

Tuesday,
3rd February, 1948

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

Official Report

VOLUME I, 1948
(28th January to 16th February, 1948)

SECOND SESSION
of the
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1948



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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 3rd February, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

+42*—87*.

AIR TRAVEL IN INDIA

88. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state whether Government are aware that an unexpectedly large demand for Air travel on various routes in India is made by the travelling public?

(b) Are Government aware that although on Karachi-Bombay, Bombay-Delhi, Karachi-Delhi, Delhi-Calcutta services, and *vice versa*, bookings are made a fortnight in advance, passages are not available for nearly 3 weeks?

(c) If so, do Government propose to ask the licence-holders to increase the number of services on such routes so that passengers may get their passages booked within 3 days before the departure dates?

(d) If the Companies are not prepared to increase the number of planes on such services, do Government propose to consider the running of Air Services themselves?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir. Due largely to the generally unsettled state of communications in the country during the past four months, there has been an unexpected demand for air travel on various routes in India.

(b) Passages are available generally three or four days in advance on the routes mentioned *except* on the Delhi-Karachi route, on which passages are available about ten to fifteen days in advance.

(c) and (d). The possibility of providing increased services on all routes is constantly under the consideration of Government. The Air Transport Licensing Board authorises increases where the demand justifies it and the technical and economic considerations are satisfied. Government has no programme of operating air services themselves.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that even on the Delhi-Calcutta section air passages are not available for 8 to 15 days?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is not a fact.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has the Honourable Minister satisfied himself that it is not a fact?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Government consider the advisability of allotting a couple of high priority seats on every air liner as the railways are doing to Members of the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Government have got certain priority seats and whenever an M.L.A. approaches the Department, he is given one of those seats.

†For these questions and answers see pages 149-170 of these Debates.

Mr. E. K. Sidhva: In view of the answer given by the Honourable Minister may I ask him to tell the company to run one extra service from Karachi to Delhi instead of one as at present?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Whenever there is a large demand for accommodation, then the companies generally approach the Government for permission for running an extra service and that permission is given if the company has got sufficient technical officers to run that extra service.

Mr. E. K. Sidhva: In view of the admitted fact that 10 days' delay occurs generally, may I ask the Honourable Minister to ask the company to run one additional service because there is a daily complaint from the passengers?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Sometimes the question of shortage of aeroplanes and technical men is also in the way of allotting extra passages, and I think the Honourable Member is aware that on account of the Kashmir and refugee operations many aeroplanes have got out of order and they are now being reconditioned before they can be employed again on air services.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving instructions to these companies to give high priority to Members of this House when they come to this House or go back again and for interim journeys?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: There are only 21 seats in a plane. Government has already got 4 priority seats, and as I have said they are given to M.L.As. when they are demanded. If the seats are full, then Government cannot expect the companies to provide extra seats when they are expected to provide seats for provincial governments *en route*.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the Jupiter Airways have applied for a licence for the Madras-Jubbulpore-Delhi route?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is that expected to stop at Ganavaram also, that is Bezwada?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, if it is permitted, then it will stop at Bezwada also.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When is it expected to start its service?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The question is under examination, and if the Licensing Board is satisfied that they have sufficient technical personnel at their disposal, then the route will be sanctioned.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Arising out of the reply to part (c), in view of the fact that charter planes are available at any time and in view therefore of the fact that his reply that the whole thing depends upon personnel and this or that does not affect this charter question, will the Honourable Minister re-examine the position and order that the companies should run extra services on such lines where there is congestion as for instance Delhi-Karachi and Delhi-Lahore?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: So far as Delhi-Lahore is concerned, sufficient traffic is not available. It is almost one-sided. Planes go full from this place to Lahore, but sometimes I am told they return empty or bring 4 or 5 passengers. Therefore Government cannot ask the companies to run extra services.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When will Jubbulpore be put on the air map of India for civil aviation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think one service is being started from the 5th of this month, which will pass through Jubbulpore.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Are the Government aware that the Jupiter Airways were the first to offer voluntarily and without charges the services of their company in order to bring refugees from the Punjab and elsewhere to Delhi, and that they have a full contingent of both planes and pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The position was examined and it was found that they have not got sufficient technical personnel. Now they have employed additional personnel and therefore their application is under examination by the Licensing Board.

TELEPHONE APPARATUSES AND MACHINERY

89. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state whether in view of the great demand for new telephones in all parts of India, Government have placed orders for such apparatus and also for additional machinery?

(b) Have Government also placed orders for new machinery to replace the present deteriorated machinery?

(c) If so, what are the details of such orders and when is the new machinery likely to arrive in India?

(d) Is it a fact that Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and other places in India need additional machineries and replacement of the old ones?

(e) When will new telephones and machineries be installed in these places?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Orders have been placed in certain countries abroad. Government are also considering plan to manufacture telephone equipment in India.

(c) The details of such orders are auto equipment, spare parts for existing equipment, switchboard wires and underground cables for various places in India. The dates of arrival of these equipments in India vary from 3 months to 2 years.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The telephone equipment will be installed at these places soon after their receipt in India. The installation will take about three months to nine months after receipt in India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, the total number of telephones installed in Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I require notice.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: How many telephones are with the Secretariat and Government officials in their offices and residences?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I require notice of that question also.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that more than fifty per cent. of the telephones in Delhi are with the Government officials in their offices and residences?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Does not arise.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he proposes to establish new factories for the manufacture of automatic telephones?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does he expect to do so?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: We are negotiating with patent holders in different countries and we hope we will be able to reach some decision before the end of March.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any programme to increase the output of the manufactory at Bombay in regard to manual exchange telephones?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That will depend upon the way we undertake the manufacture of automatic telephones. If we manufacture them, then it will not be necessary to expand this Bombay workshop. The present output will meet our requirements.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any workshop to manufacture special cable that are required for the telephones and is it the proposal of Government to have that also manufactured in this country?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The proposal is under the consideration of the Industry Department and I hope in a short time they will be able to acquire a Company to manufacture cables.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Are Government aware that it is practically impossible to get telephone connection in Patna even for the members of the Legislature and if the answer to my question be in the affirmative, the reason thereof?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Government is aware of the shortage of new telephone connections and every attempt is being made to supply extra material for extra connections. I may inform the House that a Special Officer of the Ministry is now in Europe contacting all possible firms in all the countries of Europe to secure some extra material immediately to supply some places with extra telephones.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I ask the Government how long it will take for the extra material to come to India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am sorry I do not know.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know why no action has been taken on the complaint which was made some time ago that whenever we want to telephone either from Delhi or Calcutta to Assam the line is said to be out of order?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The line passes through a foreign territory and I think the Honourable Member is aware that we are proposing before an early date to have a direct line to Assam through our territory. When that is completed then it will be our responsibility for these complaints.

Dr. P. K. Sen: Are Government aware that in Delhi the unsatisfactory condition of the telephone system is due not only to the delapidated machinery but to unskilful operators?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That I have already answered in reply to a question put some time before.

INDIAN AEROPLANE COMPANIES AND AIR-MAILS

90. ***Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state the profits earned during the year 1947 by each Aeroplane Company or concern registered in India?

(b) Do Government subsidize any of the Companies or concerns?

(c) Which Companies carry Air-mail and on what routes?

(d) What is the rate of charges paid to Companies for carrying mail?

(e) What amount has been paid to each Company for the carriage of mails during each month in the year 1947?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement I showing the profits and losses of 3 air transport companies registered in India. Information in regard to the other companies will be available only when their annual reports are published.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). I lay on the table a Statement II giving the required information.

(e) Detailed information regarding the amount actually paid to each Company for mails carried during 1947 is being collected and will be furnished to the House in due course. In the mean time, I lay on the table a Statement III giving the information immediately available.

Statement I

Showing the profits earned by the Indian National Airways, Air Services of India and the Dalmia Jain Airways.

Part (a)—

Indian National Airways	Profit of Rs. 1,50,445 for the year ended 30th June 1946.
Air Services of India Ltd.	Total loss up to the 30th June 1947, Rs. 21,49,400. Loss for the year ended 30th June 1947 was Rs. 16,71,125.
Dalmia Jain Airways Ltd.	Total profit of Rs. 43,168 in respect of both motor vehicles and air transport. It is understood that the air transport side of the company showed a considerable loss which was offset by profit on the motor car business.

Statement II

Showing companies carrying air mail and the routes on which mails are carried.

Parts (c) and (d)—

1. Air India, Ltd.	(1) Karachi—Bombay—Madras—Colombo. (2) Delhi—Ahmedabad—Bombay. (3) Bombay—Calcutta. (4) Madras—Trivandrum.
2. Indian National Airways	(1) Delhi—Calcutta. (2) Delhi—Jodhpur—Karachi. (3) Delhi—Lahore. (4) Delhi—Amritsar. (5) Calcutta—Rangoon.
3. Deccan Airways Ltd.	(1) Delhi—Nagpur—Madras. (2) Hyderabad—Bangalore.
4. Air Services of India Ltd.	(1) Bombay—Jamnagar—Bhuj—Karachi.* (2) Bombay—Bhavnagar. (3) Jamnagar—Wankaner—Wadhwan—Ahmedabad. (4) Bombay—Jamnagar—Porbandar—Bhuj.
5. Ambica Air Lines, Ltd.	(1) Bombay—Rajkot—Morvi.
6. Indian Overseas Air Lines	(1) Bombay—Nagpur—Calcutta.
7. Airways (India) Ltd.	(1) Calcutta—Madras—Bangalore.
8. Bharat Airways Ltd.	(1) Delhi—Lucknow—Gaya—Calcutta. (2) Delhi—Cawnpore—Allahabad—Calcutta.

*This service does not carry through mails between Bombay and Karachi.

Charges paid for the carriage of mails on the routes.

- (1) Karachi—Colombo. (Air India).—Rs. 15,00,000 per year with an additional Re. 1 per pound of mails carried in excess of 5,00,000 pounds a year.
- (2) Delhi—Jodhpur—Karachi. (I. N. A.).—Rs. 2,25,000 per year with an additional Re. 1 per pound for mails in excess of 1,30,000 pounds in the year.
- (3) Calcutta—Rangoon (External service).—Rs. 2 per lb.
- (4) All other services Rs. 1-8-0 per pound irrespective of distance.

STATEMENT III

Revenue earned by Air Lines for carriage of mail during 1947

Name of the Company	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Air India Limited*	1,64,400	1,64,500	1,70,400	1,62,700	1,58,200	1,55,200	1,53,200	1,46,900	1,47,800	1,52,100	*Excluding the revenue earned on the Madras-Trivendrum Route for which figures are not available.
2. Indian National Airways Limited.	69,865	70,012	74,063	55,921	50,449	51,670	47,773	49,897	47,432	68,597	
3. Air Services of India Limited.	1,891	1,802	1,859	1,680	1,733	1,755	1,745	1,736	2,252	2,628	
4. Deccan Airways Limited.	2,366	5,198	5,652	6,391	8,687	5,304	6,092	6,584	7,704	12,347	
5. Ambica Airlines Limited.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Figures not yet received	75	309	
6. Airways (India) Limited.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Figures not yet received.	Figures not yet received.	Figures not yet received.	..	7,458	
7. Indian Overseas Airlines Limited.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Figures not yet received.	Figures not yet received.	..	
8. Bharat Airways Limited.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	..	..

Mr. B. K. Sidhva : May I know, Sir, which companies have made profit during the period I have mentioned?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai : The accounts are available for three Companies :

The Indian National Airways	Rs. 1,50,445
Air Services of India	Loss of Rs. 21,49,400
Current year another loss of	Rs. 16,71,125
Dalmia Jain Airways Ltd.	Rs. 43,168 which includes the profits
of the Allenbery Co.	

Thus the Air Services of India have actually sustained a considerable loss.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva : May I know, Sir, whether the mails carried by these planes are under the Agreement for regular service or there is no condition as far as the service is concerned?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai : I have not been able to follow the question.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva : Is it a fact that the mails carried by these various Companies are not delivered regularly according to time?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai : But so far as the Air Services are concerned, if they are handed over the mails at one end, they hand it over at the other end. If there is any fault, it must be the fault of the Postal Department.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva : Is it a fact that the air mails posted from one place to the other destination are not delivered at all for two days whereas the actual hours in flight are 5 to 6?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai : But that does not concern the Air Services. They merely carry the mail bags and if a bag is handed over here they hand it over at the destination. Therefore they are not responsible for the delay.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva : The Honourable Minister is also responsible for the Postal Department and therefore I want a reply. I want to know if the Postal Department works in cohesion with the Air Services?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai : That is a different question, of which I require notice.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I ask the Honourable Minister what conclusion the Government have come to regarding the nationalisation of airways?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai : I may inform the Honourable Member that the matter is on the agenda of the Statutory Committee which is meeting next week.

SUGAR AND TEXTILE MILLS, CEMENT AND STEEL FACTORIES AND PRICES OF STEEL AND CEMENT

91. ***Mr. B. K. Sidhva :** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply please state—

(i) the names of Sugar Mills in India and the profits made by each of them every year together with the percentage of dividends declared to shareholders since the inception of the Mill up-to-date;

(ii) the names of Textile Mills, Cement Factories and Steel Factories, which made profits and declared dividends to shareholders in the years 1940 to 1947 or 1940 to 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India agreed to raise the price of steel by Rs. 12-8-0 per ton and that of cement by Rs. 22-8-0 per ton in the fourth week of December 1947?

(c) If so, what are the basic principles involved while determining and consenting to the raising of prices from time to time?

(d) While agreeing to such increases do Government bear in mind the reaction of the same on the cost of living of the people?

(e) Do Government propose to adopt some definite policy for bringing down the prices of all articles?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) These particulars are not readily available and will take time to collect.

(b) and (c). Copies of the Press Note dated the 27th January 1948, regarding steel prices and of letter dated the 22nd December 1947, to Provincial Governments regarding Cement prices, which explain the position, are placed on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government believe that increased production and availability of goods will result in a lowering of prices and effort, is, therefore, now being concentrated on securing maximum industrial production in the country.

Press Note dated the 27th January, 1948.

STEEL PRICES.

The Government of India have decided to raise the price of steel purchased from registered stockists by Rs. 80 per ton with effect from today, it is learnt. Of this increase only Rs. 23-8-0 will go to the producing companies.

In case of purchases from registered producers the increase will be Rs. 75 per ton.

The increase is nearly 30 per cent. over the existing price level and is on level with recent increases in the prices of other commodities.

In spite of this increase, steel prices in India will continue to be the lowest in the world.

It will be recalled that a reduction of Rs. 12-8-0 per ton in the selling price of steel by the steel companies was made on April 1, 1946. Since then the liabilities of the companies have increased because of the enactment of the Business Profits Tax Act and an increase in the Corporation Tax. The working cost has also risen on account of increase in the cost of labour and raw materials.

Taking these factors into consideration, the Government of India have felt that if production is not to be adversely affected, some immediate relief to the companies is called for. They have, accordingly, decided that, pending an examination by the Tariff Board of the question of the fixation of steel prices on a long-term basis, the cut of Rs. 12-8-0 referred to above should, as an interim measure, be restored to the companies. Due to the recent increase in railway freight charges both on raw materials and finished goods, there will be an addition of Rs. 11 payable to the main producers, they getting Rs. 23-8-0 per ton in all.

Government expect to import from the U. K. and the U. S. A. substantial quantities of certain categories of steel in 1948. But the price of this steel will be higher than the Indian price. As it would be invidious discrimination among consumers to sell imported steel at prices higher than charged for indigenous steel and would, in effect, raise the price of all steel to the higher level, it has been decided that the increased prices should be spread over all categories of steel except billets, which are only used by re-rollers.

To equalize the high prices of imported steel with that of indigenous steel and to meet the additional payment of Rs. 23-8-0 to the main producers, the prices at which the consumers will purchase from the registered producers have been increased by Rs. 75 per ton. The prices at which the controlled and registered stockists will sell have been increased by Rs. 80 per ton, the extra Rs. 5 being added to cover the Bihar Sales Tax.

These increases come into effect from January 27.

No. I(11)-15(3)/47.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY.

From

C. R. Natesan, Esq.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments.

New Delhi, 22nd December, 1947.

SUBJECT:—Increase in public price of cement.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Cement Marketing Company of India Limited made representations to the Government of India urging that the existing rate of Rs. 65 per ton of cement was uneconomic, and that there was a strong case for an immediate increase on account of the increase in manufacturing costs (labour, coal and gunnybags) and in freight charges. The Government of India, after examining carefully the points raised in the representations and also the materials made available to them by the Cement Marketing Company of India, as well as by their constituent groups, have decided that an increase of Rs. 15 per ton should be allowed, in addition to an increase of Rs. 7-8-0 per ton on account of freight increase, consequent on the increase in railway rates notified with effect from 1st January 1948. This increase of Rs. 22-8-0 per ton will be in force up to 31st July 1948, subject to examination and re-fixation, if necessary, by 1st April 1948, of the freight charges, based on actual calculations.

I am to request that the Provincial Government will kindly take immediate steps to notify the increase.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) C. R. NATESAN,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Copy to:—

The Chief Commissioner,

Delhi
Ajmer Merwara
Pantheploda
Coorg.

The D. G. I. & S., Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.

The Hon. Cement Adviser, D. G. I. & S., New Delhi.

All Regional Hon. Cement Advisers.

The Ministry of

Commerce, Labour, Transport,
Works, Mines. & Power, Communications
States, External Affairs &
Commonwealth Relations

The Engineer-in-Chief's Branch.

By order,

(Sd.) C. R. NATESAN,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that the Government policy is that the increased cost of production should as far as possible be met out of profits which are still high in some industries, particularly Iron and Steel, and that price increases should be sanctioned only the margin of profit is not large enough to absorb the enhanced cost? May I know, in view of this policy, how much amount of profit made by the factory owners has been absorbed into this increased price for steel and cement?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have referred the question of increase to the Tariff Board. The whole matter is under examination, but the price of steel was reduced by consent by Rs. 12/8/0 in 1946 on account of certain considerations. Those have not come into existence and all that we have now done is to allow this increase of Rs. 12/8/0, but while fixing the price, the point of view expressed by the Honourable Member will certainly be borne in mind

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister in Cuba sugar is selling at Calcutta at Rs. 12 a maund and the merchants are selling the imported sugar at Rs. 28? Are no steps being taken by the Government to encourage the Cuba Sugar and level down the prices of sugar in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Whether sugar should be imported or not is still under examination as that may act to the detriment of sugar manufactured in India. This subject is not under my Ministry. That is decided by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the policy of the Government to see that the sugar Industry in this country along with the sugar-cane growers are properly protected even from these dead cheap imported sugar?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is exactly why I say that the question of larger import of sugar is under examination.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether any attempts have been made to strengthen the Statistical Bureau in order that my Honourable friend may be in possession of facts which are not now easily capable of being collected, as stated by him in reply to Mr. Sidhva's question.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I frankly admit that the work of Industrial Statistical Bureau under the Government of India is not very satisfactory. We have not been able to coordinate it with the activities of the Provincial Governments, but certain directions and instructions have been issued to the Provincial Governments and I am hoping that we shall be able to re-organize the department on a proper basis.

MILL PRICES FOR CLOTH AND YARN

92. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the question of fixation of mill prices for cloth and yarn has been referred to the Indian Tariff Board?

(b) Is it a fact that the reference was made on the representation of the millowners? If so, have the millowners made out a *prima facie* case for such a reference?

(c) Do Government intend to decontrol cloth shortly? If so, why has a reference been made for the fixation of prices?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The millowners represented that the Government controlled prices for coarse cloth were too low, and made out a *prima facie* case. Government made a reference to the Tariff Board because they wanted an authoritative opinion on what would be fair prices.

(c) As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, statutory price control over cloth has now been withdrawn but the Industry has agreed to fix fair prices both ex-mill and retail. Government do not however propose to withdraw the reference already made to the Tariff Board, as they desire to have the considered opinion of the Board regarding these fair price levels.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: At what stage the Tariff Board has reached about the consideration of this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Tariff Board has completed the first stage.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the result of that report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report has not been submitted but they have made the preliminary investigation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the Government realize that it has got to see that the industry concerned does not abuse this privilege given to it to fix the price at reasonable levels?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is exactly why Government do not propose to withdraw the reference made to the Tariff Board and they have been asked to examine the working of various categories of mills and give us a complete report as regards the fair price structure.

Mr. R. K. Sidha: Do still Government feel that the matter should be referred to this Board?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is all the more necessary that Government should have sufficient material to decide whether the prices charged by the mill-owners are excessive or not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Among the references made to the Tariff Board is the protection of the hand-loom weavers also in regard to the prices of yarn produced by mills one of the items?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price of yarn was generally put in the terms of reference, but I will look into it again and see how far that question can also be examined.

SALT AND ITS SELLING PRICES

93. *Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to say whether the monthly quota of salt despatches from Sambhar, Pachbhadra and Didwana Salt Sources has been raised after August 1947 for the United Provinces, Bihar, Delhi, East Punjab and the States?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the despatches in wagon-loads from the aforesaid sources from June, 1947 up-to-date, month and district-wise?

(c) Is it a fact that the entire quota of salt is despatched from Sambhar, Pachbhadra and Didwana by the Registered Traders' Companies at a fixed commission to the district traders appointed by the District Officers?

(d) Have the selling prices of salt been fixed in the United Provinces and Bihar under any powers delegated by the Central Government?

(e) If so, how have the selling prices been determined and fixed?

(f) Is the fixation of the price of salt being honoured in the United Provinces and Bihar and if not, what is the selling market price today?

(g) Is it a fact that salt is reported to be selling in certain parts of the United Provinces and Bihar at Rupee one to Rupees three per seer and if so, what action have Government taken or contemplate to take against the district traders?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The monthly quotas of supplies of salt from Sambhar, Pachbhadra and Didwana to East Punjab, Delhi, U.P., Bihar and the States in the Provinces and in Rajputana and C.I. were raised where necessary after August, 1947. A statement (No. I) showing the previous and the revised quotas is placed on the table.

(b) Three statements (Nos. II, III and IV) showing despatches of salt to various districts and Indian States from Sambar, Pachbhadra and Didwana are laid on the table. Owing to transport difficulties it is sometimes not practicable to send the full quota of a district during one month but the deficit is made up in the next month. In considering these statements it may also be remembered that during June, July and a few days in August, supplies were received from the Punjab mines also.

(c) Yes.

(d) U. P.--Yes.

Bihar—No.

The U. P. Government with the approval of the Government of India have issued the U. P. Salt Control Order 1947 which provides for the fixation of wholesale and retail prices by the District Magistrates.

(e) The District nominees who are the direct importers from Sources for U. P. are required to sell salt at a price not exceeding five per cent. over and above the cost of salt at the salt source plus freight and incidental charges as determined by the District Magistrate and the retail dealers are to sell salt at a price not exceeding ten per cent. over and above the wholesale price as determined by the District Magistrate.

(f) In U. P. rationing of salt has been introduced in urban areas of 36 districts and rural areas of 34 districts where the salt is being sold at rates fixed by District Magistrates. Prices have been fixed in districts where salt is not rationed and the reports received from District Magistrates show that even in these districts salt is sold at fixed prices. The prices of salt have not been fixed in Bihar.

(g) U. P.—Yes, Bihar—No. The reasons of the high prices reported are that the complainants have been purchasing salt in black market. As already explained in (f) above, salt is rationed in 36 out of 49 districts of U. P. People get a sufficient quantity of salt at the rates fixed by the District Magistrates as part of their rations. There is no reason therefore, why any one should purchase salt at high rates in U. P., unless he does not care to purchase rationed salt and indulges in black market transactions. Besides increasing supplies to U. P. from Sambhar, arrangements are being made to supply sea-salt to U. P. and Bihar from Calcutta with a view to create reserves of salt in these Provinces equal to two months normal requirements to insure against temporary shortages due to a sudden break-down in supplies. With supplies becoming plentiful it may be feasible to deration salt in the few provinces where this control has been imposed.

Statement. I

Previous and revised annual quotas of salt (in lakhs mds.) for various Provinces.

	Pre August 1947.	Present.
	in lakh mds.	in lakh mds.
1. East Punjab and Punjab States	26.35	27.40
2. Delhi	1.60	2.00
3. United Provinces and U. P. States	81.00	81.30
4. Bihar	*26.72	56.00
5. Ajmere . . . . .	.96	1.00
6. Rajputana	11.23	12.00
7. Gwalior	3.00	4.00
8. Kashmir	7.39	8.00

*In addition Bihar received the same quantity from Karachi, Kathiawar and Calcutta by rail.

Statement II.—Showing despatches of salt to various Provinces and States from Didiwana,

Serial No.	Name of district	Wagons of salt (267½ maunds each) despatched							
		June 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1947	Sep. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947	Upto 15th Jan. 1948
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>United Provinces</i>									
1	Muzaffarnagar	5	4	5	5	..	9	1	..
2	Bijnor	5	4	5	5	..	..	24	10
3	Gorakhpur	5	3	5	5	33	31	2	..
4	Hamirpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	3
5	Jaunpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	9	6	3	5
6	Ghazipur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	10	9	1	2
7	Ballia . . . . .	..	..	..	..	10	10	..	4
8	Deoria . . . . .	..	..	..	..	28	24	4	2
9	Basti . . . . .	..	..	..	..	22	..	22	5
10	Azamgarh . . . . .	..	..	..	..	9	9	5	..
11	Kheri . . . . .	..	..	..	..	10	10	..	..
12	Sitapur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	5	5	..	..
13	Benares . . . . .	..	..	..	..	4	4	7	5
14	Banda . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4
15	Babraich . . . . .	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..
16	Barabanki . . . . .	..	..	..	..	11	..	11	..
17	Mirzapur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
18	Jhansi . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..
19	Gonda . . . . .	..	..	..	..	22	22	..	..
20	Agra . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
21	Saharanpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
22	Meerut . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
23	Aligarh . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
24	Etah . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
25	Sahjahanpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
26	Lucknow . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
27	Unao . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
	Total	15	11	15	15	194	137	127	76
<i>Bihar</i>									
1	Darbhanga	73	..	88	67	67	..	11	28
2	Muzaffarpur	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Champaran	30	74	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	124	74	88	67	67	..	11	28
1	Hissar . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Rohtak	34	35	35	3	..	..	39	..
3	Karnal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..
4	Gurgaon	3	5	4	5	..	..	5	..
	Total	37	40	39	8	..	..	64	..
<i>Indian States</i>									
1	Jaipur	5	5	5	5	5	..	5	..
2	Dujana . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Jind	6	6	6	6	..	..	6	..
4	Loharu	2	2	2	..	1	..	1	..
5	Alwar . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6	Bikaner . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	..
7	Marwar . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
	Total	13	13	13	11	6	..	62	2
1	Ajmer	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	1

Statement III.—Showing despatches of salt to various Provinces and States from Paachdars.

Serial No.	Name of district.	Wagons of salt (267½ maunds each) despatched.							
		June 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1947	Sep. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947	upto 15th Jan. 1948
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>United Provinces.</i>									
1	Pilibhit	4	1	5	18	27	11	8	8
2	Azamgarh	2	3	5	16	24	..	22	8
3	Moradabad	3	..	11	34	51	21	3	14
4	Ghazipur	2	..	4	12	18	18	1	10
5	Sitapur . . . . .	..	5	14	30	57	..	18	14
6	Ballia . . . . .	..	1	8	6	15	..	22	5
7	Jaunpur . . . . .	..	..	4	12	18	27	..	6
8	Badaun . . . . .	..	..	4	9	12	16	5	5
9	Lakhimpur . . . . .	..	..	10	22	28	18	9	9
10	Benares . . . . .	..	..	5	12	24	10	16	6
11	Kanpur . . . . .	..	..	2	4	6	32	6	6
12	Bareilly . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	20	3	5
13	Hardoi . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	19	2	16
14	Bulandahahr . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
15	Etawah . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
16	Farrukhabad . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6
17	Allahabad . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9
18	Sultanpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
19	Bahraich . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	..
20	Muzaffarnagar . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
21	Mathura . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
22	Agra . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
23	Manipuri . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
24	Fyzabad . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
25	Meerut . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Total		11	10	72	184	280	192	155	184
<i>Bihar.</i>									
1	Muzaffarpur	58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Darbhanga	13	27	19	92	102	48	44	26
Total		71	27	19	92	102	48	44	26
<i>East Punjab.</i>									
1	Amritsar . . . . .	..	..	..	..	30	..	..	..
2	Jullundur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	20	2	..	..
3	Kangra . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..
4	Simla . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	..
5	Ludhiana . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	..
6	Ambala . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	33	..	..
7	Gurdaspur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	28	..	..
8	Karnal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..
9	Rohtak . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..
10	Hoshiarpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	36	..	..
11	Gurgaon . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..
Total		..	..	..	..	50	247	..	..
<i>Indian States.</i>									
1	Bikaner	46	28	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Udaipur	98	145	47	28	180	16	114	48
3	Sirohi . . . . .	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..
4	Patiala . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..
5	Gwalior . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	35
6	Jind . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
7	Jodhpur . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	..
Total		144	173	55	28	180	35	178	83

Statement IV.—Showing despatches of salt to various Provinces and States from Sambhar Lake.

Serial No.	Name of district.	Wagons of salt 295 mds. despatched								
		June 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1947	Sep. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947	Upto 15th Jan. 1948.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
UNITED PROVINCES.										
<i>Meerut Division.</i>										
1	Dehra Dun	8	2	8	19	18	28	1	20	
2	Saharanpur	10	1	7	16	3	56	30	..	
3	Muzaffarnagar	4	1	5	11	7	37	26	..	
4	Meerut	28	9	20	45	30	84	57	..	
5	Bulandshahr	12	30	16	54	27	71	38	41	
<i>Agra Division.</i>										
6	Aligarh	57	33	19	80	51	70	43	15	
7	Mathura	15	7	22	16	46	66	33	..	
8	Agra	36	11	25	78	32	75	34	4	
9	Mainpuri	20	20	20	40	7	42	25	..	
10	Etah	20	18	20	31	51	69	26	12	
<i>Rohilkhand Division.</i>										
11	Bareilly	29	1	30	41	57	27	30	12	
12	Bijnor	24	13	17	54	25	25	15	27	
13	Badaun	17	32	32	28	74	19	30	5	
14	Moradabad	25	34	43	94	20	81	56	1	
15	Shahjahanpur	28	3	24	56	35	35	24	6	
16	Pilibhit	8	15	15	15	22	18	15	..	
<i>Allahabad Division.</i>										
17	Farrukhabad	25	25	..	50	34	39	28	13	
18	Etawah	37	16	28	59	10	66	26	..	
19	Kanpur	58	..	58	179	132	78	80	45	
20	Fatehpur	27	4	41	36	36	29	19	..	
21	Allahabad	49	28	42	86	99	72	42	..	
<i>Jhansi Division.</i>										
22	Banda . . . . .	..	30	27	33	43	26	15	5
23	Hamirpur	7	7	11	27	18	14	25	7	
24	Jhansi	23	1	48	32	29	26	20	20	
25	Jalaun . . . . .	..	16	16	35	19	8	25	6
<i>Benares Division.</i>										
26	Benares	15	12	35	78	38	22	38	4	
27	Mirzapur	27	23	20	57	8	38	30	1	
28	Jaunpur	6	35	41	128	41	28	14	20	
29	Ghasipur	17	33	32	48	98	26	15	5	
30	Ballia	40	34	30	64	41	19	22	..	
<i>Gorakhpur Division.</i>										
31	Gorakhpur	2	90	88	102	262	..	146	13	
32	Deoria . . . . .	..	80	78	..	55	49	51	37
33	Basti	90	30	60	159	100	104	61	7	
34	Azamgarh	37	40	40	18	64	85	35	13	
<i>Kumaon Division.</i>										
35	Nainital	2	27	27	27	63	36	38	..	
36	Almora . . . . .	..	28	33	30	40	40	51	12
37	Garhwal	5	18	18	32	10	38	15	15	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Lucknow Division.</i>									
38	Lucknow	10	22	20	40	12	55	45	..
39	Unao	15	21	21	31	26	35	3	8
40	Rai Bareilly	28	23	32	37	40	38	28	..
41	Sitapur	17	14	12	40	25	9	33	..
42	Hardoi	29	22	16	64	43	26	32	..
43	Kheri	46	78	27	20	38	12	19	..
<i>Fyzabad Division.</i>									
44	Fyabad	50	35	34	118	56	52	42	..
45	Gonda	71	61	17	152	69	82	64	1
46	Bahraich	5	58	55	32	132	36	30	10
47	Sultanpur	27	..	43	77	36	34	35	..
48	Partabgarh . . . . .	..	21	18	45	29	34	22	..
49	Bara Banki	42	32	52	65	23	78	27	6
Total		1,148	1,189	1,463	2,679	2,264	2,128	1,659	391
<i>Bihar.</i>									
1	Bhagalpur . . . . .	..	14	25	39	..	..	12	6
2	Champanan	21	118	99	43	95	61	79	40
3	Darbhanga	7	30	25	2	1	10	5	..
4	Gaya . . . . .	..	14	25	16	..	..	..	..
5	Hazaribagh . . . . .	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..
6	Manbhum . . . . .	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
7	Monghyr . . . . .	..	12	25	14	..	..	..	19
8	Muzaffarpur	71	124	102	117	194	165	34	..
9	Palamau . . . . .	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	10
10	Patna . . . . .	..	14	21	14	4	..	..	12
11	Purnea . . . . .	..	..	..	11	5	..	29	4
12	Santhal Parganas . . . . .	..	..	..	10	..	..	10	8
13	Saran . . . . .	..	122	136	81	111	42	110	54
14	Shahbad . . . . .	..	14	25	55	10	22	40	..
15	Singhbhum . . . . .	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..
16	Ranchi . . . . .	..	14	25	26	..	..	..	11
Total		99	476	514	454	420	300	319	164
<i>Foreign Territory.</i>									
1	Nepal	150	246	171	66	197	81	166	20
<i>Centrally Administered Area.</i>									
1	Ajmer	18	18	10	47	5	25	41	1
2	Delhi	5	9	33	59	36	73	40	44
3	Namuch . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total		23	27	43	106	41	98	81	45
<i>East Punjab.</i>									
1	Ambala . . . . .	..	..	..	32	34	4	44	..
2	Amritsar . . . . .	..	..	..	26	55	50	47	25
3	Ferozepur . . . . .	..	..	..	50	38	7	15	3
4	Gurgaon	17	15	7	31	153	21	17	1
5	Gurdaspur . . . . .	..	..	..	10	45	..	43	..
6	Hessar . . . . .	..	..	..	14	114	5	3	..
7	Hoshiarpur . . . . .	..	..	..	14	57	41	41	..
8	Jullundur . . . . .	..	..	..	50	..	39	46	..
9	Kangra . . . . .	..	..	..	8	32	..	..	..
10	Karnal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	47	20	13	9
11	Ludhiana . . . . .	..	..	..	50	0	12	46	..
12	Rohtak	8	11	5	18	33	12	21	8
13	Simla . . . . .	..	..	..	22	44	8	5	11
Total		25	25	12	333	652	288	337	91

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

INDIAN STATES

U. P. States.

1 Tehri Garhwal 2 3 3 3 8 5 ...

Rajputana Group.

1 Awar 6 19 29 68 1 65 2 ...
 2 Bikaner
 3 Bharatpur 15 19 ... 23 40 21 19 4
 4 Bundi 11 16 6 10 1 1 1 10
 5 Dholpur 6 6 12 ... 12 6 ...
 6 Jaipur 56 91 75 72 14 123 80 14
 7 Jhalawar 6 12 6 ... 11 1 4
 8 Jochpur
 9 Karauli 7 7 14 ... 7 7 6
 10 Kisanganarh 3 9 4 1 4 ...
 11 Kotah 40 35 10 20 15 60 26 4
 12 Shahpura 2 2 2 ...
 13 Tonk 25 7 7 11 17 7 23 ...
 14 Udaipur 20 71

TOTAL 153 216 175 307 94 323 196 42

Central India Group.

1 Ajaigarh 4 4 4 ... 8 4 4 4
 2 Alipur 2 2 4 ... 4 2 ...
 3 Baghelkhand 4 4 10 ... 7 1 ...
 4 Baroundha 1 ... 1
 5 Bijwar 4 ... 8 4 4 4
 6 Charkhari 3 3 6 ... 6 3 ...
 7 Bundelkhand 1 2 5
 8 Chhatarpur 5 5 10 5 11 5 5
 9 Datia 7 ... 14 ... 14 7
 10 Garwali 2 1 ... 1
 11 Gaurihar
 12 Indore 8 ... 8 4 4 4
 13 Lugasi 1
 14 Mahihar 3 3 3 ... 6 3
 15 Nagod 3 3 6 ... 6 3
 16 Orcha 15 15 30 11 19 4
 17 Rana 6 6 15 5 7 5
 18 Rewa 5 37 66 55 5 93 65 6
 19 Samhar 1 1 1 ... 1 1 2
 20 Sarila 1

Total 21 102 140 158 57 181 101 15

Gwalior Group.

1 Benares 2 9 7 9 12 18 6 2
 2 Gwalior 76 72 150 3 150 41 20
 3 Kauldha 2 2 4 2 2 2
 4 Rampur 5 10 5 9 22 12
 5 Jammu and Kashmir 58 111

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<i>Eastern Punjab States.</i>										
1	Baghal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Bahahr	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
3	Bhagat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
4	Bhajji	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Bilaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
6	Chamba	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
7	Dojana	...	1	1	...	3	1	...	...
8	Fridkot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Jind	...	6	6	...	11	8	...	...
10	Kalsia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
11	Kapurthala	...	...	...	...	...	10	26	5
12	Loharu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Malerkotla	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...
14	Nabha	...	1	4	4	...	12	5	3	
15	Nalagarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Pa'audi	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
17	Patiala	...	5	3	8	...	25	12	51	
18	Sirmur (Nahan)	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	5
	Total	...	7	14	20	2	51	45	98	31

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट: क्या यह बात ठीक है कि हालांकि राशन में नमक मिलता है तो भी लोग काले बाजार से नमक खरीदते हैं और इसकी क्या जांच करवाई है ?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Is it a fact that although salt is a rationed commodity, yet the people purchase it from the black market? Has any investigation been made in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: When there is shortage perhaps they resort to black market, but I am trying to give them larger supplies so that they can build up reserves.

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट: इसके माने यह है कि राशन में नमक की क्वांटिटी (quantity) बढ़ाई जायगी।

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: This means that the rationed quantity of salt will be increased.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will depend on the supply available.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister what the shortage of salt is due to and when Government propose to have sufficient quantity produced and made available in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have to import about fifty lakhs of maunds of salt and our requirements now are about six crores of maunds. We can produce about five crores and fifty lakhs. There is a large quantity of salt lying in the areas; there have been some transport difficulties, but they have improved considerably.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: In order to bring down the price of salt and also increase production when do Government propose to implement their policy of issuing free licences for the manufacture of salt on the coast-line.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is under consideration. am going to appoint a Committee in a few days.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there are large areas of land on the eastern coast of Southern India which can be put to very good use for the manufacture of salt and which today are not being put to any use at all?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Expansion is possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I submit that ordinary business, they are prepared to manufacture salt.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are not prevented, so far as local production is concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that Government does not encourage them to produce more and more in order to sell it outside in view of this great shortage of salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as local production and consumption is concerned there is no prohibition at all, but so far as granting of licences for large scale production is concerned, the whole policy is being examined and we shall give every possible facility to those who want to do so.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Within eight miles in the East Coast of India sea water flows during the rainy season and in the summer automatically it is evaporated and huge amounts of salt are available in respect of which also there are restrictions for export. These areas are all along the sea coast. You have only to pick it up. The Salt Department is spending Rs. 3,000 only to mix it up with mud and make it inedible. Will the Government be pleased to order that not only the people in the neighbourhood be permitted to take it for their own use but they should also be permitted to export?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall be grateful if the Honourable Member will give me the details. I shall certainly examine the matter.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Some time ago a Select Committee was appointed but no meeting was held. May I know what has happened to that Bill?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The policy has now altered and therefore we will have to revise and bring it up to date.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Does the Honourable Minister know that such natural salt is formed in large quantities near Vedaranyam in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose that must be so if the Honourable Member says it is so.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know why Government has imposed restrictions on export of salt after it has removed the excise duty on salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are not ordinarily anxious to impose any restrictions on export, but so far as salt is concerned even this six crore which I have mentioned is barely sufficient for meeting our entire consumption.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Government propose to remove the restrictions of free export of salt from one place to another?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will be examined.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the changed policy of the Government and whether it was considered after the last Government had gone out?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The policy now is that we shall allow salt to be manufactured without any restriction in areas concerned for the purpose of local consumption. We shall allow free grant of licence to those who would manufacture salt according to the standard which Government will lay down. We shall run some of the large-scale factories on Government account and also encourage Provincial Governments to manufacture salt in areas where salt can be manufactured.

AMMONIA SULPHATE AS FERTILISER

94. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that agriculturists in the mofussil areas have not been using Ammonia Sulphate as manure for paddy cultivation on the ground that the use of this manure brings about gradual loss of fertility of the soil;

(b) whether Government are aware that Ammonia Sulphate that is supplied at cheap rates to agriculturists, are being mainly utilised for sugar-cane, chilly and such other cultivation, and that even for these crops, they use Ammonia Sulphate along with oil cakes or green manure;

(c) whether Government have considered the opinions of Mahatma Gandhi and Sri Kumarappa of the All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha, against the use of Ammonia Sulphate as fertiliser;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a large volume of scientists' and specialists' opinion in America and England against the use of Ammonia Sulphate as fertiliser; and

(e) whether Government under the circumstances propose to consider the desirability of undertaking a scientific enquiry on this question before expanding production of Ammonia Sulphate?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Government have not received any such information from any of the provinces. The demand from the Provinces is steadily increasing. An inquiry will, however, be made from the Provincial Directors of Agriculture whether any agriculturists are not using Ammonia Sulphate on the ground mentioned in the question.

(b) Sulphate of Ammonia is supplied to the cultivator at subsidised rates for use on food crops and the Government of India have sanctioned grants to the Provinces for this purpose under the Grow More Food Schemes. We have not sanctioned any subsidy in respect of Sugar-cane and chilly. We are not aware that the concession is being misused. Government will be glad to inquire into any specific cases brought to their notice of such misuse.

(c) and (d). Yes, Government are aware of the view held that chemical fertilisers are harmful to the Soil. The Ministry of Agriculture had circulated its views to the Provinces in November, 1947. A copy of their letter is placed on the table of the House. Continuous use of Chemicals is known to have a deleterious effect on crop yields but the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture was to use as much heavy organic manure as possible as a basic dressing and to supplement it with a mixture of concentrated organic manures and the chemical fertilisers, the kind of mixtures depending upon the nature of the soil and the climatic conditions of each area. The question of use of manure and fertilisers will continue to be investigated.

(e) Scientific enquiries will proceed *pari passu* with its use on the fields. If we are to hold up its use pending further scientific investigations, we shall have to go very short of fertilisers. There is an increasing World demand for Ammonia Sulphate as a fertiliser which is far short of the World supply and the allocation that we are getting from the F.A.O., which is the controlling international authority for distribution, is already far short of our minimum needs.

No. 4982-M/46.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

New Delhi, the November, 1946.

From

E. A. Gopalaswamy, Esquire, O.B.E., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Provincial Governments and
Local Administrations.

SUBJECT:—Use of fertilisers under Indian conditions.

Sir,

I am directed to address you on the subject of the use of fertilisers under Indian conditions. In view of divergent opinion which have been expressed in certain sections of the Press, and enquiries made from one Province, it is considered that a self-contained statement of the views of this Department might be of use to the Provincial Governments.

This Department has always stressed and continues to stress the need for securing that as much heavy organic manures, such as cow-dung, town refuse composts and composts made from Vegetables and village wastes, as possible should be returned to the soil to meet the basic humus requirements of the land. Under tropical conditions humus gets burnt out quickly and unless it is replaced in some form or another, fertility and water holding capacity of the soil are likely to suffer. It is for this reason that this Department has sponsored the large scale production of composts from both town refuse and night soil and village wastes and vegetable matter. The production of organic manure in adequate quantities to meet the full nutritive requirements of crops and soils is however not a practical proposition and should be supplemented by other forms of manures for supplying the basic plant foods so essential for the increasing agricultural production generally and the production of food crops in particular. Hence the need for increasing the use of fertilisers whether they are in the form of oilcakes, or Sulphate of Ammonia or bone-meal.

Under Indian conditions there are no scientific data tending to show that the continued rational use (the emphasis being on the word rational) of fertilisers has an adverse effect on the soils on which it is used or on the crops that are produced therefrom. At the same time there are also no data to prove the contrary. Evidence, however, is available on the continued use of chemicals for over a hundred year on some of the experimental plots at Rothamsted (England) where such use has shown no deleterious effect and where crops yields have shown a continuous and steady increase. Under Indian conditions, the recommendation of this Department has always been to use as much heavy organic manure as possible as a basic dressing and to supplement it with preferably a mixture of concentrated organic manures and the chemical fertilisers in order to provide sufficient plant nutrients for the production of a reasonably good crop under any given set of conditions. The kind of mixtures to be used will depend upon the nature of the soil and the climatic conditions of each area. The chemist of the Provincial Government should be able to determine the suitable mixture. In order to forestall any possible damage that may be feared as a result of the long range use of chemical fertilisers, particularly of Sulphate of Ammonia which is acidic in reaction, the obvious thing to do is to use lime in some form or another at specified intervals. The best form in the view of this Department would be bonemeal which not only actually supplied large quantities of lime but also substantial quantities of phosphates and some quantities of nitrogen. Failing this, ordinary lime could be used. Under neutral or alkaline conditions, an application of one third of a ton of lime per acre once every five or seven years should be ample, while on acidic soils the use of bonemeal every year in suitable quantities would definitely preclude any possibility of harm.

As regards the economics of manuring, this Department is of the opinion that while the use of manures and fertilisers does give increased yield, the value of such yield is not likely to recompense the cultivators sufficiently for the increased expenditure and enterprise involved in the use of fertilisers on a large enough scale unless the prices of fertilisers bore a definite relation to the prices of food crops. This relation has been in the past generally unfavourable and still remains so. It will continue to be unfavourable until the production and use of fertilisers are developed on a sufficiently large scale to enable this price of fertilisers being brought down not only absolutely, but relatively to the prices of food crops. In the meanwhile there is need for making available both composts and concentrated manures on a subsidised basis, as has been stressed by this Department more than once, in order to foster their development and to increase the production of food.

The controversy on the use of heavy organic manures versus concentrated fertilisers was raised at the last Food and Agricultural Organization Committee meetings, and at the Food and Agricultural Organization Conference held at Copenhagen in September, last. It is understood that this world authority came to the considered conclusion that apart from water the

rational use of fertilisers is the only method known to the scientific world whereby increased production can be assured quickly. In consultation with Nutrition Experts it has further stated that there is no evidence to show that the rational use of such manures does harm either to man, beast or soil. A very interesting article on this subject was published in the Scottish Journal of Agriculture in its issue of January 1945 by Dr. Ogg, Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station and Dr. Nicol of the Imperial Bureau of Science. A copy of this article was forwarded to the Provincial Director of Agriculture with this Department letter No. F. 33-34/45-P. dated the 11th September, 1945.

It is hoped that in view of the considerations stated above, the Provincial Government will take every possible step for increasing the maximum use of organic manures and fertilisers within the Province.

Shri Biswanath Das: Arising out of the reply given to part (a), may I inform the Honourable Minister, as an agriculturist, as a man having something to do with the provinces of Orissa and Madras, as also having come to know something of the agriculturists of Bengal; that this is correct.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Biswanath Das: The question is whether the Honourable Minister will take the facts I have given him at their face value and institute an enquiry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have already indicated that this matter is being investigated and whatever information the Honourable Member is pleased to supply me will be carefully examined.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether it is a fact that in all countries where the out-turn of production is greater, there is plentiful use of Ammonia Sulphate?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: May be.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the admission of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, may I request him to consider whether it is desirable to expand the production of Ammonium Sulphate by installing factories before the question is decided whether or not Sulphates are injurious to the fertility of the soil and agriculture as a whole.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Before the factories are completed, or begin functioning, we shall have completed our investigations.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, arising out of answer to parts (d) and (e), may I know who are the Scientific experts and specialists who are investigating into this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Agriculture Department. I will not, however, be able to give the names of officers straightaway.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, and is it not widely held that Ammonia Sulphate is as deleterious to the plant organism as vegetable ghee is to the human body organism?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have indicated that in my reply.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, may I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that many eminent people have pointed out the fact that vested interests have been created amongst certain Government officials and also among members of the.....

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would be surprised if it were so. But I am prepared to go into the matter if any specific allegations are made.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is it a fact that some of the ex-Viceroy's and Secretaries of State are Directors of the Imperial Chemical Industries? Lord Reading was the Chairman; now Lord Linlithgow is.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I must accept a well-informed Honourable Member's statement.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know, Sir, if the system of subsidies extends to States also?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I require notice of that question.

OUDDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY AND PILFERAGE OF GOODS

95. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is fact that pilfering of goods of various kinds has been prevalent on the Ouddh and Tirhut Railway on a large scale, and that recently a conspiracy was unearthed by the Railway Police?

(b) Is it a fact that foodgrains, general merchandise, iron materials and even dry and fresh fruits are stolen on this Railway, involving not only payment of big claims by the Railway but also entailing hardship to the public and dislocation of general business?

(c) Is it a fact that since January, 1947 some 180 wagons of foodgrains consigned for the Gorakhpur region were lost, and subsequently through the efforts of the R.F.C. Staff several hundred unlabelled wagons standing in the yards of Gorakhpur and Bhatny stations were traced and seized by a magistrate?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are informed that a number of consignments of foodgrains in unlabelled wagons were traced as a result of the joint efforts of the staff of the Commercial Department of the Railway and the staff of the Regional Food Controller. These consignments were delivered in the normal way to the civil authorities. More precise details are being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Is the Honourable Minister for Railways aware that large scale pilfering of newspaper packets which are sent by railways are taking place and sometimes it so happens that as many as seventy-five per cent. of the newspapers sent in packets are pilfered by the railway authorities and are not delivered to the agent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am quite prepared to admit that pilferage has been on the increase on the railways. We are taking every possible step in order to check it. It is partly a law and order question and I am glad to say that the Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar have given us full co-operation. We are also taking various railway measures, but primarily I think it is a law and order question and has got to be pursued on that line.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, will the Honourable Minister for Railways please tell us which other Railways share the honours with the O.T. Railway so far as pilfering and thefts are concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, the problem on the O.T. Railway is a particularly difficult one, because, as far as I know, in recent months a fairly big black market has been developing in East Bengal and goods are being moved from the O.T. Railway—I regret to say in some cases with the connivance of the railway staff—for disposal in the black market.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Will Government be pleased to strengthen the Watch and Ward Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, we have already strengthened our Watch and Ward Department, but that is not sufficient to cope with the problem. We have got to bring in the assistance of the civil authorities as well.

VALUE PAYABLE PARCEL POSTS BY EVACUEES BEFORE 15TH AUGUST, 1948

96. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the case of those persons or firms, who have migrated from Pakistan and who sent V. P. P.'s to their clients before August 15, 1947, and to whom the amount was due after August 15, 1947, but could not get the amounts or the refused articles, has been considered up till now?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to consider it in the near future, so that those individuals or firms may receive the amounts or the refused articles back?

(c) Do the Government of India intend to make any agreement with the Government of Pakistan in this connection, so that the persons or firms who have migrated from one dominion to the other may receive the amounts due or get the refused articles back on their new addresses?

(d) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Under the Standstill Agreement with the Government of Pakistan relating to postal services which is in force till the 31st March, 1948, V. P. articles and money orders can be redirected to any place in India and Pakistan. It is proposed to have a comprehensive agreement between the two Dominions on postal matters to have effect from 1st April, 1948 and steps are being taken to arrange a meeting between representatives of the P. and T. Departments of India and Pakistan for this purpose.

R. M. S. STAFF AND ALLOWANCES)

97. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what action Government propose to take with regard to certain allowances like the hill allowance, compensatory allowance and out-station allowance for the staff of the R. M. S., which have been left to be fixed by Government?

(b) Was the Central Pay Commission asked to fix these allowances and if so, why did they leave the review to Government?

(c) Do Government propose to accept the Central Pay Commission's suggestion that such allowances should be based on what provincial Governments pay?

(d) Will each Ministry make the review independently?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Compensatory and House rent allowances for costly localities have already been fixed and it has been decided that allowances in hill stations, localities with bad climate and remote localities, should be continued at the existing rates until they are reviewed. The review has been taken up. As regards out-station allowance for R.M.S. staff, it is proposed to refer the question to an Expert Committee as recommended by the Central Pay Commission.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Commission have stated the reasons for not making specific recommendations in these matters in paras. 84 to 88 (Part II) pages 53 and 54 and para. 57 (Part III) page 231 of the Report.

(c) The Pay Commission have only suggested that in granting these allowances, the practice of Provincial Governments should be taken into account. Government accept this suggestion.

(d) The review is not made by each Ministry independently; it is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Finance.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether the rates fixed by the provinces will not act to the detriment of the employees of the Department? Why should not my Honourable friend himself refer the matter fixing these allowances to the expert committee that is going to be appointed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: This is, as I have said, what the Pay Commission recommended and we have accepted it. If at any place it is found that this is not sufficient Government may take up the question again.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know when the expert committee is likely to meet?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I hope very soon.

• **POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT'S EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS AND THEIR REMUNERATIONS**

98. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the remuneration of the Extra Departmental Agents of the Posts and Telegraphs Department was included in the terms of reference to the Central Pay Commission? If so, why did they not fix these allowances?

(b) What action have Government taken to fix the remuneration for such workers?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) The question of revising the remuneration of Extra Departmental Agents is under the consideration of Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How long has it been under the consideration of Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think the Honourable Member is aware that in the course of the last few weeks several questions that were not decided by the Pay Commission or in which there was some dispute were taken up. Some have already been decided and some will be decided in the course of the next few weeks.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know if my Honourable friend is prepared to accept a conference between the Unions and the department before a final decision is arrived at in respect of these matters?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think there is no objection in discussing the matter with the Unions. As a matter of fact representatives of the different Unions have been seeing me off and on and they have considered all the questions which we have decided; and the same procedure will continue.

GOVERNMENT ACTION ON JUSTICE RAJADHYAKSHA'S REPORT ON POSTAL DISPUTE

99. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government in reference to para. 174 of Justice Rajadhyaksha's report in the postal dispute in regard to the grievances of the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) If no action has been taken during the eighteen months since this report was published and accepted, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) Are Government aware that the Central Pay Commission have made a similar recommendation in their report? If so, what action has been taken in this connection?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) The grievances mentioned in paragraph 174 of Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha's Report did not form part of the terms for Adjudication. However, when genuine grievances are brought to the notice of Government action is taken to redress them. A statement is placed on the table of the House indicating the nature of the action taken in regard to the grievances mentioned in the paragraph.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to paragraph 57 at page 231 of the printed Report of the Central Pay Commission. If so, steps have been taken to appoint an expert committee to enquire into the grievances referred to therein.

Statement.

Grievance	Nature of action taken
1. Limited application of the Unified Scale of Pay.	The Unified scale was introduced with a view to overcoming recruitment difficulties in certain localities. It was therefore confined to places where such difficulties were being experienced. With the introduction of the new scales of pay on the basis of the Pay Commission's recommendations, the Unified scale has ceased to exist.
2. Inadequacy of outstation allowance to Railway Mail Sorters.	This matter had come within the purview of the Central Pay Commission who recommended that grievances like this should be examined by an expert committee. Such a Committee is being appointed.
3. Difficulty of getting accommodation in places like Delhi.	Government provides quarters to staff to the extent possible. House rent allowance is paid in certain places like Delhi to compensate for the high rents for private accommodation.
4. Stagnation at the maximum of the Lower Division Scale as a result of the change in the ratio between the strength of the Lower and Upper Divisions and lack of vacancies in the Upper Division.	A continuous scale was introduced in July 1945. Officials who were at the maximum of the Lower Division could then come over to the Upper Division without stagnating in the Lower Division.
5. Confirmation of temporary staff.	Qualified temporary hands are confirmed when permanent vacancies arise.
6. Permanent telephone operators in Delhi getting less pay than temporary telephone operators.	A special scale of pay was introduced for temporary telephone operators in order to overcome recruitment difficulties. These difficulties did not exist in the case of permanent telephone operators. This special scale, however, has ceased to be in force. The scale of pay introduced on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission has taken its place and applies to both temporary and permanent telephone operators.
7. Departmentalisation of Telephone Companies' staff.	The staff of the old Bengal Telephone Corporation have been offered terms for being brought on to departmental scales of pay etc. Similar action in respect of the staff of other Telephone Companies' staff will be completed shortly.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether the grievances pointed out by the Adjudicator have been considered by the Department and settled now?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The Honourable Member will find in the statement on what matters action has been taken. About other matters an expert committee has been appointed and its report will be awaited.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it the same committee that the Honourable Minister referred previously?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Who are the members of this Committee?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: There are two members of the department and one labour leader nominated by the Labour Ministry.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Minister consider the advisability of appointing a member to represent the workers?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I thought the labour representative who is from a Trade Union represents the workers.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know if the Labour Ministry consulted the recognised Unions before making this appointment?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I shall require notice of that question.

PRE-1931 POSTAL CLERKS

100. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the peculiar position of pre-1931 Postal clerks whose scales of pay range from Rs. 35—135 to Rs. 50—160 according to localities and for whom the proposed scale is Rs. 60—170?

(b) Are Government aware that if these pre-1931 employees wish to opt for the prescribed scale, their substantive pay would be less than their existing pay?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have recently decided that the difference between the present pay and proposed pay would be paid to them as personal pay?

(d) If so, are Government aware that this will have the effect of stopping the annual increments of these people till the difference given as personal pay is absorbed in future increments?

(e) Is it a fact that this peculiar position will not apply to all pre-1931 employees but only to certain categories whose pre-1931 scales are lower than the prescribed scales?

(f) If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment between the two categories of employees governed by the pre-1931 scales of pay?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, in some cases.

(c) Government have already issued orders protecting the pre-1931 employees against any loss in emoluments.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir.

(f) The matter is already under the consideration of Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask again whether the matter is before the same expert committee?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No, Sir. Government have independently taking it up and I hope a decision will be reached very soon.

ORIYAS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

101. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Oriyas who are in service in Bengal Nagpur Railway drawing a pay of Rs. 200 and over?

(b) What is the total number of Travelling Ticket Inspectors, Station Masters and Booking Clerks who are now serving in the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint Oriya Station Masters and Booking Clerks on B. N. R. line from Puri to Khargpur?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total number of Oriyas on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, including the Vizagapatam Port, drawing a pay of Rs. 200 p.m. and above is 14.

(b) The total number is:

Travelling Ticket Inspectors—46.

Station Masters—540.

Booking Clerks—252.

(c) No, as direct recruitment is not made to posts of Station Masters and Booking Clerks, these posts being filled by promotion of suitable staff from lower grades. Promotions to higher grades on railways are not made on provincial or communal considerations.

Shri B. Das: In view of the change of Government from irresponsibility to responsibility, will the Honourable Minister now think of recruiting railway employees on a zonal basis so that the Oriya may not be elbowed out by South Indians?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position with regard to non-gazetted ranks of the central services, as my Honourable friend well knows, is that as far as initial recruitment is concerned the Central Government has provided for preference being given to certain communities. No preference is given on a territorial or linguistic basis; but in spite of that I have instructed the railways that in the case of inhabitants of provinces through which a particular railway runs in case they are not adequately represented, they should—other conditions being equal—be given preference.

Shri B. Das: Will the Honourable Minister kindly consider that it is high time that the Traffic and Engineering Divisions of the B. N. Railway are located in Orissa so that other races do not black-out the Oriyas in the railway services, higher or lower?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Consistently with the principles that I have mentioned, I would look into it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Would Government extend those principles by reserving a portion of these promotions to direct recruitment, so that the people belonging to that area and speaking that language will have a chance.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That raises a very big question of policy.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that the instructions of the Honourable Minister have not been carried out so far as Assam is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That matter has been under discussion between me and the Honourable the Premier of Assam and I do think that we are making some progress in that matter.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the railways are keeping up statistics provincial, linguistic, communal and on other basis? How many kinds of statistics are they having?

Shri B. Das: Communalism has now gone!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Since a reference has been made in the matter of initial appointments, we would be able to give the Honourable Member statistics as far as that is concerned. But statistics on a territorial and linguistic basis is difficult.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is it not an undesirable policy to have this sectionalism on the railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It raises a difficult question of policy.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has Government statistics as far as communal basis is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, there are such statistics.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it desirable? What is the Government's policy in that respect?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: At present, as I said, in regard to non-gazetted appointments, we give preference to communities, and since we are giving preference to communities, obviously it follows that we have statistics of communal appointments.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: May I know if the Honourable Minister is satisfied that his instructions to the Department that people of the provinces are adequately represented in the department are carried out and also given effect to honestly?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a little more than I can answer. But I am prepared to see to it that the principle that I have laid down is honestly carried out.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Has the Honourable Minister asked for reports on this point from the Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What happens is that when actual appointments are made I try to see how far these appointments have made provision for the principles that I have laid down. But if you ask me whether so far I am satisfied that sufficient progress has been made, it is a question that I would find difficult to answer.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What is the case just referred to in the Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In regard to this question of the appointment of Oriyas?

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give an answer to that.

MORAPPUR-HOSUR RAILWAY LINE

102. ***Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Morappur-Hosur Railway line on the South Indian Railway was serving an area which is short of communications and that the people living in the area formerly served by this line are put to great inconvenience by the closing of this line?

(b) Have Government received representations from the Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Hosur Taluqs in this connection and if so, do Government propose to take early steps to restore this line?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, Sir. The area served by the Morappur-Hosur Railway line which has since been dismantled as adequately served by road transport.

(b) Yes; but in view of the line having been unremunerative throughout its existence the Government do not find sufficient justification for its restoration. However, this proposal will soon be examined by the Central Board of Transport along with other projects in Madras and a final decision will then be made regarding its restoration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is Government surveying the position so far as the Kadur-Mangalore line is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Honourable Minister will refer to the Madras Government whether they will pay any subsidy for making up the deficit which may arise if the line is restored?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position with regard to the restoration of dismantled lines is that we make a reference to the Provincial Government on the question. If the Provincial Government wants the line to be restored, then we make a survey from the traffic point of view and if we are satisfied that the traffic position justifies the restoration, we proceed with it irrespective of any contribution by the Provincial Government. On the other hand, if we find that the traffic does not justify it, it would be a question to take up with the Provincial Government whether they should not make a contribution.

Shri K. Santhanam: Has any such reference been made in this matter to the Madras Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It has not reached that stage because we are going to take up the matter in the Central Transport Board. At the time of the meeting of this Board I shall invite the Madras Government to send a representative to put up their case.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: The Honourable Minister said that the line was a loss, it was not a paying proposition; when was the traffic survey made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This line was constructed away back in 1906 as a famine feeder line and ever since then every year it has been a losing line.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to provide through the railways road transport facilities in all those places where these railways have been dismantled?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In regard to a number of these proposals for the restoration of dismantled lines, the fact is that many areas have been developed from the point of view of road transport and it is a serious public question whether the railways should step in and introduce an element of unhealthy competition.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The other substantial part of my question has not been answered. What steps are Government in the railways taking to provide their own road transport services in those places where lines have been dismantled?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member is aware that we have a programme of rail-road co-ordination and that practically all the provinces are taking up big projects for rail-road co-ordination in which the railways are having a definite financial interest.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Is the Government aware that there is only one good metal road in the whole area?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: But apparently that road is fairly well served by buses!

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: From where did the Honourable Minister get the information that the area is well served?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: From such local investigations as I have been able to make!

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: The Honourable Minister said that the question of this line is being examined. Is this the only line being examined, or are the other lines also which are to be restored being examined, including the Shoranur-Nilambur line?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I did not say it has been examined. It is going to be examined. There are a number of other proposals which the Madras Government has sent up to us and my idea is to place all these proposals from Madras before the Central Transport Board and have a representative from that Government to represent their case.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Is the Shoranur-Nilambur line included?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to answer that question offhand. A reference was made to the Madras Government in view of the suggestions made on the floor of this House, and my impression is that the Madras Government have not so far replied.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: If this line is extended from Hosur to Bangalore will it not become payable?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would like notice of that question.

TRAFFIC SURVEY FOR MYSORE-COIMBATORE RAILWAY LINE

103. ***Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the traffic survey for the Mysore-Coimbatore Railway line has been completed?

(b) When will the construction of the line be started?

(c) Have Government received representations from the Madras Province and Mysore about the necessity and urgency for this line?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to starred question No. 689 on 8th December 1947. The agreement of the Mysore State to the estimate for carrying out the survey for a line between Chamrajnagar to Metuupalayam, the link required to complete the Mysore Coimbatore connection, is still awaited. The Traffic survey has therefore not yet been taken in hand.

(b) It is not possible to say at this stage when construction of the line will be started.

(c) The Government of India have received no representation from the Madras Provincial Government in regard to this line. The Mysore State, however, have supported the construction.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MAIL TRAINS AND THEIR LATE ARRIVALS

104. ***Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state on how many occasions in the months of November and December 1947 and upto 23rd January 1948 the following mail trains reached their respective destinations in time, and if they did not, what was the average hours of delay:

Train	Destination
1. Up Delhi Mail	Delhi
2. Down Howrah Mail	Howrah
3. Up Assam Mail	Sealdah
4. Down Assam Mail	Amingaon

(b) Is it a fact that express and passenger trains in the routes referred to in part (a) above keep more approximately to the scheduled time than the mail trains? If so, why?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Out of the trains mentioned in the question Up Delhi Mail arrived destination at the scheduled time, once, and

Up Assam Mail, on five occasions. The average daily late arrival was as follows:

Up Delhi Mail 173 minutes (2 hours 53 minutes).

Down Howrah Mail 216 minutes (3 hours 36 minutes).

Up Assam Mail 152 minutes (2 hours 32 minutes).

Down Assam Mail 176 minutes (2 hours 56 minutes).

(b) No.

CEMENT SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

105. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the entire quantity of cement manufactured by Assam Bengal Cement Company, Limited of Chhattock, before 15th of August, 1947 and lying in their stock upto the end of the year 1947, have been made over to the Government of Pakistan under the direction and with the approval of the Government of India and that nothing has been made available to the province of Assam?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir. Such an impression was created for a few days by a misunderstanding of the Government orders by the Hon. Regional Cement Adviser, Calcutta, but the position has been clarified.

LIME AND COAL FOR ASSAM BENGAL CEMENT COMPANY, LTD. AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS IN ASSAM

106. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Lime and Coal required for manufacture of Cement in the Assam Bengal Cement Factory at Chhattock are obtained from Assam under a lease granted to the Company by the Government of Assam and that Chhattock was a part of Assam up till 15th August 1947?

(b) Are Government also aware that important public works commenced by the Government of Assam have been held up owing to the action of the Government of India in making over the stock of cement lying in the factory referred to in part (a) above to the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government are aware that the cement factory at Chhattock is supplied with raw materials from Assam, but they have no information whether the supplies are made under a lease granted by the Provincial Government, or about the terms of the lease. Necessary information is being asked for.

(b) As has already been explained in reply to a previous question, a certain misunderstanding arose, which Government rectified shortly thereafter, and supplies are now being made as before.

QUOTAS OF CAUSTIC SODA, IRON, STEEL ETC. FOR ASSAM

107. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what quota, if any, of the following materials have been allotted to Assam in 1948:

- (i) Materials for manufacture of umbrellas;
- (ii) Materials for repair of cycles and also cycle accessories;
- (iii) Caustic Soda; and
- (iv) Iron and Steel sheets for manufacture of tin containers and tin canisters?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (i) (a) *Steel and timber*—Nil. (b) *Umbrella Cloth*—Decontrolled since 22nd January, 1948.

(ii) (a) *Steel*—Nil. (b) Cycle repair materials and cycle accessories are not controlled and the question of allotment of quota does not arise.

(iii) Although caustic soda is not statutorily controlled, and there is no provincial allocation in the strict sense of the word, the main importers, in fact, ration caustic soda on the lines indicated by Government from time to time. The present position is that soap factories are given 40 per cent. of their past average consumption, and other miscellaneous consumers about 60 per cent. of past average. Factories in Assam are allotted caustic soda on this basis. I shall be glad to give further details to the Honourable Member if he desires.

(iv) 293 tons in Period I/1948.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Put down for 31st January, 1948]†

TRANSFER TO INDIA OF RECORDS AND ART COLLECTIONS HOUSED IN INDIA OFFICE, LONDON

42. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state whether it is a fact that the British Government have requested the Government of India to send their representative to England for the purpose of transferring to India the Records, the Library and art collections, housed in the India Office in London?

(b) If so, has a representative been sent and what is the result of his visit?

(c) What are the various kinds of jewels like the 'Kobinoor' taken from India which are now in the possession of Britain?

(d) How do Government intend to exhibit all these in India, when transferred to this country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given by me to parts (a) and (b) of the Short Notice question asked by Pandit Mukut Biharilal Bhargava on the 12th December 1947 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative). In consultation with our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom we have since suggested to the Government of the United Kingdom that the fact-finding committee should meet about the end of March or beginning of April 1948.

(b) No representative has yet been sent from India.

(c) We have no exact information yet.

(d) As the future of the "contents" of the late India Office is still uncertain, it is too early to consider the point.

REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES UNDER THE INDIAN COMPANIES' ACT DURING 1947

43. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce please state the names of Companies registered under the Indian Companies' Act during the year 1947?

(b) How many Companies have been actually floated and how many have started functioning?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as early as possible.

†The meeting of the Assembly fixed for 31st January, 1948, having been cancelled, the answers to starred questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to-day.—*Ed. of D.*

ISSUE OF PASSPORTS BY DOMINIONS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

44. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state whether the Dominion of India or the Dominion of Pakistan intend to issue passports to their respective citizens for their movement from one Dominion to the other after March 1948?

(b) If so, from what date is it likely to be introduced and what will be the condition for the issue of such passports?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Passports are not at present required by persons domiciled in India or Pakistan for movement from one Dominion to the other. The Government of India have no proposal to modify the existing practice and are not aware of any intention on the part of the Pakistan Government to do so.

(b) Does not arise.

LABOUR STRIKES DURING 1947

45. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour please state the number of labour strikes that took place during the year 1947 and the names of the Trade Unions or other organisations under whose auspices they were organized.

(b) What was the duration and the result of each strike?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Statistics of industrial disputes in India are published in the *Indian Labour Gazette*, a monthly periodical issued by the Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour. Copies of the Gazette are available in the Library of the Legislature. The latest figures given in the December issue of the *Indian Labour Gazette* are upto October 1947 which are provisional. Final figures for the year 1947 are not yet available but the number of disputes resulting in stoppage of work during the period January to November 1947 is estimated to be 1580. Information relating to the names of trade unions etc., asked for, is not available.

(b) I lay on the table a statement showing the duration and result of strikes in the cases so far known.

Statement showing the duration and result of Strikes during the year 1947, as far as known

Duration of strikes.

One day or less	337
More than one day up to 5 days	214
More than 5 days up to 10 days .	108
More than 10 days up to 20 days .	90
More than 20 days up to 30 days	60
More than 30 days	99
	<hr/>
	908

Results of strikes

Successful	262
Partially successful	267
Unsuccessful	578
Indefinite	366
	<hr/>
	1,473

TREATY OF MILITARY ALLIANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

46. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a newspaper report to the effect that a treaty of Military Alliance exists between the Government of Pakistan and His Majesty's Government; and

(b) whether there is any information available to the Government of India regarding the existence or details of any such treaty?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have seen the newspaper report in question.

(b) The Government of India have no information on the subject.

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY BY EVACUEES

47. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain refugees from West Punjab who had occupied Muslim property by giving the tenants of such property similar rights in Pakistan are being evicted from such residences without any alternative arrangement being made for their accommodation; and

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to Mahatma Gandhi's statement to the following effect in his prayer meeting on the 9th January, 1948:

"Some of their Muslim friends had houses in Delhi. They had left Delhi and told their Hindu friends from Pakistan to occupy their houses. Now the Government had asked them to vacate those houses"?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) I regret it is not possible for me to answer a general question of this type based on so many implicit and unverified assumptions; but if the Honourable Member has any particular cases in view, and would give me the necessary details, I shall certainly look into them.

(b) Yes.

REHABILITATION OF WEST PUNJAB EVACUEES IN EAST PUNJAB RURAL AREAS

48. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of evacuees from West Punjab have been rehabilitated in the rural areas in East Punjab?

(b) whether they have rehabilitated themselves or have been rehabilitated under some authoritative plan;

(c) how many have been so rehabilitated under a planned scheme; and

(d) the number of Hindus and Sikhs who belonged to the rural areas in West Punjab and the number of Hindus and Sikhs (separately) who have been rehabilitated in the rural areas in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Permanent rehabilitation is a process which can be accomplished after some time. The work so far done towards the rehabilitation of non-Muslim refugees from West Punjab is aimed at giving them temporary relief—and, wherever possible, putting the agriculturists among them on the land vacated by Muslim evacuees.

(b) This temporary resettlement was carried out according to certain broad principles which directed refugees from specified areas in West Punjab to specified areas in East Punjab. On the whole this plan appears to have been carried out. In view of the need for getting as much area as possible under cultivation it was decided to lease land for one harvest to groups, owners, occupancy tenants and tenants-at-will being entitled to temporary allotment. The East Punjab Government have now ordered a complete review of the allotment of land which has been made during the current harvest.

(c) The total number of persons thus settled on rural areas land is approximately 20 lakhs.

(d) With the statistics immediately available, it is not possible to work out the correct figures for the rural population of Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab. Rough figures indicate that there were about 13½ lacs Hindus and 12½ lacs Sikhs among the rural population in West Punjab. Separate figures of Hindu and Sikh refugees so far settled in rural areas in East Punjab are not available.

BUILDING OF NEW TOWNSHIPS TO REHABILITATE REFUGEES

49. ***Diwan Chaman Lal**: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is the intention of Government to open up the following areas for building new townships in order to rehabilitate the refugees:

- (i) Palam and Gurgaon;
- (ii) Kurukshetra area;
- (iii) the area up to Bahadurgarh and, if necessary, beyond;
- (iv) the area along the Meerut Road as far as feasible;
- (v) the area along the Mathura Road; and
- (vi) the area beyond the Octroi Barrier on the Grand Trunk Road to Karnal far as feasible?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (i) Yes. Gurgaon is covered by the East Punjab Government scheme for provision of new houses in certain towns.

(ii) The matter is under expert examination.

(iii) The area along the road has not been specifically considered, but it is proposed that a township should be set up in Tehar some distance of the Bahadurgarh Road.

(iv) U.P. Government have been requested to consider the setting up of new townships and suburban development near the larger cities, in the western part of the province.

(v) Yes. A site has been selected at Kalkaji off the Mathura Road.

(vi) The area in the vicinity of the Delhi City on this road is unsuitable as the soil is saline and water-logged. Further along the road, East Punjab Government have a scheme for provision of new houses at Sonapat, Panipat and Karnal.

BUILDING OF TOWNSHIPS AND *Mandis* IN EAST PUNJAB FOR WEST PUNJAB REFUGEES

50. ***Diwan Chaman Lal**: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the intention of Government to build other towns, townships and *Mandis* in East Punjab for the benefit of refugees from West Pakistan; and

(b) whether extensions of existing towns capable of absorbing 2,50,000 refugees in East Punjab are being planned in consultation with the Government of India and whether any scheme is now ready for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes; the matter is actively under the consideration of the East Punjab Government.

(b) There is a scheme for providing additional accommodation in the neighbourhood of twelve townships in Eastern Punjab. It is proposed to acquire sites for about eight thousand houses. Four thousand of these will be built by Government, and it is hoped that other sites will be taken at by private enterprise. In this way it is expected to house about two lakhs of refugees. The 4,000 houses are expected to cost 2½ crores.

DEMARICATION OF INDIAN UNION BOUNDARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH RADCLIFFE AWARD

51. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the boundaries of the Indian Union have been demarcated in the East Punjab, West Bengal and Assam after the declaration of and in accordance with the Radcliffe Award and if so, what demarcations have been provided where no natural boundaries exist between the two dominions;

(b) what discrepancies, if any, have been found to exist between the descriptions of the boundaries in the texts of the Awards and the maps annexed thereto and if so, how the discrepancies have been or are going to be reconciled; and

(c) whether there were or have been any disputes between the Governments of India and Pakistan in the matter of boundaries between the two dominions and if so, how the disputes have been or are going to be disposed of?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The boundaries of the Indian Union in the East Punjab, West Bengal and Assam have not yet been demarcated on the ground in accordance with the Radcliffe Award. For avoiding any possible dispute with the Pakistan Government a joint survey by the two Governments is obviously desirable. The question of holding a joint survey is now under consideration.

(b) Until a joint survey has been conducted it is not possible to say whether there is any discrepancy between the description of the boundaries given in the texts of the Awards and the maps attached thereto.

(c) Two or three cases in which the correct location of the boundaries is disputed have come to the notice of the Government of India and in all these cases a joint survey has been suggested to the Pakistan Government.

INCLUSION OF NADIA DISTRICT (EAST BENGAL) IN THE INDIAN UNION TERRITORY

52. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation or are aware of any agitation to the effect that according to the correct interpretation of paragraph 6 of the Annexure of Radcliffe's Bengal Award, about 500 square miles of the Nadia district, now under the Pakistan Government, should form a part of the territory of the Indian Union;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what decision Government have arrived at in the matter and whether the matter has been taken up or settled with the Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of examining the correctness of the position referred to in part (a) above.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India received a telegram some time back, which suggested that 500 square miles of the District of Nadia which should have formed part of the Indian Dominion under the Radcliffe Award is now wrongly included in the

territory of Pakistan. It has been ascertained from the Government of West Bengal that on receipt of similar representations that Government asked their Director of Land Records to examine the matter in course of the joint survey of the disputed boundaries of West and East Bengal, and they are now awaiting the Director's report. Further action will be considered by the Government of India on receipt of a report from the West Bengal Government after they have examined the report of the Director of Land Records.

**MASSACRE OF NON-MUSLIM REFUGEE PASSENGERS AT GUJRAT RAILWAY STATION
IN WEST PUNJAB**

53. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state if the Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Lahore has submitted any report regarding the recent massacre of the passengers in a refugee train at Gujrat railway station in West Punjab? It so, do Government propose to place a copy of the said report on the table of the House?

(b) Is there any agreement between the Governments of Pakistan and India for evacuation of non-Muslims from West Punjab? If so, what are the terms of the agreement for the safe passage of trains evacuating non-Muslims from West Punjab?

(c) What is the number of casualties sustained by non-Muslim passengers with details regarding the number of persons killed, number of women abducted and the extent of property looted?

(d) What is the number of casualties suffered by the Military escort?

(e) Is it a fact that the Muslim 'guard' conducting the train deliberately stopped the train at Gujrat railway station when the same was to run through?

If so, have the Government of India, any information whether the guard has been arrested or not?

(f) Have the Government of India made any representation to the Government of Pakistan in this connection? If so, what is the result?

(g) Have the Government of India claimed any compensation from the Government of Pakistan in this connection? If so, with what result?

(h) If not, what steps do Government of India propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Deputy High Commissioner has submitted more than one report to Government on this subject.

Government do not consider it proper to place these reports on the table of the House.

(b) Extracts from Press Notes dated the 3rd and 20th September 1947 setting out the terms of agreement for the safe evacuation of non-Muslims from West Punjab are attached.

(c) Final figures of casualties have not yet been received, but preliminary reports show that about 320 persons were killed and about 700 were abducted. It is estimated that property worth rupees thirty lakhs was looted.

(d) As far as is known at present, the Commander of the escort troops, who is a Captain, is missing and the second in command, a VCO, is in hospital in Lahore. Of the 58 IORs, three are in Gujrat, seventeen in Jhelum, seven in Rawalpindi, having been wounded, and the remaining thirty-one are missing. Some of the missing IORs are reported to be arriving at Lahore, but this is being checked up.

(e) According to the West Punjab railway authorities the train, which was not scheduled to halt at Gujrat, was stopped there because information was received from the previous railway station that the tail light was not burning and needed adjustment. It is understood that the guard has since been arrested.

(f) and (g). I sent telegrams to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the 15th

and 17th January asking for an urgent enquiry into the incident, and steps to be taken to trace missing and abducted persons and to recover all looted property. I received a reply from him on the 18th January stating that a thorough enquiry was being made into the matter including allegations regarding the conduct of the troops and the local authorities and assuring me that everything possible would be done to punish those responsible and to prevent such happenings.

(h) The Government of India will await the result of the enquiry which the Pakistan Government have promised to hold into the matter before deciding what further action should be taken and what compensation should be claimed.

Extract from Government Communique issued on the 3rd September 1947

This Conference reiterates that the immediate task to which the Governments must devote all their resources and energy is to give protection to all refugees and evacuees in both West and East Punjab and to get safely across the border all those who desire to cross over from West to East Punjab or East to West Punjab.

Extract from Press Note, dated the 20th September 1947

The Conference considered the issues of policy arising out of the movement of convoys of evacuees from East to West Punjab and from West to East Punjab and agreed on the following joint declaration :

The situation in the Punjab has developed in such a way that mass movement of Muslims from East Punjab and of non-Muslims from West Punjab is taking place.

The Governments of India and Pakistan have, therefore, decided that the movement of these people from East to West Punjab and *vice versa* is to have first priority. They have agreed to co-operate with each other on this matter to the fullest extent and to take all steps to ensure that the movements in both directions are completed with the greatest possible speed and with the fullest measure of security.

Both Governments appeal for the co-operation of every member of the public in this matter. Violence begets violence and it cannot be too strongly emphasised that any interference with the movement in either direction will inevitably delay and imperil the movement in the opposite direction. Consequently, any persons who may attempt such interference will, in effect, grievously injure their own people.

The Governments of India and Pakistan are resolved to use all available resources to expedite and secure the safety of these movements; and they have armed themselves with the most drastic powers to ensure that wrongdoers are summarily dealt with in the severest manner.

ATTACK BY MUSLIMS ON THE SIKH GURDWARA AT KARACHI ON 6TH JANUARY, 1948

54. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar**: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any information about the attack made by Muslims on the Sikh Gurdwara at Karachi on the 6th January 1948?

(b) If so, what is the number of non-Muslims killed and what is the amount of property looted?

(c) What were the causes of the attack by Muslims?

(d) Were any officers of the Government of Pakistan involved in the murder of non-Muslims and plunder of their property?

(e) Did the Government of India lodge any protest against this attack and if so, what reply did they receive from the Government of Pakistan?

(f) Did the High Commissioner for India at Karachi submit any report on this matter and if so, do Government propose to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. A telegraphic report was received from our High Commissioner on January 7th.

(b) The official estimate is that about 70 non-Muslims were killed. It is estimated that about seventy per cent. of the non-Muslim houses were completely looted. The value of the property lost is not known.

(c) It appears that 50 refugees from Sukkur were sent to Karachi under some kind of escort by the District Magistrate of Sukkur. No previous intimation of this was given to our High Commissioner or to the local authorities at Karachi. On the arrival of these refugees at Karachi Railway Station, they were taken in open carriages to the Refugee Camp at the Gurdwara. As soon as the refugees reached the Gurdwara, they were attacked by a large crowd, chiefly consisting of Muslim refugees in Karachi. Immediately thereafter rioting and looting spread to all parts of the city.

(d) Government have no information that any officers of the Pakistan Government were involved in the murder of non-Muslims. Press reports suggest that some of them took part in the looting.

(e) Yes. We have protested to the Government of Pakistan and expressed our grave concern at these developments. We have been repeatedly requesting that full evacuation and shipping facilities should be given immediately to non-Muslims. The Government of Pakistan have expressed their regret at the occurrences and have stated that every facility for protection and evacuation would be provided for such non-Muslims as desire to leave Sind. They have stated, however, that any ships coming to Karachi to evacuate the non-Muslims should not bring any Muslim refugees to Sind.

(f) The High Commissioner for India at Karachi has kept the Government of India fully informed of the developments by telegram and letter. Most of the facts stated by him have already appeared in the Press. I do not think it would be appropriate to place copies of the High Commissioner's secret reports on the table of the House.

POLICY *re* EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIMS FROM PAKISTAN

55. *Ghani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. V. Viswanathan, Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan on the subject of the Karachi massacre, which was published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 11th January, 1948?

(b) If so, has their attention been drawn to the following sentences:

"That his policy was not to encourage the evacuation of non-Muslims from Pakistan.....I reiterate. I do not want any one in Sind or Pakistan to go to India?"

(c) Do the Government of India hold it as their policy that evacuation of non-Muslims from Pakistan should not be encouraged?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what policy have the Government of India decided to adopt to safeguard the lives and properties of non-Muslims in Pakistan, under the changed circumstances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The policy of the Government of India has been not to encourage the evacuation of non-Muslims from Sind, but at the same time to provide all facilities for transport to India of such non-Muslims as desire to leave Sind. In furtherance of this policy, facilities had been provided as far as lay in their power for non-Muslims to leave Sind by sea or railway train. This process however was delayed from time to time owing to the policy of the Sind Government and certain restrictions imposed by it.

Recent events however have made it clear that it is exceedingly difficult for non-Muslims to continue to live in Sind owing to lack of protection and opportunity for leading a normal life and carrying on any profession. The Government of India thereupon impressed upon the Pakistan Government to withdraw all restrictions and to give every facility for removing the non-Muslims from Sind to India. The Government of India are straining every nerve to this end.

(d) The protection of non-Muslims and their property in Pakistan is the responsibility of the Pakistan Government and this has been continuously impressed on that government. At the same time, in the circumstances now prevailing, the Government of India are taking the steps indicated in (c) above.

PROVISION OF WORK FOR REFUGEES

56. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government propose to take to remedy the enforced idleness among refugees; and

(b) whether Government are considering any proposals to provide work for the refugees in the form of collective farming, cottage industries, industrial projects or public works?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Rehabilitation measures under consideration are intended to remedy enforced idleness among refugees. Resettlement on land in East Punjab and other Provinces and States has been in progress and many people are now working on land. As regards urban refugees, Government has arranged to assist refugees in obtaining employment through Employment Exchanges and the Transfer Bureau. Facilities have also been provided for Technical and Vocational training of refugees both men and women. Homes and Work Centres have been set up for women. In order to keep the refugees in the camps gainfully employed, spinning, weaving, blacksmithy, carpentry, etc., have been started. Equipment worth Rupees five lakhs has been sanctioned to keep refugees employed in these and other trades at Kurukshetra. Government has sanctioned schemes for the grant of loans to medical and legal practitioners, petty traders, shop-keepers, artisans, etc. in order to enable them to set up their business.

(b) In East Punjab, land is being allotted on group basis. East Punjab Government have a scheme for starting fifty Cotton Spinning and five Wool Spinning Centres for a period of six months. To assist industrialisation, a Rehabilitation Finance Administration is being set up. Road construction works have been undertaken to provide work for refugees. It may, however, be stated that the urban refugees, a majority of whom are shopkeepers and traders, are disinclined to undertake work of this kind. Steps are being taken to consult experts in cottage industries to advise us. Schemes for collective farming and industrial corporation are being examined.

CENSORSHIP OF LETTERS FROM PAKISTAN TO MUSLIMS IN INDIAN UNION

57. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government was drawn to a news item under the heading "Pakistan Government's Secret Service Circular" published in the *Leader* of Allahabad, dated the 28th November 1947, and whether the reported contents of the circular were found to be correct; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the question of general censorship of all the letters from Pakistan addressed to the Muslims of the Indian Union inciting them to commit disloyal acts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India have seen the press report referred to by the Honourable Member, which was published in the *Leader*, dated 22nd November 1947. The Government of the United Provinces were asked to report on this matter and their report is still awaited.

(b) The Government of India do not propose to impose general censorship on letters from Pakistan.

FACILITIES TO HARIJANS FOR MANUFACTURE OF LEATHER AND MANURES

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the economic uplift of a very large number of the depressed class people depends on the abolition of the export of hide, bones and horns; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take measures to give necessary facilities to the members of the Harijan Community to enable them to manufacture leather and to supply them bones for manufacturing manures?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) and (b). The policy of Government is to encourage as far as possible the export of manufactured goods and processed or semi-processed articles with a view to the encouragement of indigenous industries and the utilization to the fullest extent possible of the supplies of raw material available in the country. The Provincial Governments concerned will no doubt consider what facilities should be given in this direction to the various interests concerned.

59. * [Withdrawn].

SETTLEMENT OF PENDING INDO PAKISTAN ISSUES

60. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the following information:

(i) What were the questions at issue between the Dominions of India and Pakistan on the 15th August 1947?

(ii) What were the methods employed to settle these issues?

(iii) What are the questions that have been settled by negotiations at ministerial level, and what are the terms of agreement reached in each case?

(iv) What are the questions that are still pending settlement?

(v) If any questions have been settled, has the settlement reached been implemented by the Pakistan administration in every case, and if so, what are the details of the same?

(vi) In case some or any of the agreements reached have not been implemented so far, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

- (i) What were the questions at issue between the Dominions of India and Pakistan on the 15th August 1947 ?
- (ii) What were the methods employed to settle these issues ?
- (iii) What are the questions that have been settled by negotiations at ministerial level, and what are the terms of agreement reached in each case ?
- (iv) What are the questions that are still pending settlement ?
- (v) If any questions have been settled, has the settlement reached been implemented by the Pakistan administration in every case, and if so, what are the details of the same ?
- (vi) In case some or any of the agreements reached have not been implemented so far, what are the reasons therefor ?
- (i) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraphs 5 and 15 of the statement on partition made by the Deputy Prime Minister in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on 12th December 1947, and to his statement of 9th December 1947. These statements have already been laid on the table of the House. This subject was also dealt with in the reply on the 21st November 1947 to a question by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, and a statement of agreements reached by the two Dominions promised therein, has been placed on the table of the House.
- (ii) The position is fully explained in paragraph one of Deputy Prime Minister's statement of the 12th December 1947.
- (iii) This subject is dealt with in paragraph 15 of the Deputy Prime Minister's statement of the 12th December 1947 and also in the Prime Minister's reply of the 21st November 1947 and the statement laid on the table of the House in that connection.
- (iv) No questions of particular importance pending on the 15th August 1947 remain to be determined, in so far as the Dominion Governments are concerned. But various matters in dispute as between East Punjab and West Punjab, and East Bengal and West Bengal have been referred to the Arbitral Tribunal.
- (v) Certain agreements reached are not yet due for implementation. The Government of Pakistan have implemented the agreements except in the specific cases referred to in the statement laid on the table of the House in connection with the reply on the 21st November 1947.
- (vi) It is not possible for the Government of India to give reasons for the Pakistan Government's failure to implement the agreements reached.

[Put down for 2nd February, 1948]†

TRANSFER TO INDIA OF BOOKS, RECORDS AND MANUSCRIPTS FROM INDIA
OFFICE, LONDON

61. **R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state if the books, records and manuscripts maintained in the library of the India Office at London will be brought to India and made available for national use?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The question of the disposal of the India Office Building and its 'contents' is being referred by His Majesty's Government for advice and report to a Fact-finding Committee, on which India and Pakistan are represented. The Government of India have suggested that the Committee should meet in London about the end of March or in the beginning of April 1948, if it is convenient to the Government of the United Kingdom.

†Owing to the adjournment of the House on 2nd February, 1948, without transacting any business, the answers to starred questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to-day.—Ed. of D.

PAUCITY OF QUALIFIED DOCTORS TO SERVE IN RURAL AREAS

62. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health please state whether sufficient number of persons belonging to the Medical Fraternity (M. B. B. S., L. C. P. S. or persons possessing like degrees) are available in India for services in urban and rural areas?

(b) If not, what steps have Government taken to increase the total strength of each Medical College in India, authorities of which have to refuse admission to large numbers every year?

(c) Is it a fact that a large number of medical practitioners refuse to serve in rural areas in spite of the best endeavours of some Provincial Governments to provide attractive terms?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the authorities of all Medical Colleges which receive Government grants that preference for admission be given to those students who agree to give an undertaking to serve in rural areas if Government so desired in the event of demand being made after the degree is obtained?

(e) If not, what steps Government propose to take to see that sufficient number of doctors are available for humanitarian service?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The number of qualified medical practitioners is not adequate for the needs of the country.

(b) Medical education is the responsibility of Provincial Governments. The post-war development schemes of Provinces for which financial help is given by the Centre include schemes for the expansion of existing medical colleges and establishment of new ones.

(c) Government are aware that there is a dearth of qualified medical practitioners in rural areas.

(d) and (e). This is a matter for Provincial Governments. I shall, however, commend the suggestion of the Honourable Member to the Provincial Governments.

PENALIZATION OF PERSONS IN HYDERABAD STATE FOR HOISTING INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

63. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States please state whether it is a fact that eight persons have been sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment on a charge of hoisting the Indian Union Flag in the Hyderabad State?

(b) Is it a fact that on the Independence Day, Hyderabad State denied having pulled down Indian Union Flag?

(c) Do Government propose to make an enquiry in regard to this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). As I stated to the House in reply to a question by the Honourable Member on the 19th November last, we had made enquiries of the Prime Minister, Hyderabad, on this point. The Prime Minister replied that the reports that the Indian Union Flag was pulled down by the State authorities or that political workers were arrested for hoisting and saluting it were absolutely baseless and that the Indian Union Flag was allowed to be flown on the 15th August side by side with the State Flag on Post Offices and other Indian institutions. The reply added that individuals were at liberty and actually did display the Indian Union Flag on private buildings without any let or hindrance. In view of this reply, the Government of India do not propose to make any further enquiry in this matter.

**IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION OF TOWNSHIP IN CANTONMENT AREAS IN VIEW
OF INCREASED POPULATION**

64. *Mr. E. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether it is a fact that no Cantonment Board in India has made any provision for housing accommodation for labour, and poor and lower middle classes?

(b) Is it a fact that Cantonment Bazar areas were demarcated nearly a century ago, and since then have not been extended to provide for the growing needs of the increasing population?

(c) Has any Cantonment Board drawn up a scheme of town extension and improvement?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to provide housing accommodation with sanitary arrangements for the increased population and better and cheap accommodation for labour and poor and lower middle classes of Cantonment areas?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Bazar areas in Cantonments are altered as and when necessary.

(c) Yes. Thirty-eight Cantonment Boards have drawn up schemes for improvements in Cantonments but it has not been possible for any of them to implement these schemes, partly owing to scarcity of funds, and partly owing to absence of a final decision as to the size of the Army, and as to the strength of the garrison to be located at each of the Cantonments.

(d) These are questions which it is the responsibility of the Cantonment Boards to consider in the first instance. Government propose to ask for special reports from the Cantonment Boards on these matters.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY AND FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION BY CANTONMENT
BOARDS**

65. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether it is a fact that no Cantonment Board in India has introduced compulsory and free primary education during the last quarter of the century?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have reserved no portion of grant-in-aid fund of Cantonment Boards for the spread of education?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Two Cantonment Boards have introduced free (but not compulsory) primary education in Cantonments.

(b) It is a fact that no reservation of grant-in-aid fund has been made specifically for the spread of education. The recurring grants made by Government to Cantonment Boards however, take into account the expenditure on education.

**RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED OFFICIALS AS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF CANTONMENT
BOARDS**

66. *Mr. E. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state the number of retired re-employed officials who are serving as Executive officers of Cantonment Boards in India?

(b) How many such officers are above 55 years of age and how many of them are graduates?

(c) Is it a fact that some of these retired officers have been employed even after the 15th August, 1947?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to recruit young graduates for these posts?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Twenty-four.

(b) Twenty-three of whom one is a graduate.

(c) Yes, Sir. This was done in accordance with the Cantonment Executive Officer's Service Rules under which recruitment to temporary appointments in this Service during the war was confined to retired Government servants.

(d) It has been decided to revert as quickly as is administratively feasible to the normal procedure of recruitment through the Federal Public Service Commission.

DEFECTIVE AMMUNITION PURCHASED FROM ABROAD FOR R. I. A. F. AIRCRAFT

67. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some ammunition purchased abroad and made available for the aircraft used by the R. I. A. F. has been found to be utterly useless in actual operations;

(b) if so, whether the seriousness of the situation arising out of this discovery has been investigated;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to ensure that future purchases will not be of defective material; and

(d) whether Government propose to give the total value of this defective material and whether it is still being issued to our Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, some Air Force ammunition was found unserviceable. This had been acquired out of H.M.G.'s Surplus stocks in India and not purchased abroad.

(b) Yes, the matter was immediately investigated and H.M.G. in the United Kingdom have replaced all unserviceable articles.

(c) Future purchases for the R.I.A.F. will be inspected by the Aeronautical Inspection Section of the R.I.A.F.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (b).

DISCHARGE OR DEMOBILIZATION OF SENIOR INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN NAVY

68. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any senior Indian Officers in the Indian Navy who are under orders of discharge or demobilization and if so, how many; and

(b) for what reasons they are being discharged or demobilized?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: None.

DISCHARGE OF DIRECTLY RECRUITED TEMPORARY ACCOUNTANTS IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

69. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the circumstances under which notices of discharge served on directly recruited temporary accountants in the Military Accounts Department, whose appointment in that Department was for the period of last Emergency only, have been withdrawn and whether Government are planning to absorb them in the Department in spite of the fact that they are not S. A. S. qualified as required by the Rules?

(b) Is it a fact that about 900 permanent S.A.S. passed Assistant Accountants are awaiting promotion to the permanent accountant's cadre and that at the normal speed of promotion they are not likely to be absorbed in that cadre till 1960?

(c) If so, will not the absorption of the directly recruited temporary accountants affect and injure the prospects and interests of these 900 duly qualified members of the S.A.S.?

(d) What safeguards do Government propose to provide for the protection of the interests of these regular S. A. S. departmental personnel?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Notices, which were served before partition, were withdrawn until the size and composition of the Military Accounts Department could be determined with reference to altered circumstances. It is intended to give only a very limited number of temporary accountants, who have proved their worth in the Department, an opportunity of taking the S. A. S. examination for permanent absorption at a later date.

(b) The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

(c) and (d). It will be seen from answer to the question (a) that the matter regarding absorption of these temporary accountants has not been finally decided. The intention is that only a limited number should be absorbed in the interests of efficiency of the Department, and this is unlikely to affect the prospects of the permanent personnel to any extent.

RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

70. *Diwan Ohaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the strength of the staff of the Military Accounts Department after partition is 18,000?

(b) Are 11,000 out of the 18,000 going to be retrenched?

(c) Is it a fact that 2,000 refugee temporary clerks who have lost everything in Pakistan on account of their offices not having been transferred to the Indian Union before the 15th August, 1947 are also being retrenched, irrespective of the fact, that the Government of India have laid down the policy of permanently rehabilitating all the refugees?

(d) Is it a fact that before the fixation of the final strength of the Army, the strength of the Military Accounts Department is being fixed resulting in this large scale retrenchment?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, the clerical strength (including permanent clerks numbering approximately 2,000) as stated is very nearly correct.

(b) The number that will eventually be retrenched cannot now be estimated, as the post-war permanent strength of the department, which in turn is dependent on the strength of the Armed Forces, has not yet been fixed.

Retrenchment that is now being carried out covers temporary clerks (Matri- culates and Intermediates) appointed on or after 1st January, 1944. The number belonging to these categories is 6,700 approximately.

(c) The number of refugees temporary clerks is in the neighbourhood of 2,000. Out of this number only those belonging to the categories referred to in the reply to question (b) above are being retrenched for the present.

(d) The clerks who are now being retrenched are those who are surplus to requirements based on the present volume of work handled by the Military Accounts Department.

DISTRICT-WISE POPULATION OF WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM PROVINCES -AFTER RADCLIFFE AWARD

71. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the area and population—giving separately the number of Hindus, Scheduled castes, Muslims and others—of each of the different districts of the provinces of West Bengal and Assam as created according to the Radcliffe Award?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as available.

MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND V. C. OS. OPTING TO SERVE IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

72. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Muslim Commissioned Officers and V.C.Os. in the Indian Army who exercised their option in favour of serving India and the number of those who opted in favour of Pakistan; and

(b) the number of Hindu and Sikh Commissioned Officers and V.C.Os. in the Indian army who exercised their option in favour of serving Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 215 Muslim Commissioned Officers and 339 V.C.Os. opted for service with the Indian Dominion. 2110 Muslim Commissioned Officers and 3424 V.C.Os. went over to Pakistan, the vast majority of whom were of Pakistan domicile and were not therefore entitled to opt for India.

(b) The total number of non-Muslims with Pakistan domicile and therefore eligible to opt for Pakistan and who did so is 177 Commissioned Officers and 228 V.C.Os.

ORGANIZATION OF INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE OR NATIONAL MILITIA AS A SECOND LINE OF DEFENCE IN INDIA

73. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state, what progress has been made towards the organisation of the Indian Territorial Force or the National Militia as a second line of defence in India, an announcement in respect of which was made by Government in the last session of the Legislature, and what further time it is likely to take to bring it into existence?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Government have under urgent consideration detailed plans prepared by their military advisers for the creation of a Territorial Army. It is hoped to issue early orders.

CONSTITUTION OF SUBORDINATE SERVICES COMMISSION FOR RECRUITMENT TO CENTRAL SUBORDINATE SERVICES

74. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government of India have taken any decision to set up a Subordinate Services Commission for recruitment of personnel to the Central Subordinate Services in the Posts and Telegraphs, Railway, Central Excise and other departments. If so, when is it likely to come into existence and what will be its constitution, composition and functions?

(b) Do Government propose to prescribe competitive examinations for recruitment of candidates to all such services? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes. Government propose to set up a Central Subordinate Services Commission. It will be the function of this Commission to make recruitment to all Class III, Class IV Services under the Central Government, except in respect of Railway Subordinate Services, for which recruitment is already being made through Railway Service Commissions set up by the Ministry of Railways. It is not possible to say definitely when the Commission is likely to come into existence, as this depends on the completion of necessary preliminaries which have been taken on hand. The composition of the Commission will be settled after necessary preliminary inquiries regarding the volume and the nature of the work are completed.

(b) The method of recruitment appropriate to different services and posts will be decided by Government on the advice of the Commission.

ORGANIZATION OF HOME GUARDS IN DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA PROVINCES

75. *Pandit Mukut Biharilal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please refer to his answer to part (g) of starred question No. 312 asked on the 25th November, 1947 regarding the organisation of Home Guards in the Chief Commissioner's Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara on the lines similar to those adopted in the United Provinces and other provinces in India and state whether Government have taken any decision in the matter?

(b) If so, has any scheme been prepared and by what time is it likely to be brought into force?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The details of the scheme of Home Guards in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara are being considered by the Chief Commissioners.

PRODUCTION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES IN INDIA

76. *Pandit Mukut Biharilal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Ordnance factories working in various parts of the country, the number of people working in these factories and the quantity of arms and ammunition produced there?

(b) What steps have been or are being taken to speed up the production of fire arms in these factories, in view of their scarcity and high prices at which they are being sold?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The number of Ordnance Factories working in various parts of India is 16. The total number of personnel employed in them is at present 38,845. It is not in the public interest to disclose the output of arms and ammunition, or the programme of production, in these factories.

ABSORPTION OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-AIDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FROM PAKISTAN

77. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to absorb the employees of Government and Government-aided educational institutions who have come from Pakistan?

(b) Have Government treated the employees of Government educational institutions and those of Government-aided educational institutions from Pakistan on an equal footing and if not, why not?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The East Punjab Government are taking steps to absorb teachers from West Punjab (Government servants) in educational institutions in the East Punjab.

The Government of India have absorbed 300 teachers from Western Pakistan areas in educational institutions in Delhi. Efforts are still being made to absorb more such teachers.

Provincial Governments, Major Indian States and Indian Universities to whom a list of refugee teachers (with full particulars regarding their qualifications, etc.) were furnished have been asked to give preference to these teachers for employment in their educational institutions in their areas. The number of such teachers so employed are not yet known. Provincial Governments have also been asked to relax their rules relating to domicile and age governing Provincial employment.

(b) Yes, but Government servants have for obvious reasons, been given preference for employment in Government institutions.

CANCELLATION OF BLACK LISTS OF PERSONS DEBARRED FROM ENTERING GOVERNMENT SERVICE

78. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the black lists of persons debarred from entering Government services, held before 15 August 1947, are still in force?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is there any reason to keep these lists in force after the 15th August 1947, and do Government propose to revise these lists in the light of the changed circumstances?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House the order of cancellation of these lists?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A black list is still being maintained but it is subject to revision from time to time.

(b) and (c). Instructions were issued in October, 1946 to all departments of the Government of India for the revision of the old list in the light of changed circumstances.

A copy of the memorandum containing these instructions is placed on the table of the House.

No. 2/8/46-Ests. (S).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 18th October, 1946.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

SUBJECT:—*Verification of character and antecedents of the employees of the Government of India.*

The question of the future policy to be adopted in respect of the verification of character and antecedents of the employees of the Government of India, consequent on the termination of the war and the subsequent political developments, and the desirability of issuing consolidated instructions on the subject have been under consideration for some time in this Department. In advance of a decision upon the general question which is likely to take some time, it has been decided that every Department should review cases of persons whom it has disqualified during the last 5 years on adverse police reports or on political grounds (including cases of Government servants who have been dismissed for such reasons during that period) with a view to decide whether such persons should be still debarred from Government employment. In other cases, review need be made only on individual presentation. The test to be applied in determining eligibility should be whether at the time of the review the person is still indulging in subversive or unconstitutional anti-Government activities. When it is intended to continue the disqualification, the Home Department should be consulted before a final decision is taken.

2. The Departments are also requested, pending issue of revised instructions, to consult the Home Department in all cases in which it is intended to disqualify from appointment a person on political ground or where the Department is doubtful regarding the suitability for employment of a candidate.

(Sd.) P. V. R. RAO,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

All Departments of the Government of India, (except Defence Department) Military Finance Department, Secretary to the Governor-General (Public) (Personal) and (Reforms), Cabinet Secretariat, Political Department, Finance Department (Supply) Crown Finance Department.

No. 2/8/46-Ests. (S).

New Delhi, the 18th October 1946.

Copy forwarded to the Defence Department. It is suggested that any instructions issued regarding disqualification for employment in services or posts in that Department or under its administrative control may be re-examined in the light of the instructions above.

(Sd.) P. V. R. RAO,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

REPRESENTATION OF THE RULERS OF THE EASTERN STATES AGENCY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

79. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty-five Rulers of the Orissa States and about sixteen Rulers of Chhattisgarh States have handed over their administrations to the Government of India on some agreed basis, and if so, on what conditions;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa and the Central Provinces have respectively taken charge of these two-groups of States on behalf of the Government of India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Rulers of the Eastern States Agency constituting these two groups have found representation in the Constituent Assembly through their Dewans or other nominees; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, whether in the changed circumstances these representatives of the State Rulers will still retain their membership in the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Chhattisgarh States are fourteen in number. The Ruler of Makrai has also agreed to the merger. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to Dewan Chaman Lal's Question No. 18 on the 29th January, 1948.

(b) The Governments of Orissa and Central Provinces and Berar have taken over charge of the administration of the Orissa and Chhattisgarh States respectively on the 1st January, 1948.

(c) Yes. The Rulers have nominated three members.

(d) Yes, unless they became otherwise disqualified.

DEVELOPMENT OF SEA-BOARD OF ORISSA FOR PURPOSES OF DEFENCE AND COMMERCE

80. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Coronation Despatches of the Government of India in the year 1911 as also the reply Despatch of the Secretary of State for India in England to the effect that the Province of Bihar and Orissa was created with a view to give the new province a sea-board;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had, from time to time, promised to develop the sea-board; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to develop the sea-board of Orissa both for purposes of defence and commerce?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes. Government are aware of the Despatches referred to but do not find anything in them to support the statement that the province of Bihar and Orissa was created *with a view* to giving the new province a sea-board. It was merely pointed out that one of the points in favour of the new arrangement then proposed was that thereby Bihar will have a sea-board.

(b) Government have been unable to trace any of the promises referred to by the Honourable Member.

(c) Vizagapatam is being developed as a commercial and naval port and one of the main R.I.N. Establishments is being sited there. The minor ports on the Orissa coast do not provide sufficient depth of water or facilities to warrant development for commercial or naval purposes.

HYDERABAD'S LOAN OF RUPEES TWENTY CRORES TO PAKISTAN

81. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the statement of Nawab Moin Nawas Jung, Finance and Foreign Minister of Hyderabad State in Delhi on January 10th, 1948 regarding Hyderabad's loan of Rs. 20 crores to Pakistan;

(b) whether Hyderabad with her standstill agreement with India could give a huge loan to a Foreign State without India's concurrence;

(c) whether Hyderabad had ever advanced such a huge loan during the British regime; and

(d) whether Government have considered that the Currency Ordinance recently issued by the Nizam was intended to make such transactions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, with your permission I propose to answer questions 81 and 82 together.

The Government of India are aware of the matters mentioned in the questions and are in correspondence with the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam. The subjects are also being discussed with his representatives in Delhi. I would further invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answers I gave to the Question No. 25 put by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava on the 29th January 1948. It is not considered in the public interest to lay on the table of the House the correspondence between the two Governments.

HYDERABAD'S LOAN TO PAKISTAN

82. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement published in the *Statesman*, dated 14th January 1948 from Delhi under the heading "Hyderabad Loan to Pakistan";

(b) if so whether it is a fact that the loan of Rs. 25 crores given by Hyderabad to Pakistan was merely an exchange of securities of the Government of India with the securities of the Government of Pakistan;

(c) whether the Government of India have transferred this sum of money to the account of the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House, if possible, the correspondence that has passed between the Government of India and the Government of Hyderabad on this subject?

STATEMENT MADE IN KARACHI BY SARDAR MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM, LEADER OF THE RAIDERS IN KASHMIR

83. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the statement of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim, Leader of the Raiders in Kashmir in an interview in Karachi circulated by the A.P.I. and published by the *Hindustan Times* in the last page of its issue dated the 14th January 1948, that the Raiders are also helped by an International Brigade in which there are subjects of the United States, India, Finland and Afghanistan; and

(b) whether Government have ascertained the accuracy or otherwise of the statement?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) No, not yet. We are making enquiries.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 81.

TRANSLATION IN HINDUSTANI OF BOOKS RELATING TO MANUFACTURE OF LEATHER AND MANURE

84. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of getting books relating to the manufacture of leather and manure translated in Hindustani with a view to assisting the members of the scheduled castes in learning the manufacture of the above articles?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Leather work and Agriculture are accepted crafts for the scheme of Basic Education and a committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education is considering the preparation of a detailed curriculum and a Handbook. Provincial Governments may supplement these efforts as they consider best.

RESTORATION OF FORFEITED PAY, ALLOWANCES, PENSIONS, ETC. OF THE I. N. A. OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

85. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are considering the desirability of (i) restoration of forfeited arrears of pay, and allowances of the I.N.A. Officers and soldiers amounting to some Rs. 75 lacs;

(ii) restoration of pensions to those who earned them before going overseas and grant of pensions to those who were entitled to them prior to their dismissal or discharge from service in 1945 and 1946 amounting to some Rs. 50,000 a month or so;

(iii) paying pensions to the dependants of those who died in the service of the I.N.A. amounting to some Rs. 30,000 a month;

(iv) reinstating the members of the armed forces of the I.N.A. both officers and men in the armed forces of the Indian Dominion; and

(v) giving pension or gratuity to those officers and men whose reinstatement is not considered desirable?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The whole question is under consideration.

TRANSFER OF CAPITAL FROM DELHI

86. *Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Delhi is unsuitable as capital of India from various standpoints, strategical, economical and from the point of view of its distance from several provinces?

(b) Have Government considered the transfer of the capital to some other more centrally situated place and if so, with what result?

(c) If the proposal had not been considered before, do Government propose to consider it now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) This is a matter of opinion. Government have neither formed nor expressed any opinion on this point.

(b) No.

(c) It is possible Government may consider this question at an opportune time.

MAINTENANCE OF MUSEUM IN DELHI

87. *Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the building constructed for the Museum in Delhi is mostly occupied by offices?

(b) Is it a fact that the major portion of the museum is housed in a building not suitable for it?

(c) When will the museum building be vacated and used for the purpose for which it was constructed?

(d) Do Government propose to have a museum worthy of the capital of India and if so, what are the steps taken therefor?

(e) Has the division of the Art Treasures in the India Office been completed, and is the Honourable Minister of Education going to England in this connection?

(f) Where are the Art Treasures allotted to India to be housed?

(g) Do Government propose to have a library attached to the museum?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Except for the Office of the Superintendent, Museum Branch, no other office is housed in the Museum Building.

(b) The present Museum Building was constructed for the purpose of housing temporarily the wall paintings brought by Sir Aurel Stein from Central Asia.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, the Government of India have accepted the proposal in principle and in 1948-49 they hope to implement the first phase of the scheme.

(e) The issues are still under consideration.

(f) Does not arise at present.

(g) Yes.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

REFERENCE OF INDIA-PAKISTAN DISPUTE TO U. N. O.

Mr. Speaker: I have received a notice of an adjournment motion from the Honourable Member Dr. Khare. I suppose the Honourable Member wishes to move it, if it is found admissible?

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): I am awaiting your ruling, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The motion reads as follows:

"I move that the House do stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance of recent occurrence, viz., the issues arising out of the reference to the U. N. O. by the Government of India of Indo-Pakistan dispute regarding Kashmir."

My reaction to this motion is that it is not definite, nor does it seem to be urgent. It is not definite, because it does not state what particular issues are sought to be discussed. If there be more than one issue, which is sought to be raised, then the motion also infringes the rules, as the motion must raise specifically only one matter for discussion. I believe this reference to the U.N.O. had been made long prior to the beginning of the session and therefore the motion would seem to have lost its urgency also. The motion should have come before the House when it began its session on the 28th January. I should like to know from the Honourable Member as to what he has to say about these three points which I have mentioned.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not want to say anything, Sir. I do not wish to move the motion under the present calamitous circumstances while we are all in mourning.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is not admissible and is therefore disallowed.

COTTON TEXTILES CESS BILL

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to impose a cess on certain cotton textiles manufactured in the Provinces of India.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab: General): On a point of order, Sir, may I know if the copies of this Bill have been circulated to the Members of this House?

Mr. Speaker: This point was raised once before also and I then stated that in respect of motions for leave to introduce Bills, copies are kept in the lobby, where they are available to Honourable Members. Copies of Bills are also circulated after introduction the same evening at their residences, to such Honourable Members as have not taken their copies from the lobby.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to impose a cess on certain cotton textiles manufactured in the Provinces of India."

The motion was adopted.

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

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION BILL

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

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri Khurshed Lal, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 10th February, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, Honourable Members might remember that when we were discussing the motion to refer to a Select Committee the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill, I indicated that it was my intention to take up the question of setting up a separate Finance Corporation for the purpose of giving financial assistance by way of loans to refugees to enable them to settle down. We have been faced with the tremendous task of rehabilitating over four million refugees, a task probably unparalleled in the history of the world, because it did not face any Government in the form in which it has faced us.

The problem of the rehabilitation of the refugees must be considered from two aspects:—the rehabilitation of the rural refugees and the rehabilitation of the urban refugees. So far as the settling of the refugees on agricultural land is concerned, this is essentially a problem for the Provincial Governments to undertake. In fact the East Punjab Government which has been chiefly affected by this problem has already taken concrete steps to solve it and, as a matter of fact, a large number of refugees have already been settled on the agricultural land available in the East Punjab. The problem of settling the urban class of refugees is somewhat more difficult and complicated. These refugees consist of professional men, artisans, traders and those who were engaged in industry. The task of enabling them to settle down is beyond the resources of individual Provincial Governments. The Central Government have therefore to step in and undertake this responsibility. In helping even these refugees the East Punjab Government have already taken certain steps in their effort to give outright grants not exceeding Rs. 500 and to give loans not

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exceeding Rs. 5,000 in any one case to these urban refugees. But the grant of loans up to Rs. 5,000 will not really solve the problem of a vast number of these people. In fact credit facilities on a very much larger scale is absolutely essential, if this class of refugees is to settle down in any useful occupation. It is not obviously possible for the ordinary commercial banks to grant the necessary loan facilities to these people for the obvious reason that the loans to such persons must necessarily be for fairly long periods and an ordinary commercial bank is not expected to advance loans for such long periods. The active intervention of the Government of India therefore becomes necessary in this respect.

It might be asked whether the Industrial Finance Corporation which we are going to set up very shortly cannot really serve this purpose. Honourable Members will realise that the Industrial Finance Corporation is intended to be set up mainly for the purpose of helping large scale industries. It will be entirely outside the activities of this Corporation to advance loans for the setting up of cottage industries and for the setting up of small scale industries which will probably be the aim of most of these refugees. The need for a separate organisation for providing this kind of finance is therefore very keenly felt. When I examined this problem it appeared to me in the very first instance that a shareholders corporation is not an appropriate means of establishing an organisation which will meet this purpose. I have therefore decided that the Central Government must take up the direct responsibility of setting up an organisation which will depend upon the Central Government for its financial resources. It is because of this peculiar feature that I have called it the Rehabilitation Finance Administration.

In drafting my proposals I had consultations with my Honourable colleague, the Minister for the Rehabilitation of Refugees, with Ministers from the East Punjab Government and also with the officials of the Reserve Bank. As a result of these consultations we have drafted the measure that is now before the House and which I want to be sent to a Select Committee. From the date indicated in my motion for the report of the Select Committee Honourable Members would realize that I would like this House to deal with this measure in a spirit of urgency. We expect that the Select Committee will submit its report before the 10th of this month and we would make every endeavour to place it on the statute book during the current session and set in motion the organisation.

I shall indicate at this stage some of the salient features of the measure that I have presented to the House. This Administration will be on an all India basis. Even though the problem of the rehabilitation of refugees is experienced in its most acute form in the Province of East Punjab, Honourable Members will agree that other Provinces also are faced with this problem: more especially with the evacuation of refugees from Sind, the Province of Bombay and certain adjoining Provinces will also be faced with this problem. The funds for this Administration, as I said, will be entirely provided by the Centre. It would, however, be a semi-autonomous body carrying on its operations on commercial and business lines as far as possible. We have confined the jurisdiction of this Act to the Provinces of India because it is competent for this Legislature to enact legislation applicable only to the Provinces and not to the States except in matters to which the States have acceded. But it is my intention that refugees, wherever they are settled, whether in a Province or in an Indian State should get the benefit of this Administration. It has therefore been provided that each of the Indian States as would agree to provide the necessary facilities for the recovery of the loans in accordance with the provisions of our measure will also come within the operations of this Bill. The Administration will be carried on by a Chief Administrator and a Board of six Members to assist him.

It is our intention that three of these should be officials and three non-officials—all nominated by the Government. With a view to assist the Board and to enable them to assess the needs of individuals and the regions it is also provided that there would be an advisory body consisting of not more than fifteen members. This Administration is empowered to grant direct loans to the extent of Rs. 7 crores. It can also re-discount bills of exchange to the extent of Rs. 1 crore. Over and above this the Administration is empowered to guarantee to banks and similar lending institutions against losses to the extent of 50 per cent. in any individual case in respect of loans and advances that these institutions might grant to refugees. It will therefore be realized that the total resources that we place at the disposal of this Corporation will be Rs. 10 crores. So far as the limits of loan to individuals are concerned it is the intention that the loans advanced by this Corporation should be Rs. 5,000 and above but not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh to any one single individual or party. The Administration will give 3 per cent. interest on the monies that it draws from the Government, and in lending money to the refugees it is not permitted to charge anything more than 6 per cent. by way of interest. That, I think, is very satisfactory. The repayment of the loans granted should be for a period not exceeding ten years. These, Sir, are the salient provisions of this Bill.

It is my intention that in its actual operation this Administration will keep in close touch with the Provincial Governments and other bodies that tackle the problem of rehabilitation and as far as possible lend monies or grant assistance to individuals who might be sponsored by the Provincial Governments and other various bodies though the Administration will not be precluded from granting loan directly to individuals who may not be sponsored by Provincial Governments or the other bodies.

Sir, the Bill that I am now placing before the House is only one step among the various steps that Government have already taken and intend still to take in tackling this great problem of the rehabilitation of the refugees and I have no doubt that if worked in the spirit in which we have conceived it, this Rehabilitation Finance Administration will be a blessing to all these unfortunate brethren of ours who stand so much in need of help and assistance. Sir, I commend the motion to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri Khurshed Lal, Mr. R. K. Sidha, Shri Bikramlal Soidhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Diwan Chaman Lal, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 10th February, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, no one can possibly help supporting the principle as well as the objective of the Bill. But as the Bill has been drafted I think it is seriously defective and I wish to point out certain defects for the consideration of the Select Committee. I shall as far as possible confine myself only to the bare points without elaborating them.

First of all the Honourable Minister said that this Administration is being set up to help refugees. But if you go through the text of the Bill there is nothing to prevent it being utilised by other interests and persons for their own purposes. For instance, it is said in "Notes on Clauses":

"*Clause 2(d).*—The scope of the Administration is confined to financing refugees intending to settle in business and industry, since agriculturists, small shopkeepers, artisans and persons engaged in professions have to be dealt with on personal basis and are therefore best left to Provincial Governments for direct assistance."

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If you look at 2(d) it is a mere definition of displaced persons. But afterwards in the material clauses there is not a single clause or provision saying that the benefit of this Bill shall accrue only to displaced persons and not to others. I think it should be brought specifically under the provisions that the benefit should accrue only to those persons. Even there I wish to utter a word of caution. When, in this House, we were agitating that foreign firms should not take the benefit of protection and other beneficial measures introduced here, those foreign firms used to take in one or two Indian directors and say, "Now it is an Indian company." Therefore, I am afraid that many firms and concerns will come into being in which one or two refugees are taken as Directors or as shareholders and the other people will simply take away all the benefits of this Bill. It is proper that provision should be brought into the body of the Bill to see that this kind of thing does not happen and that the entire benefit accrues only to those people who have suffered during the recent disturbances.

Then, Sir, it is not said—though as I already pointed out in the "Notes" it is said that it is confined to financing refugees intending to settle in business and industry—in the Bill itself it is not said whether it is to be confined to industrial concerns or whether it may be extended to commercial and other business. Therefore the scope of the businesses for which the loan should be given should also be defined as carefully and precisely as possible.

The third point which I would like to add is, will the loans be issued to private individuals, private limited companies and firms, or only to public companies? As things are, it may be given to any person. I would suggest that the loans should be given only to public limited companies; so far as it is Government finance, it should be on an organised basis; it should not accrue to private families and individuals. We should not encourage this in the rehabilitation that is going to take place at least with Government finance. Private families or two or three persons should not take benefit of it; it should be on the basis of public limited companies formed according to the standards or instructions given by this Rehabilitation Administration.

Then, Sir, the whole purpose of the Bill is to advance loans on certain conditions. Will mere loans be sufficient? This Administration should not be content with giving loans; it should arrange for consulting engineers and for proper experts; if necessary it should utilise the other departments of the Government to arrange for the purchase of plant and other machinery. It will succeed only if it brings to this task the constructive mind—not merely the lender's or the merely banking temperament. It should not be a mere bank, it should not be a mere financing organisation; it should also be a developmental organisation. That should be the one characteristic which separates this Administration from the Industrial Finance Corporation. Even in the case of the Industrial Finance Corporation, many of us suggested that it should go further than mere lending and should assist the concerns to which it lends its money. That point is much more important in the case of the Rehabilitation Administration because many of these concerns will be starting with the knowledge that at least in the beginning there will be losses and we are arranging that this Administration should be willing to put up with a certain amount of loss. It is said in clause 11 that we should guarantee part of the losses, not exceeding 50 per cent in any case. Therefore, it is all the more essential that these should have expert industrial as well as administrative advice regarding the concern's business to be started and how it should be managed. Unless that is done, we shall be merely incurring losses without any preventive steps to reduce or eliminate them.

When these concerns lose or completely fail, it should not be the mere business of the Rehabilitation Administration to close them up or liquidate them. The Administration should be able to take up the business and manage it if conditions are satisfactory. It should have the power to do so—I do not suggest it should normally do that or that it should be obligatory—but it should have the power under the Bill to assume charge of these concerns and see what can be done to keep them going, whether by new management or by a new form of reconstruction or by amalgamation of smaller concerns the business could not be put on a proper footing.

Another point I wish to suggest is that throughout the Bill there is no provision to enlist the support of the Legislature in the working of this Administration. In all the other Bills like the Electricity Bill or the State Insurance for Workmen Bill there is a provision that Reports should be laid before the Legislature. There is not even that elementary provision in this Bill. It looks as if the business of the Legislature is merely to pass the Bill and then to write off the losses; no other power, no other association is provided between the Legislature and the working of this Rehabilitation Administration. I think every year a Report should be presented to the Legislature and there should be a debate as to the manner in which this Administration is working. Unless some such safeguard is provided, I think the sense of responsibility in the Administration will not be adequate for the purpose for which this Bill is introduced.

The last point I would like to mention is that there is no provision insisting that the Members of the Board will not have any direct personal interest in the loans advanced. It is quite possible that some Members will also take part in the businesses which are financed by this Administration. For instance, there are to be three non-officials nominated by the Central Government. I believe these non-officials will be prominent men among the refugees themselves, if the scope is confined to the refugees, and these refugees will also have their private concerns. Therefore, there should be stringent provisions to ensure that they do not seek to utilise their position in the Administration for their own advantage or for the advantage of their friends and relations.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Both directly and indirectly.

Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, directly and indirectly, and even remotely. So this matter must be made clear. I think in all such matters even a mere suspicion of nepotism or corruption will ruin the entire work of such a body. If these defects which I have pointed out are remedied, I am sure we will be bringing into being a most useful organisation. I am not sure whether the finances provided will be adequate but that is a matter which could be remedied if in actual experience we find that larger funds are needed. That is not a real defect and as it is, we have provided ten crores which ought to be a good beginning. But the other points I have mentioned require the serious consideration of the Select Committee and I hope they will be remedied. With these few words I cordially support the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I am extremely glad that the Honourable Minister has chosen to bring forward this Bill. Gratuitous relief, however long it might be given, corrupts the receiver and degrades him. Therefore, the earliest opportunity has been taken. I am extremely glad, to rehabilitate those persons and make them stand on their own legs. The other relief by way of charity may not stand them in good stead for long.

As regards the scope of the Bill itself, a bank or corporation of this kind is the soul of any industry. As regards persons to whom relief can be given under this administration, person under the General Clauses Act may be an individual or bank or corporation. I do believe that the object of this administration is to rehabilitate not only individuals and companies which might have suffered, but

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banks many of which have suffered on account of this catastrophe. They were carrying on flourishing business in Pakistan, and the head offices having been closed down, branches alone remain in East Punjab. I had a number of representations made to me and on their behalf I also made representations to the Honourable the Finance Minister and his Department to rehabilitate these banks. After all with a couple of crores of rupees they could be made to stand on their own legs. The Reserve Bank is there to look into this question and try to help them and put them on their legs, even send their own representatives to work this administration and put some persons in charge of the administration as Directors. Important banks which originally had their branches in West Punjab, could be given a loan of two crores of rupees without interest for a short period or even with a small interest with the reservation that the Reserve Bank may take up the management themselves or intervene in the management and put them on their own feet. I believe that kind of assistance to the banks also comes within the scope of this administration.

Then as regards the exclusion of small industries, of craftsmen and agriculturists. The Honourable Minister said it is within the scope of the provincial Government to assist them. Out of the persons who require relief, the majority will be small landholders or persons who live on agriculture, small shopkeepers and others. They will be the bulk of the population of refugees who require such help. Unfortunately they are not within the scope of relief of this administration. I would urge upon the Select Committee to improve this so that a crore or two crores of rupees may be set apart for helping the agriculturists by way of subsidizing those co-operative credit societies whose business normally is to help the agriculturists and petty traders. The administration might say that to the extent of two crore of rupees if losses are incurred in rehabilitating these refugees, to that extent the administration is prepared to bear the loss. I am not making any suggestion out of the way because the administration may guarantee losses to the extent of 50 lakhs. Sharing of losses by the administration is already contemplated. I only want that the scope of the Bill should be extended to cover persons who are abjectly in need. The rich man is already a rich man and he has his morsel. This administration intends to give him another morsel, but it has not addressed itself to those persons without any means, who normally would not be protected or to whom help would not flow. They are in greater need of help. They are larger in number. Therefore it is not right that they should be left entirely in the hands of the Provincial Governments whose resources may not be adequate in that direction. I would even urge upon the Honourable Minister to bring forward a kind of Agricultural Rehabilitation Administration. As a matter of fact, if the Agricultural Rehabilitation Administration to help these refugees, is entirely a provincial subject, then this kind of trade and industry is also a provincial subject. We are taking up some of the matters which the provinces have to do. Rehabilitation itself is a provincial subject. On account of the magnitude of the work that has to be undertaken, the Central Government is taking up this responsibility and coming to the aid of the Provincial Governments. In other fields, trade or industry or agriculture, the Centre is intervening on behalf of the Provincial Governments. Therefore it is no argument to say it is a provincial subject and provinces are already addressing themselves to this problem.

There is one other thing. This Agricultural Rehabilitation Administration may take up large tracts of land and settle a large number of agriculturists upon that land. Introducing irrigation schemes and such other things would not be easy for an individual or two, but it has to be done on a mass scale. I hope that the Honourable Minister will see his way to introduce in the near future a similar kind of legislation and bring into existence a similar corporation or administration to help small and big agriculturists. It would really be useful to give loans or subsidies extending over a period of ten years.

Then I come to the area of operation. I am extremely glad that the Honourable Minister has found it desirable to include not only persons who might have migrated to the provinces of India from Pakistan and other areas, but also States. Refugees are refugees wherever they might be, and help to them is therefore quite welcome. Provision has been made in this Bill for that.

I do agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that the purpose of the loan has not been set out particularly in the Bill. There must be a provision which says it shall be given only for productive purposes. It must also be said there that the person who receives the benefit ought not to be a person who is not in need of benefit. He must be a person who is in need of relief and not one who could camouflage in some form or another with the aid of some other person and ultimately the relief may not reach the needy person but may be taken away by some other person. I am sure that all those safeguards will be introduced at the Select Committee stage.

For losses are three kinds of relief provided for in three ways: by way of direct loan to the extent of seven crores of rupees, by way of rediscount of bills by scheduled banks and other agencies to the extent of a crore of rupees, and thirdly by giving loans to the extent of two crores. If in the matter of guarantee there is loss, 50 per cent. of the loss on any particular account will be borne by this administration. Out of two crores, we will assume one crore will be borne as loss. Then there is no provision here to make up the loss that might arise by direct loans to the extent of seven crores. Whatever is guaranteed, if there is loss, that is borne by the administration. There is no similar provision made for making good the loss that might arise on account of lending directly the seven odd crores of rupees. My apprehension is increased by this provision in the Bill that the Central Government expects a return of three per cent. interest on the loans advanced by the Central Government to the Administration. If the Central Government wants three per cent. interest to be repaid to it, evidently it wants that if by direct loans losses are incurred, the losses are incurred by the administration itself. Given all care and caution, direct loans might still end in some cases in losses. As losses might be expected, a provision must also be made in the Bill.

Then as regards the limits to which loans to persons may be given, those limits are not set out in the body of the Bill and advisedly they will be relegated to the directions that may be given by the Central Government because directions can be changed from time to time and rules or regulations or certain provisions in the Bill will become fixed and should not be changed according to circumstances. Therefore it is right and proper that this portion has not been advisedly put in the body of the Bill. But there is one lacuna. There is a limit for the loans that can be granted directly by the Administration. What about the limit of loans that might be granted by Banks? Banks can grant loans and rediscount the Bills, or Banks can make loans and they have to be guaranteed by the Administration. Limits have not been set out or have not been contemplated in the Bill for the amount of loans that the Banks can give, i.e., whatever loans can be granted indirectly and not directly by the Administration.

Then there is a provision making the amount of the assets of the particular concern the first charge for the loans given by the Administration. A provision has not been incorporated for making the amount of the rediscounted Bill or the amount of a loan guaranteed by the Administration also a charge on the assets of the particular concern. The provision as it stands refers only to a loan which has been granted directly. For indirect loans there is no provision.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

As regards the recall of money, I am glad that there is an expeditious procedure contemplated in the Bill whereby the loans that have been granted in cases where they have not been put to their proper use or otherwise misused they can be recalled and recovered as arrears of land revenue. In this connection, I do support the suggestion that my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam has made, that it must not only be open to the Administration to recall the money in particular cases and recover it as arrear of land revenue, but all possibilities of rehabilitating that concern must be exhausted before this final step of calling for the money or selling away the property and recovering it is resorted to. There is a provision that was made in the Industrial Finance Corporation clothing that Corporation with the power of taking over particular industries under its own management. To the extent that is possible this provision also should be incorporated in this Bill. I am sure the Administration would not enter into very small industries and try to fritter away all its energies, but in particular cases where the industry has established itself almost and with some help it can progress, it might be given that assistance also. I felt that the Advisory Council that is contemplated in this Bill will consist of a number of technicians and those who will look into the matter and give advice and find out if the loan is necessary or not and also whether the applicant has got the necessary technicians etc. There is no provision in the Bill to enable any particular body or for creating a particular body like a Sub-Committee to watch if the money that has been loaned by way of a loan is put to the use for which it was given. I believe in the Select Committee a provision to that effect will also be incorporated. It is not there in those terms.

Then, Sir, the Central Government can give directions from time to time besides approving regulations to be made by the Administration itself. Giving direction does not imply that the Central Government can make rules—directions also in a way mean that, but actually they do not. The Central Government must *suo motu* be able to make rules and regulations where it is necessary in general, besides being able to give directions from time to time.

I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that the Legislature should be constantly kept informed and ought to have an opportunity of watching the progress of this Administration. A report must be sent to the Legislature every year. There may be cases where these Rs. 10 crores—this initial capital—may not be sufficient and adequate. Then it will strengthen the hands of the Government if it comes forward with a proposal for an additional grant. Therefore it is necessary not only in this case but in all other Corporations which are established or which are in the contemplation of Government to establish similar concerns that the Legislature must be apprised and kept constantly informed and an opportunity afforded to it to discuss the matter and vote.

Lastly, Sir, I find that there is no agency established in the Provinces to assist this Administration or act on its behalf. Possibly by rules and regulations such an agency will be established. Those agencies may also have Provincial Advisory Councils for this purpose, instead of the Central Advisory Board which will not go into details. The Central Advisory Board will only go into huge loans. Small loans for Provinces, to individuals etc. must have to be granted by local agencies. I am sure provision will be made in the Bill to empower the Government to bring into existence Provincial Advisory Councils to carry out the purpose of this Administration.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I beg leave to say a few words not directly connected with this Bill which my Honourable colleague has placed before the House, but rather with the question of Rehabilitation. I should like to inform the House of certain steps that Government intend taking in regard to this matter.

Government attach the greatest importance to speedy, effective and proper rehabilitation of the large numbers of people who have been displaced in northern India. So far, a very great deal of our attention has been absorbed firstly, in evacuation and secondly, in giving relief. But obviously that is not good enough. In fact, the whole process of relief, unless it is accompanied by certain constructive and creative aspects of it, is likely to have unfortunate psychological and financial results. The proposal now is—which the Government is considering and in fact it has come to a decision—to appoint a Rehabilitation and Development Board. Of course, many Boards and Commissions are appointed and they may just produce Reports. The idea behind this Board is that it should be not only a planning body but an executive body, that it should have large powers, that, in fact, it should be able to work much more speedily than the average Government Department works. Governmental machinery sometimes—indeed very often—is rather slow; all manner of sanctions are necessary; all manner of references have to be made to various Departments and hence there is delay. Meanwhile, we have to deal with a human problem affecting millions of people, so that this Rehabilitation and Planning Board will survey, plan and execute and implement the plans in so far as it can.

Naturally, the general policy will be laid down by Government, the general sanction for various large schemes will come but apart from that, they will be free to go ahead. We propose to appoint a Board—a relatively small Board,—working whole time, which will consist of three persons to begin with. I said “to begin with”, not that we need necessarily be adding to that but it may be that owing to developments we may have to add one or more members, but we would like to keep it a small Board. This Board of three will be assisted by Technical Advisers—for instance, an Engineer Adviser, a Financial Adviser, a Statistical Adviser, and may be one or two others. This Board will consider first of all the existing development schemes. You will notice that we call it the “Rehabilitation and Development Board,” meaning thereby that we are combining the two functions or rather, looking at the two problems—rehabilitation and development—together. We have been thinking of development for a large number of years, and I am sorry that so far all our thought has resulted in schemes rather than anything more definite and practical. But many schemes are ready and this new Board that we set up ought speedily to run through those schemes, specially from the point of view of rehabilitation and to choose such as can be put into operation quickly. The Board should also consider any fresh schemes from the point of view of rehabilitation, that is to say, schemes which give gainful employment. It may be that we may have to set up certain townships in areas which are ready for development, such as river valley schemes and development of ports and other places. The Board will consider the whole country and will function for the whole country.

Naturally it will have to function in many parts of the country in co-operation with the Provincial Governments. Generally we expect to have free play even in the areas under the Provincial Governments if the finances come from the Central Government. Where the Provincial Government and the Central Governments share the finances then they will co-operate. Where the Provincial Government itself provides the finances, then this Board will function in an advisory capacity. We would like naturally to have the fullest co-operation from the Provincial Governments. At the same time we should like the Provincial Governments to give this Board full play also, that is, we want as little obstruction as possible. We suffer frequently from many checks and work cannot be carried on speedily. We should like this Board to function with speed and efficiency. Therefore we have chosen persons who we think will be able to function in that particular way. We would like this Board again to concentrate to some extent on the development of smaller industries. Major

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

industries, of course, are in the big plans and they would have to look into them. The major industries take a considerable time. We should like them to consider cottage and small scale industries which can be developed almost immediately in these town-ships. That is the information I should like to give to the House. I am sure the House would approve of this and I hope this Board will lead to a fairly rapid rehabilitation of large numbers of people who are at present lacking in accommodation and sometimes home and shelter. The present scheme includes both town dwellers and agriculturists but primarily this Board will deal with urban people. They will no doubt deal with others but most of the rural refugees or large number of them have necessarily to be settled in the East Punjab. This Board will advise and will help in every way it can. But the very large number of urban refugees find it difficult to settle down and most of the Members know that Delhi is full of these urban refugees from other towns. So the problem for this Board primarily is one of rehabilitating urban refugees, secondly agriculturists.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Is not a Bill likely to be introduced?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No; there is no occasion to introduce a Bill. The Government appoints a Board and gives it power to function.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter for gratification that our Government have at last brought forward this concrete financial measure for the rehabilitation and resettlement of millions of our countrymen and women who, for no fault of theirs, have been uprooted from their native soil, their hearths and homes and torn from their nearest and dearest. We are very well aware that this problem of rehabilitation and resettlement consumed so much of the attention and energy of our Government that they had hardly any time left for attending to the very urgent tasks of development and reconstruction of our country. Among these millions of refugees who have now become displaced persons there are I believe thousands or hundreds of thousands who have now joined the army of the poorest, the lowliest and the lowest in our country. This measure I find is designed mainly for urban folk and takes no account of the poor rural population who have been now pauperized and many of whom have joined the ranks of the landless proletariat. I for one would not like to exclude any category of these refugees or displaced persons from the operations and the benefits of this Rehabilitation Finance Administration. It was gratifying therefore to learn from the Honourable the Prime Minister that it was only in the first instance that urban refugees should be attended to but that the rural displaced persons are not wholly left out of account. I agree, Sir, with my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar that the scope of this Bill is rather limited. Without bringing forward a separate measure which he would like to call the Agricultural Rehabilitation Administration, I think, Sir, with some more effort by the Select Committee the scope and extent of this measure can be widened, so as to include almost all categories of displaced persons who are urgently in need of rehabilitation and resettlement.

The Honourable the Finance Minister in referring the Bill to Select Committee said that agriculture was primarily the field of provincial administration. But there are certain methods or modes of agriculture which our Government can easily take up at this time of day and try to absorb thousands of refugees in that pursuit. I refer to collective or co-operative farming which I believe, Sir, only the Central Government can undertake, and which cannot be left to the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. There are vast tracts of waste land in our country which can be reclaimed in the first place and then taken over for collective or co-operative farming and this ought to be one of the tasks

of this rehabilitation administration and if thousands of acres of waste land can be reclaimed all over India, I am sure, Sir, that the Government will be able to put a few lakhs of refugees on this very useful and gainful occupation.

One of my friends said the other day that even the transport problem could be solved to a certain extent with the help of these refugees. The Honourable Minister in charge of Transport said some days ago that transport was a bottle-neck. So far as the carriage or transport of coal is concerned, one of my friends said perhaps half in jest and half in earnest that the millions of tons of coal lying in the pit-heads in Dhanbad and Jharia in Bihar could be transported to Delhi and other parts of India where it is needed if only the refugees are lined up from the pit-head to the places where the coal is needed. I, Sir, would not subscribe to that, but there is this problem of agriculture, commerce and industry. And without bringing in a separate measure this very bill could be widened in scope so as to include agriculture because Sir, as you all very well know, agriculture is the main stay of our people and if you mention "industry" in the Preamble to this Bill, then it follows Sir, as a natural consequence that agriculture must be included, being the main industry of our country.

Then, Sir, there is the problem of youngsters, the children and adolescents. The other day the Honourable Prime Minister in the course of a casual conversation remarked that some days ago in the refugee camp at 1 p.m. Kingsway in New Delhi there was a demonstration by girl refugees

in the camp who raised slogans about more schools and more teachers. I am sure that among the refugees and displaced persons there are many teachers and this problem of schooling can be tackled with the mutual co-operation of would be teachers and would be students. And in the rehabilitation that we are contemplating we can certainly attend to the problem of opening a few schools for refugee boys and girls who are very keen on receiving education,—not merely ordinary education but also technical and vocational education. At the Kurukshetra camp which some of us visited last month we were glad to find that some handicrafts were being taught—they had been recently introduced—such as carpentry, weaving and basket making, and such other occupations. These handicrafts and cottage industries too must be included within the meaning of the word 'industry' which we find in the Preamble to this Bill.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Give more power to the Provincial Governments.

Shri H. V. Kamath: We have left that position far behind where we wanted to make the Provincial Governments very strong and the Central Government comparatively weak. I think it is high time that the Central Government took a hand in almost all national concerns; and where the provincial Government fails to do its duty the Central Government must step in and instruct, guide and control the activities of such Provincial Government. I think my Honourable friend Mr. Das will agree that if the Provincial Governments fail in their duty it is up to the Central Government, so far as national affairs are concerned, to intervene. This is a pressing problem and it is a very urgent problem today,—this problem of resettlement and rehabilitation of our countrymen and women who consequent upon the partition of the country have been turned out of their hearths and homes. Unless this problem is solved I am afraid all other problems will lie in cold storage. That is why I want our Government to attend to this seriously and earnestly and with all the energy that they and the country can command.

Then, Sir, there are a few points which have struck me in the course of a perusal of this Bill which might be changed or altered or amended. I was referring to the settlement of these displaced refugees. The Bill says that

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

assistance will be given to displaced persons. I think it was my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam who referred to the point of how far the advancing of loans to displaced persons or individuals will solve the problem. It is very likely—indeed I am certain—that in many provinces there will be many co-operative societies or associations or organisations which would like to tackle this problem; and these societies or co-operative bodies—either in agriculture or business, commerce or industry—must be helped by the Administration in the matter of settling refugees in any of these occupations.

I find that neither in the advisory board which will be set up for the administration of this Act nor in the constitution is there any reference to members of this Assembly. I think that in this important matter relating to the rehabilitation of refugees it must be laid down specifically that there must be at least three or four members elected to this advisory board by this Assembly which is now practically the sovereign legislature of this country. There is no provision of that kind here.

Then in coming to clause 12 of the Bill I find a provision in sub-clause (7) that before loans are advanced by the Administration, the Administration may take such further security for any loan as it may consider necessary. Further on in clause 14 it is provided that a loan or interest not repaid may be recovered as arrears of land revenue. I feel that when loans are advanced to displaced persons or individuals—apart from loans to co-operative societies or organisations—it will be hardly fair to recover these loans—in case they are not paid for some reason or other—by attaching their personal effects. It must be laid down in this Bill that the personal effects, whatever they may be—clothes, furniture or utensils—must be exempted from the operation of this rule as regards recovery of loans in the mode prescribed in clause 14.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Prime Minister in the statement just made referred to the setting up of townships in various parts of the country. There was some work-in-the-making at Kurukshetra which I visited last month. I was told there that there will be four townships each inhabited by about 15,000 refugees round about Kurukshetra. Where there was a desert there will now be four townlets with every modern amenity in the shape of bazars, houses and other things. I hope that this Administration will take active part in setting up these townships. And when new things are set up we should try to leave behind us the old ideas of town planning and have new towns on modern hygienic and sanitary lines. As far as possible our old style of architectural construction must be discarded which practically bars all light and ventilation from houses of the poor. After all we will build these townlets for the poor; and when we are planning for the poor let us plan well and truly in the new social order that we are contemplating.

Lastly, Sir, I hope that by the efficient administration of this measure the refugees will be put on their feet and will be enabled to earn their living, forgetting their sad and miserable past, and will really be able to turn a new leaf in life to the benefit of themselves and of our country. Let us plan; let us administer this measure in such a way and see that these the poorest, the lowliest and the lost shall have life, and have it more abundantly.

Mr. Tajamul Husain (Bihar: Muslim): I rise to support the motion of the Honourable the Minister to send this Bill to a Select Committee. This is a very important measure and an urgent one too, and I do not think that a single Member of this House will not welcome it.

I do not wish to deal with this Bill in detail because many Honourable Members have done that already. There are thousands and millions of refugees. Something has to be done for them. Money is the chief thing and this Bill makes provision as to how we can rehabilitate them and help them with money in their business, etc.

At the same time, there are one or two points which I wish to place for the consideration of the Honourable Minister and Members of the Select Committee.

The Honourable Minister has admitted that this is a very important measure and he wants the Committee to submit its report by the 10th of February 1948. In clause 1, sub-clause 3 we find the words:

"It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint in this behalf."

I want that it should read thus: "It shall come into force at once." It is an important measure. Why should we give power to the Central Government to mention this fact in the Gazette and make as much delay as possible. I hope this matter will be taken into consideration seriously by the Honourable Minister and the Members of the Select Committee.

I wish to say one word as regards the definition, clause 2, sub-clause (d). A "displaced person" has been defined in this manner.

"Displaced person" means any person who is displaced from any area outside India on account of....."

The point is this. If a person is displaced, he will be called a 'displaced person.' But take a person who shifts himself voluntarily because he is apprehending danger to his life and property. Should he be called a 'displaced person'?

Mr. Speaker: That is provided for in the definition, as the Honourable Member will see.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I beg to submit that I have read that definition very carefully and I do not find what you suggest. According to the definition, a "displaced person" means "any person who is displaced from any area outside India"; but I want to add "displaced and shifted.....". The word I am suggesting may not be very appropriate. But a person who removes himself because he apprehends danger to his life, property and family, should be clearly mentioned as a "displaced person."

I am making suggestions so that at the time when you read this sub-clause you will think whether a person who removes himself on account of fear comes within it or not.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member likely to take much longer?

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I will finish before lunch time.

"A 'displaced person' means any person who is displaced from any area outside India..." This is meant for residents who have been turned out of or coming from Pakistan. Why then mention India. You are not going to have persons from Europe. Instead of the word 'India' it should be 'Pakistan'."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He has been displaced from Hyderabad!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: But Hyderabad is India!

In clause 4 it is mentioned that the Administration shall consist of a Chairman, three officials and three non-officials—seven in all. But no mention has been made as to how many will form a quorum. That must be mentioned.

[Mr. Tajamul Husain]

The same remarks apply with reference to the Advisory Board.

In clause 16, sub-clause 4 we read:

"If any person contravenes the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (3) he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both."

I want to add the words "with imprisonment of either description."

With these words I wholeheartedly support this Bill and I really think it should not have been sent to the Select Committee but it should have been passed in this House now.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half-Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I welcome the Bill and wholeheartedly support it and hope that it will soon be passed and speedy action will be taken on it. I have however to point out that I find a few lacunæ in the Bill.

I wish the Bill had stated where the head office of this Rehabilitation Finance Administration will be located. I am not enamoured of the idea that every new institution should be located at Delhi. I hope that Allahabad or Cawnpore will be selected, so that it will be midway between East Punjab and West Bengal, because sooner or later we are going to face the vast problem of refugees from East Bengal. That is a problem which we have to handle and I do not want that it should be handled from Delhi, where the refugees of Western India are in preponderance and people have no space to move about.

I find the notes and explanations are more informative than the Bill itself. The Bill does not say what will be the agency, whether the Central Government propose to have their own offices or to utilise provincial governments and banks. It should be defined by the Select Committee and I hope they will take action on that.

I am again sorry to find that the name of the Imperial Bank is mentioned as agent of the Reserve Bank of India. Some day it may become a national bank but I insist that this unnational bank, the Imperial Bank of India, should not be mentioned in statutes.

An Honourable Member: Is it a red rag to you?

Shri B. Das: Yes, it is. It has done more harm to India and to Indian nationals and also to Indian economy than any other banking institution that has been transplanted from European soil to India. I do hope the lacuna that other scheduled banks cannot be bankers to the Government of India or the Reserve Bank of India will be soon removed and by statute we can make the United Commercial Bank, the Punjab National Bank or the Central Bank of India to be depositors of the funds of this Administration. My Honourable friend the Finance Minister will find that it is the Punjab National Bank that will do most useful business in connection with the rehabilitation of the refugees of West Punjab who do most of their business with that Bank. In this matter I have had a feeling of injury all these years and I hope our national Minister of Finance will soon remove such feeling of irritation in any future measure that he may introduce on the floor of this House.

I welcome the idea that loans from Government should pay at three per cent. and not more than six per cent. should be charged to borrowers. I also welcome the decision that it should be income-tax free. I hope this will not be a precedent for any other Provincial Government to claim such exemption from the Government of India.

I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that the annual reports of this Administration should be laid on the table of the Central Legislature so that if they desire they could have a discussion on the reports.

I welcome most the desire on all sides that this Finance Administration should function as a business organisation. I hope no I.C.S. man will be the Administrator. I hope that the old defunct I.C.S. class which is still found in the Government of India will be done away with and sent back to the districts. The Government of India should function as a business government. They should have their secretaries from men in business, from public life and not allow these I.C.S. men to perpetuate the tradition of the defunct British Raj.

We welcome the speech of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that he had appointed a Development Commission of three, but he did not mention the names of those three gentlemen. I do hope that no I.C.S. man will be a member of this Development Commission. My Honourable friend the Finance Minister who, if he was not a Finance Minister, is a businessman otherwise, knows that a businessman knows how to handle the difficult situation and does not make mistakes which the I.C.S. men are perpetuating throughout in the administration of the Government of India. How can it be a business Commission if you leave it to the I.C.S. man—the Joint Secretary and the Deputy Secretary—who knows only to create files and live in those files and not take any action on any file? I hope therefore that in the national stress through which we are passing the India Government will not have any civilian in the Development Commission or in the organisation for this Rehabilitation Finance Administration. There are many businessmen in the country. After all the banker is an administrator. He is bound to deal more sympathetically with his customers than the I.C.S. men. I have no knowledge of an I.C.S. man ever having been sympathetic because he thinks that his power came to him from King George.

Sir, I do not agree with my Honourable friends Mr. Kamath and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar that the Central Government should dabble with agricultural financing. Surely the Provincial Governments are existing and there are the Governors and Ministers who are supposed to administer provincial autonomy. They must do something. Do not therefore give all the work to the Centre. It is a curious phenomenon I have been noticing that people are thinking of all power being concentrated in the hands of the Central Government reducing the Provincial Governments, in spite of their Governors and Ministers, with absolutely no work. That should not be so. If any West Punjab gentlemen settle down in Orissa or Assam we welcome them as citizens of the Province. And if they come to the Provincial Government and ask them to look into their normal difficulties over rehabilitation, it is bound to be responded. Of course for helping in their industrial regeneration Central aid is absolutely necessary.

Sir, here is a measure of nationalisation. I do hope that my friends, particularly those friends leaning to absolute socialism from which I differ, will welcome this nationalisation measure and I do hope they will keep their watchful eye to see how this nationalisation measure is working in the country. Let us profit by the example of the working of the rehabilitation measure. If we find from our experience that nationalisation of any measure brings in economy and brings in benefit to all, not by gift or charity but by economic methods of work, then I may subscribe to the idea of nationalisation measures

[Shri B. Das]

and we may all agree with the Government of India establishing any machinery in the future for nationalising industry. Let them not harp on the past and on the buying of all old industry in the idea of nationalisation solely for the benefit of labour.

Sir, I have one more point to make. I was not particularly enamoured of the suggestion of my friend Mr. Santhanam that every individual who seeks any assistance in the shape of a loan should turn himself or herself into a limited liability company. Probably the Registrar of the company in the Provincial Governments will derive a little money, but it will be an irksome duty, and lawyers will benefit by determining how an individual can turn himself or herself into a joint stock company. If we mean to rehabilitate—and it is the biggest task before us—then we need not be suspicious and think that an individual is not a gentleman or honourable man and only a limited company will prove to be an honourable concern. There are scoundrels everywhere and it is human nature that we have to think of.

I strongly urge that every Province which has received refugees should have local Advisory Boards and that point has been supported by my honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. That is necessary. At the same time I hope my Honourable friend the Finance Minister will see that the provincial organisations do not cost too much, thereby taking away the benefit of the three per cent. earnings and freedom from income-tax which are left in the hands of this Administration or frittering it away in useless expenditure. Sir, I support the Bill.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation): Sir, if I intervene in this debate it is for the purpose of reminding this House that the present measure, important and vital as it is, is only one of a series of measures that the Government have either undertaken or have under contemplation in furtherance of the rehabilitation of refugees. Sir, let us consider the numbers that are involved in this question. Roughly speaking, the total number of refugees who will need to be rehabilitated in India would be about 55 lakhs. It is a very rough guess and I include in this figure those Hindus and Sikhs who have yet to be evacuated from Western Pakistan. Out of this 55 lakhs very nearly 30 lakhs are likely to be followers of agriculture as an occupation or those who follow other rural means of livelihood. The remaining 25 lakhs would be represented by people who would follow non-agricultural occupations more or less of an urban character. So far as the 30 lakhs of agricultural population are concerned, this Bill deliberately and definitely excludes them from its purview. It is not as if the question of giving financial aid in regard to the rehabilitation of agriculturists among the refugees has not received adequate attention. On the other hand, we have set no limits to our liability in regard to giving financial assistance in the matter of rehabilitation of agriculturists. We have advised the Provincial as well as the State Governments to grant *taccavi* loans on a liberal scale for this purpose. We have assured them that if they need the assistance of the Centre in this matter the Central Government would be prepared to advance loans to the Provincial and State Governments. Indeed, the East Punjab Government have already provided Rs. 1,57,00,000 by way of *taccavi* grants in their current budget. Take again the 25 lakhs of urban refugees. I imagine a large proportion of this figure would not need the assistance of the machinery that my Honourable colleague is setting up. They would be people who would require assistance of perhaps less than Rs. 5,000 each or free grants of smaller amounts. For these parties again, Government have directly set apart adequate funds for giving necessary assistance. They would qualify for loans directly from the Government and they would not need the assistance of the Administration that is now proposed to be set up.

There are certain specific loans which are contemplated, for instance loans to men following certain professions or other callings who would not come within the scope of any measure intended to benefit either agriculturists or industrialists or businessmen, loans which would benefit lawyers for instance or members of the medical profession and so on. We have a definite scheme for granting financial assistance to these categories of refugees and these schemes are already in operation. They are being operated by the Provincial Governments concerned on the basis of the scheme that has been propounded by the Central Government.

Sir, a mention was made about students. Now, here again we have a scheme for granting financial assistance to students which is already in operation. In the Province of Delhi they have set up a committee specially to administer the loans that we have sanctioned for the benefit of the students among refugees. Sir, incidentally I might mention that we have also urged upon the authorities concerned in Delhi the urgency and the importance of giving the utmost facilities to the student community among the refugees. There was a reference to this point perhaps in the speech made by my Honourable friend Mr. Kamath. That holds good in regard to Delhi, and I dare say the same policy is being followed elsewhere, but then the position of East Punjab is somewhat exceptional. In East Punjab all the available accommodation afforded by all the various educational institutions is at present being utilised for the housing of refugees, to which naturally the highest priority was given. These educational institutions are expected to re-open from the beginning of March next.

Sir, the Honourable the Prime Minister made an announcement of the appointment of a Rehabilitation and Development Board. He referred in that connection to the many plans that were framed and to many reports that were written on those plans. I happen to be one who was associated with one such report at one stage. It has regretfully to be admitted that although there have been a number of plans and a number of reports on plans, very little practical action has so far been taken. On a previous occasion when I had the honour of addressing this House, I pointed out that the problem of rehabilitation of the so called refugees could be solved only as a part of the problem of the general development of the country. It is in pursuance of this idea that the new body, the formation of which was announced by the Prime Minister, will be charged with not merely planning but also the execution of the plans which they may either frame themselves or which they may adopt from those already in existence.

Sir, we may have to be grateful to the refugees for having drawn our attention to the urgency of the problem of planning for the development of this country, and perhaps future generations will acknowledge their gratitude to the so called refugees for having furnished the man-power which is necessary for the purpose of developing the resources of the country as a whole.

Shri B. Das: Who are the three gentlemen that are being appointed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: An announcement will be made shortly.

श्री मोहन लाल गौतम: स्पीकर महोदय, यह जो बिल गवर्नमेंट (Government) ने पेश किया है वह वाकई श्रुक्रिया के मुस्तहक है कि यह बिल (Bill) रिफ्यूजीज (Refugees) के रिहैबिलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) के लिये पेश किया है। इसको जल्दी रख सकती थी, या नहीं, गवर्नमेंट (Government) की दिक्कतों

[श्री० मोहन लाल गोतम]

थीं वह गवर्नमेंट (Government) जाने, लेकिन जो बेकरारी शरणार्थियों में थी उसका मतलब यह था कि यह काम इससे पहिले हो जाना चाहिये था।

बहर हाल जो अभी तक गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) की स्कीमस (Schemes) और प्लेनिंग (planning) इस हाउस (House) के सामने आई हैं वह मैं बहुत अदब के साथ अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि वह पुराने कैपिटलिस्ट सिस्टम (Capitalist System) को मजबूत बनाने की तरफ जा रही है। जितनी स्कीमस (Schemes) और जितनी प्लेनिंग (planning) या बजट (budget) अभी तक पेश हुए हैं उसमें कहीं मुझे यह नजर नहीं आता कि हम कैपिटलिस्ट सिस्टम (Capitalist System) को बदलना चाहते हैं और सोशलिस्ट (Socialist) तरीके की तरफ जाना चाहते हैं, हो सकता है गवर्नमेंट (Government) को इतनी दिक्कतें अभी तक हैं कि उनको अभी तक यह अन्दाज नहीं हो सका कि वह उसको कैसे शुरू करें मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह इतना अच्छा मोका है कि वह लोग जो अपने घरबार से हट चुके हैं और जिनको क्लीन स्लेट (Clean Slate) से शुरू करना है अगर दूसरे इकनामिक सिस्टम (Economic System) पर लिये जायें तो यह शुरुआत अच्छी हो सकती है। इस बिल (Bill) में जो लोन (Loan) देने की बात कही गई है वह सिर्फ प्राइवेट इन्डिविज्युअल (private individual) या पब्लिक लिमिटेड (public limited) या प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (private limited) कंपनियों (Companies) के लिये है मेरे लायक दोस्त सनथानम साहब ने कहा है कि सिर्फ पब्लिक लिमिटेड (public limited) के लिये यह लोन्स (loans) होने चाहियें। यह क्यों उसमें नहीं रखा जाता है कि यहां से हम शुरू करेंगे, कि यह लोन्स (loans) सिर्फ उन बाडीज (bodies) को दिये जायेंगे जो कोआपरेटिव बेसिस (Co-operative basis) पर और्गनाइज्ड (organised) होंगे और इन्डिविज्युअल बेसिस (individual basis) पर और्गनाइज (organise) करने वालों को नहीं दिया जायगा। हमें एक नई इकनामिक प्लेनिंग (Economic planning) शुरू करनी चाहिये। अभी हमारे मिनिस्टर (Minister) नियोगी साहब ने फरमाया कि हम तो प्लेनिंग (planning) कर रहे हैं अगर आप इस कैपिटलिस्ट (Capitalist) ढंग की प्लेनिंग (planning) कर रहे हैं तो माफ़ कीजिये वह प्लेनिंग (planning) कामयाब नहीं होगी और वह इस मुल्क के लिये अच्छी नहीं हो सकती है। अगर आपको प्लेनिंग (planning) करनी है तो सही ढंग सोशलिस्ट सिस्टम (Socialist System) का है। मुझे अभी तक मालूम नहीं हुआ कि आप किस ढंग की प्लेनिंग (planning) कर रहे हैं। मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि कोआपरेटिव बेसिस (Co-operative basis) पर आप लोन्स (loans) दीजिये जिससे नये ढंग से हिन्दुस्तान में इकनामिक सिस्टम (Economic System) ला सकें

इसके साथ ही साथ इस बिल में यह चीज कहीं भी नजर नहीं आती है कि जिनको लोन्स (loans) दिया जायगा उनको क्या फायदा होगा। वह कैसे मालूम होगा यह आपने मुकर्रर नहीं किया है। क्या आपको यह उम्मीद है कि आप उनको लोन्स (loans) दे देंगे और वह लाखों रुपया कमायें फिर भी उनकी मदद करनी चाहिये। अगर यह हुआ तो इससे थोड़े ही शरणार्थियों को फायदा होगा बाकी शरणार्थियों को कोई फायदा न होगा। अभी गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कहा गया है कि अग्रिकलचरिस्ट (agriculturist) का सवाल प्रान्तीय सरकार कर रही है। मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से प्रान्तीय सरकार चल रही है और जिस तरह से वह इस सवाल को सुलझा रही है कम से कम मुझे उसका इल्म नहीं है। जितना वह कर रहे हैं या नहीं कर रहे उसकी इतला हम लोगों को नहीं मिलती। लेकिन मैं यह अर्ज कर देना चाहता हूँ कि वह इन्डिवीज्यूअल (individual) की थोड़ी बहुत मदद कर रहे हैं। मरे दोस्त मि० कामथ ने इस तरफ इशारा किया है कि हजारों और लाखों ऐकड़ जमीन बेकार पड़ी हुई है मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह प्रान्तीय सरकार की ताकत के बाहर की चीज है वह जमीन को आपरेटिव बेसिस (Co-operative basis) पर वेस्ट पंजाब (West Punjab) से जो से जो शरणार्थी आये हैं उनको मिलनी चाहिये। वे लोग मजबूत हैं और वह इस काम के लायक भी हैं। इसलिये इस बिल में यह जरूरी है कि अग्रिकलचरिस्ट (agriculturist) जो इस कोआपरेटिव बेसिस (Co-operative basis) पर काम करें कम से कम उनको भी लोन्स (loans) दिया जायगा।

इसमें इनटरस्ट (interest) ६ परसेन्ट (per cent.) रखा है। मैं आप से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इतना इनटरस्ट (interest) लगा कर उनके ऊपर भार न लगाइये। अगर गवर्नमेंट ने ३ परसेन्ट (per cent.) पर दिया है तो आप ज्यादा से ज्यादा ४ परसेन्ट (per cent.) पर लोगों को कर्ज दे दीजिये। अगर आप के अखराजात में इस इन्तजाम से घाटा हो तो गवर्नमेंट से ग्रान्ट ले लीजिये। लेकिन किसी सूरत में ६ परसेन्ट (per cent.) चार्ज (charge) न कीजिये।

एक दिक्कत मुझे नजर आ रही है कि जो लोन (loan) होगा वह फर्स्ट चार्ज (First Charge) होगा और (arrears of land revenue) के तरीके पर वसूल किया जायेगा इससे शरणार्थियों की कर्ज लेने की ताकत कम हो जायगी। इससे आपके एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (administration) को तो फायदा होगा लेकिन मुझे यह डर है कि शरणार्थियों को कर्ज लेने की कैपैसिटी (capacity) कम हो जायेगी क्योंकि दूसरी पार्टियाँ (parties) जो कर्जा देगी उनको वसूल करने में भी दिक्कत होगी।

[श्री० मोहन लाल गोतम]

इस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (administration) में लैजिसलेचर (Legislature) का कोई भी नुमाइन्दा नहीं है। मैं समझता हूँ, होना चाहिये। और लैजिसलेचर (Legislature) को इसकी इत्तला होनी चाहिये कि वह इन्तजाम किस तरह से चल रहा है।

एक दोस्त ने कहा है कि "डिसप्लेस्ड" ("displaced") को एक जगह से दूसरी जगह शिफ्ट ("Shift") करने वाला माना जाय। मैं एक किसान की हैसियत से कह सकता हूँ कि अगर यह हो जाय तो इससे बहुत से किसानों को भी फायदा होगा। बहुत से किसान जमीदार के डर की वजह से एक गांव से दूसरे गांव में चले जाते हैं अगर उनको इसमें इनक्लूड (include) कर लिया जायेगा तो मेरे ख्याल में इसका मतलब बिम्कुल खफ्त हो जायगा। शायद उनका यह ख्याल था कि जो मसलमान साहबान डर की वजह से एक जगह से दूसरे जगह चले आये हैं उनको इसमें शामिल कर लिया जाय। लेकिन अगर जमीदार किसान की डर की वजह से शहर में आ गये हों और दूकान खोलना चाहते हों तो इससे फायदा उठा सकते हैं। इसमें गड़बड़ हो जायगी। वह भी शरणार्थी ही ट्रीट (treat) किये जायेंगे। इसलिये मैं इस हिस्से की सहायता मुखालिफत करता हूँ। इन लफ्जों के साथ मैं इस बिल को सपोर्ट (support) करता हूँ और गवर्नमेंट (Government) को मुबारिकबाद देता हूँ कि वह बहुत जल्दी तो नहीं लेकिन फिर भी इतना अच्छा बिल शरणार्थियों के लिये लाई है।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker, the Government deserve our congratulations for bringing in this Bill before the House as this Bill is connected with the rehabilitation of refugees. The Government can only know what were their difficulties and why they could not present this Bill earlier than this, but the restlessness shown by the refugees has indicated that it should have come up much earlier. Nevertheless, the schemes and plannings of the Government of India that have so far come before the House I must say with all respect, are tending to strengthen the old capitalist system. At no place in these schemes, plannings or budgets, have I come across anything suggesting, that we want to change the capitalist system and wish to adopt the socialist system. May be, the Government who are still faced with many difficulties have not been able to judge how they are going to adopt a new system. I think it is the best opportunity to bring it in, as those who have been ruined once have to start afresh with a clean slate; they will easily accept a new Economic System, and this will really be a good start for the system also. The granting of loans under the scheme of this Bill has been limited to private individuals, public limited concerns or private limited concerns only. My friend the Honourable Mr. Santhanam has suggested that the granting of loans should be restricted to Public Limited concerns only. But may I ask why can't we make it clear in the Bill that we are beginning with a new system and the loans will be now granted to bodies organised on cooperative basis only. Loans will not be granted to bodies organised on individual basis. We should start a new system of Economic Planning. Our worthy Minister the Honourable Mr. Neogy has just said that they are planning such a system these days. I may be excused if I say that that planning is bound to fail if it is based on the Capitalist

System, it will not be useful for the country. If you are planning anything then the Socialist system is the right one. I have not been able to find out so far what sort of planning you are doing. I wish to place before you that the loans should be granted on the cooperative basis, so that we could introduce a new Economic System in India.

At the same time it has not been made clear any where in this Bill—what advantage will they derive who take these loans and how it will be determined? If with this loan they are able to earn lakhs of rupees, do you think they will still need your help? If that is the position then only a very small number of the refugees will be benefited.

Just now it has been said on behalf of the Government that the Provincial Governments are dealing with the Agriculturists question. I will say that the way the Provincial Governments are proceeding in this matter and the way they are trying to solve this question is at least not known to me. We are not aware actually of what they have been able to do and what has not been done. But I may say that they are helping individuals. My friend the Honourable Mr. Kamath has pointed out that there are hundreds and thousands acres of waste land. I have to say that that is beyond the scope of Provincial Governments. This land should be given to refugees of the West Punjab on the cooperative basis because they are quite strong and fit to make use of it.

The Bill should provide that at least the agriculturists who work on cooperative basis are given the loan.

The interest to be charged under the Bill will be 6 per cent. I have to request that they should not be put under such a heavy burden. If the Government grants loan at 3 per cent. interest, then they may charge about 4 per cent. from these people. But if this results in loss to the Department then you can ask for a grant from the Government. But you should not charge the interest at 6 per cent. in any case.

The other difficulty which I find here is that the loan will be the first charge and it will be realised as arrears of land revenue. This will diminish the capacity of the refugees to take out loans. This will really mean some benefit to the administration but will diminish the capacity of the refugees to take loans, because other bodies who give loans will find it difficult to recover. The Legislature has no representation of its own on these administrations. This should have been provided. The Legislature should know how the work goes on. An Honourable Member has suggested that 'displaced' should also include any one who has 'shifted'. As a farmer I say that this will prove good to a very large number of farmers as many farmers have had to leave their villages for fear of the landlord. If such persons are also included then perhaps the purpose will not be served. I think the Honourable Members meant to include those Mohammadans who had through some fear shifted from one place to another. But if the landlord through fear of the farmers, migrate into a city and want to open shops, will also be benefited and cause confusion as they will also be treated as refugees. Therefore I strongly oppose this part of the Bill. With these words I congratulate the Government for introducing a good Bill, for the refugees though it has not been brought early enough.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunsru (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Bill before us. I should like to understand what its total result in connection with rehabilitation will be. This Bill will apply only to those refugees who are connected with business or industry or who want to be engaged in business or industry. This limitation seems to me to be a sound one. But what I should like to know is whether the maximum amount of assistance which can be given for the rehabilitation of the refugees, that is ten crores, would be enough. How has this amount been calculated? Government must

3 P.M

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

have roughly estimated the number of people who would require help from the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and come to some conclusion regarding the total assistance that would be necessary. Even after considering what my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy said, my fear is that ten crores may not prove enough for the purpose for which the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is going to be set up. Had the Administration been connected with banks or syndicates of banks to a larger extent than it will be, then we might have thought that on the base provided by the money that can be advanced by Government to the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, a large edifice of credit facilities could be raised. But as my Honourable friend the Finance Minister stated this morning, owing to the provisions laid down in the Bill, the total amount of assistance that can be rendered would be to the tune of ten crores of rupees. I speak subject to correction, but I think it is desirable to find out sound expedients of enabling the refugees to have assistance to a greater extent should this prove necessary. It may be that the proportion of losses incurred by banks, the repayment of which should be guaranteed by Government, may be reduced; or bonds and debentures might be issued by the Administration. I see no reason why the latter suggestion should not prove feasible.

Now, I know this Administration is not a pure and simple banking concern. It is really an administrative body which, taking a large view of its responsibilities and the problems that it will be entrusted with, will take such measures as in the circumstances it might consider proper. In this respect it of course differs radically from the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill which this House considered some time ago. But even so, I see no objection to the Administration being allowed to raise loans for the purpose of rehabilitation provided that the period of repayment of the loans raised by the Administration is not smaller than the period of repayment of the loans given to the refugees. These are some of the ways in which credit can be extended.

Again, Sir, while I was glad to learn from the Prime Minister's speech that the Rehabilitation Finance Administration would be provided with a staff which would examine the soundness of the schemes for which aid might be solicited from it, I do not think that this will be enough. It seems to be, at present, the Government's idea that the function of the technical staff should only be to examine such schemes as are placed before it. I personally think that the Rehabilitation Administration should go further than this and should take steps to have a staff which would enable the borrowers to receive such technical assistance as they might need. Defects might appear at some stage or other in the carrying out of the schemes approved by the technical staff. It would be in the interests of both rehabilitation and Government that these defects and difficulties should, if possible, be removed with the assistance of the technical staff of the Rehabilitation Administration.

Again, I think that the Rehabilitation Administration might go still further and regard it as one of its duties to suggest new schemes which might appear suitable to a particular area. It should not consider it its duty merely to consider such schemes as are laid before it, but should hold itself free, indeed should consider itself more or less bound, to prepare schemes whose execution would be feasible in a particular province or in a particular area. In this way, the Administration might be able to benefit a wider circle and bring about development on an organised and planned basis. If this method is adopted, it may be that the Banks without asking for a guarantee from the Government would be prepared to help those people who might take up any of the schemes prepared by the technical staff of the Rehabilitation Administration.

Sir, though strictly speaking, we cannot discuss at this stage the assistance to be given to refugee agriculturists and artisans and other people, numbering according to Mr. Neogy about three million, I should like to know a little more in detail than I could from Mr. Neogy's speech what measures Government have adopted in order to help this class of people. Are the Local Governments

going to be asked to depend on their own unaided resources in connection with giving assistance to such people or will the assistance required by them be provided in certain proportions by both the Central and Provincial Governments? Again, if help is to be provided to artisans, you might have to provide for their re-training in certain cases. It is quite possible that the artisans may have to follow new avocations instead of those which they were following where they were formerly settled but they will be unable to do so unless they are given the necessary technical training. Now, it is not enough for the authorities in such cases to say "We regret we cannot help you". It is their business, I think, as part of the policy of rehabilitation to help them to get the training which would enable them to re-establish themselves in life. This is a subject, Sir, in which we all are keenly interested. The small man is not vocal, he is not even in a position to influence those he may see around him to put forward his case. It is necessary therefore that we should take up this question and that Government should tell us what the entire scheme that they have in view is. We shall then be able to see what relation the Bill has to the problem before us as a whole.

Sir, I should like to say again, before sitting down, that I welcome this measure. I hope that it will indicate to the refugees, amongst whom there is a great deal of discontent, that the day is not far distant when they will be able to start such business as they have capacity for and be able to maintain their self-respect. Whatever, Sir, the criticism to which the refugees may be subjected, I think one thing will be admitted by everybody here and outside and that is that notwithstanding the sore straits to which they have been reduced, you will hardly find a single Punjabee refugee begging in the streets of Delhi. I doubt whether if we had an equal number of refugees from any other province, we would have found among them the same aversion to public charity and the same desire and energy to earn their living by the sweat of their brow. I am filled with admiration for the Punjabees when I see that notwithstanding the desperate circumstances in which they find themselves, they are trying to do something in order to be self-supporting, in order to cease to be a charge on the public revenues. Such people deserve every assistance. This Bill and the speeches that have been delivered to-day by my Honourable friends the Prime Minister and the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation should make them feel that Government are fully alive to their needs and that they will soon find the assistance which they had stood in need of all these months in order to start life afresh. I hope that Government will consider the points that I have raised.

Srimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got much to say, but only a small suggestion to make for the consideration of the Honourable the Mover of the Bill and also for the Select Committee. The suggestion which I am going to make is this. Sir, as we are all aware, this Bill is mainly intended to give some kind of relief to the displaced persons from outside India by giving them some loans and rehabilitating them, and this will help them to start some kind of business activity or some kind of industrial activity. Sir, I do not know who are really defined as displaced persons and who are the class of persons who are entitled to apply for a loan to the Administration. In my view perhaps they are the people who have still something left with them or some small capital left with them who are really qualified to apply for a loan to this Corporation. But may I know what happens to those people, those displaced persons who have practically nothing left with them and who have nothing to mortgage to the administration or to the Government for getting the loan from this administration. We are aware that there are some small scale industries already in the area of Delhi and also in some other areas where the refugees have taken shelter and these small scale industries are really capable of expansion and also they are capable of absorbing the vast number of refugees in their industrial activity, but they are excluded from the operation of this Bill. They dared not and are not qualified to apply for a loan to this admini-

[Shrimati G. Durgabai]

nistration or for being employed in the activity. My suggestion will be this that the body of persons or my private persons who may not be strictly called 'displaced persons'—they may be anybody—but on the assurance given by them that they would absorb many refugees in their activity, they may also be enabled to apply for a loan to this administration and that they will utilise themselves for helping the refugees.

Now the proposed Industrial Finance Corporation Bill does not contemplate helping some such small scale industries which are already there, because it proposes to help very big public limited companies and also does not take note of some such small scale industry in the country. I propose that this bill may include them and give them such facility for expansion and also enable them to absorb vast number of refugees. This also will help us to expedite giving effect to this measure to give them the relief. We have given some one lakh of rupees or some thousands to a refugee to enable him to start some kind of activity, but it will certainly take time for him to get the required machinery or other material necessary to start an industry of a business activity. But in my view, the industries which are already started here, which are already suffering for want of some kind of help, such industries may immediately start absorbing the refugees as soon as they are given some help by this administration. Therefore, I would urge the House and also the Honourable the Mover of the Bill to take my point into consideration and also include such classes of persons. They may not be strictly displaced persons, they may not be refugees, but they are here with all their material, their machinery already to start and expand and absorb the refugees who immediately need some kind of help. Therefore, Sir, I would like the Honourable the Mover and the Select Committee to take my point into consideration.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, like my predecessors I also welcome this Bill as one of the beneficent and meritorious acts which this Government has done to help the refugees. I think, Sir, I would go a step further and say that if this Government had done nothing else, but tackle this refugee situation successfully, as they have been trying to do, they would be remembered for the charity and the act of humanity which they have done.

Sir, having said this, I find very little to say by way of criticism of this Bill and if I add anything to what I have said already, I would only make certain points more for the sake of enlightenment. I am rather surprised to find that in this Bill 'the displaced person' has been defined, although in the object of this Bill I do not find any section which speaks or governs this 'displaced person' at all. There is mention of the word 'displaced person' in the preamble itself, but as we all know, the preamble is not part of the Bill itself.

In the definition of 'borrower' nothing is said about a displaced person. The word borrower as defined in this Bill would include anybody. It will include me also, Sir, if I can in any way satisfy the administration and press them to give me some loan. The word 'borrower' means an individual, company, association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, to whom a loan has been advanced under this act and there is nothing as far as I have seen, Sir, in the body of the Bill itself to say that the loan shall not be granted by the administration to any person other than a displaced person. Of course, there is an omnibus clause namely clause 18 which says:

"For the purposes of this Act, the Central Government may, from time to time, give to the administration such general or special directions as it thinks fit, and the Administration shall, in the exercise of its functions under this Act, comply any such directions."

This section may be considered in any way. The Central Government may give an instruction sometimes not to give a loan to a particular class of person or to give a loan to a particular class of person. At every stage we have to invoke clause 18.

As regards the definition of "displaced person" what my honourable friend Mr. Tajamul Husain wanted to convey was that the words 'outside India' should be deleted. Sir, we all know of instances and persons who had to leave Delhi on account of, or for fear of, disturbances and settle in U.P. Similarly, a large number of persons had to leave Calcutta during 1946 and settle in Bihar and Orissa. Under the definition of 'displaced person' as it stands these persons will be excluded. The provinces to which these people have migrated are already finding it difficult to find land for their own people. It is too much to expect such provinces to afford accommodation for these 'displaced' persons. I would, therefore, submit, that nothing will be lost by the omission of the words 'outside India' from the definition of 'displaced person'. Any abuse of the provisions of the Bill can easily be prevented by invoking the aid of clause 18, which leaves complete discretion to the Central Government. One of my Honourable friends—if I have correctly understood him—said that if these words were omitted, a person who migrates from one village to another within India may claim the benefit of this Bill. Sir, that is visualising an extreme contingency. Even such a case can be prevented or controlled by the Central Government acting in its discretion.

Then, Sir, it is said that the Advisory Board shall consist of such members, not exceeding fifteen in number, as may be nominated by the Central Government. I would suggest that a certain percentage of the non-official members of the Board to be nominated by the Central Government should be elected by this Assembly.

Then, Sir, I have a very serious objection in regard to clause 7. Clause 7 says that notwithstanding anything contained in section 6, the Central Government may, for any reason which may appear to it to be sufficient, remove any member at any time from the Administration or the Advisory Board. I think, Sir, this is going too far. You can remove a Member of the Legislature even, provided he is guilty of some misconduct. Unless there is any misconduct or moral turpitude, no member who has been nominated by the Central Government should hold office merely at the pleasure of the Central Government. I would, therefore, request the Select Committee to consider whether this clause cannot be more happily worded. Of course, I can see that in certain circumstances, even though a member may not be actually guilty of misconduct, he has got to be changed on account of exigencies of circumstances. In that case the more suitable course would be to request the member to resign from the Administration or Board.

Another matter for the consideration of the Select Committee and later of the House is the charging of interest at a rate which may extend up to six per cent. This I consider to be a very high rate of interest. I would submit that in no case should it exceed five per cent. After all we are actuated by philanthropic motives in bringing forward this Bill. The expenses of the administration are not likely to be much and I do not think it is in the mind of the Honourable Minister that whatever they lose as bad debt, is to be made good in this way.

The other point I want to raise is whether any person who does not come under the category of 'displaced person' would be entitled to the benefit of this scheme. Supposing a company is floated which consists of refugees and some non-refugees would that company be entitled to the benefit under this scheme? I personally feel that it is advisable to encourage the floatation of mixed companies. After all it is going to be a business proposition. The refugees are going to earn profits out of loans advanced by Government. It will prevent competition or business rivalry if we were to associate non-refugees also in the scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You have got the Industrial Finance Corporation for that purpose.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: There may be other organisations too. From a long-range point of view I consider it would be advisable to make this scheme a mixed one.

Another point I would like to know is whether a single individual will be allowed the benefit of monetary assistance, or there must be an association of people. In this connection I would respectfully draw the attention of the Honourable Minister in charge to the maladministration of the rural agricultural credit system in the provinces, where loans are advanced only to associations of two or three agriculturists. The result is liability becomes unlimited and very often at the time of realisation of the credit the whole amount is realised from one person who is honest and scrupulous. The conscientious man has to pay the debt of his associates too. That has been a great set-back in the distribution of agricultural loans. I apprehend that similar things might happen. If you really want to secure a loan and by way of securing loans you give it to a mixed number of persons, and that too you do not give, then it may have serious consequences to honest and scrupulous people. If you insist on having a number of persons to take the loan you must not make their liabilities limited but limit it to the amount that they actually take.

Sir, these are my reactions to the Bill. I do not say all this in a spirit of criticism but I wish to be enlightened on these points.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao (Mysore State): Sir, in support of the suggestion that this Bill should be made applicable to the agriculturists also I want to place one more suggestion before this House for the consideration of the Select Committee. Of course it is gratifying to learn from the Prime Minister that this Bill will help agriculturists also. The Honourable Finance Minister has not given us figures of agriculturists who yet remain to be rehabilitated. The suggestion I would make about rehabilitating agriculturists is that throughout the length and breadth of India during the time of war number of military camps have been built. Some of them have been dismantled and auctioned for a song; some yet remain and they are going into dilapidation. I suggest that the Ministries of Defence and Rehabilitation may consider the question of how many of these camps could be released for the occupation of these agriculturists and other refugees that have come over to this part of India, and if the waste land round about these camps could not be brought under cultivation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have been watching the course of the discussion that is going on. It appears that there has been a misconception about the scope of the Bill. Honourable Members seem to be under the impression that the whole question of refugees and the various ways in which help could be given to them is the subject under discussion and that the question of agriculture and its improvement or of the Grow More Food campaign is also open for discussion on this Bill. There is nothing of the kind. As I understand the scope of the Bill, it is a restricted one. It is taking only one of many steps for rehabilitation of refugees and that one step is restricted to help them in business and industry.

(Addressing the Honourable the Finance Minister)

Am I right there?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Absolutely, Sir. That is exactly what I have been feeling and I am glad you have elucidated the point.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore Honourable Members will now restrict themselves to the scope of the Bill.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: My submission is that the scope of the Bill, as suggested by many Honourable Members, should be extended for the benefit of agriculturists also. That is a suggestion which the Select Committee may consider. We need not wait for another measure of this kind to help the agriculturists.

Mr. Speaker: I may point out that even if the Select Committee thinks it fit to extend the scope of the Bill in this manner the question will arise here whether the Bill as amended by the Select Committee should be permitted to be proceeded with or not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Select Committee is not permitted to extend the scope of the Bill; it can only make recommendation and nothing more.

Mr. Speaker: When that question arises we will see to it; but if the Honourable Member were to refer to refugee agriculturists, perhaps, the matter would stand differently. What I feel from the Honourable Member's speech is that he wants to extend it to agriculturists generally.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: No, Sir, I want that this Bill should extend to refugee agriculturists, and that is the suggestion that I want to make in this connection.

Saiyid Jafar Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Sir, We all know that people have been displaced both in India and outside it, but here we are going to give relief only to those who have suffered outside India and we have ignored those who have suffered in India. I have no objection to relief being given to those who have suffered outside India but I suggest that those who have suffered in India must also have sympathetic consideration and their case must be considered in the Select Committee. People displaced in India must come under the category of displaced persons.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: If they themselves are not responsible for it.

Saiyid Jafar Imam: Responsibility is not in issue before us. The question is of giving relief to displaced persons; and my submission is that those who have suffered in India and have been displaced also need and should be given relief. The children of the soil cannot be ignored, whoever may have been at fault. We are not here to discuss the faults of individuals or groups; we have to give relief to those who have suffered. People in Delhi, Gurgaon, Bharatpur and other States have suffered and it is only fair that they also should be given relief.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras: General): Sir, the object of the Bill is thus stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons:

"Credit facilities for the settlement of refugees in business and industry cannot adequately be granted by commercial banks and other financing agencies nor can they appropriately be provided by a commercial organisation like the proposed Industrial Finance Corporation. It is also impracticable for the State to give such accommodation direct, as in the case of agriculturists, small shopkeepers, artisans and persons engaged in professions. This Bill therefore seeks to establish for this purpose a Rehabilitation Finance Administration."

From these sentences we understand that the benefit of the Bill is extended to agriculturists, small shopkeepers, etc. But when we come to the 'Notes on Clauses', we find this under clause 2(d):

"The scope of the Administration is confined to financing refugees intending to settle in business and industry, since agriculturists, small shopkeepers, artisans and persons engaged in professions have to be dealt with on personal basis and are therefore best left to Provincial Governments for direct assistance."

[Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan.]

These two things are contrary to each other. In the first we find help extended to a portion of the refugees and in the second we find that what is given by one hand is taken away by the other; and we find that the benefit of the Bill is not extended to the people for whom it is said it is also intended. The other day we congratulated the Finance Minister on having brought in a Bill called the Industrial Finance Corporation, and that Bill was evidently meant for giving help to industrialists and industry. In this Bill also we find that help goes only to big industry and business. Thus both these Bills are meant to render help to big business and industrialists.

I can say that most of the refugees with financial resources with them had already settled by purchasing at cheaper rates business and industries left by Muslim refugees who left this place. We all know that the people who really deserve help by this Bill are the agriculturists, the small shopkeepers, the artisans, etc. So I do not think that, when we say that this Bill is meant for such people and in the same Bill we withdraw the help provided by the Bill, it is not going to give any benefit to the poor people—that is to the common people who deserve help. I must ask whether the Central Government is intended only for helping industrialists and big business men. The future India will not tolerate this kind of discrimination. So, I hope there will be some reasonable change in the policy that induced the Finance Member to bring forward this Bill.

This is the only thing that I wanted to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Minister.

Shri V. S. Sarvate (Holker State): Mr. Speaker, coming as I do from Central India, namely, Indore, where a large number of refugees has settled, I welcome this Bill because in that part of the country most of the persons settled there are not agriculturists but business men. But I may point out and suggest that the scope of this Bill should be enlarged so that the word 'business' in clause 2(d) may include small business also so that even shopkeepers who are excluded in the notes should be allowed to take the benefit of this Bill. According to the notes on clauses though the administration would not be incompetent to make advances to displaced persons settled in States, it would be better if the administration could make such advances. Moreover, it should be positively stated so that they may understand that it is within their province to do so, and it is desirable that it should be put in this way.

In order that persons settled in States should get the benefit of this Fund, I would make certain other recommendations.

As regards the "Mode of Recovery", it has been stated that the administration may without prejudice to any other remedy provided by law, recover as arrears of land revenue. This probably refers to the mode, the process and the agency through which these recoveries may be made. They would be the administrative process, through Tehsildars and the Revenue agency. This clause may also mean that the recovery of land revenue may become the first charge. In that case my submission is that there may be a possible conflict which may arise but which should not come in the way of advancing loans to persons settled in the States. The State Law says that the arrears of land revenue of that State would be the first charge. So the charge of the Administration on these loans would be a second charge. That may be the possible conflict which may arise but I am suggesting that provision should be made by the Select Committee that this conflict could not arise and that funds and loans could be made even to persons settled in States.

I support the suggestion that the Members of the Advisory Board—some of them at least—should be elected by this Assembly. My reason for it is this. This Assembly contains members and representatives of States. Therefore if this Assembly elects some of the Members of the Board, the States would have a hand in electing those members. Many of the States have co-operated with the Central Government in settling these displaced persons. It is therefore proper that they should have a voice in the appointment of the members of Advisory Board, and if the procedure of having them elected by this Legislature is not followed then they would have no part in the appointment of the Board.

In Section 1B there is power of inspection and certain powers have been given to ask for statements from the borrowers. In those cases where the refugee is settled in a State, possibly the co-operation of the State would be necessary. In certain cases where the borrower declines to make a statement or makes a false declaration provision should be made by the Select Committee in the directions which are to be given by the Central Government to see that co-operation is secured from the States where these persons are settled.

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, इस बिल के बारे में बहुत कुछ कहा गया है लेकिन एक चीज जो हमारे सामने खास तौर से आती है वह यह है कि इस बिल की जो मकसद है, हेतु है, उसको बढ़ाने के बारे में, विस्तृत करने के बारे में लोगों की राय है, क्योंकि इसबिल के रीज़न्स (reasons) में यह बताया गया है कि जो छोटे-छोटे आदमी हैं, और कृषक हैं, उन लोगों को इसमें से मदद नहीं मिलने वाली है, और न उन्हें दी जा सकती है, लेकिन हम जानते हैं, कि यहां जो लिखा गया है "बिजनेस या इन्डस्ट्री ("business or industry") इसके भी माने यही हो जाता है कि यह जो बिल है उसमें बिजनेस (business) की बात है और इन्डस्ट्री (industry) की; वहां एक जगह भी नहीं बताया है कि छोटे और बड़े उद्योग धंधे भी आ जाते हैं।

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

लेकिन इसके जो रीज़न्स (reasons) हैं उनमें बताया गया है कि स्माल शाप कीपर्स (small shop-keepers) जो हैं उनको मदद नहीं मिलेगी। जो कारीगर हैं उनको कुछ मदद नहीं मिल सकती है और न किसानों को।

इसका मतलब यह हो जाता है कि जो लोग कई जगह से पैसा ला सकते हैं और प्राप्त कर सकते हैं उन आदमियों को कुछ लोन (loan) देते हैं शायद मन में रहता हो कि छोटे-छोटे आदमियों को हम लोन (loan) देंगे तो वापस कैसे लें सकेंगे; उनसे हम वसूल कैसे कर सकेंगे यह दलील हो सकती है, मुझे मालूम नहीं है। नियोगी साहब ने कहा था, कि हमने कई योजनाएं बनाई हैं, लेकिन जब

[श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

तक वह योजनाएं हमारे सामने नहीं आती हैं तब तक हमारे मन में रहता है कि वह क्या हैं ? एक ऐसा बिल आता है जो हमारे बिछुड़े हुए भाई, या घर भंगों को याने जिनको घर छोड़ना पड़ा है, ऐसे भाई हैं, उन लोगों को मदद देनी है तो उन लोगों को मदद कैसे देंगे, कितनी मदद देंगे, और कितने आदमियों को देंगे । यहां एक मर्यादा बांध दी गई है और दस करोड़ से ज्यादा रकम हम लोन (loan) में नहीं दे सकते हैं । इसके माने यह हो जाता है कि हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा दस-दस हजार के लोन (loan) दें, बहुत कम दें तो, हम बहुत लोगों को ठीक मदद नहीं पहुंचा सकते हैं, और दस-दस हजार का लोन (loan) देने से कोई ज्यादा फायदा नहीं है । तो यह बात ठीक होनी चाहिये, यह साफ करना चाहिये । जब कि यह बिल सिलेक्ट कमेटी (Select Committee) के सामने जाने वाला है, तब हमारे यहां जो बैठे हैं कुछ उन लोगों के मन में भी जो हो वह जानना चाहिये । और अगर हमें मदद पहुंचाना है, हमारे भाईयों को कुछ देना है मदद के तौर पर, तो उन भाईयों को भी देना चाहिये जिनको जरूरत है और जो इस प्रकार की चीज के लिये दूसरे के पास मांग नहीं सकते हैं, या दूसरे के पास से मांग सकते हैं तो उनकी कोई हैसियत नहीं रही है । कहीं जाते हैं तो उन्हें कोई पहिचानता नहीं है । उनको पहिचानने वाली एक ही हुकूमत है, और वह है हमारी मध्यस्थ सरकार । वह उन्हें पहिचानती है, उनके पास से ही उन्हें मदद मिलनी चाहिए यह बात जरूरी है । तब यह बात है, फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर (Finance Minister) साहब इसका जवाब देंगे लेकिन इससे हमें तसल्ली होगी या नहीं, यह नहीं कह सकते हैं, मैं नहीं कह सकता अगर इस चीज को इसी तरह से रखें जैसा कि इसमें लिखा है "to enable them to settle in business or industry" । क्या इसके बजाए ऐसे कोई शब्द नहीं इस्तमाल कर सकते हैं ? जैसे "to settle them in life" इस प्रकार से हेतु विस्तृत कर दें तो यह सब चीजें स्वयम् इसमें शामिल हो जाती हैं । लेकिन यह सोचने की और गौर करने की बात है, और उनके और सिलेक्ट कमेटी (Select Committee) के सामने यह मेरी सिफारिश है । मेरी इतनी प्रार्थना है, वह पेश करता हूं और आशा करता हूं यह स्वीकार होगी, और हमारी भावना यही है सब लोगों को मदद पहुंचाने का तरीका हमें अख्यार करना चाहिये ।

अब दूसरी बात जो आई है वह यह है कि कानून यह कहा जाता है कि "It extends to all provinces of India" अब जब कि हमारी स्टेटों का मर्जर (merger) हुआ है और हो रहा है तब हमारी इस भाषा में कोई तब्दीली होनी चाहिये । इस में यह लाज़मी है कि अब हमें कुछ ऐसे शब्द इस्तेमाल करने चाहियें जो ला मिनिस्टर (Law Minister) वगैरह इसमें सलाह देंगे और हम वह सलाह

लेंगे, कि "It extends to the whole of India" इस प्रकार से कोई शब्द रखेंगे कि इसमें जो जो स्टेट्स (States) मध्यस्थ हुकूमत के अन्दर आ गई हैं उन स्टेटों को भी इसका फायदा फौरन ही मिल जाये। नहीं तो यह होता है कि जो रियासत इस चीज को अपने यहां लागू करती है उस रियासत में रहने वाले लोगों को इससे फायदा पहुंचता है। हम यह भी जानते हैं कि हमारी रियासतों में कितने गरीब बिछड़े हुए भाई हैं जो निर्वासित हैं, जो बात हमारे देखने की है। लेकिन जो इस प्रकार के आदमी हैं उनको मदद पहुंचाने वाली जो रियासतें हैं उनमें रहने वाले अपने इन भाइयों को हम किस रीति से मदद दे सकेंगे ? रियासत की आमदनी या रियासत को ताकत इतनी नहीं है जबकि आपकी ताकत बहुत बड़ी है और बड़ी सरकार सब की बात सुनती है इसलिये मेरा सुझाव है कि इसका रास्ता निकालना चाहिये और यही हम हमेशा कहते हैं। कन्स्टीट्यूशनल ला (Constitutional Law) में दूसरे ऐसे कोई शब्द नहीं रह सकते हैं कि "All the provinces of India" आप ही इस बारे में सोच सकते हैं और इसे सोचना पड़ेगा। मैं इस बारे में बहुत नहीं कहना चाहता हूं।

हां, इस बात पर ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि यह जो काउन्सिल आफ एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (Council of Administration) है वह ठीक है। चीफ एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर (Chief Administrator) नियुक्त करने का अधिकार गवर्नमेंट के पास है। इसमें तीन सरकारी सदस्य हैं और तीन गैर सरकारी। मैं यह नहीं समझ पाता कि हमेशा दोनों का बैलेंस (balance) क्यों रखा जाता है ? क्या उनमें कोई झगड़ा हो जाय तो चेयरमैन (Chairman) दोनों का फैसला करेगा। यह क्या है ? मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो सरकारी सदस्य हैं वह एक तरह के विशारद हों, बस केवल सलाहकार रूप में वहां बैठते हों और उन्हें बैठना चाहिये। लेकिन जो कारोबार चलाने वाले हों वह तो गैर सरकारी सदस्य होने चाहिये और जिम्मेदारी उनके हाथ में आनी चाहिये, नहीं तो पहला सा रबिया चलता रहेगा और जो गैर सरकारी सदस्य हैं वह उन्हीं के कहने के माफिक करते रहेंगे और न स्वयम् भी देखेंगे और न हमें देखने देंगे। जब हम गैर सरकारी सदस्यों के ऊपर बोझ डालते हैं तो वह काम करने लग जाते हैं, लेकिन जब वह इसमें शामिल किये जाते हैं तो इनके ऊपर इतनी जिम्मेदारी डालनी चाहिये जिससे वह ज्यादा काम कर सकें। इसके लिये मेरा सुझाव यह है कि यह जो तीन आफिशियल (Official) और तीन नान-आफिशियल (Non-Official) रखे गये हैं उसके बजाय नान-आफिशियलज (Non-Officials) ज्यादा होने चाहियें। और आफिशियल (Official) अगर कम हों तो कोई हर्ज नहीं है। यह एक बात है।

दूसरी यह बात है कि (Advisory Board) में जैसा सर्वटे साहब ने कहा है उसकी नियुक्ति होगी। इसके बारे में सिफारिश होगी कि इस वक्त जो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी (Standing Committees) बनाने का तरीका है, वही तरीका इस्तेमाल करना

[श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

चाहिए और वही तरीका सही तरीका होगा। यह एडवाइजरी बोर्ड (Advisory-Board) बनाने के लिये एक बात मेरे मित्र सन्थानम ने कही थी कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव काउन्सिल (Administrative Council) यह जो है उनको कभी इस रिहैबिलिटेशन एण्ड फाइनेन्स एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (Rehabilitation and Finance Administration) में किसी तरह किसी को मंजूर नहीं करना चाहिए। जिनका प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष में इससे कोई हिस्सा हो इस प्रकार एडवाइजरी बोर्ड (Advisory Board) के जो सदस्य होंगे उनके लिये भी लाजिम होना चाहिये कि उनका किसी तरह से प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष में उनमें हिस्सा या आर्थिक सहायता देने में सम्बन्ध न हो ! यह जरूरी चीज है जिसको वह पसंद करेंगे।

एक और बात इसमें लिखी है --“Removal of Members” यह अधिकार दे दिया है सेण्ट्रल गवर्नमेण्ट (Central Government) को वह अधिकार है। लेकिन मैं यह जरूरी देखता हूँ कि इसमें “Removal of any member after giving him due time” यह ज्यादा बढ़ा दिया जाय। उनको अवसर दिया जाय ताकि वह अपना कन्डक्ट (Conduct) समझाएं नहीं तो कभी-कभी ऐसा होता है कि किसी भी सदस्य को निकालने के लिये उनके मन में यह हो गया कि यह खराबी है तो काफी कारण है कि उनको निकाल दिया जाय तो इसमें भी मैंने सुझाई ऐसी तब्दीली हो जाय तो ठीक है।

दस करोड़ रुपये की जो मर्यादा है मैं मानता हूँ कि इस रकम को अगर मर्यादा का ही सवाल है तो बढ़ा सकते हैं। लेकिन अगर मर्यादा रखे बिना भी सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेण्ट (Central Government) का काम चल सकता है और अगर मर्यादा जरूरी है तो दस करोड़ रुपया कम है और इसे बढ़ाना चाहिए। अगर मर्यादा का बन्धन जरूरी नहीं है तो मैं मानता हूँ इसको इस रूप में रखना चाहिए :

“ The Central Government may from time to time advance money for the business of the Administration. ”

पंजाब की तरह सिन्ध से जो शरणार्थी आए हैं उनकी हालत भी ऐसी है कि वह भी छोटे-छोटे धन्धे करना चाहते हैं, वह भी गुजर करना चाहते हैं वह लोग भीख मांगने वाले नहीं। यह मैं मानता हूँ कि जो लोग आए हैं वह मेहनत करके कमाने वाले हैं। इन लोगों से हम सब को हमदर्दी है और हमको उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए।

इस बिल का हम स्वागत करते हैं। लेकिन मैं मानता हूँ कि जो सुझाव हमने दिये हैं वह मानने पड़ेंगे और इस बिल को मुकम्मल बनाना होगा।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana States Group):
 Speaker Sir, A great many opinions and views have already been expressed on this Bill, but there is one significant point which presents itself 4 P. M. to us. It is that people favour the idea of enlarging the scope of this Bill, its aims and objects, because it has been stated in the 'reasons' of this Bill that small business men and the agriculturists will not and cannot derive any benefit from it. It is clear to us that the inclusion of the words "Business and industry" means that the Bill aims at aiding only business and industry. At no place in this Bill is there any mention of small scale business and industry.

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

But in the reasons for this Bill it has been stated that no help will be given under it to petty shopkeepers, artisans and workmen, nor can the peasants derive any benefit from it. This means that loans will be given to those who have got other resources to draw upon. Perhaps the Government think that if loans are advanced to petty shopkeepers it may not be possible or at least it may be difficult to recover the money. This may be an argument, I do not know.

Honourable Mr. Neogy has told us that the Government had chalked out many schemes; but so long as these do not come up before us we remain in suspense. We wait to know what they are. A Bill has been introduced which aims at giving financial aid to those of our brethren who have been forced to quit their hearths and homes. But how are we going to help them, how much help are we going to give them and how many are we going to help? A limit has been affixed which means that loans cannot exceed ten crores of rupees. This means that the maximum grant of a loan will not exceed rupees ten thousand. Small loans will fail to be of real help and a loan of ten thousand will not serve the purpose. It must therefore, be set right and clarified. Some Members who are sitting here may like to say something before we refer this Bill to the Select Committee. If we have to help our brethren, if we have to give them anything as a token of our sympathy and love for them, we must also help those who need it and cannot stretch their palms before others for this kind of help, and those who, even if they may make bold to do that, cannot get it because they have no securities to offer against loans and are not known to people. It is only the Central Government which can recognise them. This Government knows them well and these men must receive help from it. This is important.

There is another thing and it is for the Finance Minister to answer. Whether his reply will satisfy the House or not, is difficult to say at least I think it so, so long as we let these words stand in the Bill, namely "to enable them to settle in business or industry." Can we not replace these words by some such words as "to settle them in life"? If we extend the scope of the Bill in this way then all these things will automatically be included in it. But this is a thing which requires thought and deliberation. I recommend it to both the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Members of the Select Committee. This is my humble request to them. I hope it will be acceded. It is our desire that we should adopt a policy with which we can help all these unfortunate people.

The second thing which comes before us is that the Act shall "extend to all provinces of India". Now, when many States have been and are being merged into the Dominion of India, we should change the wording. It is essential that we use now some such words as "it extends to the whole of India" which the Law Member and others may recommend—and we shall welcome their recommendations. We should use such words as can enable

[Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt]

even those States which have merged themselves into India to derive immediately the benefits of Indian Laws. Otherwise only those State subjects can enjoy these benefits whose Governments apply Indian Laws to their states. We are not unaware of the fact that there are many of our unfortunate evacuee brethren who are at present living in the states. This is a thing which calls for our attention. But how will we be able to help such persons who come within this category and have settled in the states which have given them relief? The revenue and resources of the States are meagre as compared with those of the powerful Central Government which has got vast resources. Moreover everybody has an access to the Central Government. Therefore, I propose that a way out of this should be found and this is what we always urge.

No such words as "all the Provinces of India" can exist in the Constitutional law. You can yourself consider this and will have to ponder over it. I do not want to say anything more in this respect.

Yes, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the Council of Administration which has been set up is a step in the right direction. The Government reserves itself the right to appoint the Chief Administrator. This comprises of three official and three non-official Members. I fail to understand as to why balance is always kept between these two? Will the Chairman give his ruling in case a dispute arises between them? What is this? I would like to say that the official Members should play the role of experts, they should participate only in purely advisory capacity and function in this manner. But those who are to conduct the working of the Administration, must be non-official Members and responsibility should vest in them. Otherwise the old things will repeat and those who are non-official members shall have to act according to their (official members') wishes. They will neither be able to look into the affairs themselves nor let us do this. When we put pressure upon the non-official members, they discharge their functions. But when they are associated with this Administration, greater responsibility should be thrust upon them which may actuate them to do more work. To achieve this, therefore, I propose that the number of non-officials should be more than the number of three each fixed for both official and non-official members. Moreover there is no harm if the number of officials is reduced. This is one point.

The second point is that the Advisory Board should be constituted in the manner suggested by Mr. Sarvate. Recommendations will be made in this respect that the same procedure which is followed at present in setting up the Standing Committees should be observed and that would only be the right course. The suggestion had been put forth by my friend Mr. Santhanam that while constituting this Advisory Board, some provision should be made that those members who have direct or indirect personal interest should not in any case be nominated to the Rehabilitation and Finance Administration. Similarly it should be made compulsory that the members of the Advisory Board should not be directly or indirectly connected with or take part in financing persons. This is an essential thing which they should appreciate.

The Bill contains another point, *viz.*, "Removal of Members". This authority has been vested in the Central Government. This is an authority; but I feel the necessity that its scope should be further enlarged as such "Removal of any member after giving him due time." They should be given an opportunity to enable them to explain their conduct. Otherwise sometimes it may so happen that once it strikes them to remove a member on account of some defects that may come within their knowledge they will find that sufficient reason exists for his removal. Therefore, I suggest that some modification may be made in this direction.

I realize that in the case of the limit of Rs. ten crores we can increase the

amount, if at all the question of limit only is involved. But if the Central Government can carry on without fixing any limit and if it is considered imperative to prescribe any limit, then this sum of Rs. ten crores is quite insufficient and it should be enhanced. If it is not binding to fix the limit, then I feel that it should be put in this form:

The Central Government may from time to time advance money for the business of the Administration."

Refugees who have migrated from Sind are also placed in the same plight as the refugees from West Punjab. They also want to start some small-scale industry and business. They also wish to earn a living wage. They are not beggars. I know that all these people who have come are hard-working and they are earning their livelihood by dint of their labours. All of us sympathize with the people and we should render them necessary assistance.

We welcome this Bill. But I believe that the suggestions which we have made will have to be accepted and this Bill given a finishing touch.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, the question may now be put.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to note that this Bill has been welcomed on all sides of the House. It is as it should be because this is one of those ameliorative measures intended to do something to enable some of the refugees at least to settle down in useful occupations. A great deal of criticism has been made that this measure does not include loans or any form of assistance to agriculturists. My answer is very simple: it was not intended through this agency to give loans or advances to agriculturists. Sir, I have not introduced a comprehensive measure to set up one agency for dealing with every problem connected with the rehabilitation of refugees. In fact it will not be possible for one agency, however big or powerful it might be, to deal with all the manifold problems that arise in connection with the refugees. I thought after a great deal of consultation with some of the Provincial Ministers, the authorities of the Reserve Bank and my own colleague, the Minister for the Rehabilitation of Refugees and his Officers, that there is a need for a separate agency to give assistance to the middle class people who want to set up some business or industry. Those who think that we are again introducing a measure which will help the large industrialists are entirely in the wrong. Industry does not necessarily and always mean large-scale industry. There are a great many refugees, lakhs of them, belonging to the middle class who are after all the mainstay of the society who require small advances ranging from rupees ten to fifteen thousands in each case. Unless we set up a definite agency which will concentrate its action in giving relief to this large class of persons, whatever you do will be ineffective. I would therefore very strongly suggest that no attempt should be made in the Select Committee to enlarge the scope of this Bill so as to include agriculturists.

My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy gave some account of what is being done in the direction of giving help to agriculturists. What I would submit is this: if it is found that what is being done for the agriculturists already and what is contemplated are not enough and do not go long enough, by all means ask for another Corporation or Administration for this purpose.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The need has already arisen.

The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If the need has already arisen we will certainly look into it. But if you overlap this agency with this work you are going to fritter away the energies of this organisation. I would therefore very earnestly urge that the scope of this Bill should be strictly limit-

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

ed to what it was intended to be, namely to give loans and to give assistance to the middle class people who want to set up some business. If there is one measure that can be considered to be a non-capitalistic measure, if there is one measure which is purely a nationalistic measure it is this one that I have brought before this House. It is hundred per cent a state concern. It is not intended to benefit the capitalists. It is not intended to enable individuals to accumulate large fortunes. And I think, Sir, I should legitimately take credit that the first measure of that kind to be introduced in this House is by myself.

There was some suggestion made that the rate of interest that we have suggested for the loans, namely six per cent, is too high. Here again I would ask Honourable Members to bear one very important point in view. I hope it is not the intention of this House that the taxpayer should in any case be burdened as a result of the operation of this agency. We want that as far as possible it should be a non-profit-making agency but at the same time a self-supporting agency. If this agency would give three per cent. interest to all the money that it draws from Government, that means Government would cover itself against the interest that it has to pay on loans that it has to borrow from the market. This margin of three per cent is necessary for building up the administrative system necessary for the purpose.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Six per cent is only the maximum.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is so. I would suggest if you do not want to put a burden on the taxpayer and if you want this administration to work on a self-supporting basis you should not prevent the fixing of six per cent as the maximum for interest on loans to be advanced.

Some criticism was made about the definition of the word 'displaced persons.' There was also criticism that there is a lacuna in the Bill in that the words 'displaced persons' did not occur in any of the clauses of the Bill. My Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhuri said that he can also obtain a loan through this Administration. But let me tell him that he cannot because if Honourable Members will please refer to another definition, namely clause 2(e), 'loan' means a sum of money advanced by the Administration to a displaced person. In other words, every loan advanced under this Act or any loan referred to in this Act which may be given by a private bank, must necessarily be a loan advanced to a displaced person. Instead of repeating the word 'displaced person' in a number of places we thought it more convenient from the drafting point of view to put it in this form and define 'loan' as meaning a sum of money advanced by the Administration to a displaced person. We shall further examine this point and if we really find that it will enable my friend Mr. Chaudhuri to get a loan I will see that it is prevented.

Another suggestion was made that the benefit of this Administration must also be available to persons who might migrate from one province of India to another. I have got the fullest sympathy with such persons who out of fear may have to migrate from one province of India to another, but I would submit that if you are going to include within the scope of this Bill all persons who may move from one Province to another, or from one place in the same Province to another place, you will be placing upon the Administration a responsibility which it will be very difficult to discharge. How are you going to distinguish a person who moves, for example, from Delhi to Meerut from one who is actually a displaced person in the sense in which we intended? Here again the scope was expected to be restricted. There are, as my honourable friend said, 55 lakhs of people who have been displaced and who have come from another country. Let us look after them. If really there is a case for

giving some help to persons who have to move from one place in India to another for reasons not within their control, then that problem will have to be faced in an entirely different manner.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does a person include a bank?

The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am coming to that.

With regard to the class of persons who were intended to be benefited, one suggestion that was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam is that you must give these loans not to individuals but only to public limited companies. Well, I suggest, Sir, that you will entirely defeat the purpose of this Bill if you attempted to do anything of that kind. Is every refugee to take steps to form a public limited company before he comes to this institution for any assistance? Obviously it is impossible.

Again, my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam suggested that this Administration should also be enabled to come to the help of the Banks that have been put to some loss or trouble on account of the disturbances. There again it is a problem which this Administration cannot deal with. We have already taken steps in that direction. As a matter of fact the moratorium that we declared and the undertaking that we gave to supply funds to these banks to meet their obligations for their depositors are evidence of our anxiety to help such banks, and if there are still banks of that category which require further help we certainly would do what lies in our power after a careful examination of the position by the Reserve Bank.

Another question was asked: "How was this figure of ten crores arrived at, and is it adequate?" I am free to confess that it is an arbitrary figure and it is not possible for us to make any accurate estimate of the number of people that may want assistance of this kind and the total amount of money that may be required. I personally think, Sir, that if an administration with resources amounting to rupees ten crores starts its business, a very very large class of persons will be materially benefited, and in the light of the experience that we gain, we may consider further whether we might place at the disposal of this administration further funds. After all when you ask me to place larger funds at the disposal of the administration, Honourable Members should not forget that it is the taxpayers' money that is to be placed in the hands of the administration. No private shareholder is connected with this administration, and when we who are trustees of the public funds have to place such funds at the disposal of a semi-autonomous administration for the purpose of granting loans, we have to be extremely cautious.

I have no doubt that the numerous other points that were referred to in the course of the debate will be looked into by the Select Committee, but I would once again most earnestly urge that whatever might be done, I hope the Select Committee will not try to extend the scope of the activities of the administration and thereby endanger its effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri Khurshed Lal, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Diwan Chaman Lal, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 10th February, 1948, and that number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 4th February 1948.