

Tuesday, 18th April, 1950



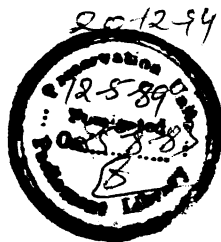
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME III, 1950

(18th and 19th April, 1950)



FIRST SESSION
OF
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 18th April, 1950

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

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOANS TO *Kisans*.

*1796. **Shri B. B. Varma:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to open Agricultural Bank on the lines of Federal Land Bank in America to help the *kisans* with loans for agricultural purpose?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): No, Sir.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know what stands in the way of the Government giving credit facilities to the agriculturists in rural parts?

Dr. Matthai: This is a subject that was raised in the course of one of the Budget debates and I expressed my views to the House which, briefly, are these. There is no justification for an agricultural financing institution of an all-India character because the only way in which finance can be satisfactorily provided through an agricultural finance corporation is by organising it on a regional basis so that intensive supervision may be exercised on the classes of securities on which alone long-term bonds can be issued.

Dr. E. S. Singh: May I know whether in order to help the *kisans*, the Government of India will give subsidy to them in the form of better services and seeds, or by writing off their agricultural debts or by supplying manures as the American Government do?

Dr. Matthai: With regard to the general principle suggested by the hon. Member, I am in agreement with him, but I think he ought to appreciate that at present although we do not have an all-India agricultural finance institution, we are giving assistance—either the Central Government or the Provincial Government—in three different forms. First of all there are these grants and loans which we make from the Centre to Provincial Governments in respect of river valley schemes and grow more food campaign. Secondly, there are institutions like Land Mortgage Banks in regard to which several States I believe offer guarantees. And then there is the assistance that Government provides in concessions of one kind or another regarding co-operative credit societies. All these are directions in which assistance is being given and along these lines we propose to go further.

Sardar B. S. Man: In view of the rapid mechanization of agriculture, are Government prepared to advance subsidies to the State Governments towards

the schemes which they are floating to finance agricultural undertakings run on mechanized lines?

Dr. Matthal: As a matter of fact, the loans that we advance to State Governments are in respect of long-term agricultural developments which would necessarily include questions of mechanization.

MYCOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

*1797. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether a recommendation to ask Universities in India to include Mycology and Plant Pathology as an independent subject was made recently by the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry?

(b) If so, do Government propose to implement it?

ملسٹرو آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا آزاد): (اے) انڈین کونسل آف ایگریکلچرل ریسرچ کی کوشش سے ایک اٹھارہ کانفرنس پچھلے سال ۲۷ مارچ کو پٹالہ میں ہوئی تھی اور ملک میں جو لوگ اس بات کے جاننے والے ہیں وہ اکتوبر ہوئے تھے۔ اس کانفرنس نے ایک ریزولوشن اس مطلب کا منظور کیا ہے کہ ان باتوں کی پرمٹائی اور ریسرچ کے لئے آساتیاں پیدا کی جائیں۔
(بی) یہ ریزولوشن ابھی تک گورنمنٹ کو نہیں ملا ہے۔

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) It is understood that an *ad hoc* conference of eminent Mycologists in the Country, summoned at Patiala under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the 27th March, 1950, passed a resolution regarding the facilities for Education and Research in Mycology and Plant Pathology.

b) The resolution has not yet been submitted to Government.

پرو۔ एस० एन० मिश्र: क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि यूनिवर्सिटी कमिशन ने कौन सी सिफारिशें इसकी निस्वत की हैं ?

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know what recommendations the University Commission has made in this respect?

مولانا آزاد: ہاں یونیورسٹی کمیشن نے بھی ایسی رپورٹ میں اس کا ذکر کیا ہے اور کمیشن کی رپورٹ ابھی زیر غور ہے۔

Maulana Azad: Yes, the University Commission has also made a mention of this thing in its Report. The complete report of the Commission is still under consideration.

پرو۔ एस० एन० मिश्र: क्या सरकार को मालूम है किन २ यूनिवर्सिटियों में इनकी पढाई अभी भी जारी है।

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Do the Government know in which universities the teaching of these subjects is still carried on?

مولانا آزاد : میں اس بارے میں ابھی کوئی تفصیلی بات نہیں بتلا سکتا -

Maulana Azad: I cannot give any detailed information on this point just at present.

پرو۔ एस० एन० मिश्र : मगर जिस तरह की सिफारिशों के बारे में अभी रिपोर्ट आई है उस पर सरकार गौर करते हुए क्या यह समझती है कि उनको जल्द से जल्द जारी कर दिया जाय ?

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Do the Government after fully taking the facts into consideration think it necessary to put into practice at the earliest the recommendations about which report has been submitted?

مولانا آزاد : اس بارے میں ابھی کچھ نہیں بتلا سکتا - پٹیالہ کانفرنس کی تجویز کا ہمیں انتظار ہے وہ ابھی تک باقاعدہ ہمارے پاس نہیں آئی ہے۔
تجویز آئیگی تو گورنمنٹ پوری طرح دھیان دیگی -

Maulana Azad: Just at present I cannot give any information on this subject. We are awaiting the recommendations of the Patiala Conference. They have not yet officially come to us. Government would fully take them into consideration when they are received.

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि आगरा, बनारस, इलाहाबाद और लखनऊ की यूनिवर्सिटियों में माईकोलोजी और प्लान्ट पैथोलोजी की शिक्षा का समुचित प्रबन्ध है ?

Shri Satish Chandra: Is it not a fact that adequate arrangements for the teaching of Mycology and Plant Pathology do exist in the Agra, Banaras, Allahabad and Lucknow Universities?

مولانا آزاد : ہاں ان یونیورسٹیوں نے اس پر توجہ کی ہے لیکن یہ میں ابھی نہیں بتلا سکتا کہ کس حد تک کی ہے اور وہ کہاں تک ملک کی ضرورتوں کے لئے کافی ہے -

Maulana Azad: Yes, these universities have devoted attention to these subjects, but at present I cannot tell you the extent to which they have devoted attention, and to what extent the facilities provided are sufficient to meet the needs of the country.

STRATEGIC ROADS IN TRIPURA

*1798. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have decided to construct Strategic Roads in Tripura State?

(b) If so, what is the total length and what will be the expenditure on construction of the road?

(c) When will the construction be completed?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) No.

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

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the subdivisional town of Kamalpur in Tripura which was raided and burnt by Pakistani nationals a few days back, is not connected by road with other parts of the Tripura State?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information.

SURVEY OF SECONDARY SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

*1799. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India are considering the question of the appointment of a Commission to survey the system of secondary education in the country?

(b) If so, what will be the aims and objects of this commission?

منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا آزاد): (اے) کا جواب ہاں ہے۔
 (بی) ان باتوں پر ابھی گورنمنٹ سوچ وچار کر رہی ہے۔

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are still under consideration.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any scheme has been drawn up by the Central Advisory Board of Education?

مولانا آزاد: ہاں ایڈوائزری بورڈ نے ایک کمیٹی بتھائی تھی۔ اس نے بھی اس معاملہ پر غور کیا تھا۔ لیکن خود ایڈوائزری بورڈ ہی کی یہ رائے ہوئی کہ ایک کمیشن کا مقرر کرنا بہتر ہوگا۔

Maulana Azad: Yes, the Advisory Board had appointed a Committee and this Committee also had looked into this matter very minutely. But the Advisory Board itself recommended that it would be better if a Committee is set up for this purpose.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the teaching of the Federal language has already taken place in the curriculum of the secondary schools in the Centrally Administered Areas?

مولانا آزاد: یہ پرنسپل تو ہمارے مان لیا ہے لیکن تفصیلات کا پورا نقشہ ابھی نہیں بنا ہے۔ یہ کمیشن اس پر غور کریگا۔

Maulana Azad: We have acknowledged this principle but the full plans of the details have not yet been drawn up. This Commission will look into this matter.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the English language is introduced in the Centrally Administered Areas in the pre-secondary stage or at the beginning of the secondary stage?

مولانا آزاد: جو پرانہ تھلگ چلا آرہا ہے وہی اب بھی چل رہا ہے - کچھ آگے چلکر اس میں جو کچھ تبدیلی کرنا طے پا گیا اس کے مطابق تبدیلی کی جائیگی -

Maulana Azad: The same old system that was being practised in the past is still in vogue. In future if it would be decided to make changes therein then changes would be made accordingly.

Dr. M. M. Das: Am I to understand that it is introduced in the pre-secondary stage?

مولانا آزاد: ہاں ایسا کیا گیا ہے لیکن اسکا پورا نقشہ بنانا باقی ہے -

Maulana Azad: Yes, this has been done. But the full plan of the details are yet to be drawn up.

Shri B. Velayudhan: When the Sargeant Enquiry Committee on Secondary Education was there, what was the necessity for appointing a commission now on secondary education?

مولانا آزاد: سارجنٹ اسکیم جیسا کہ آڑیہل ممبر کو معلوم ہے کہ ۱۹۳۳ء میں بنی تھی - اس کے بعد سے حالات بہت بدل چکے ہیں - بہت سی باتوں پر ہم نے نئے سرے سے غور کیا ہے اور کام کے لئے نقشے سامنے آئے ہیں - معاملہ کے تمام پہلوؤں پر غور کرنے کے بعد گورنمنٹ نے محسوس کیا کہ جس طرح یونیورسٹی ایجوکیشن کے لئے ایک کمیشن بنایا گیا اسی طرح سکونڈری ایجوکیشن کے لئے بھی ایک کمیشن بنانا چاہئے تاکہ قومی تعلیم کا پورا نقشہ قومی نقطہ خیال سے تیار کر لیا جائے -

Maulana Azad: The Sargeant Scheme as the hon. Member is aware was drawn up in 1944. Since then the conditions have changed a lot. Certain points we have taken into consideration anew and new plans of work have come before us. After fully taking all the aspects of the matter into consideration the Government have come to the decision that as a Commission was appointed for the University education in the same way a Commission should be appointed for Secondary Education also so that a full and detailed scheme of national education could be drawn up from a pure nationalistic point of view.

گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر: یہ جو کمیشن مقرر کیا جا رہا ہے اسکی ہذاوت میں کن باتوں کا خاص خیال رکھا جائیگا؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: What special considerations will be taken in the Constitution of the Commission that is going to be appointed?

مولانا آزاد: ان سب باتوں پر اہمی گورنمنٹ غور کر رہی ہے - جب ایک خاص کام کے لئے کمیٹی بنائی جاتی ہے تو اس میں ایسے آدمی رکھے جاتے ہیں جو اس کام کے ماہر ہوں - اس کمیٹی میں ایسے ہی آدمی رکھے جائیں گے -

Maulana Azad: All these things are still under consideration of the Government. When a Committee for a particular purpose is appointed, such people are included who happen to be experts of the subject. Such very persons would be nominated on this Committee also.

LOCAL FINANCE INQUIRY COMMITTEE

*1801. **Maulvi Haneef:** (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the date of appointment of the Local Finance Inquiry Committee of the Government of India?

(b) What was the date on which the Committee began to function?

(c) Has the Committee completed its work?

(d) When is the report of the Committee expected to be received by the Government?

(e) What is the estimated expenditure on the Committee?

(f) What has actually been spent so far on that account?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) 2nd April, 1949.

(b) The Committee started functioning from the 14th April, 1949 when the Chairman assumed charge of his office.

(c) No.

(d) By August 1950.

(e) About Rs. One lakh.

(f) Rs. 72,200 up to the 31st March, 1950.

Maulvi Haneef: What are the terms of reference of the Committee?

Shri Santhanam: The terms of reference include the present methods of financing and the financial position of all local bodies.

Maulvi Haneef: May I know the personnel of the Committee?

Shri Santhanam: The names are:

Shri P. K. Wattal, Retired Accountant General	...	Chairman.
Shri R. K. Sidhva, Member, Parliament of India		Member.
Shri C. D. Barfivala, Director, Local Self-Government Institute, Bombay	...	..
Shri R. N. Agrawala, Chairman, Bhagalpur Municipality, United Press Buildings, Bhagalpur City (Bihar)	...	..
Shri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder, M.L.A., Zamindar of Kanganapuram, Salem District, Madras	...	..
Shri P. B. Gole, President, Akola Municipality, Akola, (C.P. and Berar)	...	..
Shri R. D. Kapila, Victoria Place Annexe, Simla-East	...	..
Shri S. N. Sapru, Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust, New Delhi	...	..
Shri M. B. L. Dar, 6 State Entry Road, New Delhi	...	..
Shri S. K. Gupta, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Local Self-Government Department, Calcutta	...	..

Shri B. D. Mirchandani, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Health and Local Self-Government Department, Bombay Member

Prof. Yashwant Rai, Member of Parliament

श्री भट्ट : क्या इस कमेटी को कोई इन्टरिम रिपोर्ट आई है ?

Shri Bhatt: Has the Committee submitted some interim report?

Shri Santhanam: No, Sir.

Shri Karmarkar: May I ask whether non-official members of this Committee are given a diet allowance or whether they are given any remuneration?

Shri Santhanam: I think they are given the usual allowances prescribed by the Finance Ministry.

CONSUMPTION AND IMPORT OF PENICILLIN

*1802. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of penicillin used in India from 1947 onwards; and

(b) the quantity imported?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) It is regretted that no statistics are available regarding the quantity of penicillin used in India during the period in question.

(b) A statement showing the value of licences issued for the import of penicillin and its preparations from U.K. and U.S.A. from July 1947 to the end of 1949 is laid on the Table. These figures do not give a complete picture of the imports permitted as Penicillin was obtained from U.K. on open general licence from July 1948 to September, 1949. The figures regarding the quantity and value of penicillin actually imported against these licences is not available.

STATEMENT

Value of licences issued for the import of Penicillin and its preparations from U.K. and U.S.A. during the years 1947, 1948 and 1949.

Licensing Period	C.I.F. value in rupees	
	U.K.	U.S.A.
(1) July-December, 1947	5,06,013	17,19,910
(2) January-June, 1948	33,41,952	1,21,63,076
(3) July-December, 1948	20,00,000	65,47,830
(4) January-June, 1949	..	36,18,185
(5) July-December, 1949	15,89,589	8,08,829

Note.—Similar information for the January-June, 1947 Licensing period is not available as the relevant records for that period have not been reserved.

Shri Jnani Ram: What steps are Government taking for manufacturing penicillin in India?

Shri Santhanam: Arrangements have been made to start a factory in co-operation with the Bombay Government and with the advice of a Swedish firm.

گیہانی جی - ایس - مسافر : کیا آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو یہ پتہ ہے کہ

شارتھج کی دہتہ سے بازار میں پینسلن کی قیمت پانچ گنی ہو گئی ہے ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that due to shortage of supplies the price of Penicillin in the market has gone up five times?

श्री सन्धानमः जी हों ।

Shri Santhanam: Yes, Sir.

Shri Gautam: What are the terms on which the advice of the Swedish firm has been obtained to run this factory?

Shri Santhanam: I would like to have notice.

Shri Venkataraman: Is the manufacture of penicillin going to be done in India as a State enterprise or as a private enterprise?

Shri Santhanam: As a joint Central Government and Bombay Government enterprise.

Shri Venkataraman: Has the co-operation of the Madras Government been sought in this matter?

Shri Santhanam: No other Government has been taken into partnership in this enterprise.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the hon. Minister aware that, notwithstanding the fact that licences have been given freely for the import of penicillin from the U.K., no supplies have been forthcoming from that area and therefore there is a shortage of penicillin in this country?

Shri Santhanam: That is a fact, but we expect greater shipments in the near future.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Is the proposed factory at Bombay going to meet the demands of India fully?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, Sir. It is expected to manufacture 3,600 million units per annum.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the hon. Minister aware that the potential capacity of the two factories in U.K. manufacturing penicillin is not adequate for England's own needs and that there is no prospect of their supplying penicillin for export in the future; if so, what arrangements are Government going to make for the supply of penicillin to this country?

Shri Santhanam: My information is that enquiries made from the U.K. market reveal that the supply may be expected soon.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the present penicillin output of this factory?

Shri Santhanam: The factory has not yet begun functioning.

Shri Hossain Imam: Will Government explain the reasons why they did not ask the other States to participate in this scheme?

Shri Santhanam: If more penicillin factories are necessary and when they are started in other places, similar arrangements will be made. This particular factory is located at Bombay. That is why the Central Government and the Bombay Government are co-operating in this matter.

Shri Hossain Imam: Have Government any plan for another factory of this type in another area?

Shri Santhanam: When this factory is in full operation we shall see if it meets the requirements of the country; if it does not, then other steps will be taken. But though this factory is owned by the Central Government and the Bombay Government, its production will be available for the whole country.

گیانی جو۔۔۔ ایہیں - مسافر : کیا شرتیج کم کرنے کے لئے گورنمنٹ اس بات پر غور کر سکتی ہے کہ جاپان کے امپورٹس پر جو پابندی لگی ہے وہ ہٹا دی جائے ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: Will the Government consider that in order to meet this shortage the restrictions on the imports from Japan be removed?

Shri Santhanam: The matter will be considered.

FIGURES OF CLOSING BALANCE OF CENTRAL REVENUES

*1803. **Shri Jnani Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether figures of closing balance of the Central Revenues have been compiled for the last year?

(b) What is the total closing balance?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): (a) and (b). The final closing balance has not yet been worked out but it is likely to be Rs. 130 crores approximately.

Shri Jnani Ram: Is it a fact that in other countries the closing balances are announced as from the first day of the ensuing year?

Dr. Matthai: I have no information.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS STUDYING JOURNALISM

*1804. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state the number of Indian students studying journalism in foreign countries with and without the aid of the Union Government?

(b) What is the amount of scholarship, if any, which the Government of India are giving to such students in foreign countries?

منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا آزاد) : (اے) اوورسیز اسکالرشپ اسکیم کے اندر کوئی ودیارتھی جرنلزم کی اسٹڈی کے لئے باہر کے ملکوں میں نہیں بھیجا گیا ہے - ایسے لوگ جو اپنی خواہش سے پرائیویٹ طور پر گئے ہوں انکے بارے میں اس وقت نہیں بتلایا جا سکتا -

(بی) سوال کا یہ ٹکڑا پیدا نہیں ہوتا -

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) (i) Under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme administered by the Ministry of Education, no Indian students had been sent to foreign countries for the study of journalism.

(ii) Complete information regarding the number of Indian students who have gone abroad on their own initiative for studying journalism is not readily available.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री देशबन्धु गुप्त : क्या मैं दरयाप्त कर सकता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में किन किन यूनिवर्सिटियों में जनरलिज्म की तालीम का बन्दोबस्त है ?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I ask in which of the Universities in India arrangements exist for the teaching of Journalism?

مولانا آزاد : میں یہ ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا -

Maulana Azad: I cannot give this information just now.

श्री देशबन्धु गुप्त : क्या मैं यह दरयापत्त कर सकता हूँ कि क्या यह अम्र वाकया नहीं है खासकर हिन्दुस्तानी ज़बानों के जनरलजम के लिए हिन्दुस्तान की किसी यूनिवर्सिटी में कोई इन्तजाम नहीं है ?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if it is not a fact that in no University in India facilities exist for giving training of journalism in Indian languages?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

डा० आर० एस० सिंह : क्या माननीय मन्त्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करें कि पत्रकार कला की शिक्षा को इतनी कम महत्ता क्यों दी जाती है और उसके लिए छात्रवृत्ति क्यों नहीं दी जाती ?

Dr. R. S. Singh: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state why so little importance is being given to the training of journalism and why no scholarships are given for this subject?

مولانا آزاد : بات یہ ہے کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ نے اوروز اسکالرشپ کی جو اسکیم چلائی تھی اس کا ایک خاص مقصد تھا یعنی لڑائی کے بعد ملک میں جو انسٹیٹیوٹ تویلیپ لیت ہونے والے ہیں ان کے لئے آدمی تیار کئے جائیں - جسے آدمیوں کے لئے سائنٹیفک اور ٹیکنیکل سبجکٹ کی تعلیم ضروری تھی - چنانچہ انہیں مضامین کے لئے اسکالرشپ دئے گئے - لیکن اسکا یہ مطلب نہیں تھا کہ گورنمنٹ دوسرے مضامین میں دلچسپی نہیں رکھتی - وہ اسکیم سائنٹیفک اور ٹیکنیکل سبجکٹس کے لئے تھی - اس میں جو نزم اور اس طرح کی چیزیں نہیں تھیں -

Maulana Azad: The fact is that the scheme that the Central Government had introduced for giving overseas scholarships had been drawn with a special purpose. The object was to train people for the industrial developments that were to come into existence in this country in the post war days. It was essential to give these persons training in scientific and technical subjects. Therefore scholarships were given for these subjects alone. But it was never meant by this that the Government had no interest in other subjects. That scheme was for scientific and technical subjects, journalism and such other subjects were not included in it.

گیانی جی - ایس - مسافر : اگر کوئی طالب علم اپنے خرچے سے جو نزم کی تعلیم فاران ملکوں سے حاصل کر کے آجائے تو کیا گورنمنٹ اسکو ملازمت میں پریفرینس دینے کو تیار ہوگی ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: If any student were to return from abroad after obtaining training in journalism at his own expense will the Government be prepared to show him preference in giving employment?

مولانا آزاد : یہہ تو مشکل ہے کہ گورنمنٹ اس بارے میں کوئی قطعی بات کہہ سکے۔ بہر حال، اگر ایسی صورت پیدہی آئے تو گورنمنٹ ضرور اس پر غور کریگی۔

Maulana Azad: It is very difficult for the Government to say anything categorically on the subject. Anyhow if the things were to happen this way, the Government would surely look into this matter.

ARRESTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH MIR LAIK ALI'S ESCAPE

*1805. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state the number of persons arrested in connection with Mir Laik Ali's escape?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): 16.

Shri Sanjivayya: Of the persons arrested how many were let off later on and how many are being prosecuted.

Shri Gadgil: I want notice of that question.

Shri Sanjivayya: How many of them belonged to the Police Department?

Shri Gadgil: Even for that I want notice.

Shri Hossain Imam: Of these sixteen, how many were males, how many were females and how many children?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Gadgil: I will read out the list and the hon. Member can find it out for himself.

Shri Kamath: What are the names of the persons arrested?

Shri Gadgil: I am prepared to read it, but it is a long list of sixteen names. Is it the wish of the House that I should read the names?

Some Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Shri Gadgil: (1) Abdul Aziz son of Mahboob Ali peon, Secunderabad.

(2) Ali Bin Sayed of Osman Shahi.

(3) Ali Abbas s/o Mohd. Ali, Supdt., P.W.D. Secretariat.

(4) Khaja Moinuddin s/o Mazharuddin. Headquarter, Hyderabad Army.

(5) Mohd. Azam s/o Mohd. Ibrahim, Clerk, Medical Department.

(6) Mir Ashraf Ali, s/o Mir Mohd Ali, Es. P.A. to Moin Nawaz Jung.

(7) Naziruddin Mahmood, s/o Shoukatunnisa Begum, Hyderabad State Bank.

(8) Shoukatunnisa Begum, widow sister of Mir Laik Ali.

(9) Mir Musaib Ali, s/o Amir Ali, Head Gardener, Himayat Sagar.

(10) Sheikh Mohd. Ibrahim, Leather Merchant, Bombay.

(11) Sayeeduddin, s/o Badruddin Abdul Halim, Bombay.

(12) Mohd. Bhai, Laundry Proprietor, Bombay.

(13) Bahauddin Khan, Retired Dy. Commissioner, Customs, Hyderabad.

(14) Arifuddin, Retired Chief Engineer, Hyderabad.

(15) Karimuddin, s/o Ahmed Mohiuddin (brother of Naziruddin Mahmood No. 7).

(16) Afzal Bhai, s/o Ghulam Ahmed.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am proceeding now to the next question. This is a question which relates to the internal administration of a State.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I only want to know whether any departmental action has been taken in this connection against the officers or not?

Mr. Speaker: That is the concern of that State Government.

LANGUAGE BROADCASTS FROM A.I.R. STATIONS

*1806. **Shri B. K. Pani:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) in how many Indian languages news broadcasts are being made by the All India Radio; and

(b) the number of language Sub-Editors and News Readers in each language?

The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Shri Diwakar):

(a) A.I.R. broadcasts news in fourteen Indian languages.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix VII, annexure No. 37.*]

Shri B. K. Pani: Are these sub-editors and news readers recruited directly or through the Union Public Service Commission?

Shri Diwakar: It depends upon the remuneration that they draw. I think most of them are selected by the Union Public Service Commission.

Shri B. K. Pani: Is there any regular cadre of sub-editors with a time scale and what are the chances of their promotion?

Shri Diwakar: I would require notice of that question.

Shri Buragohain: May I know the names of Part A States in which A.I.R. correspondents have been appointed?

Shri Diwakar: This question only deals with language sub-editors and news readers and has nothing to do with correspondents.

Shri Buragohain: But it arises out of part (b) of the question.

Shri Diwakar: But sub-editors and news readers have nothing to do with correspondents.

کہانی جی - ایس - مسافر : کہا منسٹر صاحب بتا سکیں گے کہ پنجابی
زبان کی نیوز کھلے کتلا تائم اے - آئی - آر مہن دیا جاتا ہے ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state how much time is devoted by A.I.R. for broadcasting news in the Punjabi language?

Shri Diwakar: It does not arise out of this.

Mr. Speaker: The question relates to news broadcasts in Indian languages and as such the question does arise, I suppose.

Shri Diwakar: I want notice of the question.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that some or many of these sub-editors are not even in a regular cadre, but are only employed on a contractual basis for a particular period in the A.I.R. Service.

Shri Diwakar: I want notice of the question.

Shri Tirumala Rao: Among the languages mentioned by the hon. Minister, are there any which have no script?

Shri Diwakar: All the fourteen languages, I think, have scripts.

RADIO STATION AT CUTTACK

*1807. **Shri B. K. Pani:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) the power of the A.I.R. station at Cuttack and upto what distance its broadcasts can be received;
- (b) the total number of Radios maintained in the whole State of Orissa including merged states;
- (c) how many of them are at Cuttack town;
- (d) the annual expenditure for A.I.R. at Cuttack and the total income from Radio licences in the State of Orissa for the year 1949-50;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Broadcasts of Cuttack A.I.R. station cannot be heard in other districts of Orissa; and
- (f) if so, whether Government propose to develop the Cuttack A.I.R. station by providing more powerful transmitter and if so, when?

The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Shri Diwakar):
(a) 1 Kilowatt (medium wave).

Technically the effective range of a broadcasting Station equipped with 1 K.W. medium wave transmitter extends to a radius of about 25 miles. The station however is ordinarily heard clearly far beyond that radius, roughly about 100 miles.

(b) The total number of radio sets in the State of Orissa including merged states is not known. The latest available figure of radio licences in the State is 2,253.

(c) 751 radio licences.

(d) Total expenditure during 1949-50—Rs. 4,03,200. Income from Radio licences during 1949-50—Rs. 25,546.

(e) No.

(f) The development of the Cuttack Radio Station is included in the 8-Year Plan for the development of Broadcasting in the Union, which is expected to be completed by the year 1955-1956.

Shri B. K. Pani: May I know whether the officers who are posted at Cuttack A.I.R. Station know the provincial language of that province or not?

Shri Diwakar: I require notice for that.

Shri Hossain Imam: Will the hon. Minister say whether any endeavour is being made with a view to finding out whether any unlicensed sets are being used in the States merged in the Orissa province?

Shri Diwakar: There is always a check up of all unlicensed radio sets?

Shri Hossain Imam: As these merged States became part of the Orissa State only recently, are any special efforts being made to stop the use of unlicensed sets?

Shri Diwakar: The licensing system is being extended to these areas.

HOSPITALS IN VINDHYA PRADESH

*1808. **Shri Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state what is the total number of hospitals in Vindhya Pradesh?

(b) What efforts are being made by the Vindhya Pradesh Government to afford medical relief to rural population?

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

ESCAPE OF DACOITS FROM BIJAWAR JAIL

*1809. **Shri Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of dacoits who were under trial in Bijawar jail, escaped with fetters on when a Magistrate was holding court?

(b) Did these dacoits take away any arms of the Policemen who were on guard duty?

(c) What action, if any, has been taken against the Magistrate and Police guards from whose custody these prisoners escaped?

(d) Is it a fact that Devi Singh, who is the leader of these dacoits, is still at large and active in Bundelkhand?

(e) Are any attempts being made to arrest them?

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

(b) No.

(c) The Magistrate and the Court Inspector have been suspended and departmental action is being taken against the officials concerned.

(d) Devi Singh has not yet been apprehended.

(e) Yes.

श्री दिवेदी : क्या विन्ध्यप्रदेश में और भी इस किस्म की घटनाएँ हुई हैं, जहाँ जेलों में से लोग भाग गये हों ।

Shri Dwivedi: Have any more such incidents happened in Vindhya Pradesh where people may have escaped from jails?

श्री गाडगिल : मुझे तो इस का पता नहीं है, मेम्बर साहब को अगर कुछ इसके बारे में पता हो तो बतला सकते हैं ।

Shri Gadgil: I am not aware of this fact. If the hon. Member be in possession of some information on this matter then he can inform me.

MODEL CHILDREN ACT

*1810. **Shri R. Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to enact a Model Children Act; and
 (b) if so, when is it going to be brought before the legislature?

مسٹر آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا آزاد) : (اے) کا جواب ہاں ہے -

(بی) ایسی اس سوچ وچار کا کام پورا نہیں ہوا ہے - جب ہو جائیگا تو پارلیمنٹ نے سامنے رکھا جائیگا -

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft Act will be brought before Parliament after it has been finalized by Government.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Will the hon. Minister give us some information about the Model Children Act? We do not know what it refers to.

Mr. Speaker: Let the Bill come. That is the proper stage.

श्री कामत : क्या इस तजवीज का इरादा यह है कि यह मॉडल चिल्ड्रेन आगे चलकर मॉडल मिनिस्टर बन जायें ?

Shri Kamath: Is it the intention of this Act that these model children may become model Ministers in future?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it the intention of Government to make this piece of legislation outside the Centrally Administered areas as well?

مولانا آزاد : ہاں مطلب یہ ہے کہ بطور نمونے کے ایک ایکٹ تیار کیا جائے جسے تمام اسٹیٹس اپنی اپنی حکومتوں میں منظور کرا کے کام میں لا سکیں -

Maulana Azad: Yes, the intention is to draft an Act that may serve as a model so that the Governments of all the States may be able to get the same passed and put into use.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the hon. Minister has received draft of a Bill prepared by a Committee appointed last year under the chairmanship of the Bombay Premier?

مولانا آزاد : آئیڈیل ممبر کا مطلب شاید اس کمیٹی سے ہے جو گورنمنٹ نے پچھلے اگست میں بتھائی تھی - وہ کمیٹی ایسا کام بہت کچھ پورا کر چکی ہے اور ترقی پل تیار ہو چکا ہے - لیکن کچھ ابھی باقی ہے - اس کے پورا ہونے کا گورنمنٹ انتظار کر رہی ہے -

Maulana Azad: Perhaps the hon. Member is alluding to the Committee that the Government had appointed in August last. That Committee has completed most of its deliberations and a draft Bill has been prepared, but some work is still pending. The Government is awaiting the completion of this work.

Shri Tirumala Rao: May we know the main purpose of this Act?

مولانا آزاد : میں پریز لس کا یہ ہے کہ جو کم عمر کے لڑکے اور لڑکیاں لا وارث ہو جاتی ہیں یا آزارہ گرد ہو کر جرائم ہمیشہ بن جاتی ہیں انکی حفاظت کا انتظام کیا جائے۔

Maulana Azad: The main purpose of this Act is to make arrangements to afford protection to those juveniles, both male and female, who become orphans or who becoming loafers and street urchins develop into juvenile criminals.

پंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : क्या यह दुस्त नहीं है कि बम्बई प्रान्त में अब भी चिल्डरस ऐक्ट रायज है और पंजाब में भी एक चिल्डरस ऐक्ट अभी पास हुआ है ?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it not a fact that a children's Act is still in vogue in the Bombay Presidency and a Children's Act has recently been passed in the Punjab also?

مولانا آزاد : ہاں ! کئی صوبوں میں یہ ایکٹ منظور ہو چکے ہیں لیکن م نے نفرینس اُس لئے بلائی تھی کہ ہمیں معلوم ہوا تھا موجودہ ایکٹ ہمارے مقصد کو پوری طرح پورا نہیں کرتے اور ضرورت ہے کہ نئے سرے سے اس معاملہ پر غور کیا جائے۔

Maulana Azad: Yes, such acts have been passed in various provinces. But we had convened the conference for the purpose that we had come to know that the existing Acts do not meet our needs fully and so it is essential to look into this matter *de novo*.

Shrimati Benuka Ray: Would the hon. Minister please give us an assurance that the Bill will definitely come by the next session?

مولانا آزاد : تطبی طور پر تو کہنا مشکل ہے۔ لیکن گورنمنٹ کی یہی کوشش ہوگی کہ جلد سے جلد یہ کام ہو جائے۔

Maulana Azad: It is very difficult to say anything conclusively on this point. But the Government would make all possible efforts so that this work may be completed at the earliest.

GOLD SMUGGLING

*1811. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that gold worth Rs. 80,000 was recovered from Arab traders at Bombay by the Customs Authorities?

(b) Was any further search carried on and if so, what is the value of gold recovered?

(c) What action has been taken against them?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the seizure by the Bombay Customs authorities on 1st April, 1950 of gold bullion weighing 750 tolas worth Rs. 86,000 on board a Kuweity country craft alleged to be owned by an Arab merchant of Kuwait.

(b) Yes. On further search of the country craft a quantity of 28,73 tolas worth over rupees thirty-three lakhs was seized.

(c) In addition to action being taken under the Sea Customs Act the crew of the craft are being prosecuted under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1947.

Shri Sanjivayya: What steps have the Government taken to put an end to this frequent smuggling of gold?

Dr. Matthai: We are carefully on the watch and supervision is being intensified.

Shri Hossain Imam: May I know whether the valuation which the hon. Minister has given is the market value or the official value?

Dr. Matthai: Market value of what?

Mr. Speaker: He is asking about the Rs. 33 lakhs and odd worth of gold seized.

Dr. Matthai: Well, I can do a little arithmetic and tell my hon. friend later. I have not got the information here.

Shri Hossain Imam: But was it based on the market value or the official value?

Dr. Matthai: If the hon. Member would take the quantity of gold and the total value and average it and look at the newspapers for the current price he will be able to satisfy himself straightway.

Shri B. Das: What happens to such gold which is confiscated; does it go to our Reserve Fund?

Dr. Matthai: I will take charge of it on behalf of the hon. Member!

Shri Sonavane: What attracts these Arab traders to smuggle gold into Indian territory?

Mr. Speaker: It is a question for the Arab State.

EYE BANKS

*1812. **Shri Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any person was sent abroad for specialising in eye grafting?

(b) Are attempts being made in India to start an eye bank and if so, with what results?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No.

(b) So far as Government are aware, attempts in this direction have been made only by the Gandhi Eye Hospital, Aligarh—a private institution. This institution reported three cases of corneal transplantation in 1948, with success in two cases, and two cases in 1949, with success in one case.

श्री दिवेदी : इस काम में कहां तक सफलता प्राप्त हुई है ?

Shri Dwivedi: How much success has been achieved in this work?

Shri Santhanam: I have said that out of three cases, success was obtained in two cases in 1948 and out of two cases in 1949 there was success in one case.

श्री त्यागी : यह आंखों पर कलम चढ़ाने का काम सीखने के लिये क्या आयन्दा गवर्नमेंट किसी आदमी को बाहर भेज रही है ?

Shri Tyagi: Are the Government intending to send any persons abroad to get training in eye grafting?

An Hon. Member: Put it in English.

Shri Santhanam: No, it is all right. Sir, it will be considered, but I suppose the greater difficulty is to get the eyes for grafting rather than to learn the procedure for grafting.

Shri Tyagi: In the private institution which my hon. friend said was maintaining an eye bank may I know if the eyes are deposited in the current account or in the savings account?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think we need go into that.

KHER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

*1813, **Shri Baiwant Sinha Mehta**: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether as per recommendations of the Kher Committee, Government contemplate to introduce a Bill to exempt from income-tax all contributions for education, which have been approved by the State and Central Governments; if so, when and if not, why not?

ملسٹر آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا آزاد) : ابھی اس معاملہ پر گورنمنٹ سوچ وچار کر رہی ہے۔

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): The matter is under the active consideration of Government.

श्री बलवन्त सिंह मेहता : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि इस के अभा में बहुत सी शिक्षण संस्थाओं को आर्थिक मदद न मिलने के कारण उन की शिक्षा की प्रगति रुक रही है ?

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Is the Government aware of the fact that in the absence of any monetary help to the numerous educational institutions the progress of education is being impeded?

مولانا آزاد : اگر ضرورت نہیں ہوتی تو ظاہر ہے کہ گورنمنٹ اس پر سوچ وچار کیوں کرتی - گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کر رہی ہے - آنریبل میمبر تسلیم کریں گے کہ معاملہ کے بہت سے پہلو ایسے ہیں جنکی جانچ پڑتال کرنا ضروری ہے - اس کے بعد اس کا آخری فیصلہ ہو سکتا ہے -

Maulana Azad: It is quite clear that had not the Government felt it necessary it would not have taken this into consideration. Government is looking into this matter. The hon. Member will probably acknowledge that there are many aspects of this problem that require a thorough consideration. A final decision can be arrived at only after consideration.

श्री बलवन्त सिंह मेहता : क्या ऐसी कोई संस्थाएं हैं जिन को इनकम टैक्स नहीं देना पड़ता ?

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Are there any institutions which have been exempted from income-tax?

مولانا آزاد : ہاں ! ایجوکیشنل انسٹی ٹیوشن جیسے کالج وغیرہ ان سے انکم ٹیکس نہیں لیا جاتا -

Maulana Azad: Yes, no income-tax is being realized from educational institutions like colleges etc.

श्री बलवन्त सिंह मेहता : वह कौन कौन सी संस्थाएं हैं ?

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Which are those institutions?

Mr. Speaker: I think we are entering into an argument over it.

श्री भट्ट : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी दत्त अवेंगे कि खेर कमेटी की रिपोर्ट कब शायी हुई थी ?

Shri Bhatt: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state when the Report of the Kher Committee was published?

مولانا آزاد : کہیں کمیٹی کی رپورٹ میں سمجھتا ہوں پچھلے برس نکل چکی ہے -

Maulana Azad: The Report of the Kher Committee, as far as I remember, was published last year.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether Government contemplates to implement the recommendations of the Kher Committee that 10 per cent. of the total income of the Government of India should be spent on education?

مولانا آزاد : گورنمنٹ نے کہیں کمیٹی کی سفارشاتیں منظور کر لی ہیں لیکن خانا نشیل مشکلات کی وجہ سے ان کا عمل درآید ملتوی کر دینا پڑا -

Maulana Azad: The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Kher Committee. But on account of financial difficulties their execution had to be postponed.

COMMONWEALTH MILITARY STORES CONFERENCE

*1814. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Commonwealth Military Stores Conference will be held in London?

(b) If so, who will represent India at the Conference?

(c) What is the purpose of such a Conference?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) to (c). I would refer the hon. Member to the press note on this subject issued on the 25th March, 1950.

Shri Kamath: Is this conference a sequel to the earlier Commonwealth Conference held two weeks or so ago or an independent Conference?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not know to which conference my hon. friend is referring, but as far as I am aware this Conference has no connection with the conference the hon. Member has in mind.

Shri Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (c) of the question, Sir, is it necessary that we should refer to a statement? It asks "what is the purpose of such a Conference?" It can be answered.

Mr. Speaker: It should be a convention that information which is readily available on record should not be called for by a question. Otherwise it means unnecessarily spending the Question Hour.

Shri Tirumala Rao: But the question was admitted.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know very briefly whether it is contemplated that the military stores should be reduced or increased?

Sardar Baldev Singh: This Conference is not meant for the purpose of taking stock of the stores but is a research conference and it will go into questions of improvement, uniformity etc. of stores. It has nothing to do with the stocks.

Shri Kamath: Is it the first conference of its kind held since 15th August, 1947? How many conferences of this kind have been held during the last two and a half years?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot give the number of conferences that have been held in the past, but this is the first conference after Independence which is being held, and India is taking part in it.

UNASSESSED INCOME-TAX CASES IN MADRAS

*1815. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of income-tax cases left un-assessed at the end of each year is mounting up every year in each district of Madras State and other States as well?

(b) If so, what are the reasons?

(c) What is the number of cases of assessments pending at the beginning of the year, number of assessments made in the year and the number of assessments left unassessed at the end of the year in (i) Tiruchinopoly; (ii) Coimbatore; (iii) Madras; and (iv) Madura for the financial years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): (a) and (c). No, Sir. Barring very few circles, the number of income-tax cases left unassessed are progressively on the decline. I lay on the Table a statement showing the relevant figures for the recent years. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 38.]

Information for earlier years will be called for.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Since the number of income-tax cases unassessed for the last three years is more or less constant as per from the statement laid on the Table which is somewhere near four lakhs, what is the proposal of Government to speed up the assessment?

Dr. Matthai: The hon. Member obviously is not making allowance for the fact that new cases are being added. Unless he looks at it from that point of view, it does not give a correct appreciation of the situation.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Were there any big cases assessed in these districts and owing to the inordinate delay to collect the amounts was it found difficult to collect them afterwards. If so, what was the amount involved?

Dr. Matthai: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He says that as the collections were accumulating for a long time, it perhaps becomes difficult for the assesseees to pay large amounts all at once.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: The collection was delayed from three to five years.

Dr. Matthai: In order to speed up the collection of arrears we have proposals under consideration for suitably expanding the staff of the Income-tax Department. With regard to the precise point that the hon. Member raised that when arrears accumulate in this fashion, it becomes a difficult thing for assesseees to pay up in time, we have a provision under which in suitable cases, we can make arrangements for instalmental payment.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: If owing to the delay in the collection of arrears a party becomes insolvent, may I know in what manner will the amount be collected?

Shri Hossain Imam: May I ask if the statement which the hon. Minister has made applies to the State of Madras or for All India?

Dr. Matthai: There is one column which gives the All India figures.

Shri Barman: What is the average number of cases that the Income-tax officers dispose of in the course of one month under the present arrangements?

Dr. Matthai: I am afraid, it is a very difficult question to answer.

FAMILY PENSIONS

*1616. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision exists for the continuance of family pension to minor sons, unmarried daughters and infirm parents, after the first recipient thereof has died or is disqualified; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the procedure and conditions for the continuance of family pension to the heirs referred to in part (a) above?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) and (b). Minor sons and unmarried daughters generally get what is called children's allowance. This is admissible even during the life-time of the widow. On the death of the widow, infirm and dependent parents ordinarily become entitled to the family pension which the widow was in receipt of. The detailed rules on the subject are contained in the Pension Regulations which I would request the hon. Member to look up if he wants more information.

OFFICER TRAINED IN INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

***1817. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Government had the benefit of the advice of any officer trained in the Indian system of medicine when they recently formulated their views or policy regarding the Indigenous system of medicine?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): No. But the Government's views and policy were accepted by the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Health which includes the hon. Member whose interest in the Ayurvedic system is well known.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: In future legislation are Government going to take the advice of a man who knows the science of Ayurveda?

Shri Santhanam: To the extent necessary, Sir.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is there any officer who holds any post in the Ministry of Health as an Adviser?

Shri Santhanam: I do not know if Ayurveda is still a science, but the Government will take such advice as is considered desirable for the purposes for which it has to decide.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is it a fact that several committees appointed by the Provincial Governments and Central Government as well have declared that Ayurveda is a perfect science in itself?

Shri Santhanam: I do not think that a science can be established by mere declarations of any individual whatsoever.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: If Ayurveda is not a science, is it the impression of the Government that that science can live for thousands of years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri B. K. Das: Have Government received any protests against the policy that has been recently formulated?

Shri Santhanam: In a matter like this, there are always people who support and there are people who criticise.

Shri B. K. Das: What are the views of the Provincial Governments regarding this policy?

Shri Santhanam: I am afraid, I have not got the information.

Shri Kamath: Among the members of the Committee which Government have recently appointed to examine the recommendations of the Chopra Committee are there any practitioners of the Indigenous Systems of medicine?

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

ARRESTS IN HYDERABAD

***1818. Shri Bhatkar:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state the number of persons arrested during the months of March and April, 1950 in the Marathi-speaking areas of Hyderabad State?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): The information is being collected.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Does it include all categories of persons arrested for any offence?

Shri Gadgil: The question will arise after my hon. friend knows the number of persons arrested. The question is general. Quarrels and crimes are normal features of any society.

Shri Bhatkar: How many of these arrested persons were communists, Hindu Mahasabhaites and how many belonged to other parties?

Mr. Speaker: The information is being collected.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: What is the meaning of "the information is collected"? May I know the number of persons arrested?

Mr. Speaker: That is for the questioner to see.

ASSAULT ON PRESIDENT, DISTRICT BOARD, BAREILLY BY MILITARY MAN

*1819. **Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the President of District Board, Bareilly (U.P.), was assaulted sometime back by an Army Officer attached to the National Cadet Corps, just before the commencement of a meeting, convened in Bareilly College compound under official auspices, for the specific purpose of fostering the spirit of goodwill between the Armed Forces and the Civil population?

(b) Has any investigation been held in the matter, and if so, by whom and with what result?

(c) What punishment, if any, has been awarded to the officer concerned if he was found guilty?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) Yes. It is extremely regretted that there was a case of an affray between the President of the District Board, Bareilly, and an Army Officer.

(b) The case was investigated and the officer tried by General Court Martial.

(c) He was found not guilty.

Shri Satish Chandra: The hon. Minister has admitted in reply to part (a) of the question that this incident did happen, and then in reply to part (c) he said that the officer was not found guilty. May I know how these two statements can be reconciled?

Mr. Speaker: The reconciliation is very clear. A *prima facie* case was made and on enquiry it was found that the charge was not substantiated.

Shri Satish Chandra: Is the hon. Minister aware of the strong feeling of resentment in the civil population of Bareilly at the high-handed action of the officer?

Mr. Speaker: It was found that he was not guilty. The question does not arise.

Shri Gautam: Was the President of the District Board given a chance to appear before the Court Martial and put in his allegation?

Sardar Baldev Singh: It is difficult for me to say, but most probably he got an opportunity to make a statement, I could not say off-hand.

Shri Satish Chandra: May I know who was the prosecuting Officer? Was he not a brother-officer of the Military Officer?

Sardar Baldev Singh: Of course members of the Court Martial are brother officers.

Shri Satish Chandra: Has the President of the District Board, Bareilly the option to take the case to an ordinary court of law?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a matter of law. He can consult the lawyers.

Shri Tyagi: Is it a fact that the occasion of this assault was when the Chairman entered the room to telephone to some of the military officers to come to the function and the officer concerned accosted the Chairman by criticising the maladministration of the Congress Government?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot say off-hand what was the cause of this dispute.

Shri Tyagi: Was the statement of the District Magistrate taken?

Mr. Speaker: Let us not go into the details of the case.

Shri Tirumala Rao: Has the Government taken any action against this officer for this misconduct?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I want to inform the House that as I have already stated the officer was tried by General Court Martial and he was found not guilty. I have not thought it fit to interfere with the proceedings of the Court Martial or with their decision but I have told the officer that he showed wanton lack of respect and gentlemanly behaviour and that his behaviour was un-officerlike.

Shri Satish Chandra: What steps do Government now propose to take to restore good relations between the military and civil population of Bareilly?

Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have already stated, although the officer was found not guilty, I have informed the officer that his behaviour was most undesirable and this has been conveyed to him.

Shri Tyagi: Has the hon. Minister sent a letter of regret?

Mr. Speaker: I think I must put a stop to these questions. Next question.

DOLLARS EARNED THROUGH EXPORT OF MANGANESE AND HIDES

*1820. **Dr. E. S. Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of dollars earned by the export of manganese and hides from India during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthal): According to the available information, the amount of dollars earned by the exports of manganese, hides and skins were as follows:

	(Figures in millions of \$)	
	1948-49	1949-50
Manganese	2.6	8.2 (April-February).
Hides and Skins	9.2	8.8 (April-January).

Dr. E. S. Singh: In view of the fact that there has been such an increase in the amount of dollars earned by our export of manganese and hides, do Government propose to start the processing of manganese here and to export manufactured goods if they are in surplus?

Dr. Matthai: As the hon. Member apparently knows, the factors in the present exchange position, or some of them, are of a temporary character and till conditions have been stabilised, it is difficult for us to make any suggestion.

Shri Tirumala Rao: Is it a fact that Government insist on certain maximum prices to be negotiated with the foreign buyers before they issue a licence for the export of manganese?

Dr. Matthai: Not so far as I know. I will make a reference to the Ministry concerned.

Shri Sonavane: With reference to this export of hides, are these in excess of the demand in the country?

Dr. Matthai: I am not in a position to answer that.

Shri Kamath: What approximately is the percentage of our exports of these commodities to the sterling areas?

Dr. Matthai: I have no information here; I can get it for the hon. Member.

Shri Barman: In view of the report of the Export Promotion Committee that the stock of manganese is not much in our country, have Government thought it desirable to cut down the export quota?

Dr. Matthai: In the issue of licences and the fixing of quotas, considerations of this kind are taken into account, obviously.

DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST LAND

*1821. **Sardar Sochet Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amongst the plot owners in Delhi and New Delhi to whom notices have been given by the Delhi Improvement Trust for building houses thereon within six months, there are hundreds of displaced persons from Pakistan who lost all their property before coming over to India; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of exempting these persons from the operation of the rule on the subject?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) It is probable that a few of those on whom notices have been served by the Delhi Improvement Trust are displaced persons. But as the plots were sold some years ago, their number cannot be large.

(b) It is understood that the Trust will not take any action on the notices issued by them pending the report of the Committee which Government have recently constituted to enquire into the working of the Trust.

Sardar Sochet Singh: When was this order issued cancelling the notice?

Shri Santhanam: It must have been issued after the appointment of the Committee.

Shri B. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if building materials would be made available to these persons on whom notices have been served?

Shri Santhanam: If a private party wants to build, he is entitled to buy building materials. I do not see what the hon. Member wants.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps he means the controlled materials.

Shri Santhanam: So far as articles which are under control are concerned, every attempt will be made to help them.

Sardar Sochet Singh: When was the Committee appointed and when is the report expected?

Shri Santhanam: I have got the information here. The order appointing the Committee was issued on the 14th April, 1950.

گیانی جی - ایس - مسافر : کیا گورنمنٹ اجبات پر غور کر سکتی ہے کہ ایسے
 دستاویز پر ساس چلکے پاس پڈت ہیں انکو مکن بنانے کیلئے قرضے دے دیئے جائیں -

Giani G. S. Musafir: Will the Government consider the suggestion that displaced persons who own plots may be given loans to construct houses thereupon?

Shri Santhanam: I have already stated that attempts will be made to help them.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know with regard to the reply given to part (b) whether this stay order applies to all notices or only to notices in respect of plots belonging to displaced persons?

Shri Santhanam: I think it covers cases which have been referred to the Committee.

Sardar Sochet Singh: I have not got an answer to my question as to when the report of the Committee is expected.

Shri Santhanam: There is no time limit fixed in the resolution appointing the Committee. The Committee has been asked to start work without delay and give the report as early as possible.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN ARMY

*1823. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any female can be eligible for enrolment or employment in the regular army as at present constituted?

(b) If so, what is their number?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) Yes, in the Army Medical Corps and the Military Nursing Service.

(b) 19 officers in the Army Medical Corps and 405 Nursing Officers in the Military Nursing Service.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the number of females serving in the Air and Naval Forces?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got the figures separately. I have given the total number working in the Military Nursing Services.

Shri S. N. Das: Is there any corps, department or branch forming part of a regular army for which females may be eligible?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I think I have replied to this question previously. These are the only two branches to which women are eligible. They are not eligible for recruitment in other departments of the regular army.

Shri S. N. Das: What are the posts to which women are eligible?

Sardar Baldev Singh: They are eligible for appointment as Regular Nursing Officers, Temporary officers and as officers of the Auxiliary Nursing Service.

Shri S. N. Das: What is their number?

Sardar Baldev Singh: Regular Nursing Officers—117;—temporary officers; 183; Auxiliary Nursing service officers—105.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What are the minimum age and qualifications prescribed for women for entry into the services?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not in a position to give the information.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether our army recruits trained nurses or there is an element of giving them training in the hospitals?

Sardar Baldev Singh: Arrangements exist to give them training.

Dr. M. M. Das: Are they first given training and then recruited?

Sardar Baldev Singh: Trained nurses are recruited direct. After recruitment, some are also given training.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether these people serving in our Military Hospitals are permanent government servants or they are temporary?

Sardar Baldev Singh: They are members of the Services.

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN ARMY BOARD

*1824. **Sardar Sochet Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of State officers so far examined by the Indian Army Boards for Commission in the Indian Army;

(b) the number passed as fit for I.A. Commission;

(c) the number of State officers given substantive majors' rank and above; and

(d) the highest rank given to those selected for I.A.?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) 79.

(b) 16.

(c) and (d). The rank and seniority to be granted to each of the selected officers are still under consideration.

Shri Hossain Imam: What is the lowest rank of the officer in the Selection Board?

Sardar Baldev Singh: The Selection Board consists of fairly senior officers. I believe the lowest rank is Colonel.

Sardar Sochet Singh: What is the highest rank so far given to an officer selected?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated that rank and seniority are still under consideration.

Shri E. K. Chaudhuri: I could not follow what is meant by these "State Officers". Are they Military officers?

Sardar Baldev Singh: Of course, they are all Military officers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INCOME-TAX ALLOCATIONS

*1795. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state what is the share of Income-tax and jute duty for the State of Bihar in the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49?

(b) What are the principles which are being followed in the allocation of the same for different States?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table.

(b) The percentage of Income-tax and export duty on Jute to be assigned to the Provinces and the share of the Provinces in the amount so assigned have been determined after taking all relevant considerations and are prescribed by Law.

STATEMENT

Bihar's share of Income-tax and Jute Export Duty.

Year	Amount (In lakhs of Rs.)	
	Income-tax	Jute Export Duty
1945-46	2,88	9
1946-47	2,99	14
1947-48 (post-partition)	3,87	24
1948-49	5,423	39

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME

*1800. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state whether Government have instituted a scheme of Research Scholarships?

(b) What are the objects of the scheme and what are the conditions for awarding these scholarships?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Scientific Manpower Committee, Government have instituted 50 Senior and 150 Junior Research Training Scholarships in Universities and other educational and research institutions.

(b) The information is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix VII, annexure No. 39.*]

VISUAL EDUCATION

*1822. **Prof. Yashwant Rai:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutions in the Centrally Administered Areas where education is imparted through visual-Education;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to popularise this new method of education; and

(c) the amount spent by the Government for its introduction up to 1950?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MIGRATION OF DEOLALI CANTONMENT BOARD MEMBERS TO PAKISTAN

*1825. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the members of Deolali Cantonment Board have left for Pakistan?

(b) If so, have these seats been filled and if not, what are the reasons?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) I am aware of only one case of a Muslim member of the Deolali Cantonment Board having left for Pakistan and that too only temporarily.

(b) Action to remove an elected member of a Cantonment Board can be taken only when the member has absented himself for more than three consecutive months from the meetings of the Board and is unable to explain such absence to the satisfaction of the Board. Enquiries are being made to ascertain whether the facts of the case are such as to warrant the removal of the member and the filling of the vacancy caused thereby.

RESUMPTION OF PROPERTIES IN CANTONMENT AREAS

*1826. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state whether Governor-General's Order No. 179 of 1936 and subsequent orders relating to resumption of properties in Cantonment areas still exist?

(b) If so, in what Cantonments and to what extent?

(c) Does the above order contain the word "natives" and if so, to whom does this word apply?

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) I lay a statement on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes. As the hon. Member must be aware, it was the practice in those years to use this expression with reference to persons of Indian domicile.

STATEMENT

Governor-General-in-Council, General Order No. 179, dated the 12th September, 1936 applies to the following Cantonments in so far as sites granted under that order are concerned:

Agra, Allahabad, Almora, Ambala, Amritsar, Bakloh, Banares, Barrackpore, Bareilly, Chakrata, Dagshai, Dalhausie, Delhi, Dehra Dun, Dinapur, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Ferozepore, Jalapahar, Jhansi, Jullundur, Jutogh, Kanpur, Kasauli, Landour, Lansdowne, Lebong, Lucknow, Mathura, Meerut, Mhow, Nainital, Nasirabad, Ranikhet, Roorkee, Saugor, Shahjahanpur, Shimoga and Subhat.

RAID ON KAMPUR IN TRIPURA

*1827. **Shri Iyyunni:** Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Forces made an armed raid on Kamalpur in Tripura State on 1st April 1950 and looted the town;

(b) how much loss has been caused; and

(c) whether any one was injured or killed?

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

(b) The exact value of the property lost is being assessed but preliminary reports indicate that the loss will amount to several lakhs of rupees;

(c) No.

LOAN TO BURMA

*1828. **Shri Gopinath Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the amount of loan granted to the Government of Burma recently?

(b) What is the purpose of this loan?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): (a) The Government of India have agreed, subject to the sanction of Parliament to advance an amount of £ 1 million as their share of the loan offered by certain Commonwealth countries to the Government of Burma.

(b) The loan is to be used for internal expenditure on urgent requirements.

POLYANDROUS MARRIAGES

*1828-A. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state whether Government propose to collect statistics of polyandrous marriages in connection with the Census of 1951 if no reliable statistics are now available?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): No, Sir.

RENAISSANCE OF FOLK ART

*1828-B. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts for the renaissance of Folk Art in India;

(b) whether they have any comprehensive scheme for the purpose; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Calcutta Arts Conference in this regard?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) to (c). The hon. Member's attention is drawn to a statement placed on the Table on the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 40.]

NON-INDIAN I. C. S. OFFICERS IN JUDICIARY

*1828-C. **Shri Jnani Ram**: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of I.C.S. officers other than Indians in the Judicial department whose services were terminated after 15th August, 1947 in each State;
- (b) the number of such officers retained;
- (c) the reasons for retaining the officers, if any; and
- (d) the posts to which they have been retained?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix VII, annexure No. 41.*]

(c) Their option to serve India.

(d) They were retained not in individual posts but in Service and are entitled to be appointed to posts open to the members of the Service.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE ON OIL PURCHASES FROM DOLLAR AREAS

*1828-D. **Prof. S. N. Mishra**: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Commonwealth Conference on the purchase of Oil from dollar areas was held in London recently;
- (b) if so, whether the Conference was held at secretariat or ministerial level, and
- (c) the personnel of the Indian delegation and the result of the Conference?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthal): (a) to (c). There was no conference; but there was recently a routine exchange of information and views between the representatives of the U.K. Government and the Governments of other Commonwealth countries, about petroleum products. Mr. K. N. Kaul, Financial Adviser to the High Commissioner, attended these discussions on behalf of our High Commissioner.

TRANSFER OF U.K. STERLING LIABILITIES TO U. S. A.

*1828-E. **Dr. Deshmukh**: (a) Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the U.S.A. and U.K. Governments are considering the possibility of transferring Britain's sterling liabilities to U.S.A.?

(b) Have Government any information on this point?

(c) Were the Government of India informed of these talks?

(d) If not, has any communication been addressed to the U.K. Government that any conclusions reached by them with the U.S.A. Government would not be acceptable to them unless India is fully associated with the negotiations?

(e) If not, what steps do Government intend to take in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai): (a) and (b). Government have no information except that the question of U.K.'s sterling liabilities to other countries was one of the matters which the Tripartite Conference of the U.K., the U.S. and Canada held in September 1949 remitted for study by representatives of the three Governments.

(c) The Government of India have been informed by the U.K. Government that so far only factual information has been supplied to the U.S. and Canadian Governments.

(d) and (e). As early as November last, the Government of India informed the U.K. Government, through their High Commissioner in London, that they expected to be kept fully informed of the course of the discussions and that no commitments should be made affecting our interests without giving us ample time for consideration and consultation.

At the Co'ombo Conference, the Indian Economic Delegation again strongly emphasised these points which have been reiterated in a further communication recently made to the U.K. Government.

MYSORE HIGH COURT JUDGE

*1567. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 789 asked on 10th March 1950 regarding termination of services of a Mysore High Court Judge and state:

(a) whether the matter is still under the consideration of the Chief Justice of India; and

(b) if so, what stage the case of Shri Puttaraj Urs, former High Court Judge of Mysore, has reached?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). The matter is still under the consideration of the Chief Justice of India.

PREFABRICATED HOUSES

191. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government in erecting the pair of prototype houses including their costs on the premises of the Nursing Superintendent's quarters attached to Irwin Hospital?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): The exact cost of the pair of prototype houses is not known at present but it is subject to a ceiling price of £ 1,700 which includes the cost of crating and transport from England to Bombay. The cost of its transport from Bombay to Delhi is Rs. 3,660.

The cost of erection of the pair of houses in the Irwin Hospital premises is Rs. 5,824. The details are given below. For purposes of comparison the estimated costs of erecting the houses that will be manufactured in the Government Housing Factory (including the cost of the parts of the houses that will be constructed according to the traditional method) is also furnished.

	PROTOTYPES		Estimated Cost of erection for Mass Production (per house)	Remarks explaining the difference between columns 3 and 4
	Per pair	For one		
Cost of transport from Railway Station to site.	Rs. 690	Rs. 345	Rs. ..	Does not arise for the Delhi area.
Cost of Crane for handling of crates paid to Indian Air Force .	1,045	522		Transport, loading and unloading charges within 5 miles from the Factory will be included in the price of the house .
Cost of foundations and traditional construction (Out-houses, Compound Wall etc.).	2,247	1,124	735	Saving expected when large numbers are constructed.
Cost of erection of pre-fabricated parts.	600	300	200	Further reduction possible through training of erection teams and better equipment.
Cost of Gardening and Improvement of site.	250	125	35	Not normally included but provided in special cases as an extra item.
Cost of electrification including of fans.	425	213		— do—
Cost of Sanitary Installation .	567	284		—do—
TOTAL .	5,824	2,913	965	

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR REFORMATORY SCHOOL TEACHERS

192. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state whether Government have sent some teachers of certified schools and Borstal Schools to foreign countries for higher studies and training in dealing with juvenile offenders?

(b) Do Government propose to send another batch this year and if not, why not?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No. The limited funds at the disposal of this Ministry are required for more urgent projects.

Tuesday, 18th April, 1950



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME IV, 1950

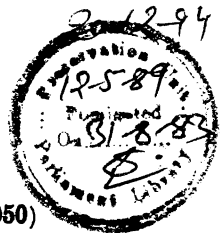
(1st April, 1950 to 20th April, 1950)

First Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



CORRIGENDA

to

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

1. No. 3, dated the 4th April, 1950,—
Page 2507, line 19 from bottom for "tribal and other backward areas" read "scheduled castes".
2. No. 4, dated the 5th April, 1950,—
Page 2561, line one under clause 182, for "—ssion" read "submission".
3. No. 6, dated the 8th April, 1950,—
(i) Page 2647, line 11 from bottom for "so" read "to".
(ii) Page 2648, line 9 after "far" read "so".
(iii) Page 2670, line 11 from bottom for "coutry" read "country".
4. No. 7, dated the 10th April, 1950,—
Page 2710, line 13 from bottom for "its" read "to", and in last line for last word "we read "were".
5. No. 9, dated the 12th April, 1950,—
(i) Page 2810, line 6 from bottom for "act" read "Act".
(ii) Page 2822, for existing line 19 from bottom read "into effect on 19th October, 1949 certain actions had been taken under the old".

. No. 10, dated the 14th April, 1950,—
Page 2832, for existing line 19 from bottom read "(Occupancy or tenancy right not to be extinguished)".

7. No. 11, dated the 15th April, 1950,—
(i) Page 2896, line 24 after "not" insert "go".
(ii) Page 2900, line 7 for "express" read "expenses".

8. No. 12, dated the 17th April, 1950,—
(i) Page 2922, line 12 for "Shri Hussain Iman" read "Shri Hussain Imam".
(ii) Page 2923, line 4 for "all the said" read "all is said".

(iii) صفحہ ۲۹۲۶ لائن ۴ میں -دسڑوورے کی جگہ ددھزارے پڑھیں -

(iv) Page 2930, between lines 10 and 11 from bottom insert "[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]".

(v) Page 2934, line 1 for "49, 5000" read "49, 500".

9. No. 14, dated the 19th April, 1950,—
(i) Page 3020, line 9 from bottom for "re-established" read "re-establish".
(ii) Page 3022, line 19 for "away" read "way".
(iii) Page 3024, line 12 for "members" read "numbers".
(iv) Page 3025, line 18 for "placed" read "displaced".
(v) Page 3026, line 19 from bottom for "by 375" read "be 375".
(vi) Page 3029, line 28 for "by" read "ly".
(vii) Page 3031, line 12 after "Notified" insert "Area".

(viii) पृष्ठ ३०३९, पंक्ति १२ में "जातना" के स्थान पर "जानता" पढ़ें और पंक्ति २२ में "जिस को की कि" के स्थान पर "जिस को कि" पढ़ें ।

(ix) Page 3044, line 20 for "Mr. Speaker" read "Mr. Deputy-Speaker".

10. No. 15, dated the 20th April, 1950.—

- (i) Page 3059, line 16 for "Article any" read "Article 327".
 - (ii) Page 3084, line 11 from bottom for "effected" read "effete".
 - (iii) Page 3087, line 26 against "9. Tripura" for "6" read "2".
 - (iv) Page 3104, line 8 for "Formaula" read "Formula".
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 18th April, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-50 A.M.

STATEMENT RE BILL RELATING TO FAIR WAGES

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, may I, with your permission, make a brief statement to the House in regard to a Bill relating to Fair Wages, which has been under the consideration of Government for some time and to which the Government and this House attach considerable importance. It was the intention of Government to introduce this Bill during the current session of Parliament. My Colleague, the Labour Minister, was anxious to do so and he tried his utmost to complete the preliminary stages of the preparation of the Bill in time for this, but I regret that this has not been possible. I hope, however, that this will not involve any ultimate delay in the passage of the measure through Parliament. The present session could not possibly have found time to discuss the measure and the most that could have been done was to introduce it during the last day or two of this session.

I should like to refer to the past history of this proposed Bill. A tripartite conference, consisting of representatives of Government, of employers and of employees, was convened in 1947. This Conference passed what has since come to be known as the Industrial Truce Resolution. This resolution laid down the principle that in devising an equitable system of remuneration to capital as well as labour, provision should be made for the payment of fair wages to labour. Government accepted that resolution in their statement on Industrial Policy dated 6th April, 1948 and announced their intention to set up suitable machinery for its implementation. Accordingly, a Central Advisory Council was established for examining the various measures envisaged in the Industrial Truce Resolution. That Council was assisted in its study of fair wages by a small tripartite committee, which submitted a unanimous report in June 1949. Government thereupon consulted all parties interested in the matter, including the States Governments. After this consultation, a Fair Wages Bill, based on the recommendations of the Committee, was prepared. This Bill embodies generally the agreements arrived at, which Government had previously accepted. Although the main principles of the Bill represent a large measure of agreement, there are numerous details which require further examination by some of the Ministries concerned. Because of this, it is not possible to introduce the Bill before Parliament adjourns on the 19th April. This examination is now taking place and it is the intention of Government

[Shri. Jawaharlal Nehru]

to proceed with this measure as speedily as possible. They are aware of the importance that labour attaches to this. I would like to assure labour as well as this House that Government are committed to the principle of fair wages as recommended to them by the tripartite committee. As soon as the present examination is over and the Bill takes final shape, it will be published, so that the public may have an opportunity of examining it in full even before the next session of Parliament. This will enable rapid progress to be made at the next stage.

STATEMENT *RE* OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING DEBATE ON APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a statement in regard to an observation I made in the course of the debate on the Appropriation (Railways) Bill on the 24th March, 1950. The observation was that in the House of Commons last year the Appropriation Bill took only one minute on each of the two occasions on which it came up before that House. The manner in which the debate in question is printed in Hansard gave me this impression.

I was referring to the second and third readings in the House of Commons of the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill, 1949. As regards the second reading on 28th July 1949, my observation was fully justified. (I was replying myself here to the debate on the second reading). The third reading was moved in the House of Commons on 29th July, 1949. Between the motion and its actual passing—both of which could not by themselves have occupied more than a minute—there is printed in Hansard a long debate under the heading "Africa" both at the commencement and at the top of every one of the 89 columns over which it extends. There is no specific reference in that debate to the Bill the third reading of which had been moved and Members participated in it only for a further discussion of the Annual Report on the Colonial Office.

It seems clear, however, that this amount of latitude is permissible in the House of Commons on the third reading of the Appropriation Bill and I regret to have given Parliament the inaccurate impression that it was not permitted there in 1949.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

CONSTITUTION (REMOVAL OF DIFFICULTIES) ORDER NO. II (AMENDMENT) ORDER

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table under clause (2) of article 392 of the Constitution, the Constitution (Removal of Difficulties) Order No. II (Amendment) Order, made by the President on 10th April 1950. [*Placed in Library. See No. P-35/50.*]

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Senthanam): I beg to move:

"That this Parliament do proceed to elect, in such manner as the hon. the Speaker may direct, three additional members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads for the year commencing the 1st April, 1950."

This is in pursuance of the change made in the Roads Resolution last week.

Mr. Speaker: The question is :

"That this Parliament do proceed to elect, in such manner as the hon. the Speaker may direct, three additional members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads for the year commencing the 1st April, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker : I have to inform hon. Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of three Members to the Standing Committee for Roads the programme of dates will be as follows:—

- (i) Nomination to be filed in the Notice Office upto 5 P.M. today.
- (ii) Election, if necessary, will be held on Wednesday, the 19th April, in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Parliament House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL

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

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums, from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums, from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Shri B. Das (Orissa) : This supplementary budget of Rs. 4,38,00,000 was passed last evening in the course of one hour and the House got pre-occupied, rather bogged in the discussion of the Supplementary Demand of Vindhya Pradesh under Demand 89A and the House could not do justice to the various new demands that have been made. Whilst I feel that the House must sanction the supplementary budget which the Finance Minister has got sanctioned and for which he wants this appropriation No. 2 from the Consolidated Fund of India, some of the items need further elucidation. I refer particularly to Grant No. 110. I accept the ruling of the Deputy-Speaker that there should be no 'Demand'. It should be 'Request' from the Government of India to this House to grant them their 'Request'. I hope the Finance Minister will consider that and next year in presenting the budget before the House the word 'Demand' should be abolished and the word 'request' should be introduced as has been ruled by the Deputy-Speaker last evening.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister got Rs. 1,83,33,000 sanctioned by the House for a loan to Burma. Out of this Rs. 50 lakhs is to be advanced towards the purchase of rice from Burma. I understood that the present Government of Burma occupies only a territory sixty miles roundabout Rangoon and have very little rice-producing tracts under their control. I understood that the rice-growing areas are situated in the rebel territory and I do not know how the Burmese Government will get the rice from the rebel territory and supply it to India. The hon. Finance Minister owes an explanation as to the conditions under which the money is to be paid to Burma.

Sir, I am vitally concerned about the loan of £1 million as our share of the £6 million which the Commonwealth countries are advancing to Burma. I did allude to this subject during the discussion on the Finance Bill. The hon. Finance Minister overlooked the fact that an explanation is due to this House on this new demand. While I do not object, in principle, to the fact that we should help Burma—I do desire that we should help Burma, an Asiatic country and our neighbour, when occasion arises—I do take exception to the fact that we should be dictated to by the high policy of the Commonwealth. It is true that our Prime Minister

[Shri B. Das]

visited Colombo and agreed to something. That agreement was never laid on the Table of this House nor are we cognisant of the high purpose behind that agreement, to which our hon. Prime Minister agreed. In the explanation it is said: "The amount of sterling would be released from the bloc Sterling Account No. 2." In regard to this loan of Rs. 1,83,33,000, with which we are helping the Burma Government, we are doing it very lightly at the dictation of the U. K. Government. The U. K. Government has blocked the No. 2 Sterling Account. My hon. friend the Finance Minister has no freedom to unblock that Sterling account. But when it suits the purpose of the U. K. Government it allows £1 million to be released out of that account. I do not think the hon. Finance Minister has made any statement on the floor of this House or has taken the House into his confidence as to the amount of sterling from Account No. 2 that would be available during 1950-51. Sometimes I have seen alarming news in the press that the U.K. wants to place some more handicaps in the way of India, so that the hon. Finance Minister cannot demand more dollar exchange from the U.K. from Account No. 2. Of course, the House has had no discussion on it and I am not going to touch upon the larger issue. But it affects our trade and industry and it affects our economic prosperity during 1950-51. I am rather concerned why U.K. should be so generous as to unblock £1 million out of this sterling account No. 2. Does it not show that this loan is being granted at the dictation of U.K.—a Commonwealth that exists with a King at its head, who has no power? I am sorry for being an aggressive nationalist and I cannot understand international relationships or Commonwealth relations. I do hope my hon. friend the Finance Minister will explain to us how this loan to Burma was manufactured at the Commonwealth Conference at Colombo. I do not want to know anything about the politics behind it from him. I want him to confine his observations to the financial relations which India has with U.K. and Burma.

Sir, I opposed the settlement of Burma's loan with India in the year 1935 or 1936. The amount fixed was very low, not what India had spent actually. I referred to it in my speech on the Finance Bill and I refer to it again today. In the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget for 1950-51, on page 55, the debt due from Burma stood as follows:

	Lakhs Rs.
1938-39	49,73
1949-50	48,15
1950-51	48,15

As far as I recollect for five or six years since the Japanese occupied Burma no annual payment has been made to us out of the 48 crores. I have always maintained on the floor of this House that this loan is properly chargeable to U.K., which should have borne this loan. In the Settlement between U.K., Burma and India our representatives never attempted to transfer this loan burden from the shoulders of Burma to U.K. I know Burma is in an extremely weak financial position. I do not think that the Finance Minister can expect any payment in the near future and yet this loan of 183 lakhs has to be repaid within the maximum period of two years, the rate of interest being the same as that earned by the Government of India on the sterling securities, which will be handed over to the Burmese Government. If Burma has not honoured a debt which is forty times the size of the present one, I would like to know what negotiations are taking place between the Governments of India and Burma about the repayment of the Rs. 48 crores outstanding. The Burmese Government at one time had almost turned Communist. Then it became a Republic and it has again come into the fold of the so called Commonwealth and is taking a loan through the dictation of U.K. from India, Pakistan, Ceylon and

other countries. I would like to know if Burma will honour the repayment of this Rs. 183 lakhs which is going to be lent now and whether their promises are to be believed in the matter of the repayment of the Rs. 48 crores that is due to India. Our Prime Minister has agreed to the loan and I do not wish to raise my lone voice in opposition. In the matter of financial relations there must be certain principles of propriety that must be observed and Burma has not observed them. I am not happy over it. U.K. took over Aden over which we had sunk Rs. 12 crores without any payment and now it is the case of Burma. I have met Britishers who were holding high offices in India and even after our independence they want us to help Burma. But they also want us to write off the pre-separation debt. Have any negotiations taken place with the Government of India through British agencies, that the Rs. 48 crores debt should be written off? If it is to be written off, it is to be written off by U.K. and not by India! I hope a satisfactory explanation will be given by the hon. Finance Minister to convince this House that Burma is a friendly country.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words about the loan that the Government of India propose to make to the Government of Burma. It is stated in the Memorandum supplied to us that in response to the request from the Burma Government the Governments of Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Australia and the United Kingdom agreed to grant a loan of £6 million to that Government. The share of the Government of India would be limited to £1 million. This loan is to be given in support of the Burmese currency and would be repaid within a maximum period of two years.

I am sure, Sir, that the Government of Burma has the sympathy of every Indian in the difficulties with which it is faced. I personally welcome the help that has been extended to her by the Members of the Commonwealth though Burma does not form part of the Commonwealth. Yet, I should like to repeat what my hon. friend Mr. Das said earlier about the failure of the Government of India to inform this House fully of the circumstances in which they agreed to grant this loan. It is true that news has appeared from time to time in the papers to the effect that the Government of India had agreed to advance £1 million to the Government of Burma, but I think we should have been given fuller information than was contained in this news item. This loan is being given in order to strengthen the Burmese currency. I should like to know whether the currency position of the Government of Burma was fully examined in the Commonwealth Conference that was recently held in Colombo, and the experts of the Governments that took part in the Conference were able to examine the currency position in Burma and to advise their Governments after a close examination of it that the loan that they were prepared to make would be sufficient to place Burmese currency on a stable foundation. If the position is such as to require more help than the Commonwealth Governments are willing to give to it, there may be a real danger that the loan that is now being given may prove so insufficient as to endanger its own repayment. I know that the position of the Government of Burma has improved appreciably during the last few years and it is in no spirit of unfriendliness to that Government that I have asked Government for more information on this point. I hope, as I have already said, that the conclusion was come to that the loan is being given in pursuance of the opinion of the Commonwealth Conference that it would suffice for the purpose for which it was being given. But I should like to be assured by the Finance Minister on this point. If, however, the Burma Government asked for a bigger loan and the amount that will be advanced to it by the Commonwealth Governments mentioned in the Memorandum will not prove enough, how have the Government of India assured themselves that the loan that they are giving in agreement with several other Commonwealth Governments would serve its purpose as to ensure its repayment?

The second point that I should like to deal with relates to the outstanding pre-separation debt that Burma owes to India. My hon. friend Mr. Das referred to it

[Pandit Kunzru]

very briefly, but I should like to give the House a little more information on the subject than he did. When Burma was separated from India, the debt that Burma had to repay to India amounted a little over Rs. 52 crores. Payment continued to be made by the Government of Burma in fulfilment of its liabilities up to the end of the year 1941-42. The occupation of Burma by the Japanese in 1942 made it impossible for the Government of Burma to take any further steps to discharge its obligations and since that year no payment has been made by the Government of Burma towards the reduction of the outstanding debt. Nor has any interest been paid on it so far. The total amount recoverable from the Government of Burma was about Rs. 48 crores in 1942, but if the interest due on it be added to it, I shall not be surprised if the total amount due from the Government of Burma mounts up to about Rs. 60 crores. I do not want the Government of India to press the Government of Burma unduly when it is involved in very serious difficulties, but I should like to know what the prospects in regard to the recovery of the money due to us are at the present time. I suppose that when the question of advancing this loan to the Government of Burma was considered in the Commonwealth Conference at Colombo the advisers of the Government of India took the amount outstanding from the Government of Burma into account, and if they did so, I suppose that they were also able to discuss this matter with the representatives of the Government of Burma and were able to receive an assurance that the amount due by the Government of Burma to the Government of India would be repaid as soon as the position of the Government of Burma improved somewhat.

You, doubtless, know, Sir, that it was thought by the representatives of India in the Central Legislature when the pre-partition debt from Burma was fixed that Burma had been treated rather favourably. It is a matter of anxiety to us, therefore, that the amount due to us from Burma should be recovered without undue delay. According to the agreement arrived at between India and Burma, the debt was to be paid, I believe, in forty-five years. If that agreement still subsists, I shall only say that steps should be taken to draw the attention of the Government of Burma to it and to ask them to assure the people of India that they would take such steps as they could, sooner rather than later, in order to meet their obligations.

My hon. friend Mr. Das thought that it was rather surprising that the loan to be advanced by the Government of India to the Government of Burma should be paid out of India's locked up sterling account in London. He commented adversely on the attitude of the United Kingdom in this respect and suggested that the United Kingdom should have taken over this responsibility on itself. I venture to differ from him on this point.

Shri B. Das : I was referring to the pre-separation debt.

Pandit Kunzru : If that is so, then it is unnecessary to refer to the remark that he made.

Before I sit down, I should like to say that although we are a poor country it is a pride to us that we have been able to lend some assistance to a neighbouring country in her distress. I hope, Sir, that we shall follow a similar policy in regard to all our neighbours. We may be poor but we can never be so poor in spirit as to be unwilling to share the little that we have with all those who need our assistance and ask for it.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa) : Sir, in this connection, I specially refer to the loan to Burma as also the rice transaction connected with it. When this question came up before the Standing Finance Committee, my hon. friend the Minister of Finance will recollect that I had opposed the whole thing on three grounds, *viz.* (1) political; (2) economic; and (3) on the ground of the safety of Indians in Burma. It is fair that I should explain my position though I must admit that they are different from those put forward by my two hon. friends who have preceded me.

My hon. friends—and particularly my hon. friend representing the Uttar Pradesh—gave a graphic account and provided detailed information on the question of the loan. Therefore, I need not cover that ground. It is enough to state that England has been good enough to release £1 million from our locked up sterling account. Which are the countries in the Commonwealth that have agreed to advance this loan of £6 million? First is Great Britain, which pays the maximum amount. Then come Australia, India, Pakistan and Ceylon. All that Great Britain has in Burma are her vested interests—very few Britishers live there. So the question of their safety is not much of her concern. She is mainly concerned with the protection of British interests and British assets in Burma. After Great Britain, comes Australia. Australia is concerned in the matter because she is an Asian country interested in Indian Ocean and is besides a member of the Commonwealth. Taking India, Pakistan and Ceylon, we find that very few Ceylonese live in Burma and Ceylon has little interest except her sympathy and her desire for coordination of Commonwealth activities in this regard. Then there are two other States—Pakistan and India—which are neighbours of Burma. Let it be clearly understood that we have expressed in no unequivocal terms that we fully sympathise with Burma in her struggle to restore internal peace, with a view to seeing that she is firmly established as a free and independent republic. To that we are committed and we are prepared to stand by it. We are naturally anxious to see that the Government of India does everything possible in this regard to help the people of Burma. Sir, it is a well known fact that we have about a million of our countrymen still left in Burma. The areas of India which are most concerned about these people are Bengal, Orissa and Madras. Whenever we go home there are anxious eyes from thousands of homes waiting to hear what little information they could get from us and the information that we are able to give is precious little. These people are being squeezed out of Burma and the Government of India itself is not able to help very much in this respect. All that they do is to leave the unfortunate people of India and specially of Orissa either in Calcutta or in the harbour of Vizagapatam to take care of themselves. I do not know what has become of my representations on this matter, but I believe something may have been done. Therefore, the greater should be the concern and anxiety of India to see that the people who are in Burma are taken care of, not only by the Government of India in the area within their jurisdiction, but also within the rebel-held area. It must be clearly admitted that there are a number of Indians also in the rebel-held areas of Burma. What is their position? Up till now the Government of India took one definite course of action—that she is absolutely neutral in the internal troubles of Burma, however much she was concerned about the peace and prosperity of Burma. There is a Sanskrit prayer—

“Loka samastha sukhino bhavanthu”

which means that let the people of the whole world be content and prosperous. More so is it our wish in regard to our neighbour, Burma.

Sir, once the idea goes into Burma that you are helping the Government, what is going to be the condition of the lakhs of our people. They are left to themselves in the rebel-held areas of Burma. Those of us who have been following the events in Burma know too well that the attitude of the rebel administration has undergone a transformation in the direction of animosity towards Indians as such. Is it fair under these circumstances that you should do anything which will make their position worse? Is it fair that you should create difficulties in their way, particularly when you yourself are not in a position to help them in any way?

Coming to the Government-held areas, what have you been able to do? Government employees, simply because of the fact that they are Indians are given notice to quit. Though there is only a small percentage of Muslims in the Arakan, the Government of Burma have recently taken a Muslim Minister who, I believe, was sworn in just a week back. What has the Government of India been able to do

[Shri Birwanath Das]

about Indians in Burma? You have not been able to do anything; you have not been able to solve any of the problems facing Indians in Burma; nor have you been able to give any protection to your countrymen in Burma. So far as England is concerned, she wants to take care of her assets in Burma; that is why she lays the trap wide open for you. Well, if you plead that you do not have money, Britain says "I will give you money." But, how?—by releases from the sterling balances. You can take a million pounds from the locked up balances for the purpose of advances to Burma. Why do you become a prey to this trap? I ask this straight question as I did ask in the Standing Finance Committee. As I have already said, in this transaction Britain is a definite gainer. Australia is a rich country; it can afford to spend some money for the security of her interests in the Far East. So far as Pakistan is concerned, she is a theocratic State. She gets at least a Muslim taken in as a Minister, to look after Muslim interests in Burma. Ceylon is a friendly State of Burma.

But what has India to gain by this arrangement? In 1935, you have paid all the moneys that Burma owed Britain by clearing accounts with Britain. But have you been able to realise during these fifteen years? I, therefore, stand here to record my strongest protest against this attitude of generosity displayed by Government and also supported by my two hon. friends. How could a poor man, with nothing to fall back upon, with a minus Budget, afford to be generous? Why should our generosity run so amuck, when you cannot afford any protection to the people left in the rebel-held areas? Are you helping them, or are you leaving them to the sweet mercies and whims and caprices of the rebels?

Coming now to the rice deal, Rs. 50 lakhs are going to be advanced to Burma. To whom are you going to advance the money—not to the people who grow rice, not to the people who are in possession of rice, but to the Government and a set of businessmen, who are no better than middlemen. They take your money. They do not have any rice; nor can they deliver the goods. But all the same they will take a good slice of the money you are advancing. Why this generosity? About 40 per cent. of the sale money constitutes the rehabilitation tax of the Burma Government and we have been paying this tax for the last three or four years—ever since Burma was recovered from the hands of the Japanese.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Why this generosity I ask. To what account does this generosity go? We should have to accept it because the Government has done a deal, and good, bad or indifferent we have to accept it. But I must record my protest and warn the Government that they are treading on ground which is neither fair to themselves nor to the people.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): Sir, I do not understand many aspects of this Supplementary Demand for Grant. I have never been a Finance Minister in my life. (*An hon. Member*: Wait). Many of the Members, I think about 99 per cent. of the Members of this House have not had the predicament of being a Finance Minister. God forbid that I ever become one. The Finance Minister generally has to put up an overbearing appearance. I have seen Finance Ministers in my own Province before whom the other Ministers and the Chief Minister and even the Governor quail. They can give you pains by refusing the use of a carpet or of some furniture. I have seen Finance Ministers in some places going to the length of refusing even an additional pot! That sort of thing I can understand. But I do not understand a Finance Minister who has a very genial appearance but at the same time has a steel heart. That is the inimitable position of our Finance Minister. But today I very much appreciate his giving this loan to Burma. If the *mahajans* of the country only follow his noble example, many of us who sometimes have to go about asking for loan would find ourselves in a much better position!

In this particular case of Burma, Burma is a debtor and I understand she is already indebted to the extent of Rs. 49 crores to my hon. friend, and Burma is a debtor who has not been able to pay the interest. Burma is a debtor, if I may say so, whose security is in a very doubtful condition. At the same time we have lent her this money in order that she may stand on her legs. Burma is a country which has not only borrowed from us but has gone round borrowing from different countries. If in ordinary life there was a debtor who had not paid his past debt of a huge amount, if there was a debtor who had not paid the interest thereon, if there was a debtor who had gone about the country asking for loans, that debtor would not certainly have been favoured with a further loan.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh) : This is high politics.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : But in this particular case Burma has been favoured with a loan. Here another point has also been raised by my hon. friend Mr. Das that the Finance Minister had to agree to this loan because that was the decision of the hon. the Prime Minister. I submit that it is a very salutary principle in one sense that when a Prime Minister wants to incur a particular expenditure the Finance Minister ought not to stand in his way, because after all the Prime Minister is responsible for the policy of the Government and if in carrying out that policy he agrees to incur any expenditure the financial canons ought not to prevail over his expression of the policy.

Shri Kamath : That is vetoed sometimes.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : Sometimes I have found even the Prime Minister's decisions are vetoed by the Finance Minister. I want to know in this particular case whether this loan has been agreed to because the Finance Minister had already committed himself in the Commonwealth Conference or at some other conference to that extent or whether this loan has been granted after due consideration of all the facts and circumstances and taking into account the best interests of India, because normally speaking to such a debtor this loan should not have been given.

There is one other point which must be agitating the mind of every Member of this House: is there a reasonable possibility of recovering the amount which Burma owes to us? We know that we ought to be very friendly with Burma because the Province of Assam is on the border of Burma and our weal and woe to a great extent depends on the welfare of that country. But the question is whether the saner elements in that country who are against Communism will be able to exercise the influence which they ought to exercise. On that particular matter we have very grave doubts and I say that Assam being on the border is in very great danger because the moment the Reds are able to capture Burma then the overrunning of Assam will be only a matter of moments.

Shri Kamath : Moments?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : Yes, because already we suspect, and we have very good reasons to suspect—I am talking of course as a layman, I am not in the confidence of the C.I.D. or any Military Intelligence Department—but we believe that already a large number of persons who owe their allegiance to the Burmese Communists are in our Province and they are biding for time when they can overrun the country and capture it.

Shri Kamath : Have not they been arrested or liquidated?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : I do not know, but there have been some cases of arrests, of course, of Burmese Communists in the Province. As a matter of fact, on the incident which took place in Dibrugarh in which a Sub-Inspector of Police was murdered in the meeting, it is believed by those persons who were present at that meeting and by persons in the town that the whole thing was an outcome of the design of a Communist leader and the Communists had mixed themselves up in that gathering. Anyway we are very much interested in seeing that Burma is

[Shri R. K. Chaudhuri]

completely rid of Communism and that they do not find a way through Burma to conquer India. We are very much interested in that. Therefore, if this sum of money would in any way help us in achieving that object, that money should not be grudged by anyone of us. We see that Ceylon which is far off from Burma, and normally speaking the interest of Ceylon is not associated with Burma to the extent that we are interested, has helped Burma by giving this loan. Therefore, I personally should not grumble at this expenditure. I thought that the hon. the Finance Minister would be more explicit and when a question on this subject was put some time ago on the floor of the House, he asked us not to press it. He gave us an assurance that he will give the reasons when the demand for the money is made before the House. I hope he will be good enough to clear the position today and let us know fully. I hope he will also take us into his confidence as my hon. friend Mr. Das has said and let us know fully the reasons for giving this note.

The other point to which I wish to refer is the supplementary demand which is being made for the expenditure for the displaced persons. As you know, a very paltry sum of only Rs. 6 crores was provided for in the Budget and a nominal expenditure of Rs. 40,000 or so only....

Dr. Matthai : May I suggest that this particular item which the hon. Member refers to is in respect of relief and rehabilitation in Vindhya Pradesh and the general question which my hon. friend is raising now, I think, was discussed thoroughly during the Budget discussion.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : I am not going to raise a general question, Sir. I only incidentally referred.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The items relating to Vindhya Pradesh were not included in the annual financial statement. This is no doubt a new service but the general observations regarding rehabilitation, etc. are not relevant to this issue.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : I am not raising the general issue. Sir, I had understood that under the canons of financial rules that you come for a supplementary demand only after you have known the whole position and how much amount you require as a supplementary demand etc. Now in the beginning of this financial year, one should not expect an additional demand of such a small amount to come before this House.

Dr. Matthai : The whole question of providing for the public expenditure of Vindhya Pradesh was not present to Government's minds when the budget proposals were being formulated. It is only since then that Vindhya Pradesh was taken over as a Centrally Administered State. Therefore all these proposals.....

Pandit Kunzru : I have not heard a single word of what the hon. Minister said.

Dr. Matthai : I am very sorry. The point that my hon. friend Mr. Robin¹ Kumar Chaudhuri raised was why such a very small provision is made regarding rehabilitation. But that question arises with regard to every proposal for expenditure we are making in respect of Vindhya Pradesh, because the question of taking over Vindhya Pradesh as a Centrally Administered area had not been considered at the time the Budget proposals were being formulated.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri : I understand the view point of my hon. friend and that being the position, I have not much to say on that point, but I think I would commit no great offence if I request the hon. the Finance Minister to be far more liberal in the matter of expenditure on the displaced persons, which expenditure we never anticipated would come to such a huge one, as the circumstances have compelled us to anticipate. That is all that I have to say.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):
Sir, I move :

"That the question be now put,"

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. N. Shukla (Vindhya Pradesh) : The whole debate was about Vindhya Pradesh and so many hon. Members of the House took part in the debate. In spite of this hon. Members who are primarily concerned about Vindhya Pradesh have not been given sufficient time to speak on this subject which mainly concerns them. It is indeed very pitiable that we had not got time to express our views as this concerns us mostly and yesterday unfortunately the guillotine was applied and today the same thing has been done and I do not know if next year also this will be repeated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : I had accepted the closure and I have called upon the hon. Minister to reply. There are two clauses in this and I shall put one clause after another and then, I shall give the hon. Member a chance to speak on this.

Dr. Matthai : I will first deal with the question of the rice loan to which reference was made, I think, both by my hon. friend, Mr. Das and also my hon. friend, Mr. Biswanath Das. I would like to get that small question out of the way first.

I will say straightaway that it is not likely that the whole of this loan would be utilised by the Burma Government.

The basis on which this loan has been agreed to is that those advances would be made only if satisfactory terms are reached in our discussions with Burma as regards the price, as regards the quantity to be supplied, as regards the time of delivery and so on and if we do not reach satisfactory terms of agreement, the question of making an advance would not arise.

If we are able to get anything like the quantity of rice that we may require—I think, it might be of the order of 100,000 tons of rice—and take the price at about £38 a ton, the total value of rice we are likely to take from Burma would be about Rs. 5 crores. This amount of Rs. 50 lakhs would then mean an advance of about 10 per cent. The rates of interest would be commercial rates of interest ; it is so difficult to tell what they would be and that would again be a matter of negotiation ; but since the rice season is not likely to last more than six months, I take it that the rate that would be applicable would be the rate prevailing in regard to short term advances lasting not more than six months, that is to say, a maximum rate of two per cent. On the whole, the rice loan is a proposition to which no serious objection on business grounds could be raised.

I come now to the main loans. Both Mr. Das and Pandit Kunzru raised important points in regard to this loan, to which I should like to make a reference. In the first place the question has been raised : "Why is it that the House was not kept fully informed of what was going on?" I should like to give the House a brief history of the procedure followed by the Government of India in regard to this loan. This question was raised long before the Colombo Commonwealth Conference. I think it must have been more than a year before the Colombo Conference was held that the question of a possible loan to the Burma Government was raised with us, and over a very considerable period we held expert investigations on the precise issues which were raised by Pandit Kunzru. We satisfied ourselves in the circumstances that as a financial transaction, balancing certain factors against others, in view of the interest that we have in the stability of Burma, this was a loan that we could agree to. I want to assure the House that there was a good deal of preliminary expert consultations in which we were kept fully in the picture before the Commonwealth Conference was held at Colombo.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): Who was the main negotiator? How much has been contributed by each Commonwealth country?

Dr. Matthai: Well, I do not wish to disclose the precise details of these preliminary consultations, but I can assure hon. Members that we were fully in the picture and the amount of the loan that we have agreed to, the form in which it should be paid, the amount of interest that should be paid, the period within which we should be repaid these, are all matters in which, if I am not disclosing an official secret, I practically took the initiative. When first the question was raised by the hon. Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister for External Affairs, many of the suggestions he accepted were not merely with my agreement, but at my instance.

Then, after the Colombo Conference.....

Shri Tyagi: I was anxious to know whether we have agreed to this at the bidding of other countries or voluntarily ourselves.

Dr. Matthai: Entirely of our free will. I was inclined at first, on certain considerations which my hon. friend Pandit Kunzru raised, such as the size of the existing loan, to turn down the proposal. There were however important political considerations. We are interested in the stability and prosperity of this great neighbour country with whom we have had very friendly relations over a long period of years. It is a consideration which weighed with the Government and quite rightly.

At the Colombo Conference the Prime Minister expressed his agreement on behalf of India and thereafter I placed the matter before the Standing Finance Committee and as far as I can remember, the Standing Finance Committee gave us almost unanimous approval. It was after that that we expressed our agreement officially to the United Kingdom. But, we made it perfectly clear.....

Shri Biswanath Das: May I state, Sir, that I protested and recorded my dissent? So, it could not have been unanimous.

Dr. Matthai: I said almost unanimous. In expressing our official agreement to the United Kingdom Government, we made it clear that our agreement would be subject to ratification by Parliament. I knew that at that time that I would have to come to the House with a Supplementary Demand and that would give the House an opportunity to express its opinion on this matter.

Pandit Kunzru raised, and also my hon. friend Mr. B. Das, the question of the existing loan. In the main, the facts that Pandit Kunzru gave are correct. We took this matter fully into account before agreeing to this loan. If we take the principal of the loan outstanding, and also the interest outstanding, and add to them the pensionary liabilities of the Burma Government in respect of pensions before separation, the best estimate that one could make of the total amount outstanding from the Burma Government would be about Rs. 64 crores. We took that fully into account. But in the special circumstances in which the request for this loan was made, we thought that in spite of this outstanding loan, it was our duty to participate in this Commonwealth loan.

Pandit Kunzru raised the question, is there any prospect of the existing loan being repaid, or is that going to lapse altogether. We are in continuous discussion with the Burma Government; the matter has not by any means been dropped. It was a little while ago that we sent our last communication to the Burma Government on the question. The question is a live question and we are pursuing it. We are not going to let it be dropped.

I think the objections raised to this loan have been based on two grounds: is there any possibility of the amount being recovered and is it likely that the amount will be recovered when there is a very substantial loan still outstanding. These considerations were taken into account fully at the time of the financial investigations which preceded the Commonwealth Conference.

As regards the position of Indians in Burma, that also we have taken into account. It seems to us from a long term point of view, the position of our fellow countrymen in Burma would be strengthened rather than weakened by a friendly gesture of this kind.

That, I think, Sir, covers most of the points which have been raised. I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind that this is a loan which it is worth while for the House to agree to. I do not think in the circumstances we could do anything else and I am confident the friendliness of the gesture that we are making would be amply repaid.

Pandit Kunsru : May I put a question to the hon. Minister ? Have the Government of India satisfied themselves that a loan of one million pounds would suffice to place the Burmese currency on a stable basis ?

Dr. Matthai : It is not a question of placing the Burma Government currency on a sound basis. I would like to explain the position. The purpose of this loan is expenditure on internal matters. It is not for the purpose of making any purchase abroad. If they want to spend money internally, they must be able to raise it in the form of Burma currency. The purpose that this loan is going to serve is as a currency reserve against the additional currency issued by the Burma Government for the purpose of financing internal transactions. At the time when these financial consultations were going on, the precise level at which this loan should be fixed was one of the most important matters under examination. The matter was examined both from the point of view of our ability to provide the loan and from the point of view of the amount they need and this figure was reached as a result of the examination.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

“ That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums, from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1951, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri Hossain Imam (Bihar) : I wish to say a few words.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : There are no amendments. I shall take the Bill clause by clause. The hon. Member will have a chance in the Third Reading stage.

Clauses 1 to 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Dr. Matthai : I beg to move :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

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.]

श्री एस० एन० शुक्ला : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह ऐप्रोप्रिएशन बिल

Shri S. N. Shukla : Mr. Speaker, this Appropriation Bill.....

Mr. Speaker : Can the hon. Member address the House in English ? If so, it will be better, otherwise the hon. Finance Minister will not be able to follow it.

Shri S. N. Shukla : Mr. Speaker, this Bill which is now going to be passed into an Act concerns mainly Vindhya Pradesh. This demand was not incorporated in the original demand on account of the reasons stated in this booklet and now fortunately it is before us. Before it was brought here I had great hopes that because this year Vindhya Pradesh had been turned into a Centrally Administered area and brought under the care of the Centre therefore, it would receive greater attention from the Centre but I now feel much disappointed. The budget for Vindhya Pradesh can at the most be said to be a police budget, because no provisions have been made for the welfare activities of the State. It is common knowledge and it has been said here that ours is a deficit State and it was believed to be one of the main reasons for the proposed merger of this State into the adjoining provinces and it was said so many times on the floor of the House. Now that idea has been given up and it is being said that it will be retained as a State for some time. I do not know what it means; however, the idea seems to be that the deficit must be somehow met and so merciless a cutting down of expenditures has been resorted to. We heard that the deficit was about 60 to 70 lakhs but now it is not so. It is now almost balanced or the Centre might spend a few lakhs more because on the receipt side amount shown is about Rs. 2,23,00,000. But one can easily see that no ample provision has been made for the nation-building departments. On the other side we have very high salaried officers. The other day my friend Mr. Hossain Imam said that there were very low salaried officers but I say there are also very high salaried officers like the Chief Commissioner of Vindhya Pradesh who receives Rs. 4,000 per month. The Chief Secretary and the I.G. of Police get Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000 each respectively annually and on the other side you have poor teachers getting Rs. 10 or 15 who are in thousands. You have many *chaprasis* and clerks being turned out on the plea of retrenchment and vague promises are given to them of their re-employment at some future date but I do not think it will ever come as the retrenchment process is continuing. Every day the employees are threatening the authorities to go on strike and I do not know what will be result of that. You will be surprised to know that during the administration of the Rulers in the Rewa State, English education upto Matric was free after which tuition fees had to be paid. When Rewa was integrated the same rules were applied even to Bundelkhand. Now it is rumoured—and perhaps it is a certainty also and hon. the Minister of Finance will be knowing that tuition fees will be levied and the poor guardians will have to pay tuition fees—particularly those that have been retrenched from services. Then provision has been made for Rs. 43 lakhs for education. During the Rewa administration one crore of rupees was obtained from the reserve from Rewa alone and the then Government decided that Rs. 25 lakhs out of that would be earmarked for establishing a University. A Committee was appointed with the consent of the Centre and it examined all the aspects of the question of establishing a University but all of a sudden that committee was wound up and the Rs. 25 lakhs have also gone. They may be in the Treasury of the Government but they are not for the welfare of the people. This is a very sad commentary on the financial affairs of Vindhya Pradesh. On the one side you say it is a deficit province and on the other you say somehow things are being managed and retrenchment is still going on. What provisions have you made for the departments concerned with the welfare of the people? Take the Public Health Department for which you have provided only Rs. 3 lakhs. The area of Vindhya Pradesh is 24,000 sq. miles and the population is 35 lakhs which is spread over this area. You provide Rs. 3 lakhs for public health and that will be exhausted in the salaries of the officers of the Public Health Department. What about the medicines and the rest? In Chhattarpur district plague has been raging for the last four or five months and people have been dying like cats and dogs and yet you have provided only Rs. 50,000 for epidemics. Is it sufficient?

Take the Agricultural Department on which I would lay special emphasis. In the whole of Vindhya Pradesh there are about 90 lakh acres of cultivable land

and only half of it is under cultivation and the remainder is lying idle. How are you going to cultivate the remaining 45 lakh acres? The people cannot do it, because they are poor and so the State must come forward. You have only provided that Rs. 3 lakhs for the Agricultural Department and with the two rotten tractors that the Government has purchased do you think you can develop that area, namely 45 lakh acres of land? It is not a trifling area and if it is developed well it will help to some extent in solving the food deficit of the country as a whole.

As regards roads Vindhya Pradesh has got a part of the national highways as well. One national highway starts from Sutna on the G.I.P. and goes right up to Harpalpur crossing the Ken river. There is a culvert across the river which is submerged during the rains and both parts of Vindhya Pradesh are separated from each other for four months during the rains. The rain is about 50 inches in a year. People from one side cannot go to the other side and it is very dangerous to cross the river in a boat, as it is a mountainous river. There is no provision for the construction of a bridge over that river. Last year tenders were invited through the papers for the construction of a bridge. I have seen this year also the original demands for grants but there was no mention of any bridge across the Ken river.

Out of 35 lakhs of people the scheduled tribes number about four lakhs and you have provided for their uplift Rs. 5,000. It is a mockery. Among the several items which you have to provide for according to the financial rules this item being one something seems to have been provided nominally. But this is not going to help. I still think that Vindhya Pradesh is a deficit Province. You have cut down expenditure and turned out people from their employment. Hence there is great dissatisfaction and even on the roads and streets of Vindhya Pradesh you will see people abusing the Congress Government. They say that they were better off under their old rulers and that they never expected such a rule under the Congress regime. Our mouths are gagged there. I only said: "Our budget is coming. We are under the Centre and let us hope that we will fare well." Now the budget is here and they will see it and the intensity of their abuses will grow. That is the position.

Sir, I do not understand what is the policy of the Government towards Vindhya Pradesh. Statements are made on the floor of this House which go to show that there is a lurking desire in the mind of the Government to finish that State for ever. I do not know why they are not able to finish it. There may be some reasons for it. Our condition is just like that of a half-fed sheep. Either keep us fully fed and maintain us like human beings or just finish us. We do not like to live in this state of suspense any longer.

As regards the industrial development of that Province it has vast potentialities. One part of Vindhya Pradesh has the richest coal mines in the world. I am not sure whether it is true but there are vast areas of coal mines. No provision has been made for exploiting them. After all it is a police budget and this sort of budget is not going to help Vindhya Pradesh. When the Province was a Union there was an idea of turning it into a Centrally Administered area and people there opposed it. We never said anything, though we could have done so. Now from Part B. it has become a Part C. State, going down a ladder below. We did not say a single word, for it was the Central Government which was doing it and therefore we did not oppose it. When we were silent we were under the impression that our condition will become better and then we would be able to explain to our people "You have now come under the Centre and you are in a better condition." Now we cannot say that. I do not know how to reconcile myself to this state of affairs. Whatever the provision in the Budget, the Centre will be able to maintain Vindhya Pradesh as a Centrally Administered area for a very long time but with this sort of expenditure the Province is not going to develop on sound lines so that it may come on a par with the Parts A. and B. States. My request is that the Government should make its

[Shri S.N. Shukla]

policy clear about Vindhya Pradesh. *Bona fide* if they believe that it should be retained as a Centrally Administered Area they should bring some money from their own treasure and invest it for the development of the area. In that case I assure you that after five years it will pay you double and treble whatever you spend for the welfare of the people.

Mr. Speaker : Dr. Matthai.

Shri Dwivedi (Vindhya Pradesh) : Sir, can I not have an opportunity to speak ?

Mr. Speaker : I think all the necessary speeches have been made. Hon. Members will remember that we wish to end the session tomorrow. It is not possible to give a chance to each and every hon. Member who wishes to speak. One hon. Member from Vindhya Pradesh had a chance to speak fully over all the grievances of that State. Hon. Members have also got the chance to speak with reference to the Burma loans.....

Dr. Matthai : Sir, if I may supplement what you said from the Chair, the question of Vindhya Pradesh was discussed in some detail yesterday also by an hon. Member who was very well acquainted with the subject.

Shri Dwivedi : I wanted to submit, Sir, that yesterday too we rose many times but even today we have not been given an opportunity.....

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member knows that only those who technically catch the eye of the Speaker are entitled to speak. I need not go further into that. I am calling upon the hon. Finance Minister to reply. The hon. Finance Minister.

Dr. Matthai : Sir, I am rather at a loss to know how to meet the criticisms which have been made regarding the Supplementary Demands relating to Vindhya Pradesh. As I stated to the House yesterday, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister who is in charge of the Department is not able to be present here and he has asked me to express his regret to the House that matters of great importance have detained him elsewhere. So, the only way in which I can deal with the views which hon. Members have expressed is to indicate the broad lines on which we have formulated the budget proposals regarding Vindhya Pradesh.

The House will appreciate that the decision on the question of taking over Vindhya Pradesh as a Chief Commissioner's Area had to be taken at very short notice. Circumstances had developed in the Vindhya Pradesh Union in such a way that the hon. Minister of States felt, and felt quite rightly, that some immediate and fairly drastic changes had to be made in the administrative set-up of Vindhya Pradesh. I need not go, Sir, into the circumstances which made it necessary for the Government of India to take this step because as far as I can recollect this is one of the matters to which specifically the Deputy Prime Minister made reference in the speech he made on the Demand relating to the Ministry of States, and I do not want to go over the same ground again.

But the point, as far as I am concerned, is this, that this decision was taken suddenly and the Budget, so to speak, had to be improvised on such data as were available to me at the time. I may perhaps inform hon. Members that the manner in which public accounts have been kept in many of the States for which we are at present responsible, is unsatisfactory. The Auditor-General now has taken charge of the accounts of these States and I gather from him that the position is far from satisfactory. It was necessary for us to frame these budget proposals, both on the expenditure side and on the revenue side, on data the reliability and accuracy of which I am not by any means in a position to guarantee. We, therefore, had to make the best approximation we could in the circumstances. Hon. Members may be right in contending that if the expenditure proposals are of the kind set out in the budget, then Vindhya Pradesh is not likely to make the kind of

progress which Members who are interested in Vindhya Pradesh have every right to expect. But this is a provisional budget. This is a budget for a transitional period. All that we have done is to take the Vindhya Pradesh States bodily over as it stood, and make the best approximation we could with regard to the revenue resources available and the expenditure which is incurred at present. And, during the period that is now before us, so long as Vindhya Pradesh remains a Centrally Administered State, it would be an obligation, which the very fact that we have taken over the State would impose upon us, to examine expenditure and revenue resources with a view to seeing, first of all, that expenditure upon these public requirements is adjusted in such a way that some at any rate of the needs of Vindhya Pradesh which had been given expression to here might be adequately met. On the other hand, it is an equal obligation upon the Centre to see that the revenue resources of Vindhya Pradesh are also developed to such an extent that the margin between expenditure and revenue would be such as we could conveniently meet. I think the House ought to realise that this is an experimental measure and the budget really represents the kind of finances appropriate to an experimental situation. What will happen to Vindhya Pradesh after a few years is more than I can tell, but as far as I know the intentions of the Government on this matter, we are going to wait and see how circumstances are going to shape and it will depend upon the development of events what final changes we ought to make with regard to the position of Vindhya Pradesh.

That, Sir, is all that I am in a position to state at present. It is one of the anxieties of the Government of India not merely with regard to Vindhya Pradesh but with regard to other States for which they have accepted responsibility, that within as short a period as practicable, they should bring the level of administration to something higher than it is today, that we should develop the resources of these States to the best extent that we can. But all that requires time. You cannot do it overnight. This budget was prepared on the basis of such data as we were able to obtain at the time we took the decision, and I would beg the House and particularly those who are interested in Vindhya Pradesh, to give Government a chance.

Shri Hossain Imam : May I ask a question of the hon. Minister ? When did Vindhya Pradesh come under the administration of the Government of India ?

Dr. Matthai : I cannot give the exact date, but it was some time before the end of the financial year.

Shri Hossain Imam : May I just mention that it was between 26th November 1949, when we adopted the Constitution and 26th January, 1950, when we inaugurated the Constitution ? Has any supplementary provision been made for Vindhya Pradesh for the expenses for the year that has concluded ?

Dr. Matthai : This budget represents the budgetary position with regard to Vindhya Pradesh as a Centrally Administered State beginning with the 1st of April, 1950.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker : We will now proceed to take up the Insurance Bill. Clauses 2 to 30 were disposed of. We will now proceed with clause 31.

Clause 31

Shri Venkataraman (Madras) : Sir, I want to speak on the clause.

Shri B. Das (Orissa) : Sir, I want to raise a point of order. My friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri has exchanged his white shawl for the saffron one of my friend Mr. Kamath.....

Mr. Speaker : Order, order, Mr. Venkataraman.

Shri Venkataraman : Sir, clause 31 seeks to limit the expenditure of insurance companies on general as well as life insurance business. The Council that will come into existence will regulate such expenditure. In the case of life insurance business, the limitation will take effect from 1st January 1951, but in the case of general insurance business it will take effect retrospectively from 1st January, 1950. You know the reluctance of the Legislature to pass any law with retrospective effect. Courts are also reluctant to consider it as having retrospective effect unless compelled to do so. In this case, already four months have elapsed and possibly one or two months more will elapse before the Council limits the expenditure on general insurance business. To say that the limitation on expenditure in respect of general insurance business should take effect from 1st January, 1950 is to impose a great hardship on the companies which have already incurred expenditure without knowing what exactly the limitation to be fixed by the Insurance Council is going to be. I suggest, therefore, that the limitation of expenditure on general insurance business should also take effect only from 1st January, 1951. It may be said that the 'insurance business' is in favour of limiting the expenditure with retrospective effect, but the term 'insurance business' is very vague. There are big fish as well as small fry in the insurance business and it will harm the smaller companies only. I think the hon. Minister must explain not only to the House but to the public as to why a distinction has been made between life insurance business and general insurance business and why different dates have been fixed in each case. At least, he ought to make it clear that if and when the Council fixes the limitation of expenditure in the case of general insurance business it would see that the expenditure incurred upto the date of the fixation will be accepted as the normal expenditure and the limitation would only take effect from the date on which the Council limits the expenditure.

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil) : Sir, the insurance people themselves know very well that some such thing as this provision is coming for the last so many months. They have agreed to it. That is number one. Secondly, no harm will be done if this provision is there. If my hon. friend will read the proviso, he will find that it lays down that in case it is found that more expenditure has been incurred, it will not be considered as a contravention and the whole thing will be adjusted. I think even the Indian section which does business in general insurance is agreeable to this. So, there is no necessity to change this provision.

Clause was added to the Bill.

Clause 32

Shri J. B. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh) : There is one amendment, of which notice has been given by Sardar Man. He is not here, but if I have your permission, I would move it in a slightly amended form. It is acceptable to the hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker : I shall consider the question of allowing it as a fresh amendment by the hon. Member if it is agreed to.

Shri Gadgil : I want to earn the reputation of being very reasonable ; so I am prepared to accept it, if it is technically found acceptable by the Chair.

Mr. Speaker : Since it is an agreed amendment, I shall waive the notice. He may move it.

Amendment made :

In part (a), in the proviso to the proposed sub-section (3-A) of section 42 of the Insurance Act, 1938, for " fifty rupees ", substitute " thirty rupees ".—[*Shri J. B. Kapoor.*]

Clause, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 33

Amendment made :

In sub-section (1) of the proposed section 42B of the Insurance Act, 1938, for " in the States ", substitute " in India ",—[*Shri Venkataraman.*]

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras) : I beg to move :

To sub-section (4) of the proposed section 42C of the Insurance Act, 1938, add :

" Provided that the Controller may, in the case of a contract between a co-operative life insurance society as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 95 and a co-operative society registered under the Indian Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (II of 1912), or under any other law for the time being in force and acting as a special agent, alter, to such extent as he thinks fit, all or any of the said terms."

This is necessitated by the amendment that Rs. 50,000 worth of business at least should be done in a year and if it is not done a special agent will cease to be one. In many cases, co-operative life insurance societies have as their special agent co-operative societies. Not being individuals, these co-operative societies do only a limited amount of business, and in a particular year it may be that the specified amount of business may not be canvassed by them. Hence power is given to the Controller to modify the condition of minimum business in the case of co-operative societies. In such a case without leaving it to the co-operative society itself to do or not to do so much business, power is given to the Controller to exempt that particular society from canvassing so much business in a particular year.

Shri Gadgil : I accept that amendment.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

To sub-section (4) of the proposed section 42C of the Insurance Act, 1938, add :

" Provided that the Controller may, in the case of a contract between a co-operative life insurance society as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 95 and a co-operative society registered under the Indian Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (II of 1912), or under any other law for the time being in force and acting as a special agent, alter, to such extent as he thinks fit, all or any of the said terms."

The motion was adopted.

Clause, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Cluses 34 to 39

Cluses 34 to 39 were added to the Bill.

Clause 40

Shri Venkataraman : I beg to move :

(i) For " the following section ", substitute " the following sections ".

(ii) After the proposed section 48B of the Insurance Act, 1938, insert :

" 48C. *Appointment of additional directors.*—The Central Government may, in the case of an insurer specified in sub-clause (b) of clause (9) of section 2, appoint for such period and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, one or more persons to be directors in addition to the directors already existing and the insurer shall pay to such additional directors the same fees and allowances as are payable to the other directors."

I have only to say one or two words in support of this amendment. Government have taken powers of investigation and even appointment of an administrator at a later stage. But this is at a stage when the deterioration of the company has gone too far. In order that Government may exercise control over the affairs of the company even at an earlier stage before any deterioration sets in, it is necessary that they should be armed with powers of appointment of directors. Those directors will be able to convey to the Government a correct picture of the affairs of the insurance companies. This provision is corollary to the powers already assumed of investigation of the affairs of insurance companies and the appointment of administrators.

Mr. Speaker : Amendment moved :

- (i) For " the following section ", substitute " the following sections " .
 (ii) After the proposed section 48B of the Insurance Act, 1938, insert :

" 48C. *Appointment of additional directors.*—The Central Government may, in the case of an insurer specified in sub-clause (b) of clause (9) of section 2, appoint for such period and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, one or more persons to be directors in addition to the directors already existing and the insurer shall pay to such additional directors the same fees and allowances as are payable to the other directors."

Shri Gadgil : Sir, I am prepared to accept this amendment, but I want to make it clear that it does not mean that Government is very anxious to appoint directors in each and every case. The idea of appointment of directors is to avoid the necessity of having recourse to the stricter provisions of this piece of legislation. With that clarification I am prepared to accept the amendment.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar) : I suppose the hon. Minister has understood the implications of this amendment. The amendment merely says "one or more persons". This, in other words, is tantamount to any number. I wish the hon. Minister gave careful consideration to this amendment.

Shri Gadgil : I am prepared to accept it even if it is put as " not more than two " .

Shri M. A. Ayyangar : Sir, I whole-heartedly support the amendment moved by Shri Venkataraman. I would even go a step further and say that more and more directors should be appointed by Government. Take one instance : the authorised capital of an insurance company is Rs. 4 lakhs, the subscribed capital is Rs. 2 lakhs, the paid up capital is Rs. 80,000 and the premium income is Rs. one crore. Is there anybody in this House who is prepared to stand up and say that we should not prevent the affairs of this company going into the hands of a few self-appointed directors who may be playing ducks and drakes with the policy-holders' money ? I know of a case where these people have not restringed themselves from making inroads into the affairs of a Trust. Are we here to safeguard the interest of the policy-holders or the interests of a few men who have cornered all the shares for a song ? On the other hand, I want that a majority of the directors should be nominees of Government. I do not want the hon. Minister to be bamboozled to accept two directors. I want him to stand by his original statement that he should be empowered to appoint more and more directors. It may be that in a particular case one director may be enough. In another two may be necessary and in a third three may be necessary. I am sure that a popular government will not abuse the power. On the other hand the Government must be clothed with that power and it is not proper to restrict the power of the Government. I am certainly confident that the only institution which must be entrusted with the power is the Government. The policy-holders ought not to be entrusted to the tender mercies of the proprietors.

Shri Gadgil : Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I honestly thought that it was the general wish of the House and therefore I said I was agreeable to restrict it. But if it is so desired by the House I will appoint all the directors and give no chance to the other people.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras) : I fear that the Deputy-Speaker is mistaking the number of the directors with the power of the directors. It is not the number of directors that is going to influence the thing at all. It is the fact that the directors have been appointed by Government that is going to have its effect in the directorate.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar : It is both.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar : The Government cannot have a majority always in the directorate and it is not the idea that this majority will be always fighting with the other directors who are appointed in the usual course. The idea is that

these directors would be exercising a wholesome influence and in case there is any mismanagement they will report to Government and the Government has got all powers under this Bill to interfere with the working of the insurance company and take such action as may be necessary. So the mere number does not count. And then, for the Government to go about searching for directors.....

Shri M. A. Ayyangar : You and I are there!

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar :so as to have a majority of their directors will be rather difficult. I think all that is intended is that the interests of the policy-holders should be safeguarded by somebody who may be there on the spot and who will exercise directly some influence on the directorate, and if that is not possible report to Government to take such action as may be necessary.

Shri Hossain Imam (Bihar) : Sir, I should like to mention one fact. Here we are discussing who is to get the vote of confidence and who is to get the vote of no-confidence—whether the Government should enjoy the vote of confidence of the House and we can trust it, or whether the shareholders who have small stakes should be completely trusted and Government distrusted and not given power to appoint more directors than are provided, one or two. As the policy-holders have no other method of getting representation except through the Government I would appeal to the Government to try and get representatives of the policyholders nominated as directors or in some instances appointed as officers. But on no condition should we pass a vote of confidence on shareholders for checking whose mismanagement you are bringing forward this Bill. I would request the House to understand that we have abolished the managing agency in this insurance business. We are gradually reducing the powers of the directorate. All these are a step towards nationalisation, or mutualisation as the Deputy-Speaker has suggested. It is a step in the right direction and Government should not renege from it.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : My hon. friend Mr. Ayyangar allowed his experience of one case and his sentiment to get the better of his reason.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar : That is a typical case.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : And my friend Mr. Hossain Imam indulged in a type of argument which surely this House is wise enough to see through clearly. It is not a case of any confidence at all. It is a case in which you have to respect certain conventions which have grown and developments that have taken place and as a result of which the hon. Minister admitted the other day that insurance companies had made great headway. The whole question is that it is not a singular case with insurance companies that they started with small capitals and ultimately their working capital became a hundred, two hundred, five hundred or even a thousand times over their original share capital. To suggest that the people representing the shareholders should not have a say in the management of their affairs, just because their business has now increased to such proportions that the share capital becomes comparatively very insignificant is in my opinion arguing in the wrong way. If you take industries which were started a long time ago, you will come across not one but many such cases. The whole question is that in this Insurance Bill we have taken the best steps that could be taken under the circumstances for controlling the funds of insurance companies. Therefore, to suggest on the top of that that the Government should be empowered to create Lords as they do in the British Constitution—if the House of Lords does not agree with the Government policy, the Government has the right to flood the House of Lords by creating so many Peers—will lead to the creation of House of Lords in the Directorates of Insurance Companies making the real elected Directors thoroughly useless and powerless.

This House is saddled with an important responsibility and I think it is desirable that we ought to respect the convention that has grown, and not only the convention that has grown but the convention that has been established

[Shri Syamnandan Sahaya]

by law, precedents and by Acts and legislations that we have passed in this very House, namely, that the representatives of the shareholders must get due and proper position in the management of the affairs of their electors, subject of course to the overall control of Government and subject always to the interest of those whose money is involved in the institution. To argue today that the Government should be empowered to appoint any number of directors which may be more than the number of elected directors is in my opinion not an appeal to reason and I have no doubt that the House will overrule the suggestion and come to the conclusion that the number of Directors to be nominated should be definitely fixed at one, two or even three if you like. But give a fixed number to which extent the Government might appoint directors, because ultimately the Government have the control through the Controller. These directors will in the first instance guide the directors elected by the shareholders in the right channel. If the elected Directors do not see reason, these nominated directors could always report the matter to Government and there will be the Controller to interfere. Government may even pass legislation overnight to take over the Company as they did in the case of a cotton mill the other day. But to deny all rights and upset all conventions is in my opinion going much too far. I submit for the consideration of my hon. friend, Mr. Ayyangar also that it will not conduce to the growth and development in the proper atmosphere, of such institutions, if we create conditions which to say the least are highly derogatory and completely undemocratic.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): Sir, I think there is a strong section in the House which wants nationalisation of the insurance business and I am sure also that my hon. friend the Deputy-Speaker has not yet enrolled himself in that section. Still he would want that there should be effective Government interference in an insurance company's business. As my hon. friend Mr. Sahaya said I can quite understand that a certain stage might have arrived in the management of an insurance company when the advice of an experienced Superintendent of Insurance or an experienced retired Controller of Insurance would be helpful in leading the directors on right lines. That I can understand. But I cannot understand the mentality of those persons who would want to introduce a large number of directors in a company so that their voice may outweigh the voice of other persons who have reared a pecuniary interest in the concern. After all it is not the fault of those directors that they have been able to build up a good business by dint of their industry and personal attention out of humble beginnings. If at one time that insurance company may have excited the ill-will of the powers that be it is not proper that the Government should have a means of just swamping the voice of the other directors of the Board. It will have a very disastrous effect; it will introduce a faction in an otherwise smoothly managed body of directors. I therefore request the hon. Minister to stick to what he said that he would be quite satisfied to recommend one or two directors, two experienced men coming into the body of directors whose interests are for the uplift of that company; two experienced men may lead and guide them properly and that is the object of this Bill. Otherwise, if you want to provide, let Government come forward and put their nationalisation scheme and we shall support the Government.

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): The history of this amendment is that the whole matter was discussed for about 3 or 4 hours in our Sub-Committee. I cannot tell what happened there, because that is not the usual custom but the Government themselves told us on principle they will not take the responsibility of running these concerns by the back-door. Either a company is good or it is bad. If it is bad the Government has got enough powers. This step is to be an intermediate one before taking over the company and appointing an Administrator. They might like as the first step to associate one director on their behalf with the company. So to give the unlimited power now at this stage is a serious matter. The Deputy-Speaker has mentioned about the appointment of even a majority of director

This is just playing with this business. If the company is good, there is nothing to fear. It was the Government's idea that between the two stages an intermediary stage may arise where it may be necessary to appoint a director on behalf of the Government. The Minister in charge has stated that he would be satisfied with two directors, and we have no objection to that as a compromise. But to make it an unlimited number and as the Deputy-Speaker said, even a majority may be appointed, is certainly playing with the business.

✓ **Shri Gautam (Uttar Pradesh):** Sir, this is a very intricate question, namely how the director of the policyholders should be elected on the Board of Directors. This is the basis of all these recommendations because the list of the policyholders is not available and if the list of the elected is not available, how can a candidate contest and run the election? Therefore, directors on behalf of the policyholders have been nominated by the directors or the managers and they have not been really the representatives of the policy-holders. If a way could be found of getting proper representation of the policy-holders on the directorate, then we could understand that the interests of the policy-holders could be looked after by the director elected by them. If we want to do away with the farce of election and if we want that the policyholders' directors are elected on the Board of Directors, then it would be treated as a step going backward and then people may say that democracy is in danger and therefore, that provision still remains. Otherwise the director of the policyholders is not really the director of the policyholders. The question arises that if the policyholders are not properly represented and if the affairs of the company are going wrong, how to safeguard the interests of the policyholders and that is the basis of all these recommendations.

Sir, I can understand the point raised by Mr. Sahaya and Mr. Chaudhuri that the Government should not be given powers to create a number of directors and reduce the directors elected by the shareholders to a minority. I can understand that and therefore, the Government should remain satisfied with electing and nominating either one or two directors and no more because these directors really should not be to control the affairs of the company but should be only to watch the affairs and report to Government. Sir, I entirely agree with Mr. Sahaya and Mr. Chaudhuri and others who are of the opinion that the Government should not be given powers to over-flood and to create a majority on the directorate of the company. Therefore, the Government should be satisfied with nominating either one or at the most two, because they are to watch the interests.

There is one observation that I wish to make and that is that if the Government is going to nominate some directors on any company, then it should be properly borne in mind that the Government should nominate directors only on those companies where the Government is in doubt that its affairs are going from bad to worse. Otherwise, it will be very bad because it will share the confidence of the people because as soon as a director is appointed by the Government in a company, the people will take it that the affairs of that company are going from bad to worse and that the company is not dependable. Therefore, my suggestion is that if the Government is going to make use of this provision and if the Government is going to appoint some directors on some companies, then the Government must appoint some directors on the best companies also, so that the mere fact of appointing a director on a company should not create a suspicion in the minds of the people that the company's affairs are going wrong. This is my suggestion to the Government and it is a very important suggestion. If I were to nominate directors, I will first nominate on the Oriental, so that the mere appointment may not create confusion and may not go against the company. This is very important and I hope the Government would bear it in mind while nominating directors on the company and I endorse and support the provision that the Government must have the right to appoint one or at the most two directors on any company that it likes.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): I would also like to support the point of view that the maximum power that the Government should have is to nominate not more than two directors. If we analyse the powers that have been taken by the Government in this Bill, it is clear that the powers possessed by the Government are absolutely extensive. In fact, the Controller is a sort of dictator, who can do and undo things as he likes. In so far as this particular provision of safeguarding certain interests and keeping a check over the management is concerned, I do not think it is necessary to flood the directors in such a way as to have a majority of two by nomination and that would give an indirect power to Government and this was never the intention of the Bill to provide. As has been now disclosed during the discussions in the Select Committee, to which reference has been made, it was made clear on behalf of Government that that was not the intention. The Government do not want to have on their hands the various managements of the insurance companies managed by directors, nominated by the Government. My hon. friend Mr. Hossain Imam tried to make out a point by appealing to our sentiment whether we could trust the directors more than the Government. I do not think that is the real position. He was attempting to side-track the House and as Mr. Sahaya pointed out the Members of this House are not so gullible as to be taken in or be impressed by his argument. I hope the original decision of the hon. Minister will stand and he will accept the amendment that the Government shall have the power of nominating not more than two directors, who will have ample advice to give and also report to Government. Otherwise, Sir, nominating more than two would amount to securing a majority and superseding the Insurance Company. That would be the indirect effect of such a provision. I think it will be really outside the scope of this very amendment that has been proposed to take over the companies in this indirect way, by appointing a larger number of directors on behalf of Government so as to make a majority in its favour. I think the point of view presented by my hon. friends is absolutely reasonable and I hope it will be accepted.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: May I add, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let me ascertain the views of the hon. Minister and then see what is possible.

Shri Gadgil: I am really agreeable to whatever the House decides. But, that is merely platitudinous. Even if it remains as it is, "one or more", I may say that Government will not nominate more than two. If that satisfies the House, I have nothing to add.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Gadgil: If hon. Members are of the view that it must be specifically stated in the amendment itself, this amendment may be modified to state, "not more than two".

Mr. Speaker: I shall put the amendment in a modified form. The question is:

(i) For "the following section", substitute "the following sections".

(ii) After the proposed section 48B of the Insurance Act, 1938, insert:

"48C. Appointment of additional directors.—The Central Government may, in the case of an insurer specified in sub-clause (b) of clause 9 of section 2, appoint for such period and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, not more than two persons to be directors in addition to the directors already existing and the insurer shall pay to such additional director or directors the same fees and allowances as are payable to the other directors."

The motion was adopted.

Clause, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 41 to 44

Clauses 41 to 44 were added to the Bill.

Clause 45

Sardar Hukam Singh (Punjab) : I beg to move :

(i) In clause (d) of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 64F of the Insurance Act, 1938, in line 1, before "insurance", insert "life".

(ii) In clause (d) of sub-section (2) of the proposed section 64F of the Insurance Act, 1938, in line 1, before "insurance", insert "general".

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

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras) : These amendments are acceptable. They merely clarify the position.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Amendments moved :

(i) In clause (d) of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 64F of the Insurance Act, 1938, in line 1, before "insurance", insert "life".

(ii) In clause (d) of sub-section (2) of the proposed section 64F of the Insurance Act, 1938, in line 1, before "insurance", insert "general".

Shri Sondhi : I want an explanation from the hon. Minister regarding Rule. 64N. The existing explanation says :

"For the purposes of section 64N, section 64O and section 64P, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify that any insurer or class of insurers, shall not be deemed to be included amongst insurers carrying on general insurance business, and any insurer so specified shall not take part in any meeting of the General Insurance Council in which any discussion of any matter dealt with in the said sections takes place."

The idea is very simple. Every insurer has to be a member of the Regional Council. This power is taken for exceptional cases, especially in the case of the Lloyds with whom the Indian insurers have to make certain re-insurance arrangements. So, it would be in the interests of India to exclude the Lloyds. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister that it will not be used to cover other non-tariff insurers.

Shri Gadgil : That is generally the intention. I am very glad to give that assurance to my hon. friend. This power will not be used to cover any or every non-tariff insurer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

In clause (d) of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 64F of the Insurance Act, 1938, in line 1, before "insurance", insert "life".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

In clause (d) of sub-section (2) of the proposed section 64F of the Insurance Act, 1938, in line 1, before "insurance", insert "general".

The motion was adopted.

Clause, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 46

Clause 46 was added to the Bill.

Clause 47

Amendment made :

In the proposed section 65A of the Insurance Act, 1938, in clause (c), for "outside India", substitute "outside the States."—[*Shri Venkataraman.*]

Clause, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 48 to 59

Clauses 48 to 59 were added to the Bill.

Clause 60

Amendment made :

In part (i), for "outside India", substitute "outside the States."—[*Shri Venkataraman*]

Clause, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 61

Clause 61 was added to the Bill.

Clause 62

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar : I beg to move :

For existing clause, substitute :

"62. *Amendment of section 118, Act IV of 1938.*—In section 118 of the said Act—

(i) for the words 'by the Central or by a State Government', the words 'by the Central Government' shall be substituted ;

(ii) at the end of clause (b), the word 'or' shall be inserted and after that clause, the following shall be added, namely :—

'(c) any approved superannuation fund as defined in clause (a) of section 58N of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 (XI of 1922),

or, if the Central Government so orders in any case, and to such extent or subject to such conditions or modifications as are specified in such order, to any insurance business carried on by a State Government or to any insurance company more than fifty-one per cent. of whose shares is held by a State Government.'

The only difference that is now proposed to be made is this. In the section as it is, it is only an Insurance company started by a State that may be exempted.

Shri Sondhi : Exempted from what ? From the provisions of the Insurance Act ?

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar : Yes.

Now what is sought to be done is to extend this to the Corporations which have been promoted by State Governments. There is one other matter *viz.*, in 2 (c) we have also added "any approved superannuation fund etc." There are Governments which are prepared to start Corporations themselves. I am told that some States like Mysore have undertaken themselves but there are other States like Madras which are not prepared to undertake insurance and they prefer to leave it to private hands. There are cases like motor insurance and insurance of Government employees in which no effort is necessary on the part of the private insurance company to get customers and still they are entitled to all sorts of concessions and commissions. If they are in Government's hands, no such expenditure will be necessary and those profits will go to policy holders and through them to the country generally. It is a sort of half-way house. I am for State undertaking Insurance but if for any reason the State is not prepared to undertake it, I would ask the State to at least take advantage of this provision and promote a corporation through which they can undertake this business. It will also enable companies in a particular area to come together and form themselves into a Corporation under Government. I think we need not throw away the experience of the present companies and we may make use of them by forming themselves into a Corporation and ask them to come and help Government in managing the affairs of this new Corporation. It is with that idea that I have proposed this amendment which I hope will be acceptable to the Government and the House.

Shri Gadgil : I accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

For existing clause, substitute :

“ 62. *Amendment of section 118, Act IV of 1938.*—In section 118 of the said Act—

(i) for the words ‘ by the Central or by a State Government ’, the words ‘ by the Central Government ’ shall be substituted ;

(ii) at the end of clause (b), the word ‘ or ’ shall be inserted and after that clause, the following shall be added, namely :—

‘ (c) any approved superannuation fund as defined in clause (a) of section 58N of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 (XI of 1922),

or, if the Central Government so orders in any case, and to such extent or subject to such conditions or modifications as are specified in such order, to any insurance business carried on by a State Government or to any insurance company more than fifty-one per cent. of whose shares is held by a State Government.’ ”

The motion was adopted.

Clause, as amended, was added to the Bill.

CLAUSES 63 TO 66

Clauses 63 to 66 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri Gadgil : I beg to move :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

INLAND STEAM-VESSELS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam) : I beg to move :

“ That the Bill further to amend the Inland Steam-Vessels Act, 1917, be taken into consideration.”

This is a very minor Bill. Section 70 of the Inland Steam Vessels Act enabled the Provincial Governments to delimit what are called the ‘tidal waters’. But under the 1935 Act this power was transferred to the Central Government and that position continues under the new Constitution also. By an adaptation order it was provided that the Provincial Government should not make any notification after the end of March 1937. As a result, neither the State Government nor the Central Government has got power to delimit the tidal waters. Now an emergency has arisen for such delimitation in the case of Bombay. In pursuance of the proposal to implement the recommendation of the Court of Enquiry instituted for a formal investigation into the loss of ‘Ramdas’ the Ministry of Commerce consider that certain tidal waters which have been declared to be inland waters have to be cancelled and the provision has to be made that the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 should be applied to shipping on these waters instead of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917. Because greater precautions have to be taken if Merchant Shipping Act is to apply while comparatively less care has to be taken under the Inland Steam Vessels Act.

The Central Government has no power nor has the Government of Bombay. It is to rectify that position that here in this Bill the power is taken to the Central Government to declare the limits of tidal waters. I do not think there can
 4 P. M. be any objection to this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Inland Steam-Vessels Act, 1917, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 and 2 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri Santhanam : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the allocation of seats in, and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voters at such elections, the preparation of electoral rolls, and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

I do not propose to speak at this stage. By the end of the discussion I expect the Minister in charge will be present and he will then reply. If he is not present then I shall reply to the debate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the allocation of seats in, and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voters at such elections, the preparation of electoral rolls, and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Shri Bharati (Madras) : This is a very important Bill and may I suggest that it would help the discussion to a very great extent if the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill elucidated certain points which are very necessary, so that we may not traverse unnecessary ground. The hon. Minister, Dr. Ambedkar, has just come to the House. It was only because he was not here that hon. Mr. Santhanam made the formal motion. If Dr. Ambedkar had been here he would certainly have made a very useful speech. I am prepared to speak after the hon. Dr. Ambedkar has spoken. However, I leave it to the House.

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar) : Sir, at the outset I must apologise to the House for my delay in reaching the House. I was told that the Insurance Bill would not be finished before 4-30 P.M. and that a message would be sent to me in my room.....

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh) : There are always surprises in life.

Dr. Ambedkar : With regard to this Bill it is obvious that the Bill deals with four questions. Firstly, it deals with the allocation of seats for the House of the People among the different States. Secondly, it deals with the fixing of the total seats for the State Legislative Assembly. Thirdly, it deals with the questions relating to the registration of voters for election to Parliament and election to State Assemblies. And fourthly, the Bill proposes to fix the composition of the State Legislative Councils and the registration of voters for the Councils. I propose to take each of these points and explain to the House what exactly the Bill does.

First I propose to explain to the House the question of the allocation of Parliamentary seats among the States. The allocation proposed by the Bill is shown in the First Schedule. The House will recall that the Constitution lays down in article 81, the rules which have to be observed in the matter of distributing seats in Parliament among the different States. The rules to which I made reference are laid

down in article 81(1) (b) and 81(1) (c). The first rule which this article lays down is that the constituency shall be so determined that there shall be not less than one Member for every 750,000 and not more than one for every 500,000 of the population. The second rule which this article lays down is that whatever standard figure is chosen between these two figures—the maximum and minimum—that standard figure, so far as the States in Parts A and B are concerned, shall be uniform throughout the territory of India. That is the general direction given by the Constitution which this Bill is bound to conform to.

The standard figure adopted in this Bill for the purpose of allocating seats is one Member for every 720,000. It will be seen that this figure is in between 750,000 and 500,000. The seats for the different States are arrived at by dividing the total population of each State by this standard figure of 720,000 and you get the total number of seats for each State set out in the First Schedule to this Bill. The total population is as estimated on the 1st March, 1950 according to the order issued by the President under the appropriate article of the Constitution. I believe it is article 347.....

Shri Bharati : Article 387.

Dr. Ambedkar : I believe hon. Members have got the notification issued by the President in which the population of the various States as estimated has been shown.....

Shri Bharati : We have not a copy of it. When was it issued ?

Dr. Ambedkar : It was issued on the 17th April, 1950.

Shri Bharati : That was yesterday. We have not been supplied with a copy.

Dr. Ambedkar : I am very sorry. It is in the Gazette. We are in such a great hurry that long intervals are not permissible.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, the figures of population are essential for the Debate.

Dr. Ambedkar : I think they will be circulated. However I shall read them out.

Part A States

Assam	8.51 million
Bihar	39.42 "
Bombay	32.68 "
Madhya Pradesh	20.92 "
Madras	54.29 "
Orissa	14.41 "
Punjab	12.61 "
U. P.	61.62 "
West Bengal	24.32 "

I do not think I need trouble the House with the population figures for States in Part B and Part C.

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan) : We want them.

Dr. Ambedkar : Then I will read them out.

Part B States

Hyderabad	17.69 million
Jammu and Kashmir	4.37 "
Madhya Bharat	7.87 "
Mysore	8.06 "
Patiala and East Punjab States Union	3.32 "
Rajasthan	14.69 "
Sevenshra	3.96 "
Travancore-Cochin	8.58 "

[Dr. Ambedkar]

Part C States

Ajmer	0.73 million
Bhopal	0.85 "
Bilaspur	0.13 "
Coorg	0.17 "
Delhi	1.51 "
Himachal Pradesh	1.08 "
Cutch	0.55 "
Manipur	0.54 "
Tripura	0.58 "
Vindhya Pradesh	3.88 "

That is the population as calculated on the 1st March, 1950.

Shri Kamath : What about the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ?

Dr. Ambedkar : I have not got the figure here, and they do not form part of this scheme.

Shri Bharati : Is any Member given to Andamans in the Schedule ?

Dr. Ambedkar : Yes, but that is a separate thing altogether. I am coming to that.

I have given to the House the total population of the States in Part A, Part B, and also in Part C.

Dr. Tek Chand (Punjab) : Are these based on the census of 1941 ?

Dr. Ambedkar : They have been calculated for the purpose of this Schedule by the Census Commissioner who must be taken to be the final authority in this matter ; he has advised the Election Commissioner that these should be the standard figures that may be taken as the basis.

Dr. Tek Chand : How have they been calculated ?

Dr. Ambedkar : It is a very difficult thing to say now. They have been calculated in the manner prescribed in the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, and the President has accepted them.

As I said, the First Schedule refers to the House of the People. The seats for the States in Part A and Part B have been calculated on the basis of one Member for every 720,000 of the population. With regard to Part C, hon. Members will remember that the determination of the seats for States in Part C is set out in article 82. That article 82 practically leaves it to Parliament to decide it in the best manner it can without being bound by the two rules which have been laid down in article 81. Consequently, really speaking, this standard figure of 720,000 could not be made the basis for the allocation of seats to States in Part C because on that basis most of those States will not even get a single seat in Parliament. Consequently, what has been done is that they have been just given one seat for the purpose of securing their representation in Parliament without being bound down by any of the rules that have been laid down for States in Part A and Part B.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar) : But in cases where there is more than one seat ?

Dr. Ambedkar : I am coming to that. With regard to Delhi an exception has been made, namely, that Delhi has been given three seats.

Shri Raj Bahadur : Why was this exception made ?

Shri Bharati : Because it is the Capital.

Dr. Ambedkar : One of the reasons is that Delhi has quite a big population as compared to the other States listed in Part C. The basis we have taken with regard to Delhi is one seat for every 500,000 of the population, and therefore Delhi will have three seats.

Capt. A. P. Singh (Vindhya Pradesh) : Why has this standard of 500,000 not been taken as a basis in the case of Vindhya Pradesh ? Vindhya Pradesh has been given only five seats.

Dr. Ambedkar : Vindhya Pradesh has a big population. What I say is this, that we are trying to upgrade where upgradation is necessary ; we are not trying to upgrade where on the population basis a State is getting representation; and we are upgrading a great deal where a State is not getting any representation at all. It has really got to be done by equitable consideration and not by logic and not necessarily by population.

Then I come to Kashmir. As the House will see, there is a special provision with regard to Kashmir and that provision differs in one important respect and that is that the Kashmir representatives will not be elected by the people. Now, the reason for making an exception in regard to Kashmir is this, namely, that Kashmir is a part of India in a very attenuated manner, so to say. The Article relating to Kashmir says that only Article 1 applies, that is to say, Kashmir is part of the territories of India. The application of the other provisions of the Constitution, that Article says, will depend upon the President, who may in consultation with the Government of Kashmir apply the rest of the Articles with such modifications and alterations as he may determine. As the honourable House may probably know, there has been already issued an order in regard to Kashmir in which the President has modified the Article providing for the representation of States in Parliament by stating that he shall nominate the representatives of Kashmir in consultation with the Government of Kashmir. I think it was issued on the 26th January. That being so, there is really no room for this Parliament to make any provision with regard to the representation of Kashmir in Parliament in a manner different from what has been provided in the Bill. I think that nothing more is necessary for the purpose of elucidating how the First Schedule has been brought into being.

I now come to the fixation of the total seats in the State Legislative Assemblies as has been shown in the Second Schedule. With regard to this matter also, we have had to conform to the provisions of Article 170. That Article lays down two rules. One rule is that there should be not more than one seat for every 75,000 of the population. The second rule is that the maximum number of seats of a State Legislative Assembly shall be 500 and the minimum shall be 60. In framing the Second Schedule, the following considerations have been taken into account. The first consideration is that the total number of seats in any Legislative Assembly is not unduly large. The second consideration is that the total number of seats fixed for each State Legislative Assembly is an integral multiple of the State quota in Parliament. The reason for adopting this second rule that the one should form a sort of integral multiple of the other is because by doing so it would be easy to work out the provisions of Article 55. Hon. Members will appreciate that Article 55 provides that notwithstanding the fact that the total membership of the different Legislative Assemblies in the States may be different there shall be equal valuation of the votes cast in the Presidential election. Now, it is quite obvious that this equal valuation would become easier of calculation if we had the total seats in the Legislative Assembly of any State forming an integral multiple of the number of seats for that State in Parliament. That is why the seats have been allotted accordingly. It is, of course, to be remembered that the multiple is not the same in all the cases but the multiple is there. That is how the seats in the Second Schedule have been calculated.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : Therefore, the State Assemblies have different numbers in different States. It is unlike the Parliament where you have a fixed number.

Dr. Ambedkar : Yes. The maximum is 500 and the minimum is 60, but different numbers may be fixed for different States. There is no uniformity prescribed in the Constitution. We have a wide limit within which we can fix different totals for different States.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : Could we know what is the basis in the different States ? Say 100,000 voters per seat in Assam ; 110,000 in Bihar ; 120,000 in U. P. and so on ?

Dr. Ambedkar : After I finish my speech, if you put that point clearly to me, I shall be able to explain. So much for the fixation of seats in Parliament and in the Legislative Assemblies of the different States.

Now, I come to registration of voters. The principles adopted for registration of voters for Parliamentary constituencies as well as for State Legislative Assembly constituencies are the same. There is no difference. Consequently, I think that it would be enough if I explain the provisions relating to registration of voters for Parliamentary constituencies. The first principle is what is laid down in Clause 15 of the Bill which says that every constituency is to have an electoral roll on the basis of which election will be conducted. The preparation of an electoral roll is therefore an obligatory thing and a condition precedent for election. The second principle is that for being registered on an electoral roll a person should not suffer from the disqualifications mentioned in Clause 16. He should not be a person who is not a citizen of India ; or a person who is of unsound mind or a person who is guilty of offences relating to corrupt practices and election offences, then, he becomes eligible for being enrolled or registered in that constituency. The next principle is that a voter can be registered and that, in one and not more than one constituency. Even in one constituency he is to be registered only once. Then we have what are called "conditions of registration", which are laid down in Clause 19. One is that he must be ordinarily resident for not less than 180 days during what is called a "qualifying period". Secondly, he must not be less than twenty-one years of age on the qualifying date.

Now, with regard to qualifying date and qualifying period, I think it is necessary that I should make the position a little clearer. On reading the Bill, the House will realise that there are really two different provisions for qualifying period and qualifying date. There is one qualifying period and one qualifying date for the first electoral roll, and there is another provision for qualifying period and qualifying date for subsequent electoral rolls.

Now, for the first electoral roll the qualifying period is from 1st April, 1947 to 31st March, 1948. The qualifying date for the first electoral roll is the first day of January 1949. Now, these provisions which I have referred to with regard to the qualifying period and the qualifying date for the first electoral roll are really, so to say, beyond our control now, because they were fixed by the Constituent Assembly when it passed a resolution that the election should take place at a certain period in the year 1950 and so on, and that accordingly preparation should be made for the registration of voters and preparation of electoral roll. Now so much work has been done under the authority of the Resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly that it is not possible for us to make any change in the basis which was laid down by the Constituent Assembly. But with regard to the subsequent electoral roll we have said that the qualifying period shall be the calendar year immediately preceding the first of March in each year and the qualifying date shall be 1st March in each year.

Now with regard to the residential qualification, about which I know there has been a great deal of perturbation in the minds of Members, I should like to draw the attention of the House to clause 20 of the Bill which defines what is called "ordinarily resident". I would not at this stage enter into any further discussion of the matter, but if a point is raised I shall be glad to give

further explanation. In this very clause provision has been made to define or to specify what would be the constituency of any particular person employed in the armed forces.

My attention is drawn to the fact that there is no provision made with regard to persons who have to change their residence by reason of the fact that they are serving in the State and the State either transfers them permanently from one area to another or sends them out of the country. It is perhaps necessary to make a provision to cover cases of this sort and I propose to move an amendment to add a sub-clause to clause 20 to deal with cases of this sort.

Now there is one other provision with regard to the preparation of the electoral roll to which I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members. The first is this: that the existing roll which will now be prepared will be operative till the 30th of September, 1952, that is to say, if any election takes place up to the 30th of September, 1952 the electoral roll that would now be prepared will be regarded as operative, although it is probably a stale one—but there is no help to that. Subsequent electoral rolls however would be prepared every year and that will be seen from clauses 23 and 24. This point is important because it is generally agreed that an electoral roll should not be older than, say, for instance, six months, or three months from the date on which election takes place. Under the old English law there was a provision that electoral rolls should be prepared every six months. But they themselves found that this provision was so costly that they have now extended this period to twelve months. It is felt by the Government of India that in a vast electorate which we are likely to have under adult suffrage system, the cost of two revisions in one year would be enormous and consequently we have adopted the modest procedure of having only annual revisions of the electoral rolls. As I stated, these rules which apply to the electoral roll in Parliamentary constituencies are also made applicable to the preparation of electoral rolls to the State Legislative Assemblies and to the State Councils and, therefore, I need not refer to them here at all.

Then I come to the last part of the Bill which deals with the composition of the Upper Chambers in the provinces. Hon. Members will remember that there was a considerable division of opinion as to whether there should be second chambers in the provinces or not. The Constituent Assembly left this matter to the choice of the representatives of the various provincial assemblies in the Constituent Assembly to decide for themselves as to whether they should have or should not have second chambers. Some Members decided that there should be upper chambers for their provinces and others decided to the contrary. Consequently, the Constitution makes provision for the upper chamber for those provinces or those States where their representatives agreed to have such upper chambers. Now the Constitution also lays down how the upper chamber is to be constituted—that will be found in article 171. There again, much of the composition of the upper chambers has really been laid down by the Constitution itself. It says that the maximum of total membership shall not exceed one-fourth of the total of the Lower House and the minimum shall not be less than forty.

That is one principle that is laid down in article 171. The other principle that is laid down is that about the distribution of the seats among the various constituent elements from which the Upper House is to be drawn. For instance, one-third are to be elected by municipalities, district boards and such other local bodies in the State as Parliament may by law specify. Further, one-twelfth are to be elected by persons residing in the State who have been at least three years graduates: then one-twelfth to be elected by teachers in educational institutions recognised by the State; one-third by the Legislative Assembly itself; and the remainder to be nominated by the Governor amongst certain classes of persons who have been specified in clause (5) of article 171. Consequently very little really remains for Parliament to do. As a matter of fact, what remains for Parliament to do is to define what are the other local bodies which are to be selected for the purpose of being constituencies to send Members to this Upper Chamber. The second thing

[Dr. Ambedkar]

that is left to be defined is the equivalent of a graduate. When one is a graduate of a University no question arises ; but there may be others who have not gone to the Universities and may have equivalent qualifications. What is that equivalent also remains to be determined. Thirdly, we have to define what is an educational institution which would qualify a teacher for being elector and also prescribe the registration of voters.

The local bodies other than municipalities and district boards which are to participate in the elections are set down in the Fourth Schedule which hon. Members will find on page 10. This Schedule has been prepared in consultation with the various State Governments. Hon. Members will see that in all cases municipalities and district boards have been specified. In fact, we cannot go against that provision which is in the Constitution. It is only with regard to other bodies mentioned therein under each State that any question or argument can arise whether that particular body should or should not be included under the head "local authority".

With regard to the question of finding the equivalent of a graduate and defining an educational institution which would qualify a teacher to vote, it is felt that the best thing is that this matter should be left to be determined by the State Government in concurrence with the Election Commission. I do not think it would be possible for us right now or for the Centre to define for each particular State which person should be treated as a graduate although as a matter of fact in technical terms he is not a graduate.

Shri A. P. Jain (Uttar Pradesh) : May I ask a question ? Will you recognize a person as a graduate under this law who is recognized by a State Public Service Commission or the Union Public Service Commission as a graduate ?

Dr. Ambedkar : The point is this that under the Constitution all electoral matters are really the concern of the Election Commission and if the Election Commission seeks the advice of the Public Service Commission or any other body in order that it may come to the right conclusion there will be nothing to prevent it from doing that. But the final authority will be that of the State Governments in concurrence with the Election Commission.

I do not think that there is any other point that requires to be elucidated. These are the general provisions of the Bill and I hope that the House will find that they are the most suitable under the circumstances.

Shri B. K. Chaudhuri (Assam) : What about the displaced persons who have come to India now ?

Dr. Ambedkar : If you are raising the point I will explain it now. We have provided, as you will see in clause 20(6), that anybody who has come to India before the 25th July, 1949 will be entitled to be registered as a voter in the constituency in which he resided on that date or in any other constituency which he may specify to be his constituency.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh) : What about those who are coming now, in 1950 ?

Dr. Ambedkar : That we cannot do, because under our Constitution a voter is required to be a citizen, and our citizenship clause defines citizenship as on the commencement. Unless we have a new citizenship law to regulate the position of those who have come after that date I am afraid they will have to go without the franchise. There is no help.

Shri Bharati : Sir, I was really anxious and I am glad that the hon. Dr. Ambedkar has in his usual way elucidated the points covered by this Bill. The most important points relate to the First and the Second Schedule. I was surprised to find a notification issued only this morning on the basis of the Bill and in terms thereof. We know that under article 387 the President may direct in such

manner as he thinks fit regarding the basis of population. The hon. Dr. Ambedkar has not satisfactorily explained as to why this new basis is sought to be introduced in this Bill. Articles 81 and 170 specifically mention that the basis for elections must be the population as given in the last preceding census, that is, the census preceding the date of the election. I remember very well the proceedings in the Constituent Assembly where some Members stressed the point that the most important basis of election being the population, it must be beyond all doubt and it must be clear to all, so much so that one Member—if I remember aright Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad—said that it must be the figures published and available, so that the figures may be available to everyone. At that point article 387 was not in the Constitution. It was suggested by some Members from the Punjab and Bengal that the figures as given in the 1941 census would not do and should not be the basis of representation for any election. The point was very important at that time because then we had not done away with reservation to the Muslims. So it assumed a very great importance and I remember my hon. friend Mr. Bhargava stressed the point that no calculation could be made on the basis of the 1941 census because in the Punjab many Muslims had gone away and their seats will not be correctly filled if the 1941 census were the basis. Therefore at a late stage this article 387 was introduced. I remember very well that when this article 387 was introduced I said "Well, it is reasonable and we must have a different basis of population with reference to the Punjab, Bengal and Assam and we must have some *ad hoc* calculations or some other test by which the population should be arrived at". I therefore wanted that these Provinces might be specifically mentioned. But I was assured that it will not happen, that the 1941 census will be the basis for this new election and that the next decennial census will be the basis thereafter. But I am surprised that my very fears have come true now. I see no reason whatever for changing that basis from the available figures in the 1941 census which are there to something estimated by the Census Commissioner—whoever it is—to be the basis. That is totally wrong and against the spirit of the Constitution. I know that the argument may be turned against me this way: "Suppose in Madras the population is 4.98 crores and the basis of representation is 7.2 lakhs per seat. Well, the same figure can be arrived at by reducing the figure. You could have at the rate 6.6 lakhs per seat. Therefore where is the trouble?" The question is not that. I have worked out these figures and I find that the basis on which the Census Commissioner has calculated varies from place to place. In Madras, for instance, it is 8 per cent. increase. What are the principles under which or by which the Census Commissioner has chosen to base the estimated figures on 1st March? I find for instance in Mysore the 1941 population is 73 lakhs. The population of Travancore and Cochin is 74 lakhs. The seats allotted for Mysore is 11 and Travancore is 12. In the 1941 Census the difference in the population was only one lakh and I do not see any reason for this number. There are some anomalies and in the case of Cochin and Travancore the increase is 15 per cent. and in some other cases the percentage is different. No satisfactory explanation is given as to why this method of estimated population should be adopted. I can understand the estimated population for these three provinces; Bengal, Assam and Punjab and I agree that this may be done in consultation with the Government and in consultation with hon. Members. We may have these figures but to introduce all these and to re-do all these figures is unnecessary duplication of work which is not warranted by circumstances. I consider that 1941 census must be the basis. For the estimated basis, there is no basis for that. It is an estimate of certain things. I would like to know the basis. There are particularly no justifiable reasons for it. Why should we not have this 1941 census? Instead of 7.2 you have 6.64. These 488 seats for a population of 6.64 will work all right and to satisfy the principle of a standard uniformity that will be all right, and I am not able to understand the reason for it, because it will be a terrible complication.

Then, there is another factor; there are no seats for Scheduled Caste community. What is the basis? What is the population and where are the figures?

Shri Tirumala Rao (Madras): Does not my hon. friend deny the right to vote to all these people who attained majority after 1941 ?

Shri Bharati : I am extremely sorry my hon. friend has not understood the point. It is not a question of voting; it is the question of basis of representation on a population basis. What is the total number? How many seats you want to allot on the basis of population ? (*Interruption*) My hon. friends have not understood the point. The total number of seats for Madras is 75. Now what should be the total number of population which must have one seat? The 1941 population is available and any figure between 5 lakhs and 7½ lakhs is all right for the House of the People. If you have figures then there must be a standard uniformity throughout. If my figures are accepted you have got 500 and that is the maximum and if you do not want that maximum, 500 then have 488 and divide it by the population as given in 1941 census.

Shri Sidhya (Madhya Pradesh): Why 1941 and why not 1949 ? There is sample census. The Commission has published their report and it is available in the Library.

Shri Bharati : I do not know, Sir, if my hon. friend has got some census or not. As far as I am concerned, there is no point of substance in what he says. There is no reason why we should have an estimated census when you have a definite census available, without running counter to the principles of the Constitution. You want some figure between 5 lakhs and 7½ lakhs, that is all. The total number should not exceed 500 and when there are figures, why do you want estimate ? According to me, whereas it is 720,000, if the 1941 census is the basis it will be 6·64. Instead of 7·20 it is going to be 6·64. I am not satisfied with this position and if other figures are available, I shall have no objection. If a regular census is taken in 1951 and some basis is taken, I do not mind. (*Interruption*) If we have census in 1950-51 it will be all right, but it is not possible because it takes time for publication. That is why I am submitting that this procedure is not proper and there is no reason particularly when articles 81 and 170 specifically mention that the population should be on the basis preceding the date of election.

Dr. Ambedkar : That is right subject to article 387.

Shri Bharati : It was intended to cover certain cases and certainly not intended to cover all parts of India. It was not in the original draft that is with us. I am not saying that it is not technically possible. You are perfectly correct except that you have got it only today. I do not know how you can introduce the Bill without the President's order. I do not know how the Government is justified in introducing a Bill on the basis of something for which they have not got the authority. They may have got it today but till yesterday they had no authority. Today the President has decided and it is perfectly constitutional now but when it was introduced there was no authority. Article 387 requires that the sanction of the President must be obtained. It is a hasty piece of legislation and they seem to have discovered that after this Bill was introduced today. In fact my notes contained the following query : "Where is the President's order under article 387" and suddenly the order of the President is sprung upon us.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : At five o'clock the other work begins.

Shri Bharati : I will continue tomorrow, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : I think the hon. Member has already made his points.

Shri Bharati : Then there is another point and that is this : We would like to know the population of the Scheduled Caste community. Does the President's order cover that also? I do not know why the total number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Caste community is not given. I think the hon. Dr. Ambedkar owes an explanation as to why the Scheduled Caste communities are not given and what is the estimated population of the Scheduled Caste community.

The House is entitled to know why this is not given and what is their population. That is a very important thing and in the actual delimitation it will be a fruitful source of friction and this schedule should have given the particulars with reference to Assam, Bihar and other provinces in column 2. There is no doubt that the basis of calculation must remain the same i.e., 7.2 for everything. Then what 5 P. M. is the estimated population? This is another matter which requires clarification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Bharati : I may continue tomorrow, Sir.

Shri Tyagi : I was booked to be the next speaker after him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member will continue tomorrow.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri Tyagi : When Mr. Bharati was called to speak, the Deputy-Speaker said that I will speak next.

Mr. Speaker : We shall see to that tomorrow. The hon. Member may see me in my Chamber. We will now take up the business before the House.

SUPPLY OF U. P. RICE TO MADRAS

Mr. Speaker : I am coming to the next business which has to be taken from 5 to 5.30. I received notice yesterday requiring a half an hour discussion on an important matter arising out of some answers given by the hon. the Food Minister over the subject of rice.

I may invite the attention of the hon. Members to the proper procedure in a matter of this type. Of course, as the procedure is new, I did not like to stick to technicalities. Rule 46 requires that, those who wish to raise a discussion must mention the points on which discussion is to be raised. The notice is defective in that respect. They merely say, "As the subject of the question is a matter of sufficient public importance, we request you to allow half an hour after 5 P.M. on Wednesday, the 19th". I am just mentioning this, because, in the future, I shall not be relaxing this rule of mentioning points. Hon. Members should not then take it that I am too technical about it. The idea is that if the points are mentioned, it would be possible for the Minister in charge to prepare himself to reply to all those specific points. The discussion is only for a short time, half an hour. If, therefore, this rule is to be availed of, hon. Members will have to mention the particular points. In the future, I shall disallow the notices unless the points are mentioned.

I wish to make another point clear. The person who gives notice has to mention the points for raising the discussion. So far as the other Members are concerned, their right is restricted to put one question each. I shall refer to that rule. Sub-rule (5) reads as under :

"There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The Member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister concerned shall reply shortly. Any Member who has previously intimated to the Speaker may be permitted to put a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact."

The object of this really is to enable other Members to elucidate information. Last time also, I made that point clear, but not so clear as I am doing it now. This further point arises because the motion of Mr. Alagesan is supported by 16 Members. I take it that they wish to put questions, except the first one who wants to raise a discussion. Thereafter, I have received three or four notices from other hon. Members that they also wish to participate. Therefore, I thought if every one of them is under a misapprehension that they could raise a discussion

[Mr. Speaker]

and carry on arguments, it would be very difficult to provide, in the thirty minutes time, opportunity to all the twenty Members. I must, therefore, clarify the rule. We must understand the spirit of the rule providing for a short discussion at the instance of a Member, who wishes to raise a discussion.

I will now call upon Mr. Alagesan to raise the point.

Shri Alagesan (Madras) : Sir, I think these additional five minutes will be given.

Mr. Speaker : No ; the discussion will end at 5-30 P.M.

Shri Alagesan : The very fact that so many hon. Members of this House have thought fit to raise this discussion shows what an important matter this is. It affects a province which is deficit in food and which is at the mercy of other provinces just now.

I should like to be very brief and put all the points for the consideration of the House and the hon. Minister. As far as Madras is concerned, the total requirement for the rationed population comes to about 21 lakh tons per year. Out of this Madras expects to procure 13.75 lakh tons which means that there will be a deficit of 7.25 lakh tons. The Centre has just now promised to give about 3 lakh tons and Madras is claiming the rest. However that may be, already the Centre has allocated 2 lakh tons of which they have sent a consignment of 40,000 tons of rice from U.P. The price of this rice is about Rs. 25 per maund whereas it is interesting to note that the price of the imported rice uptil now from foreign countries has never exceeded Rs. 22. The price fixed for U.P. rice sent to Madras is Rs. 3 more than the imported rice from foreign countries. The price fixed for local rice in Madras at the most comes only to Rs. 15. So there is a difference of Rs. 10 per maund. Regarding this one consignment alone the State has to pay an extra cost of Rs. 108 lakhs. If the Centre allot 4 lakh tons rice out of the 7.25 lakh tons deficit and if, supposing all that rice comes from U.P., then the extra cost of that to Madras would be Rs. 10.8 crores and even if this extra cost is to be spread over all the locally procured rice and other available grains, it would amount to Rs. 51 extra per ton of rice. This is my rough calculation. I need only state this and it will be realised what an impossible proposition it is. Can any one imagine that it would be possible for Madras or for that matter, any State to bear the burden which comes to about 10 crores? Uptil now the practice has been to convene meetings of the various Food Ministers and have the prices fixed. According to that practice prices of rice for the various States were fixed. Even yesterday the hon. Minister supplied us with those figures. If we go through the figures, it will be clear that in U.P. the highest price, I mean issue price, is about Rs. 33 per maund ; in Punjab which borders on U.P. it is Rs. 17/13/- and Rs. 23/9/- ; in Orissa for the finest quality of rice 13/9/- per maund ; Bihar, Rs. 15/14/- ; and Madhya Pradesh, only Rs. 12/14/ per maund.

Shri Bharati (Madras) : Is it for best quality in Madhya Pradesh ?

Shri Alagesan : In Madhya Pradesh it is stated as for coarse. The price for the best quality in Madhya Pradesh is not given.

That means the price in U.P. is nearly 2½ times the average price obtaining in other provinces. I do not want to criticise the State of U.P. nor is it my intention to do so. Our Prime Minister hails from that State and the destinies of that State are being guided by one of our veteran leaders. I do not also favour the habit of attacking the State Governments from the floor of this House with meagre information or for other reasons. So it is far from my intention to criticise the U.P. State but the price fixed for U.P. requires to be explained as to why it is so much.

It is well to remember in this connection that the prices have not been fixed on any scientific basis. The costs of cultivation in the various States and areas have not been calculated after a scientific enquiry, nor have the prices been arrived on the basis of such an enquiry. They have been fixed in an arbitrary way, because as practical men they might have thought that it would take time to carry out a scientific enquiry into the cost of production and then arrive at the cost of the various food grains. Hence they began fixing the prices but when they did so they should have taken good care to see that the disparity in prices between one State and another is not as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$ times.

Madras has a rationed population of 3.3 crores to feed. U.P. is a surplus State and therefore they are able to fix the price at as high a level as possible and that works to the hardship of States which are in need of rice from surplus States. I do not mean that Madras alone suffers in this matter. The States of Bombay, Travancore-Cochin and others as well equally suffer in this matter.

I wish to point out one other matter in this connection. Only in U.P. rice has been divided into five grades and different prices have been fixed for each of these five grades. In other States there are not more than two or three varieties. In Madras there are only two varieties. From practical experience I know that this leads to abuses. It enables the merchant to procure a lower grade rice and dispose of it as a higher grade rice. In this transaction it is the consumers who suffer. It is rather strange that five grades of rice should have been fixed in U.P. alone.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (Uttar Pradesh) : What about the exorbitant price of coconut oil ?

Shri Alagesan : You may raise a discussion on that.

Now the policy of the Government is not to import foodgrains in large quantities and the import this year will be only one-third of what was imported last year. We propose to attain self-sufficiency in food by next year. It is good that we do not have to look to foreign countries for our food requirements and we try to satisfy our needs internally. But when internal prices vary to such a large extent it becomes worse than importing foreign rice, since the consumers or the State Governments concerned have to suffer. So I would urge that a satisfactory solution be found for this problem.

You cannot ask the Madras State to bear the extra cost of Rs. 108 lakhs by itself. If this quantity had been imported from abroad the Centre would have come forward with a subsidy of 75 per cent. and the balance of 25 per cent. subsidy would have been met by the State concerned. I suggest that the same principle of subsidising even internal procurement should be decided upon by the Government. I also understand that the Madras Government has demanded that for this consignment the cost should be met on the subsidy basis that is obtaining now with regard to foreign imported foodgrains. There seems to be an idea that this extra cost may be debited to the bonus amounts that are due to the Madras State on the basis of their internal procurement. I would submit that that would be grossly unfair, because the bonus that is given on internal procurement by a State is meant for advancing the Grow More Food Campaign in the State. If such a huge slice of one crore is sought to be taken from the bonus that is due to a State, it would defeat the very object of the Grow More Food Campaign. They would not be able to go ahead with the various schemes and will have to come again to the Centre for money. It would be a sort of vicious circle. So the idea that the State can be asked to meet this amount from the bonus that is due to it will not be a proper procedure. So, I would urge upon the Government to subsidise internal allotments also on the same basis as 3 : 1.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): I may state at the very start that I fully sympathise with the situation in which my hon. friends from Madras find themselves. But I want to assure them that it will not be fair to consider U.P. or the U.P. Government as responsible for that situation. I think the criticism of U.P. or the U.P. Government is in no sense justified. As a matter of fact, we should be grateful to the U.P. State for coming to the help of the deficit areas in regard to the procurement of rice. Last year the U.P. Government procured for distribution about 30,000 tons. With a view to implement the policy of reducing our imports, the U.P. Government this time has raised its target of procurement high enough to be able to give 1,35,000 tons for the deficit areas.

There has been some criticism with regard to the price which the U.P. Government is charging the Madras Government. Let me first make it quite clear that the U.P. Government is charging its own people also more or less the same price which it charges to the States which purchase from U.P. I want to read out to you the prices which we fixed for the various qualities of U.P. rice and also the prices which we fixed as the issue prices for U.P. itself. Much has been made of the figures for the highest quality. I do not think it would be fair to judge the situation by quoting only the prices of the highest varieties. I will read out the prices of all the varieties of rice and show how effort was made this year both to reduce the burden on the local consumers of U.P. itself and also to reduce the price for the sale of foodgrains to other States. In U.P. there is a quality which is called Grade I. It is the highest quality and last year the procurement price of that variety was Rs. 30-32. We put pressure on the U.P. Government, with a view to implement the policy of reducing our foodgrain prices all over the country, to reduce the procurement price this year from Rs. 30-32 to Rs. 28-30. That variety is being actually issued to the people in U.P. according to the prices which we fixed recently at Rs. 31-33. Another variety is being issued to the people in U.P. at Rs. 27. Grade III which is the usual variety which is procured and also sent to other Provinces is today being sold to the people in U.P. at prices varying from Rs. 21/8 to Rs. 22/8. It is this variety which is being largely sent out to other States. Whatever extra charges have to be levied which result in the price of Rs. 25 in Madras, are the overhead expenses, transport and other incidental charges, some items of which even now are being borne by the people of U.P. themselves. Therefore, there is no attempt by Government to place any special burden on the Madras State. As a matter of fact, we have decided that the U.P. rice is to be taken by all the deficit States in proportion to the total allocation of foodgrains. So far as Madras is concerned, our present allocation of rice up till now has been 1 lakh and 63 thousand tons. Out of this, 1 lakh and 20 thousand tons are from other States where the prices are low. It is only about 40 thousand tons that are from U.P. I may say here that Madras gets 40 thousand tons from Assam where the procurement price is Rs. 13/8; from Orissa she gets 60 thousand tons and there the procurement price is Rs. 11/2/0; from C. P. and Berar she gets 16 thousand tons and there the procurement price is Rs. 11/- only. Therefore, there is no attempt by U.P. to differentiate against Madras.

Shri Alagesan : That was not what I said at all.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : As a matter of fact, we have to recognise that certain articles are costly in certain States. If you see what is the wage of the agricultural labour in different districts or in different States, you will probably find that in certain parts of the country it is comparatively higher than in others. Similarly, the cost of production and standard of living also vary. On account of all this, prices vary. They are not of course based on any scientific calculations merely of the cost of production. But apart from the present control period, even during the period of de-control there were higher prices for certain varieties of higher quality both in respect of rice and wheat. So, if this matter is judged judiciously and impartially, I do not think that anybody will come to the conclusion that the U.P.

Government is deliberately exploiting anybody by charging more. Actually, it is charging the same price to its own consumers locally and if it decided to exploit its own people there would have been a great howl in the U.P. Legislature.

Shri J. E. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh) : Let us have our rice back.

Shri Bharati : By all means have it.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : It has been suggested that the burden imposed on Madras should be borne by the Central Government. I have no objection if the Parliament and the Finance Ministry agree to bear the burden on behalf of every State. I do not think myself that it is physically possible for the Central Government to do that. So far we have rejected the policy of subsidising local grains, and if we now do that, I do not know where our Budget will stand. Actually Madras Government itself suggested that the bonus available with it should be used for meeting this loss. We have not come to a decision on that point. The Madras Government have made no application to the Central Government with regard to any subsidy. Proposals had been made by Bombay and West Bengal for a subsidy from the Central Government, but we found it impossible to take up that responsibility. As a matter of fact, it is possible for certain States which are in the field earlier to secure lower qualities from surplus States costing less, but where certain States are not able to make arrangements in time and come later to States which are surplus, they have to buy a little higher priced variety of rice. Therefore, all these matters should be taken into consideration. It is possible, in my opinion, for the Madras Government to reconsider this matter. I cannot yet decide what will be the Central Government's attitude to the proposal to have a pool price. If there is a pool price for the entire rice which is distributed in Madras, the difference will be only about five or five-and-a-half annas per maund, which means only one-and-a-half pies per seer. All the loss can thus be met, but I am not suggesting that that step should be taken, but that was one of the proposals considered by the Madras Government. But so far they feel that they should not take that step because it is in the direction of increase in the price of foodgrains, even though slightly.

Therefore, what I want to tell the House is that none should have the feeling that the U.P. Government is discriminating against the Madras Government and has deliberately put up its prices, as has been sought to be made out by the hon. Member from Madras. The prices in the Punjab are also high; the prices in PEPSU are also high. The first variety of rice in Punjab costs Rs. 24-8-0; another variety costs Rs. 21-12-0. In PEPSU one variety costs Rs. 24-14-0; another variety costs Rs. 22-2-0. These are being issued in those very areas after adding Rs. 2 to 3 for the incidental charges. What I, therefore, wish to say is that it would be very unfair to suggest that the U.P. Government is in any way exploiting the situation in which unfortunately Madras finds itself. Every hon. Member of this House has sympathy with the Province which for three successive years has had to face a failure of the monsoon. I think every province which is straining its nerve to increase local production and procurement and make rice or wheat available to the deficit area is doing a public service and it would be very regrettable if we criticise a province which is doing its best to help the Madras Government.

I think in 1948 we permitted the Madras Government to appropriate about Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs from the bonus towards losses of this nature and it may be a matter for consideration, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, whether it is possible to make an exception in the case of Madras and permit them to utilise the bonus which the Central Government has been giving them. I think for 1948-49 and 1949-50 an amount of nearly 4 lakhs was and is to be paid to the Madras Government for procurement. It may be possible to debit this loss towards that amount.

We need not assume that the deficit which has been indicated as 7 lakhs is the real deficit. It has been our experience in discussing with the Provincial Governments that the calculations which they make of the off-takes are not always correct

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram]

and whatever quantity has been demanded has been ultimately found to be a little in excess of what has ultimately been found to be sufficient. Therefore what I would suggest is that we should deal with the situation wholly impartially. It will be very unfair to impute any motives to the U.P. Government or those who are responsible for procuring the maximum quantity of rice in the U.P. for sending it to the deficit provinces. Nor are they charging anything in excess of the price at which they purchase and the incidental charges which they pay. There is absolutely no effort on the part of the U.P. Government to mulct the Madras province as has been suggested.

Shri Alagesan : Sir, I only wish to point out that the hon. Minister is putting words in our mouths which we have not said. We never accused the U.P. Government; we never said that the U.P. Government is trying to mulct the Madras Government. The hon. Minister himself is raising a ghost and killing it.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : My attention was drawn to agitation in the Madras Legislature which was reflected in the interpellation put to me yesterday. In the Madras Legislature unfortunately such an expression was used.

Shri Venkataraman (Madras): Was the Madras Government informed, before the supply of this rice, of the price at which the U.P. Government would supply it, and if so, did the Madras Government accept that price?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : As a matter of fact, each Government has to send its representatives to the provinces from which they have to purchase and the prices at which they can purchase the different varieties are known to the Provincial Governments. It is possible for the Madras Government to say, "Please do not give us any rice from U.P.; give us rice only from Orissa or Madhya Pradesh". But if every Provincial Government were to ask for rice only from the cheapest areas, then U.P. rice will become entirely unavailable for the deficit areas and we will have to import rice from outside.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras): Is it a fact that the quality of rice supplied from the U. P. was very bad?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : I do not think it was very bad. Maybe a certain quantity might have deteriorated. But the entire quantity could not be so bad.

Shri Tirumala Rao (Madras): Is the hon. Minister satisfied that it does not lie in the U. P. Government to control these prices, in keeping with the prices prevailing in the neighbouring provinces, like Bihar?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : As I said, the high prices are only for the good varieties. As a matter of fact, coarse varieties cost only Rs 12, as in Madras. It is not easy to control prices unless you physically procure very large quantities.

Shri Hossain Imam (Bihar): What is the proportion of this high quality rice procured by U. P. in comparison with the ordinary variety?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : Most of the procurement relates to Grade 3 which is priced at about Rs. 18 or 19. That is the procurement price and then there are the incidentals over it.

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras): May I know what is the actual cost of cultivation?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : I won't be able to give the actual cost of cultivation. But I think it is everybody's experience that the price of any article which prevails normally has some relationship to economic forces. There is no arbitrary fixation of prices.

Shri B. K. Chaudhuri *rose*—

Mr. Speaker : I cannot permit the hon. Member ; he has not given any notice.

Shri Satish Chandra (Uttar Pradesh) : May I know whether it is not a fact that if Madras State pooled all its available rice and fixed a pool price for internally procured grain as well as grain imported from other States, the difference in the issue price would only have been about three annas a maund ; whether the Madras Government is charging a Sales-Tax at three to four stages amounting from nine annas to twelve annas per maund of foodgrains which no other State in India is doing ; and whether in the process of conversion from weights into measures—because the grain is procured by weight and distributed by measure—the consumer is being defrauded in the distribution stages to the extent of five annas per maund, resulting in an increase in issue price in Madras by about Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0 per maund, while the cost of the U. P. rice should have raised the issue price in Madras only by three annas per maund ?

An Hon. Member : Is that one question ?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : As a Member of the Committee appointed to go into the question of foodgrains prices the hon. Member has obviously more information than I have got.

Mr. Speaker : The time is up and the discussion is over.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 19th April, 1950.