country to remain neutral. Nor can such circumstances arise which may permit a country to remain neutral. We are left now with only two ideologies we can have either "Socialism" or "nationalism". The latter includes both 'Capitalism' and 'Imperialism'; "Radicalism", "Socialism" and even "Communism" come under the caption of "Socialism". What I want to say at this time is—and I believe in it—that when a war breaks out it will not be possible for India to remain neutral. Iran tried to do that during the last war; later when the scene of the battlefield shifted to its soil it could not do without breaking the pledge of neutrality. It had consequently to ally itself with the English against the Axis. This makes me believe that decisions must be taken on the present issue. It would be a fond hope if we thought that we can remain silent spectators when a war breaks out in the future. We must decide, once for all, what policy we have to pursue in case such circumstances arise. It is true that by remaining neutral we desire peace, but I think it to be a remote possibility. We cannot remain neutral. Under the circumstances, therefore, Jawahar Lal Nehru should state before the House what he believes in. If his belief is as Mr. Ranga has said then he should shun it. He should decide a new policy and let us know what it is.

A third World War is threatening us. The likely parties to it will be England and America on one side, and Russia on the other. The two former countries will ally themselves with each other because both of them are Protagonists of "Capitalism" and "Imperialism". Russia will fight against them because the other two countries are 'Capitalists' and 'Imperialists'; India will naturally be more inclined towards Russia. About the formation of groups I think the English and the Americans will be in one camp while Russia will be in the other. France will not dare join any group. Thus when America and England become Allies and France remains neutral, I think India should throw its weight on the side of Russia. China may also behave as France. I would, therefore, like to request Jawahar Lal Nehru to define his policy about it. I think he ought to do it for we have to decide how we have to move. On these grounds I support this Cut Motion.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad (Bihar: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by the Honourable Prof. N. G. Ranga to discuss the position of India in International affairs and of Indians in Commonwealth countries. We have not as yet acquired a position of pre-eminence in world politics. We have borne the White man's burden on our back for centuries. That burden has been lifted only recently. We have to emancipate our neighbours from this burden in order to assume the leadership of Asia.

We must ask the Americans to withdraw their forces from Japan. If we want to succeed in this attempt, we must seek the support of Russia and China

Mr. Speaker: I might make a suggestion. Generally speaking, written speeches should not be resorted to. Honourable Members may refer to their notes. In case of responsible statements by Ministers, they have necessarily to be read (Interruption).

Shri Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): But our statements are not irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker: In the case of Ministers, every word is of importance and their statements must be properly worded. But so far as the debate is concerned, if the debate is to contain its own interest and has really to be a debate, speeches prepared outside the House should not be read in the House. That is my decision in the matter. Perhaps the Honourable Member, Shri Balkrishna Sharma was referring to the previous practice.

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: No, Sir. I only wanted to bring to your notice that after all the language in which we have been carrying on so far our discussion in the House is not our own, and if some of the Honourable Members feel like jotting down their ideas and placing them before the House, naturally enough you may be kind enough to permit them to do so for the simple reason (Interruption) for the simple reason that they cannot do otherwise. And then, Sir, if the Honourable Ministers are permitted the privilege of reading out written statements on the ground that they are all sorts of very responsible pronouncements, then we poor fellows should not be taken as irresponsible people and our statements as irresponsible statements.

Mr. Speaker: The case of Ministers stands on an entirely different footing and their Statements which are of a special importance,—every word of them,—have to be clothed in careful language. That is not the case with speeches of members, and whatever the practice of the old Assembly,—there was to some extent, as the Honourable Member pointed out, the difficulty of language—but in the present House, there is absolutely no difficulty of language. Every Member is entitled to address in his own language, if he cannot express himself in Hindustani. All that I am saying at present is that I do not want to encourage written speeches. I do not want to prohibit the present speaker just at this moment, but this should not be taken as a precedent that written speeches be permitted. Members will realise that if written speeches are permitted, it may mean that some other person writes a speech and the member reads it,—of course,—not in all cases; but then the speech read will have probably no reference to the speeches made by others in the debate. What is read would have been written previous to the starting of the debate. Therefore, if we want really to have a debate with a life in it, without repetitions and with arguments addressed only to the points raised, then I am sure members will all agree with me that written speeches must be discouraged. In the case of those who cannot speak properly at the beginning, there is all the greater reason that they should make an attempt of speaking so that they will be able to do so much better as they proceed further. I may inform Honourable Members that written speeches are not permitted in the House of Commons and it is a good parliamentary procedure which we may as well follow.

The Honourable Member may address, if he likes, in Hindustani or any other language.

An Honourable Member: This is his maiden speech. Let him proceed.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Am I permitted to read or not, Sir? (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): He is not a Minister in charge of Internal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: I know that. Still, I do not want to come in the way of the Honourable Member just for the time being. My difficulty is, if one is permitted, the other also has to be permitted and then it becomes a precedent and we cannot then encourage oral speeches and discourage written ones. I want to set up the precedent of absolutely discouraging written speeches. References to notes is a different matter. I do not want to come in the way of the Honourable Member just now, but that is the way, in which I propose to carry on in this House.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: A joint attempt must be made by India, China and Russia in this direction. Europe and America must withdraw from Asia. Asia for Asians should be the guiding principle to be pursued in the realm of foreign affairs. The task of liquidating 'Fascism' from Japan is the sole concern of these three countries. We do not want American support in this noble venture. Let England and America liquidate 'Fascism' in their own countries before they impose any such task upon themselves in other man's land

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member read slowly, so that the other members may follow?

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: I am anxious to finish my speech within the time allotted; otherwise, Sir, I can go very slow.

Mr. Speaker: The idea of the speaker is that the House should get at his idea. I think the Honourable Member can read slowly and within the time allotted.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: Very well, Sir.....The future of the Japanese and the Italian colonies in Asia and Africa is a question in which we are immensely interested. The Japanese colonies in Asia should never be handed over to America or England. If they are going to be placed under international control, the trustees should be India, China and Russia. The colonies being proximate to these countries, they alone are in a position to discharge the function to the full satisfaction of the whole world. We can never permit these colonies to pass under American or British hands. We cannot endanger our own security. We want these colonies not for any imperialistic purposes. We have no such designs. India can never embark on an imperialist career. The culture and tradition of centuries stand in the way of any such adventure.

Being the successor of the British Government in India, the present Government should undertake to perform those tasks which the British Government performed in its relations with Nepal. Nepal had no direct connections with the outside world. Its foreign affairs were looked after by the British Government. Now we should perform this task. The penetration of foreign influence in Nepal is a source of danger to our security. The foreign affairs of Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim should be conducted by the Government of India.

Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and other adjoining States are our neighbours. Foreigners should not have any concern with these States. We should have a co-ordinated and integrated system of Defence with these States. A Joint Defence Council must be set up. Our Army Chiefs must collaborate with the Army Chiefs of these States. (*Interruption*).

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): I move, Sir, that the speech be taken as read.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: The paramount need of the hour is the promulgation of the Nehru Doctrine on the lines of the Monroe Doctrine. In the early stages, the Government of the U. S. A. had no sanction to enforce it. It was only with the help of Great Britain that the U. S. A. succeeded in large measure in implementing it. The wide political differences prevailing amongst the nations of Europe contributed to the success of the Monroe Doctrine. We have also our friends in China and Russia. With the help of these states, we can succeed in our attempt. The civil discord which prevails in China will not be of a long duration. Very soon she will come to occupy the position which is hers in international politics.

The proposal to hold a referendum in Kashmir under the supervision of the U. N. O. will mean interference in our internal affairs. As a result of changed conditions prevailing in Kashmir, there is no justification for conducting any referendum at all.

The Government of India has shown utmost consideration in its dealings with the Government of Pakistan. The desire to re-unite India is responsible to a large extent for the policy which the Government of India has followed in its relations with Pakistan. We are prepared for reunion on democratic lines. We are opposed to granting 50 per cent. representation to Pakistan in the

Legislatures, Cabinets, Army and in the Foreign Services of the new Government of India which will emerge as a result of any Federation between India and Pakistan. The financial contributions of Pakistan to the common centre is likely to be strictly in proportion to its area and population. Acceptance of any such plan will lead to red ruin and anarchy. I thoroughly endorse the statement made by Major Cariappa at London. The Army will succeed where statesmen have failed. India will become re-united once again in the fulness of time.

We must be on our guard against the dangers of Pan-Islamism. Nothing is impossible in Politics. There is no such danger confronting us at the present moment. We do not know what the future holds in store for us. The first step in the establishment of a Pan-Islamic state is likely to be the formation of a Federation between Pakistan and the adjoining Muslim States. Our duty is to try our level best to prevent the establishment of any such Federation by all methods which may be open to us at any given moment, whatever the constitutional implications of Pakistan as a sovereign state may be. To achieve this aim it is necessary to open our embassies in the Middle-East—the storm centre of world Politics—which should be manned by experienced diplomats whose first task would be to employ all diplomatic methods—moral and non-moral—to prevent the establishment of any such Federation. The imperialist powers with a view to preserve their vested interests in Asia are eager to purchase the friendship of the Muslim states and to win them over to their side they have thrown the bait of Pan-Islamism. Pan-Islamism is the offshoot of Imperialism. If we want to liquidate Pan-Islamism and Imperialism, we must join hands with Russia and China. Instead of pursuing the vain hope of an Indo-Pakistan reunion in the immediate future we must investigate the possibility of an Indo-Chinese Federation. Up till now India and China have not fought any war between themselves. The vast majority of the people of China are Buddhist and thus allied to India which gave birth to Buddhism. There is ideological, cultural, religious, ethical, philosophical and political sympathy and similarity between the peoples of India and China. The doctrines of exploitation, war, capitalism and imperialism are repugnant to the moral conscience of the people of Asia in general and of the two countries—India and China—in particular. The bond of friendship which happily exists between the leaders of India and China—Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Marshal Chiang—may facilitate the achievement of a federal union. Both India and China are menaced by Imperialism on all sides. It is in the common interest of both these states to evolve a federal plan of Union. India and China are destined to be the leaders of Asia. Joined together they will be a force to be reckoned with. It will comprise a conjoint state of 800 million people. It will cover a large part of the total area of the world. The economic resources of this union will be greater than those of any political combination of states. It will be economically impregnable from any possible attack. It will be the harbinger of Asian greatness. It will facilitate the task of world Federation and usher in a form of society based on the abiding foundations of authority and progress. This Federation will sooner or later attract within its bosom the Malayan archipelago, Burma, Japan, Siam, Korea, Ceylon, Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. One by one all the states lying in S. E. Asia in their own interest and out of their own free will, will join this great commonwealth of Nations based on the truest idea's of justice and Freedom. Asian destiny cannot finalise itself into a mere S.E. Asian Federation. It must merge into an Asian Federation consisting of all the states and covering the entire area and population of this great continent.

With this end in view there is a need for a change in our outlook. The foreign policy of the Government of India based on democratic principles and regard for the sovereignty of states stands in need of thorough re-examination. To strengthen our own position in world affairs and the pursuance of power

[Shri Brajeshwar Prasad.]

politics are ideals worthy of acceptance. We regret that we have failed to secure a seat in the Council. Asian nations seem to have no place in the U.N.O. The only course left open to us is to form an Asian League of Nations. We are sorry that we have not been able as yet in spite of our best endeavours to render any help to our fellow countrymen in South Africa who are groaning under the wheels of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may resume his seat. I hope the House will now agree with me that it is absolutely necessary to discourage written speeches.

Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of Indian Nationals abroad has engaged the attention of the Government of India from time to time and I may be permitted to say, Sir, that the occasion to-day for safeguarding the interests of Indian Nationals abroad is much greater than ever before and it could not be in the hands of any better person than our esteemed Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Sir, with his influence in national affairs and his international position, he can mould things in the best manner possible. I say 'mould things in the best manner possible' because when India is free to-day it will be easier for India to negotiate with other countries regarding the interests of Indians in foreign countries. In recent months ever since the new Government came into existence in India, they have been very busy with regard to South Africa in particular.

Sir, I may be permitted to mention particularly about Burma, for I claim to have some personal experience of conditions in Burma. When we talk of Burma, I should be permitted to mention that Mahatma Gandhi said two years ago that the best occasion for the two countries to come to an honourable agreement is when both countries are free and to-day both the countries are free. Sir, it is a happy augury that on this occasion the Prime Minister of Burma should be here in Delhi and we welcome him warmly. I do feel that this is not the occasion when this House should go into greater detail regarding the relationship between India and Burma, for any one and particularly this House should not embarrass the delicate negotiations that may be now on between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Burma, except by way of mentioning the situation in Burma for the consideration of our Foreign Minister.

Sir, with regard to the part Indians have played in Burma, the Indian community in India need not be ashamed. They can always feel proud of their brethren in Burma; they have contributed not only to the material prosperity of Burma, but to the political progress of Burma and whether they are going to be there in the future or whether they are going to come away, the work they have done will always remain and the part that our soldiers have played in recent years in liberating Burma will always be remembered. And I may be allowed to mention, Sir, that in the last twenty years in the struggle that the Burmese people have put forward for attaining freedom, the Indian community in Burma have given a great helping hand to the Burmese people for attaining their freedom and that will always remain a glorious chapter in the history of the Indian community in Burma.

Sir, with regard to the immediate situation regarding property, assets and businesses of Indians in Burma, we do not want any preferential treatment. What we want is only fairplay and justice and equal treatment that may be meted out to nationals of other countries. Compensation is provided in the Anglo-Burmese Treaty, and we want the same to be provided in the Indo-Burma Treaty and I am sure Honourable Members of the House would agree that this is not an extraordinary position for India to take.

Sir, when it is agreed that there should be compensation on equal basis and on an equitable basis, it should also be agreed, Sir, that before the compensation comes and particularly when the question of compensation is going to be settled very soon—the Government of Burma will in the coming years have some scheme to compensate the owners of property—it is essential that in the meantime the property should not be diminished, with reference to its value or its income. Sir, in the last fortnight there has been a serious attempt, of which the Government of India are not yet fully aware. They are just coming to know of the present attempt to diminish the return from the land. Already the return from the land to the owner of the land is very poor and they are now trying to reduce it still further and by so doing they are only forcing the land-owner to surrender the land and give away much in the result. We only want the Government of India to immediately intervene in the matter. We do not want the Government of Burma to take such a step in advance of the Treaty, particularly in view of the fact that the treaty is going to be initiated very shortly. Pending the Treaty, I would suggest to the Government of India that they should urge upon the Government of Burma to stay their hands with regard to such interference with the land and tenancy question. Let them not interfere with the tenancy law just on the eve of the negotiations to be started between the two countries.

Sir, I may be permitted to mention the value of the Indian assets there just for Honourable Members to know the enormity of the problem. Sir, the Indian community own land to the extent of 30 lakhs of acres which is worth 90 crores of rupees—the land alone. Besides this, Sir, Indians own house property and other businesses which may be worth another 50 or 60 crores and Burma owes 52 crores as loan to the Government of India. I mention these figures so that these are not matters which individual Indians in Burma can tackle. At any rate, it is not possible for individual Indians or Indian organizations in Burma to tackle. It is at a high level—at the Governmental level and the Ministerial level—that this should be taken up and dealt with. I can say on behalf of the Indian community that the Indian community will unreservedly place their assets in the hands of the Government of India for such settlement as the Government of India may deem fair and reasonable. It is a national asset of ours.

Sir, the facts I have given entitle me to request the Government of India to give immediate attention to this problem. Now let me say one word about Indo-China. There our assets have been frozen; the moneys in banks are virtually frozen as we are not able to get it here owing to exchange restrictions. I do hope that the Honourable the Prime Minister and the Honourable the Finance Minister will devise ways and means to enable Indians there to remit money to this country.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, until not so very long ago India was regarded as the Cinderella among the nations of the earth and treated as a door-mat of nations. Fortunately we the people of India by our strength, suffering and sacrifice aided by the grace and blessing of a just Providence have left those unhappy days behind. It is about a hundred days—111 days to be precise—since we emerged out of the darkness of slavery into the outer light, the semi-light of freedom. I advisedly use the phrase "outer light" because I for one cannot say that we have emerged into the inner light, the full light of freedom. So long as we are still considered a dominion of the British Commonwealth, so long as we have not completely severed the British connection—which was part of the Independence Pledge that we used to take from year to year—so long as we are not a completely free and independent nation, I for one will not say that we have achieved full freedom. I feel of course that the day is not far off when with the Honourable Prime Minister and Foreign Minister at the helm of affairs we will see our nation leading Asia and the rest of the world. That is exactly the reason why I feel that unless India is completely free and independent the Honourable

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Foreign Minister cannot rise to his full stature; he will rise to his full stature and he will be himself only in a completely free and independent India. He has stood for peace, equality and freedom. India has stood for these principles through the ages, since time immemorial and India has preached this gospel of universal peace, universal equality and universal freedom to the nations of the earth. It is very well for us to remember at the present day when the world which has emerged out of a disastrous and destructive war but still not at peace, that humanity needs such a message preached afresh and anew. We have to assert ourselves and pull our full weight in the council of nations. My Honourable friend Seth Govind Das referred to our disabilities in East Africa and my Honourable friend Shri Muthia Chettiar referred to the question of Burma. I do not want to touch on those subjects, but I feel that had we been completely free and completely equal with the nations of the earth there are one or two things that we could have avoided in the past, not in the remote past but in the recent past. I will state one or two instances which might serve as a warning for the future. Soon after the war came to an end a memorial consecrated by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to the Martyrs of the *Azad Hind Foj* in Singapore and at which, if I remember aright, the Honourable Foreign Minister when he was in Singapore laid a wreath,—that memorial was dynamited by our present Governor-General who was then the Commander-in-Chief of South East Asia. Had we been a free nation we would not have allowed such a thing to happen.

Again, the Indian Military Mission in Berlin in 1945-46 was a disgrace and a scandal. I am told—I cannot vouch for its truth—by some of the Indians who have returned from there that the Indian members of the Mission harassed our own countrymen and treated them worse than the British members themselves. That was because we were not a free nation and because they were bossed over by the British members of the Mission.

One or two more points and I have done. The most urgent problem today is the peace treaties that are in the offing,—peace with Germany and peace with Japan. I hope and pray that we will take our full part in the framing of these peace treaties, not peace with a vengeance and not the *vae victis* of the conqueror, but the peace that will lead to blessedness and harmony among the nations of the world.

There is one little point, may be a trifle, that I should like to stress and I hope the Foreign Minister will take it in the spirit in which it is offered. That relates to the expenditure on our embassies in foreign countries. Some days ago or some months ago a report went about that something to the tune of 5 lakhs of rupees was spent on furnishing our embassy in Moscow and that our Ambassadress had to go as far as Stockholm in Sweden and perhaps to Oslo too to get material for furniture, carpets and tapestry for the embassy office and residence. Even if such an amount be spent for the embassy and the residence we do not mind, but I think most of it should have been spent on our own Indian goods and not on Swedish or other foreign goods. We are fortunate in having a distinguished Ambassadress in Russia; I think we are the only other country in the world with a woman Ambassador. I think it was Russia who had a woman Ambassador in Sweden, Madame Kollontai; and we as soon as we came into freedom have an Ambassadress in Russia. I do hope that the Honourable Foreign Minister and Finance Minister will keep an eye on the expenditure that is incurred and will be incurred on our embassies in foreign countries.

Sir, one word about the Middle East imbroglio. I feel that something is brewing in the Middle East and I do not wish my country to be involved in what might happen there. My Honourable friend Dr. Khare talked of the walk-out in the U.N.O. I do not want to make much of that, but anyway I do not wish that India should get involved in this quarrel between the Arabs and

the Jews. We are not a party to any power politics; we are not going to join any bloc, whether it is the Arab bloc or the Jewish bloc, the American bloc or the Russian bloc. The Foreign Minister has made it clear in his pronouncements that we stand for peace among the nations and not for power politics; I hope that we will steer clear of this Middle East politics, because once there is a flare-up in the Middle East, so many nations are eager to take a hand in it,—America, Russia and so on. And I am afraid that once we are in it it will be difficult to get out of it, and our role must be to make peace among the Arabs and the Jews and not to make the position which is already bad much worse and more complicated.

Sir, in the end I only wish to say that I am looking forward to the day when India, guided by our able leaders, will take her place as a free socialist State, in a socialist federation of one free world when the 'Parliament of Man' will have been ushered in, where she will take her rightful and honoured place among the nations. India will always stand, as she has always stood in the past and in the present, for the great principles of peace and equality. She will preach the gospel of *Serve janah Sukhino bhavantu* and the Gospel of fraternity. The French revolutionists who raised the slogan of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" achieved in fair measure the task of liberty, in that they could usher in political liberty—one man one vote. The Russian revolution brought in to a certain extent equality—economic equality, in that Russia became the first Socialist State in the world. I feel, Sir, that India, the ancient but ever young, will preach the gospel of fraternity, of brotherhood—the crowning glory of all virtues, the noblest message that has been preached by man, and I feel and I hope that India will preach this gospel of fraternity, will accomplish it and lead Asia and the rest of mankind on the path of peace, freedom, blessedness and harmony.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I welcome this occasion. Although we are discussing this subject of foreign affairs not directly but by way of a cut motion, nevertheless it is a novel occasion for this House and I think it is good that we realize what it conveys. It means ultimately that we are entering into the international field, not only by going into conferences and the like, but by really putting international questions before the country, before this House for its decision. There is no immediate question before this House today. But undoubtedly as time goes on, the major international questions will have to be decided by this House.

Listening to the debate, to the speeches made by Honourable Members, I find, as was perhaps natural, that there was no immediate issue, no particular question for discussion, but rather pious hopes, vague ideals and sometimes a measure of let us say, denunciation of things that had happened in the world. It has been a vague debate, with nothing pointed about it to which one could attach oneself. Many of the Honourable Members have been good enough to speak gently and generously of what has been done in the realm of foreign affairs on behalf of the Government of India during the past year. I am grateful to them, but may I say in reply that I am in complete disagreement with them. I think the Government of India during the past year has not done what it should have done. That perhaps has not been so much the fault of the Government of India as such, but rather of circumstances. Anyway, what we had envisaged that we ought to do, and we might do, we have not been able to do, largely because other circumstances arose in this country which have prevented all that being done. We are not yet out of those difficulties, internal and otherwise, which might enable us to have a free hand in our external relations, and therefore I would beg the House to judge of this period in this context of what has been happening in this country, not only during the past unhappy three or four months, but in the course of the past year when we

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lived in the middle of internal conflict and confusion which drained away our energy and did not leave us time to attend to other matters.

That has been the dominant feature of our politics during the past year and undoubtedly that has affected our foreign policy in the sense of our not giving enough time and energy to it. Nevertheless, I think we have advanced in that field. Again it is difficult to say how you measure advance in such a field. My Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, was critical of various things. As he has every right to be, and his criticism took the shape of a written speech to which your attention, Sir, was not drawn! I was glad of the Honourable Dr. Khare's intrusion in this debate, because the debate was getting rather heavy and he brought a touch of comedy and humour into it as well as unreality. When the Honourable Member represented the Government in this House it was a little difficult to attach much importance to what he said. I suppose now it is less difficult to do so, or little more difficult to do so! So I will not venture to say anything or to reply to what he said because it seems to me totally inconsequential and without any meaning.

But coming to other subjects, the main subject in foreign policy today is vaguely talked of in terms of "Do you belong to this group or that group?". That is an utter simplification of issues and it is all very well for the Honourable Maulana to hold forth that India will go to war under this banner or that banner. But that surely is not the way that a responsible House or a responsible country views the situation. We have proclaimed during this past year that we will not attach ourselves to any particular group. That has nothing to do with neutrality or anything else or passivity. If there is a big war, there is no particular reason why we should jump into it. Nevertheless, it is a little difficult nowadays in world wars to be neutral. Any person with any knowledge of international affairs knows that. The point is not what will happen when there is a war. Are we going to proclaim to the world, taking the advice of Maulana Hasrat Mohani that when war comes we stand by Russia? Is that his idea of foreign policy or any policy? That shows to me an amazing ignorance of how any foreign affair can be conducted. We are not going to join a war if we can help it: and we are going to join the side which is to our interest when the choice comes to it. There the matter ends.

But talking about foreign policies, the House must remember that these are not just empty struggles on a chess board that are going on. Behind them lie all manner of things. Ultimately foreign policy is the outcome of economic policy and till that time, when India has properly evolved her economic policy, her foreign policy will be rather vague, rather incoherent, and will rather grope about. It is well for us to say that we stand for peace and freedom and yet that does not convey much to anybody, except a pious hope. We do stand for peace and freedom. I think there is something to be said for it. There is some meaning when we say that we stand for the freedom of Asian countries and for the elimination of imperialistic control over them. There is some meaning in that. Undoubtedly it has some substance but a vague statement that we stand for peace and freedom by itself has no particular meaning, because every

country is prepared to say the same thing, whether it means it or not. What then do we stand for? Well, you have to develop then this argument in the economic field. As it happens today, in spite of the fact that we have been for sometime in authority as a Government I regret that we have not produced any constructive economic scheme or economic policy thus far. Again my excuse is that we have been going through such amazing times which has taken up all our energy and attention that it became difficult to do so. Nevertheless we shall have to do so and when we do so that will govern our foreign policy, more than all the speeches in this House.

We have sought to avoid these foreign entanglements and joining one bloc or the other. The natural result has been that neither of these big blocs looks with favour on us. They think that we are undependable, because we cannot be made to vote this way or that way. Last year when our Delegation went to the United Nations it was the first time that more or less an independent delegation went from India. It was looked upon a little askance. They did not know what it was going to do. When they found that we acted according to our own will they did not like it. We were unpopular last year in the United Nations. I do not mean individually but in regard to our policy and they could not quite find out what we were or what we were aiming at. There was a suspicion in the minds of one group that really we were allied to the other group in secret, though we were trying to hide that fact and the other group thought that we were allied to the first group in secret though we were trying to hide that fact. This year there was a slight change in this attitude. We did many things which the other groups disliked but the comprehension came to them that we were not really allied to any group, that we were trying to act according to our own lights and according to the merits of the dispute as they seemed to us. They did not like that of course, because the position today is that there is so much passion about it and so much fear and suspicion of each other between these rival great powers and groups that anybody who is not with them is considered as against them. So they did not like what we did in many instances: nevertheless they respected us much more, because they realised that we had some kind of an independent policy, that we were not going to be dragooned this way or that, that we may make a mistake as anyone can, nevertheless we were going to stick to our own policy and programme, so that while we possibly irritated some of our friends even a little more than last year, we got on much better with everybody, because they understood that we did stand for something. That is the background of it.

To give the House an instance of how we functioned, take this Palestine affair which has given rise and will give rise to a great deal of trouble. We took up a certain attitude in regard to it which was roughly a Federal State with autonomous parts of it. It was opposed to both the other attitudes, which were before the United Nations. One was partition which has now been adopted: the other was a unitary state. We suggested a Federal State with naturally an Arab majority in charge of the Federal State but with autonomy for the other regions—Jewish regions. After a great deal of thought we decided that this was not only a fair and equitable solution of the problem but the only real solution of the problem. Any other solution would mean just fight and conflict. Nevertheless our solution—which as the House will remember was the solution given in the minority report of the Palestine Committee—did not find favour with most people in the United Nations. Some of the major powers were out for partition and they therefore pressed for it and ultimately got it. Others were so keen on the unitary state idea and were so sure of at any rate preventing partition or preventing a two-thirds majority in favour of partition that they did not accept our suggestion. When during the last few days partition somehow suddenly became inevitable and votes veered round to that owing to the pressure of some of the great powers, then suddenly it was realised that the Indian solution was probably the best and a last minute attempt was made in the last 48 hours to bring forward the Indian solution, not by us but by those who wanted a unitary state. It was then too late. There were procedural difficulties and many of the persons who might have accepted this solution had already pledged themselves to the partition side. And so ultimately partition was decided upon by a two-thirds majority, with a large number abstaining from voting, with the result again of trouble now and a great deal of trouble in the future in the Middle East. I point this out to the House as an instance that in spite of considerable difficulty and being told by many of our friends on either side that we must line up this way or that we refused to do so and I have no

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doubt that the position we had taken up was the right one and I have no doubt yet that that would have brought about a solution as no other decision would. That applies to many other things. But inevitably that means that to some extent we have to plough a lonely furrow in the United Nations or in international conferences of this type. Nonetheless that is the only honourable and right position for us to take up and I am quite sure that by adopting that position we shall ultimately gain in national and international prestige, that is to say, when we take a long view of the situation, not a short view of getting immediately a vote here or there. I have no doubt that fairly soon, in the course of two or three years, the world will find this attitude justifying itself and that India will not only be respected by the major protagonists in the struggle for power but a large number of the smaller nations which today are rather helpless would probably look towards India more than to other countries for a lead in such matters.

May I in this connection say that during this last session of the United Nations General Assembly many very difficult and very controversial issues were raised, and our Delegation had to face extraordinarily intricate situations. I should like to pay a tribute to our Delegation, specially to the leader of the Delegation.

Honourable Members often put questions about appointment of ambassadors, members of delegations and the like and rightly so, because the House should be interested in such important appointments. May I say to the House that nothing is more difficult than to make these appointments, because they are not just appointments of persons who may be able but appointments of particular persons to particular places where they must fit in, which is an extraordinarily difficult thing. In the key places of the world the ideal Ambassador must be some kind of super-man. It is so difficult now not only to understand the intricacies—that is not difficult—but to keep friends with everybody and yet to advance your cause. After all we have been in the past discussing foreign affairs outside, in other assemblies, or incidentally here, rather in an academic way, rather in a college debating society way. That is, we talk of high policies but we do not come to grips with the question when we have to say 'yes' or 'no' to a question and take the consequences of that. If the House will forgive my saying so, even in today's debate many of the speeches were of an academic kind which did not take into account the vital questions which concern the world today which may mean peace or war. But when the House will have to face the question by having to take a decision which may lead to war or peace, when one comes face to face with realism, then one cannot rely merely on idealistic principles. Foreign affairs is utterly realistic today where a false step, a false phrase makes a difference. The first thing that an Ambassador of ours has to know is to shut his mouth and give up public or even private speaking. It is not a habit which we have developed in our past careers—of being completely silent almost. Yet that has to be developed and in private one has to be silent lest what one says might injure the cause of the nation, might create international ill-will and so on and so forth. It is in this background that I should like the House to consider international affairs—this realistic background, this notion that this is not merely some naughty men playing about and quarrelling with each other, some statesmen in America and the U.S.S.R. or the British imperialism lurking in the distance behind the curtain and doing something. We have talked so much about British imperialism that we cannot get out of the habit of it, whether it is there or not. But it is by coming to grips with this subject in its economic, political and various other aspects, trying to understand and realize it that ultimately matters. Whatever policy you may lay down, this foreign affairs of any country is to find out what is most advantageous to your country. We may talk

about international goodwill and mean what we talk. We may talk about peace and freedom and earnestly mean what we say. But in the ultimate analysis a government functions for the good of the country it governs and no government dare do anything which in the short or long run is manifestly to the disadvantage of that country. Therefore, whether a country is imperialistic or socialist or Communist, its Foreign Minister thinks primarily of the interests of that country. And no doubts so. But there is a difference of course. Some people may think of the interests of their country regardless of other consequences or take a short distance view. Others may think "No, in the long term policy the interest of another country is as important to me as that of my own country". The interest of peace is more important because if war comes everyone suffers, so that in the long-distance view self-interest may itself demand a policy of co-operation with other nations, goodwill for other nations, as indeed it does demand. Every intelligent person can see that if you have a narrow national policy it may enthuse the multitude for the moment, just as a communal cry has done, but it is bad for the nation and it is bad internationally because you lose sight of the ultimate good and thereby endanger your own good. Therefore we propose to look after India's interests in the context of world co-operation and world peace, in so far as world peace can be preserved. We propose to keep in the closest terms of friendship with other countries unless they themselves create difficulties. We shall be friends with America. We intend co-operating with the United States of America and we intend co-operating fully with the Soviet Union. We have had, as the House knows, a distinguished Representative of the United States here for some time past. Within a week or two we shall have a distinguished Representative of the Soviet Union here, in the Soviet Embassy which is being opened in New Delhi.

I should not like to say much more at this stage about foreign affairs partly for lack of time, partly because it is a little difficult to discuss these matters. Some of the Honourable Members may perhaps let themselves go about what should be done in China, Japan, Siam and Peru, but I fear it is a little difficult and it will be a little irresponsible for me to talk about these various matters. Naturally India is interested in Asian countries even more than the rest of the world. We have had an Asian Conference, and at this moment we have a distinguished visitor, the Prime Minister of Burma, here. May I say in this connection that some people are under a misapprehension that we are conducting special negotiations with the Burmese Delegation here? That is not quite true. It has been primarily a visit of courtesy. At the same time, of course, we have broadly explored the various questions, discussed various matters of common concern, not with the idea of suddenly coming to decisions in regard to these intricate matters now but rather to lay the foundations for future talks. May I also say that the Prime Minister of Burma is interested, as many of us have been, in closer association, not only between Burma and India but between various other countries of Asia also? We have discussed that also, not again with a view suddenly to come to decisions because these things take a little time to grow. They all indicate the new spirit of Asia which wants Asian countries to draw closer together in defence of themselves and in promoting world peace.

Coming to another part of this cut motion in regard to Indians in the British Commonwealth, that is an old subject and a painful subject. I entirely agree with any criticism that might be made that we have not been able to do anything substantial in this direction. Something has been done in Canada or elsewhere but nothing substantial has yet been done. Now, the odd thing is that this subject becomes more and more difficult to deal with and not easier. Indians have gone to these British Colonies and Dominions in the past in various forms, as merchants, traders, workers, indentured labourers and the rest. Looking back on this history of Indian emigration abroad, and including in that the humblest of those who went from India, it reads almost like a romance

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how these Indians went abroad. Not even citizens of a free country, working under all disadvantages, yet they made good wherever they went. They worked hard for themselves and for the country where they were in. They made good themselves and profited the country they had gone to.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

It is a romance and it is something which India can be proud of, and may I say most of all of those poor indentured labourers who went out under unhappy conditions and who through their own labour, gradually worked their way up. That is so. It is also true that India, being a country that in spite of everything, has abounding vitality and spreads abroad. It rather frightens our neighbour countries, just like China which is also a country with abounding vitality and an abounding population. We spread. We tend to overwhelm others both by virtue of our numbers, and sometimes by virtue of the economic position we might develop there. That naturally frightens others who may not have that vitality in them, and they want to protect themselves against it, and then questions arise of vested interests which India has developed or Indians have developed there. Those questions have arisen, and while on the one hand we are obviously intent on protecting the interests of Indians abroad, on the other hand we cannot protect any vested interests which injure the cause of the country they are in. There is that difficulty. Nevertheless, undoubtedly we shall try to do our best to protect all legitimate interests.

Now one word more. I will not take more of the time of the House. An Honourable Member, Mr. Kamath, I think, referred to the expenditure incurred in Embassies. Now first of all, one of the minor headaches I have had to suffer from is a relatively new tendency in old and new newspapers alike to publish without check or hindrance the most amazing lies. It is impossible to keep pace with that. It is undesirable always to go about contradicting every little thing they say. It just cannot be done, and Delhi has been inflicted by some new types of papers and journals I have come across, which do not raise either the stature of Indian journalism or anything else. So many of these stories are not true that have appeared. I read somewhere about the U. P. Government presenting (I think in a Delhi paper) Rs. 20,000 and 200 *saris* to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit on her departure to Moscow. I read all manner of the most malicious and unfounded and false statements in these papers about Mr. Asaf Ali.

Now, coming to this question of cost, the figure Mr. Kamath mentioned of 5 lakhs of course has no relation to fact. I do not know what the figure is.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I did not vouch for the truth of it; I said it was only a press report.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I suggest that if Mr. Kamath makes any statements, he might investigate them before he makes them.

What I should like this House to remember is this, that these ambassadorial appointments have to keep up a certain dignity and a certain status. It is no good our sending an Ambassador and not giving him a house to live in, not giving him furniture in the house, not providing him with the minimum wherewithal to meet others properly and decently. I doubt if any country, big or small, is conducting its ambassadorial establishments in such a cheap way as we are doing. A great deal of criticism has been made about our Ambassador in Moscow getting furniture from Stockholm. Well, how a house has to be furnished in Moscow, of course Honourable Members do not realise. It just is not possible to furnish it easily in Moscow. You get an empty house. We thought of sending things from India, but it was almost a physical impossibility unless we spent vast sums over aeroplanes carrying chairs and tables from here.

Of course it could be furnished alternatively with Russian furniture. The Russian people, and all credit to them for this, ever since this war, are so intent on doing what they consider to be the fundamental things that they refuse to waste their time on the accessories of life. They have to build up their country after the most horrible suffering and damage they suffered in the war and they are building it up in regard to the major undertakings. They go about in patched up clothes and broken down shoes. It does not matter, but they are building dams, reservoirs and factories and the rest which they consider more important. So it is not easy to get any of these small accessories of life for the moment. The only things you can get in Russia are antique pieces of Czarist days which are frightfully expensive. The result is that our Embassy in Moscow has to go to Stockholm for its chairs and tables, and as these were urgently required—office equipment, etc.—our Ambassador had to go there. But of course the visit to Stockholm was not merely, Members of the House should realise, to buy furniture. When an Ambassador goes elsewhere, the Ambassador does other work too, and any kind of shopping that might be done is incidental thereto.

I am grateful to the House for their kind sentiments and their expressions of goodwill for our attempt to follow a certain rather vague policy in regard to Foreign affairs. I wish it was a more definite policy. I think it is growing more definite, and in this connection may I say that at the present moment no country, including the Big Powers with their long traditions of Foreign Affairs, has got anything which might be called a precise and definite Foreign policy, because the world itself is in a fluid condition. Of course if you call it a definite policy of one great country looking with bitter dislike upon another and suspecting it, that may be the foundation of policy, but that is not policy, that is just passion and prejudice. Otherwise there is hardly any very definite policy in any country and they are trying to fit in their policy there day to day to changing circumstances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 29—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:
"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,03,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,03,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

Removal of Control over Cloth, Yarn and commodities other than Food

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

Sir, you are aware that a great deal of controversy has been going on in the country about controls. It has engaged the anxious consideration of our leaders and has been causing much headache to the Ministers who are responsible for the administration of the controls; and it has been agitating the public mind. Lately, Sir, a meeting of the All India Congress Committee passed a Resolution which with your permission I would like to read to the House:

"The A. I. C. C. has been alarmed at the disturbance of normal life by the various controls, especially in regard to food stuffs and clothing. These have promoted black-marketing, hoarding, corruption and other evils; they have interfered with the process of self-reliance and arrested the incentive to production, especially in the matter of growing more foodstuffs and the manufacture of handspun and hand-woven khadi in the thousands of villages in India.

The Committee are therefore of the opinion that the Central and Provincial Governments should give urgent consideration to the problem of de-control as early as possible without detriment to the public good."

So far as we of the Congress are concerned we are bound by this Resolution and we have to further it through this House. But you may be aware that even in this House a Cut Motion was moved during the Budget Session in March and all sections of the House were practically unanimous that the controls should be removed, that corruption should be reduced and that efforts should be made to increase production. Not only every section of the House, but Member after Member from every Province rose in his seat and gave out the sufferings of the people, the way in which these controls are being administered and the way people were suffering for want of essential commodities—and they were not having even the bare minimum which was prescribed by the rationing rules. And if I have raised this question again, it is to get the verdict of the House that the House has not changed its opinion; for whatever was said at that time—I do not want to repeat those very arguments, I would only say this—those arguments have greater force now, they apply with greater force today than they did at that time, and the working of the Department has shown that instead of responding to the request of the Members in this House, the Department has neither succeeded in reducing corruption nor has it succeeded in increasing production. On that occasion, Sir, you will remember that one of the members of this House, who was not a theoretician like myself or Professor Ranga, but who knew his business, who was in the trade, who himself was working his mill, suggested a scheme by which he said that the production of every mill could be increased by 25 per cent. At that time the figures were 4,500 million yards of mill cloth and 1,500 million yards of handloom cloth. The Finance Minister has told us that this has gone down and that now it is 3,900 million yards of mill cloth and 1,200 million yards of handloom cloth.

Sir, that Member not only made the proposals for increasing production, but at the instance of the then Industries Member, he agreed to work his mills on those very lines. After working his mill according to his proposals, he showed that the production had gone up; it had increased and one of the members of this House who happens to be a Member of the Government, himself went round and satisfied himself about the claims regarding increase in production, that the scheme was practical and that production could be increased. But the Government of India, the Industry and Supply Department, and still more the Textile Control Board, did not agree with that proposals. Ever then, when that Member who originated the scheme—Mr. Vadilal—wrote to the Minister in Charge, he was advised that he may carry on that scheme in his own mill while other mills would be advised later on. After two or three months, since he was producing coarser counts of yarn which meant a loss in profits though increase in production, he wrote back saying

“How long may I go on like this? When other mills make money, why should the shareholders of this mill suffer?”, and the reply from the Honourable Member was “You may go on, you must do your duty whether others do it or not”.

Now, what steps are being taken to increase production? A few weeks ago there was a recommendation by the Textile Control Board that the prices of coarse cloth should be increased. And why? So that the mills may give up producing fine cloth—not because these mills were losing by producing fine cloth. So that they may give up producing fine cloth and manufacture more coarse cloth, prices of coarse cloth were to be raised. This was recommended by the Textile Control Board and this caused much headache to our Ministers in the Cabinet for some time. I am glad that the Cabinet turned down that proposal. But still, what I suggest is that the Cabinet should have reduced the prices of finer cloth so that the mills should have taken to producing more of coarse cloth. That was not done.

So, from what I know of the working of this Textile Control Board and the working of this cloth control, I can say that the Textile Control Board has been working in the interests of mill-owners. Today in this House we heard that even the figures supplied by them regarding production were not correct and the Honourable Member in charge was not in a position to say whether they tallied with the figures of actual production. As a matter of fact, the working of controls will show that during this time, on the one hand it has given huge profits to these mill-owners and on the other it is brought money to the coffers of the Government; and then it has produced corruption—it has brought money to the middlemen who were operating in the black-market. Of course, I do not want to say anything about the Government servants and those persons who are working in those Departments who number a legion. If you will only look at the Telephone Directory, you will find the names of the officers of these Departments running to 10 pages, which means at the rate of 40 officers per page, 400 officers. And who are these officers? Leave aside the Joint Secretaries who are about half a dozen. Then come Deputy Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries. Then there are Directors, and not only Directors. There are Deputy Directors, and every Director has got three or four Deputy Directors. After that, they have got Assistant Directors, three or four for each Deputy Director. And again, they have got Deputy Assistant Directors. Thus, Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Deputy Assistant Directors. My friend Mr. Santhanam pointed out this morning how much money is being spent not only on their salaries, but their honoraria, allowances and special pays. If you go into the history of these gentlemen who are working in this Department, and hold offices like Assistant Deputy Directors and so on, you will find that in 1938 or 1939 they were getting about Rs. 150 or 200, or not more than Rs. 250, and today they are most of them getting more than Rs. 800. I do not want to suggest that if there is a deserving person, he may not be promoted, but these persons, because they have got some extra work, they are given special pay. Not only that, so far as corruption is concerned, controls and corruption have become more or less synonymous. So many persons have come to me and told me that corruption has increased in these Departments. Corruption may or may not have increased, but there is no doubt that it has not decreased. Many people have told me to send anybody whom I liked to one of those Departments,—of course, the Supply Department is not excluded—where from the peon to the highest officer the spirit of corruption prevails. *Yahan sukha kam nahi chalega* (Nothing can be done without money). They have challenged me to go and verify this. Of course, I could not do so.

So far as I am concerned, Sir, controls are only means to an end, the end being that there should be equitable distribution of commodities at moderately cheap prices within the reach of the ordinary man. Have the controls served that end? Have they succeeded in placing these articles within the reach of our ordinary man? I am not discussing food control, because a special day

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

has been allotted for it. But it is well known to everybody—it is an open secret—that today people are getting not more than 2 chhattaks of wheat and the rest they are getting from the black market. A leading mill-owner told me, and that in the presence of one of the Premiers and one of the Ministers of this Government, that he had to go to the black market for petrol, because his guests wanted cars and he could not help going to the black market. Then, I asked him, "Is petrol the only thing for which you get from black-market?" He said: "I am getting 4 chhattaks of wheat per head. It does not suffice for our needs. We require 6 chhattaks and the balance we get regularly from the black-market." When things have come to this, when controls have become such a farce, when they have led to so much corruption, when they have not succeeded in bringing these articles within the reach of the people, the A.-I. C. C. has rightly come to the decision that these controls should be removed as early as possible.

Now, Sir, I am one of those who if necessary would rather take over all these mills and nationalise them. I say, you do it if you can. I do not stand for these mill-owners. I want that our people should get cloth to wear. Therefore, I would suggest that before you remove the controls, you must have a scheme like the one suggested by my friend Mr. Vadilal or any other scheme, by which production may be increased, and you may de-control the prices and the distribution. But then, you must have two checks. First of all, you must have a check on the production. You must see that the mills produce more coarse cloth and yarn. If they produce more coarse cloth, they will require less yarn for fine cloth, and more yarn will be available for the handloom weavers. On the one hand I want this, and on the other hand, I want that there should be a check on the export of cloth. Prices may shoot up for some time, but I hope that after some time, things will settle down and corruption will decrease. Until we are in a position to nationalise these industries, we have no other course but to de-control. I have no intention of going into the heavy expenditure which the Supply Department means to the Government of India. Besides this, we have got an army of officers and persons who are working in the Provinces. And who are these persons? They were recruited from Civic Guards many of whom were not even qualified according to the Government rules but because in those days they happened to support the Government or they happened to become favourites with the local officials, they were appointed.

Sir, since I have no more time, I do not want to take into consideration other items like iron, cement etc. But my suggestion is this. Let the Government of India take courage in both hands and act boldly. I know there are people who say that Bengal may be repeated. I am not one of those who believe that Bengal will be repeated. So long as our leaders are at the helm of affairs, Bengal cannot be repeated and will not be repeated. If necessary, we will take over all these mills. Gandhiji said in the very beginning, before the inception of controls, in the year 1942 that we must have control. Of course he did not refer to Government control. He said that we must control our habits and reduce our consumption of cereals. Then we did not pay any heed to him. So today also we are trying to do the same thing. I think, Sir, that I cannot do better than conclude my observations by reading the portion of the speech which Mahatmaji made after the Resolution of the A.-I. C. C. was passed. He said:

"I must keep you for a moment over the most debated question of control. Must the voice of the people be drowned by the noise of the pandits, who claim to know all about the virtue of controls? Would that our Ministers who are drawn from the people and are of the people will listen to the voice of the people rather than of the controllers of the red tape which they know did them infinite harm when they were in the wilderness. The pandits then ruled with a vengeance. Must they do so even now? Will not the people have an opportunity of committing mistakes and learn by them? Do the Ministers not

know that they have the power to resume control whenever necessary, if de-control is found to have been harmful to the public. In any instance out of the samples, by no means exhaustive that I have given above."

With these words, Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, I would like to make a few observations, particularly with regard to the cloth situation.

The motion wants to discuss the whole policy regarding the cloth control and my friend Mr. Saksena has suggested that the control over the cloth should be removed. The question is whether the cloth control as it has worked during the last 3½ years has worked in the interests of the consumers for whom the control has been imposed or whether it has worked in the interest of the manufacturers who had been, as a matter of fact, the whole Cloth Control Board.

An Honourable Member: Also the Black Marketeer.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Now, Sir, how has the cloth control worked? That cloth control has really not controlled the profits nor controlled the earnings of the intermediaries which it was intended to do. If it has controlled anything, it has controlled the poor consumer from getting his requirements and on some occasion I pointed out that the profits made in one year, 1943, was really 2,000 pre-war gross profits of the industry were only five crores, whereas in the year 1943 they were about 109 crores and if the average for the war years is taken, it will be found that the whole average of the seven years works out at about 1,000 per cent. over the pre-war level which were only five crores. That is how the cloth control has worked; the above are the average figures for seven years of war period.

Now, Sir, after the control, what are the profits? The Mill-owners came forward a year back saying that the industry is not paying and they have given certain data on which some *Ad hoc* Committee was appointed by the Government and this committee recommended that some increase should be given to the coarse cloth. The question was not whether the mills working the coarse counts were making losses. The question was that they were not making comparatively better profits compared to the fine count. Therefore it should have been decided to reduce the finer count price, but the decision which the Industrial Committee of the Control Board took was that the fine count cloth prices should be increased by six to eight annas in the yard and it would have meant about 30 crores of Rupees which would have gone to subsidise the coarse count mills.

Now, Sir, the data that appears to have been supplied to the *Ad hoc* Committee by the Industry was essentially wrong. As it is, Sir, it has been pointed out that in the year 1947 the mills are likely to make only 10 crores of Rupees, whereas the facts are that in the year 1947 the mills are likely to make 30 crores of Rupees and on top of it the subsidy of 30 crores of Rupees would have gone from the consumers. So it would have been 60 crores of Rupees.

Let us see now how it will work out. The profits of 60 crores would have been equal more or less to the profits which they were making in 1944. Instead of reducing these profits, instead of five crores, let them be given 10 crores which will meet all their requirements. But I must say that for the first time the Government of India has taken courage to scrap this scheme and the country is really grateful to the Honourable the Minister for Industry that he has saved to the poor consumers a sum equal to 30 crores of Rupees, which is not a small amount.

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

While I am speaking on this issue, I am reminded of a well-known Sanskrit sloka which says:

दरिद्रान भर कौन्तेय, मा प्रयच्छ ईशरे धनम् ॥

But what was being done about five months back was that something contrary to this sloka was being done. The poor were being deprived of 30 crores of Rupees to pay to the rich who were already earning six times the amount which they used to earn before the war and therefore, Sir, I would very strongly support the suggestion made by my friend for de-controlling the cloth.

Now in this respect, Sir, it is being made out that the industry is not able to produce the cloth sufficient for the country and so the control required to be maintained. I think that the data supplied by the Industry is wrong, because as a common man, I do not understand why it is so? Whereas before the War the shift looms that were working in the industry were about 2,30,000, while today they are working—including night and day—in the neighbourhood of 3,60,000. Even taking into consideration the reduction in the number of hours from nine to eight, certain disturbances which might have come in the way of production, I should feel, Sir, that the production today should not be less than 5,000 million yards. But it has been quoted this morning by the Honourable Minister for Industry that production is in the neighbourhood of about 4,000 million yards. I am sure, Sir, that from 15 to 20 per cent. production goes into the black market, which has not been accounted for. Otherwise the industry is producing today cloth which is really 800 million yards more than what it was producing before the war which was 4,200 million yards. The Mill-owners will very vehemently deny this and say that it is not so. Then as the representatives of this country we can certainly ask them: Where has production gone to-day by working 3,60,000 looms even for eight hours? Assuming there is no disturbance of any sort, the production would come to 5,400 million yards on the ordinary basis of calculations. I give allowance for 400 million yards. Even then the production should be 5,000 million yards and there is no doubt about that. Recently about a fortnight back there have been raids in Ahmedabad and Bombay. The raids were made for some other purpose. But what can be found except the cloth there? This cloth was found, which runs into several hundred bales. Where has that black market cloth come from? It must have come directly from the mills and there may be a silent conspiracy between the Department and the manufacturer. I am quite sure that if the de-control is the policy of the Government, there would not be much difficulty in getting the cloth. There is one other result of this present control system about which the nation cannot be silent. The control as it is worked out gives a particular price to any cloth, of whatever quality. So the industry has deteriorated. The best cloth gives the same price as the worst cloth, because the price is scheduled to be same. And as such the manufacturer is not interested in the quality of the cloth, and the result is that what used to last for a couple of months now does not last more than half that period. That is also one of the reasons why there is this artificial scarcity of cloth. Sir, it has been stated that the workers have become very inefficient, that there is a lot of absenteeism, and what not. From my close contact and touch with the industry I am in a position to state very definitely that as a result of cloth control and the fixing of prices at a level which gives to the manufacturer a margin which is unimaginable, it is the manufacturers themselves and the technicians who have become very inefficient and lazy. Naturally when the manufacturer himself does not care for the quality of his production and the technician does not care for his quality, the employees also may have sympathetically become a little more negligent. I think it is a sympathetic kind of sabotage. It has been stated that as a reduction of the hours from nine to eight the production has gone down *pro rata*. But what we actually find is that in quite a large number of mills in most of the important centres

of the industry—like Ahmedabad and Bombay—the production has been made up to the extent of 4 to 5 per cent. So if any allowance is to be given for reduction of hours it should be $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and not $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as it is made out to be.

I must say that for all these sins of omission and commission we must absolve the present Ministry of any guilt because, like all other kinds of legacy, they have to carry the heavy burden of this particular legacy, and they are carrying it with great capacity, strength and courage. I say that production is a proposition which cannot be allowed to take its own turn according to the whims of the employers. The workers are interested in production and in giving the best of production to the country. And on behalf of the Indian National Trade Union Congress I can assure this House that the textile workers in this country will do everything in their power to step up production

5 P.M. provided they get the co-operation of the employers. When that co-operation is not available from manufacturers I would strongly urge on Government to take charge of the industry; and I am quite sure that the working classes of this country will respond to the call of Government but it will not be possible for them to respond to the call of the manufacturers who want to exploit the whole country.

Sir, I support this cut motion and say that control as far as distribution and price are concerned, should be removed, and the control as far as production is concerned, should be kept by Government, and it must be tightened up so that the country will get the cloth that it requires and not the cloth which the manufacturers want to produce for profit.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 5th December, 1947.