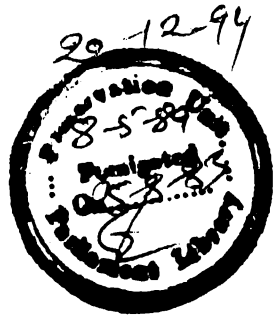




PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT



VOLUME II, 1950

(14th March to 17th April, 1950)

FIRST SESSION
OF
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Wednesday, 22nd March, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CONTRACTORS OF REFRESHMENT ROOMS, STALL HOLDERS, VENDORS ON
RAILWAYS

*1013. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount realised from rent or fees by each Railway from the contractors of refreshment rooms, stall holders, vendors etc., per annum, giving figures for each railway separately?

(b) What are the basic rents or fees fixed for granting the contracts for such vendors etc.?

(c) How much money has been realised from this source, from 1944 up-to-date, each year separately?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) and (c). A statement giving the information desired is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 40*].

(b) No uniform basis for charging rent exists at present. The question is, however, under consideration.

Shri Sidhva: May I know from the statement the amounts realised particularly by the E.I., G.I.P. and M. & S.M. Railways from these stalls, as stated in part (a)?

Shri Santhanam: The hon. Member is a Member of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and at its meeting on Sunday last a full statement had been supplied to him. If he wants, I am prepared to give here whatever information he wants.

Shri Gautam: Is it the policy of the Government to encourage co-operative societies of vendors in preference to big contractors?

Shri Santhanam: It depends upon what the so-called co-operative societies of vendors are.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know if there is any machinery to check the quality of food materials?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, we have Inspectors for that purpose.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, my point in eliciting information from the hon. Minister was that I wanted some supplementaries to be put.

Mr. Speaker: As I have said before, when questions are put which require lengthy statements to be given, it is better not to put supplementaries immediately but to study the statements first and then table further questions.

Shri Gautam: Is the Government aware that the quality of food is deteriorating; if so, may I know what steps Government is going to take?

Shri Santhanam: I have once before stated that the quality of food depends upon the quality of food materials available. To the extent that the food materials have deteriorated we cannot escape deterioration in the quality of food. But in other ways we are taking the utmost possible steps to maintain the quality of food.

IMPORT OF WIRELESS SETS

*1014. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wireless transmission sets have been purchased from foreign countries for better communication of broadcasts between one part of the country and another?

(b) If so, what is the number of such sets imported, what is their cost and the places where they are installed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) and (b). The question concerns the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Minister in charge of that Ministry will answer it on the 29th March, 1950.

ALLOTMENT OF RICE TO INDIA BY INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD COMMITTEE

*1015. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state what is the total quantity of rice allotted to India in 1949 by the International Emergency Food Committee of the Food and Agricultural Organisation Council?

(b) At what rate has this rice been allotted?

(c) Is the quality similar to that of Burma and Indian rice?

(d) Is the price c.i.f. Indian port or f.o.b.?

(e) Is the price to be paid on the landed quantity or shipped quantity?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) 8,45,000 metric tons.

(b) The International Emergency Food Committee makes only allocations of quantities to recipient countries. It does not concern itself with prices. Prices are negotiated between buyers and sellers.

(c) Rice from different countries is not identical in quality with Burmese and Indian rice. Each country has its own quality specifications and characteristics.

(d) Rice prices are generally f.o.b.

(e) Prices are paid on quantities shipped.

Shri Sidhva: From what countries did we ultimately purchase this rice, may I know?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have purchased from Siam and Burma.

Shri Sidhva: At what price?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The average price is Rs. 20 to Rs. 22.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether this Organisation fixes the price for any country or not?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as I am aware, it does not fix the prices at all. The prices are negotiated between the two parties.

Shri Sidhva: Were the prices at which we were supplied by Burma and Siam the same prices at which other countries had supplied?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I believe so.

Shri A. P. Jain: May I know whether it is part of governmental policy to stop the import of rice altogether or to its very minimum?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We propose to reduce it to the very minimum possible.

Prof. Ranga: Are the purchases made on a government to government basis or does our Government utilise the local merchants there?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is on a government to government basis.

LOSS OR DAMAGE OF GOODS ON RAILWAYS

***1016. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total amounts of compensation that the Railways had to pay for (i) the goods booked in Railways that were lost during transit in 1948-49, and (ii) the goods booked in Railways that were damaged during transit during the year 1948-49?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): During the year 1948-49, the Indian Government Railways paid out (i) approximately Rs. 1,60,00,000 on account of claims for compensation for goods lost during transit, and (ii) approximately Rs. 6,00,000 on account of claims for compensation for goods damaged during transit.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the number of occurrences of these losses and damages have reduced in the current year as compared to 1948-49?

Shri Santhanam: The figure I gave for 1948-49 was largely due to payments in respect of arrears of claims which had accumulated before that year. The claims have since been declining.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether this year such occurrences have reduced in number?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, Sir, they are being reduced.

Shri N. S. Jain: Will the hon. Minister give the number of cases in which such compensation was refused?

Shri Santhanam: Each claim is investigated on its merits. Where there is no legitimate claim it is repudiated. But I am afraid I shall have to ask for notice for giving the actual number of cases which have been repudiated.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what steps have been taken by the Railway Ministry to minimise the number of such occurrences?

Shri Santhanam: We are taking all possible steps, including checking up at all transshipment stations, seeing that the claims are immediately investigated, and punishing the railway staff who may be responsible. We have also strengthened the watch and ward staff at all places.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In how many cases were officers found fault with for the loss of goods booked in transit?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, I wish to have notice of that question.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Is it a fact that the large amount of compensation paid during 1948-49 is partly due to partition?

Shri Santhanam: To war and to partition, because many claims put in during the war and during partition were remaining unpaid and we made a special effort from 1st January, 1949 to clear up the arrears. And this large amount was due to our attempt to clear up the arrears.

Shri Bharati: Were any amounts recovered from the persons—railway officials—who were held responsible for the loss of these articles?

Shri Santhanam: We recovered something through the sales proceeds from the Lost Property office. During 1948-49 we recovered as much as Rs. 34 lakhs by the sale of these goods. But so far as individual persons are concerned I do not think it would be possible to locate any particular individual in respect of the actual loss of goods because the whole thing is handled by a series of individuals. I do not think any amount has been recovered from any particular individual in that respect.

Shri A. P. Jain: How does the time taken in the settlement of claims in 1948-49 compare with the time taken in 1938-39?

Shri Santhanam: I do not exactly know what he means. Does he mean the average time taken for the settlement of a claim?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes.

Shri Santhanam: I have not got the figures here. I would require notice.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that a number of unclaimed goods are lying in various railway yards, and if so what is the total value of these goods?

Shri Santhanam: We cannot have the total value unless these goods are sold.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that in most of the cases these damages are due to defective packing?

Shri Santhanam: To a large extent, yes, Sir.

STOCKS OF TOBACCO

*1017. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that large stocks of tobacco produced during 1947-48 and 1949-50 are lying with the cultivators for want of facilities to sell them to foreign countries?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the approximate quantity lying with them?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Agriculture in each State is expected to give advice to the cultivators whenever it is sought.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is there any machinery in the tobacco consuming countries to find markets for Indian tobacco?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have got one Liaison Officer in London.

INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES

*1018. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the diploma awarded by the Indian School of Mines is considered equivalent to a University degree in Mining for the purpose of appointment under the Government of India.

(b) Is it a fact that certain Ministries of the Government employing Mining Engineers have prescribed other qualifications and excluded this diploma?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The diploma awarded by the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad, in Mining and Geology, has not yet been recognised as a general educational qualification equivalent to a degree of an Indian University for purposes of appointment under the Central Government. The matter is under consideration. So far as technical posts requiring qualifications in Mining are concerned, holders of the diploma in Mining of the School, are eligible for appointment.

(b) No.

Prof. Ranga: Is it not a fact that some years ago the students who were then studying in the School had gone on strike for the special purpose of pressing the Government to get them the recognition of a degree for their course? And why is it that till now nothing has been done and it is still under consideration?

Shri Gadgil: Efforts are continuously being made in order to meet the wishes of the students as also the recommendations made on similar lines by the Re-organisation Committee. As a matter of fact, the latest position is that the Inter-University Board has reported favourably that the matter is being taken up with individual Universities.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Is it the intention of the Government to develop the Mining School at Dhanbad into a University?

Shri Gadgil: That is one of the suggestions made, but so far there is no intention.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is there a proposal to start a degree course in mining in addition to the present diploma course?

Shri Gadgil: No, Sir.

ALL INDIA CATTLE SHOW COMMITTEE

*1021. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objects of the All India Cattle Show Committee;

(b) the names of places where "Shows" were held since the inception of the Committee;

(c) whether the All India Poultry Show comes under its jurisdiction; and

(d) whether the cattle show has been held in places where cattle are weak and less productive?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The aims and objects principally are (i) To organise periodical cattle and poultry shows for the furtherance of cattle breeding and the improvement of stock and (ii) To spread knowledge of the principles for better breeding of animals and poultry.

(b) The All India Cattle show and the All India poultry show have been held in New Delhi since the inception of the Committee in 1938-39 and from 1941 respectively. The 9th All India Cattle show and the 6th All India Poultry Show were, however, held at Lucknow in February, 1950. A cattle show was also held at Jaipur in conjunction with the Session of the Indian National Congress in December, 1948.

(c) Yes.

(d) Regional cattle shows are organised at various centres by the Governments of the States.

Prof Ranga: Do Government try to collect any information about the many non-official cattle shows that are being organised in different parts of the country, and what assistance or encouragement do Government give to such shows by way of sending their own exhibits, etc.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We try to co-operate wherever our co-operation is sought. Government will make a special effort to go into the question of non-official shows.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How are the recurring expenses of the Committee met?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are met from a Government grant. They receive half a lakh of rupees.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the Committee a registered body?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have no information on the point.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the present financial position of the Committee?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Their financial position is not good. As a matter of fact they want a further grant which, on account of the present financial stringency, we could not give them.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Do all the States in India take active interest in the shows and do they contribute anything?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They contribute, but I cannot say they contribute adequately according to the needs of the Committee. It is possible that some of the States do not take active interest.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Are the members of the Committee elected or nominated?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Members of the Committee are nominated.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Have any of the shows been held in rural areas?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think they have been held in rural areas. I can give a few instances: in the Punjab they were held in Montgomery, Hissar, Dehra Gazi Khan and Gujar Khan; in U.P. in Jirsagarh.

An Hon. Member: He means the all-India cattle shows.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Of course the all-India cattle show was held in Delhi and Lucknow. We propose to have it in important towns in other parts of the country also.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या आगे जो कुम्भ मेला हरिद्वार में हो रहा है और जहाँ लाखों आदमी जमा होंगे, क्या वहाँ गवर्नमेंट कोई कैटिल शो करने का विचार कर रही है ?

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government thinking of organising any cattle show in the forthcoming *Kumbh Mela* at Hardwar where millions of people would assemble?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The hon. Member has sent that suggestion, but I do not think it will be possible to have a cattle show at such short notice; we will co-operate to the extent that is possible.

Shri Sidhya: The hon. Minister stated that one of the shows was held in Montgomery. It is in Pakistan. May I know whether it was held in Pakistan? Is he correct there?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I gave you names of places for earlier years I can give recent names from other parts of India. The Madras State held shows at Walparai, Ongole and Erode. Shows were also held at Ajmer, Georg, Bhopal, Sambalpur and a number of places which are comparatively small towns.

GRANTS UNDER 'GROW MORE FOOD' CAMPAIGN

*1022. **Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the present policy of Government regarding grants to States under the 'Grow More Food' Campaign?

(b) Is any supervision made by the Government of India on the actual spending of the amounts?

(c) What is the amount of grant sanctioned under this head to Travancore-Cochin till January, 1950, and has the whole amount been paid?

(d) If the full amount has not yet been paid what are the reasons therefor?

(e) What is the acreage of back water and forest areas reclaimed and brought under cultivation in Travancore-Cochin?

(f) What was the number of tractors given to Travancore-Cochin and what were the terms under which they were given?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The Government of India have passed rules which form the basis of financial assistance to the States for their 'Grow More Food' Schemes. If the schemes submitted by the States are found, on examination, to be in conformity with these rules, the net cost of the scheme is eligible for a grant or loan from the Government of India. The amount of financial assistance to a particular State depends upon the number of schemes put up by the State Government.

(b) The progress of 'Grow More Food' schemes in States is watched by periodical visits of the officers and advisers of the Central Ministry of Agriculture. Regional Liaison officers are also now being appointed who would be constantly in touch with the progress of these schemes. As the State Governments have also to contribute their share of the expenditure on the scheme, the Finance Department of the State Government also exercise the necessary accounting and auditing check on this expenditure.

(c) and (d). A grant of Rs. 32,24,700 has been sanctioned to Travancore and Cochin State for the current year and orders sanctioning this amount have already been communicated to the State Government. It is now for the State Government to obtain payment of the money from the Accountant General Central Revenues.

(e) 595 acres of water-logged areas and 22,262 acres of forest areas are so far reported to have been reclaimed by the State Government.

(f) Travancore and Cochin Government had placed an indent with the Government of India for the supply of one tractor, which was supplied to them early in 1947. No other tractors have been given by the Government of India to the State Government and the question of terms, therefore, does not arise.

Shri Alexander: What percentage of the deficit in food has been made up by this 'Grow more food' Campaign?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In Travancore-Cochin?

Shri Alexander: Yes.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I shall require notice. I shall have to ask the State Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether any information is kept as to the working of each tractor? That is, how many average hours a tractor works, does it work single-shift or double-shift? Is Government keeping a record of all this with a view to find out the efficiency of the tractors?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We keep a record of the working of each tractor: the number of hours it is working or not working, and the outturn during its working time.

Shri Dwivedi: What is the amount of the grant given to Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Vindhya Pradesh has received, for 1949-50, a grant of Rs. 30,000. Bhopal received a grant of Rs. 4,495. I believe these amounts have been materially increased in 1950-51.

Shri Kamath: Has the loan of 10 million dollars or more that India got recently from the World Bank been applied to the 'Grow More Food' Campaign?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, it is being applied.

Shri Kamath: On what basis has it been allocated to the various States?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This loan is for a particular purpose. That purpose is reclamation of *kans* infested land in certain parts of India, namely, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal and Madhya Bharat. Therefore, it is intended to be used only for that purpose and in those regions which were studied by the representatives of the Bank when they came here.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Mr. Kanungo, Minister of Agriculture, Orissa, submitted to the Government of

India a statement regarding the working of tractors, and their financial and technical implications and whether the same was considered by Government and sent to F.A.O. for examination and scrutiny and if so, whether the Government of India have got a reply?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any application or representation or communication with regard to tractors. The communication that I received was with regard to the extension service and that matter is under consideration.

Shri Shankaraiya: What is the total increase of acreage under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: I believe all these questions are being repeated over and over again. I shall only allow questions on the loan and nothing more.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know if the subsidy given to the Travancore-Cochin Government will enable that Government to attain food self-sufficiency by 1951?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think that the problem of self-sufficiency, so far as Travancore-Cochin Government is concerned, is a very difficult one, because the density of population is very high. But we have given a fairly large amount to Travancore-Cochin.

WATCH AND WARD ORGANISATION ON S. I. RAILWAY

*1023. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a separate Watch and Ward Organisation has recently been set up on the S. I. Railway with a strength of about 1,809 men?

(b) What is the expenditure incurred on the Watch and Ward staff in the S. I. Railway?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes. A separate Watch and Ward Organisation was formed on the S. I. Railway with effect from 1st September 1947, by reorganising the previous system of watchmen attached to various departments of the railway, for the purpose of better control, supervision and increased efficiency. The present strength of the staff of this department is 2,001.

(b) The expenditure on the staff of the Watch and Ward Department of the S. I. Railway was Rs. 7,60,185 in 1948-49.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What is the nature of work allocated to them in the stations and what is the relation between the Railway Police and this Watch and Ward staff?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Railway Police are generally responsible for law and order and the detection of crime. The Watch and Ward Organisation functions in a preventive manner for purposes of prevention and patrol. It watches the railway property such as parcels and goods and watches also vulnerable posts such as Workshops, godowns, bridges etc. in times of emergency.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Do these Watch and Ward people detect criminal cases and if so, how many cases were detected by them, in any particular station?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I should have to have notice of that question in order to give the hon. Member the number of cases.

Shri Nandkishore Das: May I know whether any offenders have been apprehended since the Organisation was started?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I cannot give the information. I am sure that certain offenders must have been apprehended.

Shri M. V. Rama Rao: May I know if there is a similar Watch and Ward organisation on other Railways?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Yes. It is there on other Railways too.

Shri Nandkishore Das: May I know whether this organisation is going to be a permanent one or temporary one?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It would be a permanent one.

QUOTA OF PETROL ALLOTTED TO MADHYA PRADESH

*1024. **Shri Zangre:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what is the quota of petrol allotted to Madhya Pradesh in January, 1950?

(b) What is the quota of petrol supplied to (i) public utility, bus services, and (ii) private taxi owners in Madhya Pradesh?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Petrol allocations are made on a quarterly basis. On the basis of the petrol quota of 13,27,000 gallons, for the current quarter to Madhya Pradesh, the allocation for January, 1950 will be one-third viz., 4,42,000 gallons.

(b) During the month of January, 1950, 1,69,537 gallons were issued to public utility bus services and 2,291 gallons to private taxi owners in Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Zangre: What is the total expenditure on the management of the distribution of petrol to various Provinces?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Seth Govind Das: Is the quota of petrol allotted according to the population of each Province or according to the buses and cars which run in each Province?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is allotted according to requirements, that is to say, requirements for consumption in the Province.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: Is the quota of petrol allotted to Madhya Pradesh meant purely for civilian use or is it also for the use of the Military stationed there?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is purely for civilian use.

Shri Borooah: May I know the basis on which these provincial allotments are made, and may I know whether the lack of railway facilities is taken into consideration in making these allotments?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Yes, both factors are taken into consideration. Generally, the allotment is based upon the needs for consumption in a Province and the figures of previous consumption and also the difficulties of transport are taken into account.

Shri Kamath: What, Sir, is the basic ration per quarter for private cars and private taxis? Is there any difference or is it the same?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am not sure if there is any difference. This matter is really regulated by the State Governments. We merely distribute quotas to each State and the State Government concerned manages the distribution amongst individuals, companies and so on.

CATTLE CENSUS

*1029. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether cattle census is taken for the whole country at regular intervals like the census of human beings?

(b) If so, at what intervals and in what years has cattle census been taken during the past quarter of a century?

(c) What is the total number of (i) cows and (ii) buffaloes according to the last cattle census and how many of these are milk-yielding?

(d) What is the total quantity of milk yielded by the above two categories of cattle during the last year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) and (b). Yes. The livestock census is taken quinquennially and the last census was held in 1945.

(c) A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The information relating to the last year is not available, since the last cattle census was conducted in 1945. The yield of milk by Cows and She-Buffaloes in 1945 is estimated at 2,062 lakh maunds and 2,619 lakh maunds respectively.

STATEMENT

total number of Cows and She-buffaloes according to 1945 cattle census and how many of them were milk-yielding

	No. of animals over three years. (Lakhs)	No. of animals three years and above kept for breeding or milk production. (Lakhs)
Cows	436.22	411.01
She-buffaloes	200.00	195.72
Total.	636.22	606.73

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to improve the breed of milk-yielding cattle?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is a large number of dairy and breeding farms and centres in the different States and we are trying to use them as centres for improving the breed.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know what is the percentage of increase or decrease in the number of cows and she-buffaloes, as compared with their number in the previous census?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It would be possible to give the percentage when we have completed our census which is to take place next year. There has been no census taken since 1945.

Lala Raj Kanwar: For what percentage or proportion of the population is the present production of milk considered adequate?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think we are producing hardly one-fourth of the milk that is needed.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Sir, may I know what happened to question Nos. 1025 to 1027?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mahata has given authority to some hon. Member to put that question, but those questions will come in the end after all the other questions are disposed of.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Mr. Mahata himself is in the House.

Mr. Speaker: I called out his name, but the hon. Member did not respond. Anyhow, he may put his questions after this question is disposed of.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What steps do Government propose to take to minimise or put a stop to the growing evil of adulteration of milk and *ghee*?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is being handled by the Health Ministries in the Centre and in the provinces.

Shri Shiva Rao: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the latest report on milk issued by my hon. friend's Ministry is based on figures about ten years old?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said the census was taken in 1945. A marketing survey also took place round about that time. The actual publication of the report has taken place now, because during the war the publication of most of these reports was held up.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What steps have Government taken with regard to the starting of sheep and goat farms in order to supplement the present supply of milk?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think the problem of dealing with cows and bullocks is big enough and when that is handled I think we shall have more or less met the needs of the country. The question of goats and sheep will have to wait, because everything needs finance.

LAC CESS

*1025. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the amount of lac cess realised during last five years (separately)?

(b) How is the lac cess spent?

(c) What percentage of it comes from Manbhum?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The amount of lac cess realised during the last five years is as under:

Year	Amount Rs.
1944-45	2,57,482
1945-46	2,58,880
1946-47	4,25,776
1947-48	3,03,632
1948-49	5,41,706

(b) The amount collected as cess is spent by the Indian Lac Cess Committee for the improvement and development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of Indian lac.

(c) Cess is collected at the ports on all lac exported out of India and it is not possible to give percentage of cess paid on lac coming from Manbhum District separately.

LAC CESS COMMITTEE

*1026. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of members of the Lac Cess Committee together with their names;

(b) whether any member belongs to Chota Nagpur; and

(c) what are the main functions of the Committee?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The Indian Lac Cess Committee has 15 members on its Governing Body and 11 members on its Advisory Board. A statement of the names of members is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, *annexure No. 41*].

(b) Yes, three of the members of the Governing Body belong to Chota Nagpur.

(c) The main functions of the Committee are to undertake measures for the improvement and development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of Indian lac.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: May I know whether the members are all officials or non-officials?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The names of the members were sent to us by the Provincial Government. I think one is an official—Mr. Rao, I.C.S., Commissioner, Chota-Nagpur Division. The two others are, I believe, non-officials nominated on the recommendation of the Bihar Government.

SHELLAC AND SEED LAC

*1027. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the present home demand of shellac and seed lac; and

(b) the names of manufacturing industries which consume them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The present home demand of shellac is 2,000-3,000 tons and of seed lac 450 tons a year.

(b) About 22 industries use shellac and seed lac. A list of these industries is placed on the Table of the House.

I may just mention a few important ones from the list (1) Gramophone record industry, (2) Varnish, polish, lacquer and paint industry, (3) Electrical machinery industry, (4) Carbon papers industry, (5) Electric bulb industry, (6) Playing cards industry, and (7) Ammunition industry.

List of Industries Consuming Shellac and Seed Lac

(1) Gramophone record industry, (2) Varnish, polish, lacquer and paint industry, (3) Lac bangles and jewellery industry, (4) Sealing-wax industry, (5) Waterproof and lithograph industry, (6) Pyrotechnics industry, (7) Wood turning industry, (8) Coated fabric (rexine type) industry, (9) Abrasive papers and wheels industry, (10) Electrical machinery industry, (11) Carbon papers industry, (12) Electric bulb industry, (13) Leather and shoe-dressing industry, (14) Playing-cards industry, (15) Bleached lac industry, (16) Moulding industry, (17) Rubber goods industry, (18) Micanite industry, (19) Laminated board industry, (20) Sports goods industry, (21) Ammunition industry, and (22) Furniture industry.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know what percentage of the total output of shellac is consumed in India?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said, the home demand is about 2,000 to 3,000 tons.

TRAINING OF FOREST OFFICERS AT COIMBATORE

*1030. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to discontinue the training of Forest Officers (Superior Service Forest Course) at Coimbatore, with effect from June, 1950;

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

(c) where Government propose to conduct the Officers Training course and afford facilities for research?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) Yes.

(b) Lack of sufficient students sponsored by the States.

(c) The Forest Research Institute and Colleges at Dehra Dun.

Shri Kamath: Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to a leading article in the *Hindu* of Madras describing this decision of Government as a wrong decision?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I know that representative opinion in Madras would regard it as a wrong decision, but we could not incur that expenditure simply because some students wanted to join that particular college.

As I said the number of students had dwindled. For the 1946-48 course the number of probationers was 69; for 1948-50, 50 and for the 1950-52 course, 30. Therefore, we decided only to train them at one centre at Dehra Dun.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact the Economy Committee did not recommend the abolition of the soil research section?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That may be so; but, as I said, as the number of students wishing to join the college was not sufficient, we naturally had to close the training course.

Prof. Ranga: May I know, Sir, how many are being trained at the Dehra Dun College? Are there sufficient facilities there for the training of the superior officers?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have complete arrangements at Dehra Dun for training the number of students who apply for the course. 36 is the number for the new course.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Government of India aware, or satisfied, that there are enough superior officers in Forest Service available for the purpose of carrying out a co-ordinated forest policy all over India?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I can say generally that in India as a whole we have got sufficient number of superior officers. But some of the States wish to develop their own local training courses. Therefore, on behalf of the Government of India we do not wish to maintain a larger number of training courses than is justified by the number of students applying.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What was the then idea of starting this college at Coimbatore taking it away from the Provincial Government?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It was with a view to co-ordinate and centralise forest training. But when it was found that sufficient number of students was not coming up for a particular course we naturally had to discontinue it.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that on the 8th of December last an official spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that a soil research section had been opened in the Coimbatore College, while actually the Ministry had issued orders on the 22nd November 1949 to close the soil science section with effect from the 28th of February 1950?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of it.

CULTIVATION OF MUSTARD, GROUND-NUT AND OTHER EDIBLE OIL SEEDS

*1031. **Shri B. K. Pani:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage under cultivation of Mustard, Ground-nut and other edible oil seeds this year; and

(b) whether the present acreage under cultivation and the production are more than what were before partition of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) and (b). Two statements giving the available information are placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 42.*]

I may just give the main features of the statement. Estimated area under groundnut during 1948-49 was 75,22,000 acres and in 1949-50, 80,46,000 acres. The latter estimate does not include all the areas and relates only to the early crop.

श्री जांगरे: क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय वतलायेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान में तेल कितना होता है ?

Shri Zangre: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state as to how much quantity of oil is produced in India?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have not got the figures at hand with me.

COMPENSATION FOR LANDS ACQUIRED FOR TALOURA ROPAR RAILWAY LINE

*1082. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the compensation for lands and houses acquired for Taloura Ropar railway line about five years ago has not so far been paid?

(b) Is it a fact that many representations have been made to the Government in this respect?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what are the causes of delay?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Compensation for houses has already been paid. As for the land, compensation has been paid in some cases and, in the remaining cases, the awards are still under the consideration of the Land Acquisition Officer.

(b) Two representations have been received so far.

(c) The delay in payment is due to the arrears of work that have accumulated in the Punjab State after partition and the consequent delay in the announcement of awards.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: By what time do the Government hope that the cultivators will be paid compensation?

Shri Gopaldaswami: So far as the Railways are concerned, they will be paid as soon as the awards are announced. I understand that about 1,000 awards are pending.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RAMAN COMMITTEE

*1083. **Shri Bhatt:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any action on the recommendations of the Raman Committee appointed to go into the questions of sanitation, hygiene and other amenities for passengers, has been taken and if not, why not?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): The recommendations of the Raman Committee are under the detailed examination of the Railway Board. Necessary instructions will be issued to Railways for implementing such recommendations as are accepted.

श्री भट्ट : यह रमन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट रेलवे बोर्ड के पास कब आयी थी ?

Shri Bhatt: When the Report of the Raman Committee was received by the Railway Board?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know when the report was received by the Railway Board?

Shri Gopaldaswami: In October 1949.

Shri Shiva Rao: May I ask the hon. Minister whether the recommendations will apply only to the Railways examined by this Committee or to all Railways?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The recommendations were made after an investigation of the conditions on the M. and S.M. and S.I. Railways. But they are being considered as recommendations which could be applied to other Railways as well, and orders will cover not only those two Railways, but other Railways also.

Prof. Ranga: Why has it taken five months for the Government to say this and why have they not been able yet to say that they have completed the examination of this report?

Shri Gopalaswami: I suppose we had to consult other Railways as well as those Railways and their reactions had to be obtained, before we could take decisions.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether the Railway Board or the Railway Ministry has in its employment any engineering or technical personnel competent to express an opinion on this report?

Shri Gopalaswami: There are quite a large number of competent engineers on the Railways and also quite a large number of Medical officers and Health officers employed by the Railways.

BALHARSHAH RAILWAY STATION CROSSING

*1035. **Shri Kannamwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many accidents have occurred at Balharshah railway station crossing in Madhya Pradesh up till now?

(b) Is it a fact that two minor sons of a railway porter, Balharshah, were killed on the same day during shunting operations?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to construct an over-bridge road at this crossing to prevent further accidents?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) From 1st January 1949 to 15th March 1950 no accident in which persons were run over and killed occurred at Balharshah station.

(b) No.

(c) There is no level crossing at or near Balharshah station. Provision of a foot over-bridge from the Passenger station over the Goods yard is under consideration.

MEDICAL VANS ON RAILWAY STATIONS

*1036. **Shri Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the facility of medical vans on important Railway stations including Delhi Junction for the benefit of passengers has been cancelled as part of the economy drive?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway dispensaries situated near the Railway stations do not admit any indoor or outdoor patients from among the passengers who want to avail of such aid while travelling?

(c) What alternative steps have Government taken or propose to take to make this medical facility available to the passengers?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No, the facility of stationing medical vans at important stations has not been withdrawn from stations generally. A supplementary van kept at Delhi since 31st August 1947 for attending to refugees was withdrawn sometime in the middle of 1949, but this has since been reopened in connection with *Kumbh Mela*.

(b) Passengers are given medical aid as indoor or outdoor patients in emergencies and in cases of injuries caused in Railway accidents.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Dwivedi: What is the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the vans?

Shri Santhanam: They are kept at various places by the various Railway Administrations. I would require notice if the hon. Member wants information about all these.

CULTIVATION OF WASTE LANDS IN SCHEDULED AREAS

*1037. **Shri P. K. Ramiah:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state what steps have been taken to encourage bringing under plough waste lands in Scheduled Areas in the respective States for growing food crops?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): Information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri P. K. Ramiah rose—

Mr. Speaker: The information is not there. He says the information will be collected. I wonder how a supplementary question can arise in the absence of information. What is the question the hon. Member wants to put?

Shri P. K. Ramiah: I want to know what areas have been brought under the 'Grow More Food' campaign in the States?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is the information that is going to be collected.

RECOGNISED LANGUAGES FOR FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

*1038. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state what are the recognised languages in which foreign telegrams can be sent abroad?

(b) Has Hindi been included in the list and if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Foreign telegrams may be expressed in any of the principal European languages and certain others including Chinese, Japanese, Malay, Tahitan, etc. in Roman letters, each word and each expression having the meaning normally assigned to it in the language to which it belongs.

(b) Hindi language is not yet included as there was no demand for it so far. The International Telegraph Union is being informed that the Government of India authorises the use of Hindi in international telegrams and it is expected that Hindi will be included in the list in about a couple of months.

'GROW MORE FOOD' SCHEME IN BHOPAL

*1039. **Thakur Lal Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state the total expenditure estimated to be spent in the present year on the "Grow More Food" scheme in the State of Bhopal?

(b) How many tractors are used in ploughing land in Tehsil Bari (Bhopal) and how many acres of land are estimated to be brought under cultivation by such ploughing?

(c) Is it proposed to lend the tractors on hire to the cultivators of the said State?

(d) If so, what rate per acre is proposed to be charged?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) It is proposed to sanction Rs. 16 lakhs for 'Grow More Food' Schemes in Bhopal during 1950-51.

(b) Reclamation work started on 15th February with 90 tractors. The target for the working season from 15th February to end of May, 1950 is 15,000 acres.

(c) No. The tractors are heavy reclamation tractors being worked under a scheme settled with the Bhopal Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Sardar B. S. Man: What are the different items on which the amount sanctioned for 'Grow More Food' campaign in Bhopal will be spent?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Some portion on compost, and some on reclamation, improved seeds and manure.

Sardar B. S. Man: Will the money that is sanctioned be given to cultivators in the form of a subsidy or given to State Governments to spend directly?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Part of the amount that is meant for the work to be done by the individual cultivators will be passed on to the State Government for payment to individual cultivators and what has to be spent by the Government itself will be spent upon its own schemes.

Shri V. J. Gupta: What are the water resources for the lands reclaimed by tractors in Bhopal?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Partly it will be assured rainfall and partly other irrigation.

Shri V. J. Gupta: Are there any definite water resources of perennial supply to the lands?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would require notice to give a detailed reply.

SOYA BEANS

*1040. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of nutritive value of Soya Beans;

(b) what research has been made by Government to improve the food value of this article; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to supplement rice with this article of food?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) Yes.

(b) Research has been made to manufacture soya bean drink which after fortification with calcium was assessed at 85 to 90 per cent. of cow's milk in its nutritive value.

(c) Soya beans are not produced in India to any appreciable extent yet.

Government propose to investigate the economics of its production before considering the question of supplementing rice with soya beans.

Copies of the report on Soya beans by a Sub-Committee of the Nutrition Advisory Committee are being placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Sir, may I know whether Government have in view any scheme to popularise the consumption of soya beans among the richer classes so that more rice may be made available for the others?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It all depends upon the economics of the production of soya beans, whether we can produce it cheap enough and can spare areas available for its cultivation. All these questions have to be considered before we can come to any decision on this subject.

Shri Shiva Rao: Sir, will the hon. Minister tell us whether any attempt is made to co-ordinate the activities of the nutrition section of his Ministry with those of the nutrition section working under the Health Ministry?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Health Ministry is carrying on its nutrition activities on a much wider scale, and the work in the Food Ministry is limited to just a few articles; but whenever occasion arises there are mutual consultations.

Prof. Ranga: Sir, is the Subsidiary Foods Committee expected to do any work with regard to soya beans?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. That committee has not to do with soya beans, but largely with bananas and tubers.

NEW WIRELESS STATIONS

*1041. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two wireless stations are to be set up on the west coast of India, one at Ratnagiri and another at Karwar?

(b) If so, when will they start functioning?

(c) What is the cost involved?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Yes.

(b) Both the stations are expected to start functioning during May, 1950.

(c) Rs. 5,500 (approximately) non-recurring and Rs. 18,700 recurring per annum for each of the two Stations.

Shri Sanjivayya: Sir, what are the places in addition to these two, at which Government intend to set up wireless stations?

Shri Khurshed Lal: A station was opened at Mangalore last year; and it is not contemplated to open any more just at present.

CULTIVABLE LAND

*1043. **Shri Nandkishore Das:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of cultivable land in the country before inauguration of Grow More Food programme;

(b) the total area of cultivable land at the beginning of the year 1950;

(c) the extent of land which has irrigational facilities;

(d) the extent of land which are absolutely without any irrigational facilities; and

(e) the extent of land which has been provided with irrigational facilities year by year since the starting of Grow More Food campaign and the money spent in this direction?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The area of potentially cultivable land in 1941-42, i.e., before the inception of the first Grow More Food campaign was 379·8 million acres.

(b) to (d). The required information is being collected from the States and will be furnished to the House as soon as received.

(e) Two statements giving the required information so far as 'Grow More Food' campaign is concerned are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 43].

Shri Nandkishore Das: Sir, With regard to answer (b), may I know if Government have got any plan to provide irrigational facilities to those areas which have absolutely no irrigation at present?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government do intend to provide irrigational facilities to areas which at present have none. But all this means a long-term programme involving a lot of expenditure. The State Governments and the Central Government, however, are moving in the direction of extending the irrigated areas in India.

Prof. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government used to publish an annual report upon the activities of the 'Grow More Food' campaign, and the results achieved by this campaign? Why is it that it is not being published at present?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Certainly Government do have the annual report of the 'Grow More Food' campaign and the results achieved. It is their intention to give this report to the Members.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to the answer given by the hon. Minister to parts (b) to (d) may I know whether the hon. Minister has carried on the 'Grow More Food' campaign all along without being in possession of the information called for under these heads?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As a matter of fact, the actual detailed information is not available with the Centre as to the irrigation facilities in each village and tahsil in the country. Figures are available with the State Governments, as to exactly how much area is under irrigation in each State, what type of irrigation and so on. This information is available with the States and the Central Government will secure that information and make it available.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: How then has the hon. Minister been planning the 'Grow More Food' schemes without this information all along?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Because the schemes are being planned by the State Governments. They put up the programme based on irrigation and manures and so on. These are individual schemes. It does not necessarily mean that the State Governments have made a complete survey of all the areas and their irrigational facilities. The schemes are only for specific areas where certain work is to be done and the information about these areas is available. But my hon. friend wants information about the entire area in the country.

Prof. Ranga: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister has a statistical sub-department in his Department with a number of experts, and do they not maintain this information from year to year in order to ascertain what is happening in the different Provinces?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That statistical set-up is only the creation of the last year and a half; and the State Governments take their own time in surveying the entire area in their jurisdiction and making a report.

Shri M. V. Rama Rao: Sir, out of the 379 and odd million acres, what is the acreage that comes under current fallows and the acreage which is actually under cultivation?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Out of 379.3 million acres, 237.8 acres were sown, and current fallows come to 50.9 million acres.

Shri M. V. Rama Rao: How is the balance accounted for?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows is 88.6 millions.

Mr. Speaker: But how is it accounted for?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have given the figures. That makes up the total.

Mr. Speaker: He has given the figure. But the hon. Member wishes to know the use to which this other land is put?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have not got the detailed break-up of that item of uncultivated land.

Shri M. V. Rama Rao: Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly again repeat the acreage which is not under current fallows and not cultivated?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants the figures again.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This is how the total of 379.3 million acres are reported by the State Governments;

Net area sown	239.8 million acres.
Current fallows	50.9 million acres.
Other uncultivated land excluding current fallow	88.6 million acres.
And the total comes to	379.3 million acres.

Shri Sidha: May I know, Sir, whether the statistics compiled in the Ministry are verified and whether they are found to be correct?

Shri B. Das: Sir, may I know whether the hon. Minister himself and his Food Adviser have not encouraged the States of Orissa and Assam to grow more jute knowing the fact that there is no central subsidy on any larger production of jute in those States?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I did not catch the question, Sir.

Shri B. Das: Have the hon. Minister and his Food Adviser Mr. Patil encouraged the States of Orissa and Assam to produce more jute to meet the recent jute crisis and was the hon. Minister also aware that under the Statute the Finance Minister cannot give any more subsidy than what is written in the Constitution? The Finance Minister was not prepared to give any more subsidy, he cannot, and he takes shelter under the Constitution.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We can give only such subsidy as we can under the rules.

Shri B. Das: Then what was the necessity to divert the attention of these States to cultivate jute when the Minister cannot provide any.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is entering into an argument. The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RUNNING STAFF OF M. & S. M. RAILWAY

*1019. **Shri Frank Anthony:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether transfers of running staff have been carried out on the M. & S. M. Railway without adequate arrangements for quarters?

(b) Have the staff been living, for months, in railway bogies, kitchens etc.?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) No. Although certain transfers of the running staff became inevitable as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Running Staff Pay and Allowances Committee, these were kept down to the minimum so that avoidable hardship might not be caused to the employees. However, every endeavour was made to provide quarters at the stations to which the running staff had been transferred, and almost all the staff so transferred were either allotted quarters or were able to secure private accommodation at their new stations.

(b) Out of sixty-four employees, who were actually transferred only six had to live for some time in Railway Carriages, pending allotment of quarters at their new stations, but they were allowed to retain their quarters at their old stations for their families.

LAND RECLAMATION BY TRACTORS

*1020. **Sardar B. S. Man:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the total area to be reclaimed by heavy tractors?

(b) What is the target date for such reclamation?

(c) What is the daily output in shape of reclamation by heavy tractors?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) and (b). A total area of three million acres is proposed to be reclaimed by heavy tractors. The target date is June 1957.

(c) The daily output varies according to the type of tractors used and nature of the land reclaimed. The new tractors purchased by the Government of India are expected to reclaim about ten acres of weed infested land or four acres of jungle land per working day of ten hours.

STATIONS FOR DEHYDRATING OF MILK

*1028. **Shri Narayana Deo:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of stations available in our country to dehydrate milk?

(b) What measure is adopted to meet the increasing demand for milk in urban and rural areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) Two.

(b) The State Governments are taking steps to organise more dairies, and more co-operative milk supply unions.

CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT OF TOBACCO

*1034. **Shri Ranga Redd:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tobacco consumed in India yearly and the quantity exported abroad; and

(b) what was the total value of tobacco exported abroad during 1948 and 1949?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 44*].

(b)

Years	Unmanufactured tobacco (in lakh rupees).	Manufactured tobacco (in lakh rupees).
1947-48	502.7	138.1
1948-49	577.9	248.5

LANDED COSTS OF FOOD GRAINS

*1042. **Ch. Mukhtiar Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state the landed costs per maund of different types of food grains, Semolina, Spelt, Ryecorn and atta during the years 1948-49, and 1949-50?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): A statement showing the prices of the commodities in question imported during 1948-49 is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 45*].

In regard to 1949-50, as a number of contracts are yet to be concluded, it is not in the public interest to disclose the prices being paid at present for these commodities.

Spelt and Ryecorn were not imported by the Government of India during the year 1948-49. Government of India do not import atta from overseas.

NEW RAILWAY LINK

*1044. **Shri Kannamwar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether there is any scheme for constructing a short Railway line to connect Narkhed railway station (G.I.P.) with Budnera railway junction in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) Has any survey been made of this route?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No such scheme has been included in the projects so far approved by the Central Board of Transport. It will, however, be considered by that Board along with other projects in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Yes.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY FOR MADHYA PRADESH

*1045. **Shri Kannamwar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the agriculturists in Madhya Pradesh do not get sufficient quota of iron owing to the shortage of funds with the Tahsil—Agricultural Associations in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) What is the system of distribution of iron to the Agriculturists in States other than Madhya Pradesh ?

(c) Do Government propose to encourage the agriculturists in the 'Grow More Food' drive by supplying sufficient iron to them needed for agricultural purposes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) No. It is not a fact, according to the information received from the Madhya Pradesh Government.

(b) The distribution in other States is done through Government Depots; Co-operative Societies; Agricultural Associations; and Registered Stockholders. Each State has adopted a method best suited to local conditions.

(c) Yes. Government are trying to secure as large an allotment of iron and steel for agricultural purposes as possible.

TARIFF BOARD REPORT ON SUGAR

*1046. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry into the allegations made by the Tariff Board in their Report on Protection to Sugar Industry; and

(b) what other action Government propose to take on the recommendations contained in the report?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Resolution issued by Government dated the 6th March, 1950 on the recommendation of the Tariff Board. Copy of this Resolution has been circulated to the Members of the House. Government have asked the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Governments to implement the Board's recommendation regarding the Indian Sugar Syndicate. Government are also in correspondence with the Syndicate in regard to the disposal of certain funds lying with the Syndicate. Early action on other recommendations will also be taken.

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

*1047. **Shri N. S. Jain:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a Dairy Development Officer in Delhi?

(b) What does that officer including his office cost to the Government or to the Delhi Administration? Since when is this officer working?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 16,000 per annum. The Officer is working since 22nd June, 1946.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT—IDEAS COMPETITION

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

(a) the number of suggestions received by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs in response to his circular of 27th June, 1949.

(b) the number of suggestions accepted by the Department, and the number rejected; and

(c) whether the Posts and Telegraphs department proposes to introduce "Ideas Competition" with suitable prizes so as to provide incentives to workers in that direction?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) 117.

(b) Accepted 2

Rejected 28

Under examination... .. 87

(c) No.

SCHEDULED CASTE EMPLOYEES IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

117. **Prof. Yashwant Rai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled caste in the Ministry of Railways in each of the categories of Gazetted officers, Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks and Stenographers;

(b) whether the number is as reserved for Scheduled castes; and

(c) what special steps Government propose to take to fill in the reserved quota under the spirit of Article 385 of the New Constitution?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) the number of Scheduled Caste in the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in the different categories is as follows:

Categories	No. of Scheduled Caste
(i) Gazetted Officers	Nil
(ii) Superintendent	1
(iii) Assistants	4
(iv) Clerks	11
(v) Stenographer	1

(b) There is no reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes. A certain percentage of vacancies is reserved for them; after the lapse of a sufficient number of years and provided suitable candidates to the required number are available every year, the total strength of Scheduled Caste employees will correspond with the percentage reservation in recruitment.

(c) The existing orders regarding reservation in recruitment and the concessions in regard to age limits and examination fees go further than the spirit of Article 385 of the Constitution.

LAC RESEARCH

118. Shri Kshudiram Mahata: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the subject on which research was done in 1945-50 in the Lac Research Institute, Namkum and the result of such research; and

(b) whether any scheme for the intensification of demonstration of lac cultivation was taken up by the Entomologist attached to this Institute in 1949 and if so, how?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) A resume of the research work done by the Institute during this period is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 46].

(b) Intensive Demonstration schemes were continued in Uttar Pradesh and in Bihar in 1949.

DEHRA DUN EXPRESS

119. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on 5th March 1950 Dehra Dun Express narrowly escaped a major disaster?

(b) If so, was any sabotage suspected?

(c) Has any enquiry been made?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) to (c). No incident in which Dehra Dun Express was involved occurred on 5th March, 1950, and therefore the questions (b) and (c) do not arise in connection with it.

But on the morning of 4th March, 1950, 193 Down Hardwar-Saharanpur Passenger felt an unusual jerk at mile 10/14 between Jwanapur and Pathri stations on the Hardwar-Lhaksar section of the East Indian Railway. It was found on inspection that the track on the spot had been tampered with by removal of fishplates bolts, etc. It is understood that the Civil and Police authorities are making enquiries.

LOSS OF FOOD GRAINS IN SAURASHTRA

120. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article in *Vartman* of Ahmedabad on or about the 2nd week of December 1949, that in Saurashtra in the Wadhvan godown 2,000 maunds wheat, 2,000 maunds mung, 5,000 maunds barley (Jav) and other food grains have perished?

(b) Is it a fact that similarly in Vanswada near Zalod 50 thousand maunds of gram, and 20 thousand maunds of maize are getting deteriorated?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Minister of Saurashtra has stated that 12 per cent. of food grains is perished?

(d) Have Government made enquiries, from the Provincial Government as to the correctness of this statement and if so, with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) Yes. The figures of food grains reported to have perished in the Wadhvan godown in the State of Saurashtra, however, are not correct. Only about 50 Bengal maunds of wheat were lost in cleaning, 336 Bengal maunds of mung dal and 1550 Bengal maunds of barley were slightly infested, but they were cleaned for use.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) No. The Chief Minister estimated the loss due to deterioration as 1.2 per cent. and not 12 per cent.

(d) Yes. The correct position is what has been mentioned in reply to parts (a) to (c) and is based on the enquiries made from the State Government.



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(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

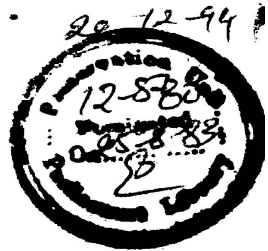
OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I, 1950

First Session
of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Wednesday, 22nd March, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

11.45 A.M.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COAL MINES STOWING BOARD FOR 1948-49

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Coal Mines Stowing Board for 1948-49. [Copy placed in the Library. See No. IV.R.102(16)/49.]

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951, for the purposes of railways.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951, for the purposes of railways."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Gopaldaswami: I introduce the Bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthal): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Matthal: I introduce the Bill.

(1967)

SHOLAPUR SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANY (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make special provision for the proper management and administration of the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make special provision for the proper management and administration of the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I introduce the Bill.

FINANCE BILL

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthal): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1950, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, Shri Biswanath Das, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri R. K. Sidhva, Shri Ramnath Goenka, Shri B. L. Sondhi, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Sardar Hukam Singh, Syed Nauaherali, Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, Shri M. V. Rama Rao, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Shri Syamnandan Sahaya, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri B. R. Bharat, Shri S. N. Buragohain, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the 27th March, 1950."

Mr. Speaker: The House is already aware that today and tomorrow have been allotted for the consideration of this motion. At 5 p.m. tomorrow, I shall put the motion to the vote of the House.

May I know when the hon. the Finance Minister wants to reply? Does he wish to reply at this stage or later on?

Dr. Matthal: There might be some points raised in the course of the discussion which may probably extend somewhat beyond the specific taxation proposals. If there are any points of that kind raised, then I would like to reply to them tomorrow. In any case I will not take more than half an hour at the most.

Mr. Speaker: That means, if necessary, I shall call the hon. the Finance Minister at 4-30 p.m. tomorrow to reply. I trust this will suit the convenience of the House. As regards the time-limit on speeches, I propose to allot the usual ten minutes to each speaker which may be extended in exceptional cases to fifteen minutes.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, may I say that I shall not be able to serve on the Committee?

Mr. Speaker: I have not yet put the motion to the House.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): I thought you were discussing the time-limit, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what is the intention of the Mover of this motion, as to whether he wishes to replace the name of Pandit Kunzru by somebody else's name or he wishes to have one less on the Select Committee.

Dr. Matthal: At this stage I would rather not put in any other name. The Select Committee will be composed of Members whose names have been proposed excluding Pandit Kunzru.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that his name is not now in the motion.

Shri Tyagi: This time-limit is quite all right to give each one of us an occasion to speak. The arrangement with the Chief Whip was that those Members of the House who had spoken on either cut motions or the General Discussion of the Budget may not be given time to speak on this Bill and there are people who have not taken any part in the Budget Discussions at all and they were told that they would get ample opportunities to speak on the Finance Bill. I suggest on the Finance Bill a time-limit of ten minutes is too short and no justice can be done to the Bill in that time.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras): The Chair is aware that in the past there was no time-limit put on the discussion of the Finance Bill and I do feel that when discussing the Finance Bill, there must be no rigid time-limit on Members who speak on it. But I quite concede that it is impossible to work on those lines with a House of this nature but I do feel that the Chair should reconsider its position and fix a longer time-limit to discuss the Finance Bill. It will not merely be of help but will also satisfy the desire of some Members who might like to review the Government's activities at some length.

Shri B. Das (Orissa): According to the existing ruling, Members of the Select Committee cannot speak on the second stage of the discussion. From the large list of Select Committee Members I find those who can authoritatively speak on the taxation proposals, are all included in the list. I would request you, Sir, to relax the ban on their speaking so that the House will be enabled to know their reactions to the taxation proposals.

As for the suggestions of Messrs. Krishnamachari and Tyagi, I think the ten minutes' time each on the Finance Bill is really insufficient and before the completes one thought, the time is over. Therefore I suggest that a little bit more time be allowed for discussion of the Finance Bill.

Shri Sidhya (Madhya Pradesh): While I appreciate, Sir, that under the new Rules you have the right to regulate the proceedings even on the Finance Bill, I hope that you would reserve it as your discretion and not fix a general time limit. Let the Members express their viewpoints and if you think that they deserve the consideration of the House and the consideration of the hon. the Finance Minister, you may allow them to speak without any time limit. But if on the other hand a Member repeats himself and is making no useful contribution, you can stop him. I therefore submit that there should be no general time limit.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): I would suggest 15 and 20 minutes instead of 10 and 15 minutes.

Shri N. S. Jain (Uttar Pradesh): Would it not be advisable, Sir, that hon. Members who are on the Select Committee do not take part in the debate?

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of adjusting the various points of view. I myself have always been saying in this House that I do not like this 10 minutes and 15 minutes time limit, because that time is hardly sufficient for a man who has really studied the question to develop his case. I have also tried to persuade friends not to have the desire to speak unless necessary; but after all there is a desire and a natural desire on the part of a large number of Members to express their views. Whatever others may think about those views, those Members think that they are important ones and should be stated in the House. An opportunity has to be given to them also.

Then about the rule regarding the members of the Select Committee, I think it is a wholesome rule; and at least in the present case, it will give more time to Members, particularly in view of the fact that in a big Committee like this, every Member will have a much better chance of effectively stating his

[Mr. Speaker]

case and shaping the Bill. A speech in the House may be accepted or may not be accepted, but a speech in the Select Committee is likely to be more effective, and I would certainly ask those Members to reserve their remarks and energy for the Select Committee. So, I am unable to accept the view of Mr. Das.

Shri Kamath: Am I to understand, Sir, that a speech in the House is not effective?

Mr. Speaker: There is an obvious difference. Certainly a speech in the House is effective, but a speech in the Select Committee stands more chance of being more effective.

Now, I have given the time limit and, as I said, I shall extend it to 15 minutes if necessary. As regards the point raised by Mr. Sidhva that, if I think a speech is to the point, I should extend the time limit, that, I think, is too great a responsibility which I shall be taking on myself, and the difficulty is—that is a practical difficulty—that by the time I can form my judgment as to whether a particular Member is relevant or not, he has already taken five or seven minutes. I will appeal to hon. Members to keep within the time limit of 15 minutes. Even during previous discussions, when the time limit was ten or fifteen minutes, I do remember cases when I have permitted Members to go up to even 20 minutes. So there need not be any hard and fast rule, but hon. Members must take into consideration that it is up to them to state their points very shortly so that other Members will get as much opportunity as possible to

12 Noon place their points of view before the House. That is the only thing that I shall say, and in any case, I take it that no hon. Member will try to exceed the time limit of 15 minutes. That should be a reservation and a rule of self-restraint.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): May I suggest that Mr. Kamath might be taken in place of Pandit Kunzru on the Select Committee so that he may be more effective there?

Shri Kamath: I think I am very effective in the House, and so I decline the offer.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1950, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, Shri Biswanath Das, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri R. K. Sidhva, Shri Ramnath Goenka, Shri B. L. Sondhi, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Sardar Hukam Singh, Syed Nausherah, Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, Shri M. V. Rama Rao, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Shri Syannandan Sahaya, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri B. R. Bhagat, Shri S. N. Buragohain, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the 27th March, 1950."

Shri Karmarkar (Bombay): I have great pleasure in supporting the motion moved by the hon. the Finance Minister. He has up till now faced a barrage of comments and criticisms and sometimes pointed thrusts, but I feel that I owe it to myself and to this House to say that in him, during the last very crucial period of 2½ years, we have had a very safe guide in shaping the economic destiny of this country. He might have, for all we know, at any time run down the precipice against which he was moving. Happily for us that has not happened. If there is a criterion by which we have to judge ourselves and by which others also judge us, it is probably the economic condition, the financial condition, in which we find ourselves during this first very important beginning period after freedom, and I am happy to say, apart from the fact that I might have to say something about the economic policies of our country by way of comment and criticism, that I agree that the economies of our country have been managed very ably, in a very distinguished manner, during the last

crucial two and a half years through which our country has had to pass. Having said that, I should say, that at this stage when we are discussing the financial proposals before the House, as the hon. the Finance Minister suggested, we might give ourselves the liberty of travelling over a little wider ground. I should have liked to restrict myself to some two or three subjects within the time at my disposal, but at the moment I feel constrained to run on some unconventional ground, because to my mind equally important with our economic and financial position is the question of how we ourselves stand and how others think India stands, and it is from that point of view that I am giving myself the liberty of addressing myself to a few salient questions that have loomed large during the last two or three years. I am sorry to say that some of us have been suffering from what the hon. Mr. Gadgil once called the psychology of self-censure. There must be some psychological reason for that. If we analyse a cross-section of public opinion in this country, we seem to be suffering from a tendency to censure ourselves more than it is perhaps necessary in the circumstances. The problems that have been confronting us during the last two and a half years have been really of a character which might have baffled and overwhelmed the toughest hearts in any country. At the end of this period of two and a half years—the period has not really ended because the problems are still there—I think we have reasons to feel some sense of satisfaction over the way in which our affairs have been managed. I will make a reference only to certain significant events that have taken place. Perhaps we who are passing through the game do not realise how significant they are, but outsiders who are watching what is going on in India cannot miss their significance. One of the most significant events that we have witnessed during the year under review is the integration of India. Many a time has reference been made to the solid achievement made by the Ministry of States presided over by the hon. the Deputy Prime Minister and I would desist from repeating the encomiums that have been rightly paid to him. I remember in 1947 how some British officers who left India were feeling. Some of them, it appears, thought that within six months their services will have to be requisitioned back immediately after the partition because the country would find itself in a shoal of blood and the only solution would be to recall the British officers. Now, after two and a half years, we find the whole of the Indian Union welded into one solid harmonious whole, making it not only an integrated territory, but an integrated constituent unit. The importance of that event is obvious to us and its results will be obvious to generations later. I do not like to repeat the compliments that have been justly showered upon the hon. Sardar Patel. If a little superstition may be permitted in this House, I will repeat a sentiment which I have expressed to myself in my own mind, whether it would be possible for a kind Providence to take away a few years from our lives and add them to his so that he might live on to continue the work of consolidation of India not only as a political unit but also as a very prosperous economic unit.

The other event to which complimentary reference has been made prominently in the foreign press also is the completion of a very solid Constitution for our new born State. We went on discussing and while discussing, we felt tired; but at the end of the period, we have produced a Constitution which posterity would be able to judge as a very sound one. It was once said on the floor of the Constituent Assembly that it was left to Dr. Ambedkar to help us in this matter to give decisive advice in this regard. All honour to him, it is due to his genius we owe a lot for providing a sound Constitution.

Thirdly, I should also say that there were problems militating against the maintenance of peace. Peace has been maintained. All of us know the ugly incidents that happened in West Punjab and the reactions that followed within our boundaries. We have passed that stage, let us hope. The problem that is facing us in East Bengal is a problem much more serious and raises questions

[Shri Kurmarkar]

in our hearts regarding the immediate future. But, we hope that we shall be able to tide over the present difficulties as we did over the past. Therefore, on the political side, taking the balance sheet, I should say the credit has been fairly sound. There have been difficulties here and there unsolved. There has been the refugee problem, the like of which has baffled all the western powers, the refugee problem in Europe. I should also say that what we have done is not sufficient. But we have done at least something which would have done credit to any administration in any country, involved in a disaster of that kind. Be it also said to the credit of the refugees themselves who, in the midst of a period of trials and tribulations, have shown a wonderful spirit of tenacity and self-suffering in the cause of the nation which they loved. That is also another problem which tried to break us, but which has found us unbroken.

I feel I should have been able to say the same thing about the economic conditions. Year after year, the Finance Minister has been telling himself and telling us that the problem was one of inflationary pressure. In his present Budget speech he says that that could not be solved simply from the point of view of improving monetary conditions. I beg to differ from that point of view though I will not join in detailed issue with him on that question. Much could have been done. Possibly that has not been done on account of lack of co-operation from certain quarters. I should still feel that that something which could be done from the monetary point of view should continue to be done.

There is then the question of production. It is something hopeful in the very difficult conditions of today to be told that industrial production has been showing an improvement during the last year. There have not been as many labour disputes as there were in the past. Thanks to the work of the Transport Ministry, the head of which, if he will pardon my saying so, behind an unassuming exterior hides very great ability to handle and solve the problems, the transport position has definitely improved.

But, I am afraid, that the suffering which has been ours on account of rise in prices and on account of continued inflationary pressure has not been met to that extent to which it might have been met. I do not propose to go into the details of the structure and the methods which might have been employed to check the inflationary pressure. We have been told that so far as imports were concerned, so far as the utilisation of our foreign exchange resources were concerned, there has not been such a large percentage of luxury articles as there might have been. We have been told by the hon. Minister of Commerce and also by the hon. Minister of Finance that the percentage of luxury articles amounted to 1.5 per cent. in the whole of the imports. To my mind, the definition of what is a luxury article varies in different circumstances. My simple definition is, if I have to buy a thing which I cannot afford to buy, that is a luxury to me. If one has to get into debt for purchasing an article, it may not be a motor car, the same definition holds good. If you go to the London market and try to purchase Parker Quink ink, you would not easily get it. If you want a 120 film for your camera, you won't easily find it. It was their definition of luxury, a thing which they could not afford to import. Judged by that standard, I am afraid the hon. Finance Minister will have to change his view regarding the percentage of luxury articles that we have imported. It is from that point of view that we have to be very very careful, much more careful with regard to the utilisation of our foreign exchange resources. Because, in my opinion, our foreign exchange resources are going to play a very crucial part in the restoration of our economy.

The second point on which I wanted to touch with regard to the economic aspect of our present conditions is the welcome announcement regarding the

Planning Commission. Planning in the long run, in a long term view of things, should include and should devote itself to the fruitful utilisation of all resources in the country. But, unhappily for us, our short range problem is as important as the long range problem. If we are not able to solve the short range problem effectively and immediately, we may not live to see the fruition of our long range efforts and long range schemes at all. These five years are going to be very critical years in the history of our country and unless we are able to guide our economic destiny in such a manner that we shall be able to pull through with the least harm, I am afraid, that just as we have had to do it compulsorily this year, we shall have to postpone indefinitely the ultimate fruition of our long range plans. From that point of view, I should respectfully suggest that our planning, apart from the machinery of the Planning Commission, should also devote itself to the solution of the short range problems that are confronting us. Our planning in that sector has to be an integrated one co-ordinating the work of the Finance Ministry, the Industry Ministry and the Commerce Ministry into one whole, as they are working in the United Kingdom, so that the economic conditions of the country will be viewed as a whole and we may not have any occasion when the Finance Minister could say in a public speech that he was having some misgiving about the way in which our imports have been flowing. There has to be an integrated economic policy. I hope Government will evolve such a scheme of things that would enable us to tide over this very critical period of our economic difficulties fairly successfully.

Lastly, there is another problem, perhaps as important as the political and economic problems, that is confronting our country, a problem that we have come to look upon as serious as any which we have had to face either in the political or economic domain, and that problem I have very regretfully to observe is the cleavage which has tended to exist between public opinion in this country and the Government that is guiding our destiny.

I have had occasions during the recent past of travelling in foreign countries where democracy is on a very stable basis and having carefully observed conditions abroad and compared the integrity, character, intellectual power and other qualities that go to make up leadership, I am happy to be able to say, that so far as efficiency, integrity and all those qualities which constitute leadership are concerned we have nothing to be ashamed of so far as our national leaders are concerned. In fact people in foreign countries have often told me that at a very crucial time if India has an invaluable asset, apart from her natural assets, it is the asset of her leadership. Let me humbly endorse that statement. But, it has so happened that inevitably there has been a cleavage: between our leadership and our public opinion; but because of limitation of time I cannot go into the details of this, nor is it necessary for me to elucidate it for purposes of this debate on the Finance Bill. Even as leadership has got to spread itself to the farthest corners of the country, face public opinion and try to educate it in like measure it becomes our duty to appreciate our leadership in a manner which will strengthen them and our country. From the sense of the debates in the House, maybe sometimes we succeed and sometimes not. I feel as if we try to attack the leadership without going at the administration as such. If I may be permitted a joke it is much better to concentrate our attack on those gentlemen over there in the official gallery and their administration. Better try to get into the administration, try to find out the defects, find out the solutions and enable the Ministers to deal with their problems rather than, sometimes as the tendency with the public seems to be to cavil or bring down the leadership in the country. In addition to our natural resources there is this powerful asset—the integrity, honesty and the intellectual abilities of leadership. Posterity for certain will be able to recognise that fact before long but we have also today to recognise that fact. Unless we see to it that public

[Shri Karmarkar]

opinion and the leadership of the Government of the day come together—and in this both the Government and the public have their parts to play—perhaps we may see ourselves in a situation as one of the Chinese economists once visualised in his talk with me. He was a very distinguished economist. He was the host of Rabindranath Tagore, when the latter visited China. He told me "Your country is perhaps exactly like China was ten years ago. If your Government does not go to the country, if your Government does not go to the root of the problems, if your Government does not come into direct contact with the peasants and workers and make them feel that it is their cause that was being fought for by Government, that the Government was labouring for their welfare, their conveniences and their uplift, your country might share the fate of China. This is a crucial time in your country's history. Unless this comes about, perhaps you will see in India in ten years what we saw in China yesterday. Perhaps it may be ten or fifteen years to come about and unless public opinion is regulated in such a manner as to strengthen your Government and unless Government for its part strengthens public opinion by solid work and service to the country, things may happen and India may be overcome by what is overwhelming China today." He was an experienced diplomat who said this. I should respectfully place before the House for its consideration what this implies.

I have nothing more to say except to conclude by saying one word relevant to our activities. I heard a British statesman saying that they have planning in Russia as also in Britain. If the Russians have a five year plan they complete it in four years: they mean what they say. Whereas in Britain the plans are made in a mid-Victorian setting. Their civil service has integrity but they have not that passion for work which the Russians have. I drew from this a parallel in my own mind as to what is happening in my own country. We have to develop a passion for every plan that we undertake just as we did during the period 1920 to 1947 when men and women of the country sacrificed everything, including their lives, for the country. Unless we continue the same spirit for the next twenty years, just as soldiers we fought with fervour for the freedom of the country, unless we struggle for the peace and prosperity of our country, unless we show the same spirit of sacrifice that we showed during the last twenty years, the future of our country would not be as bright and great as it has a right to be in the circumstances.

Shri Tyagi: I am not one of those who would congratulate Dr. Matthai for his Finance Bill. I know my fate when Dr. Matthai will reply and how he will deal with me. Even so I am taking a risk.

My feeling is, as I said last year also, the whole economy of the country is being run with an urban bias. India is a rural country, her population is mostly rural and yet we run the whole economy of the country with a definite urban bias, to which I am definitely opposed.

Take the matter of taxation. The basic principle of taxation is that the surplus income of an individual citizen is taxed. That is one basic and elementary principle. I do not mean to insult the intelligence of the House by mentioning this elementary principle but since I myself am a novice, I am taking the liberty to state it. Therefore I hope you will pardon me.

Let us see what is the margin of surplus income that the taxpayer has today. According to the statistics available to me the average income of an Indian is Rs. 17/8 per month. The annual average income *per capita* is calculated at Rs. 206, whereas in U.K. it is Rs. 2,666 and in the U.S.A. it is Rs. 7,318. If Rs. 17/8 is the average income it means that there is a large number of people

who earn less than Rs. 17 per month, because the average is struck by taking the higher and lower incomes together for purposes of calculation.

Shri B. Das: In Orissa it is Rs. 30/- per year.

Shri Tyagi: Those people whose incomes are below the average have also to live and eat somehow or other. The question is: Is the tax to come from people with large incomes only for all time to come? Does the State stand for those people only? Do you mean to say that the smaller people do not want to share the burden of the State? The poor man also wants to pay taxes but unless you make him earn more how can he pay taxes to the State. More than three-fourth of the people cannot make both ends meet. Is it the financial policy of India that for the purposes of a few lakhs of people the State should run? Otherwise what is the good of spending crores of rupees on big industries?

Day before yesterday I asked the Government as to what they are spending on cottage industries. The reply was that a Committee had been constituted to look into the matter. This is the manner in which the Government is dealing with the smaller man. If I were invested with the powers, if I were in place of Dr. Matthai—of course I am not a doctor, but I know my physique all right, I know my disease all right and I could at least treat myself—I would have set apart at least Rs. 60 to 70 crores to purchase small cottage machines, bring them into India and distribute them free to villagers just to be paid back in small instalments by them in the shape of the goods that they would produce. Finance is not only the question of taxation. The question really is of commodities. Commodities are not being produced. Dr. Matthai is after production. He wants more production. But it is all theoretical production that he is after. I think it is book knowledge that he suffers from and it stands in his way. I would ask him to have the field knowledge of Finance, and then he will know what is production. The 'muscles' of this country are lying unemployed. Even their fringe has not been touched by the Budget of Dr. Matthai and this Government which claims to be a National Congress Government and which speaks "for the whole of India". It does speak for India, but I say it does not speak for the whole of India, for the majority of the people are lying in the villages idle. They could be better employed if investment were made in the direction of supplying them with machines. The other day I went to Arab-ki-Sarsi where I saw small machines, quite little and handy, and even small women with little intelligence could sit in the villages and work them—of course with electricity connections given—and a woman can earn at home five to six rupees a day. But that does not seem to be the care of the powers that be. They have never taken care of the poorer people in the villages. I would therefore submit that unless production is increased there can be no cure to our ills. But I can assure Dr. Matthai that his income will be ten times more every year if he were just to take care and get the production done in the villages where the raw materials are lying, the 'muscles' are lying, the power and the intelligence are lying, idle.

An Hon. Member: But where is electricity?

Shri Tyagi: It can be had. Should we prefer to electrify towns and cities and have all sorts of decorations here? Divert it to the villages. Let the town people live on kerosene oil. They can. Because nobody speaks on behalf of villagers, the idea seems to have gone in the whole country that without cities India cannot live. I submit India can live, and live better, without cities. That is one point.

It is said that relief has been given to the taxpayer. Let us come to Income-tax. I do not want to prejudice my speech by advocating only the cause of villagers. Let me take the urban people also. It is claimed that relief

[Shri Tyagi]

has been given to Income-tax payers by re-adjustment of income and super-taxes. They are only a few thousand. It is said that relief has been given; but by removing the distinction between earned and unearned incomes most of this relief has been given to unearned incomes. Let us see which of the two incomes gets the major share of this benefit. I do not want to read the whole table. I shall take it from the 2½ lakh slab a year. The earned income group is benefited to the extent of 1.46 per cent. only, while the unearned income group in that slab to the extent of ten per cent. The unearned income *walaha* will get ten per cent. of this concession as against 1.46 per cent. for the earned income group in the same slab. In the case of four lakhs and above, it is 8.7 per cent. for earned and 12.2 per cent. for unearned. In the five lakh slab it is 4.8 per cent. for earned and 18 per cent. for unearned. Above five lakhs it is seven per cent. for earned and 15 per cent. for unearned. So all this profit is going to persons who do not take any pains to earn, who have just invested their money. They do not do anything. Money brings them something, or, they are getting some incomes coming even from lands. This is the position of the re-adjustment of income and super-tax benefit he has given. But he has not taken into account the world-wide accepted principle and that is the real principle, which if you don't follow, you can never claim to be fair to the people whom you are taxing. And that is that you are giving no concession to the dependents of the taxpayer. You are unfair to your own wife and to your own children. I submit to Dr. Matthai "You are unfair to your own wife." In the whole world when people's incomes are taxed concession is always made for their dependents and for married people—they are taxed less than the single ones. But this concession has not been given in my friend's Budget. It has been said that a little concession for joint Hindu family has been given. It does not go far enough. I submit that this concession should be given to those persons who have dependents and those who are married, because their saving is less than that of the single man.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

The whole theme has been that a concession has been given to these big income classes because "capital formation is necessary". It is all for "capital formation". And what is "capital formation"? Concentrated capital is the only capital formation, as if a small machine producing things of commercial use is not capital at all! Capital formation is always considered to be the "big mills" and some capitalists exploiting the population. That is not "capital formation"; that is capital exploitation, I must submit. For the last two years we are running after this capital formation and we are giving money after that with the hope that the capital will be formed. But this capital does not seem to form. We are trying to drive a peg in the sky and want to hinge our hopes thereon. We gave reduction in taxes in the last two years. We are continuing this policy. Then there was the abolition of the Capital Gains tax. Then we gave the double depreciation charges. Now we are again continuing that policy. Double depreciation means that for a machine which would otherwise last for ten years we artificially strike off the capital on account of this machine within five years. It means that for the next five years in the course of working of a machine, the industrialist gets the profit of capital without any investment. The machine works on for another five years and it is an absolute saving to him. Without any bother of any tax that man saves a capital of five lakhs of rupees, because the machine goes on quite smooth for another five years. So, that income is an absolutely surplus income. It is as surplus as black market income which your Income-tax officer does not touch. Previously, over such capital savings there was a chance of your Capital Gains tax to be levied. Some

of it at least—25 per cent. of that great saving—the State would have got. Even that was given up. Now you have left all this saving and said "It is your property" in the hope that capital is being built. I submit it is not being built. It is the old capital, the dead capital which is standing dead in the book though lives in actual existence. It is only our luxury to think that we have added to our capital. It does not build any capital. The other day the complaint was made that in spite of all the advantages that you have given there was no building of capital whatsoever. This has been the result of all our concessions to the industrialists up till now.

Now, let us see how these concessions are going to be effective. It is said that the total wealth earned in India is to the extent of 5,000 crores of rupees every year. Five-sixths out of this comes from agriculture. It is of course agreed on all hands that five-sixths of the total annual wealth of the country comes from the agriculturist classes of the people alone. One-sixth comes from these big industries. Out of this one-sixth, two-thirds comes from the cottage industries. The cottage industries produce double the value of what the big industries do, but we have given all these concessions to these big industries alone leaving out the cottage industries. Capital is not only machine capital; it is also raw material. Does not raw cotton go towards capital? Does not raw jute go towards capital? They count a great deal in creating capital and producing the goods. But what have you done for the producers of these raw materials—the agriculturists? The whole basis of wealth is nothing but agriculture. There are only two ways of producing basic wealth: one is through agriculture and the other through mines. Therefore, one of these two ways of producing wealth, that is agriculture, has been lost sight of altogether. So long as you don't care for that class of people, you will never succeed in building up capital. The concession only goes to such persons as don't produce but exploit the surplus value of the wage-earners in their factories.

Now, as regards economy, last time I had shouted for it and again I want to shout. I am slightly loud in my voice, but I assure Dr. Matthai that I am very loyal to him; and it is on account of the enthusiasm of loyalty and love for him and his colleagues on his left and right, that I speak so enthusiastically and loudly. Well, last year I said that you must reduce your expenditure to the extent of rupees one hundred crores. It looked very odd; it looks rural and village-like, and I seem absolutely uneconomical, and unaware when I say so. Unless you can reduce expenditure to the extent of Rs. 100 crores, you cannot deliver the goods. Let us see how much you have reduced.

Sir, I have taken.....

Mr. Chairman: About 18 or 19 minutes.

Shri Tyagi: I have taken no time during the whole Budget discussion. I had kept all my time for today.

The reduction in expenditure, as is claimed, is in my opinion a fiction. The revised estimate of expenditure on displaced persons for 1949-50 is Rs. 13.7 crores. Now a reduction has been made to the extent of Rs. 7.7 crores, and it is budgeted at Rs. six crores now. We in this House and laymen and newspapers outside are crying hoarse to reduce the civil expenditure. Everybody is crying, "The Government is becoming topheavy; please reduce your expenditure on Government". No; nothing is done to do that. What you have done is to reduce refugee relief to the extent of Rs. 7.7 crores. Expenditure on 'Food' has been reduced to the extent of Rs. 8.67 crores. 'Pre-partition liabilities' have been reduced to the extent of Rs. four crores. Then, what other healthy deductions have you made? There is the reduction of Rs. 5.6 crores of subventions which you used to give to Provinces.

[Shri Tyagi]

This is the list of reductions you have come forward with. I cannot congratulate Dr. Matthai for this reduction which he has made in the expenditure. Last year the estimate for the capital expenditure was Rs. 95 crores and the revised estimate was Rs. 75 crores. So, there was a saving of Rs. 20 crores in the capital expenditure budgeted for last year. But this twenty crores was saved not because of less expenditure or economy in the Ministries but because you cut down many of the productive schemes which were meant for the benefit of the country. Government cut down those schemes altogether and thereby saved that amount. This year the capital expenditure is estimated at Rs. 62 crores and therefore there is a saving of Rs. 13 crores over the revised estimate for last year. Then you have cut Rs. 83 crores from the Provinces this year.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member, but he has already taken about 21 minutes.

Shri Tyagi: Then will you give me the chance of closing my speech?

Mr. Chairman: He may take a minute more.

Shri Tyagi: I submit that in all these reductions the result has been a grave one and I wish to protest against it. I hope that the Select Committee will keep this in view while considering the Finance Bill. The allocation of income-tax to the States has been cut to the extent of Rs. 7.2 crores. The States have suffered to that extent. Then again, the subventions given to the States have been reduced from Rs. 21 crores to Rs. 15.4 crores, that is, to the extent of Rs. 5.6 crores. In this way you have cut to the extent of Rs. 12.8 crores in the revenue expenditure and Rs. 83 crores in the capital expenditure. This is the amount they say they have saved. This saving has been made from the pockets of the States. How will the States work? They will go bankrupt. If that happens, it is no use your being here. If the States cannot exist, you cannot exist.

I will speak more when the Bill is considered.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal): The little time I have at my disposal, I propose to spend in examining as far as possible the actual financial provisions of the Bill that is before us. In examining these, we have to keep in view two very important angles of approach. First, we have to consider how far these proposals and the present Budget are in consonance with the Economic Objectives of the Directives of State Policy laid down under the new Constitution of the Indian Republic to which this very Parliament owes its existence. And, equally important are the practical realities and the exigencies of the situation in the context of the things as they are today. Both these points we have to keep in mind.

Before entering into details, I just want to say that I do not see what particular merit this system of capital budget accounting has which we have gone in for and which is a legacy of our past. Of course, luckily it does not prevent us from getting a proper assessment of the actual position. I don't want to go into details, but I must say again that I don't see any particular merit in this system.

If we take the revised estimates for 1949-50, both capital and revenue, it shows a deficit of Rs. 124 crores, whereas in the next year's Budget this has been reduced to a deficit of Rs. 24 crores. I must say that it goes to the credit of the hon. Finance Minister that he has been able to effect a reduction of Rs. 100 crores here. At a time when we have to check the inflationary spiral, it is very necessary to have, as far as possible, a recovery Budget or a Budget which attempts to be a balanced one. So far, I think we have to congratulate the hon. the Finance Minister.

But, when we consider the method of the curtailment of the expenditure by which we have been able to reduce it by Rs. 100 crores, we have to take many factors into account. The hon. the Finance Minister has told us and it is perfectly true that Defence, Food and Rehabilitation have taken the largest slice of the Budget,—Defence, of course, being the largest single item. The nation-building services are absolutely at a standstill. One of the urgent reasons why it was necessary that this country should be free was that these basic nation-building services should be provided. In the Budget, as we see the picture before us today, these are absolutely and utterly at a standstill.

The hon. Member who spoke before me, brought up the point about development grants to the States and I want to emphasise it. The next year's provision in respect of all the States is Rs. 9.59 crores and the provision for Grow More Food Campaign is Rs. 9.2 crores. The balance is assigned to educational schemes. The current year's development grants are Rs. 24.12 crores, of which Rs. 23.42 crores are for general development and Rs. 70 lakhs for adult social education and teachers' training, and even this very meagre amount has been so drastically cut. Now, I want to ask the hon. the Finance Minister and the Central Government: Do they act in the air? Is it possible for them to have more production or material improvement in the position in this country without the States? I am in favour of a very strong federal Centre, but since all the means of development in this country and all the welfare services which are essential are the responsibility of the States, how can they, if they are crippled altogether financially, possibly bring in any one of these reforms?

Then, take the Deshmukh Award. This Award has further worsened the position of many of the States. The plea has been put forward that the terms of reference of this Award were very restricted, but I wonder how many of the State Governments were aware that that was so. If they had known it, I wonder whether they would have agreed to this Award being binding. So far as West Bengal is concerned, it has been most unfortunate. West Bengal is a province that has suffered economically, particularly as a base of war activities, the scene of a devastating famine and lastly as a result of the partition of the Province itself. If the Central Government intends to help Provinces such as West Bengal to improve, this Deshmukh Award certainly does not show that that is the motive. I do not question the motive. I merely say that the results do not go to show that there is any real desire to bring about development through Provincial and State Governments, which is the only way in which we can really improve our position.

Now, it may be easily asked, since I have congratulated the hon. the Finance Minister for having reduced the difference between income and expenditure and for having made a very valiant effort towards presenting a balanced Budget, how this could have been avoided. Well, the first thing that comes to the mind of every layman is that Rs. 15 crores worth of relief to the highest income groups has been given. If this very same sum of Rs. 15 crores had been given to the States, they would have been in a position to keep up at least the conditions that prevailed during the current year. They could have been given strict injunctions that this money was being given to them for these basic services and for providing for the needs of those particular income groups which are most hard hit. If we had done that, then I do think that it would have helped greatly; not only would it have had a psychological effect, but it would have been of material help also. Now, the Finance Minister is dreaming a great dream that greatly amassed wealth will come in a year's time. He thinks that these speculator capitalists will come forward with their money and in the American way we shall, in a year's time, lay the foundations of prosperity and progress and greater and greater production. I have told him before and I

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

tell him now on the floor of this House that in my opinion that dream is not going to come true. I am afraid that he is going to receive a very great shock. If we analyse the money market today—there may be other reasons which may affect it—but in spite of that, if we analyse it properly we shall see that even today what the hon. the Finance Minister prophesies, of what he thinks will take place, is very unlikely to happen.

The greatest need in this country today is the need for relief to income groups which are below the taxable limit. It is these fixed income groups, particularly the lower middle classes such as teachers and clerks, who are the hardest hit and we have to find out ways and means of helping them. One of the ways and means would have been to give this money to the States with a strict proviso that it was to give annuities to these income groups that the subvention was given to them.

Secondly, I hope that the hon. the Finance Minister and the Select Committee will take certain points into consideration. The Finance Minister has said so many times that there is need for the small investor to come forward if we are to have capital formation. I would request him and the Select Committee to give relief to income groups between Rs. 3,500 and 10,000, because it is from them that we will get the largest number of small investors. If I may humbly suggest to the hon. the Finance Minister, it would perhaps help in capital formation greatly if he would reduce—I am sorry, I should have said raise—the rate of interest on small savings. I do not want to suggest raising the general rate of interest, because as economists would tell us, it has dangerous repercussions. But if the rate of interest on small savings is raised, I think it will help towards getting capital into the coffers of Government and not to the private interests.

The Finance Minister in his speech the other day said—and I know that that is true—that he believed in nationalisation. But he also said that in view of that fact that we have not got the machinery for implementation we have to abandon this idea. Therefore he has had to adopt an attitude which has made him a prey, and laid him at the mercy of those exploiters and those vested interests who have no concern for greater production in this country. If that is the position and we realise the fact that nationalisation on a vast scale is not a possibility today because of the fact that we have not got the machinery to implement it, then I want to ask Government what it has done in these two and a half years towards improving that machinery. As the Finance Minister knows, even the machinery for controls is not satisfactory. It has to be improved to a very large extent before we can hope for any adequate results. In the meantime, the cry goes through the country at the instance of these very vested interests who want a veritable paradise for themselves and who want to have an unbridled and unchecked scope for their activities, that decontrol must come. Decontrol, I think, would be fatal to our economy and I know that the hon. the Finance Minister shares this view. I would ask him and the Government as to what they have done up till now to improve even the machinery for controls—leave alone nationalisation. And if that is not possible, then the question of nationalisation now, tomorrow or even fifty years hence becomes an impossibility.

The Planning Commission which we have all welcomed, and of which the hon. the Prime Minister is the Chairman, can do much towards the improvement of this machinery. I know that with the resources at our command today, it will be largely a question of the determination of priorities that this Commission will have to undertake. But before it undertakes anything else,

I hope that it will put its mind to the building up of an administrative machinery through which it can execute the plans. Let us not forget that a machinery built by a police State unless it is vitally changed and reconditioned, cannot serve the purpose we have in view. As we see through these two and a half years it has not been able to serve the purpose of nation building for a welfare state, towards which we are all looking forward. I do not want to cast aspersions on any of the personnel of that machinery. I am talking about the machinery itself.

We have seen many crises and today the situation arising out of East Bengal happenings is exercising everybody's mind. Although the Finance Minister has made a very valiant effort towards recovery, I do not know how long we shall be able to hold that during the months yet to come. We shall have a large expenditure to be incurred on behalf of the relief and rehabilitation of all those who are coming over in terror and jeopardy of their lives. But, whatever be the difficulties that we face today, let us hope that the next year's Budget will be made in consonance with the objectives for which we stand, and that the economic structure of society which we hope to attain will be seen in the trend of the Budget next year.

We cannot achieve results very quickly. I do not think that any country has done so. A great deal has been said about Soviet Russia achieving results in the twinkling of an eye, but that is not so. But we can surely keep on the right track. The trend in the Budget of next year must be the trend on the right way. It is only then that we can say that we are making every effort towards building up that classless society in which we all believe. I would in the end ask the Finance Minister and the Select Committee to take some of my suggestions into consideration and make the poor man feel that this Budget is not merely the rich man's Budget.

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

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

(MR. SPEAKER in the chair.)

बाबू रामनारायण सिन्हा : सभापति जी, आपको बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद है कि फाइनेंस बिल (The Finance Bill) पर बोलने का मझे आपने अवसर दिया। बजट (Budget) यानी वार्षिक आय व्यय का प्रस्ताव करीब आठ रोज की बहस में पास हुआ। करीब साढ़े तीन अरब रुपया था और आठ रोज की बहस में पास हो गया। सभापति जी, इस बारे में ख़ास कर के आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ। हम लोग पुराने सदस्य हैं। एक ज़माना था जब यज्ञों पर अंग्रेजों का राज्य था और करीब १४० सदस्य रहते थे जिसमें बोलने वाले करीब करीब ५० से अधिक नहीं होने थे, तो इतने लोगों के बीच में जितना समय रहता था उनना ही समय अब भी दिया जाता है जब कि हम लोगों की संख्या करीब ३०० के है और प्रायः यह सौभाग्य की बात है कि सभी बोलने वाले हैं। ऐसी हालत में राजनीतिक विषयों पर यह बहस होती है, विचार होता है, या बिल्कलाइ होता है। मैं इन सम्भव में धोर विरोध करता हूँ तथा मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आप इस ओर विशेष ध्यान देंगे।

यह ठीक है कि देश में बड़े बड़े संकट पड़े हुये हैं, बहुत तरह की बातें आ रही हैं, लेकिन यह भी तो ठीक है कि हमारी नयी स्वतन्त्रता है और हम सब लोग नये ढंग से काम कर रहे हैं। जो कुछ आज अनर्थ और बुराई है, यह मैं मानने को तैयार हूँ कि इसके लिये एक जादगी जबाबदेह नहीं है, उस में सारे देश की जबाबदेही है और जितनी गड़बड़ी आज है, उसको दूर करने के लिये सबकी सहानभूति की जरूरत है, यह सब सही है, लेकिन यह भी तो सही है कि जिनके हाथ में अधिकार है, वे लोग क्यावा जबाबदेह हैं। सभापति जी, यह तो पंचायती सभा है, प्रतिनिधि सभा है जिसके कि आप सभापति हैं।

[बाबू रामनारायण सिंह]

यहां के अधिकार और बहुत सी बातें हैं, जिसकी रक्षा करने वाले आप प्रधान, रक्षक हैं। कहा तो य जाता है कि उत्तरदायी सरकार है, रिसपौनसिबिल टू पार्लियामेण्ट (responsible to Parliament), लेकिन कमी कमी ऐसा भी बूझा जाता है कि सरकार इस पार्लियामेण्ट का उत्तरदायी है, या खुद पार्लियामेण्ट ही उत्तरदायी सरकार की है, कमी कमी ऐसा भी बूझा जाता है। तो सभापति जी, यह तो जरूरी बात है जो आज हम लोग काम कर रहे हैं, इनका जो ट्रेजरी बेंचेज (Treasury Benches) वाले कर रहे हैं, यहां कोई व्यक्तिगत बात नहीं है, आज जो हम करते हैं उसका असर हमारी भावी सन्तानों पर पड़ेगा। उन लोगों का ध्यान रख कर भी हम सब काम करते हैं और जो कुछ कार्य होता है, उसका असर सारे देश पर पड़ता है। एक बात में आपको याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि बजट पर जब बहस होती है, तो बजट पर बहस होने के माने यह होते हैं कि देश का जितना कार्य है, सरकार के जितने कार्य हैं, उनकी छानबीन हो सकती है और कोई नहीं कह सकता कि कौन सदस्य किस डिपार्टमेण्ट (Department) के बारे में बोलने लगेगा। तो मैं समझता हूं कि इस वक्त जितने विभाग हैं, उनके मन्त्रीगण या उनके कोई प्रतिनिधि यहां हाउस (House) में अवश्य रहना चाहिये। लेकिन मालूम यह होता है कि ट्रेजरी बेंचेज के जो हमारे मन्त्रीगण हैं, उनको इस बजट से कोई काम नहीं है। एक बात और मैं सभापति जी, यहां कहे देता हूं, इसमें टीका टिप्पणी की कोई बात नहीं है, यहां पंचायती राज्य है, यहां किसी के विरोध की बात नहीं है। मुझे कभी कभी बहुत दुःख होता है कि अंग्रेजी राज्य तो गया, लेकिन अंग्रेजीपन हमारे लोगों की नसों में कूट कूट कर भरा हुआ है, जो काम करेंगे, वह सब उसी अंग्रेजों बंग से करेंगे। और यह भी ठीक है कि अंग्रेजों का जाना जितना कठिन था, अंग्रेजीपन का जाना उससे भी ज्यादा कठिन मालूम होता है। यहां अगर कोई साफ साफ बात की जाये, तो बोला जाता है कि क्रिटिसाईज (criticise) किया, टीका टिप्पणी हुई, तो साहब यह तो पंचायती सभा है, यहां न किसी के खिलाफ बोलना है, न किसी के हक में बोलना है, मुझे वह बोलना है जो मेरे दिल में इस विषय पर उठता है और मैं चाहता हूं कि उसको उसी लाइट (light) में लेना चाहिये और जो मन्त्री लोग हैं, अधिकारी लोग हैं, उनको इसी तरह से लेना चाहिये कि यह तो पंचायती सभा है, और पंचायती सभा में तो सबको अपनी राय देना है और स्वतन्त्रता से बोलना है और उसमें जो मैं कहता हूं अगर मैं किसी से दब कर किसी से डर कर या किसी लोभ व लालच में आकर बोलता हूं, तो मैं देश के प्रति विश्वासघात करता हूं और मैं यह भी कहने को तैयार हूं कि अगर कोई अधिकारी बगैर यहां हो और जो ऐसा चाहता हो कि लोग उससे दब कर बोलें, तो वह भी देश के प्रति विश्वासघात का काम करता है। सभापति जी, इस बारे में मैंने पहले कहा था कि बहुत सी बातें आपको विचार करनी हैं जिसमें इस पार्लियामेण्ट (Parliament) की ऐसी परम्परा कायम हो, ऐसा ट्रेडिशन (tradition) इस्टैबलिश (establish) हो, जिससे हमारी भावी सन्तानों उनका गर्व के साथ अनुसरण करें और उसका असर उन पर अच्छा हो और इसमें सब का सहयोग होना चाहिये, लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में ज्यादा आपका काम है।

बजट का रुपया जो आता है जनता के पास से, गरीब के पास से आता है, वह पैसा किस लिये आता है जैसा कानून है और जैसा हिसाब है वह कर के रूप में आता है और कार्य के रूप में उन्हीं लोगों के पास वापस जाने के लिये। लेकिन आज आप समूचे बजट के पन्ने पलट डालें तो देखेंगे कि रुपया आया और उसका बंटवारा हो गया। मालूम होता है कि जितना रुपया आता है, वह सब सरकारी अफसरों के ही बीच में लूट होने के लिये आता है, जनता के पास कार्य रूप में, सेवा के रूप में कितना जाता है, शायद उसका हिसाब तो बहुत अधिक है।

सभापति जी, इस बारे में बोलने में कुछ मुश्किल तो मालूम होता है, लेकिन जैसे कि हमें सारी बातें नहीं करनी हैं, यह तय करना है कि पैसा जो आज आता है, वह कहां खर्च होना चाहिये, सब सरकारी अफसरों के बीच खर्च हो जाये, या लोगों के पास भी रचनात्मक कार्य के रूप में पहुंचना चाहिये। यह फैसला हो जाना चाहिये। अब इस फैसले के हो जाने के बाद यह भी तय होना चाहिये कि हमारे देश में जो सरकार है वह प्राचीन काल की तरह, अंग्रेजों के जमाने की तरह, शासन के लिये है या सेवा के लिये है। सभापति जी, वह दिन गये कि कोई शासक हो। शासक के दिन चले गये, मालिकों के दिन चले गये। अब तो जनता सेवा चाहती है। अच्छा, तो अब उसके साथ साथ यह भी जरूरी बात है कि संसार में जितनी सरकारें होती गयीं और आज भी जितनी सरकारें ह सब यह कहती हैं तो जरूर कि वे जनता की सेवक हैं। उनका यह कहना तो सही है, यही बात सब सरकारें कहती थीं और आज भी कहती हैं। लेकिन काम तो उनका जो होता है उससे नहीं मालूम होता कि वे नौकर हैं या जनता के सेवक हैं। बल्कि ऐसा मालूम होता है कि वे जनता के मालिक हैं। यानी कहने में और करने में बिल्कुल धोखेबाजी होती है।

मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आज हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में “जनता जनार्दन” जो है उसकी हालत कैसी है। उसको हिसाब में रख कर के ही कराची कांग्रेस में पास हुआ था कि सब से बड़े से बड़ा वेतन हमारे देश में ५०० रुपये माहवार रहेगा। यह जो वेतन का मामला है इसके बारे में मैं बार बार बहुत बोलता हूं और जब तक जिन्दा रहूंगा और असेम्बली में आता रहूंगा बोलता रहूंगा। एक बार मुझे डाक्टर मयाई साहब ने कह दिया कि साहब क्या बात करते हैं। उस जमाने का ५०० रुपया तो आज दो हजार के बराबर है। अच्छा, अगर वही बात है कि ५०० का दाम इस वक्त बहुत कम हो गया है तो दो ही हजार रहे। अभी त्यागी जी का भाषण हो रहा था तो उन्होंने कहा था कि इस देश की औसत माहवारी आमदनी हर व्यक्ति की १७ रुपये होती है। मैं पहले एक हिसाब जानता था जिसके अनुसार हर महीने में एक व्यक्ति की आमदनी करीब करीब ४ रुपये की थी। यह भी आप जानते हैं। सभापति महोदय, कि महात्मा जी कुछ दिनों तक केवल ६ पैसे खाते थे और कहते थे कि हमारे देश की आमदनी प्रति व्यक्ति की हर सांठ सवरे ६ पैसे से अधिक नहीं पड़ती है। मैं तो आपसे कहता हूं कि आप किसी भी जिले को ले लीजिये जिसकी २० लाख आबादी है। वहां पर जो कई डाक्टर हैं, वकील हू या सरकारी अफसर हैं, उन लोगों को छोड़ कर बकाया जितनी आबादी है उसमें शायद हजार में एक व्यक्ति भी नहीं होगा जिसको कि आज के हिसाब से भी ५०० रुपये से अधिक माहवार की आमदनी हो। तो, सभापति जी, हमारे देश के लोगों को, हमारी सरकार को, हमारी कांग्रेस को, सभी को, तय कर लेना है कि क्या वही नीति हमारी होगी जो कि अंग्रेजों की नीति होती थी कि शासन भी करते थे और शोषण भी करते थे। आज जब देश स्वतन्त्र हो गया है तो शासन उनके हाथ में रहना चाहिये जो कि देश भक्त हैं या उनके हाथ में जो कि देश के नाम पर भर मिटना चाहते हैं। देश में जो काम करने वाले हैं, चाहे वे राष्ट्रपति हो, करके काम करें या चौकीदार हो करके काम करें, उनका भरण पोषण तो होना चाहिये, लेकिन वह भरण पोषण उसी ढंग से होना चाहिये जैसे कि समाज के सभी लोगों का भरण पोषण होता है, और इस से अधिक नहीं। और और देशों में भी यह साधारण बात है कि पब्लिक सर्वेण्ट (Public servant), का साधारण सरकारी अफसर का, तलब उसी अनुपात से होना चाहिये जैसे कि देश के सारे लोगों का लिविंग स्टैंडर्ड (living standard) होता है। सभापति जी, मैं तो पहले ही इसका, कम समय देने का, विरोध कर चुका हूं।

मिस्टर स्पीकर: १५ मिनट तो आपने ले लिये हैं। अब जितना ज्यादा समय आप लेने उतना ही दूसरों का टाइम कम हो जायगा।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: तो खैर, सभापति जी, मंजूर कर देता हूँ। लेकिन मैं यह कहे देता हूँ कि इस तरह का जो वेतन है यह बिल्कुल अस्वाभाविक है और यह देश भक्तों का वेतन नहीं है। यह तो उन लोगों का वेतन है जो हमारे देश में लूट करने के लिये रहते थे। इस लिये यह वेतन तो बन्द कर लिया हो जाना चाहिये।

अब इसके अलावा आप यह भी देखेंगे कि जो रुपया होता है वह सब यहीं पर खर्च हो जाता है। नये नये डिपार्टमेंट बनते हैं जिनकी जरूरत नहीं है। और उनके साथ साथ एक बात और होती है। यहां पर जो अंग्रेज अफसर मन्त्रियों की जगह पर काम करते थे और उनका जो पर्सनल स्टाफ (Personal staff) होता था उससे कहीं अधिक आप सभापति जी मुझे यह कहने के लिये माफ़ करेंगे, यहां किसी खास आदमी की बात नहीं है, सब मन्त्रियों के पर्सनल स्टाफ़ का खर्च बहुत अधिक बढ़ गया है। सुना जाता है कि प्राइवेट सेक्रेटरी (private secretary) को भी प्राइवेट सेक्रेटरी मिल रहे हैं। न जाने चपरासी के लिये चपरासी कब बहाल होगा, यह देखना इस यग में बच रहा है।

तो मैंने कहे तो बहुत था लेकिन, खैर, मैं अधिक नहीं कहूंगा। किन्तु मैं सभी लोगों से कह देता हूँ कि यह हम लोगों का कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि हम देखें कि ५०० रुपये से अधिक तलब किसी को नहीं मिले। अब एक बात यह कि कुछ जगहों में जाने कई देशों में कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी का बोलबाज हो रहा है। सभापति जी, मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि हम लोग जिस तरह से काम कर रहे हैं उससे तो यह मालूम हो रहा है कि हम सोशलिस्ट पार्टी (socialist party) को और कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी को निमंत्रण दे रहे हैं। यदि अब लोगों को बताना है तो हमें ऐसा ज़िन्दा कर देना चाहिये कि सरकारी अफसर को खाने पीने के लिये वेतन मिले। कहीं ऐसा भी होता है कि लेखक कहलाने वाले बहनों में रहे, मोटे मोटे वेतन पावें और जनता भूखों मरे। इस तरह के कालिक और खेचक आज की दुनिया में नहीं होते हैं, यह तो अस्वाभाविक है। इसको हम नहीं रोकते हैं तो हम दूसरे लोगों को उत्साहित करते हैं।

अब सभापति जी, मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहूंगा, धार्यव आप फिर घण्टी बजान देंगे। लेकिन मैं समय के बारे में घोर विरोध करना चाहता हूँ। इस तरह से १०-१५ मिनट के समय में बजट पर बहस हो, फ़ाइनेंस बिल (Finance Bill) पर बहस हो, यह तो एक तरह का खिलवाड़ है। इस लिये मैं तो कहता हूँ कि यह ज्यादा अच्छा होगा कि हम सब लोग बैठ कर एक प्रस्ताव यह पास कर दें कि सरकार जिस तरह चाहे वैसे रुपया वसूल करे और खर्च करे। ट्रान्सपोर्ट डिपार्टमेंट (Transport Department) पर आज घण्टे की बहस में ८ करोड़ रुपया पास हो गया, न कोई बहस हुई और न कोई विचार हुआ। इसी तरह से साढ़े तीन अरब रुपया ८ रोज के अन्दर पास हुआ है।

श्री कामत: हमारी गवर्नमेण्ट है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: हमारी गवर्नमेण्ट है और हम सब उसके हैं। लेकिन सब चीज का हिसाब होना चाहिये। तो, सभापति जी, मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि आज हम लोगों के खिलाफ, कांग्रेस वालों के खिलाफ, देश के सारे लोग बातें करते हैं। उसकी वजह क्या है? उसकी वजह यह है कि वे लोग उम्मीद कर रहे थे कि हम लोग देश की सेवा करेंगे। लेकिन आज देश की सेवा करने के बदले हम लोग खुद अपनी सेवा करने लगे गये हैं। तो हमको इसको रोकना पड़ता।

में इतना ही कह कर बैठ जाता हूँ कि हमको यह अधिकार होना चाहिये कि हम जो भी बोलना चाहें और जितना बोलना चाहें उतना बोलने का हक हो। यह नहीं हो तो हमें प्रस्ताव के रूप में यह पास कर देना चाहिये कि सरकार जैसा चाहे वैसा कानून पास कर ले और जितना चाहे उतना खर्च कर ले और हमसे मंजूर करा ले। यह कह कर मैं इसका घोर विरोध करते हुए बैठ जाता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar): Sir, I am much grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill. It has taken the House nearly eight days to debate and pass the Budget that is, the statement of our Revenue and Expenditure for the current year. Approximately 850 crores of rupees were involved which have been sanctioned after an eight days' debate. Sir, I request you to pay particular attention to this aspect. We happen to be legislators of fairly long standing. The country, when once it used to be under the British rule, had nearly 140 Members in all in this House. Not more than 50 speakers had at any time participated in the Budget debate in those days. So the total time allotted for the discussions now is almost the same what it used to be in the past. We are now 300 in all and it is a matter of good fortune that all of us can speak. But what happens is that the debate is generally diverted to politics of the day and the occasion is not utilized rightly and properly. I wish to voice my strong opposition to this practice and I hope you will pay particular attention to this issue.

It is a fact that the country is just now faced with many a difficult problem and many more issues of varying nature are coming up. It is, again, equally a fact that ours is a newly-won freedom and just now we are experimenting a new method in the disposal of the work before us. I may admit that under the present set-up, no single person can be held responsible for all the wrongs and evils that exist amongst us. Today it is the country as a whole which has to be held responsible for all these evils and sympathies of none can be dispensed with in any efforts needed to put an end to them. All this is correct. Despite that we have to concede that those who happen to be installed in positions of power, must share a greater measure of responsibility. This House over which you, Sir, have the privilege to preside is constituted on 'panchayat system' and its character is essentially a representative one. It has many rights and privileges of which you are the chief custodian. It is generally said that the present is a representative Government which is responsible to the Parliament. But one is, at times, bewildered to know whether it is really the Government that is responsible to the Parliament or it is Parliament itself which owes responsibility to the Government. It is admittedly a fact that whatever we or those on the Treasury Benches may do today will have a far-reaching effect on the coming generations. By such a remark, I don't mean to implicate any particular individual. Naturally, therefore, we take their welfare also into consideration while doing anything. Anything that may be done here will have its repercussions on the country as a whole. One thing I may remind you is that the occasion of Debate on the Budget can be availed of for reviewing and scrutinising the entire work of the Nation and for that matter of the Government of the time. On such an occasion, none is in a position to forecast as to the department a particular Member may choose to speak about. I, therefore, feel that the Ministers concerned or any other representatives of the departments concerned must remain present in the House at the time of such discussions. But it appears as if the hon. Ministers have nothing to do with the Budget. I may submit here one thing more and while doing so, mine is no such intention as to indulge in a mere fault-finding avocation. Ours is a republican set-up and there is no question of criticism of a person in his

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh]

individual capacity. At times I feel pained to see that, though English rule over this country has ended, the English manners seem to have overtaken us completely. We follow the traditional English ways in everything we do. It is also a truth that abolition of English customs and usages is much more difficult than the abolition of British rule. We are accused of criticism and fault-finding in case we may venture to speak plainly. I maintain that this House is constituted on a republican conception. There is no such question here as to speak in favour or against a particular individual. I have to express here the true reaction of my mind to a particular issue and I want that reaction to be viewed in the same light. The hon. Ministers concerned and all other officials should also accept that ours is a republican country and that in a republic everyone has an equal freedom to express his true opinion. It is nothing less than an act of treason towards the country if the opinions expressed here are biased because of some fear, influence, greed or temptation. I even go to the extent to say that any official here who may wish to exercise his undue influence on any speaker is equally guilty of that offence. On a previous occasion I had submitted that many an issue needs your consideration so that we may establish some Parliamentary traditions which our coming generations may feel proud to follow and which may leave a wholesome effect on their minds. To that end we need co-operation on everyone's part. But, more than any one else, it is primarily a concern of yours.

The whole of our revenue comes from our masses and mainly from the poorer sections of our population. For what purposes do we get all this money? As the law and procedure happens to be, it is realized by way of taxation and is returned in the shape of public-work. On going through the whole of Budget, however, you will find, that money was received and at the same time, it was distributed in no time. It appears as if the whole of revenue is received to be spent on the Government officers alone. It is perhaps very difficult to have an estimate as to how much money is really returned to the public in shape of public works and other services.

Of course, one finds himself in some difficulty while attempting to speak on a subject like this. We are, however, to start anew in every respect. We have to take a decision as to the way our total revenue should be utilized and whether the whole of it should be spent on the Government officers only or it should also go back to the public by way of some constructive type of work. This issue should be decided once for all. We should, thereafter, take another decision whether the Government of this country should set before it, service of the people as its ideal or should they merely govern the country after the British pattern of administration of the past. The days are gone when one could pride himself in being some sort of an administrator. Public expects service now and they will tolerate no more of a set-up wherein the 'boss-cult' holds supreme. We find, again, that all the past as well as the present Governments of all countries of the world usually make a tall claim of being the servants of their respective peoples. Their performances, however, belie the impression that they are servants of the masses in letter and in spirit; rather they expose them more in the role of veritable bosses. There is, in other words, complete deception in assertions as well as in deeds.

I propose to give you an insight into the way 'the ultimate sovereignty of the people' is working here in this country. It was out of recognition of this fundamental truth that the Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress had passed a resolution fixing the highest pay at Rs. 500 per-month for purposes of this country. I admit I speak too often and rather too much about this issue of salaries. I propose to continue to do so till the last breath of my life and

till I am returned to this Parliament. Once the hon. Dr. Matthai had characterised my submission on this issue as inconsistent with the reality of the present-day situation. He is of the view that five hundred rupees of those days are equivalent to two thousands of them as at present. Even agreeing to this logic of fall in the value of currency, we should have fixed the highest pay at Rs. 2,000 p.m. instead of Rs. 500 a month. A short while ago, the hon. Shri Tyagi in the course of his speech referred to our income *per capita* per month, which according to him is Rs. 17/- only. On a previous occasion I had made calculations according to which our income *per capita* per month came out to be Rs. four only. You are also aware that for some time Mahatma Gandhi had lived on six pice a day. His was the view that income *per capita* per day in our country did not exceed six pice. My submission is that you may take any district with a population of 20 lacs. Barring a few of the doctors and practising lawyers or some Government officers, you will hardly come across a person whose income exceeds Rs. 500/- a month even at the present value of currency. For that reason the people and Government of this country as also the Congress, as a matter of fact, everyone of us has to decide whether or not the British policy of 'rule and also exploit' is to be continued as hithertofore. Now that the country is free, it must necessarily be ruled by persons who are acknowledged patriots and who can lay down their lives for the sake of the Nation, should a need arise. One may work as our *Rashtrapati* or one may be serving in the humble capacity of a chowkidar, they need maintenance and, of course, have to be dressed according to their status in life. But what is desirable is that their dress and general standard of living should conform to that of the society to which they belong and in no way more than that. Further, as is ordinarily a practice in other countries, salaries of public-servants or of any ordinary official should be proportionate to the living standard of the masses.

I have already opposed this idea of fixing a short time-limit.

Mr. Speaker: You have already taken your 15 minutes. If you persist to take further time, it will mean a reduction in the time-limit for others.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Anyway, Sir, I may conclude and while doing so I must submit that the present scales of pay are rather unnatural and go ill together with the professions and grace of a true patriot. Such-like high emoluments could suit the genius of those only whose sole objective during their stay here has been the ruthless exploitation of the people of this country. We should, therefore, call a halt to this practice of giving high salaries.

Further, you will find that the total revenue is spent on the services alone. Many new departments of which there is no necessity at all, are being opened. The personal staff of the Ministers exceeds far more than the English officers who used to work in similar positions in former days. Sir, you will excuse me for this submission but I am not referring, thereby, to some particular individual. The expenditure on the personal staff of hon. Ministers has assumed large proportions. It is rumoured that appointments are taking place of Private Secretaries to persons who themselves are of the same designation. It is yet to be seen in these times when we introduce a practice to appoint a *chaprasi* to serve under his equal-rank.

I had to say much but now I will not say all that. I will, however, call upon all of my countrymen to see to it duty-bound that none in this country gets a pay higher than Rs. 500/- a month. Further at the present juncture of history we find the Communist party emerging in a cominant position in many countries of the world. It is with a sense of pain that I have to submit that the way we are conducting all our work, is apparently a clear invitation to either of the Socialist and Communist Parties to take over the reins of administration of this country. If we really mean to counteract their influence, we must make

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some sort of arrangements under which a Government servant should get pay only to suffice his needs of bare living. It is an unheard of thing that those who claim to be the servants of the Nation, should live in palatial buildings and draw fat salaries while, on the other side, the people in general are almost dying out of starvation. The bogey of the so-called 'masters and servants' is untenable in the changed world of today. The whole of this very conception is unnatural. If we don't check it for any longer time, we shall merely be encouraging other persons to take over.

I do not propose to speak any further. I fear, Sir, you will ring the bell again. But I want to voice my strong protest against this time-limit. That the Budget-Debate should be confined to ten or fifteen minutes and an important Bill like the Finance Bill should be debated over in this manner, is nothing but a mockery of the whole proceedings. That is why I would rather prefer that a meeting of all the Members be held which should pass a resolution empowering the Government to collect and spend money in whatever way they may choose. As many as eight crores of rupees were passed for the Ministry of Transport in just half an hour's time. No debate or deliberations of the issues involved took place. In a similar way, we have voted the entire 350 crores of rupees.

Shri Kamath: It is our own Government!

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: No doubt, it is our own Government and we all belong to it. But everything must proceed according to some system. I feel pained to submit that all sections of our people are talking ill of us *vis.*, the Congressmen. What then is the reason responsible for such an atmosphere? The reason for this state of affairs is to be found in the expectation which our people had entertained for over so long that we shall serve them immediately an opportunity came to us. We, however, have begun serving our selfish ends rather than serving the Nation. We shall have to stop all this.

I will resume my seat after submitting this much only that we should have the right to speak for as much time as we may decide and on whatever topic that we may select. Failing that we may merely pass a resolution empowering the Government of the country to legislate any measures of their liking and to incur as much expenditure as they may wish. With strong protest, I resume my seat.

Shri S. N. Sinha (Bihar): I am grateful to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a few remarks of a general character. Mr. Karmarkar has made an able survey of the credit side of the various Departments of the Government, and there is hardly any Member in this House who will join issue with him on that score. But when he came to the economic situation of the country, he did not speak in the same vein. It has also been admitted by the hon. Finance Minister that the country is suffering from economic ills and the learned Doctor has been prescribing remedial measures for the same. During the last two years he has thought of giving concessions to the higher income groups in order to induce investment and stimulate savings. This year also he has come out with concessions in the taxes to the higher income groups. He has also proposed the abolition of Business Profits Tax altogether and hopes that by this method he will ease the tightness of the money market and induce the business people to come out with their money and help in the formation of capital and thereby increase the productive activities of the State. But I am sorry to say that I don't share his optimism. Our experience shows that during

the past two years the situation remained where it was before and the Finance Minister has also admitted in his Budget speech about this stagnation in the money market but he has given different reasons for the same. He has said that increased costs, reduced margin of profit and unstable economic and psychological conditions were actually responsible for this stagnation. I don't agree with him. I feel that Government will have to do much more than give tax relief in order to achieve the desideratum set before it. They have to give a sort of guarantee to the business people and industrialists against any kind of encroachment in the field of enterprise. I am fortified in this opinion by the recent opinion expressed by Mr. K. D. Jalan, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, the session of which was held recently at Delhi. He has pleaded against any kind of State enterprise or State trading. Unless the Finance Minister agrees to do that, I am afraid his hope is not likely to be realized and the stagnation will continue where it was. But my own view is that there should be no modification in the stand or in the policy which Government took or defined in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 which itself was described as a compromise measure according to which, as the House knows, the entire field of enterprise was divided into two sectors—one was reserved for complete State enterprise and the other was reserved for private enterprise. I have listened to the speech of the hon. Minister of Industry and Supply wherein he has surveyed the different enterprises upon which the Government has embarked during the last year and I am happy to find that they have done something in this direction although the pace has to be accelerated. But my apprehension is that the Finance Minister may not be intimidated into modifying the stand already taken by the Industrial Resolution and that is why I would advocate a bolder and a positive policy in the field of enterprise. He has no reason to entertain any apprehensions. He stated the other day that he was talking of nationalisation three years ago but he has ceased to talk of it now. That has also created a sort of apprehension in my mind that he is suffering from frustration. Only the other day the Deputy Prime Minister stated that without firing a shot or shedding a drop of blood, a colossal task of integrating the States of the country was achieved in no time, a problem which had defied solution for so long and so long as he is there to guide the destiny of the country along with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, I will ask Dr. Matthai to cheer up and not to lose his heart. I would ask him to go ahead with the positive policy. My suggestion is that so far as State enterprise is concerned, it has to be completely State-owned and State-controlled and directed, but even in the field of private enterprise, there is no reason why we should not enter it as private entrepreneurs with others; and we can really participate with others in floating companies and running industries. That will also overcome the initial difficulties. The difficulties are not new. They have been pointed out to the Finance Minister off and on in past years and Dr. Matthai has also admitted it that it is just because the instruments upon whom he depended for control and direction did not stand by him and work properly. I appreciate the difficulty with respect to the technical personnel with business and administrative ability or honesty. I am not using the word 'honesty' in the sense of integrity. I am using it in the sense of efficiency and ability. I know that Government has been suffering from it and this question has come up often but nothing has been done so far. Administration is now getting more and more complex and the Ministers will not find enough time to bring every time the consumer's point of view to bear upon the problems. The permanent officials are not merely concerned now with the execution of policies but they have to lay down policies, and they have to see that the policies laid down are properly executed. Such officials are needed today. They should have a passion for collecting facts and then they should put up their notes subordinating their own prejudices and enthusiasms so that the Minister may come to a correct conclusion. The

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officials should really concern themselves more with the consumers and the man-in-the-street—a much maligned word—and in order to get that the Government has to take certain steps. This point of view was brought to the notice of the Finance Minister earlier also but I am sorry to say that no steps have been taken in this direction so far. That is why the Finance Minister is still faced with those difficulties and is suffering from frustration. I am laying stress on this because in course of time the State will have to depend more and more upon the profits of nationalized industries and sales taxes and Provincial Units and States will have to depend upon income-tax and sales taxes because the land revenue will have to go to the villages as the village republics come into being and grow.

Now I shall refer to taxation proposals. I am really sorry that the relief proposed by the Finance Minister really omits a very important class *viz.*, the lower middle class. Mrs. Ray and Mr. Tyagi have already referred to this fact that the income groups between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 5,000 should also have been included for relief. They form the bulk of the assesseees, almost as much as 3. P. M. 40 per cent. of the entire assesseees, and the revenue from them is only about 1.72 crores. I am basing this on the 1947 figures and therefore I cannot vouchsafe for the correctness of this figure. Now, if they had been given some relief, this Budget would have been hailed by a large section of the people. The price index shows that prices have gone up from year after year. If you take 1939 as your base year, the price index in 1949 is 381 points, and the cost of living has consequently gone up. This class of people are very much hit by this, and therefore I will appeal to the Finance Minister to take this point into consideration in the Select Committee. I think the Budget proposals would not suffer if he does this. After all, by giving a concession to these people, he would be losing only Rs. 1.72 crores and this will cause no dislocation because you have got a surplus of Rs. nine crores and odd.

Secondly, there is a good deal of tax evasion in this country and this is due firstly to the fact that people have not developed a proper psychology to look upon the Government as their own and they do not consider it reprehensible or a stigma to submit false income-tax returns. This sort of psychology has to be removed by extending more social services and facilities to them so that they may look upon the Government as their own. The other question is also there, which other speakers have already touched upon, that the Government has a certain urban bias, as Mr. Tyagi said, and that they are not caring for the largest number of people but are only caring for the top men. Therefore this point of view has to be taken into consideration.

The next point that I would like to touch upon is that the Finance Minister should extend and strengthen the income-tax staff, because this would be more than justified in the shape of more tax returns. I would submit for his consideration the suggestion that there should be some sort of Intelligence Branch to supplement the existing Income-tax Department, because my feeling is that there is corruption in the Department even now. Many big persons submit false returns as there is not much of scrutiny. An Intelligence Branch would not only act as a deterrent on the temptations of the taxing officers but would work on information supplied to them in order to discover falsity of returns as also to discover new cases for assessment. This would more than balance any expenditure that may be incurred in setting up this Branch.

I would next like to refer to the question of expenditure. Previous speakers have also referred to this and this question is being brought up every year. This year the Finance Minister has stated that there has been considerable

economy. But if we take 1946-47 as the base year, we find that the expenditure of the civil departments has gone up to Rs. 50 crores from Rs. 39 crores, and therefore there is need for economy in this respect, and the Finance Minister will do well to effect economies because I feel apprehensive that our cash balances with the Reserve Bank has been steadily falling. It stands at Rs. 78 crores and should any economic crisis arise, I am afraid we will have to take recourse to the issue of notes and will thereby cause inflation and economic dislocation which will create serious problems for the Finance Minister to solve.

Now, coming to the Central Excise Department, I shall invite the attention of the hon. the Finance Minister to the need of a Collectorate of Central Excise at Patna, because today my province of Bihar gives a larger yield to Central Excise on tobacco and other things than U. P. and other provinces. So, I would like to have a Collectorate at Patna, so that the needs of the province may be attended to. I have also got reports that many people do not come for appointments because they feel they have no chance and most of the appointments are made directly. This question also should be considered by the Finance Minister.

Shri D. D. Pant (Uttar Pradesh): I do not think it is possible for anybody to convert the Finance Minister to his point of view by making a speech for 15 minutes yet I will attempt this impossible task. We heard speeches in this House when the Budget was introduced and we were expecting that in his reply to the general discussion, the Finance Minister would take serious notice of the points of view that were put forward before him, but I believe, though a Professor of Economics he is, he is so hard-boiled in his views that it is impossible for him to get converted. Beyond England and America, countries where economic development had taken place several centuries ago, it is not possible for anybody to think that economic conservatism can hold good, and if anybody in India today says that he is conservative in his economics, my submission is that he is not at all conversant with the conditions that exist in India. Conservative economics in fact ceased to grow after the Communist Revolution in Russia. The fate of conservatism all over the world is probably well-known to our Finance Minister, who is of course a man of very great erudition and who, I believe, as far as I have been able to know from his speeches, is a serious thinker, but the only thing is that he refuses to believe in the death of conservatism that the majority of his countrymen cherish. He has a different faith. I do not mean faith in the religious sense because I have long ceased to believe in anything like religion. I mean economic faith. My submission is that unless the economics of this country are brought on a social basis, it is not possible for any Finance Minister, however great a genius he may be in the world, to raise enough revenue to finance all the schemes that are necessary for the development of this country. To depend upon these capitalists who have been robbing the country during the war and during every crisis and who have manipulated sugar and the cloth crisis, to rob the people is not a very sound policy. In fact, all these communal troubles at present in these two countries, India and Pakistan, are due to these people who want to provoke wars and whose history is one of provoking wars all over the world and then robbing the people. If anybody had taken this view seriously and if anybody had tried to round up these gangsters who are operating in these two States at present in the name of industrialists and capitalists, I believe that all this trouble would have ended. We have got a large population; we have got unlimited resources in this country. Unless we employ the millions of hands of the workers of this country, how is it possible for us to develop this country and how is it possible for us to bring the financial and industrial level of this country to that obtaining in other countries of the world? There is no provision

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at all for the development of industries in the villages, because the grants that will be made to the provinces under this Budget have been very much cut down, and unless the provinces get enough money, how can they finance any development schemes?

On the other hand, I do not care for the expenditure of money. You may increase the expenditure as much as you like. In fact, economy in expenditure is no good. If you bring about a proper financial adjustment, it is not impossible to finance every possible industry in this country and probably in five years or ten years time, it will not at all be necessary for us to import goods from foreign countries. We can develop all our industries. But, that depends upon an entirely new point of view of finance. I would respectfully ask the Finance Minister, why does he not take the example of those countries where there were no industrialists, or where the so-called industrialists were completely annihilated? How was it possible for them to develop their industries? Not by depending on foreign capital. Because, anybody who knows about the history of the development of the Baku oil wells knows that the Russian Government refused to have anything to do with foreign capital. They said, "we are not going to get foreign capital; we will develop this country with our own resources." Manipulation of currency, as everybody knows, is a jugglery. So long as the *Brahmin* kept his knowledge as a closed preserve, nobody in the world could get enlightenment and everywhere there were religious revolutions in the form of Islam, Christianity and other things. Gradually he came to his senses and he started distributing his knowledge to others. The same is the case with economic knowledge, which we call finance. That is a very ordinary thing; everybody knows that. Those who have got the power at present should liberalise financial education and give financial power into the hands of the people. They are very reluctant to do that. My submission is that if our Finance Minister had ignored those industrialists who do not produce any wealth, and who only rob the wealth that other people create, and had paid greater attention to the workers and peasants and had tried to raise the money required possibly by printing currency notes and giving them liberally to the provinces, there would have been no inflation in the country. The peasants and workers would have got the money and they would also have produced enough goods to purchase with that money. What we call inflation would not have been there. If there is inflation today, it is due to the scarcity of goods. What I want the Finance Minister to do is to think in such a way as to change this economics of scarcity into an economics of abundance. Once that is done, once that view is taken, I believe he will not helplessly depend upon these people who call themselves industrialists, who, in fact, instead of developing industries in this country, are actually the brokers of foreign industrialists, who in the name of developing the motor car industry in this country, are only assembling the parts that they get from the manufacturers in foreign countries. Is this development of industry? What is the industry that they have developed? My submission is that with the exception of Tata Iron Works, I do not think there is any industrial development in India. I also think that the view taken by our Minister of Railways and by the Minister for Finance about nationalisation is a very peculiar one. The Minister of Railways the other day said that our Railways in a real sense belong to the workers. How do they belong to the workers? They belong to a bureaucracy that is administering the Railways; they do not belong to the workers. If they had belonged to the workers, then, the Railways would certainly have given facilities to the workers. In the same way, it is only in name that our Postal Department is nationalised and our Forests are called nationalised. They are not. They have got at the top as Managers people who are paid Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 a month and at the base workers who are simply starving, who have not got enough money or who do not get

enough wages to keep their body and soul together. This is more true about the financial conditions in the country. Unless a revolutionary view is taken of these things, our country will march on from bankruptcy to bankruptcy till one day the Finance Minister will have no option before him but to resort to inflation and printing more and more currency notes, and the whole system will crash. The serious thinker that he is, the great professor of Economics that he is, I would urge upon him to take a revolutionary view of economics. He is believing too much in capitalism which is crashing all over the world. It is only living by a sort of propaganda, by creating wars, by doing other things and not creative work. My submission is that he should bridle all the forces that exist today in the country, all the forces of production. Do not care for money; do not care for inflation; print as much money as you want and give liberal grants to the provinces and develop all industries. Otherwise, the economic system which is existing today will one day wither away and the masses will take the whole thing in their hands. These are the few remarks that I had to make and if they can convert our Finance Minister to a different view, I think I have done something.

My submission to the Members of the House and the Select Committee is this. Leave all this conservative view of economics and finance. Take a revolutionary view. There are a number of people in this country today who hold that view. Try to get them in your Committee and then prepare the Budget. That would bring life to the people and will not allow them to wither.

Sri T. T. Krishnamachari: I had really no intention of interfering or intervening in the Budget discussions, and I had scrupulously avoided doing so till now. But, when one sits and listens to the speeches made in this House and looks into the various proposals made by Government, sometimes, one feels that he will be failing in his duty if he does not point out where Government have gone wrong in regard to particular proposals.

I ask the House to look at clause 4 of the Finance Bill. In fact, that is the particular clause which has provoked me to speak to the House today. This particular clause 4 relates to items in the Tariff Schedule called Transport materials. There has been a considerable variation in the duties in regard to Transport materials that have to be imported into this country. My own feeling is, and I say this with very great reluctance, that the examination of this question whether these materials would bear the duty that is now sought to be imposed on them, has not only been very perfunctory but it has been positively criminally negligent. My feeling is, looking at the various items that have been categorised in clause 4, whoever advised the Government of India, whether it is an official of the Finance Department or the Transport Department or the Industry and Supply Department, or all of them put together, must be somebody who is a complete novice, who knew nothing about his job. I am assured by the officials concerned that the attempt made in clause 4 is not to produce more revenue for Government, but to readjust the duties in such a manner that the readjustment will not cause any loss of revenue to Government. Well, if that statement is correct, and I hope my hon. friend the Minister of Finance will bear out that statement, I think the fact that the Finance Department has accepted this Schedule from whomsoever it did, is open very much to question. I happen to know something about motor car parts because the first time that I owned a motor cycle or a motor car, like a little child I had looked into every part and for a very long time. When I first owned a motor car, like all other middle-class men who own motor cars, I could not afford to pay the repair charges and therefore I had to do much of the repairing work myself. That is why I am familiar with the names of these parts. I would ask the House to look into a few items here, particularly in clause (b),

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where there is a new item No. 75(10). There is no corresponding item in the Tariff Schedule here. It says:

"The following articles adapted for use as parts and accessories of motor vehicles other than motor cycles and motor scooters:

- (i) the following engine components: brake hose pipes, crank shafts, cam shafts, cams, connecting rods, cylinder blocks and heads,piston rings and gudgeon pins.....cylinder liners."

May I ask the hon. Finance Minister or the hon. Transport Minister (who I see is here) to tell me if there is any company in India which casts cylinder blocks? Before the war most of the British manufacturers used to buy cylinder blocks from special types of factories in Britain and on the Continent. Very few of them cast their own cylinder blocks except very high grade motor manufacturers. Most of the cheaper cars used two particular types of cylinder blocks called the "Continental" and the "JAP". Today some of the British manufacturers do cast their own cylinder blocks. In fact in 1948 when I was in England I had occasion to visit a casting factory in Blackburn which casts various types of cylinder blocks for various types of motor cars. The higher grades were cast on the sand-casting process and the lower grades on the block process. It is a specialised job and motor manufacturers do not cast any cylinder blocks at all. With the meagre knowledge I possess of the industry in this country I should like to be enlightened as to how many firms there are here who are in a position to cast cylinder blocks. I am afraid there is no motor assembling plant or would-be manufacturing plant which is in a position to cast cylinder blocks. Granting they do, granting that the Austin Motor Co., called the Ashok Motors in Madras, do cast cylinders for their A 40, how are they going to cast cylinders for all other types of cars, which have already been imported and which in the present circumstances will function for the next ten or fifteen years? Is a second-hand car owner to be penalised to the extent of paying duty on a cylinder block which he has to import from America—which incidentally is 80 per cent. more costly than it was before, because of devaluation? Why do it and for whose benefit?

I will mention another item, piston assembly (*viz.*, pistons, piston rings and gudgeon pins.) The manufacture of piston rings is a highly specialised affair. There are only two or three firms in Britain which manufacture them, because one cannot make piston rings on an economic basis, unless one makes lakhs of them. Where is the opportunity in this country going to be, probably for the next ten or twelve years, for any company to make lakhs of these piston rings for various types of cars? In the U. S. A. there are only a few firms that make them but the others buy them.

I ask the House to go to the next item under (ii), starting motors. It is a thing which is needed by every second-hand car. Very often something happens to your car: you may put your switch on and forget all about it and your starting motor and your dynamo gets burnt out along with the coil. The idea seems to be that a second-hand motor car owner should pay 90 per cent. which plus the increase due to devaluation would be 120 per cent., plus 100 per cent. profit for the dealer (because on spare parts the profits that a dealer makes is somewhere between 50 and 100 per cent.), that is to say altogether he has to pay 200 per cent. more. To satisfy whom, to satisfy which interest, I ask? I do not know. My hon. friend the Finance Minister for whom I have very great respect, I have no doubt, accepted these facts from his hon. colleagues. Can he tell us as to who is going to be satisfied by the increase in duty?

The House, I hope, will not be bored if I take them on a few more details. Item (iii) mentions shock absorbers. Shock absorbers are patented products. If one looks into British cars they are either Huvax or Bendix or something

e se. So also in the American cars the shock absorbers bear some such patent. Only a few firms manufacture them. In this country who is going to manufacture them and how many varieties of them are they going to manufacture? Will they be available for all the different types of motor cars? Can anybody please tell me?

Then I come to Clutches. This is the type of classification that a Government department makes without understanding what they mean. Do they mean that standardised orthodox clutch or is it going to be one of those fluid-clutches? There are all kinds of clutches which go by several new names. If you have a Buick car, I suppose many of the Members of Treasury Benches have got one, and you have to import a clutch from America you have to pay 200 per cent. more. I am not concerned about the private owner at all; the middle class owner who has to maintain a motor car for his official or business or professional purposes and who can barely afford to maintain it will find that the second-hand car is going to cost him an enormous amount. I have no doubt that my hon. friends on the Treasury Benches will have to spend Rs. 1000 more every year on repairs to their cars when they buy parts at this rate of duty. What about the common man, I ask, or the man in the street who has now become very popular in this House, who uses a motor bus? I read in the papers the other day that the Finance Minister of Madras, a good friend of mine, said with gusto that the Madras Government earned three crores of rupees by way of motor vehicles taxation in Madras, one of the poorest provinces in this country and he was very pleased about it. The common man is being very heavily taxed on this account and he probably looked to some kind of relief, because under the Constitution power has been taken by the Central Government to regulate motor vehicle taxation or lay down the principles of such taxation. What will be the benefit that Central Government would thereby give to the common man as against this increase in the price of motor parts? At any rate so far as these duties are concerned in the case of public conveyances and buses the cost of spare parts will increase by 100 per cent. Whom is this going to benefit by this increase? Where is the company in India today which manufactures all these parts and which wants protection? If they want protection why don't they go before the Tariff Board? If any revenue is ultimately going to be made out of this, why this readjustment at this stage?

Another item to which I want to draw attention is bolts, nuts, screws, etc. It does look as though we ought to make all the bolts and nuts that are needed in this country itself. The bolts and nuts of one particular make cannot fit a car or bus of another make. Among pleasure cars there are about 40 different varieties and among motor taxi cabs there are 20 different varieties used for commercial purposes. They have all different types of bolts and nuts. Nobody in this country is going to manufacture all of them. Particularly the Ford Vehicles have special type of bolts. The bolt head is peculiar which you cannot operate on with the ordinary spanner or screw driver. You require a special instrument. They do not want their design to be copied by anybody else. Am I to pay for my Ford car 200 per cent. more, simply because somebody in the Government department fancies that he has to make readjustments in duties and has to impose all these varieties of fancy duties on us?

I can grow emotional and get excited when I see such an exhibition of wilful, deliberate ignorance being thrust upon 850 million people of this country. Ultimately the person that will pay will be the poor man who travels in a bus. How it will affect the poor man I have no time to work out. If I have had a little more time I would have got some specialised assistance. The only provocation for me to take up the time and attention of the House is to point out that this matter does not wholly rest in the hands of the Select Committee. It is a matter for the entire Government to look into and if they can do nothing else, let them scrap clause 4 of this particular Bill which is before us.

Shri B. Das: I am glad you talked of the poor man!

Shri Alagesan (Madras): It is rather embarrassing to follow my friend Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. Last year I called the Finance Minister an innocent person. I am afraid I cannot do so now. I am rather afraid of him. He is not the lamb that he used to be.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BEARGAVA in the Chair]

He has hidden claws and teeth which we see he could use with very deadly effect. I do not complain. I am one of those who applauded him very frequently and vociferously for that very brilliant parliamentary performance of his while replying to General Discussion on the Budget. It is good because the House should not run away with the impression that it can go on kicking at the Treasury Benches without it in its turn being kicked.

Now let me put a few questions to the hon. the Finance Minister. He has been for some time toying with the idea of a National Development Fund—I say 'toying' deliberately. Last year when he spoke he only yearned that he should have a surplus, however small it may be. He said, answering the criticism that he had not provided anything for the vast agricultural masses of this country, that only let him have a surplus and he would put it into a National Development Fund which would go directly for the welfare of the agriculturists of this country. This year, having a surplus why has he not done it? That is the main criticism against the Budget, in my opinion. I have got his words verbatim, but as my time is short I do not want to quote those words. I think he should answer this criticism in fairness to the House.

Again, speaking last year on Defence expenditure, which was then Rs. 157 crores, he said that such a high Defence expenditure could be met only by maintaining taxation at an uneconomic level and starving nation-building activities. This year the expenditure is Rs. 168 crores. Yet he has chosen to reduce taxation. Of course he has got good reasons, I do not deny that. He has chosen to reduce taxation, but he has continued to starve the nation-building activities. I think he will answer this also satisfactorily.

He seems to think that normal and necessary nation-building activities can be fed only if Defence expenditure is brought to a level of, say, Rs. 120 or 125 crores. I should like to know whether it is possible. Perhaps there may be room to reduce the expenditure on the Army. But is it the same case with our Navy and our Air Force? Should we not have to spend in future much more on our Air Force and our Navy? If that is so, how will there be reduction in our Defence expenditure? And if there is not going to be any reduction in our Defence expenditure, how does he propose to feed the nation-building activities? These are the few questions which I wanted to put to him this evening.

Now let me turn to a not very popular theme, namely, economy in public expenditure. Nobody likes the talk of economy. He who talks of economy is brushed aside as a stingy small-hearted sort of fellow. But the need for economy is greater today. Formerly the slogan used to be that there cannot be economy in expenditure at the cost of efficiency. Now I wish to urge that there should be economy in expenditure in the interest of efficiency. The State apparatus has grown so disproportionately big, ponderous and slow-moving that it has lost its efficiency to a great extent. If the State apparatus should become lighter and quicker-moving, then the disproportionate size and unnecessary flesh should be cut. Only then can it be made more efficient. So the need for it is very great now and it is not as if the hon. the Finance Minister does not recognize it. But I do not know why he has not taken drastic steps to enforce it.

In this connection I wish to know what has happened to the scheme prepared by the hon. Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar—for the reorganisation of the

Secretariat. I am told it was submitted last November. What has happened to it and what decision has the Government taken upon that Report?

Shri B. Das: I asked the same question.

Shri Alagasan: I am told because the number of posts carrying a salary of Rs. 4,000 has been reduced to a very great extent according to that scheme, it is being shelved. I also hear—I do not know how far it is true—that some Ministers are against it because that scheme seeks to take away their powers which have perhaps become a sort of vested interest. I do not know which is true. But I would like to know what is happening to that Report, because I understand that that Report has been framed with a view to ensure both efficiency and economy. In that connection it becomes very pertinent to ask what the Government is going to do with that Report.

Again, soon after devaluation an eight-point programme was framed by the hon. the Finance Minister and the seventh point in it is "the introduction of economy measures to secure substantial saving in the current year's Budget and the Budget for the coming year". I should like to know what are the results he has achieved. We were told that some general instructions were issued to the various Ministries and Government Departments that Allowances and Honoraria are to be cut by ten per cent. Other Charges (in which Travelling Allowance, etc., are included) by ten per cent., Pay of Officers by five per cent., Pay of Establishment by five per cent., and the next year's Budget to be 90 per cent. of the Budget Estimates of last year. I should like to know how far these instructions were carried out in practice and what the actual results are, because unless we know that and are able to assess the results of the steps that were taken, we will not be able to proceed further. Neither in the White Paper, nor in his very lucid and able Budget Speech has the hon. the Finance Minister vouchsafed any information on this point. But we actually find on going through the Budget papers that some Ministries have exceeded these items. I do not know how. When I questioned one Ministry with which I am connected we were told that there was an eleven per cent. reduction. I do not know how far the figures justify that. As far as items (1) and (2) are concerned, that is, items in which Travelling Allowance looms large, they were not able to make any reduction because, when the instructions were issued, they had already been exhausted. That is, before the half year period was out, the provisions under these heads were already exhausted. I should like to know whether this is true. If that is so, what is the meaning of issuing these instructions? I should like to submit that the Finance Ministry should be a bug-bear to other spending Ministries. They should be afraid of it and should think hundred times before approaching the Finance Ministry for sanction of expenditure.

Then one item and that is staff cars. It is a great scandal how the staff cars are being maintained. I do not know their number. I should like that the expenditure under this head is shown separately. I am told it is now included under the head "Other Charges". Each Ministry has got from one to four cars in addition to this they incur expenditure on taxi charges too. I understand that the Finance Minister has ruled that further purchases of staff cars should go before him for sanction. In spite of those instructions, two cars were, it seems, brought from Paris to this country because the persons who were using them there wanted them to be brought here. I should like him to look into this and see whether it is absolutely essential. In the olden days there were not these staff cars and yet the Government machinery was getting on perhaps more efficiently. I should like to know whether there is any necessity to continue this system of staff cars because it is a big scandal; it is an open secret that they are not being used merely for office purposes but that many of the high officials are utilising them for their personal use.

[Shri Alagesan]

Then with regard to expenditure under the head "Embassies and Missions". I understand that all the Embassies and Missions prepare their budgets in advance and send them for the sanction of the Finance Ministry. But the High Commissioner's Office in the U.K. does not do so and is following the old practice. I don't know why a different procedure should be observed in the case of this office. It appears the Standing Finance Committee wanted a report on the working of these Missions abroad. I don't know whether such a report has come out or has been supplied to the Standing Finance Committee. Then, one High Commissioner who was recently here wanted foreign allowance to be paid to him. Generally the foreign allowance is not paid to such of those who wind up their domestic establishments in the countries where they represent our country. So, when this objection was raised, it seems he said that he had left his dog behind, so he should be paid this allowance. Perhaps a gentleman does not become complete and a cent. per cent. gentleman if he does not possess a dog, but should Government pay for the maintenance of the dog and oblige the gentleman to complete himself? That is the question. Then a lower rate of foreign allowance was paid to him. Again, he wanted to have his expenditure on the purchase of a fountain pen to be sanctioned. Mind you, it is a dollar purchase; dollar is a very rare commodity and the hon. Finance Minister will do anything to get a dollar. But this gentleman wanted that amount for the pen to be spent out of public funds. These abuses ought to be very carefully looked into by the Finance Minister. He can do a great deal in putting an end to these abuses.

A word with regard to Class IV establishment. The Finance Ministry and the Home Ministry together sat and evolved a scale of these Class IV employees for the various officers and offices. But instructions according to that formula were not issued and it is not being followed in practice. The Central Pay Commission recommended an increase in the pay of these employees on the specific understanding that their number should be reduced. I do not know why the matter has been held up and why their recommendations are not being given effect to.

One word about Private Secretaries. I do not want to speak of Joint Secretaries because I know what my friend Mr. Sidhva got for it. Private Secretaries, according to a Home Ministry circular, ought not to be very high officials, they ought not to be I.C.S. men; they should be smaller men so that they will not be in a position to take decisions. By having higher officials as Private Secretaries there is a tendency to create a rival secretariat to the secretariat of the Minister himself and the suggestions of the Ministry proper probably being cancelled by the Private Secretary. This is a very serious matter and it should be looked into.

May I speak one word, though it may be rather presumptuous, about the functioning of Joint Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries? There is a Joint Secretary so that he should be able to relieve the Secretary in at least some of his functions, that he should be able to directly approach the Minister and take orders on the file. But in some cases, I understand the Joint Secretary himself has to send the file to the Secretary and does not deal with the Minister direct. In that case, where is the need for a Joint Secretary? He is being reduced to a Deputy Secretary.

These are all small details and I don't want to go into them further. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will bestow his attention upon these small things and set them right.

Shri Ram Dhani Das (Bihar): I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House towards the pitiable conditions of the sweepers of the country who need not only sympathy but special aid and kind attention of the House.

I have great pleasure in speaking about the sweepers as I myself come of *Domes* community whose occupation is sweeping, bamboo work and crematory work at burning ghats.

No doubt the Government of India and those of the provinces as well have been kind enough to help the Harijans by granting a handsome amount as aid for their study and uplift and as a result no doubt a number of Harijans are getting education and have progressed.

I know that during 1949-50 Rs. six lakhs have been granted by the Government of India for the Scheduled class students and consequently 910 college students have been granted stipends. But did the real, poor and most backward Harijans like sweepers who are called differently as *Domes*, *Mesters*, and *Balmiks* etc. and who are regarded as untouchable even by the untouchables of the country get any aid out of the said fund? Are they progressing like other Harijans?

According to my personal experience I can say that the aid granted by the Government for Harijans did not much benefit these people. My disappointment knows no bounds when I look towards Bihar and I am sure the House will share my feelings to learn that uptill now not even a single *Dome* in the province of Bihar has graduated. One can hardly find more than two or three matriculates in the whole of the province. Even in lower classes and in Primary stage their number is very small. Though in certain districts, for example say Patna, there is compulsory primary education in town area but yet it is of no use to them.

Now the question is as to why they are so backward in education. In reply I may simply say that they are economically most poor. They have generally no houses to live in and so no permanent living place. They shift from one place to another and take shelter in Municipal sheds. But there too they do not get proper aid.

It is a matter of wonder that even today they are tied into the chain of *Begari* System in the rural areas. They are uptill now boycotted by the caste Hindus, and though they are Hindus, they are not permitted to enter a temple to worship the Almighty. They are not allowed to draw water from the well. Even in tanks and *Pokhers* they can't take bath on the ghats the caste Hindus use. This orthodoxy is specially prevailing in the district of Darbhanga.

Is it not a matter of sorrow for the literate Indians to see even in the Republican India that the barbers don't cut hair of these poor Harijans? I live in Patna and I know that Patna is capital of Bihar where all the main figures of the province have official residence. But even in this district the oppression among the *Domes* in rural areas is same as in other districts of the Province.

Now, no doubt the caste Hindus are changing their mentality as I am personally and practically feeling from a few years. During the year 1947-48 I was admitted into the Minto Hostel of Patna College, where the menial staff went on strike. They refused to wash my dish. They refused to feed me but it was G. N. Sinha, a noble hearted man, the real well wisher of Harijans and the then Principal of the College who took personal interest in the matter and in course of time solved this problem of mine which was a matter of humiliation for all the Harijans.

I know that article 17 of the Constitution states that untouchability in any form is a crime and punishable under law. But is it of any practical use uptill now? In my opinion the provisions benefit only the literate Harijans. It is useless for the poor and illiterate Harijans.

No doubt there are more and more people like G. N. Sinha in the country but it is a matter of great sorrow and surprise that some progressive Harijans are taking the place and attitude of the caste Hindus.

[Shri Ram Dhani Das]

In my opinion these Harijans are more tyrannical to the *Domes* and other sweepers.

It is a matter of great sorrow that even today in rural areas *Chamar* women midwives refuse to serve the sweeper women at the time of confinement. In some places it is seen that the washermen refuse to wash the clothes. Not only this, there are even today some Harijans who boast of being progressive but don't like to sit with the sweepers. How will the problem of these poor Harijans be solved when such is the mentality even of the Harijans who claim to represent all the Harijans of the country?

Sometimes I have seen that when representatives of Harijan Sangh and other institutions come to visit the colonies they come with the officers who before the visit get the colonies neat and clean and induce the sweepers to say that everything is all right. The poor sweepers though not actually convinced of what they say yet due to the fear of the officers do not oppose. The result is that the representatives fail to have any real idea of their prevailing conditions. So, I humbly submit that the Finance Minister should budget an extra amount for the sweepers of the country.

A Committee with sweeper representatives should be appointed to go into the matter and make concrete suggestions as to how these most backward of Harijan communities may be uplifted and placed on equal footing with others. More schools should be opened for them. Women social workers should be appointed to go into the homes and thus try to educate and improve their womenfolk and children. Extra sanitary facilities should be provided for the sweeper colonies. Their housing must be improved. Arrangements should be made for adequate medical facilities for them.

I think the Finance Minister and the House as well will sympathetically consider the matter.

श्री ओरांव : हमको चन्द बात बतलाना है। ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेण्ट (British Government) की भी नीति थी कि पिछड़ी हुई जातियों को उठाना, लेकिन ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेण्ट का जो काम था बिल्कुल दिखावा था, लेकिन कुछ भी हो उनकी पिछड़ी हुई जातियों को उठाने की नीति थी। लेकिन यथार्थ में वह कुछ काम नहीं करती थी। उन्होंने सिर्फ इस लिये यह नीति बना रखी थी कि जिसमें उनको राज्य चलाने में कोई किसी किस्म की गड़बड़ी न हो। लेकिन जब से हमारी गवर्नमेण्ट आई है तब से उस नीति को ईमानदारी के साथ काम में ला रही है। इसके लिये मैं गवर्नमेण्ट को धन्यवाद देता हूँ और हमारे फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर (The hon. Minister of Finance) साहब ने भी आदिवासियों को उठाने के लिये बजट (Budget) में जो रुपया रक्खा है उसके लिये उनको भी हम धन्यवाद देते हैं। लेकिन एक बात देख कर के हमको बहुत दुःख मालूम होता है कि थोड़े से प्रान्तों के लिये ही उन्होंने बजट में रुपया रक्खा है और कई प्रान्तों को एक दम भूल गये हैं। सायद उनको ख्याल नहीं है कि कितने ही और प्रान्तों में आदिवासी हैं। आप लोगों को मने ध्यान दिलाया है कि हम बिहार से आये हैं। हमारे बिहार में आदिवासी करीब ५०,५५,००० हैं, उसके नीचे उड़ीसा में और सी० पी० में २९ लाख हैं, आसाम में २४ लाख हैं और उसके नीचे और सब प्रान्तों में हैं। लेकिन सिर्फ तीन प्रान्तों में आदिवासियों को रुपया दिया गया। आसाम में ८४ लाख, उड़ीसा में ४० लाख और पंजाब में ७५ हजार। न्याय का तकाबा है कि जहाँ प यादा आदिवासी हों वहाँ ज्यादा देना चाहिये था। इस लिये मैं कोई परोपकारी नहीं हूँ। मैं तो व्यवहारिक ख्याल का आवामी हूँ। पहले अपने घर को देखे तब दुसरे को देखे। मैं तो बिहार का रहने वाला हूँ इस लिये पहले बिहार की तरफ गवर्नमेण्ट का और फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब का ध्यान दिलाऊँगा

कि जहाँ पर ५०,५५,००० आदिवासी हैं उन लोगों का ब्याल करना बहुत जरूरी है ।
 फिर भी मैं और जो जातियों की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाता हूँ। [छोटा नागपुर में पलामू
 एक जिला है जहाँ भुइयाँ जाति की बहुत खराब हालत है । उनकी आर्थिक हालत ऐसी खराब है कि
 बिल्कुल शोचनीय है, बल्कि शोचनीय ही नहीं, अति शोचनीय है । उनको कई क्रिम से मजदूरी करनी
 पड़ती है उनके यहां राजनैतिक संगठन तो बहुत दूर की बात है । यानी सामाजिक संगठन तक नहीं
 है । उन लोगों को कभी कभी मजदूरी मिल गई तो कमा कर खाते हैं नहीं तो बेकार और भस्त्रों मर-
 ते हैं । इसी तरह कई जाति बिहार में रहने वाली हैं । उन लोगों को जब तक गवर्नमेण्ट नहीं उठायेगी वे
 लॉग अपने से नहीं उठ सकते हैं । दूसरे सवाल परगने में पहाड़िया जाति है वह भी बहुत गरीब है,
 उनकी हालत भी बहुत खराब है । ऐसी ऐसी कितनी जातियाँ बिहार में पड़ी हुई हैं । इस लिये बिहार
 की तरफ गवर्नमेण्ट को और हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को खास तौर से ध्यान देना चाहिये ।

इतनी बातें हमको कहनी थीं और इसे मैं आपके सामने रखता हूँ ।

(English translation of the above Speech)

Shri Oraon (Bihar): I have to make several submissions. This was a policy of the British Government also to strive for the uplift of the backward classes. The British performance, however, was nothing but a show. Whatever be the case, to the Britishers it was merely a matter of policy which in actual practice worked nothing substantial. They had merely exploited this policy towards evading all possible disorders in the running of administration of this country. But ever since the assumption of power by our own Government that policy is being worked out most honestly. For that I feel grateful to the Government. I also thank the hon. Minister of Finance in particular for the funds he has reserved in the Budget towards the uplift of *Adibasis*. One thing, however, which is painful to us is that, while he has made such reservations in respect of some of the States, he has altogether forgotten the rest. Perhaps he has no idea that the *Adibasis* inhabit other States also. I have already pointed out that we hail from Bihar. The total number of *Adibasis* inhabiting Bihar is in the neighbourhood of 50,55,000. Then follows Orissa and Madhya Pradesh where they number 29,00,000. In Assam there are 24 lacs of them in all. Next to these, they are present in some strength or the other in all of the remaining States. The funds sanctioned for them, however, relate to only three of the States. Assam has been given a grant of 84 lacs of rupees while Orissa and Punjab have been given Rs. 40,00,000 and Rs. 75,000 respectively. Justice demands that more money should have been earmarked for the States where these people inhabit in larger numbers. While expounding this view, I don't claim to be a philanthropist. I believe in possessing practicable ideas and for that matter I believe in the saying that 'Charity begins at home'. Being myself a resident of Bihar, I will like to draw attention of the Government as also of the hon. Minister of Finance, first of all, to the State of Bihar where *Adibasis* populate 50,55,000. It is very important to look after the interests of these people. Besides I wish to draw your attention to another two tribes. The conditions of the *Bhuyan* tribe inhabiting Palamau district of Chhota Nagpur are much worse and their financial position is, as a matter of fact, most deplorable. They have to do manual labour of various types. What to speak of their political unity or consolidation, they are far away even from social integration of any kind. They can make both ends meet only if they succeed to get some sort of paid labour for the day, otherwise nothing but unemployment and starvation is their fate.

[Shri Oraon]

Similarly there are some tribes residing in Bihar. Unless the Government undertakes the work of their uplift, by themselves they are unable to improve their lot. There is a tribe, again, known as *Pahariya* living in the district of Santhal. They are likewise very poor and their conditions are much deplorable. Many similar tribes are residing in Bihar. Our Government and the hon. Minister of Finance, therefore, should pay particular attention to Bihar.

These were the matters I had to submit. I now place them before you.

Shri Krishnanand Rai (Uttar Pradesh): The chief feature of the Finance Bill before us is reduction in income and super taxes. This reduction has been made on the assumption that over-taxation is not going to leave any surplus with the capitalists and manufacturers for purposes of investment. I want to draw the attention of the House and especially the hon. the Finance Minister to one aspect of our economic life, to which no attention has been paid up to this time in the course of the Budget discussion. For the sake of convenience, I will term it the "black economics" of our country. I know that the hon. the Finance Minister is an expert in economics. He knows very well how in war-time the Britishers created an emergency inflation in our country and thousands and crores of notes passed into the hands of traders, manufacturers, hoarders and profiteers who balance the commodity market of our country. That capital, which the hon. the Commerce Minister termed

4 P. M. yesterday as "black money" is still lying in their hands and I am very sorry to remark that no calculation has been made by our hon. the Finance Minister yet of that "black money". This is not dead money, as some people seem to think. I want to bring to the notice of the House that this money is more active than even the most enterprising capital. If the hon. the Finance Minister takes pains he will see that through that black capital the industrialists and manufacturers of our country are controlling our markets and distributing the essential commodities.

If we examine the market conditions, it will be seen that there is no investment, there is no production, there is no increase and no fair prices for the essential commodities. All our lives we are not going to get it, because systematic black marketing has been established from the sources of production to the very end of distribution. If our Commerce Minister does not get enough commodity for foreign export and if our Finance Minister is not getting enough investment in the "white" market, it is due to this reason. But let me tell him that a lot of commodities are just passing hands to foreign lands through backdoors. The Indo-Pakistan trade agreements are at a standstill, but I know and the hon. the Finance Minister also knows it that jute, cotton and even cotton yarns of our country are passing quite safely from India to Pakistan. So, what I want to assert before the hon. the Finance Minister is that our capitalists have made an unholy alliance today just to hide their capital from the public view.

The hon. the Finance Minister thinks that by a reduction of taxation he is going to encourage our capitalists to invest their capital. I want to ask him whether they have got any capital which is earned by them by proper means. If they have no good capital or 'white' capital with them, do you think that the 'black' money which they earned during the war is going to be invested? I am very sorry to know that the hon. the Finance Minister has given the surplus of Rs. nine crores for tax relief. This money should ordinarily have gone for nation-building purposes and providing relief to the starving millions of our country. If he had only cared just to tap that hidden money which is lying with the war-time profiteers, he would have got a surplus of Rs. 200 crores and not a small sum of Rs. nine crores. The Tax Department of the Government has not been able to touch even the surface of that hidden money. The

capitalists of our country have got very strange means of hiding this capital. Almost all the chartered banks are in their hands. I will just invite the attention of the hon. the Finance Minister to the capital of the limited companies and banks. If he just takes stock he will find that the capital invested in industrial concerns and other limited companies is diminishing day after day and on paper an impression is conveyed that all of them are working at a loss. The fact is that the multi-millionaires who are controlling these limited companies are transferring the capital of the limited concerns to their private accounts at the cost of the middle class shareholders. So quite a lot of chartered banks and companies are going to be insolvent and no action is going to be taken against them.

The only remedy for the economic crisis, it is said, is increased production. I want to tell the hon. the Finance Minister that 40 per cent. of the production straightaway goes into the black-market and only 60 per cent. comes into the open market. The Finance Minister said that he is trying to stabilise the prices. How is he going to do it on the basis of production given by our industrialists? For the 60 per cent. of production which they send into the "white" market, they charge the price of cent. per cent. production. The prices that we get from their books is just a farce. Therefore a very important duty has fallen upon his shoulders. I am not going to wail over the lot of the man in the street, because I know the Finance Minister considers himself secure in the citadels of the capital. I am just going to wail over the lot of his own colleagues. Several of his colleagues in the course of their speeches in this House have expressed that they are not able to launch on any development programmes, because the hon. the Finance Minister has a big 'No' to all such schemes. He has got a soft corner for the capitalists. But does he really believe that they are going to invest all this money? What he should, therefore, try to do is to unearth hidden money and try to invest it in the "white" market.

Shri Jagannath Mishra (Orissa): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. the Finance Minister and the Government to clause 9 of the Finance Bill, which reads:

"For the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1960, no duty shall be levied on salt manufactured in, or imported by sea or land into, the territory of India excluding the State of Jammu and Kashmir."

From this it is seen that the salt duty has been withdrawn not permanently, for which India suffered so much, the people suffered so much and Mahatma Gandhi had to undergo tremendous sufferings at the time of his Dandi March. It is being given as a concession to the people year by year. At the same time it will be seen that although the taxation has been withdrawn, the other elements contained in the licence clauses are not withdrawn. The guarding staff is still there and when the duty has been withdrawn, I cannot see the necessity of maintaining a guarding staff. What is their duty at present? They are unnecessarily harassing the licencees. I submit that in the matter of salt India is certainly not self-sufficient at present. It is hoped that India will be self-sufficient by the year 1961 and it is expected that 700 lakhs of maunds will be produced and that will make India self-sufficient; but that is calculated on the basis of 15 lbs. per head for the consumption by human beings. But the rate of 15 lbs. per head is not sufficient. In European countries, as is apparent from the statement of the hon. Minister in charge, 40 lbs. per head is consumed there. So working on that basis we require at least 1750 lakhs of maunds of salt. Besides this, in India, we cannot supply sufficient salt for the feeding of cattle; there are also other requirements such as fish-ouring and other necessaries and there is a demand of salt for heavy chemicals. Taking all these into consideration, we cannot be said to be self-sufficient in the matter of salt. With this end in view and to make India self-sufficient, it is desirable that the policy to be adopted in the matter of salt should be very liberal.

[Shri Jagannath Misha]

With this end in view, the Central Government appointed a Committee to investigate the possibilities of the development of salt industry and side by side, the Provincial Governments did appoint committees to help the Central Committee. The Central Committee has not yet submitted its report. But in Orissa, I find a Committee was constituted and it has already submitted a report and has given suggestions for the development of the industry. In that report, it has been suggested that instead of giving licences to individual persons or joint stock companies, the licence should be issued to co-operative societies in large numbers. I do not think, it is going to be the policy of the Central Committee; because when I had the opportunity of meeting the members of that Committee, I gave that proposal and they did not seem to be impressed with that idea. However, there is one co-operative society working in Puri District and another in Ganjam District. The story of their helplessness was described before the Provincial Committee from which it was clear that they were being harassed very much by the guarding staff. In Puri District, in Astrang, there is one factory which is working over 250 acres and producing on an average 80,000 maunds. Side by side, there are so many small manufacturers, who on the whole produce about a lakh maunds. The co-operative society is being charged by the guarding staff at the rate of two annas per maund. Small manufacturers working by the side of the co-operative society do not pay anything. Unless the co-operative society works on a large scale, that area may not be developed. Small manufacturers do not join the Society. They are producing about one lakh maunds at the rate of, say, 125 maunds per acre. But that area can easily produce, if well developed, at least 500 maunds per acre and this would go to help making India self-sufficient in the matter of salt.

In Ganjam District there is no salt duty, but at the same time the co-operative society is being compelled to construct houses for the staff and to maintain them in good order year after year, to provide the staff with drinking water, to provide medical facilities for the staff and also to pay the establishment charges. All this, added to the cost of production increases the price of salt, which makes the society unable to compete in the market. If at all Government feels hesitant and its not sure whether the duty should be permanently removed and still desires the continuance of the guarding staff, it is desirable to tax the imported salt rather than tax, in this way, the salt produced in the country. Imported salt is generally used in towns and big cities and the people of those areas can well afford to pay a higher price, but the salt manufactured in the country-side is mainly consumed by the poorer classes and they cannot afford to pay a higher price. It may be argued that the guarding staff is maintained simply to watch the purity and the good quality of salt. But I can say, the staff which are engaged there know nothing about the ABC of salt manufacture. They only know how to collect money. If at all Government desire to improve the quality of salt, they should appoint experts to help the manufacturers in the improvement of salt.

In this connection, I wish to draw the attention of Government that formerly there used to be a Central Exoise Office in Calcutta which controlled Bihar, Orissa and Bengal. Now that salt has been separated from other Exoise, it is necessary that an official of the grade of an Assistant Collector should be placed in Orissa, because the salt produced in Bihar and Bengal is not so much as produced in Orissa including Ganjam. It is, therefore, necessary that the office should be located there in order to help the people in the manufacture of salt and getting better quality of salt at that place. With this end in view, I would like to impress upon the Government that they should so amend clause 9 as to give relief to the manufacturers and that no levy of any kind should be imposed either for the guarding staff or for anybody else.

श्री एम० हज़ारिका : माननीय अर्थ मन्त्री महोदय ने इस संसद के सामने बजट पेश करने के समय बड़े बड़े उद्योग धन्वों की बात कही है। लेकिन महात्मा गांधी जी ने हम लोगों को विकेन्द्रीकरण के बारे में जो कहा था उसके बारे में उन्होंने कुछ नहीं कहा है। आज हम लोगों के सामने भारत की बेकारी की समस्या की बात हो रही है कि इस बेकारी की समस्या का कैसे समाधान हो सकता है। यह नयी नयी छीटी छीटी घरेलू शिल्प संस्थाओं के द्वारा हो सकता है लेकिन बड़े बड़े उद्योग धन्वों से यह बात नहीं हो सकती। इस के बारे में मैं दो चार बातें कहना चाहता हूँ।

पहले रेशम के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। रेशम का व्यवसाय चीन देश से आसाम में हो कर भारत में आया है। लेकिन यह सिल्क (Silk) व्यवसाय आज दिन दिन हमारे देश से खत्म होता चलता है। इस की रक्षा के लिये हमारी सरकार ने ध्यान नहीं दिया। बहुत माल यहां बाहर से, विदेश से, आयात होता है। जब तक इस सिल्क के ऊपर शुल्क नहीं लगाया जायेगा तब तक जो हमारा रेशम व्यवसाय है उसकी रक्षा नहीं हो सकती है। इस लिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ उनको चाहिये कि इसके ऊपर ज्यादा ध्यान दें और जो आयात है उसको कम करें। इस के ऊपर वह ज्यादा टैक्स (Tax) लगावें। यह मैं उन से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हम लोगों का, भारतीय जनता का तेल एक प्रधान खाद्य है। लेकिन इस के बारे में यह होता है कि इस का जो बीज है वह बाहर को निर्यात होकर चला जाता है। इस के लिये हम लोगों की जो ग्राम ग्राम में घानी हैं उनको कायम करने से हम लोगों को अच्छा तेल मिलेगा और इससे हम लोगों का स्वास्थ्य भी अच्छा हो सकता है। इस के लिये मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोगों के गांव में जितनी घानी हैं उन को पुनर्संस्थापित करने के बारे में ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये। यही मैं उन से अर्ज करता हूँ।

अब एक बात और है कि हम लोगों के यहां रूई और पटसन होता है। पटसन तो बहुत होता है। अभी पटसन के बारे में यह होता है कि कम्यूनिकेशन्स (Communications) का अच्छा इन्फ्राम्स्ट्रक्चर होने के कारण हम लोगों को पटसन के बारे में बहुत मुश्किल हो जाती है। आसाम प्रान्त में और बंगाल प्रान्त में पटसन बहुत होता है। तो इस के लिये हमें जो गृह कुटीर शिल्प है उस को स्थापित करना होगा जिस से कि यह देहात में हो पैदा हो जाय। इस तरह यह हमारे यहां बहुत आसानी से तैयार हो सकता है और बहुत कम मूल्य में तैयार हो सकता है। इस के साथ साथ यह भी होगा कि हम लोगों के जो बेकार आदमी हैं उनको भी काम मिल जायेगा। इस बारे में भी मैं उन से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे इसके ऊपर ध्यान दें।

अब रूई के बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे आसाम प्रान्त में रूई होती तो है लेकिन लम्बे रेशो की बहुत कम होती है। मेरा ख्याल तो यह है कि वहां भी लम्बे रेशो की कपास पैदा हो सकती है। कपास की शिल्प के लिये भी देहात में चरखा चलवाना चाहिये। कुछ कोशिश करने से यह मालूम हो जायेगा और इसके बारे में मैं यही कह सकता हूँ कि सरकार को इन की रक्षा के लिये ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये। इन के लिये कुछ रुपया भी खर्च करना होगा। ध्यान नहीं देने से इस शिल्प का भी उद्धार नहीं हो सकता है।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। हमारा जो बजट है उस में हम लोगों के देहाती आदमियों के लिये जो हमारे संविधान में ४५ धारा में शिक्षा के बारे में लिखा है उस के लिये कुछ ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। मैं उन से यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि देहाती आदमियों की शिक्षा के बारे में, उसे आगे बढ़ाने के लिये, कुछ ज्यादा रुपया खर्च करें। इस लिये मैं यह सब करने के लिये उन से अर्ज करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri M. Hazarika (Assam): The hon. Minister of Finance while presenting the Budget proposals before this House made a mention of the large scale industries. But he did not say anything about the policy of decentralization that was enunciated by Mahatma Gandhi. Today we have before us the problem of unemployment in India and ways and means are being devised and discussed to root out this evil. This problem can be solved only by starting new small scale cottage industries and not by establishing large scale industries. I have to submit a few things in this connection.

In the very first instance I wish to submit a few things about the silk industry. This silk industry has come to India from China *via* Assam. But now this silk industry is gradually losing ground in India. Our Government did not pay any attention to give protection to this industry. Here huge quantities of silk goods are imported from foreign countries. Till the time some import duty would not be imposed on this imported silk, our silk industry cannot be protected and safeguarded. Therefore I beg to submit and request the Government to pay special attention towards this and try to reduce the amount of imports. The Government should impose a higher import duty on the goods imported. I request the Government to do so.

The second thing that I have to submit is that oil constitutes a main item of the diet of we Indians. But what happens is that oil seeds are exported to foreign countries. By establishing oil crushing presses in each and every village we would not only get good oil but our health also would improve. Therefore I like to submit that we should pay added attention to revive and re-establish the oil crushing presses that are found in our villages. I submit only this for consideration.

One thing more I have to submit. In our province cotton and jute are produced. Jute is grown in huge quantities. For the present what happens with jute is that due to lack of communications we have to face a lot of difficulties. Huge quantities of jute are produced in Assam and Bengal. For this we will have to establish cottage industries so that this jute could be utilised even in the rural areas. In this way jute can be obtained quite easily and can be turned into finished goods at a very low cost. Besides this the unemployed persons of our province will also get work. I request the Government to pay special attention towards this also.

Next I wish to submit a few things about cotton. Huge quantities of cotton are no doubt produced in our province of Assam, but the long staple varieties are not grown in enough quantities. I think that the large staple varieties of cotton can also be grown there. For the development of the cotton industry the use of spinning wheels should be encouraged in the rural areas. I can say only this thing in this respect that with a slight effort the Government would come to know that she ought to pay more attention for the protection of this cottage industry. The Government would have to incur some expenditure also on this count. If no attention is paid then this industry cannot be revived.

I wish to submit one more thing. In our Budget we have not made any provision for the education of our masses living in rural areas as has been provided in article 45 of our Constitution. I wish to submit only this that more money should be spent for imparting education to the masses in the rural areas. Therefore I request the Government to do all these things.

Shri R. Valayudhan (Trevancore-Cochin): Let me, at the outset, congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on the brilliant Budget he has placed before this House for our acceptance. It is indeed, a privilege for me to congratulate him because he is, if I may say so with a little selfish interest, a son of

the soil from which I come, I mean the Kerala Province. But then, there are so many sons of Kerala who are distributed in all parts of the world doing brilliant service to their country as well as to the world. Today at this critical period in the history of India, at this time when our country is passing through a great crisis in the economic as well as in the political field, it is indeed a great boon to the country that we have got a Finance Minister of the calibre of Dr. John Matthai.

I know that there have been criticisms about this Budget that has been presented to us.

If we look into the budget of any country which is in a stable condition, we cannot see it without criticism by its own countrymen and legislators. If we, then, compare our Budget with the Budgets of other countries, we will see that there is considerable satisfaction throughout the country, among the intelligentsia as well as among the thinking public about our Budget and I take it, also for this House. Some people say that our Budget is not based on a pattern of society. But I say we have not evolved ourselves into a pattern of society after getting Independence. Unless and until we evolve ourselves into a pattern of society, it is only wishful thinking if we want to produce a Budget based on equality, fraternity or on any other principle. When we are in a crisis or in transitional period, the Finance Minister will have to look into this or that aspect of the problem. Therefore the Finance Minister is perfectly justified in presenting the Budget in the present form which is more suited to the country and its administration. I am one of those who believe in equality of our people and I want that a social order should be moulded in India where there should be no poor or rich. But for that we will have to do certain things. Even from the Gandhian point of view, we have not given enough time to the capitalists of this country after independence to evolve a social order. Dr. Matthai has now given a chance to the industrialists and capitalists to see that enough capital is invested in the country. Of course we are in an industrial civilization today. We have to decide one thing about our future and that is whether we stand for an industrial civilization or for any other social order. Our elder statesman Acharya Kirpalani said that if we stand for the Gandhian social order, we will have to change the social order and mould a different budget, but if we stand for an industrial civilization we have no other go but to go to the industrialists for money. My view is that for the past three years the industrialists of this country were having a series of difficulties not only through the taxes but through the machinery of the Government too. Even in the field of importing essential raw materials they had a lot of difficulties. It is my information that because of the machinery of the Commerce Ministry so many middle-class businessmen who wanted to do business had gone back to their homes and are sitting idle because the Commerce Ministry is not functioning properly. There were other similar difficulties also. I will therefore request the Finance Minister to give all possible facilities for the next five years to see that as much money as possible is invested for the industrialization of the country by the capitalists.

Then I suggest that we should not lose that part of our nation—the villagers. Without villagers, India is nothing. We can give employment to a few lakhs of people by large scale industries but what about the millions of people living in the villages? There should be some remedy for their poverty and unemployment. For that the Finance Minister has given his encouragement but I should say that it is high time that we will have to organize a kind of mixed economy by which we can coordinate the industrial civilization and our ancient civilization wherefrom we can take up the Cottage Industry for the welfare of the country. If you make a synthesis of these two together, we can make a balanced economy even. We have got a legacy of that

[Shri R. Velayudhan]

great part of the effort that the Father of the Nation has made. Today there is a big industry in the country employing about seven lakhs. That is the greatest Corporation that is working in the world—1 mean the All India Spinners' Association. We are feeding about seven lakhs of people in *Khadi* Industry alone. Why not the Government take up the *Khadi* Industry and run it on a cooperative basis as it is being done by the Spinners' Association? If we do it like that, we can give employment to 15 lakhs of people in the next five years. Even if you take a moderate view, we can give employment to ten lakhs of people. Similarly there is the All-India Village Industries Association which is having pockets of Cottage Industries working in all parts of India. It is high time that we should make use of these which are run under the programme of Gandhiji. Gandhiji was not away from the modern civilization. In fact whenever he saw the sewing machine making that pleasant sound, he was pleased, he was not against electricity; he was not against train even. Therefore we can evolve a balanced economy. I submit that the Finance Minister who is having a very critical time, should evolve an economy based on Cottage Industries. We can plan this by having discussions in the Planning Commission. I am not personally satisfied with the composition of the Planning Commission. I thought there will be atleast one or two big industrialists in the Commission. I am not a capitalist but I should say, having known some capitalists in the country, that there are brilliant brains among them. Take Birla, who is the biggest capitalist in India; if you look into his economic efforts and intelligence, you can say that he is one of the best economists in the country and he knows wherefrom the capital can come also. (*Interruption.*)

We have not included a man like Mr. Birla or an economist like Mr. A. D. Shroff in this Commission. We must make the best use of these people. If you don't want a capitalistic economy to come, you have to evolve a socialist society. I do not want you to say that I want Socialism and also at the same time support Capitalism. That is why the capitalists and industrialists are grumbling today of our political set-up. They say that we do not know how to run a capitalist Government even. They say we do not know even to run a socialist Government. We have only a confused Government. Therefore, in the circumstances in which we are placed today, I suggest that it is better for our country to make use of the capital available and to make the best use of the intelligence among the capitalists also. With these words, I support the Finance Bill.

श्री रावत : आज इस संसद् में बोलने का मुझे पहला मौका मिला है, इसके लिये मैं माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय का आभारी हूँ। आज सरकार रिफ्यूजी प्रोब्लम (*Refugee Problem*) को सब से अधिक महत्व देती है। लेकिन मुद्दत से, सैकड़ों वर्षों से लाखों की तादाद में पड़े हुये हरिजनों की हालत इन लोगों से भी ज्यादा खराब है। अभी तक उनकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान नहीं गया है। मेरा मतलब कहने का मंगियों से है जो लाखों की तादाद में इस देश के अन्दर रहते हैं और उनकी हालत किसी से छिपे हुई नहीं है। वह लोग नालों के अन्दर रह कर अपनी खिन्वगी बसर करते हैं। इस तरह से वह लोग नालों के अन्दर घस कर या उसके किनारे झोंपड़ी बना कर अपना सारा जीवन व्यतीत करते हैं और सबेरे होते ही सफाई करने के लिये निकल जाते हैं। उनको जो मुशहरा मिलता है उस मुशहरे पर अगर ध्यान दिया जाय तो आज के जमाने में वह बिल्कुल नाकाफी है। इसकी तरफ किसी का भी ध्यान नहीं गया है। महात्मा जी के मंगी कालोनी (*Bhangi Colony*) में रहने का मतलब यह नहीं था कि एक बार साल में गांधी जयन्ती के समय झाड़ टोकरी लेकर मंगी 'कोलोनी'

की सफाई कर के प्रदर्शनी की जाय, बल्कि उनका मतलब था उन भंगियों की सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक हालत में सुधार किया जाय। उनका मतलब यह था कि अगर हमें हरिजन प्राब्लेम (Harijan Problem) को साल्व (solve) करना है तो उनका सुधार पहले करें। आज भंगियों की हालत क्या है? खिन्दगी भर काम करते रहने के बावजूद भी जब उनको नौकरी से छुट्टी दी जाती है तो उनको किसी प्रकार की ग्रेच्युटी (Gratuity) या पेन्शन (pension) नहीं मिलती है और इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि बुढ़ापे की अवस्था में वह अपने बच्चों के लिये भीख मांगते हैं या कुत्सित तरीके से जीवन बसर करते हैं। यही नहीं, आज पटना मैडिकल कॉलेज हॉस्पिटल में जाइये। वहां सैकड़ों की तादाद में भंगी काम करते हैं। वहां जो स्थिति आज होगई है वह बड़ी शोचनीय है। वहां के भंगियों को जो मुशहुरा मिलता है, उस मुशहुरे में से आज कल डिअरनेस अलाउन्स (Dearness Allowance) निकाल दिया गया है। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि एक तरफ से तो सरकारी नौकरों को फैमिली अलाउंस (Family allowance) देने की बात करते हैं और दूसरी तरफ जिनकी फैमिली जीवन भर देश की सेवा करती है उनके परिवार के लिये किसी तरह का गुजारा नहीं। यही नहीं बल्कि जिन परिवार के स्त्री पुरुष दोनों नौकरी करते हैं, सिर्फ उनके पुरुष को ही डिअरनेस अलाउंस दिया जाता है और उसकी स्त्री को यह कह कर नहीं दिया जाता कि दो आदमियों को एक परिवार में यह डिअरनेस अलाउंस नहीं दिया जायगा। इसका नतीजा है कि आज पटना हॉस्पिटल में इस तरह का असन्तोष पैदा हो गया है कि वहां हड़ताल करने की नौबत आ गई है। मैं तो साफ कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की तरफ से जो हरिजन एन्क्वायरी कमेटी (Harijan Enquiry Committee) बैठती है वह एक प्रकार का शो वर्क (Show work) है। जहां जहां एन्क्वायरी कमेटी हालत मालूम करने के लिये जाती है वहां पहले से आगाही कर दी जाती है और एन्क्वायरी कमेटी को यह हालत दिखाई जाती है जिससे मालूम होता है कि उनके लिये सब कुछ सरकार की तरफ से किया जाता है और उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति बहुत ठीक है। लेकिन अगर सरप्राइज विजिट (Surprise visit) की जाय और उनकी हालत देखी जाय तो मैं यह कहे बिना नहीं रहूंगा कि उनकी हालत जानवरों से भी बदतर है! यही नहीं, जब पे रिवीजन (Pay Revision) कमेटी का निर्णय हो रहा था तो उन भंगियों की दशा कुछ ऐसी शोचनीय नज़र आई थी कि कहा गया कि उनके मुशहुरे पर भी विचार किया जायगा। इससे हमारी कटता कम हो गई। लेकिन दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि पे रिवीजन कमेटी के निर्णय को देखने के बाद मालूम हुआ कि भंगियों की हालत में कुछ भी आर्थिक सुधार का खरिया नहीं रक्खा गया। आज भी सफाई विभाग में काम करने वाले भंगियों को दस, पंद्रह, १७ या १८ रुपये का मुशहुरा दिया जाता है। उनकी बेसिक पे (Basic pay) इतनी ही रक्खी गई है। जबकि इस प्रकार से महाकाल का समय है जहां हजारों लाखों आदमी भूखों मर रहे हैं वहां सुबह से शाम तक देश की सेवा करने के बावजूद इनको पेट भर खाने को नहीं मिलता। यह ताज्जुब की बात है कि जब कान्स्टिट्यूशन में कहा गया है कि हरिजनों का स्थान दस वर्ष के लिये सुरक्षित रक्खा गया है, तब इस प्रकार की बात हो रही है। मुझे ताज्जुब होता है कि यह किस प्रकार से रक्खा जायगा। अगर दस वर्ष तक सुरक्षित रखने के लिये सचमुच सरकार दढ़ प्रतिज्ञ है तो आज जो स्वतन्त्र भारत का प्रथम बजट है उसमें भंगियों के सुधार के लिये कोई स्कीम रहती। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि यदि हरिजन प्राब्लेम को साल्व (Solve) करने के लिये सरकार दढ़ प्रतिज्ञ है तो वह पहले भंगियों की हालत में सुधार करे। अगर इस पर विचार नहीं किया गया तो मैं कहूंगा कि दस वर्ष क्या बीसों, पचीसों वर्ष तक स्थान सुरक्षित रक्खा जाय तो भी उनकी हालत ज्यों की त्यों बनी रहेगी। और कितनी भी सुरक्षा दी जाय उनकी हालत में कोई सुधार नहीं हो सकता। यही नहीं, मैं तो अपने माननीय अर्थ सचिव महोदय को जब

[श्री रावत]

भी देखता हूँ तो मुझे ताज्जुब होता है कि जब वह भी शब्द प्रति दिन उन्हीं भंगियों द्वारा होते हैं तो कैसे भंगियों को भूल गये। हो सकता है कि वह अपनी शुद्धि स्वयं अपने हाथों करने का निश्चय कर चुके हों, ठीक है, महात्माजी के पक्के अनयायी हैं। इस लिये वह ऐसा विचार रखते हैं लेकिन मैं कहूंगा कि जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है आज भंगियों में काफी असन्तोष है और ऐसा असन्तोष है कि आज वे अपने कामों से बंचित होना चाहते हैं। इस लिये जनता की स्वास्थ्य-रक्षा के लिये मैं अपने अर्थ सचिव साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह जनता के स्वास्थ्य के लिये सेल्फ क्लीनिंग स्कीम (Self Cleaning Scheme) का कोई जरिया निकालें जिससे जनता का स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षित हो। अगर ऐसा नहीं होता है तो मैं जानता हूँ कि भंगियों के भीतर ऐसा असन्तोष फैला हुआ है कि वे अपने पेशे से बंचित होना चाहते हैं और हो भी रहे हैं। इस लिये मैं अपने माननीय अर्थ सचिव का ध्यान इधर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि देश को स्वस्थ रखने के लिये वह कोई ऐसी स्कीम बनायें जिससे सेल्फ क्लीनिंग हर तरफ हो। यही नहीं, दूसरी सरकारों की तरफ से हरिजनों को जो सुविधा दी जाती है उसे प्राप्त करने में इतनी कठिनाइयाँ हैं कि वहाँ इन गरीबों की पहुँच नहीं है फलस्वरूप वे उन सुविधाओं को प्राप्त नहीं कर पाते। वह क्यादातर उन हरिजनों को मिलती हैं जिनकी ऊँचे ऊँचे अफसरों तक पहुँच है और जो बड़े बड़े ओहदों पर हैं। लेकिन उन भंगियों की जो रात दिन सफाई के काम में पड़े रहते हैं उनकी कोई सुनवाई नहीं हो पाती। जहाँ स्कालरशिप सरकार की तरफ से देने का विचार होता है वहाँ भी उनकी कोई सुनवाई नहीं होती और भंगी लोग उससे बंचित रह जाते हैं। इस लिये मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जो लाखों की तादाद में यहाँ पर समाज का एक महत्वपूर्ण काम करते हैं, उनके कल्याण के लिये भी सरकार को कोई उपयोगी स्कीम तैयार करनी चाहिये। उनके आर्थिक उत्थान के लिये कोई ऐसी कमेटी बनानी चाहिये जो समूचे भारतवर्ष में घूम कर उनकी आर्थिक हालत को सुधारने के लिये एक रिपोर्ट पेश करे और माननीय मन्त्री महोदय उस पर ध्यान दें। अगर इस बार नहीं तो अगले बजट में खास तौर से उनके लिये प्रोविजन रखने का प्रस्ताव मिलना चाहिये। इस लिये मैं अर्थ मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। और जोरदार शब्दों में उनसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि अगर अबकी न हो सके तो अगले बजट में इसकी पूर्ति करने के लिये कोई कमेटी आप तैयार कर लें जो समूचे भारतवर्ष में घूम घूम कर उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये कोई रिपोर्ट पेश करे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Raut (Bihar): Sir, I am indebted to you for giving me an opportunity to speak for the first time in this House. Today the Government attaches the greatest importance to the refugee problem. But the condition of the teeming millions of Harijans who are living in a miserable plight since the past hundreds of years is still worse than that of these people. The Government have not as yet devoted any attention towards them. I mean to refer to the millions of *Bhangis* (sweepers) who are living in this country and their condition is not hidden from anybody. These people are passing their days by living in the gutters. Thus, these people pass the whole of their lives either by taking shelter inside the gutters or erecting huts alongside and they go out early in the morning for scavenging duties. If you look at the wages which they get, you will find that in the present time it is quite inadequate. Nobody has paid any attention in this direction. By living in the 'Bhangi Colony', Mahatma Gandhi did not mean that once a year, on the occasion of 'Gandhi Jyanti', a show should be made by taking in hands the broom and basket and sweeping the Colony, but what he aimed at was that the social as well as

financial condition of these *Bhangis* should be ameliorated. His object was that if we were to solve the Harijan problem, we should first of all uplift them. Even after having worked throughout the whole of their lives, when they are retired from service, they do not get any sort of gratuity or pension and its consequential effect is that in the old age either they have to go abegging sustenance for their children or lead a shabby life. Not only this; you may go to the Patna Medical College Hospital today. There hundreds of *Bhangis* are working. The situation there is very deplorable today. The wages which are at present being paid to the *Bhangis* employed there are exclusive of dearness allowance. What I mean to say is that on the one hand you talk of granting 'family allowance' to the Government employees and on the other there are those whose families spend the whole of their lives in the service of the country and still they cannot make their both ends meet. Not only this, but in the case of those families where both the man and the wife are employed, only the man gets the dearness allowance and his wife is precluded from the grant of this allowance on the ground that such an allowance shall not be paid to two persons constituting one family. As a result of this, great discontentment is prevailing among the persons employed in the Patna Hospital and a stage has come when a strike might be resorted to. I should like to say in plain words that the Harijan Enquiry Committee constituted by the Government is merely a show work. Wherever the Enquiry Committee goes to institute an enquiry into the conditions prevailing there, an advance intimation is sent there and the Enquiry Committee are presented with such a picture which shows that everything is done for their benefit by the Government and their financial position is quite sound. But I cannot help saying that if a surprise visit is paid and their condition is looked into you will find that it is worse than that of animals. Apart from this, when the decision to set up the Pay Revision Committee was being arrived at, it was stated that as these *Bhangis* were living in a very deplorable condition, the question of fixing their wages shall also be considered. This reduced our bitterness. But I am constrained to say that after going through the findings of the Pay Revision Committee, it was noticed that no provision has been made for improving the financial condition of the *Bhangis*. Even today the *Bhangis* employed in the Sanitary Department are being paid at the rate of Rs. 10, 15, 17 or 18 per month. Such is their basic pay at the time when acute economic stringency prevails, and while hundreds of thousands of persons are dying of starvation, these people are unable to get two square meals even after toiling from morning till evening in the service of the country. It is rather surprising that this thing is happening despite the fact that it has been provided in the Constitution that a quota shall be reserved for the Harijans for a period of ten years. I wonder how this quota shall be reserved. If the Government are in reality determined to safeguard the reservation made for a period of ten years, some scheme for the amelioration of the condition of *Bhangis* should have been envisaged in this first Budget of Independent India. I would say that if the Government are fully determined to solve the Harijan problem, they should first of all improve the condition of *Bhangis*. If this aspect is not considered, I would go to the extent of saying that what to talk of ten years, even if you reserve the quota for twenty or twenty-five years, no change can be wrought in their condition. Not only this much, whenever I see the hon. Finance Minister, I am surprised that when he too is served by the *Bhangis* everyday, how has he forgotten them? It may be that he might have decided to cleanse himself. This is correct. He is the true follower of Mahatma Gandhi and it is, therefore, that he holds such views. But I would say that so far as I am aware *Bhangis* are very much discontented now-a-days and they are dissatisfied to such an extent that they want to get rid of their work. I would, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to evolve some measures for the protection of public health and devise a self-cleaning scheme for this purpose. If this is not done, I know that the *Bhangis* are so much disgruntled that they want to discard

[Shri Raut]

their present avocation and some of them are even doing so. Therefore, I should like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to this aspect that he should evolve such a scheme as may safeguard the health of the country and which may tend to promote 'self-cleaning' in every direction. Apart from this, there are so many difficulties which have to be encountered by the Harijans in availing themselves of the facilities granted to them by the various State Governments and these poor people have got no access to them. As a result of this they are unable to derive any benefit out of this. These are more or less given to those Harijans who have got an approach to big officers, and who are holding high offices. But nobody hears these *Bhangis* who are day and night engaged in the sanitary work. No heed is also paid to them while considering the grant of Government scholarships and the *Bhangis* are deprived of this. Therefore, I should like to draw the attention of Government in this direction that the Government should formulate some beneficial scheme for the amelioration of those millions who are rendering the most important and useful service to the community. Some committee should be set up to look after their uplift who should also present a Report for improving their financial condition after touring throughout India and the hon. Minister should consider it. If not this time, some provision must be made particularly in the next Budget for their benefit. Therefore, I should like to invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards this aspect and request him with all the emphasis at my command that in case it is not possible now, he should formulate a plan for the appointment of a Committee while presenting the next Budget and they should be asked to submit a report for improving their (*Bhangis*) financial condition after touring the whole of India.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu (Madras): Newcomers like me have had the benefit of the enlightened, substantial and at times very laboured criticisms of elders in this House, and we are thankful for it. I have heard all that has been said about the Budget and the Budget proposals and I do not think anything remains at this stage of the Finance Bill to speak generally about the Budget. Sitting in this House, and hearing all the criticisms of the various Members, I was everyday in dread of the Budget being thrown out and not being passed. It was a great relief to me to find that it has not been so. When I looked at the faces of the hon. the Finance Minister and the other Ministers in the Front Benches firm and set, I was wondering how they could stand so much criticism and be not in fear of their Demands being cut partially or outright. Looking at the cuts that were proposed, they ranged from one Rupee to one hundred Rupees. So, I thought that the Ministers were not much concerned about the cut of Re. one to Rs. 100. But, I thought they were quite conscious and cock-sure about their demands being passed in full and therefore they exhibited such calmness during the debates whereas people like me were fearing that the Budget may go to pieces. Yesterday, it was with a sense of great relief that I saw every demand being passed *in toto*, not a single demand being cut even by a single pie. All the axes on the shoulders of the hon. Members had become loose and had fallen down, with only the handles that is, their hands, mouths and tongues left with them.

Coming to the criticisms, I am reminded of the difficulties that the various people would have felt, businessmen, agriculturists, and Government servants, about their plight. Now, all the budget demands have been passed and no retrenchment has been made in spite of so many proposals for retrenchment both in personnel and in expenditure.

Our Government, if I may say so, seems to be run on paradoxes. They talk so much, I shall not say of the common man or the man in the street, but

of the ordinary man. When his huts are falling to the ground, we see everywhere bungalows being reared to house rich men and officials. When cottage industry is going to ruin, we see machines installed everywhere. When we talk of handicrafts so nicely displayed in the Exhibition, we put up machines to produce all the materials which are produced by these handicrafts. We talk of *Khaddar* and the spinning wheel, but we wear only the thread and cloth that is produced by the fly wheel and the spindle. There is, as I say, no co-ordination in the policy of the Government as regards the avowed objects that have been put forward before the public by politicians as well as our leaders.

While speaking of the cottage industries, I would only draw the attention of the House to a very important cottage industry, that is, the match industry in the south. It is an industry which is indispensable to the country and the results of it every hon. Member will feel in his coat-pocket. It has become indispensable for the hearth; it has become indispensable for the cigarette; it has become indispensable for the cigar. This industry is a purely cottage industry. The place where the matches are manufactured is called a factory because it has to be called by a name. Every hand-made match factory in the south, as it is, is run purely on manual labour and not with machines. The Factory has to be there to safeguard the interests of the Excise Department, because the sticks have to be packed and the excise label has to be pasted within four walls under the supervision of an Excise Inspector. Apart from this, we cannot say that it is a factory in any sense of the word. Every process of the match industry is done by hand, and not done in the factory, but in the house. The industry has helped the lame, the dumb and other persons that have been disabled from earning their livelihood by any other means. These match factories have been classed into three categories; the first category producing 100 gross boxes per day; the second category producing more than 100 gross boxes but below five lakhs a year; the other category producing more than five lakhs a year. You know, the match boxes which contain 40 sticks are sold at six pies each and the match boxes which contain 60 sticks are sold at nine pies each. The sale price of the 40's comes to Rs. 4-8-0 per gross and that of the 60's comes to Rs. 6-12-0 per gross. The excise duty that is levied on these categories is Rs. two for the 40's per gross and Rs. three for the 60's per gross. You will see, that a margin of Rs. 2-8-0 per gross for the 40's and Rs. 3-12-0 for the 60's is allowed to the producer. As hon. Members know, out of the 189 factories that produce matches by hand labour, 170 factories are situated within the three districts of Ramnad, Madura and Tinnevely in the Madras Presidency, they being mostly in villages with a population of 2,000 to 4,000. A few factories are in towns with a population of 14,000 to 18,000. Thus, you will see, the cottage industry character of this industry. The point is that after deducting this excise duty, it does not give the producer any margin.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Whenever he has to market the produce or send out the produce, there is the further payment of sales tax in Madras which works out from four annas to eight annas per gross. Thus, it will be seen that for the *pan-wala* that sells these match boxes there is no margin. Therefore he goes in for the machine-made match boxes from WIMCO which is a cent. per cent. mechanised one, because he gets there at least a margin of four annas per gross. Our Government last year had been pleased to grant a rebate of six pies and nine pies per gross in the second category and one anna and two annas in the third category. The third category is the category which produces less than 100 gross boxes; that is, in a year, that category of factory can produce only 30,000 gross boxes. The division of the categories does not allow him to produce more boxes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may finish the point in hand and continue tomorrow. At Five o'clock we have to take up the other matter.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: One or two sentences, Sir. Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should come forward to raise the third category at least to two lakh gross boxes and the second category at least to ten lakh gross boxes and allow a greater rebate in the matter of both the categories.

With these words, I thank the House and the Speaker for the indulgence that they have shown to me.

LOAN TO EXCHANGE BANK OF INDIA AND AFRICA BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Mr. Speaker: We might now proceed with the half an hour's discussion of the subject given notice of by Mr. Sidhva.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): The subject of the discussion I want to raise relates to Question No. 188 asked on the 8th February relating to a loan of Rs. 87.43 lakhs given by the Reserve Bank of India to the Exchange Bank of India and Africa at Bombay. In answer to my Question the Finance Minister stated that this amount was paid under section 18 (1) (3) of the Reserve Bank of India Act. The section says that the Central Board shall give a loan. I want to know from the hon. Minister when the Central Board's decision was taken, at what date was the meeting held and in what months the payments were made, whether it was paid in lump sum or in instalments. I want to know what was the decision of the Central Board, how many members were present at the meeting out of their total number. Is it a fact that the Chairman or Managing Director of the Bank gave a loan of Rs. 120 lakhs to the Indian Overseas Airline Co.? What were the total assets of the Bank? Under the Banking Companies Act, less than one-third of the assets being there, I want to know whether the Bank was entitled to this amount.

I also want to know on what date the last inspection was made by the Reserve Bank of this Exchange Bank. Is it also a fact that the paid-up capital of Rs. 50 per share fell in November 1948 to Rs. 28? Was the Government's attention drawn to the fact that the Bank was in an unsound condition? I would also like to know the date on which the Bank was closed. My information is that it was closed on the 2nd May. What was the last date when the Bank was inspected?

The hon. Finance Minister in his oral replies said certain things on which I would like to have a clarification. In his reply he said:

"I think the Exchange Bank went into liquidation some time in May 1949 as far as I can remember and there were some inspections by the Reserve Bank before the Bank went into liquidation."

I want a definite answer. "Some inspections" means what?

Further on he said:

"I think the essence of the report was that the position of the Bank was unsatisfactory and there was a proposal that the Bank should be un-scheduled."

If that was the position, why was the loan granted?

After that he says:

"But then after further consideration, I think the Bank was told that if they could satisfy certain conditions prescribed by the Reserve Bank, then the question of restoring it to the schedule would be considered."

After taking a decision that the Bank was unsound what happened after that? When did the Central Board decide and how many members of the Board took the decision? Who was responsible for the decision? Was it the Governor?

Under section 18(3) of the Reserve Bank of India Act sureties have to be taken. What kind of sureties were taken? Were they gilt-edged securities? Or what kind of title deeds were taken and what is their value today? Were the title deeds so secured valid? One of the title deeds related to the Air Lines: is that a fact? Under Rule 13 if a loan is to be given by the Bank it should be under the provisions of the Banking Companies Act. The loan should be repaid within 90 days. May I know whether that condition was observed? It also says that two good sureties have to be taken apart from title deeds....

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): Is the hon. Member speaking of Section 18?

Shri Sidhva: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: That section has been substantially amended and perhaps the hon. Member has not got the latest amendments.

Shri Sidhva: Section 17(2) says that two sureties.....

Mr. Speaker: What edition of the Act is he referring to? Has it been corrected up to date?

Shri Sidhva: I got it from the Librarian, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: In what year was the copy printed?

Shri Sidhva: It says "As modified upto the 15th July 1949."

Mr. Speaker: After that there has been no amendment.

Shri Sidhva: Section 17(2) says:

"The Bank shall be authorized to carry on and transact the several kinds of business hereinafter specified....."

the purchase, sale and rediscount of bills of exchange and promissory notes....."

Dr. Matthai: This advance was made under section 18. If the hon. Member will kindly confine himself to the terms of section 18 the position will be clearer. It is not worthwhile bringing in section 17 or any other section.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister mentioned section 18 (1) (3) in answer to my question. That section says:

"make loans or advances repayable on demand or on the expiry of fixed periods not exceeding ninety days against the various forms of security specified in clause (4) of that section [or, when the loan or advance is made to a banking company, as defined in the Banking Companies Act, 1949 (X of 1949), against such other form of security as the Bank may consider sufficient]."

An Hon. Member: That is quite enough.

Mr. Speaker: The discretion to the Bank was complete. Under this nobody can challenge the use of their discretion. So far as the law is concerned, it appears that the Bank has complete discretion.

Shri Sidhva: I want to know whether the 90 days condition was imposed and if not what were the reasons? (*Interruption*) I am speaking with the information at my disposal. I want to know what were the extraordinary circumstances that led the Reserve Bank to give this money. Their own report said that the bank was unsound. That is the main point. Subsequently they changed their mind. Was it changed on the influence of any of the Directors or any other persons? What has happened during that period? First they held that the bank should be unscheduled and immediately thereafter they changed this. That is the principal part of this whole transaction. I will show.....

Mr. Speaker: Let him not argue.

Shri Sidhva: I would also like to know what was the cash amount with the bank when it went into liquidation. What was the amount of securities deposited with the bank by the staff that was employed in the Bank? Were the

[Shri Sidhva]

salaries of the staff paid? Will it be paid from the loan that is recoverable by the Reserve Bank or will it be a charge on the bank? What has become of the security deposits of the staff of the Bank? I understand that it was to the tune of six lakhs, which is not a small amount. Was the attention of the Reserve Bank drawn to this matter, namely, that the bank staff had to be paid this money? The staff might have borrowed that money from somewhere. What has happened to that money?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is perhaps going beyond the exact scope of the information that he can legitimately ask for. He knows that the Exchange Bank of India and Africa is under liquidation. And the question as regards the payment of arrears of salaries or other moneys with the African Bank is entirely one for the High Court to decide. The only relevant question in respect of which, I think, hon. Members here are entitled to ask for information is, as stated by the hon. Member himself, that after having once found that the Bank's condition was not satisfactory and after having considered the question of unscheduling the bank, why is it that such a big amount as Rs. 87 lakhs was advanced to the bank at a time when the bank was in such a shaky condition, that it went into liquidation a few days after. That would be the only point on which, information can be called for. As regards other points, I think we would be trespassing into the jurisdiction of the High Court in liquidation proceedings. We are not concerned with the affairs of the African Bank, whether they were properly managed or mismanaged: we are concerned only with the question "why the Reserve Bank should have given the loan." That is the only relevant point in respect of which he can ask for information.

Shri Sidhva: That I have asked, Sir, and I thank you. I do not want to insist on it but I raised it from this point of view that.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not expand that because the time is running and there are other Members also who have given me notice of questions.

Shri Sidhva: I only wanted to state that in respect of the International Bank and Shroff's Bank when they failed the Reserve Bank gave relief as they have given to the African Bank. I wanted to draw attention to those points.....

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri Sidhva: I shall be glad to know the detailed reply of the hon. Minister.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Let us first hear the Finance Minister and then he may put any question if he wants.

Dr. Matthal: I think the point that arises for consideration in this debate is precisely the point which you have so clearly specified, namely, what exactly were the circumstances which led the Reserve Bank to grant these advances under section 18, which is a section which provides for the grant of loans under somewhat special circumstances and on somewhat special conditions. That to my mind is the essence of the whole question. Once it is granted that there was a special occasion of the kind contemplated in section 18, then the sufficiency of the security against which the Reserve Bank grants an advance is a matter that must be left entirely to the discretion of the Reserve Bank.

I would like to give the House a brief account of the conditions which existed at the time this advance was granted. This was early 1949. I believe the failure of this Bank started with the suspension of payment by the Aden branch of the Bank some time in February 1949. It was when the Aden branch suspended payment that the Bank came to the Reserve Bank for assistance.

The Reserve Bank decided to give an advance then, and then various other advances were given up to sometime in April—the middle of April. And these advances aggregated to about Rs. 87 lakhs. It is perfectly true as Mr. Sidhva said, that the position of this Bank had been under examination at a previous date by the Reserve Bank. I believe the inspection was actually done in 1946, and certain irregularities committed by this Bank had been brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank. On an examination of that report the Reserve Bank, I think, prescribed about six or seven different matters in regard to which the Bank was expected to carry out improvements. I think the communication of the Reserve Bank intimating these conditions to this particular Bank was made some time in 1947. They complied with some of these conditions but not with all of them. The Reserve Bank in the meanwhile was pressing the Bank to comply with all the conditions which they had laid down as a result of the inspection. At various stages, in view of certain improvements which had taken place in the working of the bank and in view of statements which had been received by the Reserve Bank of the working of the Bank, they gave them two or three extensions of time within which the conditions laid down by the Reserve Bank might be completely complied with. I think the last extension was to expire in April 1949. Therefore, during the period that these advances were given, although the Reserve Bank's opinion still was that the condition of the Bank was unsatisfactory, the Reserve Bank also felt there were circumstances which justified granting a certain amount of time to the bank for taking steps for full compliance with these conditions. I said the failure of the Aden branch of this Bank occurred in February 1949. At that time the House must remember the condition of the money market was extremely acute. It was the busy season, and the stringency in the market was much more acute than usually occurs during the busy season, so that it was very difficult for Banks to grant advances at the time. Money was extremely difficult to come by. At the same time, two at least of the more important joint stock banks in other parts of the country were beginning to experience somewhat serious difficulties. The position of these two Banks was giving anxiety—I am not speaking of the Exchange Bank but of two other Banks. Their position was causing a great deal of anxiety both to the Reserve Bank and to the Government of India. The House must remember also that while the condition of the money market was acute, while the position of some of the leading joint stock Banks in the country was getting difficult, the crisis that occurred in Bengal in September-October, 1948, was still continuing to cause difficulties and anxieties in Bengal. As a result of these various circumstances, in the public interest, both the Reserve Bank and the Government of India felt that if the Bank failed it might create a situation in this country which might aggravate the already anxious banking situation that was rapidly developing. And in the public interest the Reserve Bank felt that some special treatment was called for. There is a further circumstance. The difficulties of the Exchange Bank and the consequent failure first occurred in regard to an outside branch. If we allowed that situation to develop and if it happened that all the outside branches of this Bank had to suspend payment, the Government of India felt and the Reserve Bank of India also felt that, apart from the financial difficulties inherent in a banking crisis, there were going to be rather serious political complications of the kind that actually occurred when the Bank failed finally. So, taking all these circumstances into account, the Reserve Bank of India decided that there was a clear case for action under the special circumstances contemplated in section 18. That really was the position.

Now, Mr. Sidhva raised various points incidental to this occurrence. Since I had not received previous notice of these detailed matters, naturally I am not in a position to give full replies to them. But as far as the security against which the advances were given by the Reserve Bank is concerned, it is clear to

[Dr. Matthai]

me that the title deeds that were re-pledged with the Reserve Bank represented assets of a book value that showed a considerable margin over the amount of Rs. 87 lakhs which was granted to the Exchange Bank. Therefore, it seems to me that in exercising its discretion as it did, the Reserve Bank was, in my opinion, perfectly justified and it did that, if I may say so, in the best interests of the country taking the circumstances which prevailed at that time fully into account. That is all that I am in a position to tell the House at present in regard to the subject.

As regards the question of the amounts due to the staff, I entirely agree with you, Sir, that whatever moneys are due to the staff, would have to be considered by the Court in connection with the liquidation proceedings.

That is as far as I can go in this matter.

Shri Sidhva: I want to know whether the Central Board took a decision in the matter. I want to know whether a meeting of that Board was called and if so, when it was called.

Dr. Matthai: As far as the Government of India are concerned, the intimation was given by the Governor of the Reserve Bank, and I take it that when the Governor of the Reserve Bank acts in a matter of this kind he acts within the authority conferred upon him by the Act.

Shri Sidhva: I want a definite reply.....

Mr. Speaker: The point seems to be: was there any meeting of the Central Board at all which sanctioned this, or did the Governor act in his own discretion?

Dr. Matthai: I am not in a position to answer that question at present. Mr. Sidhva raised three points for discussion and he wanted more information on these three points:

- (i) that large advances were made by the Reserve Bank in spite of the fact that it was aware of the Bank's unsatisfactory position;
- (ii) that the advances were granted without the pre-audit of the Bank's books and accounts; and
- (iii) that the grant of these advances against the title deeds contravenes the provisions of section 19 of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

As far as the question of pre-audit is concerned, I take it that the point that Mr. Sidhva has raised is whether before the advances were given there was an examination of the Bank's books. I have enquired into that; there was no examination. The advances were made after the failure of the Aden branch of the Bank. If the Reserve Bank conducted an examination when the failure of one branch had already occurred, then that inspection would have precipitated the very crisis that we wanted to avoid.

Whether a meeting of the Board was held or not, I am not in a position to answer because that point was not specifically put to me.

Shri Sidhva: But what about my last question that the advances against title deeds contravene the provisions of section 19(3)? That means there is no...

Mr. Speaker: There need be no further argument. That is how he understands it. The point is that he has no information with him now.

Shri Kamath: I want to ask this: When the Reserve Bank Authorities, in exercise of their powers of inspection and supervision over Banks, inspected this Bank before the advance of the loan, when exactly, in point of time, did

they find that the Managing Director of the Bank (who also happened to be the Chairman of the Indian Overseas Airlines Limited), advanced loans totalling over a crore of rupees against the supposed book assets of the Airline Company? I want to know whether they found it or not and when exactly they found it, whether a warning was issued by them to the Bank as regards advancing of this loan from the Bank to the Airline Company, and whether, in view of this transaction, they also looked into the affairs of the Airline Company?

Dr. Matthai: That was one of the irregularities which had been brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank as a result of the inspection, and one of the conditions which they suggested to this Bank was that that particular irregularity should be rectified.

Shri Joachim Alva (Bombay): Was it rectified?

Dr. Matthai: It was not rectified at the time the loan was given.

Shri Joachim Alva: I have only one or two short questions to put. Under the Reserve Bank of India Act, Section 18, it is admitted that the Reserve Bank possesses considerable powers of discretion to advance loans. I want to know whether, before the crash of the Exchange Bank took place, other Banks in Bombay had applied for assistance, whether such assistance was granted to them and whether the discretion was exercised as leniently in favour of the other Banks as it was done in the case of the Exchange Bank. You must know that after the crash of the Exchange Bank credit had been tightened in Bombay.....

Mr. Speaker: He need not argue.

Shri Joachim Alva: I am only giving facts. After this crash a great deal of hardship was being experienced by small traders, overdrafts being cancelled etc. As you know, in Africa there was a big stampede and the Government of India came to the rescue by giving facilities for one lakh to the customers there by which our name and prestige was saved in Africa.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member has not caught the point of this discussion. We are not discussing here the failure of the Reserve Bank in the discharge of its duties in respect of other Banks. The question is as to why this big loan of Rs. 80 lakhs was advanced even after knowing the condition of the Bank. That is the pertinent point of enquiry.

Shri Joachim Alva: I want to know whether at the same time as the Exchange Bank of India applied to the Reserve Bank for assistance, other Banks also applied for assistance, whether that assistance was granted and whether discretion was exercised in favour of them also; if not, for what reasons was it refused?

Dr. Matthai: I do not quite know the particular point of time that the hon. Member has in mind. Of course, I don't have here the list of all the cases where the Reserve Bank has granted advances, but I can say off-hand that during the crisis in Calcutta in September 1948, the Reserve Bank went to the assistance of these Banks and I believe gave them advances. But, whether there were any cases in Bombay at this time, I am not in a position to answer.

Shri Kamath: As regards the question I put, may I know what directives or instructions were given by the Reserve Bank to rectify that irregularity to which the hon. Minister has referred? What steps were taken to rectify it?

Dr. Matthai: All that they could do was to ask the Bank—and they were continually in touch with them—to carry out these conditions which had been suggested, and within the period allowed to them, under the threat of de-scheduling the Bank.

Shri Sidhva: The important factor in this is whether a Central Board decision was taken.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has no information on that.

Shri Sidhva: Then would you give us an opportunity for further discussion on this matter? Of course, it is left to you. If the Board meeting was not called and the Board sanction not taken, then this loan is illegal.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri Sidhva: Therefore, I want to know that information.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, this discussion cannot be carried on now any longer—the time is up. Apart from that, the hon. Member may table a question specifically asking for information on this point and then that question might be answered, and if that too is defective then the hon. Member may take to such remedies as he has.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1950.