

Wednesday,
10th December, 1947

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

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**First Session
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1947**



TUESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 1947—Contd.

	Pages
Motion for Adjournment <i>re Zulum</i> on Harijans in Pakistan—Not moved	1543
Election to All India Council for Technical Education	1543—46
Indian Cotton Cess (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1546
Salaries of Ministers Bill—Introduced	1546
Ajmer-Merwara (Extension of Laws) Bill—Introduced	1546
Federal Court (Enlargement of Jurisdiction) Bill—Introduced	1546
Extra Provincial Jurisdiction Bill—Passed as amended	1547—57, 1559—82
Statement <i>re</i> Negotiations between the Dominions of India and Pakistan on the question of division of Assets and Liabilities etc.	1558—59

WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1947—

Suspension of Question Hour	1583
Starred Questions and Answers	1583—1622
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1623—24
Short Notice Question and Answer	1624—25
Statement <i>re</i> Employment of Gurkha Troops under the Government of India and His Majesty's Government	1625—26
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	1626
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Commerce	1626—27
Motion <i>re</i> Food Policy of Government of India—Talked out	1627—77

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 10th December, 1947

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

SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

Mr. Speaker: Before I take up the questions, I should like to invite the attention of the House to one aspect about the time available to the Honourable Members for the debate on the food question. I have got here a list of over 16 speakers from the Congress Party only. I am sure there are other speakers from other parties, States and other Groups. If therefore it is desired that some more time for the debate should be taken, the only course that I find feasible is to suspend the question-hour.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: O- apply control on the debate.

Mr. Speaker: That is the second point I was coming to. But even if that is done, I do not think that if a larger number of members wish to speak, more than ten or at the most fifteen minutes could be spared to satisfy each and everyone who wishes to speak. Therefore, the other remedy will be to control not only the number but also the length of the speeches, in addition to suspending the question-hour. What is the wish of the House? Should we suspend the question-hour?

Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then the question-hour is suspended. We shall now proceed with the other business.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

WRITTEN ANSWERS

BHORE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

741. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state how far the Bhole Committee Recommendations have been given effect to as far as short term plan is concerned?

(b) What action Government propose to take to meet the increasing demand for more doctors and nurses in the rural areas of the country?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of making it compulsory for medical students in various colleges to work in rural areas before they are given degrees?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Some of the important recommendations of the Bhole Committee in their short term plan were considered at the Health Ministers' Conference in October 1946. A statement containing the Resolutions passed at the Conference is laid on the Table. The implementation of the recommendations is primarily a matter for the Provincial Governments.

†Answer to these questions laid on the table, the question hour having been dispensed with.

(b) The development programmes of Provinces include schemes for opening of new medical colleges, conversion of existing medical schools into colleges and establishment of institutions for training nurses and other auxiliary personnel, which, it is hoped, will result in a substantial increase in the number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel.

(c) This is a matter for Provincial Governments and Universities to consider.

Statement

AGENDA ITEM No. 2.

Objectives

"The Conference endorses the objectives proposed by the Bhoré Committee as objectives to be kept in view in formulating plans for a national health service."

Agenda Item No. 3.

District Health Organisation

The Conference considers that the District Health Organisation proposed is administratively sound and acceptable in principle. The programme for the first five years is not within present financial resources but it is agreed:—

Firstly, that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations, taking full advantage of existing institutions and staff;

Secondly, that modifications in the scheme may be made where necessary to adapt it to local conditions;

Thirdly, that in areas where the full organisation cannot be set up immediately, schemes for development should be framed with due regard to the objective of building up a curative and preventive health service on the general lines recommended by the Committee;

Fourthly, that each Province should review its plans with these considerations in view.

Agenda Item No. 5

The Provision of facilities for the training of medical and other personnel

The Conference agrees that a review of training facilities in the light of probable future requirements should be undertaken and that particular emphasis should be laid on the training of personnel. It also agrees that as far as possible, the larger provinces should assist those provinces which have not yet been able to provide their own training facilities by admitting students to their training institutions.

Agenda Item No. 6.

Central and Provincial Boards of Health and Health Councils

The Conference agrees that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted at the Centre and in the Provinces. It considers that representatives of the Central Legislature should be included in the Central Board of Health, that the constitution of the Provincial Boards should be left to the discretion of the Provincial Governments and that the health experts of the Central and Provincial Governments should attend the Central Board of Health. The Conference also considers that the functions of the Central Board and Council should be purely advisory.

Agenda Item No. 7.

The amalgamation of the Medical and Public Health Departments

The Conference accepts the principle of amalgamation of medical and public health departments and considers that amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurs.

The Hon'ble Ministers from Madras and Bombay, dissented from this view. The Hon'ble Minister from Madras considered that co-ordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation.

*Agenda Item No. 8.**Water Supply and Sanitation.*

The Conference agrees—

- (1) that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be undertaken;
- (2) that in respect of water supply the objective should be to provide at least 50 per cent. of the population with a safe and abundant water supply within a period of not more than 20 years and the entire population within not more than 35 years.
- (3) that in urban areas the objective should be to instal adequate sewerage in all towns with a population of 50,000 or over during the first 10 years;
- (4) that the constitution and functions of provincial water and drainage boards should be left to the discretion of Provincial Governments.

*Agenda Item No. 9**Establishment of Anti-Malaria Organisations*

The Conference agrees—

- (1) that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes;
- (2) that, subject to adaptation to suit local conditions, anti-malaria organisations should follow the general frame work of the organisation proposed by the Bhoré Committee;
- (3) that anti-malaria personnel trained in the Defence Services should be utilised to the fullest possible extent.

*Agenda Item No. 10.**The Policy in regard to quinine and other anti-malaria drugs.*

The Conference agrees that quinine production should be continued and developed up to about 200,000 lbs. a year, subject to review from time to time. It was also agreed that the views expressed by the Provincial Ministers on the subject of a guarantee to the producing provinces should be further considered by the Government of India in consultation with Provincial Governments.

*Agenda Item No. 11.**Indian Medicine*

I. In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Committee, this Conference resolves that adequate provision should be made in the Centre and the Provinces—

- (a) for research in and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems like Ayurveda and Unani with references to (1) maintenance of health and (2) prevention and cure of disease.
- (b) for starting schools and colleges for training for diploma and degree courses in Indigenous Systems of Medicine.
- (c) for post graduate courses in Indian Medicine for graduates in Western Medicine.

II. In accordance with Resolution No. 13 of the National Planning Committee this Conference resolves to absorb the practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of Medicine into the State Health Organisation by giving them further scientific training wherever necessary as health personnel, like doctors, physical training experts (Ustads), Sanitary staff, masseurs, nurses, midwives, etc.

III. This Conference resolves that, in the Central Council and Provincial Health Boards and Councils the departments and practitioners of Indian Medicine should be given due representation, wherever possible

*Agenda Item No. 12.**Abolition of Civil Branch of Indian Medical Service*

This Conference of Health Ministers is of opinion that there should be no civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and requests that the Central Government may arrange to take back immediately the Indian Medical Service personnel in civil employ in the Provinces, and post them on the military side to which they rightly belong.

RELAY BY ALL-INDIA RADIO OF B. B. C.'S NIGHT BULLETIN

742. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government have received any telegram on behalf of the citizens of Madura, requesting them to discontinue the relay by the All-India Radio of the night bulletin of the British Broadcasting Corporation?

(b) Are Government aware of the growing dissatisfaction among the public at the All-India Radio, using short wave stations for English music and giving inadequate importance to Indian items?

(c) If so, what action Government propose to take to satisfy the public opinion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Government repudiate any suggestion that English music is being given more importance than Indian music.

(c) Does not arise.

REVIVAL OF INFORMATION FILM OF INDIA

743 *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are reviving Information Films of India?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to have a separate section to produce short films to be exhibited in foreign countries?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLICATIONS DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

744. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is still working in the same old way?

(b) Do Government propose to improve the get-up of the publications intended for foreign consumption?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of filling those publications with writings of Indian authors instead of reproductions from foreign journals?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Apparently Honourable Member's knowledge has not kept pace with the changes made.

(b) Honourable Member's knowledge about these matters is again at fault. The get-up has already been improved.

(c) I regret again to point out that the Honourable Member's knowledge is imperfect. Both the sources are already being tapped.

SCHEME FOR NEW BROADCASTING STATIONS

745. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state how many new broadcasting stations have been opened upto now, since the assumption of office by the Congress?

(b) What is the principle followed in such a scheme?

(c) In view of the emergency in this country, are there any chances of the five year and eight year schemes proposed by the Government during the interim period being materialized?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) One at Julundur.

(b) This was established to meet the present emergency in East Punjab.

(c) We are trying to speed up the completion of schemes approved in the plans. The question of taking up any new schemes would arise only after the present schemes are completed.

RE-ORIENTATION OF SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME

746. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to re-orient the Small Savings Scheme from a war-time measure to peace-time permanent organisation? If not, why not?

(b) if the answer to part (a) above to be in the affirmative, what are the steps taken so far in this direction; and

(c) whether the personnel already employed under this scheme in different provinces is controlled by the Government of India; and if so, whether the personnel is entitled to the benefit of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 24 of my speech introducing the Budget for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.

(c) The personnel employed on the Small Savings Scheme in the Provinces are under the administrative control of the Provincial Governments and as such are not automatically entitled to the benefit of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

747. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what measures have so far been taken to fulfil the long-standing need of including experts in the personnel of the Federal Public Service Commission?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of setting up two separate Boards, one for civil appointments and the other for Military appointments with branches at Provincial Headquarters?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) It is not clear what experts Honourable Member has in mind. Nor are Government aware of any such long-standing need as is referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) The Federal Public Service Commission deals with recruitment to higher civil appointments. Honourable Member is probably not aware that military appointments are dealt with by the Defence Ministry.

SEIZURE OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS BY C. I. D. AT JUBBULPORE

748. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether a news item appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 17th November, 1947, reporting the seizure of 4 powerful radio transmitters by the C.I.D. in a surprise raid on the stores of the Special Armed Constabulary, Jubbulpore, is correct?

(b) Is the report that, "a man was arrested in the act of sending messages to a destination outside the Indian Union" correct?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, to which country the messages were being sent and what the contents of the messages were?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Press report is correct except that six sets were seized and not four.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

ATTACK ON KASHMIR AND PAKISTAN MILITARY OFFICERS

749. *Shri Deebbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the press report published in the *Evening National Call* of the 17th November 1947 that a "sensational letter from a very high Pakistan Official has been intercepted at Bannu by an Indian Army Officer, revealing that the attack on Kashmir was planned by Pakistan Military Officials long before the Red-Cliffe Award was announced"?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to publish the contents of the said letter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, Sir. Government are not aware of any such interception by an Indian Army Officer.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIAN UNION NATIONAL GUARDS

750. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the desirability of creating Indian Union National Guards to serve as an All India Civil Force in peace time for the betterment of our people in the various educational and social spheres and as War Reserve in cases of emergency?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps to constitute an Indian Union Committee for organising and recruiting the Indian Union National Guards?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Question No. 430 by Pandit Kunzru regarding the raising of Home Guards in India. The policy of the Government regarding the raising of an Auxiliary force has already been explained during the debate in the House on the 27th November on Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaiya's resolution on the subject.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIAN STUDENTS

751. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam: •

Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred in respect of overseas scholarships awarded to Indian students, since the termination of the last war, showing separately the figures for students sent to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The total expenditure in respect of Overseas Scholarships to Indian students borne by the Government of India since the termination of the last war up to 30th September 1947 under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme is Rs. 79,91,000 (rupees seventy-nine lacs and ninety-one thousand) out of which Rs. 32,77,000 (rupees thirty-two lacs and seventy-seven thousand) were spent on the students sent to the United Kingdom and Rs. 46,78,000 (rupees forty-six lacs and seventy-eight thousand) on those sent to the United States of America. The balance of Rs. 36,000 (rupees thirty-six thousand) was spent on a few students sent to other countries.

AMOUNT ADVANCED TO PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

752. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how much money, if any, has the Imperial Bank advanced to the Government of Pakistan?

(b) Were the Government of India consulted at any stage before the loan was given?

(c) Is it a fact that the Imperial Bank has been in charge of Government treasuries in several provinces of India? If so, will Government be pleased to state the terms of such agreements?

(d) Is it a fact that the Imperial Bank has been enjoying favoured treatment in certain respects as compared to scheduled banks: If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of withdrawing the concessions enjoyed by the Bank?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under Section 45 of the Reserve Bank of India Act the Reserve Bank is required to enter into an agreement with the Imperial Bank for a minimum period of 20 years providing for the employment of Imperial Bank of India as the sole agent of the Reserve Bank in all the provinces of India where the Imperial Bank had branches at the commencement of the Reserve Bank of India Act and where the Reserve Bank has no branches of its Banking Department. The provisions of the agreement which *inter alia* regulate the payment to the Imperial Bank for the services rendered are contained in the Third Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(d) In virtue of the agreement referred to above the Imperial Bank's position is necessarily different in certain respects from that of the other scheduled banks. It is not possible to terminate prematurely the agreement unless the Imperial Bank fails to fulfil the conditions laid down or to maintain a sound financial position and disregard further instructions issued by Government as set out in proviso to Section 45(1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS OPTING FOR PAKISTAN

753. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government servants who had opted for Pakistan have been given a choice to revise their option?

(b) If so, will it be incumbent on Government to take them back irrespective of any other consideration?

(c) How many of such persons have already expressed a desire to revert and what is their number, communitywise?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have no information.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN INDIA

754. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of Government for the introduction of compulsory education in India?

(b) If so, when will that be brought into force?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The scheme recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education in their Report on Post-War Educational Development has been generally accepted by the Government of India for introduction of compulsory education in India.

(b) It is mostly for the Provincial Governments to enforce this scheme. The Government of Bihar, Bombay, U.P. and Madras have already started implementing schemes of compulsory Primary Education. Orissa, the Central Provinces and the three Centrally Administered Areas propose doing so from this year and the schemes of Assam, East Punjab and West Bengal are under revision. All the Provincial Governments have started schemes of training of teachers which are so necessary for any scheme of compulsory education. It is not possible to indicate exactly when these schemes will be fully implemented and there will be universal compulsory Primary education for all children between the ages of six and fourteen. The Central Advisory Board of Education had contemplated that in view of the practical difficulty of recruiting the requisite supply of trained teachers, it may take not less than forty years. The present Government of India, however, cannot wait so long. It feels that we should try our best to remove the difficulties and guarantee Primary Education to all children within the shortest time possible. Government has in view a special scheme for this purpose which it wants to place before the Provincial Educational Ministers and University representatives. A Conference of these Ministers and University representatives was actually fixed in last July, but due to certain political developments it had to be postponed. Now it has been decided to hold it at a very early date.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

755. *Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what portion of the entire Central Budget is spent on education; and

(b) the proportion of the amount spent out of the total budget on Higher, Secondary and Primary education?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) In the year 1946-47, out of the total Central Budget of Rs. 4,42,35,88,000 a sum of Rs. 1,87,13,500 or .4 per cent. was spent on education. If, however, the expenditure on Defence, Posts and Telegraphs and Railways is excluded from the Central Budget, the percentage of expenditure on Education would work out to be 1.8. This figure does not include the grants given by the Centre to the Provinces for their Post-war Educational Development.

(b) In the same year, Rs. 1,20,61,800 or .9 per cent. of total budget (exclusive of expenditure on Defence, Posts and Telegraphs and Railways), was spent on higher, Rs. 22,85,020 or .2 per cent. on Secondary and Rs. 12,77,010 or .1 per cent. on Primary Education. Here too these figures do not include grants given by the Centre to the Provinces for their Post-war Educational Development.

LICENCES FOR FIRE-ARMS IN DELHI

756. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received and licences issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, for fire-arms during the last 6 months;

(b) the number of applicants who were able to secure fire-arms during the same period;

(c) names of fire-arms vendors to whom licences were sanctioned during the above period and of those who have been able to start their business; and

(d) whether it is a fact that quite a number of approved vendors cannot start their business because they have not been issued import licences?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) About 5,445 applications were received and 3,245 out of these were sanctioned.

- (b) 786.
 (c) A statement is laid on the table.
 (d) A majority of them have already started their business.

Statement

The names of fire-arm vendors to whom licences were issued during the last six months are as under :—

- (i) Sardar Rameshwar Singh of Abbottabad, Proprietor, Singh Bros., Kashmere Gate;
 (ii) Sardar Nanak Singh; Kashmere Gate. (iii) Lala Devi Pershad Bagaria, Birla Lines, Subzimandi, Delhi. (iv) Sardar Bahadur Sunder Singh Dhupia, Connaught Place, New Delhi. (v) Bawa Pardu Singh and Sons, Cloth Market, Delhi. (vi) Lala Fanwal Das, Hauz Kazi, Delhi and (vii) Shakti Arms Corporation, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

The first five have started their business.

BLACK-MARKETING IN SALE OF FIRE-ARMS

757. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of factories which are actually manufacturing fire-arms;
 (b) whether Government are aware of the existence of black-marketing in the sale of fire-arms; and
 (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take in this behalf?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Apart from the Central Government's Ordinance factories there are none.

- (b) Government have received some reports to this effect.
 (c) Government have under consideration proposals for augmenting supplies to meet the Civilian demand.

EAST BENGAL OFFICERS OPTING FOR INDIAN DOMINION

758. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of officers who have opted from East Bengal for the Indian Dominion; and
 (b) whether Government propose to grant subvention to the Government of West Bengal for the maintenance of these officers till such time as they are absorbed in the administration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to officers of the Bengal Government who were given the option to serve either in East Bengal or in West Bengal. This is a matter which concerns the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India have no information on the point.

- (b) No.

ADMINISTRATION OF WESTERN INDIA STATES

759. *Shri Jaisukh Lal Hathi: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the administration of the estates of Chandap and Gazipur in the Gadhwada Thana in the Western India and Gujrat States Region has been taken over by the Ministry of States by virtue of the communique issued on the 13th August 1947; and
 (b) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The matter is still under consideration.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF I.N.A. PERSONNEL

760. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are considering the proposal of taking back the I.N.A. officers and soldiers in the Indian Army and granting the privilege of pay and other allowances for the period they worked in the I.N.A., in view of their patriotic services to the country?

(b) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

CONTRIBUTION FOR THE POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

761. *Shri Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any contribution has been made by the Government of India to the Provinces for the Post-war Developments in the current and the last two years, and if so, for what objects and to which Provinces separately?

(b) Is it a fact that the contribution has been withheld, and if so, why?

(c) Has any such amount been actually paid to the Provinces, and if so, what is the amount and to which Provinces it has been paid?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes. Grants for development purposes have been given to all the Provincial Governments. The object for which these grants were made have been explained in the Budget speeches of my predecessors relating to the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and in my Budget speech delivered in this House on the 26th November, 1947.

(b) No.

(c) Payments have been made to all the provinces but the figures regarding actual amounts paid are not readily available as the accounts for 1946-47 have not yet been closed.

PETITION BY MINTOO MUKHERJEE *re* PENSION

762. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any petition by one Mintoo Mukherjee Ex. No. 272884 Sapper Loco Driver IIIA (File No. K. D. 1/211-Pension 1508) is pending for a long time with the Government of India, Defence Department (Pension Branch, Delhi) for adjudication and valuation?

(b) Are Government aware that Mintoo Mukherjee with his big family is practically starving?

(c) Is it a fact that some representations were made by him recently in this connection but no reply is being given?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (d). The claim to disability pension on behalf of Mintoo Mukherjee, ex-Sapper Loco Driver IIIA, was received from the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions), for orders. The claim was investigated, and certain documents necessary for establishing the disability on which the claim was based were called for. As the documents were not received within a reasonable time, the case has been settled without the documents and Government have decided that the disability of the claimant was aggravated by war service. Orders to this effect have already been issued to the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions), Allahabad, who will take further action in regard to the payment of the pension, and Mintoo Mukherjee has been informed accordingly.

RELAXATION OF AGE LIMIT FOR POLITICAL SUFFERERS ENTERING GOVERNMENT SERVICE

763. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to relax the age limit for persons who participated in the national movements and suffered imprisonments and were thus barred from entering Government service; and

(b) whether any relaxation of age limits exists at present in the case of persons with war service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). No relaxation of age-limit has been allowed to war-service candidates. All that has happened is that their period of war-service will be counted, subject to certain limitations, for purpose of the maximum age-limit. No similar case has arisen in regard to the category of candidates referred to in clause (a) of the question. But if any does arise, Government would be prepared to consider it.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

764. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the centrally administered Educational and Research institutions in India; and

(b) the allocation of seats in these institutions province-wise?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) A statement giving the names of Educational and Research Institutions maintained by the Central Government is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(List of Educational and Research Institutions Maintained by the Central Government.)

1. Delhi Polytechnic.
2. National Archives of India.
3. Archaeological Survey of India.
4. Anthropological Survey of India.
5. Imperial Library, Calcutta.
6. College of Nursing, Delhi.
7. The Malaria Institute of India, Delhi.
8. The Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Simla.
9. All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.
10. The Licentiate Medical College, Calcutta.
11. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
12. Zoological Survey of India, (Post-graduate Training, Student Training Scheme).
13. Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.
14. Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun.
15. Statistical Branch of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
16. Central Drilling School, Roorkee.
17. L. R. M. S., Sanawar.
18. P. W. R. M. College, Dehra Dun.
19. K. G. R. I. M. College, Jullundur.
20. K. G. R. I. M. College, Ajmer.
21. K. G. R. I. M. College, Bangalore.
22. K. G. R. I. M. College, Belgaum.
23. Army School of Education, Pachmari.
24. Civil Aviation Training Centre, Saharanpur.
25. Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship, Dufferin, Bombay.
26. Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

RECRUITMENT OF REFUGEES FOR MILITARY TRAINING

765. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government propose to recruit people for Military training from amongst the refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is open to the refugees to offer themselves for recruitment to the Armed Forces.

PUNJABI PROGRAMME ON ALL-INDIA RADIO, DELHI

766. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only fifteen minutes have been allotted for programme in Punjabi on the All-India Radio Station, Delhi?

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to allot more time for programme in Punjabi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Government consider that in view of a station at Jullundhur no further facilities from Delhi are necessary.

NATIONALIZATION OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

767. *Beth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that last year the then Finance Member made a statement regarding nationalization of the Reserve Bank of India?

(b) If so, when Government propose to nationalize it and what are the steps taken so far in this direction?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the Directors of the Reserve Bank of India are either connected directly or indirectly with one or the other banks or with big business and have free access to all the records of all such banks?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative do Government propose to consider the advisability of divesting such directors of this right of free access to other banks' records and secrets?

The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) The consideration of the question had to be postponed as the Reserve Bank of India under present arrangements is the joint banker for the dominions of India and Pakistan. Government propose to take up this matter for further consideration after the arrangements envisaged in Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, have been terminated.

(c) and (d) Under Section 10 of the Reserve Bank of India Act no person may be a director who is an officer or an employee of any bank or is a director of any bank other than a bank registered under the Co-operative Societies Act 1912 or any other law relating to Co-operative Societies. The directors are men of integrity and on assuming office are enjoined by declaration of fidelity to maintain strictest secrecy regarding any information coming to their hands during the period of their duty while serving on the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. Government have no reason to believe that the directors serving on the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India are in any way misusing the information that is put before them by the Reserve Bank.

TAKING OVER OF RECORDS FROM THE CROWN DEPARTMENT

768. *R. B. Lala Raj Karwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the old and new records, books, maps, registers, confidential and secret documents, etc., especially those of historical and political value, maintained and preserved in the former Crown Department and the various

Residencies and political Agencies throughout India prior to their abolition, were taken over in their entirety by the Ministry of States of the Government of India, the various Regional Commissioners or the States concerned, as the case may be;

(b) whether any such records were destroyed by the representatives of the former Government shortly prior to the transference of power; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether this was done under any general or special orders of the former Government and what steps, if any, were taken to stop it?

The Honourable Sardar Valabhbai Patel: (a) The entire records prior to 1880 A.D. are in the National Archives of India; those of the period after 1880, with the exception of records relating to private lives of Rulers and the internal affairs of States, have been taken over by the Government of India.

(b) Records considered valueless for purposes of future reference or without any historical interest were destroyed by the Residents under instructions issued by the late Political Department.

(c) These instructions were in accordance with an agreement reached in June 1947 between His Excellency the Viceroy and the leaders of the Congress and Muslim League parties.

TRANSFER OF IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA

769. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of transferring the Imperial Library, Calcutta, to Delhi, and if so, when it is likely to materialise;

(b) the total number of books in the Library; and

(c) the date of publication of the oldest book available in the Library?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) The total number of books available in the Library is approximately 4,13,888.

(c) The date of publication of the oldest book traceable in the Library is 1481 A.D.

TRANSFER OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO PAKISTAN

770. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to transfer the originals or copies of any of the national archives at present maintained in the National Archives of India (previously known as Imperial Record Department) to the Dominion of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the broad categories of such archives and how a selection is proposed to be made?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b) There is no proposal for the transfer to the Dominion of Pakistan of the originals of any documents at present in the custody of National Archives of India. It has been decided that: (i) one printed copy of the records which are of interest to the Pakistan Government should, if available, be given to that Government; (ii) if any of the records in which the Government of Pakistan are interested are microfilmed in the ordinary course, one copy should be supplied to the Government of Pakistan free of charge; and (iii) if the Pakistan Government place additional microfilming units at the disposal of the Government of India, the

Government of India, with the help of the sub-units will agree to microfilm the records in which the Pakistan Government are interested and supply one copy thereof to the Pakistan Government free of charge.

TRANSFER OF EXHIBITS OF INDIA MUSEUM, CALCUTTA

771. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar**: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exhibits of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, have been or are proposed to be transferred to the Dominion of Pakistan in connection with the proposed division of assets and liabilities between the two Dominions; and

(b) if so, how it is proposed to make a selection and to arrive at a fair valuation of such exhibits?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No. The Trustees of both the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta are autonomous bodies. The property, whether movable or immovable including the exhibits transferred to them from time to time by the Archaeological Department on a permanent basis vests solely in the trustees and hence cannot be recalled or made a subject of partition.

(b) Does not arise.

DESECRATION OF MOSQUES IN DELHI

772. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth**: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report of the post prayer speech of Gandhiji published in the *Hindu* of the 23rd November and the *Statesman*, dated the 22nd November, 1947, in which he referred to the desecration and damage of 187 mosques in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that one of such mosques which has been converted into a temple is situated in a prominent place in New Delhi opposite the/Odeon Cinema; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for restoring all such places of worship to their original condition?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have already issued instructions to the Chief Commissioner to take very early steps to restore the Mosques to their original condition. Our information shows, however, that only three mosques have been converted into temples and 118 have been damaged. Instructions have been issued to survey the damage done and to prepare plans and estimates for repairing them. I would add that the Government stand by the statement I issued on this subject on the 7th November, 1947, and would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the Press Note issued on the 8th December, 1947. Copies of both the documents are laid on the table of the House.

Religious Institutions.

Further, the Government of East and West Punjab have already agreed that it is specially incumbent upon them to protect and safeguard property belonging to religious institutions and both Governments will endeavour to ensure the restoration at public expense or otherwise of all religious places in their territories that may have been destroyed or desecrated.

The Central Government has already taken action as though these undertakings applied to the Province of Delhi. It has had full inquiries made into the extent of damage done to mosques and other places of worship in Delhi and has issued strict instructions that those mosques that are being used as temples or as habitations for people should be restored

to their original condition as soon as possible and a survey should be made of the damage caused to such buildings. The Government of India thus intends to follow implicitly, in regard to Delhi, the policy that was settled between the representatives of the two Provincial Governments.

Press Note

The time allowed to those, who have trespassed on mosques during and after the recent disturbances in Delhi to vacate them expired on 6th December, 1947. Where trespass still persists, instructions have been issued to the Police to clear the mosques and to prosecute the offenders. Government would like to issue a clear and unequivocal warning to people that they cannot allow the sanctity of these places of worship to be violated in any manner whatsoever and will deal sternly with attempts on the part of any person to commit any sacrilege on mosques which have now been cleared of trespassers or restored to their original conditions. Government have already in hand the task of restoring the damage done to other mosques and plans and estimates are being prepared. Mosques which had been converted into temples have been restored to their original condition. Government trust that they will have the support and co-operation of the general public in discharging this obligation to maintain the inviolability of places of worship and that all citizens will assist in bringing breakers of the law to book.

NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY FOR INDIA

773. *Shri Balkrishna Sharma: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to establish a National Museum and a National Library for India? If so, when and at what place?

(b) What decision has so far been taken on the recommendations of the Maurice Gwyer Committee Report for the establishment of a National Museum?

(c) What are the important collections of art, paintings, textiles, sculptures and images, etc., which exist in this country under the control of private persons and dealers?

(d) In view of the fact that the export of antiquities outside India has been prevented by a recent Act, do Government propose to acquire art collections as and when they are offered to them in order to preserve them for the galleries of the National Museum?

(e) What is the nature and extent of the collections of art, manuscripts and books in the possession of the late India Office, and what steps are being taken to secure them for this country?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Government of India have accepted in principle a scheme for the establishment of a National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology at Delhi. The proposal to establish a National Library including a copyright Section is under consideration. An Expert Committee is being appointed with a view to working out the details of the proposed Scheme.

(b) Provision has been made in the current year's budget for the first stage of the Scheme for the establishment of a National Museum, and expenditure sanction will be given in due course with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee.

(c) Government are aware of a number of collections of paintings, textiles, sculptures, etc., at present in the hands of private owners and dealers. It would not be in the public interest at the moment to publish names; but when the scheme of the National Museum is implemented all possible steps will be taken to prevent the dispersal of these collections.

(d) Government has recently acquired an important collections of Indian sculptures and paintings at a cost of rupees two lakhs with a view to preserving it in the proposed National Museum. It is proposed, as funds become available, to continue this policy.

(e) It has been agreed to appoint a Committee consisting of representatives of Governments of the United Kingdom and India and Pakistan to make a report on the contents of the old India Office and the method of their disposal.

GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OF HOUSES AND BUILDINGS AT BOMBAY AND POONA.

774. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have taken on lease the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors of Hari Buildings, Old Custom House Road, Bombay; and Bungalow No. 2, Bund Garden Road, Poona;

(b) whether it is a fact that the flats referred to in part (a) above have been lying vacant since April or May last; and that the Bungalow referred to in part (a) above is only partially occupied by one or two officers and their relations;

(c) the number of other buildings and houses taken by Government on lease which are wholly or partially vacant; and

(d) the total amount of rent per mensem Government have been paying for the Bungalow in Poona, the answer is 'No.'

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) As regards the flats in Hari Buildings, Old Custom House Road, Bombay, the answer is 'Yes'. As for the Bungalow in Poona, the answer is 'No.'

(b) No, not to our knowledge, so far as the flats are concerned. The question regarding the Bungalow in Poona does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

(c) I presume the question relates to Bombay and Poona only. If so, the answer is 'No'. There is, however, a time-lag before a vacated house or building is re-allotted to a new occupant.

(d) The approximate monthly rent paid by Government for buildings requisitioned or hired is as follows:

Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 41,667.
Poona	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 13,683.
Whole of India	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 2.5 Lakhs.

ALLOTMENT OF VACANT MILITARY BARRACKS TO REFUGEES.

775. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of barracks constructed during the war for military purposes at Bombay, Poona and other places are lying vacant?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of allotting vacant houses and barracks to refugees and returning buildings which are no longer required by Government to their owners and thus stop waste of public money?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, not to our knowledge. However, sometime necessarily elapses before a project declared surplus to military requirements is actually disposed of.

(b) Yes.

DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF V.C.Os. FOR CIVILIAN POSTS *vis-a-vis* K.C.Os.

776. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that those officers of the Indian Army who were holding Viceroy's Commissions prior to their release from the Army on the termination of the war, and who possessed all necessary qualifications making them eligible for the civilian posts like those of Executive Officers of Cantonments, Civilian Gasetted Ordnance Officers, etc., are considered ineligible for these posts whereas K. C. Os. are not? If so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of issuing necessary orders to remove these disabilities?

(c) Are Government aware that this disparity in treatment between K.C.Os. and V.C.Os. has caused a serious discontent among the latter in view of their future prospects being marred on account of this differential treatment?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). No, Sir, except in the case of the Cantonment Executive Officers' Service. The question of removing the bar in the case of this Service is under consideration.

(c) No.

APPOINTMENT OF V.C.Os. TO CIVILIAN GAZETTED POSTS.

777. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what civilian gazetted appointments are open to the class of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, belonging to services like the I.A.S.C., and I.A.O.C., who formed an integral part of the whole organisation of the Indian Army during the war?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Generally speaking, there is no bar to the appointment of ex-V.C.Os to civilian gazetted appointments provided of course they possess the requisite qualifications.

MARTIAL AND NON-MARTIAL RACES CADRES

778. *Shri Chandrika Ram: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the distinction between the martial and non-martial races has been removed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

ENROLMENT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES TO MILITARY CADRES

779. *Shri Chandrika Ram: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of members of the Depressed Classes enrolled in the last War in the following grades (i) combatants, (ii) non-combatants, and (iii) technical?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (i) Combatants—96,800. (ii) Non-combatants—622,910.

Separate figures, by classes, for technical and non-technical personnel (both combatants and non-combatants) are not available.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES IN INDIAN DOMINION.

780. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number and location of Ordnance Factories in different parts of the Indian Dominion?

(b) how many of these Ordnance Factories have been closed down since the termination of the war?

(c) how many of these Ordnance Factories have been in actual operation? What is their monthly output?

(d) how many of these Ordnance Factories are now being run with a view to produce machinery for civilian requirements?

(e) what types of machines and machine-tools are at present produced in such reorganised factories?

(f) is it a fact that these factories are not being utilised to their fullest capacity? If so, why?

(g) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to utilise these for the development of indigenous arms industry; and

(h) have Government considered the possibility of utilising some of these factories for manufacturing heavy chemicals, acids and road rollers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) Before the war there were eight Ordnance Factories all of which are still operating. To these twenty-one were added during the war. A number of these additional factories utilised leased property and have now been closed down or disposed of leaving the present total of 16, including pre-war factories.

(c) All. It is not in the public interest to disclose the monthly output of these factories.

(d) The capacity, surplus to Defence requirements, of all factories capable of making machinery is being utilised for civil requirements.

(e) The information is not readily available.

(f) It is a fact that these factories are not being utilised to the fullest capacity for the production of war-like stores, as service requirements are considerably smaller in peace-time than in war-time. The surplus capacity is, however, being utilised for civil needs.

(g) The question is not clear. All the Ordnance Factories are in fact producing arms, ammunition and other military equipment and stores.

(h) Yes. These items are in fact already being manufactured in the Ordnance Factories for civil use.

Statement

1. Cordite Factory, ARUVANKADU.
2. Ammunition Factory, KIRKKE.
3. Gun Carriage Factory, JUBBULPORE.
4. Harness and Saddlery Factory, KANPUR.
5. Metal and Steel Factory, ISHAPORE.
6. Rifle Factory, ISHAPORE.
7. Gun and Shell Factory, COSSIPORE.
8. Clothing Factory, SHAHJAHANPUR.
9. High Explosives Factory, KIRKKE.
10. Ordnance Factory, AMBERNATH.
11. Ordnance Factory, KANPUR.
12. Ordnance Factory, MUBADNAGAR.
13. Ordnance Factory, KATNI.
14. Ordnance Factory, DEHRA DUN.
15. Ordnance Factory, KHAMARIA.
16. Clothing (ex-parachute) Factory, KANPUR. E.

REORGANIZATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

781. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of re-organisation of the administration of Ordnance Factories in India after the administrative control of the Supreme Commander of the Joint Armed Forces of India and Pakistan has ceased after the 30th November, 1947? If so, what is the decision taken;

(b) is it a fact that more than 70 per cent. of the senior posts at the Headquarters and 80 per cent in Factories are at present held by Europeans;

(c) what steps do Government propose to take to effect speedy Indianization of all the higher posts in these factories and establishments;

(d) do Government propose to recruit technical personnel from countries overseas on short term contracts to fill some of these posts with a view to training Indians in this line; and

(e) do Government propose to send abroad Indians for proper training in this line? If so, when and how many?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The administrative control of Ordnance Factories was taken over by the Government of India from the Supreme Commander on the 1st December 1947. To what extent the working of the factories needs to be altered to suit India's requirements is at present under consideration.

(b) The number of Europeans in gazetted appointments is roughly 50 per cent at Headquarters and 60 per cent in factories.

(c), (d) and (e). Government hope to be able to effect speedy Indianization by fresh recruitment and by intensive training of new recruits here and in Europe and U.S.A.

ANTI-INDIAN ACTIVITIES OF MUSLIM OFFICERS

782. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the Supreme Command administration, Muslim officers who had opted for Pakistan, had been left free to carry on Anti-Indian and pro-Pakistan activities?

(b) Have all officers who opted for Pakistan in this branch been sent to Pakistan and if not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that there have been cases of shortage of stores in some of the ordnance factories in India?

(d) Is it a fact that in some Ordnance Factories, finished rifles were rejected and sold as scrap and that in several cases they were smuggled into Pakistan and the State of Hyderabad?

(e) Have any enquiries been made into this matter and if so, with what results?

(f) What steps Government propose to take against fifth column activities in these factories and establishments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is a fact that Muslim Officers who had opted for Pakistan were retained in the Supreme Commander's Organisation and no special restrictions of any kind were imposed on them. They continued, of course to be liable to the ordinary Government Servants Conduct Rules which require Government servants to desist from political activities generally.

(b) Yes.

(c) So far as the Government of India are aware, no shortages have been reported. By 'shortage' is understood the difference between the ground and book balances of stores in Ordnance Factories.

(d) No, so far as the Government of India are concerned.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Security measures at all factories and establishments have been strengthened and vigorous measures are being and will be taken to check fifth column activities.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA BY AMERICAN FILM PRODUCERS

783. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to two photographs published in the *Amrit Bazar*

Patrika, Calcutta Edition, dated the 10th November 1947, showing how anti-Indian propaganda is being carried on by American Film producers in the United States of America?

(b) Are Government in a position to state the names of the Film Makers concerned?

(c) What are the names of their representatives operating in India and the facilities, if any; they received from Government in taking these films?

(d) What measures have Government taken to counteract such propaganda?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) In view of answer to clause (b) it does not arise.

(d) I would invite Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to the question Nos. 257 and 818 by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa and Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru respectively on the 25th November, 1947.

SEARCHES OF MUSLIM PASSENGERS

784. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report published in the *Statesman*, dated the 17th November, 1947, under the Caption "Muslim passengers searched at Airport"?

(b) If so, how far is that report correct?

(c) What are the contents of the letter embodying instructions from a Muslim leader in Karachi?

(d) What action has been taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given on the 6th December 1947 to Shri L. K. Maitra's Question No. 645. I have since received the report which shows that the press version does not represent the facts.

PAKISTAN'S EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE

785. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Government of Pakistan have decided to impose export duty on jute in contravention of the stand-still agreement?

(b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to secure compliance of the stand-still agreement?

(c) In case of refusal by the Government of Pakistan to comply with the terms of the stand-still agreement, do Government propose to consider the advisability of terminating other stand-still agreements?

The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communique issued by the Government of India on the 23rd November 1947 explaining their attitude in the matter.

REVISION OF DECISION re GOVERNMENT SERVANTS¹, OPTION FOR PAKISTAN

786. *Shri Khurshid Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India had ordered that Government servants who had finally opted for Pakistan would not be allowed to alter their decision and to remain in the Indian Union?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have subsequently revised their decision by allowing Government servants who had once opted for Pakistan to revise their decision and remain in the Indian Union?

(c) If so, are Government aware that this change of decision by Government has caused discontent among the personnel of services? Have the Government of the United Provinces lodged any protest against it?

(d) What are the reasons which led Government to change their previous decision?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to question No. 753.

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

INELIGIBILITY OF V.C. OS. TO CIVILIAN GAZETTED POSTS

787. *Kunwar Shamsher Jang: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that officers who held Viceroy's Commissions during the last war, prior to their release from the Army, and who possessed all academic and other qualifications required for direct recruitment to civilian Gazetted posts like those of Administrative Officers, Executive Officers of Cantonments, Officers of Central Services Class I, have been declared ineligible for these posts? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that there are a number of such officers who had to accept Viceroy's Commissions in the early years of the war as a very limited number of King's Commissions were then being offered to Indians?

(c) Are Government aware that these officers had served in the Army most loyally throughout the duration of the war, like the K.C.Os. in their own spheres of work and duties and that there is great discontent and resentment among them for this differential treatment between them and the K.C.Os. so far as eligibility for direct recruitment to these post-war appointments is concerned?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of removing this disparity to enable these officers to apply for the posts for which they are at present ineligible?

(e) What civilian Gazetted posts are open to these V.C.Os. specially to those who held appointments in the I.A.S.C., I.A.O.C., etc., who have spent 5 or 6 years of their life in the service of the country and majority of whom are still unemployed mainly due to restrictions such as those mentioned in part (a) above?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question 776 asked by Shri S. Nagappa few minutes ago.

(b) During the last war practically all candidates who applied and were found suitable were granted Commissions as Indian Commissioned Officers.

(e) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to Starred Question 777.

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION GRANT FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

788. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the amount budgeted in the year 1947-48 for Supplementary Education Grant for scheduled caste students by the Government of India?

(b) What is the amount spent upto now province by province?

(c) What is the principle of allocation?

(d) Is any provincial quota fixed on population basis?

(e) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names of recipients?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The amount budgeted for the year 1947-48 (*i.e.* from 15th August 1947 to 31st March, 1948) for Scheduled Caste Scholarships is rupees three lakhs and eighty thousand.

(b) A statement giving the amount, province by province spent during the last three years (1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47) is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d). The primary consideration in the award of Scheduled Caste Scholarships is merit and as such no specific provincial quota has been fixed; however, as far as possible, attempts are made to see that the awards are fairly distributed among different provinces.

(e) A statement showing the names of the recipients of this scholarship from 1944-45 to 1946-47 is laid on the table of the House.

NAVAL WORKS DEPARTMENT AT AVADI BASE, MADRAS

789. *Shrimati G. Durgabai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Naval Works Department situated at Avadi Base, Madras, is still under the control of the British Government?

(b) Since there are more than 600 Indians working there, do Government propose to investigate into their working conditions?

(c) When Government propose to take over this department under their control?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Working conditions are in accordance with local regulations.

(c) The Government of India will take over this establishment after the stores earmarked for H.M.G. have been removed.

U. P. MEASURE FOR PEACE

790. *Shri Khurshed Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing at page 3 of the Delhi Edition of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th November, 1947, under the caption "U.P. measures to keep peace"?

(b) Is it a fact that about 50,000 copies of a circular were smuggled into the United Provinces from Pakistan, inviting the Muslims in India to evacuate, and telling them "there is nothing for them to despair and that some day Muslims will rule India"?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the names of the signatories of the circular?

(d) Have Government taken any steps to find out the channel through which this circular was smuggled into the United Provinces from Pakistan?

(e) Have Government any information about this or some other similar circular having been circulated in other provinces?

(f) What steps Government propose to take to stop the smuggling of such literature from Pakistan into India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (f). The Government of India have seen the press report referred to by the Honourable Member but have no information beyond what is stated therein. The Provincial Government have been asked to report on this matter and their report is awaited.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

791. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

(a) whether there is any separate directorate in the Home Ministry for developing Civil Defence Forces in order to scotch any sudden disturbances as between communities, parties and interests; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability in the light of recent experience, of establishing such a directorate and advising the Provincial Ministries also to develop their wings of Civil Defence Force?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). No.

TUBERCULOSIS BACILLUS HOSPITALS AND SANATORIA

792. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased state:

(a) the names of Tuberculosis Bacillus Hospitals and Sanatoria with number of beds, in different provinces, and of authorities managing them;

(b) whether Government are aware that in view of the fact that cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are on the increase, it has become exceedingly difficult for the victims of the disease to find accommodation in the existing Tuberculosis Bacillus Hospitals and sanatoria;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of taking early steps for removing the difficulty referred to in part (b) above;

(d) whether Government are aware that for want of any special arrangement in trains for the travelling of Tuberculosis Bacillus patients bound for admission into hospitals or sanatoria and also for want of shelter during preliminary examinations prior to admission into hospitals, the patients are compelled to take recourse to surreptitious methods for serving their purpose, causing the spread of contagion of the fell disease among the public; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of making suitable arrangements for segregation of such patients in the circumstances referred to in part (d) above and making provision for the removal of the difficulties?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. As regards Bengal and Punjab, the information furnished relates to these provinces before division.

(b) Government are aware that accommodation available in Sanatoria and Hospitals for tuberculosis patients is sadly inadequate in relation to the incidence of the disease in the country.

(c) The Health Survey and Development Committee made comprehensive recommendations regarding the matter. The Provincial Governments are primarily responsible for implementing the recommendations.

(d) and (e) The existing restrictions on the carriage by railways of persons suffering from infectious diseases do not apply to persons suffering from tuberculosis. The question as to what arrangements are possible will be examined.

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA, PAKISTAN AND INDIAN STATES.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN—

Tuberculosis Sanatoria	40	beds	3,288
Tuberculosis Hospitals and General Hospitals	142	beds	2,743
Total Number of Beds			6,031

STATES—

Sanatoria	12	beds	439
Hospitals	9	beds	298
Beds in General Hospital for tuberculosis patients			401
Total number of beds for tuberculosis patients			1,138

In addition there are 300 beds maintained by the Army and 744 all over India for the use of convicts.

Statement showing the names of Tuberculous Sanatoriums and Hospitals with the number of beds available in different provinces.

Province	Sanatoriums	Hospitals	General Hospitals	Number of beds	Managing Body (Central)
AJMER-MERWARA	The Mader Union Sanatorium, Mader. (Ajmer-Merwara)	Victoria Hospital, Ajmer	52	Managed by a Board of Governors of the Sanatorium, mainly supported by the American Methodist Mission, in co-operation with the Scottish Presbyterians, United Church of Canada and American Presbyterian Missions.
		...	...	20
			Total Ajmer-Merwara	72	
ASSAM	Reid Provincial Sanatorium, Shillong	...		56	Government of Assam.
		Civil Hospital, Kohima . . .		6	
		" " Makohung . . .	...	6
		" " Dibrugarh . . .		8	
		" " Shillong . . .	...	6
		F. T. Civil Hospital, Sadiya . . .		15	
		Civil Hospital Haflong . . .	...	4
		" " Gauhati . . .	...	8
" " Manipur . . .	...	16		

	Jall Hospital, Ganeshi	District Jail Hospital, Sylhet	...	...	7
BENGAL	Baikunthe Nath Roy Choudhury Phibis Ward and Lewis Jubilee Sanatorium, Darjeeling.	...	...	Total Assam	22
S. B. Dey Sanatorium Kurseong.	154
Kanchrapara Govt. Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Kanchrapara.	8
Jadabpur Tuberculosis Hospital, Jadabpur.	43
Clark Tuberculosis Hospital, Darjeeling.	200
National Infirmary, 189, Manicktola Main Road, Calcutta.	230
Fraser Hospital, Burdwan.	26
Sadar Hospitals Suri.	42
Sadar Hospital Bankura.	8
K. E. M. Hospital Midnapore.	2
Imambarah Hospital, Hooghly.	4
Sadar Hospital, Nadia.	General Hospital, Howrah	4
Sadar Hospital, Berhamporeh.	3
Sadar Hospital, Jessore.	2
General Committee of the Lowois Jubilee Sanatorium, Darjeeling.	8
Calcutta Medical Aid and Research Society.	43
Bengal Government.	200
Calcutta Medical Aid and Research Society.	230
Tub. Hospital Committee under Darjeeling Municipality.	26
National Infirmary Committee.	42

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	Number of beds	Managing Body (Central)
BENGAL		Woodburn Hospital, Khubna . . .	...	2	
		Mitford Hospital, Dacca . . .	...	8	
		S. K. Hospital, Mymensingh . . .	...	4	
		Sadar Hospital, Noakhali . . .	...	2	
		... General Hospital, Chittagong	General Hospital, Chittagong	3	
		Sadar Hospital, Tipperah . . .	...	2	
		Sadar Hospital, Dinajpore . . .	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Jalpaiguri . . .	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Rangpur . . .	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Pabna . . .	...	4	
		Charteries Hospital, Kalimpong . . .	...	18	
		Kurseong Hospital, Kurseong . . .	...	24	
		Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling . . .	...	3	
		Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.	Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.	24	
		Campbell Medical School & Hos- pital, Calcutta.	Campbell Medical School & Hos- pital, Calcutta.	28	Under Bengal Government.
	Carmichael Medical College & Hospital, Belgaehia.	Carmichael Medical College & Hospital, Belgaehia.	22		

BIHAR	Jail Hospital, Comilla, Dist. Tipperah. . . . .	...	20	Under Bengal Government.
	Jail Hospital, Suri, Dist Birbhumi. . . . .	...	30	
	Total Bengal		796	
	Yeki Sanatorium, Itki P. O., Dist. Ranchi. . . . .	...	194	Government of Bihar.
	Medical College, Hospital, Patna		18	
	Infectious Diseases Hospital Gaya		12	
	Sadar Hospital, Chapra, Dist. Saran		10	
	K. E. H. Hospital, Bettiah, Dist. Champaran.		9	
	Sadar Hospital, Purnea		9	
	St. Columbus Zenana Hospital, Dist. Hazaribagh.		6	
BOMBAY	Sadar Hospital, Purulia, Dist. Manbhum. . . . .	...	2	Under Bihar Government.
	Central Jail Hospital, Bhagalpur		20	
	Central Jail Hospital, Buxsar		12	
	Central Jail Hospital, Gaya		6	
	Total Bihar		298	
Turner Sanatorium, Bhowade Hill, Parel, Bombay		80	The Municipal Corporation, Bombay.	
Rames Prem Chand T. B. Hospital, Bombay.		100	do	

Province	Sanatoria	Hospital	General Hospitals	Number of beds	Managing Body (Central)
BOMBAY	Dr. Babadurji Memorial Sanatorium, Devliak.		...	17	Trustees of Dr. Babadurji Memorial Sanatorium.
	Hindu Sanatorium for Tuberculosis, Karla, District Poona.	...	...	24	Managing Committee of the Sanatorium.
	The Bel-Air Sanatorium, Deaketh, Panbhagan.	...	...	100	Managing Committee and a Body of Trustees.
	Hillside Sanatorium Ven-Gurle.	...	...	50	Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
	Wanless Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Wanlesswadi, (District Satara).	...	...	214	Board of the Governors of the Sanatorium.
	The Maharsashtra Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Pan-chwati, Nasik.	...	...	16	Poona Ananth Vidyarthi Griha Society.
	The Karnatak Health Institute, General Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Hukeri Road, R. S. (District Belgaum).	...	...	28	The Karnatak Health Institute.
	.....	Maratha Tuberculosis Hospital, Connaught Road, Bombay.	...	80	Bombay Municipality.
	.....	The Salvation Army Tuberculosis Hospital, Anand (Dist. Kaira.)	...	39	The Salvation Army Emery Hospital.
	.....	The Parin Banoo Anti-Tuberculosis Hospital, Ashwanikumar Road, P. O. Katargum (Dist. Surat).	...	27	Managing Committee.

...	Talegaon General Hospital and Convalescent Home, Talegaon (Dabhade), District Poona.	...	36	Managing Committee of the Talegaon General Hospital and Convalescent Home.
...	S. W. Wadia Charitable Hospital, Sholapur.	...	56	Medical Relief Association, Sholapur.
...	J. J. Group of Hospitals, Bombay, St. George Hospital, Bombay Civil Hospital, Nasik.	...	20 12 5	
...	Civil Hospital, Alibag.	...	6	
...	G. T. Hospital, Bombay.	...	26	
...	Civil Hospital, Belgaum.	...	8	
...	Civil Hospital, Bijapur	...	4	
...	Civil Hospital, Sholapur	...	9	
...	Sassoon Hospital, Poona	...	20	
...	Roberts Hospitals, Borsad, Dist. Kaira.	...	12	Under Bombay Governm
...	Irish Presbyterian Mission Hospital, Anand.	...	20	
...	Evangeline Booth Hospital, Ahmednagar.	...	12	
...	Yervada Central Prison Hospital, Yervada.	...	6	
...	Central Prison Hospital, Ahmedabad.	...	8	
...	Central Prison Hospital, Nasik Road.	...	34	
Total Bombay			1138	

Province	Sanatoria	Hospital	General Hospital	Number of beds	Managing body (Central)
C. P. AND BERAR.	Pendra Road-Sanatorium, Pendra Kowal.			150	Governing Body of the Pendra Road Sanatorium.
	...	Mayo Hospital, Nagpur.		14	Under C. P. & Berar Government.
	...	Victoria Hospital, Jubbulpore.	...	6	
	...	Main Hospital, Wardha.	...	10	
		District Jail Hospital, Chhind- wara.		22	
			Total C.P. & Berar .	202	
DELHI	...	Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hos- pital, Kingsway, Delhi.		94	Delhi Municipality.
			Total Delhi	94	
MADRAS	Union Mission Tuberculo- sis Sanatorium, Arucya- varam.	...		254	Composed of representatives of 15 Missions & Churches together with the elected officers and cer- tain life members.
	Visrantipuram Sanatorium, Rajamundry.	...		96	Board of Governors which is res- ponsible to the Andhra Lutheran Church of which body the Sana- torium is an institution.
	Government Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, P. O. Chromepet, Madras.	...	...	77	Madras Government.
	Coimbatore District Ju- bilee Tuberculosis Sana- torium, Perundurai.	...	...	112	The Coimbatore District Tub. Sanatorium Society.

...	Mount Rosary Tuberculosis Sanatorium P.O. Moodbidri, South Kanara.	.....	...	28	The Very Rev. F. E. D'Souza Parish Priest, Moodbidri.
...	Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Trichinopoly.	Government Tuberculosis Hospital, Royapettah, Madras City.	...	150	Trichinopoly Tuberculosis Relief Society.
...	...	Tiruvoteeswaran Tuberculosis Hospital, Koonoor Road, Perambur.	...	62	Government of Madras.
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Coimbatore.	...	150	Corporation of Madras.
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Mangalore.	...	29	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Calicut.	...	12	...
...	...	King George Hospital, Vizagapatam.	...	26	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Guntur.	...	42	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Masulipatam.	...	20	...
...	...	Rajah Mirasdar Government Headquarters Hospital, Tanjore.	...	14	...
...	...	Government Pentand Hospital, Vellore.	...	12	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Nellore.	...	10	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Trichinopoly.	...	6	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Palamcottah.	...	4	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Madras.	...	8	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hospital, Bellary	...	32	...
...	...	...	...	8	...

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	No. of beds	Managing Body (Central)
MADRAS .	...	The Wellesley Sanatorium Jail, Bellary.	...	160	Under Madras Government.
...	...	Pierce Memorial Mission Hospital, Madura.	...	20	
...	...	Railway Hospital, Perambur .	...	4	
			Total Madras .	1,338	
ORISSA .	...	...	General Hospital, Outlack.	6	Under Orissa Government.
...	...	Sadar Hospital, Ballasore . .	...	1	
...	...	Moorabed Memorial Hospital, G. Udayagiri.	...	6	
			Total Orissa .	13	
PUNJAB .	King Edward Sanatorium, Dharampore, R. S. (Simla Hills).	...	...	105	Consumptives' Homes Society, Bombay.
...	Lady Irwin Tuberculosis Sanatorium, P. O. Jubar, (<i>vsq</i> Sanswar, Simla Hills).		...	100	Governing Body of the Sana- torium-Punjab Union Missions.

...	Rajah Durga Singh Sanatorium, Beghat State (Solani), Mandi Hills, P. O. Dharampore R. S. (Simla Hills).	...	18	Rajah Durga Singh Sahib Bahadur.
...	Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli (Simla Hills).	...	210	Managing Committee appointed by the Tuberculosis Association of India.
...	Jubilee Red Cross (Mohd. Hussain) Sanatorium, Samli (Distt. Rawalpindi).	...	88	Local Red Cross Society.
...	Krishan Bhagwan Sanatorium, Multan.	...	24	Krishan Bhagwan Sanatorium Society.
...	Mc Gwire Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Dharamsala, Kangra Distt.	...	7	Municipal Committee.
...	Rai Bahadur Sir Gujarmal Kesardevi Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Amritsar.	...	36	Governing Body of the Sanatorium with Deputy Commissioner as Chairman.
...	Garden Sanatorium, the Memorial Mission Hospital, Ludhiana.	...	25	Governing Body of the Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.
...	...	...	61	Sh. Gulab Devi Memorial Hospital Trust.
...	Rai Bahadur Amar Nath Tuberculosis Institute, Mayo Hospital, Lahore.	...	74	Medical Supdt. Mayo Hospital is the Chief Executive Authority.

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	No. of beds	Managing Body (Central)
Punjab	...	King George V. Memorial Tuberculosis Hospital, Rawalpindi.	...	30	Municipal Committee.
...	...	Ripon Hospital, Simla . . .	...	5	
...	...	Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Amritsar.	...	52	
...	...	Borstal Institution and Juvenile Jail Hospital, Lahore.	...	16	
...	...	New Central Jail Hospital, Multan.	...	144	Under Punjab Government.
...	...	Central Jail Hospital, Montgomery.	...	10	
...	...	District Jail Hospital, Ambala .	...	4	
			Total Punjab .	1,009	
UNITED PROVINCES	Karalabag Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Allahabad.	...	...	24	Anti-Tuberculosis League, Allahabad.
...	The Sanatorium, Almora (U. P.)	...	...	36	Board of Management of the Almora Sanatorium Society.
...	King Edward VII Sanatorium, Bhowali.	...	...	178	King Edward VII Sanatorium Committee.

...	Sri Mangle Prasad Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Saranath, Benares.	...	12	Managed by a Local Committee with the Commissioner of Benares as President.
...	Hillcrest Sanatorium, P. O. Gethis (Dist. Nainital).	...	42	Cap. R. K. Kacker to whom the Institution belongs.
...	...	Civil Hospital, Mainpuri . . .	3	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Sitapur . . .	4	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Jhansi . . .	3	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Musafarnagar . . .	8	
...	...	Sadar Hospital, Basti . . .	6	
...	...	Marris Hospital, Budaun . . .	4	Under U. P. Government.
...	...	Civil Hospital, Saharanpur . . .	8	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Bareilly . . .	6	
...	...	Sadar Hospital, Aligarh . . .	12	
...	...	Jail Hospital, Sultanpur . . .	158	
Total U. P.			504	

RECRUITMENT OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

793. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether examinations and interviews for the direct recruitment of Income Tax Officers, were held at Calcutta and Delhi on the 30th and 31st of January 1947?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative (i) how many of the selected candidates were subsequently taken in services in the different provinces of the Indian Union; (ii) how many of them are on the waiting list (province-wise); and (iii) when are they likely to be appointed?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, on the dates mentioned and on other days as well, in January and February, 1947.

(b) (i) I lay a statement on the Table.

(ii) and (iii). There is no waiting list as hereafter direct recruitment to the posts of Income-tax Officers will be made exclusively by the Federal Public Service Commission.

Statement

Province in which appointments were made	No. of approved candidates appointed (as Income-Tax Officers Class II Grade III)
Bombay	59
Madras	31
East Punjab	21
United Provinces and Ajmer-Merwara	4
Bihar and Orissa	3
Central Provinces and Berar	1
Assam	1
West Bengal	10
Unallocated (Sind and Baluchistan)	8*
	138

(1) The figures given above are exclusive of officers who have since elected for service in Pakistan and have been transferred to that Dominion.

* (2) The number (8) shown as unallocated represents officers transferred from the Pakistan area to the Indian Union in accordance with their options and not yet allocated to different provinces pending completion of the training.

(3) To make up for the deficiency of Scheduled caste candidates in certain provinces, mainly Bombay and Madras, seven appointments are proposed to be offered shortly to selected members of this community from other provinces, from amongst those who appeared for interview but did not secure a rank high enough for appointment in their own province, as follows.

(a) West Bengal	5
(b) Assam	1
(c) United Provinces and Ajmer-Merwara	1
Total	7

REVISION OF PAY SCALE OF CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

794. ***Shri Upendra Nath Barman**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have received a memorandum, dated 9th September 1947, from the Secretary, Central Excise (N.G.) Employees Union, Calcutta, protesting against the recently revised scales of pay of Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors, class I and class II?

(b) Are Government considering the matter setforth in that memorandum? If not, why not?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, when Government expect to come to a decision?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. The matter is under active consideration.

(c) Government hope to reach a decision within the next few days.

VANDALISM OF KONARAK TEMPLE IN ORISSA.

795. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article under the caption 'India's Art Treasures' in the Common Man of Madras (Volume 1, No. 1)?

(b) If so, is there any truth in the following sentences quoted from it, namely,—

"As a climax to this vandalism is a report that a well-known industrialist has been in communication with a widely respected Bengal artist with a view to buying up from the nation the Konarak Temple near Puri in Orissa. The industrialist is reported to be seeking information as to whether he could destroy the existing sculpture and idols which are not to his taste and substitute a fresh lot of his design. According to Indian art critics Konarak . . . contains some of the finest sculpture known to this country."?

(c) Do Government propose to see that such a thing does not happen?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) Government has no other information than is contained in this publication.

(c) Should such a contingency arise, Government will take all possible steps to prevent it.

A. I. R. RELAYS OF B. B. C. BROADCASTS.

796. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman**: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of the agreement under which A.I.R. relays B.B.C. Broadcasts;

(b) the special privileges allowed to the B.B.C. correspondents that are denied to Indian correspondents and the representatives of foreign Broadcasting Stations; and

(c) whether in view of the anti-Indian nature of the B.B.C. Broadcasts, Government propose to consider the question of terminating the A.I.R. relay of the B.B.C. Broadcasts forthwith?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There is no specific agreement on this matter.

(b) None.

(c) No.

STEPS TO DETECT INCOME-TAX EVASIONS.

797. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are taken to detect income-tax evasions;
- (b) the number of prosecutions launched against income-tax evaders in the years 1946-47 and 1947-48;
- (c) whether any special machinery is proposed to be set up, if so, the estimated cost to be incurred for its upkeep; and
- (d) how Government propose to tackle income-tax evasion by Firms operating in India with Head Offices in the Indian States?

The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) It is not in public interests to give information on this point but Government are continuously striving to use all means available to them to detect evasions of Income-Tax.

(b) The number of prosecutions launched is small but exact information is not readily available. Government prefer in such cases to resort to the levy of penalties under the relevant powers given to them.

(c) This aspect of the question will, Government believe, receive due consideration by the Investigation Commission which is being set up. Government will take a final decision on receipt of their recommendations. This however does not imply that Government have no machinery now for such purposes.

(d) The matter is engaging the attention of Government. But if there is an impression that the income of the firms operating in India with head offices in the Indian States is not taxed, I would like to correct it. Such income is liable to tax under the Indian Income-tax law and is assessed either direct or through a statutory agent.

SELECTION FOR RECRUITMENT TO ARMY.

798. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are being taken to attract the right type of men to the Army;
- (b) whether Government proposed to consider the question of associating non-officials with Army selection Boards;
- (c) whether applicants for recruitment are still classified under the categories of martial and non-martial races; and
- (d) the purpose of retaining the "Viceroy's Commission" as a designation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The following steps are being taken to attract the right type of men to the Army: (i) Personal contact by the recruiting and selection staff with Universities; Colleges and other Educational Institutions, influential men of different communities and civil authorities. (ii) Issue of detailed terms and conditions of service to all official and non-official bodies willing to assist in recruitment. (iii) Advertisements at suitable intervals in the leading Dailies, especially in the case of recruitment of officers and of classes and categories difficult to recruit. (iv) By displaying wall posters at suitable public places.

(b) Government do not consider that this is necessary to achieve the best results. Selection for the Army is done by officers trained in the technique of selection.

(c) No, Sir

(d) The question of changing the designation of "Viceroy's Commission" is under the consideration of Government and an early decision is expected.

REQUISITIONING OF LANDS BY DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, AGRA.

799. *Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Agra, served a notice under section 75A of the Defence of India Rules, in 1942 requisitioning certain lands in Agra Tehsil, which were needed for an aerodrome, and took over the said lands permanently in September or October, 1945, and undertook to pay compensation to the zamindars and tenants concerned;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any compensation has been paid so far for the permanent taking over of the said lands and if not, why not;

(c) if the compensation has not been paid, whether Government propose to expedite payment of the same; and

(d) if the said lands are no more required, do Government propose to return them to the original zamindars and tenants, paying them the rent due?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) No compensation has yet been paid owing to a difference of opinion as to the proper estimate of the value of the land.

(c) Steps will be taken to expedite payment of compensation.

(d) The land, or any part of it, cannot be de-requisitioned until the overall requirements of the Defence Forces have been reviewed. Rent will, of course, be paid for the period of occupation of the land by the Air Forces.

MILITARY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS IN HYDERABAD STATE.

800. *Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Mussalmeen in the Hyderabad State has recently called upon the Muslim students to give up their studies and to enroll themselves as a State Militia for military training?

(b) If so, have the Nizam's Government any right to do so to augment its military force in this way under the terms of the Agreement?

(c) What steps, if any, Government have taken or propose to take to see that the military force is not increased by the Nizam's Government during the period of the Standstill Agreement?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) It would be unfair to assume that Hyderabad Government is synonymous with the Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Mussalmeen.

(c) There is no reason to suppose that the Hyderabad Government will not honour the agreement.

UTILIZATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

801. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:

*Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have considered the possibilities of utilising the Ordnance Factories for augmenting and supplementing industrial production including specialised steel as well as machine tools?

(b) Have Government worked out any such scheme in consultation with the Ministry of Defence?

(c) What are the number of Ordnance Factories which have been closed down and the number of Factories existing at present in India and Pakistan?

(d) Are any Ordnance Factories established in India being shifted and transferred to Pakistan and if so, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes. The spare capacity of these factories is being used for the manufacture of a variety of articles against civil orders.

(b) The ordnance factories were under the control of the Supreme Commander until the 1st of December. The Government of India have become responsible only since that date. The Honourable Member will appreciate that there has not been time enough to work out new schemes.

(c) There are at present 16 ordnance factories in India and none in Pakistan. The total number of factories which have been closed down since the termination of the war is 18.

(d) No

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIANS IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

802. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of awarding scholarships and fellowships to Indians who are in the Commonwealth countries, for purposes of study and lecture in Indian universities?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question of awarding Scholarships to students of Indian origin domiciled in Commonwealth countries for study in Indian Universities is already under the consideration of Government.

No scheme is at present contemplated for awarding fellowships to Indians domiciled in Commonwealth countries for lecture in Indian universities. Government will, however, give due consideration to this aspect of the question also.

STATUS OF PAKISTAN CITIZENS IN INDIA AND *vice versa*

803. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the citizens of Pakistan are considered as aliens in the Indian Union and *vice versa*?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to fix a date by which the citizenship of Pakistan and Indian Union may be interchangeable?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LACK OF PUBLICITY BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN U. S. A.

803A. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to an article by Mr. A. D. Maul, published in the *Free Press Journal* of Bombay, dated the 29th November, 1947, under the caption, "India lacks publicity in U.S."?

(b) Are Government aware of the opinion expressed therein, "that India has been steadily losing in the United States on the count of publicity"?

(c) Do Government propose to augment their staff in the American Embassy on the lines suggested in the article?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The question of re-organising the Indian Information Services, Washington is engaging the attention of Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ACCESSION OF HYDERABAD STATE TO INDIAN DOMINION.

7. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad, has not yet acceded to the Indian Dominion;

(b) whether Government are aware that the property and person of the majority community in that State are not safe and persons belonging to that community are leaving Hyderabad State, due to want of security;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India to improve this state of affairs;

(d) whether it is a fact that many residents of the Indian Dominion hold property and carry on business in Hyderabad State;

(e) whether Government are aware that due to the present disturbed conditions in the said State, they are unable to go there and that there is a likelihood of their properties being taken possession of by the unruly elements in that State and their dues becoming time-barred; and

(f) what steps are the Government of India taking to safeguard the interests of their citizens there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies I gave to the supplementary questions on Dr. P. S. Deshmukh's question on the subject No. 649 on 6th December 1947.

EXODUS OF MUSLIMS TO HYDERABAD STATE.

8. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there was an exodus of Muslims from the Central Provinces and Berar to Hyderabad State;

(b) whether Government are aware that these Muslims are now coming back and most of them have left their families behind in that State; and

(c) if so, whether, as a security and precautionary measure, Government propose to search such Muslims on their entering the borders of the Indian Dominion and to keep a proper watch over them after their return?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) I am satisfied that the Provincial Government are alive to, and competent to deal with, the problem stated by the Honourable Member. I should also like to add that in view of the agreement reached with the Hyderabad State, the question has now become out of date.

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION SIGNED BY THE STATES.

9. Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to lay on the table of the House:

(a) a copy of the third form of Instrument of Accession signed by the States other than those mentioned in part A and B of the Schedule attached to the Instruments of Accession in form I and II, and already placed on the table of the House by the Honourable the Minister of States; and

(b) a copy of the list of such States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A copy of the third form of Instrument of Accession desired by the Honourable Member is placed on the table of the House. All the estates and talukas in Western India and Gujarat States which were formerly attached to Baroda, Bhavnagar, Chhota-Udepur Dhrangadhra, Gondal, Idar, Junagadh, Limbdi, Morvi, Nawalnagar, Radhanpur, Wadhwan, Porbander and Rajkot have signed this Instrument

Instrument of Accession

WHEREAS His Majesty's representative in the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relations with Indian States has exercised certain powers and jurisdiction in relation to taluka/estate.

AND WHEREAS certain of these powers and jurisdiction were transferred to the State to which the said taluka/estate was attached.

AND WHEREAS such attachment has ceased by reason of the passing of the Indian Independence Act.

AND WHEREAS I

talukadar/chief of the said taluka/estate am desirous that the Dominion of India should exercise in relation to said taluka/estate, all the powers and jurisdiction which were exercisable, whether before, during or after such an attachment, by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relations with the Indian States.

NOW THEREFORE I talukadar/chief of the said taluka/estate do hereby authorise the Dominion of India to exercise all the said powers and jurisdiction in relation to the said taluka/estate in such manner and through such agency or agencies as that Dominion may from time to time determine.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INTERVENTION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN NILGIRI STATES.

Shri Yedisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister in charge of States be pleased to state the circumstances which led the Government of India to intervene in Nilgiri States?

Mr. Speaker: The reply will be in the nature of a statement and no supplementaries would be permitted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On the 28th October 1947 we received information from the Orissa Government that the situation in the neighbouring States in general was tense and that in Nilgiri in particular there was a general state of lawlessness resulting in systematic looting of property, riots and clashes between various sections of the people. The trouble soon spread in the neighbouring District of Balasore. The position assumed such dimensions that the only property which was secure in the State was the palace of the Ruler and its immediate precincts which were heavily guarded by armed guards whom the Ruler had recruited from the Eastern States Joint Police Force. The State Police was completely ineffective, incapable and even unwilling to suppress these disturbances. Telegraphic and postal services had also ceased to function. On 31st October the District Magistrate of Balasore contacted the Ruler who pleaded that the situation had gone beyond his control. Some negotiations were in progress between the Ruler and the Praja Mandal and in order not to disturb them the Government of Orissa held their hands in the hope that the affairs would be settled satisfactorily, but the situation suddenly took a turn for the worse on the 12th November when a serious clash occurred in which fire-arms were used and a number of persons died. On the same day elsewhere villages were looted and a number of houses burnt down. It was clearly impossible to wait any longer and in order to save the State and the neighbouring areas in Orissa Province from anarchy and chaos it was decided that law and order should be restored in the State. The Government of India, therefore, requested the Orissa Government to ask the District Magistrate of Balasore to proceed to Nilgiri and

STATEMENT *RE* EMPLOYMENT OF GURKHA TROOPS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

restore law and order and take over the administration. On the 14th of November, therefore, the District Magistrate, Balasore, with the consent of the Ruler, took over the administration of the State peacefully.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion, but I do not find the Honourable Member in his seat. I need not therefore take it up.

The Honourable the Prime Minister to make a statement on future employment of Gurkha troops.

STATEMENT *RE* EMPLOYMENT OF GURKHA TROOPS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): I should like to inform the House that the discussions recently held at Kathmandu between representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Nepal and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, on the subject of the future employment of Gurkha troops under the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, have been satisfactorily concluded and a tripartite memorandum of agreement was signed on the 9th of November.

2. The documents signed by the heads of the three delegations include a number of detailed points on which further negotiations will be required to effect a final settlement, but the main principles have been agreed upon. The texts of the documents will not be published until these details have been settled. The main points on which the three Governments have agreed are as follows:

(i) Arrangements have been made for the continued employment of Gurkha officers and men in the Indian Army. The Government of Nepal have also agreed that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom may employ Gurkha officers and soldiers up to the number required to maintain eight battalions or their equivalent at peace time strength, on mutually satisfactory terms and conditions of service.

(ii) It has been agreed to transfer to service with the British Army all volunteers from the regular battalions of the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles together with personnel from their regimental centres who opt for such service in the referendum about to be held. The Gurkha units not transferred to His Majesty's Government, as well as the Gurkha personnel of the units transferred but who do not opt for service with His Majesty's Government will remain in the Indian Army.

(iii) Representatives of the Government of Nepal and of the Government of India will be present with the eight units earmarked for I.I.M.G. while the referendum referred to above is being taken.

(iv) The Government of Nepal have agreed that Indian officers will in future serve in Gurkha units. Nepalese subjects with suitable qualifications will be eligible for Commissions in the Indian Army.

3. The Government of India have agreed that Gurkha soldiers from regiments in the Indian Army, who have completed their engagements and do not wish to continue in the Indian Army, may join the units earmarked for His Majesty's Government in order to make good any deficiency that may occur in those units by Gurkha soldiers declining to serve under His Majesty's Government.

4. It has been agreed that the Government of Nepal and His Majesty's Government will consult together on the question of recruiting Gurkha troops in excess of eight battalions, but that such additional recruitment will not in any way interfere with recruitment to the Gurkha units in the Indian Army.

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

5. In connection with the employment of Gurkhas by His Majesty's Government the Government of India have agreed to grant to His Majesty's Government certain necessary facilities such as the use, as a temporary measure, of the existing recruiting depots at Gorakhpur and Ghum and the provision on mutually satisfactory terms of transit facilities, postal and telegraphic facilities, special foodstuffs, Indian currency and remittance facilities.

6. The Government of the United Kingdom have agreed to use the corresponding Indian pay codes and rates of pay as the basis of the scale to be applied to Gurkha officers and soldiers and to give an appropriate additional allowance during service abroad.

7. The arrangements which I have described fully meet the requirements of the Government of India. The willingness of the Government of Nepal to allow us to retain in service in the Indian Army the full strength of Gurkha units which we desired is another indication of the close relationship that exists between Nepal and India. The negotiations proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill and I should like to express our appreciation of the co-operative spirit of the Government of Nepal and of His Majesty's Government in the course of these discussions, and our special gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P. General): May I enquire, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: It has been the practice here that whenever any statements are made, no further questions are allowed.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Feroze Gandhi resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Feroze Gandhi resigned."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of one member to each of two Standing Committees for the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Commerce, the Notice Office will remain open upto 3 p.m. today and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Thursday the 11th December, 1947. The elections by means of the single transferable vote will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House, between the hours 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

MOTION RE FOOD POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Food and Agriculture):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Food policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration."

The food policy, Sir, is the result of certain war-time emergency measures which had to be taken during the course of the war. It will be recalled that before the last war commenced India used to import something like 15 lakh tons of rice, mostly from Burma. The effect of the war was not felt during the first two years so far as food was concerned, but when Japan entered the war and Burma was overrun this import of rice from Burma ceased and difficulty began to be experienced throughout the country on account of the cessation of this import. The Government towards the end of 1941 took note of the situation and ordered control of the price of wheat in the month of December, 1941. But very soon the emphasis shifted from wheat to rice and the Provinces particularly in the South which were deficit in the supply of rice found it increasingly difficult to meet their requirements. It became necessary, therefore, to take steps to meet the situation which was becoming more and more acute. *Ad hoc* action was taken from time to time by Provincial Governments or by the Government of India and movement of grain from one Province to another was restricted. Sometimes even movement within a Province was restricted. The Government appointed a Food Grain Policy Committee which made certain recommendations. The principal recommendations of that Committee were: maintenance of pre-determined price level, movement of supplies in accordance with the basic plan and lastly the building up of a reserve. The Famine Enquiry Commission which was appointed after the Bengal Famine endorsed these recommendations of the Food Grain Policy Committee and the present policy which has been in vogue up till now is based principally on the recommendations of these two Bodies. As a natural corollary to these recommendations Government had to restrict movements, to control movements, to control prices, and had gradually also to adopt action for the purpose of distribution, that is to say, something in the nature of rationing. Rationing was introduced first in the bigger cities with a population of a lakh or more; gradually it was extended to smaller cities with a population of 50,000; and ultimately it had to be extended even to rural areas. The areas in the South like the States of Travancore and Cochin which are heavily in deficit had to resort to rural rationing almost from the beginning. Rationing gradually expanded. It was hoped that with the end of the war many of the restrictions which had been necessitated by it would disappear. But unfortunately a situation developed, largely on account of the failure of monsoon and other natural causes, which not only made it impossible for rationing to be abolished but actually expanded it. And the biggest increase in the rationing area has really taken place after the end of the war in 1946 and 1947. I may just mention that in 1944 when rationing was introduced, there were only 26 million people under rationing; in 1945 the number rose to 52 million, in 1946 it rose to 100 million, and in 1947 before the partition it came to as much as 171 million. Now in India it is something like 148 million.

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

The rationing at its start was with a basic ration of one pound per adult, half a pound for children and half a pound extra for heavy manual labourers. It has not been possible to maintain this rate, and in 1946 the over-all ration had to be cut down to 12 ounces for adults, six ounces for children, and an extra four ounces for heavy manual labourers. But it has not been possible to maintain even this, and in 1947 in many places it has had to be reduced to as low as eight ounces or even less. In Travancore the over-all scale was reduced to 9.2 ounces from August, 1946; in December, 1946 it was increased to 10.6 ounces; in January to 10.7 ounces, in May to 10.9 ounces, and in July last it had to be reduced to 8 ounces and in August to as low as 6 ounces. From October it has again been raised to 8 ounces at which level it remains today. In Cochin the scale of ration never came up to one pound except for a short while in February 1945. Since then it remained at 12 ounces till July 1947, when it had to be reduced to 8 ounces and then to 6 ounces for some time. In August it came to 8 ounces and remained there. In Mysore the over-all ration was reduced to 10 ounces in July 1947 and to 8 ounces in October at which level it remains. In Madras the over-all size of 12 ounces had to be reduced to 10 ounces in and to 8 ounces in July 1947; but it was again raised to 12 ounces from August 1947 except in the case of rice eaters for whom it is 10 ounces now. In other areas also there were reductions in the over-all scale from 12 ounces to 10 ounces, as for example in West Bengal, in East Punjab, in Delhi and Ajmer.

We thus see that it has not been possible to maintain rationing even at the low rate of 12 ounces per adult; but there have been other difficulties too which have been experienced. The problem of rationing has created other problems; it has brought in its wake corruption among the staff, unauthorised agents and prevalence of black marketing and of ghost ration cards. For this purpose a special enforcement staff has been appointed in all areas; instructions have been issued to give exemplary punishments to offenders; in many areas mobile inspection squads have been appointed to make surprise visits; and a drive to unearth ghost cards, particularly in Delhi and in Bombay, has had good results. A system of checking retail shops by surprise visits has been introduced. Apart from this austerity measures have had to be resorted to. But in spite of all this it has not been possible to maintain rationing at the low figure of even 12 ounces, and difficulties have mounted from day to day. There are only two ways in which Government could secure the supplies that were required for meeting their commitments: Government could get them from internal sources and they could get them from imports. The difficulties in procurement from internal sources have also mounted; it is becoming administratively more and more difficult for the provinces to enforce procurement. Various systems have been adopted in the different provinces; some have adopted a system of levy, some have adopted monopoly purchase, while some have adopted a combined system of levy and monopoly purchase. But the difficulties have not been solved and in one case at least force had to be used even to the extent of shooting to enforce procurement. There has been a general demand from the provinces that prices of foodgrains for procurement should be raised. In pursuance of the policy which was laid down by the Foodgrains Policy Committee and endorsed by the Famine Inquiry Commission, the Government of India have tried to resist this demand for increasing the prices. It has to a certain extent succeeded but I cannot say that there have not been breaches. We have had to allow bonuses which are only another name for increasing the prices. In one case at least we have had to shut our eyes and allow an increase in price in the name of cartage.

An Honourable Member: Which province is that?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Bihar.

So while difficulties have increased our procurement has not increased much. The difficulty of import has also not been small. In the first place, there is an overall shortage of food in the world. The food that is placed at the disposal of the International Emergency Food Council is distributed to the needy countries by that international body. We have been making representations and we have been getting allocations from them. But our demand has not been fully met. We have only got something like say about 50 per cent. of our demands from the international body. But it is not only that we have not got what we wanted, but the prices which we have had to pay have gone on increasing. What we were getting at Rs. 10 a maund at the beginning of 1946 from Burma rose to Rs. 14 per maund in June of that year, and further to Rs. 17 per maund early in 1947. In 1948, the price that we have to pay is £38 per ton f.o.b., which comes to about Rs. 21 per maund landed in India. That is with regard to Burma.

The Brazilian and Egyptian rice is still more costly being at Rs. 26 and Rs. 24 per maund. Australian wheat has risen from Rs. 7 per maund in 1943-44, and if the negotiations that are now going on succeed, we may get it at Rs. 15 per maund. The Turkish wheat costs Rs. 20 per maund; Argentine maize has risen from Rs. 10 per maund last year to Rs. 13 per maund this year. Even these supplies at such high costs have been got only because our delegations and deputations have been running from country to country and making representations to them.

In order to meet the difference between the internal prevalent prices and the prices of imported foodgrains, the Government of India has had to pay a subsidy. The subsidy was sanctioned in April, 1946 and from April, 1946 to March, 1947 the amount came to Rs. 20.59 crores which the Government of India had to pay; and from April, 1947 to December, 1947 it is estimated to be something like Rs. 17.35 crores, and if it is continued to the end of the current financial year it will come to something like Rs. 22½ crores.

The price of the foodgrains that we have been importing is very high and the amount which the Government of India has to pay is tremendously high. Exchange difficulties have been mounting, and it is not known how long it will be possible for the Government of India to purchase this imported grain at such high prices to the tune of something like Rs. 100 crores a year.

It was because we felt that all these difficulties were mounting, our own procurement was not making as much progress as we wished, imports from other countries were becoming more and more difficult, we felt that something should be done to meet the situation.

I might just point out that with the expansion of rationing, the resources of the Government to meet the increasing demand for supplies, we did not have a *pari passu* increase in the supplies. As I have said, in 1944 the rationed population was something like 26 millions and the resources of supplies at the Government's disposal were 4.93 million tons from procurement, .76 million tons imported, total 5.69 million tons. In 1945, when the rationed population was 52 millions, procurement was 4.55 million tons, imported .91 million tons, total 5.46 million tons. In 1946 when the rationed population had increased to 100 millions, procurement was only 5.05 million tons, imported 2.1 million tons, total 7.15 million tons; and in 1947 up to September, procurement has been 4.17 million tons, imported 2.01 million tons, total 6.18 million tons.

This shows that a breakdown of rationing was inevitable because the amount procured and imported remained more or less at a constant figure, while the rationed population increased more than six times. It became inevitable therefore for the Government to take a stock of the situation and in July last

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

we had a conference attended by Provincial Ministers and others and the conference suggested that it was necessary to have some sort of an expert committee to advise the Government on this matter, and so a committee was appointed. The committee was asked to review the whole food policy, to make suggestions about the present programme and also to make recommendations as to how to increase production. It has made its recommendations on the first part; it has not yet made recommendations on the second part relating to increased production. The recommendations of this Committee were circulated to the provinces and conferences have been held with Provincial Ministers and Prime Ministers and after prolonged discussion, the Government of India has come to certain decisions which I understand have been placed in the hands of Honourable Members, so that they might study the decisions and take part in this debate.

It is not necessary for me to repeat the whole of the recommendations and I will just read different portions from the paper which has been circulated.

"The Government of India have decided that the existing policy should be revised and the revised policy should be one of progressive decontrol of foodgrains. Consistently with this basic decision of policy, the Government of India have advised Governments of provinces and States that they should progressively reduce their commitments under rationing and controlled distribution in the reverse order to the original process of extension so as to be able to withdraw and end all rationing and control as soon as may be feasible.

All the imports of foodgrains in 1948 will continue to be made by the Central Government only..... and the present Basic Plan arrangements will continue. Out of the quantities actually imported from abroad, not less than 5 lakhs of tons, and if possible up to 10 lakhs of tons, will be retained by the Centre as an emergency reserve. Provinces and States have been intimated the basic export quotas for surplus areas, and ceiling import quotas for deficit areas. Governments of surplus units have been asked to accept responsibility for procuring and making available the basic export quotas during 1948 and also to endeavour to make available as much additional grain as possible in the form of supplementary export quotas. Governments of deficit units have been asked to plan on the basis that ceiling import quotas will not be exceeded during 1948, and that they shall have to accept full responsibility for management of their food affairs without making larger demands on the Centre. They should also endeavour to reduce their requirements from the Centre as much as possible.

Decision regarding the prices at which procurement should be effected and foodgrains should be sold within their respective areas have been left to the Provincial Governments concerned.

They may fix the prices in such manner as may be considered by them fair and feasible in prevailing local conditions. * * *

In order to assist movement of decontrolled foodstuffs and for distribution of controlled foodstuffs by the trade within a Province or State, arrangement has already been made that movement of foodstuffs on private account will be classified in class II(b) of the Priority Schedule as against the present classification in class IV. Government-sponsored movements of foodstuffs will continue to receive higher priority as hitherto.

Since existing controls, their nature and their intensity, differ widely from area to area; the implementation of this policy will take widely different forms * * * (and so it has of necessity to be left to the Provinces and States.) It is fully recognised that the decision taken by the Government entails a certain amount of risk. The present policy is based on the expectation that decontrol would bring out more stocks than at present under control; and that these stocks would be distributed without serious hoarding or profiteering.

Only experience will show whether these expectations will be fulfilled or not. If they are, the country would gain immensely:—the pace of return to normalcy would be quickened, administrative personnel at present engaged on controls would be released for more urgent and productive tasks and there will be general public satisfaction. On the other hand should there be an outburst of hoarding the profiteering on the part of traders and large producers or panic among consumers, then the consequences would be extremely serious. While the Government of India consider that the risk involved in a policy of progressive decontrol of food should be taken in the larger national interest, they are fully conscious of the need for watching developments carefully and maintaining preparedness against possible emergencies. The Government of India have, therefore, advised the Governments of Provinces and States that the present food control organisation should be maintained substantially intact until the success of the revised policy has been assured. They have also been advised that existing arrangements of requiring holders of stocks of foodgrains to that out licences and submit returns should be continued. In order to watch the situation closely, the Government of India would obtain weekly information from provinces and States regarding stocks, procurement, prices and the general food situation. Besides the progress of the implementation of the revised policy will be reviewed at all-India Conference at Minister level to be held at quarterly interval. * * *

It will thus appear that the main decisions of the Government fall under four categories: (1) gradual curtailment of Government commitments by withdrawing rationing in the reverse order to the original process of extension, (2) to reduce the dependence on imports from abroad and to put greater emphasis on procurement within the country, (3) to give provinces greater freedom with regard to prices to be paid for procurement consistently with keeping them within reasonable limits for the consumer and (4) to watch developments and keep in readiness a reserve of grains to meet emergencies.

As I have said and as the statement which has been circulated to Members also states, it is recognised that there are risks. I think we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is a great deal of discontent against controls. Producers are dissatisfied because they feel that under control they cannot get the price which they ought to get and Government forces them to accept less than what they would otherwise get. Consumers, on the other hand, feel that they cannot purchase what they want and they have to be content with less than what they would like to buy if there were no controls and they have sometimes to put up with certain kinds of grains to which they are not used and the quality of which is not always of the sort one would like it to be. A vicious circle has been created by these controls.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Producers do not want controls, the consumers do not want controls. What about the merchants?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I will come to the merchants also. The merchants feel that they have lost their jobs and naturally they do not like the controls. So a sort of vicious circle has been created on account of these controls. There is a sense of insecurity in the public mind on account of the continuance of the controls. They feel as if there is something very wrong and any day there may be trouble. And so the producer does not feel inclined to market all that he would if he felt secure about the future. The consumer also, if he can manage it, tries to get as much as he can, so that he might be prepared to meet emergencies. And the trader, wherever he can, also tries to hoard. So all these factors combined together lead to shortage and shortage in its turn necessitates control. This vicious circle sometime and somehow has to be broken at some stage. Government therefore had to take a decision. After all wartime emergency measures cannot be continued forever and especially when we feel that our difficulties are mounting we had to take some decision and we had to take a decision even though

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

it involved a risk. We had to make a choice. The risk involved in the policy that is now proposed is that there may be a rise in prices. Let us not imagine that this rise in prices will effect all. At present we have a large population which is either under rationing or controlled distribution. But all this population does not purchase its foodgrains. A considerable portion of the population now under rationing comprises producers who produce more than they need. They are the surplus producers. Also there are producers who produce only a part of their own requirements and have therefore to depend upon rationing for the other part of their requirements. And it includes also non-producers who depend entirely upon rationing for their food. Any rise in the prices will not affect the first class which is of producers who are surplus producers. Any rise in the prices will not affect the second class which is of partial producers except to the extent of the deficit which they have in their food supply. It will affect the non-producers undoubtedly. These non-producers are not confined only to cities. They are spread over rural areas also while in the south rationing affects rural areas too, in the north, say in the U.P., C.P., Bihar and Bengal, rationing has not spread to rural areas to any appreciable extent. Therefore this element in the population which is of non-producers in the villages where there is no rationing today has to depend for its supplies on black market and it is already paying very high prices in the black market. Any rise in the prices of foodgrains as a result of decontrol, I imagine, will not be more than what is prevalent in black market.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mahtta (West Bengal: General): What about sugar? We are not getting a grain of sugar since yesterday.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I will come to that. As I have said, any rise in prices will affect the non-producer who is now being rationed. It will not affect the non-producer who is not under rationing today. The number of such non-producers who depend for their food on purchases made by them is not inconsiderable. It is difficult for me to give figures, but I can say this that their number is not small. In these circumstances the risk of rise in prices affects only a part of the population; it does not affect the other parts. The risk is there. But if we did not take the decision that we have taken we would have to face the other risk, that is of a complete breakdown in course of time. I do not say that a breakdown was coming today. But I have no doubt that with the difficulty of procurement, with the rising prices of imported foodgrains, with the difficulty of exchange and generally the administrative difficulties which have arisen on account of control to which I have made reference, a breakdown sooner or later was inevitable. That breakdown would be infinitely more disastrous than anything that may happen on account of rise in prices. The Government had therefore to take the risk and it has decided to take what it considers to be the smaller risk.

I have said that I do not anticipate that the prices will go to the heights of black market prices. In this I am to a certain extent encouraged by what has happened with regard to prices of oils and oilseeds. In March last oils and oilseeds were decontrolled. This was necessary because in large tracts of the country edible oil was not available at all, and if it was available it was available at very high prices. The Government had in these circumstances to decide to decontrol oil. The result was in a sense very satisfactory. I will give some figures which will show how the decontrol of oil has worked. In Bengal and Assam particularly, where mustard oil is largely used, oil was not available at all in many places, and wherever it was available the prices were very high. The controlled price of mustard oil in Calcutta in March was Rs. 57-12-0 per maund. But it was selling at Rs. 120 per maund. In many places it was not available. Oil was decontrolled in March and the

effect was to bring down the price from Rs. 120 to Rs. 68—which was only Rs. 6 above the control price. Since then the price has fluctuated and as the stock of last season's produce has decreased and is now approaching its end, the price has gone up to Rs. 72 or Rs. 73. It is even then very much less than the black market price of Rs. 120. In the U.P. the control price was Rs. 45-8-0 a maund. The market price was Rs. 55 a maund. It rose in November to Rs. 68. Now it is worth, noting what the effect of this decontrol has been. The U.P. is a surplus province so far as oils and oilseeds are concerned. The effect of decontrol has been to push up the price of oil to some extent in that Province, whereas in the Provinces which are deficit the effect has been to bring down the market prices. The disparity in the price between the producing and the consuming Provinces which subsisted before decontrol has become very much less.

The same thing has happened in the case of groundnut oil. In March the control price in Bombay was Rs. 37-8-0 per maund and Rs. 35-2-0 in Madras. Madras is a surplus Province in regard to groundnut oil, while Bombay is a deficit Province. The market price was Rs. 75 in Bombay and Rs. 39 in Madras at the time when decontrol was introduced. After decontrol the price in Bombay went down, in June, from Rs. 75 to Rs. 55, and rose in Madras from Rs. 39 to Rs. 55. In November it came down to Rs. 51 in Bombay and Rs. 41 in Madras. So in this case also the result has been a levelling down in the case of deficit areas and a levelling up in the case of surplus areas and diminution in the disparity of prices between the two areas. I expect something similar will happen in the case of foodgrains also.

Now I come to sugar. When a decision was taken to decontrol, gradually and in a progressive way, foodgrains, it was felt that there was no justification for maintaining control in the case of sugar which after all is not as essential a foodstuff as cereals. The control of sugar has also created a most curious situation. Under rationing everyone is entitled to a certain quantity of sugar like every other foodgrain. Many people who are not used to taking sugar have under the rationing system to take it. Many others who used to take more sugar formerly have to be content with the quantity that is rationed out to them. So, while on the one hand people who do not need it have to take it, on the other people who do need it do not get it. Those who do not need it pass on the sugar to the black market, and that is one of the sources from which black markets are fed. The price of sugar in the black market has been anything between Rs. 55 and Rs. 65 as against Rs. 21-4-0, which was the ex-factory controlled price till yesterday. I am not hoping that as a result of this decontrol the price of sugar will not go beyond 12 Noon Rs. 21 where it has been, but I am hoping it will be nothing like Rs. 55 or Rs. 65, which has been the prevalent black market price today. There has been also another effect of control of sugar. The quantity of sugar produced in the country has gone on decreasing progressively and the season 1946-47 has seen the lowest on record within recent years. We have had only 9,05,000 tons produced in India in 1946-47, or if you add the production in Pakistan, 9,25,000, as against more than 11 lakh tons which it had reached some years previously. The reason for this reduction that is suggested is that the growers have not been paid the price which they ought to get, and they have not been able to produce as much as they used to produce before. The quality of cane also has deteriorated leading to a fall in the recovery of sugar from the sugar-cane from 10.5 to something about 10 or below 10. It is suggested that if the price of sugar-cane is raised, the price of sugar will naturally rise because sugar-cane is the biggest element in the production of sugar. The cost of labour is also going to be raised. It was something like Rs. 22-8-0 before last year. This year in the United Provinces and Bihar, the minimum is going to be something like Rs. 45. The price of sugar-cane was 14 annas before last year. It was raised to Rs. 1-4-0 during the last season. This season it is going to be nothing less than Rs. 2. Now these elements are bound

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

to raise the price of sugar which will be produced in the season which is now commencing, and when we think of increase in the price of sugar, we should not attribute the whole of it to decontrol because the greater part of it will be due to these causes, and I do not know what part of it, but only some part of it may be due to decontrol.

All these considerations have led the Government to come to its decision. Within recent months Honourable Members are aware that Mahatma Gandhi has raised his powerful voice against control. That is sure to make the continuance of control even more difficult than it has been in the past. But I am hoping that the policy which the Government has now decided to adopt will in the same measure be benefited by the same powerful voice, and this policy has a better chance of success now than the policy which we are now giving up gradually. But we are not taking risks without making some arrangement to get out of the difficulty if a really difficult situation arises.

An Honourable Member: It is bound to arise.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, we have taken three or four precautions so that if a really serious situation arises, we may be able to avert it or at any rate to mitigate the effects of it. We have decided to continue the organization which is now in existence so that when we have to revert to control again, we may have the organization ready at hand. We have decided to build up a stock of grain which will be available in cases of emergency. It has been the recommendation of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, as also of the Famine Enquiry Commission, that this reserve should be built up. It has not been done up till now, but it has been decided to build it up this year to the extent of 500,000 to 1 million tons if possible. We have also taken the precaution of continuing control on traders by insisting upon their registration and declaration of their stocks from time to time so that if an emergency arises, the Government may be in possession of information about the stocks and may take necessary action to rush stocks from places where they exist to places where they may be needed. But while we are taking all these precautions, we also contemplate that in course of time it would not be necessary to resort to any retrograde backward step in the direction of control again. These precautions are taken only to meet emergencies if they arise. This new policy is undoubtedly a break from the policy which has been in force for some years now. A break has to be made at some time or other and it is much better that it is done at a time when we are still in a position to meet an emergency if it arises than when we shall be helpless and forced to abandon this present policy. In the course of these years such success as has attended the policy of control has been achieved by the co-operation of all. Let us not imagine that our policy of control has been a complete failure. Far from it. It has succeeded in a way which has attracted the attention and earned encomiums of foreigners. With all its defects, with all the other difficulties which I have mentioned, it cannot be denied that it has helped us in the past in tiding over crises which might well have overwhelmed us.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P. : General): It can help us in future too.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: If necessary we may come back to control in a more rigid form if that is forced upon us, but we must make a beginning to break it and that is what is proposed to be done in the new policy which the Government has adopted. We do not want to rush things. We want things to take their natural course so that ultimately normal conditions may be restored. When I have said that our policy has achieved some success, I must say that that success has been achieved by the co-operation of all concerned—officials of Government, Ministries in the Provinces, State Governments, the public at large, and last but not least, by the Legislature. We have had co-operation all-round so far, and I hope that in the new policy

which the Government is inaugurating today it will continue to get the same kind of co-operation and help so that the return to normalcy may be quickened, so that the emergency measures which have been necessitated by exigencies of war may disappear and the people in this country may begin to live once again in normal conditions.

I therefore do not accept this policy in a spirit of defeatism or of despair; I have accepted this policy full of hope, and if I get the co-operation, if the Government gets the co-operation which it has a right to claim and which it has received in the past, in the future also, I feel confident that it may succeed. More than that I cannot say; more than that you cannot expect anyone to say.

I am going to give up the Department with which I have been associated, to take up other duties very shortly. It would have been much better if my successor had had the opportunity of taking part in the decisions which have been arrived at by the Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Why not see this experiment through?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: but unfortunately we could not wait and decisions had to be taken. I have no doubt that the country and this House will realise that after all it is not a decision of an individual, it is the decision of the Government—although I cannot deny my own share in it which has not been small as I have been in charge of the Department.

If the country, if the Members of this House, if all who are interested in this, feel that this has to succeed, this will succeed. I am hoping that the producers will place larger quantities now when they get higher prices, when they feel that they are not compelled but are free to sell as they like. I am hoping that consumers will also put upon themselves some sort of a self-denying ordinance and will not, because of de-control, make unreasonable and unnecessary demands upon the stocks of food. Let us not forget that every grain that is wasted by a consumer means so much taken away from hungry mouth.

I have hopes that the trade will also play its part. If nothing else, its self-interest ought to dictate to it that it is not wise to kill the hen that lays the golden eggs. If this experiment fails unfortunately, there can be no alternative but a more rigid control which will eliminate the trade altogether. That will be one of the incentives if nothing higher counts, which will enable trade to play its part. But I am not counting only upon this; I am hoping and I have reasons to hope that trade will play its part honourably in this.

I am hoping that the Provincial Governments, the State Governments and all others concerned will so manage their affairs that dependence upon foreign imports will grow less and less. We are trying to encourage procurement by giving a bonus of eight annas per maund for every maund procured. We are giving an additional eight annas to every maund that is exported from a surplus area to a deficit area. On the one hand these will encourage procurement; on the other we are throwing a part of the burden which the Government of India has so far been bearing, of meeting the deficit between the imported price and the internal price, on the Provinces so that they may demand less and less of the imported stuff. The policy has been integrated in such a way that dependence on foreign imports may become less, more encouragement to procurement will be given, and in course of time we may come to a stage when normal conditions will prevail. Let me hope that this will succeed; and I hope the House will support this policy with all its strength and that the country will also give its fullest support.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That the Food policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration.”

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): Sir, it is rather difficult for me, immediately after the lucid speech of the Honourable the Food Minister, to raise my feeble voice in criticism, and even in partial protest, of the policy which has

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

been adumbrated today in his speech. I am one of those, Sir, who has, in this controversy, actually not been able to find my feet. I have been swayed with doubts one way some times, and the other way the other times. But when today we are taking a decision in this matter, it is well that I should speak out my mind and even express my doubts in order that the House may be in a position to make up its mind.

When we are taking into consideration the future food policy which our Government is to follow, we are, in a wider context, considering the question of control *versus* de-control. And when we as a Legislature are called upon to express our opinion in favour of de-control, I think we are taking a retrograde step. We are going against the trend of world-thought which is more and more inclined towards regulated, planned economy and controls over commodities.

Sir, as you are aware, the policy of *laissez faire* in the industrial and economic field came into existence after the Industrial Revolution of Great Britain, and for years on end that policy succeeded for the very simple reason that Great Britain was the first among the civilised countries of the West to achieve the industrial revolution and secondly because it was a country which had many colonies under it where it could dump its finished goods, with the result that in Great Britain every liberal minded person sang the song of free trade, free enterprise and *laissez faire*. The exploitation of colonial countries and the consequent inflow of wealth in that industrial country gave a fillip to the policy of *laissez faire*. But, Sir, a time came when a sort of saturation point was reached, when the colonial countries also began to develop industrially, when revolts and revolutions began to take place and when this policy of free trade and *laissez faire* brought into play all the forces of competition between nations and nations.

At that time, Sir, a great thinker, or rather, two great thinkers,—Marx and Engels—came on the scene. They put before the world a new idea. With a great vision they saw the end of that free economic enterprise and they placed before the world the idea that it will no more do for world economy to be carried on in the old way and that if the countries of the world persisted in that they will have to face damnation. The two world wars that we have seen in our life time are nothing but a result of that policy of free trade, free enterprise, economic competition and all sorts and manners of shibboleths by which liberal democracy flourished for about a century. By and by, Sir, the theory which Marx and Engels adumbrated was accepted by all the countries, so much so that even the parties which came into existence in order to fight the ideas of Marx and Engels had to adopt that policy of planned economy. The Nazis in Germany and before them, the Fascists in Italy started on the basis of planned economy.

Now, we have experienced the control business in our country for the last five or six years. The one reason—and it is a powerful one—which has been advanced against continuance of control is that the controls have failed, that they have given rise to corruption, that black-markets have been playing havoc with our national life and therefore the controls must go. This, Sir, is really a very poor argument. We have got law courts; we have got the Police, and yet the anti-social elements are at work. Do we, for that reason, propound the theory that all our law courts should cease to exist or that the police should cease to exercise vigilance over the society? There is no doubt that controls in our country have not worked so well, but when there is a scarcity of commodities, how can we think of ever living a life free from all controls? I for the life of me cannot understand it, Sir.

The Honourable the Food Minister gave certain figures in regard to oil seeds after de-control. To say that the prices will find a level which will be within the reach of the ordinary consumer and that the trade and commerce will rise to the occasion does not appeal to me. They have not risen to the occasion. 35 lakhs of people in Bengal died and the profiteers did not think of playing the game.

How can we today expect that after de-control the trade and commerce will co-operate with the Government and will give the society that co-operation which alone can bring success to this policy of de-control. If we accept today the theory of Mahatma Gandhi, if we accept today that we are nobody except trustees of the society's wealth, then alone can this sort of philosophic anarchism, which de-control is, can ultimately, succeed; otherwise, it cannot succeed, and I am afraid we shall have to revert to these controls. I am seeing before my eyes the effect of this de-control. We are bound to be caught in the rising spiral of inflation. Prices will rise; the labour will demand more; the Government employees will demand more and the Government will have nothing left but to go to the mint and print notes. We have seen the effect of it in China; we have seen the effect of it even in America. President Truman had again to go to the Congress in order to secure its assent for controlling the prices of certain articles, which he had de-controlled so we can easily see that de-control is not going to help us in any way. Of course, the controls have failed, firstly for the reason that we have not been able to control the sources of production. Take for instance the control of iron and steel. The men who were asked to manage this control system are the men from the two great Iron and Steel producing concerns in our country. And how on earth can you expect these men to manage your Iron and Steel controls? Take the Cloth control, for instance. About the Cloth control we have said so many times that there has been a leakage. Here is my Honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai; he can prove to the hilt that the leakages have taken place and yet we have not thought in terms of controlling the sources of production and now we say: "Let us remove the controls." I am against it, Sir, and I think it my duty to register my voice against this proposition that we can take back the society to decontrol. We cannot set the hands of the clock backwards; controls have come to stay; controls cannot be got rid off because unregulated unplanned economy can never prosper in this world any more and if the better organized countries have resorted to planned economy and they have to give the go by to this *Laissez faire*, then who are we to-day, in the year of Grace 1947 to think in terms of decontrol?

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Mr. Speaker, I have studied the Government's decision on Food Policy with the care which it deserves. I have read it over and over again, but the more I have studied it, the more I have been disappointed. I have never read a document so fraught with grave consequences which was supported by such flimsy arguments as are contained in the Government's statement. I have tried to understand the reasons which have led the Government to accept a policy of progressive decontrol, but I have found no reason which would support the Government's view that if controls were taken off the consumer would be in a better position to obtain the food that he needs at the present time. Sir, we find that even surplus countries are trying either to re-impose the food controls which were in force during the war or to maintain them. America did away with all food controls shortly after the war, but President Truman has found himself compelled to ask Congress to give him the power to control prices again. In Australia a Bill has recently been introduced in the Federal Legislature, the object of which is to continue the war-time controls in respect of food and in respect of prices, rationing, etc. It is difficult for anybody to understand how a country with a permanently deficit economy can afford to do away with those salutary checks which countries more fortunately placed have found it necessary to continue. I hear it said frequently that if only controls were removed there would be an appreciable increase in the supply of food-grains. Sir, a simple consideration would suffice to dispel the apprehensions that exists on this score. It may be that the removal of food controls may bring about a slight increase in the stocks of food placed on the market, but we cannot overlook the cardinal factor that statistically there is an over-all shortage of food-grains in this country. We used to import annually about 1½ million tons of rice from Burma. The discontinuance of the rice imports was responsible for the tragedy

[Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru]
of Bengal. According to the Famine Enquiry Commission, our food requirements are greater now than they were before the war, partly because of the increase in the population, and partly because of the higher standard of living to which people became accustomed during the war. Can we in this state of things be satisfied with the puerile argument that if only a few more tons of food which are sold in the black market were available to consumers, all would be well; our morals would improve and our material difficulties would disappear. My Honourable friend, the Food Minister in building up his case referred to the Provincial Governments and the consumers. It is stated in the Government's statement that at the Food Ministers' Conference, there was no unanimity on the question of the removal of controls. My Honourable friend is perhaps technically right, but my information is that when the exception of one Food Minister, all the others thought that the retention of food controls was absolutely necessary. Besides we know that the Food Minister in the United Provinces, speaking yesterday in the U. P. Legislative Assembly made it clear that the decontrol of sugar was forced on the U. P. Government by the Government of India.

Then, Sir, as regards the consumers, I do not know which class of consumers my Honourable friend had in mind when he said that they too were dissatisfied with the existing food controls. Of the English dailies, so far as I know, with the exception of the *Hindustan Times* all have criticised and disapproved the Government's policy, I cannot speak with the same confidence about the Hindi newspapers, but so far as I know, not one of these papers is enthusiastic about the policy adopted by the Government.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): You are wrong.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Such of them as have agreed to this policy have done so subject to certain qualifications. It is clear, therefore, that Government cannot plead that they have changed their policy in the interests of the consumers. Apart from this the figures placed before us by the Food Minister show conclusively that appreciable benefit is conferred on a large section of the population by the present control; leaving out those who are in a position to grow food sufficient to meet their needs wholly or partly about a hundred million people are benefiting today by rationing. I understand that the population of India even after its division is estimated to be about 845 million today. If we deduct from this the number of people who are able to grow sufficient food to satisfy their own needs we shall have to deal with about 245 million people. It is obvious, therefore, that a little more than 40 per cent. of the people, and not 10 per cent. as was claimed the other day by the Finance Minister,—are able to obtain their food at controlled prices. What will happen to these people in future I cannot say. I have taken pains to speak to many poor people on this subject, but they are all filled with the deepest concern at the prospect of having to pay higher prices for their food. Sir, if this policy were accompanied by suitable measures for a rapid increase in our food supply something might be said for it. The Food Minister some time back announced that Government were going to take step to produce 4 million tons more of food during the next five years. It is obvious that had he waited till the end of that period or had modified controls in proportion as food supply in the country increased he would have been on much stronger ground. But it is amazing that he and the Government of which he is an important member have decided to take action even before the recommendations of Foodgrains Policy Committee with regard to the future production of food have been formulated. We know nothing as to what action Government are going to take in this respect or what recommendations the Committee is going to make in this respect; even Government, I understand, are unaware of it. Yet they have been in a hurry to announce the policy of progressive decontrol, but so great is their concern for the poor consumers that they have impressed on the

provinces that they should fix prices bearing in mind the need for preventing an undue increase in the cost of living. Sir, in the face of the facts that I have placed before the House this pious wish is indistinguishable from self-deception or hypocrisy. Government are going to thrust a dagger into the consumer and are yet going to take care to see that not a drop of his blood is shed.

Sir, the Honourable Minister started his arguments by referring to oilseeds and sugar. His arguments in regard to oilseeds are so weak that I cannot imagine how a man of his experience and intellect can put them forward. The only way in which my Honourable friend could show that the prices of oil-seeds and oil had gone down was to compare existing prices with the black market prices that ruled while controls were in force. Now my Honourable friend should realise that the prices in the black market were high not because there was a large quantity available for sale but because it was small. Had unlimited quantities been available to the black-marketeers it is obvious that the price could not have risen to such heights. Now there will be no black markets but everybody will have to pay the high prices mentioned by him as compared with only a few men who had to pay them while the system of controls was in force.

Sir, as my time is up I will not trouble the House any more. But it is obvious that decontrol cannot stop with foodgrains; it will have to be extended to things like steel and cement and cloth and coal. Our transport system has still to face serious difficulties. If Government were going to decontrol coal at the present time, I should not envy the position of my Honourable friend, the Railway Minister.

Sir, inflation has already begun. The prices of sugar have been raised. Therefore, higher prices will have to be paid to the cultivator and to the sugar mill workers. Now the increase in the price of the sugar workers will lead to further demands on the part of workers in other industries and on the part of the Government employees. It is with the greatest difficulty that the Railway Minister was able to balance the Railway budget. The Finance Minister has in the General Budget left an uncovered deficit of about Rs. 26 crores which is bound to add to the inflationary trend in the country. If in this situation Government are going to be faced with demands for large increase in the salaries of their employees, it is difficult to understand how the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister will be able to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to them.

With these words I strongly oppose the policy that has been put forward by my Honourable friend, the Food Minister. With his eyes open he asked us to go back to the state of things that existed in 1942 and 1943. My Honourable friend referred to Mahatma Gandhi at the end of his speech and that is the real reason for the decontrol system that he has now adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member's time is over. I have already given him 22 minutes. It will not be fair to other members.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I rise to support the Honourable Minister for Food in the appeal that he has made. The situation of the Government is not an easy one. It is easy to have difference of opinion on a difficult subject like this, and Government have after a considerable amount of care and attention, launched upon a programme which agrees psychologically with the expectations of the people. There is the weighty opinion of Mahatma Gandhi and also the people are absolutely tired of black markets. If decontrol will raise the price, it would distribute the higher prices amongst a larger class than at present. Control is enriching only a class of speculators and black-marketeers and I should like that the prices should rise to benefit the producers as well as others. There will be something like uniformity and for this reason I support the Government policy.

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

I should at the short time at my disposal, deal with one or two aspects of a minor nature.

There is the procurement policy of the Government. That has to continue for some time. With regard to procurement, the policy of the Bengal Government has been—and it is said that they are acting under the instructions of the Government of India—to force down the price of paddy to a very low level, and it is said that it is insisted by the Government that the low level of price is essential because unless the price of paddy and rice is brought down the prices of other necessary articles will not come down. So in order to lower the cost of living and the prices of necessary articles, this forcible lowering of the prices of paddy and rice, it is said, is an obvious necessity.

Sir, everybody has been thinking of the consumer. The black-marketeers are squeezing them, but no word has been said of the poor lot of the middle-class cultivator who is the grower. They have to pay high costs of cultivation. They have to pay much more for the cost of the bullocks, their maintenance and other things and cost of cloth and other things is also high. In fact, they have been subjected to double pressure—one the pressure of forced low prices of their produce and the other the higher cost of living mounting up day to day. They have been waiting for several years for the prices of necessary articles to come down but they have been waiting in vain. I think it is a terrible punishment to have to be forced to sell their produce at very much below the market price and forcing them to suffer the hardship of a much higher cost of living.

This reminds me of a story of a young man who was very much in demand in the matrimonial market. He had a few patches here and there on his head indicating a slight tendency to baldness. A hair specialist was consulted. He recommended a hair restorer and said that this was a very effective remedy but it worked by two distinct stages. The first stage, he explained, was that all the hairs will fall off but it was a necessary preliminary. It only prepared the way for the second stage in the process when very luxuriant hairs will grow all over the head. The whole process would take only three months. The credulous young man took to the medicine and stuck to it for six months. Later on when the specialist saw him and asked him very expectantly as to the effect of the hair restorer he said: "it is a marvellous remedy so far as the first stage is concerned. But so far as the second stage of the effect is concerned, there is no sign of it." He took off his *pagre* and showed him that his head had become absolutely bald. It is needless to add that he lost every promising matrimonial prospect.

The position of the paddy grower is exactly the same. They were directed to submit to low prices in the hope that it would bring down the prices of necessary articles. They have been waiting and waiting like the young man but there is no sign of a fall in the cost of necessities of life.

The Government of Bengal should be asked, rather induced, to pay higher prices—the market price. That would benefit the grower, whose lot is a hard one.

Then again, with regard to this policy of selling the rice, I should make a distinction between the rich, the middle classes and the poor. In Calcutta alone there are a large number of jute mills which employ millions of workers. There are the tea-gardens in Northern Bengal. They employ also millions of men. There are the coal mines of Asansol. There are the iron foundries which also employ millions of men. These multi-millionaire concerns owned by rich business men, buy their rice from Government at very cheap prices at the cost of the growers and supply them to their men. These concerns, even now, pay a dividend of 30 or 40 per cent. The jute mills also pay 40 to 50 per cent., and the tea companies pay something like 70 to 100 per cent.: and in one or two cases

150 per cent. I submit that to supply them rice at very low rates by depriving the growers of their just prices would be severe injustice.

The second class of consumers are the middle classes. Their lot is also hard and there are of course the poorer classes. I suggest that in fixing the selling

I P M. prices this distinction between the paying capacities of the different consumers should be taken into account. The coal, jute, tea and other industries can very well bear the burden of higher prices. Rice should be sold to the rich concerns at much higher prices to offset the higher cost of procurement. There is no point in making the prices equal for all when it affects the grower.

These are suggestions which the Honourable Minister will kindly consider. With regard to controls they have failed. There is one kind of control which has however been successful and it has stood all tests. It is the control of debate in this House. In fact the Honourable Finance Minister was faced with several dozens of cut motions and they were reduced to about half a dozen and Honourable Members were made to finish their debate within two days. That control has been successful. The other control is under your control. It is the time limit for speeches. That is also very successful, barring one or two exceptions.

These scarcities have produced another good effect. Some diseases due to over-eating, such as indigestion, diarrhoea, dysentery, etc., are by now scarce. In these circumstances if there is progressive decontrol in the cautious manner suggested, I think the country should be prepared to bear the burden. If the proposed scheme fails then there will be all the more reason for making the control more effective and drastic. At least by that time we would have gained further and newer experience as to how the situation then stood and it would be good time to attack the problem with greater experience and newer vigour. The present system has failed and ought to go. With these words I support the policy of the Government.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I rise not merely to support the wise and judicious policy which has been announced by the Honourable Minister in Charge of Food and to denounce the most unfortunate speech which has been delivered by my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru this morning but also to pay an unqualified tribute to the Honourable Minister of Food. The walls of this House still rings with the echo of the speech which he delivered about two years ago on the food problem. That extorted the admiration of all sections of the House, Europeans and Indians equally. It showed that the Honourable Minister had grasped the situation thoroughly and having grasped it he set to work with a single-minded devotion which is his own and he has practically saved the country at a most difficult time. Whatever may be said of control or decontrol I think we are in a position to say today that man to man, status of society being taken into consideration, we are much better off today in India than in most countries of the world. I think I shall be voicing the sentiment of this House if I utter a prayer "May our Food Minister be spared for a long time to serve the country which he loves and which he had liberated from the shackles of foreign domination. May God give him health and vigour to continue as the President of this Free Assembly and the President of our Nation so that he may serve the country for long long years to come."

I was referring to the speech which my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru chose to make this morning. I think that something which happened in his house before he left for the Assembly had angered him and he poured his venom on the floor of the House. He asked where was the justification for the belief that decontrol will ease the food situation. May I ask him what are his grounds to believe that control which has been imposed so long has eased the food situation. It is neither control nor decontrol that can really solve the problem. Only production of more food will ultimately solve the problem.

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru looked askance at the decontrolling of mustard oil and mustard seeds. I suppose that he has very little occasion to come across persons who really use mustard oil in their food and who cannot do without it. Perhaps he is mostly concerned with those who take fats, ghee and butter and therefore

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: My Honourable friend is utterly mistaken. I use mustard oil too.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: But I can say with confidence and from my personal experience how decontrol has worked like magic in Bengal and Assam. Before mustard seed was decontrolled our Food Minister was attacked not by ruffians, *goondas* or communally-minded persons but by women, housewives and their daughters. His own office room in the Constitution House was invaded by them and ultimately he gave them an assurance that he would do his best towards decontrol and ultimately he succeeded in getting it decontrolled. I can congratulate my Honourable friend Shrimati Durgabai and others that they are now in a position of influence not only in their homes but abroad also.

My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru said that he had never heard a speech supported by such flimsy and transient grounds and he said that it was puerile to think that decontrol will bring more food. He said that the great famine in Bengal was due to stoppage of rice import from Burma. It is absolutely childish to imagine that stoppage of rice import into Bengal was responsible for the Bengal Famine. When people were dying at the doorsteps there was feasting going inside the houses. It was not due to stoppage of import of rice. It was due to the denial policy which was adopted by the Government at that time.

I am very glad that sugar has been decontrolled, not because I am more fond of sweet things but because everybody will now get sugar. Those who cannot afford to remain without sugar will be able to get the requisite quantity of sugar. I do not mean that only the rich will benefit. The rich are already getting their sugar. None of my friends on the front benches has ever complained about it. They will get the sugar by any means. Now, after decontrol, you will see, Sir, that the rich and the poor alike will get the sugar they want. What was the effect of the control? The rich men got not only their own sugar but also the sugar which is rationed to the poorer people. The poorer people who could not afford it had simply to put the sugar in the black market and were taking molasses. After the decontrol the richer people will get the sugar and the poorer people will be able to get their molasses which they were not able to get before.

It will be said, Sir, that millowners and businessmen will make a lot of money now. True. They made crores of rupees during the war period. But what happened? Scrupulous and unscrupulous income-tax officers had taken away the best part of it. Legitimate as well as illegitimate gains that they made were taken away—most of it—in that manner. The benefit of the additional income by this sugar policy may go to us. We may get some more temples, educational institutions and I think we may get a large grant.

All that I want to stress is that the Government must not follow a fitful policy, a policy which changes frequently. After all the success or failure of the policy of control or decontrol would be left to lie at the doors of the businessmen. If you say that if this policy is found to be a failure you will in a short time abolish it, then it will be a great temptation for the businessmen and millowners to make it a failure. I will say what happened in our own Province. *Dhal* was decontrolled in the early part of this year. After the merchants had brought *dhal*, the control was imposed with the result that they suffered a large amount of loss. Thereafter no *dhal* has been imported into the Province for same time. In Assam there is a movement, we have heard, to turn out the Bengalees. That silly movement has become a failure because that did not get support from

sensible people. But the scarcity of *dhal* has achieved the object which those who were interested in driving out the Bengalees from Assam wanted to achieve. The absolute shortage of *dhal* made the Bengalees in Assam consider whether they should remain there any longer. I do not want that the Government should by their policy turn away any community of people from one place to another. I would again urge that there should be no fitful or ever-changing policy in regard to this matter.

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 M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel a little embarrassed, after the Government has taken its decision and has come to the Assembly having circulated its decision in advance. No doubt the resolution as it stands says that this matter may be taken into consideration. Members of the Assembly would have seen that food control being a very important matter, special days have been devoted to a discussion of the subject during every session of the Assembly. We have been accustomed to such debates and we have been exceedingly pleased with the manner in which the Honourable Minister in charge, Babu Rajendra Prasad, has been dealing with this matter. No better exposition on this subject has been heard by me during my long course of stay in this Assembly for over 12 and odd years. No doubt this matter did not come up before three or four years, but there was no occasion for that. But the exposition of the Honourable Minister of the whole subject was so lucid and I take this opportunity of paying my humble tribute, and I am sure my honourable friends will agree with me in saying that if he gives up this portfolio, we may not be able to get an equally competent person for his place, who ever he may be. We therefore thought that during these hazardous days he would be vouchsafed to us to steer clear of the impending trouble.

I come from a part of the Presidency, Sir, where out of its 20 odd districts, 5 districts have unfortunately been denied the grace of God. Almost every second year it has been in the throes of famine. Two or three days ago the Minister for Food in Madras, the Honourable Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, said that the food position in Madras was still grave. Sir, according to Western standards, 16 oz. of cereals alone per day may not be sufficient. If we adopt the standards of nutrition that prevail in America or England or any other country, we must be able to take 22 oz. of cereals *plus* meat and other things which give enormous calorific value. In my part of the Presidency, they started with 12 oz., reduced them to 10, then to 8 oz., and in some parts of the province to 6 oz. per week.

An Honourable Member: 6 oz. per day.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, it has come out as a slip of my tongue, possibly it may be 6 oz. a week if this decontrol should come about. Probably unwittingly God spoke through my mouth. I am sure those who are interested in decontrol are three sets of people—The merchants are there. They want higher prices; the producers are there. They want higher prices. The foolish consumers are there. Many of us have to be saved against ourselves. By standing for long hours in a queue, a man feels disgusted, and he cannot go and stand every Sunday. He forgets that at least by standing in the queue he is able to get 8 oz. a day; otherwise, he, his wife and his children will have to starve needlessly. Food ought not to be compared with other things. It is not every man who purchases cloth every year. Some people go naked, practically with a loin cloth. Therefore it is not safe to compare the seriousness of the cloth problem with the food problem. You can do away with control of cloth; similarly in respect of oil seeds. The lower class of the community, whether in the north or in the south, who live upon *jowar chapattis* do not want oil. They

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]
 would have never seen *ghae*. There are millions of men and women who never have even a drop of oil to grease their hair. We may leave oil too, though it is an edible article and it will not bring people to the verge of starvation. Then as regards sugar. Sugar is necessary for children also, but man would not die for want of sugar. Take any other article. Man would not die for want of it. Can we make an experiment with cereals for three days, I ask? I ask any man to lay his hand upon his heart and say he can experiment with his life on this for three days consecutively. We are already enervated. Have we sufficient stamina left after all these years of war. War has devastated millions of us. Whoever may want to make this experiment? The Honourable Minister, I find, had not his heart in this matter. From his long speech I gathered that left to himself he would not have brought this about. I am not making any accusation. But this is a very dangerous experiment. Many other experiments may be made. I would earnestly appeal to him to do this within the four corners of the decision that has been taken. But for Heaven's sake, allow the provinces to take care of themselves. He has said the Centre does not any longer like to take all the responsibility of procuring and paying for the provinces. Is this a matter of rupees, annas and pies? After the 15th of August, our friends have been anxious to have a strong Central Government, to bring in every unit and make it feel part and parcel of the Centre. Does he want that the Madras Province should feel one with him and the richer province of Bombay? It has been contended that we cannot go on importing cereals at the cost of our valuable dollars, and that we want to reserve them for capital goods for the Bombay and other industrialists. I am sorry if I am to be understood as making any personal reference in this matter. I would sell away all my belongings if it is only for the purchase of food. Sir, I am afraid that China will be repeated here. The dark days of Germany will be repeated here when 10,000 Marks could not purchase a single cigarette. I do not know what will happen in this country. I know some of us have aligned ourselves already as protagonists of the agriculturists. My friend, Professor Ranga, has a very kind heart, but he loses himself sometimes when he has to press the need of the agriculturist as against the consumer. He feels the consumer is different from the agriculturist. If any person should think there is such a cleavage between one belonging to the town and the agriculturist, I will give up my profession and go and take to the plough. I am not going to starve. Some of us are agriculturists; others are industrialists; some others are in professions. The Government by decontrol are driving every man to starvation. Let them not take this step. Sir, I appeal to the House and to the Government not to take this extreme step. Wait and see what will happen; some time later push it on slowly. That is the only way in which it could be worked.

It may be asked, what is the alternative? My answer is, to build up a reserve of 8 million tons; and to proceed slowly thereafter. Let the Government make this experiment. For a huge continent what is a reserve of five lakhs of tons? Is it anything worth counting under the circumstances?

Sir, I appeal to this House and to the Government to stay this experiment at least for a year until better times come.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بہارگو: مائے سہکر صاحب! فوڈ کنٹرول کے معاملہ میں میں نے دو تقاریر ایک پنڈت کلزرو اور دوسری مسٹر بالکرشن کی سنی۔ اس سے پہلے مجھے یہ علم تھا کہ food کے decontrol کرنے کے بارے میں کچھ لوگوں کا ایسا خیال ہے کہ یہاں ہندوستان کے اندر supply اس قدر کم ہے جیسا کہ انہوں نے ظاہر کی ہے۔ میرے نکتہ نگار سے اگر یہ ہوتا کہ ہندوستان کے اندر food کی

supply اسقدر کم ہے تو میں یہ کہتا کہ ضروری ہے کہ control جاری رہنا چاہئے لیکن میرا خیال یہ ہے کہ جسقدر خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ ہندوستان کے اندر food کی supply کم ہے - اتنی کم نہیں ہے - میں پنجاب کے علاقہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہوں - اور مجھے یہ معلوم ہے کہ ہمارا Province ہمیشہ ایک Surplus Province رہا ہے - ساتھ ہی میں اس بات سے بھی واقف ہوں کہ South میں food کی کمی ہے لیکن میں یہ بھی جانتا ہوں کہ جو figures ہم کو دیئے جاتے ہیں وہ قابل اعتبار نہیں ہیں - اگر ان figures کو درست مانا جائے تب بھی یہ کہا جا سکتا ہے کہ خوراک کی زیادہ کمی نہیں ہے - گذشتہ بارہ سال یعنی سنہ ۳۶ - ۱۹۳۵ ع سے لیکر سنہ ۳۷ - ۳۶ ع تک اس ملک میں کھانے کی چیزوں میں صرف دو سال کمی واقع ہوئی - لیکن اس سے پہلے کوئی کمی نہیں تھی - میں جناب کی توجہ ان figures کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں جو کہ پچھلے بارہ سال کے عرصہ میں غلہ کے متعلق ہیں - پچھلے بارہ سال میں Total Production چوبیس کروڑ اٹھارہ لاکھ اور اگستھ ہزار تین تھی - اگر اس کا average لیا جائے تو سالانہ اوسط چار کروڑ اٹھارہ لاکھ اور پچھن ہزار تین بنتی ہے - سنہ ۳۶ - ۱۹۳۵ ع سے لے کر ۳۷ - ۱۹۳۶ ع تک imports کے figures اونسٹھ لاکھ اٹھتر ہزار تین ہے - اس کی سالانہ اوسط چار لاکھ ستائیس ہزار تین بنتی ہے - اگر ان دونوں یعنی Products اور Imports کی سالانہ اوسط کو جمع کیا جائے تو وہ چھپن کروڑ ستورہ لاکھ نو ہزار کے قریب بن جاتا ہے جیسے ہم اس نتیجہ پر پہنچتے ہیں کہ ایک سال کے اندر یہاں پر ہمارے خرچ کی اوسط چھتالیس کروڑ چھتر لاکھ اور پانچ ہزار تین تھا - جس پر ہم نے گزارہ کیا - جیسا کہ میں نے کہا ہے اگر Production کو لیا جائے تو صرف ہندوستان کے پچھلے بارہ سال کے Production کی اوسط ۳۵ کروڑ ۱۵ لاکھ پانچ ہزار تین سالانہ بنتی ہے - اس طرح سے یہ حساب لگتا ہے کہ سولہ لاکھ ستھ ہزار تین کی کمی اس اوسط کے مطابق ہمیں ہے میں یہ مانتا ہوں کہ پاکستان کے جانے سے ہمیں تقریباً چار لاکھ تین کی کمی اور ہو جائے گی اور اس طرح سے تقریباً بیس لاکھ کی کمی کی اوسط بارہ سال میں بنتی ہے کمی کے بارے میں گورنمنٹ کا خیال ہے کہ خوراک میں اوسطاً کمی چھ فیصدی ہوگی لیکن جو figures میں نے عرض کئے ہیں اُنکے مطابق صرف چار فیصدی کی کمی رہتی ہے اس سے زیادہ نہیں رہتی - یعنی اگر آپ Total Products اور Total خرچ کو دیکھیں تو معلوم ہو گا کہ صرف چار فیصدی کی کمی رہ جاتی ہے - جس سے یہ نہیں کہا جاسکتا کہ ہمارا ملک ہمیشہ کے لئے economically deficit ملک ہے اور ہم کو باہر کے ممالک سے غلہ درآمد کرنا پڑے گا - دراصل یہ figures جو کہ گورنمنٹ نے ہم کو بتائے ہیں unreliable ہیں - اور کسی solid basis پر مبنی نہیں ہیں

[پلڈت تھاکر داس بہارگو]

عام طور پر پنجاب اور یو۔ پی کے بغیر جو سسٹم Productions کے اندازہ لگانے کا ہے وہ بالکل ہی خراب ہے۔ بجائے اس کے کہ پتواری یہ دیکھتا کہ ہر کھیت میں سے کتنی پیداوار نکالی ہے۔ اور اس طرح سے خوب چھان بین کر کے Products کا تضمینہ لگاتا وہ ایک کھیت کو دیکھتا ہے کہ اس میں کتنی پیداوار ہوئی ہے۔ اور اس کے مطابق گڑوں کا نہیں تحصیل کا نہیں بلکہ سارے ضلع یا Province کا تضمینہ لگا لیتا ہے۔ میں یہ بھی گزارش کروں گا کہ پنجاب اور یو پی میں بھی جو سسٹم Products کا تضمینہ لگانے کا ہے وہ بھی Defective ہے۔ لہٰذا ہندوستان کے دیگر مقامات پر Products کے figures نکالنے کا بہت ہی برا سسٹم ہے۔ چاہئے تو یہ تھا کہ وہ دیکھتے کہ کس گڑوں میں کتنا خرابہ ہوا ہے اور پھر تحصیل میں پورا پورا اندازہ لگایا جاتا۔ لیکن اس کے برعکس چوٹی کسی ایک کھیتی کی پیداوار کو دیکھا جاتا ہے اور اس بنا پر ساری قسٹریٹ اور ضلع کے Product کا تضمینہ لگایا جاتا ہے۔ یہ سسٹم درست نہیں ہے۔

جلاب عالی! چلند سالوں سے گورنمنٹ نے Grow more food campaign

شروع کیا ہے۔ اور اس بارے میں بہت زور و شور سے کلم کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اور figures میں بتایا جاتا ہے کہ اس campaign کی وجہ سے اتنے ایکڑ بڑھا دئے گئے ہیں۔ اگر یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ cultivable land میں اضافہ ہو ہے تو یہ ضروری بات ہے کہ products میں بھی اضافہ ہوا ہوگا۔ کیونکہ جتنے ایکڑ زمینوں کو زیادہ کاشت کیا گیا ہے اتنی ہی تعداد production کی ہوگی۔ بڑھ گئی ہوگی۔ اگر یہ ٹھیک ہے تو پھر پچھلے دو سالوں میں supply میں کمی ہوئی ہے۔ سنہ ۴۳ - ۱۹۴۳ میں جو پیداوار یہاں پر ہوئی ہے وہ بہت زیادہ تھی۔ اور وہ اٹھتالیس کروڑ پچاسی لاکھ پانچ سو اسی ٹن تھی اس کے معنی یہ ہیں کہ جو average ہم نے نکلا ہے اس کے مطابق ہمیں چھتالیس کروڑ ٹن ہی ہسکو ضرورت ہے اور سنہ ۴۳ - ۱۹۴۳ میں اور جو ہم نے بارہ سال میں پیداوار پھدا کی ہے اس کے اوسط بہت زیادہ ہے۔ اور وہ اس چھتالیس لاکھ ٹن سے بہت زیادہ تھی۔ تو جلاب! مہری گزارش یہ ہے کہ اس گرو مور فوڈ campaign سے پہلے جو پیداوار ہوتی تھی اس سے ہم گزارہ کر سکتے تھے اور کوئی بھوکا نہیں دھتا تھا۔ اور یہاں پر کئی غلہ پیدا کیا جاتا رہا۔ اسلئے مہری یہ گزارش ہے کہ ہمارا ملک Deficit country نہیں ہے جہاں تک یہ ذرا ہے؛ پیداوار کا تعلق ہے۔ اسلئے میں یہ نہیں سمجھ سکتا کہ لہات کے تو کی ہے؛ لگتا ہے ہے؛ یہاں پر غلہ نہیں ملتا اور لوگ بھوکے دھکتے۔ دوسری بات جلاب! یہ ہے؛ کڈریبل ہے ہندوستان کے مورل پلن پر جو نقصان ہوا ہے اسکا اندازہ نہیں لگایا جا سکتا ہے کیونکہ اسلئے کی وجہ سے

Supply Department تجار و industrialist شوکاندار سبھی بے ایمان ہو گئے ہوں اور یہاں تک کہ producer کی نیت بھی خراب ہو جاتی ہے۔ اگر ایسا نہ ہوتا تو decontrol کی وجہ سے کوئی بھی بھوکا نہ رہتا اور تیسری بات یہ ہے کہ جب ہم کو یہ پتہ چلے گا کہ ملک میں واقعی خوراک کی کمی ہے تو سارے effort اس کے بڑھانے میں لگائے جائیں گے اور اسباب میں زبردست کام شروع ہوگا اس ملک میں اتنا خوراک پیدا ہو سکتا ہے کہ اپنی ضروریات کو پورا کر کے باہر کے ممالک میں بھی بھیج دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ لڑائی شروع ہونے سے پہلے ہم بغیر کسی کنٹرول کے زندہ رہتے تھے۔ لڑائی میں جو یہ کنٹرول کا سسٹم گورنمنٹ نے کیا اسی فرض سے جاری کیا کہ چیزیں گورنمنٹ کو control کی وجہ سے سستی ملیں گی اور باہر بھیجی جاسکیں گی۔ تو یہ انہوں نے اپنی فرض کے لئے کیا۔ اسکے علاوہ یہ کہا جاتا ہے کہ یہاں پر کھاد کی کمی ہے۔ امونیم سلفیڈ اس ملک میں نہیں ملتا اور نیٹروجن کی تربیت بہت ہے اور ہمارا ملک اس میں rich ہے۔ اور تجربہ یہ ہوا ہے کہ یہ یہاں پر آٹھ روپیہ فی من کے حساب سے مل سکتا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ ہم نے اپنی پیداوار کی چیزوں پر گہمی فور نہیں کیا جس زمین میں سات من گہیوں فی ایکڑ پیدا کیا جا سکتا ہے اس میں ایک سو اسی من گاجر پیدا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ تجربہ سے یہ معلوم ہوا کہ یہاں پر فوڈ کی کمی کو اسوجہ سے بھی محسوس کیا جاتا ہے کہ یہاں پر کنٹرول کی وجہ سے گورنمنٹ مدراس کے لئے گہیوں پنجاب کے لئے چاول تیار کرنے کے لئے چلا بھیج دیتی ہے۔ یہ ان ممالک کے foods نہیں ہیں اور جب ان جگہوں کے لوگوں کو اصلی food کی بجائے دیگر صوبوں کے food grains ملتے ہیں تو وہ یہی خیال کرتے ہیں کہ یہاں پر Food نہیں ہے ہم نے یہاں پر یہ نہیں دیکھا کہ صحیح نہوٹریشن کے لئے کون سے standard food چاہئے۔ حالانکہ اسباب میں بہت خیال کرنا چاہئے تھا۔ ولایت میں لڑائی کے زمانہ میں ۲۰ فی صدی خوراک کی قیمت میں کمی ہو گئی اور نیز nutrition انچھی اس standard کی وجہ سے ہو گئے۔ control کے متعلقہ سبب کا فائدہ ہے اور consumer کو بھی نقصان نہیں ہوگا بلکہ فائدہ دیکھا۔ اور چیزوں کی قیمتیں ضرور natural level پر آئیگی۔ جناب! یہاں دہلی میں چند روز ہوئے کہ ایک روپیہ سیر بکتی تھی لیکن اب control ہٹ جانے سے روپیہ کی قیمت سیر ملتی ہے۔ اسی طرح سے لوگوں کو ادنیٰ کھڑا نہیں ملتا تھا۔ اور کنٹرول کی وجہ سے اب چالیس چالیس روپیہ فی گز رہا۔ لیکن decontrol ہونے کی وجہ سے اب ہی کھڑا پندرہ اور بارہ روپیہ گز ملتا ہے۔ اگر ان چیزوں کی قیمتیں natural level پر آنے لگی ہیں تو کوئی وجہ نہیں کہ کنٹرول اڑ جانے سے غلہ کی قیمتیں

[پلڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

cultivators بھی کہیں natural level پر نہیں آئیگی - اور اس کے آگے جانے سے producers & cultivators کو کوئی نقصان نہیں ہوگا۔ یہاں پر نوے فی صدی انکو ہر طرح سے کنٹرول ہٹائے جانے کی صورت میں فائدہ ہوگا اور اگر تھوڑی بہت قیمت بڑھ جانے سے انکو فائدہ ہی ہو جائے تو ہرج ہی کیا ہے جو کچھ آنریبل ممبر نے اس کنٹرول کے ہٹائے جانے کے بارے میں کہا ہے وہ ملک کے لئے ہر لحاظ سے فائدہ مند چیز ہے - اسلئے میں انکی پالیسی کی تائید کرتا ہوں -

(English translation of the above speech.)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, on the subject of Food Control, I have heard two speeches: one delivered by Pt. Kunzru, the other by Mr. Balkrishna. Before this I did not know that in connection with Decontrol of Food, some of the people think that the supply of food in India is so small as indicated by them. If I had thought that the supply of food was so small, I would have advised for the continuation of the control. But I think that in India, supply of food is not so small as it is supposed. I belong to the Punjab, I know that my Province has ever been a surplus Province and I know this also that there is a scarcity of food in the South. The figures we have been given are, as I understand, also not reliable but, if these figures are accepted as true, even then, it is said that food is not so much scarce. During the last 12 years, that is, between 1935-36, and 1946-47, food has been scarce since 2 years only. I want to draw your attention to the figures about food which are available for the last 12 years.

The total production, in the last 12 years was 54,18,61,000 tons, and if its average is calculated the annual average comes to 4,51,55,000 tons. The total import between 1935-36, and 1946-47 for the same period are 59,78,000 tons, which gives an annual average of 4,97,000 tons.

If the annual averages of both Production and Imports are added it makes about 56,17,09,000 tons.

Thus, we arrive at this result that the average of our consumption of food per year was 46,76,05,000 tons on which we lived. As I have already said, taking only the average of annual production, for the last 12 years in India to be 45,15,05,000 tons, we calculate a deficit of 16,60,000 tons. I admit that with the separation of Pakistan we would have a deficit of nearly 4,00,000 tons, and in this manner the average annual deficit comes to about 20,00,000 tons during 12 years. As regards deficit in food, the Government is of opinion that it will be at an average of 6 per cent., but according to the figures, I have given here, there is a deficit of 4 per cent. only, and not more than this, i.e., if you consider the total production, and the total consumption, you will see that the deficit comes down to 4 per cent. only, and therefore, it cannot be said that our country is economically deficit for ever, and we shall have to import grain from abroad.

As a matter of fact, these figures supplied by the Government, are unreliable, and are not based on solid ground. Generally, the system of estimating production, except that in the Punjab and the U. P. is absolutely defective. Instead of the Patwari estimating how much each field has produced, and thereafter thoroughly scrutinizing it and then obtaining an estimate of the total production, he examines one field only and estimates its yield and then finds out the entire yield not only of the village, of the district and the Tehsil but of the entire Province. I would submit this fact also that the system of estimating the produce, in the Punjab and the U. P. too is defective. But, the system

of calculation of products at other places in India is extremely bad. The correct method was to see how much each village produced, and then it would have been correctly estimated how much each tehsil produced. But, on the other hand, the produce of only a small field is estimated and on this basis the production of the whole district, and even of the whole province is estimated. This system is not correct.

Sir, the Government has started 'Grow More Food Campaign' for the last few years, and a great enthusiasm is being shown for it. The figures are being cited to indicate that so many more acres of land have been brought under cultivation, under this Campaign. If it is a fact that the cultivable land is increased, it necessarily follows that the product also would have increased; since the more the acres of land brought under cultivation the more the produce of the land. If it is a fact, then why there was a deficit in supply during the last two years. There was a bumper crop of 48,85,00,580 tons, which means that by the average calculated by us we need 46,00,00,000 tons only, and the average of the production for 1943-44 and of 12 years is very large, and it far exceeds this 46,00,000 tons. Sir, I therefore, beg to state that the production before the introduction of 'Grow More Food Campaign' was quite sufficient to live on, and no body remained hungry, and here enough of food grain was raised. I say, therefore, that our country is not a deficit country, as regards food grains, and therefore I cannot understand how can there be any fear of scarcity of grain in future, and of the people dying of hunger.

The second fact, Sir, is this that the evil effect of the 'Control' over the moral plane of the people in India, cannot be estimated, because due to the 'Control', the Supply Department, the traders, the industrialists, the capitalists, and all others have become dishonest; so much so, even the producer has become evil minded. Had this not happened, none would have remained hungry due to de-control.

The third fact is when we realise that there is actually a deficiency of food in the country, all efforts on speeding up its production will be concentrated, and a huge movement will be started in this connection.

In this country, enough food can be produced, so that after satisfying the needs of the country, it can be sent out abroad. Before the war began we were keeping alive without any control. During the war, the control system introduced by the Government, was to enable the Government to purchase commodities at rates cheaper than the controlled rates and to send the same abroad. This was therefore introduced to meet their own ends.

Besides all this, this is also said that here, there is a deficiency of manure. Ammonium Sulphate is not found in this country, and Nitrogen too is insufficient here. In this connection I submit that there is a lot of Potassium Nitrate, and our country is rich in this. And we know from experience that it is sold here at the rate of Rs. 8 per maund.

Apart from this, we have not even considered what we are producing. The price of land which produces 7 maunds of wheat, is equally capable of producing 180 maunds of carrot per acre. From experience, it is found that in this country the insufficiency of food is felt because the Government is sending under the control system wheat to Madras, rice to the Punjab, and gram to Travancore. These grains are not articles of food of these parts of the country. The people of those provinces, therefore, conclude that they have no food.

For proper Nutrition we have not yet found out any standard food, though serious thought should have been given to this matter. In England, during the war, the price of food was reduced by 20 per cent., and the Nutrition ~~was~~ improved under the standard system.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

All will benefit by the lifting of the control, and the consumer also will not suffer loss but will gain, and the prices of commodities will come to the natural level. Sir, here in Delhi, a few days ago *dal* was sold at Re. 1 a seer, but now due to the lifting of the control the same is sold at 1½ seers per rupee. Similarly, the people could not get wollen cloth, and under control, it was sold at Rs. 40 a yard, but due to the decontrol the same is sold now at Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 a yard. There is no reason why the prices of the food grains also will not come down to the natural level, if those of cloth are coming down to the natural level. The cultivators also will not suffer loss. In India, there are 90 per cent. cultivators and producers who will be benefitted, in every way with the lifting of control. If they gain due to a little increase in prices, it matters a little. Whatever has been said, by the Honourable Minister in favour of lifting of the control is, in all respects, advantageous for the country. I, therefore, support this policy.

Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the end of the war we thought that we had come to the end of all controls. Today the Honourable the Minister of Food has inaugurated gradual de-control and therefore the whole country will heave a sigh of relief. Mahatma Gandhi raised the slogan of 'Quit India'; our Honourable the Food Minister has raised the slogan of 'Quit Control', and if we co-operate with him—the growers, the consumers, the traders and the legislators—in the new policy enunciated by him, it will be a success. Mahatma Gandhi believes in decentralisation both in economy and in administration. We therefore do not want control. We know that this control only helped a small percentage of our population. It helped only the industrial population and the urban population. It did not help the growers. All the subsidy that was given by the Government of India to the extent of Rs. 20 crores or 22 crores went to the consumers and not to the growers. The present food policy enunciated by the Honourable the Food Minister will help the growers. The Provincial Governments will not get as much cereal as they had been getting. The commitments of the India Government will be less and India Government will pay a procurement bonus of As. 8 a maund. This will help the growers. They will purchase manures and other things.

Coming to the Provincial Governments, Sir, they should also get more help in the shape of small minor irrigation schemes. More impetus should be given to the 'Grow More Food Campaign'. The G.M.F.C. of the former Government miserably failed. It could not grow anything. It only grew food on leaflets, pamphlets and posters. Today the food policy enunciated by the Honourable the Food Minister is a revolutionary policy, because we want a decentralised system of economy in our country, and to make it successful we want de-control. We shall have one full year's time. We shall be able to grow more food during this time and then we shall see whether Mahatma Gandhi's de-control cry is a false cry or a true cry. As Indians we are individualistic as the Chinese are. In China the control system has absolutely failed. Here also it has failed. There has been bribery; there has been corruption and so many other anti-social things. It has failed because the Indian genius is against all kinds of controls. Therefore, I support the food policy enunciated by the Honourable the Food Minister. I hope our country will stand by his side and help him. I know he will not be here. But he will lead us outside as the President of the Indian National Congress and this is a work which the Indian National Congress will also take up. The All-India Congress Committee announced a new policy of gradual de-control in its Resolution. When we go back to our constituencies I hope we shall follow that new programme and make de-control a success.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, it is rather difficult to say in any definite manner anything about the exploratory food policy

initiated so lucidly by Honourable the Food Minister. However looking to the present practical consideration before the country, I have no hesitation in according my qualified support to this policy in view of the assurance given by Honourable the Food Minister that if there is any sign of breakdown of that policy, he or the Government would have no hesitation in imposing rigorous and rigid control, particularly if the traders would not play a fair game. This policy has come before us as a result of the agitation of the producers as also by the traders. The producers wanted more prices; Of course the traders have lost their trade and naturally they want de-control with a view to profit-

3 P.M. ing; and this policy appears to be based on the assumption that the country has got more food at its disposal, but it is not coming out and, therefore, Sir, I said that this is an exploratory policy to explore if there is really more food which the cultivator is not out to make available to the citizens who are non-producing. The House, no doubt, knows that in this country there are not less than about 100 million non-producers and they are more or less equally divided between the rural areas and the urban areas. If the prices were to go up, and it is feared that the prices may go up to some extent, the situation may call for consideration by the Government. The producers today want more prices; at the same time they also require agricultural labour to produce and ultimately agricultural labour will get better wages and higher prices they may get will thus be neutralized. Therefore, Sir, taking all these into consideration, the Honourable the Food Minister has stated that there is some hope of success and so I would consider his policy as a policy of suppressed or restrained optimism. Let us hope that this optimism may be fulfilled.

Now, Sir, Pandit Kunzru and some other Honourable friends have discussed this matter and have stated that this is a retrograde policy and it is against the accepted canons of present day economic philosophy in the world. Let us see to what extent it is true. I can certainly understand the economic control provided that control is evolved in this country with a plan, scheme and consideration. Has this policy of the control of food come into this country as a result of any planning, any scheme and any future consideration? No, Sir. This policy has developed in this country as a result of war, scarcity and-as a result of artificial scarcity and it has grown as we have already seen in a haphazard way. We have seen throughout the last 3½ years that some Provinces have got their own prices, some provinces have got their ban on certain food products; sometimes the Government of India has accepted that as an accomplished fact without consideration as to what it is or what it is not. If the country wants to embark on a controlled economy with a view to control the profiteers and the interest or the dividend, it would have to be a whole integrated planning. You cannot have the controlled planning only in the matter of food. It has been stated that the food policy has failed. There have been difficulties, I know particularly for the high class of people who used to get very high quality of commodities and materials and there have been some black-marketing. Let us not, while criticising this food policy forget that the black-marketing as far as food was concerned was negligible compared to the industrial products, because, after all, this black marketing also was the result of the black marketing in the industrial products. Let us see how many people have bought food in the black market. As I have stated, Sir, there are about 100 million non-producers, out of which I should say that more than 99 millions must have purchased their requirements at the prices fixed and very negligible rich persons would have gone in the black market. After all in a city, in the urban areas it is the rich people who indulge in that marketing and their number may hardly be 5 per cent. of the total number. When compared to the black market in other industrial products like cloth or steel or cement or even sugar, I think the food policy has to a certain extent succeeded.

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

I give my qualified support to this policy in view of the fact that we want more food and there has been a cry round about the country that the producer is not giving the food. Let us try this; we want more food and I think the Government has come to this conclusion in order to see if we are able to produce more food.

Another important matter which I would like to place before the House is that if the prices will go up, as it is apprehended, there will be some sort of industrial unrest. Though most of the workers working in the factories are today getting dearness allowance according to the rise in the cost of living, I must admit and confess that during the last ten years even though the workers have got high money wages, their real wages have gone down. Somebody has raised the question that the standard of living has gone up; I do not agree with that, because the dearness allowance that they are getting does not fully equalize the rise in the cost of living and therefore Sir, may I suggest to the Honourable the Food Minister that it is in the interest of the national economy just at present to see that as far as cities are concerned, the prices should not go up in the matter of food. The Honourable Minister may say: "Where am I going to get the funds?" I may suggest that the industries may be called upon to give a levy to the Government, because if the prices will go up as the dearness allowance is correlated with the rise in the cost of living to that extent he may be able to save the large increase in the dearness allowance and this is a useful source of income which may stabilize our economy to some extent.

With these words, Sir, I have not the slightest hesitation in supporting the food policy enunciated by the Government of India, but at the same time, Sir, I must warn the Government and the Honourable the Food Minister, in the concluding paragraph of his food policy he has very clearly stated that there is risk and the Government is aware of the risk and they will see how the policy is going to be worked out by holding frequent conferences and if there is the slightest sign of the breakdown of the present policy, he would have no hesitation in imposing rigorous control, this present Government is the first democratic Government in this country and that as far as food is concerned, no Government much less the existing one can take any risk. I hope that this risk will not be taken and let us hope the country may not have to face any risk.

श्री अयनारायण व्यास : सभापति जी, जो वक्तव्य हमारे माननीय फूड

मिनिस्टर साहब ने कंट्रोल के बारे में दिया है, उसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि हमारी जनकारी के लिए बहुत रूपेण मसले हैं लेकिन साथ ही साथ इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि हमारे कहने के लिए भी बहुत सारे मसले हैं, और मैं समझता हूँ जो बातें मेरे पूर्व वक्ता ने भाई खंडू भाई देसाई ने कही हैं उस डेमोक्रेसी (Democracy) का समर्थन तब ही होगा जब हम इस कंट्रोल की पोलिसी का पोस्टमार्टम (Post mortem) करें, अभी यह साफ़ तरीके से मालूम नहीं हुआ है कि आया यह डी-कंट्रोल है या री-कंट्रोल है, लेकिन यह बात जरूर कही जाती है कि यह कंट्रोल युद्ध की वजह से चालू किया गया था और चूंकि अब युद्ध नहीं है इसलिए इस कंट्रोल की पोलिसी को हमें खत्म करना चाहिये और पड़ेगा, युद्ध नहीं है यह कहना तो ठीक है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में अभी युद्ध है, काशमिर में जो युद्ध हो रहा है वह एक किस्म का युद्ध है और वह खत्म होता देखता नहीं है, इसके साथ ही साथ जो अलग-अलग तत्व हैं वह युद्ध कर रहे हैं अभी गरीबों के साथ युद्ध कर रहे हैं और हर प्रकार से षडयन्त्र करने की

कोशिश कर रहे हैं। चीनी पर से कंट्रोल हटता देखते ही शूगर सैन्डीकेट ने एक किस्म से बार कर दी है, पहिले २१ रुपया प्रति मन का भाव था मगर जब कंट्रोल उठ जाने की खबर मिली तो उन लोगों ने ३५ रुपया प्रति मन का भाव कर दिया। साथ ही साथ युद्ध हिन्दुस्तान के लिए नहीं था बल्कि युद्ध का असर दूसरे मुल्कों पर भी पड़ा, इसका असर इंग्लैंड के ऊपर पड़ा, अमेरिका के ऊपर पड़ा और कनैडा के ऊपर पड़ा लेकिन अभी वहां कंट्रोल का सिलसिला जारी है, इसके बारे में हमें थोड़ा-सा ध्यान देना पड़ेगा, हम देखते हैं कि इंग्लैंड में अभी तक कंट्रोल है और वह उठाया नहीं गया है और वहां कंट्रोल जारी है, कनैडा और आस्ट्रेलिया में जहां कि अनाज बहुत पैदा होता है वहां कीमतों पर कंट्रोल है और वहां भी अभी तक कंट्रोल नहीं उठाया गया है, बेशक अमेरिका में कंट्रोल उठा लिया गया है, अमेरिका में लड़ाई के पहिले जो अनुपात था वह १४८ था और अब वह १६१ आ गया है, और वहां यह कोशिश जारी है कि जो डी-कंट्रोल हो गया है उसको उठाया जाय, इन हालातों में जब हम कंट्रोल को उठाये तो इससे पहिले हमें थोड़ी सी बातों की तरफ ध्यान देना पड़ेगा, इसके उठाने से हम सैल्फ़ साफ़िसैन्ट (Self sufficient) हो जायेंगे मगर यह डर है कि हम सैमी स्टारविंग (Semi starving) या डाइंग (Dying) में न पहुँच जाय, इसलिए हमें इस बात की तरफ ध्यान देना होगा कंट्रोल के सिलसिले में दूसरी जगहों और इलाकों में इसका क्या असर हुआ और क्या नुकसान उठाना पड़ा, चूँकि मैंने कंट्रोल देखा है और उसका अनुभव जानता हूँ, स्टेट में खास तौर से कंट्रोल का सिलसिला किस तरह से होता है, स्टेटों में इस जमाने में ५ फी एकड़ जमीन का घर है, दरअसल स्टेटों में जिस तरह से कंट्रोल किया जाता है वह कहने लायक नहीं है, मैं जोधपुर का रहने वाला हूँ वह जागीरदार सब बोरे के बोरे शक्कर अपने कब्जे में कर लेते हैं और किसी भाव अपने दोस्तों को देते हैं वे सामन्त लोगों के पास शक्कर चली जाती है और वे लोग किसी भाव उसको बेचते हैं, अनाज जो आता है तो सबसे अच्छा अनाज वे जागीरदार लोग अपने मित्रों को दे देते हैं और अन्त में जो खराब बच जाता है गरीबों को मजबूरन लेना पड़ता है, और उन गरीबों को ज्यादा दाम देने पड़ते हैं, वह कंट्रोल नहीं था बल्कि एक मखौल था। कंट्रोल कोई बुरी चीज नहीं थी बल्कि उस चीज पर कंट्रोल अच्छी तरह से नहीं किया गया अगर कंट्रोल को अच्छे तरीके से काम में लाया जाता तो यह चीज नहीं होती।

मैं आप से यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि स्टेट में इस कंट्रोल को एक वैपन (weapon) में की तरह से इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा था, हमारे स्टेट में जागीरदारों को ४ बोरे इस कंट्रोल की वजह से मिल जाते हैं। वकील को ३ बोरे और इस तरह से लोगों के लिए पर कैपिटा (*per capita*) काटो बंधा हुआ है, मगर गांव वालों के लिए जो पर कैपिटा (*per capita*) है वह उन लोगों को नहीं मिलता है।

Shri A. P. Pattani: Is the Honourable member speaking for all the states ?

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : हां में सब रियासतों के बारे में कह रहा हूं कि जो पर-कंपिटा लोगों को मिलता था वह नहीं बांटा गया, भावनगर में भी यह बात हुई है और मैं चैलेंज देकर यह बात कहता हूं।

जनाब वाला, दरअसल चीज यह है कि कंट्रोल की जरूरत उस जगह नहीं पड़ती है जहां पर चीज बहुत ज्यादा पैदा होती है, जैसे कि पंजाब में अनाज बहुत पैदा होता है इसलिए वहां बगैर कंट्रोल के काम चल जाता है, लेकिन जिस जगह चीज कम पैदा होती है जैसे कि मद्रास और बम्बई में वहां कंट्रोल की जरूरत रहती है। कंट्रोल की वजह से इन प्रांतों में जनता को बहुत फायदा हुआ है और उनकी रक्षा भी हो गई है, अगर इन जगहों से कंट्रोल हटा दिया गया तो वहां बहुत से लोग भूखों से मर जायेंगे और यह चीज ऐसी ही होगी जैसे भीत में से जान उठा ली गई हो। इसलिए उन इलाकों से जहां अनाज की कमी है कंट्रोल को न उठाया जाय, लेकिन दो जगह दो नीति नहीं हो सकती हैं, जैसा कि अभी फरमाया गया है कि अगर यह कामयाब साबित नहीं होगा तो हम फिर कंट्रोल कर देंगे तो क्या यह बात सम्भव है ? जैसा कि अभी इस भवन में बतलाया गया कि हमको अपने फीगर्स (figures) पर भरोसा है, मगर पंजाब से जहां से हमको काफी गेहूं मिलता था जब वह हमारे हाथ से चला गया है तो हमको किस बात पर भरोसा करना होगा, लेकिन कल्पना करना बहुत मुमकिन है खतरे से खाली नहीं होगा मगर अगर गवर्नमेंट इस कंट्रोल को करती है तो यह डेमोक्रेसी (Democracy) के खिलाफ है। अगर हमको इस में कामयाबी नहीं हुई और हमको फिर भी कंट्रोल करना पड़ा तो बहुत मुमकिन है कि यह सिस्टैमिक डेथ (systematic Death) हो जायगी और कुछ नहीं होने वाला है।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Jai Narain Vayas (Jodhpur State): Mr. Speaker: There is no doubt that the speech which the Honourable the Minister of Food has delivered in connection with the control Policy contains many adages which have been added to our knowledge. But at the same time there are undoubtedly many problems which are to be discussed by us. And I realize that we could only support this democracy which has been referred to by my previous speaker Shri Khandubhai Desai when we perform the post-mortem operation of this control policy. It has not yet been clearly understood whether this is de-control or re-control. But it must be said that this control was introduced on account of war. And now because there is no war, therefore, we should end this policy of control, and we shall have to do this. It is correct to say that there is no war. But I think that war still exists in India. The fight which is going on in Kashmir is a sort of War and it does not seem to end. Along with this there is a tug of war between separatist elements. The capitalists are at war with the poor, and they are trying to machinate in every possible manner. On the removal of control on sugar, the Sugar Syndicate has waged some sort of war. Formerly the rate was Rs. 21 per maund, but when the news regarding decontrol were received, then these people raised the price to Rs. 35 per maund. At the same time the war did not concern India only, but it had its effect on other countries also. It affected England, America and Canada, but the control system is still

existing there. We shall have to devote some attention to this. We know that control still exists in England and it has not been removed and it is continuing there. In Canada and Australia where the foodgrains are abundantly grown there is the price-control and there too the control has not as yet been withdrawn. No doubt the control has been removed in America. The ratio that was existing in America before war was 148 and now it has risen upto 191. And on the contrary, efforts are being made there that the decontrol should be removed. Under these circumstances, when we remove the control, we shall have to examine a few things. By its removal we will become self-sufficient but it is apprehended lest we may not be driven towards the semi-starvation or dying state. Therefore, we shall have to think over this matter—what has been the repercussion of control in other places and spheres and what loss has had to be sustained? I have seen control and have a personal experience of it. What is the particular type of control arrangement in force in the states? In the states now-a-days a house covers 5 acres of land. In fact I am not able to describe the manner in which the control is enforced in the states. I belong to Jodhpur. There the landlords keep all the bags of *shakar* in their possession and give it to their friends at any rate. This sugar goes into the hands of feudal landlords and they sell it at the desired rate. The best portion of the foodgrains that are produced are made over by the landlords to their friends; and ultimately the poor are compelled to purchase the balance that remains and these poor people are obliged to pay more prices. That was not a control but merely a hoax. Control was not a bad thing, but no proper control was imposed. Had the control been worked in a better way, then this state of affairs would not have arisen.

I was just telling you that this control was being used like a weapon in the state. In our state the landlords get 4 bags and pleaders 3 bags as a result of this control, and in this way the *per capita* quota is fixed. But the villagers are not able to get the *per capita* quota fixed for them.

Shri A. P. Pattani: Is the Honourable Member speaking for all the states?

Shri Jai Narain Vayas: Yes. I am speaking in respect of all the states that the *per capita* quota that was allotted to the people had not been distributed. This has happened in Bhavnagar also and while saying this I give a challenge.

Sir, as a matter of fact the necessity of control does not arise in a place where the commodity is abundantly produced. Take the case of Punjab which produces bumper harvests and there the control can be dispensed with. But the necessity of control remains in the case of deficit areas where the production is low as in Bombay and Madras. The people in these Provinces have been considerably benefitted on account of control and they have been saved also. If the control is removed from these places, then many people will die of starvation there. And this will mean an untimely death for them. Therefore, the control should not be removed from those places where there is a shortage of foodstuffs. But there cannot be different policies for different places. Just as it has been stated now that if this policy is not proved successful, we will reimpose control. Is it possible then? Just as it has been told in this House that we are depending on our figures (estimates), but on what source shall we have to depend when we have lost Punjab from where we could get sufficient foodstuff. But it is very likely that this assumption will not be free from risk. But if the Government imposes this control it is against democracy. If we do not succeed in this and have again to resort to remove decontrol, then it would result in 'systematic death'. And nothing else will happen.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Sir, I must confess that knowing the Honourable Food Minister as I do, knowing how great a disciple he is of Mahatma Gandhi and how greatly he is devoted to him, I was afraid that the statement of Government policy would be worse than what I found. I think he has tried to find a middle course between two dilemmas of irresistible force

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

and irremovable mass. On the one side, while the dictation of the Mahatma could not be disregarded, the apprehensions which his advisers felt and the facts and figures presented to him could also not be ignored. It is very essential that while we are considering the food situation, we should try and understand the background.

The first background which must be taken into consideration is that the cultivator is better off. He gets a better price for his produce with the result that in order to meet his requirements he need not now sell as much as he was forced to sell in the days of low prices. He consumes more himself. That is the first change in the situation which you must take into account.

Then the second factor which you cannot ignore is that your population is growing every day, and the means of increasing production—I mean available virgin soil or the soil which can be improved by means of irrigation or other methods—is not keeping pace. Therefore, there is always a lag between the requirements and the production, just as there is usually a lag between the wages and the rising prices.

The third item which must not be disregarded is, that it is not necessary for a country that it should be self-sufficient in the matter of food. England has been carrying on for all these years in spite of being in a deficit. It is the national income which is the real criterion of your wellbeing. If your national income, which means the sum total of productivity, including labour, is high, it does not matter if we have to import. There is no sin in it. There is nothing to be ashamed of. There is nothing which is categorically wrong in it. We have been always living on imports from outside geographical India but because of the fact that the British Empire had combined Burma with India, we were masking this factor. The separation of Pakistan will bring into prominence the dependence of Pakistan on the textiles of India and the dependence of India on jute from Pakistan. Formerly it was not apparent because the two formed part of the same country. Now these factors are operating. So it is not an easy matter to decide that imports are not in the best interests of the country.

There are certain standards by which we may go. Firstly, has the price of foodgrains gone up more in India than in other countries of the world? That is the first criterion by which I should judge whether the controls have kept the prices so low that production is not increasing. If we compare it either with the United States, Australia or Canada, we will find that increase even in the controlled commodities is much higher than in those countries. I admit that in England particularly they have kept down prices by means of subsidies, but America has not done it. There the prices are low because they have got a large production. But in spite of large production and in spite of the fact that they must find a market, they are taking advantage, as the Honourable the Food Minister has stated, of increasing the price which they are charging to us. Why? Because they think we are dependent on them. But I ask, is any single trader in a better position to bargain with America than the Ministry of Food was able to bargain? If there are five private buyers on behalf of India, each working in his own interest, will they be able to bring down the prices, or will the Central Purchase by means of the Food Ministry bring down prices? If you are to remove control, what will be the result? Please forget that India can be self-sufficient unless there has been a ten years' lag in which you may build up your irrigation works. Then you may be able to produce enough for your consumption; but today it is not a question of short duration, we have been working for six years and working at a deficit. The foodgrains is not a stable article which can be kept in storage for an indefinite period. It is liable to deteriorate as has been the sad experience of the Honourable Minister. We are

either ignorant of the factors or we are really taking things too easy. We feel that it is enough to accuse a person—Give a dog a bad name and then hang him for it: Put all the blame on the controls and ask for its removal, and the moment it is removed we will be on velvet. That is not so. You have got the example of the foreign Government which has gone. You have had your own men in the Government for over a year now. A large amount of foodgrains from India used to be exported in the past but today we know how great is the restriction on export except for victualling the ships.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House. I wish to say that control is very essential in the interests of the consumers—and let me tell you that the consumers are by far the greater proportion of the population of India than the producers. It is a truth that producers are always less than consumers. For instance, I find an interesting figure in the Famine Committee Report in which the number of surplus producers in Bengal was found to be less than 30 per cent. of the cultivators, not of the population. The rest of the producers are either deficit themselves or just sufficient for their consumption. They have not any surplus to sell out. Now the price structure is simply to attract the surplus produce out of the surplus producers: not from those who are deficit producers as they will always have to buy with the other consumers.

One factor which the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Transport Minister should remember is that according to the recommendations of the Pay Commission report any rise in food prices will mean a consequential rise in the wages which are to be given to the railwaymen, to the army and to other employees of Government. For every ten point rise, you will be called upon to pay three crores. So that is another argument in favour of keeping prices down.

Is it possible, I ask, to keep down prices in the condition of scarcity without control? It is begging the question. Until we are assured of either internal increased production or external imports in an increased proportion, we will have to continue to muddle through with controls. No one can take the cudgels on behalf of the control staff. There have been blunders and moral turpitude. There have been many mistakes and they must be removed. We wish, Sir, that this policy of wait and see should continue at least for one year more. That is the least possible period in which we should experiment. Secondly, we must build up a stock in our own keeping of at least one million tons as was recommended by the Krishnamachari Committee and endorsed by the Vijayaraghavachari Committee also. Surely we must see that prices in the meantime of other foodgrains which we decontrol do not rise above the controlled rates by more than 10 to 15 per cent. I think the Honourable Food Minister made a wrong comparison between the black market prices and grey market prices. He should have compared the white market prices and the present grey market prices. There is one fact which I got from the Government's own Blue Book on the food policy. That whereas the prices of foodgrains have risen from 100 in September 1939 to 360, the prices of the cultivators' requisites such as kerosene, galvanised sheets, textiles, etc., have risen to 233. As it is with the control the price is 50 per cent. higher. Therefore the present day prices are not unfair to the producer and it is wrong to ask that the surplus producer should be allowed to exploit the general public of India. If you take the population at 30 crores, I do not think that the surplus producers will reach a crore. It is not a big capitalist exploitation, it is a small capitalist exploitation. Therefore I think we should watch and see what is the best policy for the Government to adopt. I am grateful to the Government for the policy which they propose to adopt and I hope they will move slowly, cautiously and not in any hurry to do away with the controls.

Mr. B. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, the House was supplied by the Honourable Food Minister with the recommendations of the Committee on the 1st December and today we are supplied with the recommendations of the Government. The materials before the House and the committee's report are so silent that the House is not in a position to come to any proper decision on the recommendations of the Committee. The recommendations should not be merely a guiding factor. The whole case is not made out by the Committee so that the House may know as to what led them to come to this conclusion. The Committee has not yet sent its report to the Government. I do not see why there should have been so much haste in Government deciding a policy, without themselves studying the report of the Committee. Sir, I know of a judge who in the text of the judgement had given very sound reasons for convicting the accused but at the end he had put in two sentences "I quit the accused." Whereas the content of the judgment was for conviction the final decision was the reverse. Similarly I do not know what are the reasons that the Committee had for recommending this. Probably this House may come to a different decision if they knew the full facts and the reasons that led the Committee to make these recommendations. I therefore feel that the Government's decision is premature. There would have been nothing wrong in the Government waiting for sometime until the full report was received and considered by Government and also placed before this House for its final decision. At present I am at any rate at a disadvantage to come to a decision merely on the recommendations of the Committee.

The arguments advanced here are that unless there is planned economy for all articles the controls will never be successful. Granted that that in principle is correct, may I ask those who advocate that policy is it fair that the control which at present gives some relief to a large number of consumers should be taken away by the Government? Is it a sound policy? My friend Mr. Khandubai Desai said that there are only one crore of people who reside in the cities. If you take the Census Report you will find that 13 per cent of the population live in the cities. This means more than 5 crores of people live in towns and cities. After all these people have to live as well. If you remove the rationing system and gradually come to the decision that it should be decontrolled

An Honourable Member: What about the *kisans*?

Mr. B. K. Sidhwa: I am coming to *kisans*. It is stated that the *kisans* will be benefitted. While de-controlling sugar, sugar millowners have raised prices. The price was Rs. 20/12 before decontrol, and the Syndicate itself states that in future the price shall be Rs. 35 and Government have agreed to this price, so far as I understand

An Honourable Member: What about the *kisans*?

Mr. B. K. Sidhwa: I am coming to *kisans*. It is stated that the *kisans* will be benefitted. While de-controlling sugar, sugar millowners have raised labourers and the growers of sugarcane. It is a very good thing to divide it this way but why at the cost of the consumers? Why should not the owners of the industry pay the labourer and the *kisans*? That would have been graceful, honourable and justifiable. That would really prove that the owners of the factories are now prepared to support the Government and to co-operate with the Government as the Honourable Minister has been pleading for. In his concluding remarks the Honourable Minister mentioned so many IFS—If this is done by so and so, etc., and he expected everybody will do so. He appealed to this House, to every member of this House and to owners, traders also the consumers to co-operate with him. We are ready to co-operate with him. I may inform him that the consumers have already co-operated with the Government when they reduced the rations from 16 to 12 oz., from 12 to

8 and from 8 to 6 oz. But how have the landlords or big *samindars*, big food-growers have helped the Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has my Honourable friend lived on 6 oz.?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: It is therefore unfair to the consumer or the city people. Sir, I do not know the exact definition of an agriculturist. He may be a big *samindar* or a small peasant. I know of two instances where a very big *samindar* called himself an agriculturist. Government has given them 60 per cent more on the sugar price. How are we to be sure that the consumers will be treated fairly by this system of de-control. Government are a party to giving 60 per cent more to the sugar industry owners. Heaven knows what will the price when the sugar comes actually to the consumer. Sir we know the price in Delhi after decontrol. Sir, time is short and you have already warned me. The Honourable Minister should concentrate his attention on increasing the production. The Government have a policy in this matter of production of foodgrains. Also they should have a reserve by the import of foodgrains as also through internal purchase as much as possible. Much attention should be given to that part and then let us see what happens.

The policy which has been enunciated is one of gradual decontrol. But very sweeping reforms are advocated by Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments are asked to fix prices as they like with the result that one Government may fix one price and another Government may fix quite another price for the same article.

Sir, as my time is over I would conclude by saying that I do not support the Honourable Minister's proposal for decontrolling gradually. Particularly in the interests of the consumers of the cities I would like him to see to it that there is no control for the time being.

Mr. T. J. M. Wilson (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would thank the Government for the manner in which they have considered the food problem and the evident hesitation with which they reconsidered question of controls. I am sure that all of us present here share with the Government the anxiety about the dissatisfaction of the people in regard to the controls. At the same time I am sure that the Government knows—and they have stated so in their communique—that this dissatisfaction on the part of the people is largely psychological. But what is the reason for the reconsideration of the question of controls and for the consequent policy of progressive reduction of the Government's commitments in the matter of control and rationing? The reason generally given is that there is in fact no shortage of foodgrains at all in the country and that therefore no control is necessary. This is far from the truth. India has always been short of foodgrains. And even before the war we were importing foodgrains, chiefly rice, in the neighbourhood of 2 million tons. Nothing that has happened either during the war or after the war is likely to have made good this shortage of food products. For, on the one hand, on the positive side the Government has admitted the ineffectiveness of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign, and on the negative side, we have had a fail in the last two years' *khariḥ* crop due to the vagaries of wind and weather and we have the other factors like increase in the population, rise in the incomes of people etc. Therefore the argument that there is indeed no shortage of rice or other foodgrains at all is not correct. The Government communique itself does not refer to it, and it can therefore be safely asserted that the official estimate of a deficit of 4 million tons is not far too wrong and that there is therefore a real gap between production and demand in this country.

Then the argument is that control in fact does nothing to bridge the gap effectively between production and demand. Their argument is that this control in fact impedes that process by acting as an obstacle both to increased production and to the free movement of foodgrains. Regarding this free movement, it is true that free market forces will enable free movements of foodgrains, but there is this fact, that free market forces will respond only to the price factor and

[Mr. T. J. M. Wilson.]

not to the need factor. Consequently the burden of the overall shortage of food products rests on the poor people. Regarding increased production it is said that control prices are unremunerative and that decontrol would fetch better prices for the producers, that is the ryots, in other words decontrol would stimulate production because it will send up the level of food prices. But then there will be a consequential rise in the wages and also in the general level of prices. In other words there will be inflation. Of what avail is it then to the producer or the ryot if the slight increase in food prices is offset by this all-round inflation? But the Government does not seem to take this view. On the contrary they seem to take the view that with the removal of controls and with the free movement of foodgrains the consumers will get these foodgrains at fair prices which, as I have already argued, will never be the case.

There is, however, one relieving feature in the Government policy and that is that it has not accepted *in toto* the spirit of the recommendations of the Foodgrains Committee in the matter of imports. There has of late been a good deal of talk about the heavy expenditure incurred upon these imports and the heavy drainage of our foreign exchange resources, etc., and that these imports should therefore stop immediately. It is well that the Government has seen that the question of stopping or of reducing imports does not arise at all unless the overall production in the country increases considerably. Increased production is a long process. It requires so many things. It involves a radical change in our land revenue system,—not only the *samindari* but also other systems—a radical change in the outlook of government officials in charge of revenue who from my experience are largely responsible for the slow pace of the 'Grow More Food Campaign,' and also a number of scientific methods in agriculture. What is the Government going to do, I ask, by saving foreign exchange resources and by importing capital machinery if a number of people in the meanwhile die for want of food and if workers are made incapable of doing any physical work at all because of malnutrition and under-feeding spread over a length of time?

The decision regarding the Procurement Prices to be fixed by the Provincial Governments, the grant of bonus and its utilisation in the distribution of manures and fertilizers—is perhaps welcome though I doubt very much the success of the procurement on account of the increase of prices in the foodgrains. The reason is that I know from personal experience that it is the repeated offer of bonus and the temptation of an increase of price in the foodgrains that has made a number of producers to hoard in the hope that they will get more when there is a further increase.

After reading the Statement of the Government one feels, Sir, that the Statement itself makes a stronger case for controls than any arguments advanced from outside. Government themselves admit the food shortage in the country. They themselves admit that the policy entails a certain amount of risk. Why then does Government take the decision? Is it because of the dissatisfaction of the people which can be easily remedied by tightening the controls and by improving the control machinery? The only reason seems to be, as stated in the statement, the expectation that decontrol would bring out more stocks than at present under the control and that these stocks would be distributed without hoarding and profiteering. Does the Government really think that there are large supplies in the black market and that if released they would entirely meet the needs of the people? If that is so, the pressure of these supplies will itself smash the black market prices and the black market itself. That is a simple truth. Is it not a confession on the part of the popular Government with nearly 100 per cent. of the people behind it to say that it cannot bring out these small hoarded stocks unless it ran this grave risk—a risk which the Government itself admits? Or does the Government think, as it seems to do, that it is tired of the responsibility? If so, I ask, is it not unjust on the part of a popular Government

to shirk its primary and responsible duty of feeding the people entrusted to its care? The name of Mahatma Gandhi has often been drawn into this discussion. But one should not forget that Gandhiji has a different set of values altogether. He looks at it in his own characteristic way. He thinks that these controls have reduced men to a state of dependence, to a state of inertia and do-nothing and he thinks that people should suffer an amount of self-denial rather than depend upon the bureaucracy for even food. Can we rise to those heights? In fact he has his own solution. The solution is that every village should be self-sufficient. And unless we reach that village self sufficiency, I am afraid that we cannot cite him as against control. The position therefore is this: that if you think by removing control you can combat black marketing, you can remove hoarding, it is only a myth. You will only be legalizing black marketing and you will be giving not only legal sanction but also moral sanction to black marketing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member has exceeded his time.

Mr. T. J. M. Wilson: With these few words I resume my seat.

श्री गोकल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, समय कम है। यह तो

मैं भी महसूस कर रहा हूँ, लेकिन यह सवाल इतना बड़ा है कि इस पर हर एक को बोलने की इच्छा होती है। मैं इसके बिषय में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में यह जो नियन्त्रण शाही नियन्त्रण राज्य चल रहा है, उससे इन्सान की वह इन्सानियत मिट गयी है, और आदमी नीति से गिर गया है। उस चीज को जब हटाने की बात आती है, तब हमारे जो गिनती बाज आदमी हैं, *economists* हैं, वह समझते हैं कि अरे ! हमारा क्या होगा ? कोई कहता है कि शरीर में खंजर भोंका जा रहा है। वह कहने लगते हैं कि हमारे यह फूड मिनिस्टर *Food minister* हमारे कंज्यूमर्स (*Consumers*) के शरीर में खंजर भोंक रहे हैं और चाहते हैं कि लहू न निकले। मैं कहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में लहू है कहां ! सिर्फ हडडी २ है। उसमें से यदि खंजर इधर से उधर चला जाय, तो उसमें बहुत बड़ी आपत्ति नहीं है। मेरा तो अपना कहना है कि आज यह खंजर भोंकने की बात नहीं है। मैं तो यह मानता हूँ कि हमारे जो अहिंसक खंजर बाज हैं, वह उस नीति से खंजर नहीं चलाते हैं। वह तो एक डाक्टर, एक वैद्य की तरह एक ऐसा आपरेशन (*operation*) कर रहे हैं, जिससे हमारे में से वदी दूर हो जाय और अच्छी बात रहे और इस प्रकार का वह एक अहिंसक खंजर छुरी चला रहे हैं। वह सब हमारे लोगो की भलाई के लिये हैं। मैं आमतौर पर जबकि हृदयनाथ कुंजरु का भाषण अखबारों में पढ़ता था और जानता था कि उनके जैमे अभ्यासी आदमी हिन्दुस्तान में हैं। लेकिन आज उनका भाषण सुन कर ताज्जुब भी हुआ जब वह कहते हैं कि वह गरीबों के साथ मिलने जुलने वाले आदमी हैं और जितने गरीबों से वह मिले, उन्होंने कहा कि यह नियन्त्रण रहना चाहिये, यह कन्ट्रोल रहना चाहिये और अगर कन्ट्रोल हट जायगा तो हम न मालूम कहां से कहां चले जायंगे। मैं भी एक अदना आदमी हूँ। मैं भी गरीबों में मिलता हूँ, टांगे वालों से, हमालों से सबसे मिलता हूँ और तब मुझे सब लोगो की पुकार याद आती है और वह कहते

[श्री गोकल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

हैं, कि अब लड़ाई तो खत्म हुई, अंग्रेजों को आपने भगा दिया। यह जो हमारे ऊपर बला है, छुरी जैसी यह जो (control) है, इसको कब निकालियेगा। यह भी निकल जाय तो अच्छी बात है। मामूली आदमी अपनी ज़रूरत की चीज़ आसानी से मुहय्या नहीं कर सकते हैं और उसको मजबूरन ब्लैक-मार्केट (black-market) करना पड़ता है और उसको कीमत ज्यादा देनी पड़ती है और वह कीमत देते हैं, हमारे पास से लेकर देते हैं। आज मैं आपको यह दृष्टान्त देना चाहता हूँ। मेरे पास ऐसे आदमी हैं, ऐसे लोग हैं जिनको कह दूँ कि हमारे यहां रोटी खाओ तो कितना महीना लगे तो वह पन्द्रह, बीस रुपये में राजी हो जायेंगे। लेकिन अगर उनको रोटी पर न तय करना हो, तो वह आज ६०-७० रुपये से कम न लेंगे। इससे समझ लीजिये कि एक आदमी को रोटी के लिये कितना खर्च करना पड़ता है। अगर कन्ट्रोल भाव से चीज मिल जाती होती शहरों में या कस्बों में तो वह आसानी से कह देता कि मैं अपनी रोटी खाकर ३०-३५ रुपये जरूर लूंगा। मिसाल के तौर पर मैं कहता हूँ कि बिना रोटी के एक मजदूर दिनभर का चार रुपये मांगता है, लेकिन अगर मैं उसको रोटी दे देता हूँ तो वह दो ही रुपये में सारा दिन मेहनत करने को तैयार है। जो कीमतें बढ़ गयी हैं, वह बढ़ गयी हैं अब उससे ज्यादा बढ़ने वाली चीज नहीं है। मेरा तो सबाल यह है कि हम एक रास्ते पर चलते हैं, आज उस रास्ते को छोड़ कर दूसरे रास्ते जाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। आज तो हमारा एक बुजुर्ग आदमी, महान नेता हमको कह रहा है कि यह रास्ता अब छोड़ो, उस रास्ते पर अब जाने से कोई फायदा नहीं है। हममें से कुछ कहते हैं कि उनका अजीब तरीका है। वह तो सन्त महात्मा हैं, उनको तो अलग एक कुटिया में बैठना है। वह तो बिरला हाउस के बगीचे में बैठे हुए हैं, उनको क्या पड़ी है। लेकिन मैं बहुत अदब के साथ उन मित्रों को कहना चाहता हूँ कि सन् १९२० से लेकर आज तक जो रास्ता उस महान नेता ने हमें दिखाया है, उसी रास्ते पर हमको चलना पड़ा है। और मैं आज भी यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय यह नया रास्ता पागलपन ही क्यों न मालूम हो और यह महसूस हो कि गलत रास्ते पर हम जा रहे हैं और इस तरह हम हिन्दुस्तान को बर्बाद कर रहे हैं, लेकिन मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि वह लोग जो आज (Planned economy) की बात करते हैं, आखिर मैं उन्हें उस बुड्ढे की बात मानना पड़ेगी और वे समझ जायेंगे कि जो रास्ता वह बतला रहा है, वही रास्ता सही है। हमारे 'नवीन' जो श्री बालकृष्ण शर्मा जी जो मुक्त पंखी हैं वे बंधन में रहना चाहते हैं। आदमी का शरीर नाशवान् है। लेकिन यह हमारा बुजुर्ग और दूसरे नेता हमको एक उन्नत पथ पर ले जा रहे हैं और इस तरह वह हमारी आत्मा को उन्नत कर रहे हैं। आज इस कन्ट्रोल से हमारी आत्मा

गिर गयी है, हम नष्ट हो गये हैं और अगर हमारा शरीर भी नष्ट हो जाय और हमारे एक दो करोड़ आदमी अनाज के बिना भूखे मर जाय, तो मुझे उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं आयेगी। मैं उससे कोई डरता नहीं हूँ। मैं कहता हूँ कि यह मरने की बात नहीं होने वाली है।

मैं जानता हूँ कि आज किसान या जो पैदा करने वाले हैं, वह डरते हैं क्योंकि कन्ट्रोल के जमाने में उनके पास से अनाज चला जाता है। यह सारा का सारा अनाज राज्य के कृठार में या गवर्नमेंट के खजाने में चला जाता है? वहाँ तक तो बहुत कम पहुँचता है, लेकिन बीच में से बहुत सा अनाज चला जाता है। पटवारी, तहसीलदार और गिर्दावर ले जाते हैं और इस तरह बीच में से वह कईगुना अनाज निकाल लेते हैं। किसान यह कहता है कि अगर राज्य को चाहिये, तो हम देने को तैयार हैं, हमको भाव दीजिये। हम उनको आठ रुपया मन के भाव से पैसा देते हैं लेकिन राज्य उल्टा उसको १५ रुपये मन से सप्लाई (supply) करता है जब लोग गल्ला लेने जाते हैं किसान यह कहता है कि मैं आठ रुपये में दूँ और पन्द्रह रुपये में खरीदूँ? मैं ऐसा पागल नहीं हूँ।

अन्त में मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस चीज को जो हमारी आत्मा को गिरा रहा है, उस चीज को जितनी जल्दी खत्म कर सकें, अच्छा है और उसको खत्म करना चाहिये। हमारे माननीय डाक्टर साहिब ने धीरे धीरे इस चीज को हटाने की बात कही है। कल से उठा दिया जायगा, ऐसी तो बात नहीं कही है। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि यह जो पालिसी है, वह हमारे लिए मुफीद होगी, इसमें मुझे कोई सन्देह नहीं है।

Shri Gokul Bhai Bhatt (Rajputana States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir, time is short. I realize this, but this question is so vital that everybody desires to speak. In this connection I want to point out that this control regime which is prevalent in the whole of India has obliterated the sense of humanity in man and he has deviated from the righteous course. When the question for the removal of control arises, then our statisticians and economists say, "what will happen to us? Some say that they are being stabbed. The others say that our Food Minister is thrusting knife in the body of our consumers and wishes the blood not to effuse." I say where is blood in India? It does not mean much harm if the dagger pierces through it. To me it does not seem to be a matter of thrusting a dagger. I am of the opinion that our non-violent swordsmen do not use it with the same skill. They are operating us in the manner of a Doctor or a Vaidya rooting out evil and retaining good in us. In this manner they are indulging in non-violent knife attacks and all this is for our benefit. Generally when I read the speeches of Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the newspapers I came to know that a scholar like him still lived in India. But to-day I was rather surprised to hear his speech when he says that he associates with poor people, and all the poor who met him told him that this control system should continue—this control should remain—and if it is removed, we know not where it will lead us to?

I am also an humble being. I too mix up with the proletariat, viz., *tengawallas*, labourers and all others, and then I remember the cry of all people and they say that the war is over now—you made the Britishers to flee. When will

[Shri Gokul Bhai D. Bhatt]

you relieve us of this curse which has been thrust on us like a dagger? It would be better if this too is removed. The ordinary man cannot easily procure his normal requirements and he is forced to resort to blackmarketing. He has thus to pay more price and the price they pay is taken from us. To-day I want to give you an instance of this. I have got such men with me who will be pleased to work on a salary of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, if they are provided with free board. But if you are not to fix them up with free board, then they will not draw less than Rs. 60-70. From this you can understand as to how much a man has got to spend on his food. If he could get things on control whether from cities or towns, then he would have simply said that he surely required Rs. 30-35 and arrange for his own meals. For instance, I say that a labourer demands Rs. 4 per day without meals. But if I provide him with meals, he is ready to work for Rs. 2 only for the whole day. The rise in prices has already reached the climax. Now there is no possibility of further inflation. My point is that we took a particular line of action and to-day we are deviating from that course and resorting to another. To-day our veteran, revered and great leader is exhorting us to abandon this course, there is no use in going towards that direction now. Many of us say that he has strange ways. He is a saint—a Mahatma, he has got to live in a separate hut. He is staying in the gardens of Birla House—why should he bother? But with profound respect I would like to tell those friends that we had to follow the same way that has been shown to us by that Great Leader since 1920. And to-day also I wish to say that, however, absurd this new course may appear at present, and it may be felt that we are treading a wrong path and we are thus ruining India. But I have a firm conviction that those people who are to-day talking about planned economy shall have ultimately to accede to the views of that Old man and they will realize that the way which he is pointing out is the correct one. Our Honourable friend Navinji (Shri Balkrishan Sharma) who is a free-bird wants to live under shackles. Man is mortal. But this our reverend leader and other leaders are conducting us on a progressive way and are thus elevating our conscience in this manner.

To-day this control has demoralized our conscience, we have been disparaged, and even if our body is destroyed, and one or two crores of our men die of starvation for want of food, then it won't matter much to me. I am not afraid of this. I assert that this state unto-death will not arise.

I know that to-day the farmers and producers are afraid, because they are to part with their foodgrains during the control regime. This entire foodgrain goes into the godowns of the Government or treasury. Only a very small quantity reaches the destination, a good deal of the foodgrains is lost while in transit. This is carried off by the *Patwaris*, *Takstdars* and *Girdawars*, and in this way they purloin a large quantity of the foodgrains. The farmer says that in case the Government wants, he is prepared to give, but he should be paid price for it. We pay him at the rate of Rs. 15 per maund. The cultivator asks: should I sell at the rate of Rs. 8 and buy at the rate of Rs. 15. I am not such a fool:

Lastly I would like to say that the sooner we end this evil which is degrading our conscience the better it would be; and we must wipe it off. Our Honourable Doctor has spoken about gradual de-control. He has not stated that it would be removed with effect from to-morrow. I admit that this policy would prove advantageous to our interests and I have no doubt about this.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the policy of progressive de-control. I wish the Honourable Minister had said planned decontrol, because I hope that the progress of decontrol will not depend merely on the passage of time but on the progress of conditions which justify the policy of de-control. Sir, I shall spend the few minutes at my disposal in making some concrete proposals for this planned part of de-control which I think is as essential as the policy of de-control. We have seen how disastrous unplanned

de-control can be in the case of sugar. I shall not go into that question today but I do wish that the policy of progressive and planned de-control had been adopted in the case of sugar also. Sir, before I go to give my positive suggestions, I must refer to the attempt of some persons to convert this debate into the issue of controls *versus* no controls. I do not think that is a correct issue because one control is not the same as another.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (One of the Panel of Chairmen)]

I think it was Pandit Kunzru who said that if you de-control foodgrains, you will have to de-control steel, and you will have to de-control coal, etc. ^{4 P. M.} I think, Sir, the issues are entirely different. What is the position of control in the case of steel? There are only two or three concerns which produce steel; there are only a small number of traders who distribute it to the consumers. But in the case of foodgrains, there are millions and millions of small producers. They produce forty to fifty million tons. You actually procure four million tons. For getting ten per cent. of the foodgrains, you destroy the whole open market and completely dislocate it. For the sake of ten per cent., 90 per cent. of production is altogether demoralized and completely dislocated. It is to prevent this dislocation, this demoralization of the major part of the agricultural production of this country that I support the policy of de-control. I do believe that if this policy of de-control is adopted wisely, progressively and in a planned fashion, then this 90 per cent. of the agricultural production will be so reorganised that the present scarcity, which is considered to be the sole justification of control, will be eliminated.

Sir, there is also another reason in support of de-control which has not been referred to by any of the speakers. I refer to the quality of the foodgrains supplied in controlled areas. For the last five years this quality has been continuously deteriorating so that today though you may get rations, you do not get food—you do not get rice, you do not get wheat—you get some miscellaneous mixture which varies in quality from wheat to wheat, and which I do not know to what extent is disturbing the digestion and health of the people who consume these rationed qualities. I am told, Sir, that Argentine maize which was bought at four or five times the normal price, contains poisonous weeds; those weeds contain a property—the active principle of atropine—which is very poisonous. And the Madras Government is even now engaged in devising means to take out these weeds; if they do not succeed, the entire maize which was bought may have to be thrown into the Bay of Bengal. Again, Sir, the milo which we have been able to get at great cost has been largely ruined; though it is said that we are getting by imports 2½ million tons, we do not know—the officials have not revealed to us what proportion of this quantity—how much has been made unfit for human consumption. I think year by year we are spending crores and crores of rupees for getting food which is not available for human consumption.

Now, Sir, I know people are afraid of the consequences of de-control. I too am afraid. And that is why it should be a planned de-control. This plan must consist of three parts: First there must be a reserve. It is admitted that there should be a reserve so that this can be put in places where there might be acute scarcity. It is said that it should be five lakhs of tons or one million tons. Quantity is not so important as that the Government of India should have it ready in places where scarcity is likely to be acute. Sir, for this purpose I suggest that the Government of India and the Provincial Administrations are not competent; they have not established their competency either to build a reserve or to operate it. Therefore, I suggest to the Government of India that before they de-control, especially in urban areas, they should establish a Foodgrains Corporation which will hold reserves of at least a million tons, will hold them at proper places and will have the machinery to use these reserves effectively wherever and whenever they are wanted. Until this Corporation is established

[Shri K. Santhanam]

and it is provided with the necessary reserves, this policy of de-control should not be extended to areas which are today under statutory rationing.

Sir, out of the so-called 108 million people under controlled distribution, only 32 million are under statutory rationing. It is only these people who are getting a fixed quantity of food, whether it is six ounces, or eight or ten ounces, every day every week. But the other people—the 70 millions who are under so-called semi-statutory rationing—are not getting any thing. At places I know they are getting one ounce and some times for weeks they do not get anything. This semi-statutory or controlled rationing is a farce. I would have gone further and said that it is a fraud, but I do not want to use strong language. Therefore, the officials' claim that they are feeding some 100 million people is not a fact. So, the first suggestion is to establish a Foodgrains Corporation which should hold a minimum of reserve and use it effectively in places and at times of scarcity.

The second point, Sir, is that one of the justifications for de-control is that it will increase production. For that the Government of India should take active steps. One of the steps is that they should institute five lakhs of prizes of Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 each so that some prizes will be available for each village and the entire peasantry, especially the tillers, the cultivators, should be made to participate in a nation-wide competition for more production. These prizes should be allowed only to small-holders. Sir, if you have prizes like these people will compete for them. If you say the minimum holding for a prize is three acres, and in every village entries cover sixty or hundred acres, there will be a big competition of people who want to win these prizes by producing the maximum yield. I am sure that three, or four or five million tons can be made up by this means of a nation-wide competition. These prizes, as I said, should not be available for bigger cultivators, the zamindars or rent-receivers; it should be available only for those who actually cultivate. I am sure this simple device will make them pretty active. I know what the small peasants are capable of; I come from a village where the poorer peasants bring out more yield than the richer *mirasdars* who merely receive the rent. Therefore, we should find a way to appeal directly to the actual cultivator and make him produce more. This is one of the concrete suggestions which I have to make to stimulate production.

Then, of course, there is the question of provision of manures, implements and all that. Now, we have spent nearly twenty-two crores this year on subsidy and if we continue this control we may have to continue to give at the rate of thirty crores for importing foodgrains from abroad. An equal amount is spent by the Provincial Governments. If these forty or fifty crores are spent in supplying manure and other materials to the peasants, I am sure the food production next year will be equal to all the needs of the country and the whole problem will be solved.

Sir, it is only in the light of the measures to increase production, to have stocks, and to see that wherever scarcity prevails that scarcity is immediately solved, that the policy of de-control can be judged. Therefore, it is not a policy of complete de-control; it is a policy of planned de-control, and I believe that the Government will resolutely execute this policy of planned de-control.

Shri Birwanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I rise to support the motion so clearly and lucidly explained by the Honourable the Minister for Food. In considering this problem, we have, in the first place, to realise that the Ministry inherited a worn-out cloth. All the time it had to be kept on by stitching, with the result that this process had to go on eternally. In the second place, the Ministry had to face the difficulty of having to go on with the organisation left by its predecessors. It is a well known fact that vested interests had been created by certain sections of officials and the Ministry had to face this trouble. It was with these difficulties that the food administration was taken in hand

by the Ministry. As I stated on another occasion, the adaptation of the Government of India Act gave the Ministry full scope for bringing out latent talents from 15th August. In the two or three months that followed the Ministry had full opportunity to have its own way. Unfortunately, now, we are missing the talents of a gentleman who had impressed his ability and devotion to the cause which he and ourselves have so much in heart. But it is our consolation that, though he will be away from the Cabinet, his talents, his experience and his usefulness will always be available to the Cabinet.

Sir, some of my Honourable friends disputed and hopelessly differed from the motion and point of view expressed by the Ministry, namely, the policy of gradual de-control. To them, I would make this appeal. Let them go to the countryside and see feelings. People in the provinces, both in mofussil and cities and towns are anxious to see that the controls are thrown out. Controls were introduced by the British Government for a different purpose. The purpose of the British Government was to purchase the raw materials of this country at the lowest possible price and utilise them for war purposes. It is the misfortune of this Ministry to use control for an absolutely different purpose, namely, the purpose of seeing that foodstuffs are imported from countries outside India so that our starving population are fed and kept alive. That being so, it is difficult to administer food control in this country as it has been done in other countries, say, Great Britain, France, Russia, or for that matter, America. I was surprised to read from a magazine that potatoes and certain other things are far cheaper in America, the richest of all countries, than what they are in India. That is the position in which we are today.

I admit, Sir, that there is some force in the assertion that controls have demoralised and degraded us, and have hopelessly encouraged black-marketing, profiteering and the like. The unanimous cry of the countryside being "de-control" of food-stuffs, it is no use and no gainsaying "Control, control". Control is necessary. I would join issue with my Honourable friend Dr. Hirday Nath Kunzru, for whom I have got high respect, in his plea for control. If you want control, there should be control of all commodities. There should be proper control—control in the way in which other countries are having it. A friend of mine in Ireland, with whom I was talking a few days ago, told me that people get necessaries of life at minimum possible price and as much as are required, but when one comes to luxuries, he has to pay very heavy price. I want to have that system of control. The system that has been adumbrated by the Ministry seeks to give it breathing space, during which they will keep themselves always alert. I expect the Ministry, as it has made clear, to wait and watch the situation. In the meanwhile, I would beg of them to send our people to other deficit countries like Britain and study how the system of control has been exercised and administered there easily and conveniently.

One great result which accrues from this policy is that we shall be free from corruption, we shall be free from profiteering, we shall be free from black-marketing—things which have been going on under our very nose and from which we were not able to protect ourselves or keep ourselves away. An Honourable friend said that we are getting only 6 ounces and another friend asked him whether he was living on 6 ounces. No one is living on 6 ounces, and yet 6 ounces have been given. Wherefrom does the balance come? From the black-market. This goes to show that the demand of the people for de-control is right and must be respected. I am very glad and would like to congratulate the Ministry for having respected popular opinion. There is no need here to bring in the name of that great saintly personage, Mahatma Gandhi. He has, like every other individual, his right to state publicly and openly what he himself felt was the proper remedy for the disease. There is no reason why people should make use of his name for or against de-control. Indeed, the Ministry has taken an altogether different line and decision.

[Shri Biswanath Das]

Sir, this question divides itself under two heads: De-control and Grow More Food. About de-control, I would warn the Honourable Minister of one thing, namely, that he has tolerated the bonus system which puts a strain on the provinces like Orissa which have been faithful to the understanding entered into between the Centre and the provinces and has been delivering the quantities that were expected of them in a perfectly orderly manner. It is therefore unfair. Sir, that the Central Government should have refused to the Orissa Government the bonus that was being given to other Provinces. It is all the more unfair because the standard of living in Orissa is very low. In the circumstances, I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to reconsider the position. Regarding Grow More Food, Sir, it is a question that requires more attention. England took a five year programme and everyone knows that England is nearer the goal. There is no reason why this country with a deficit of 5 per cent. cannot make up its foodgrains. I was looking to the reply given by the Honourable the Food Minister to my interpellation and there I find there is a lot of more land brought under cultivation. If that is correct—I do not believe it to be so—then there should have been more food. I would beg of him not to believe that the statistics that are compiled and gathered do not represent the correct state of affairs. I myself was in charge of the administration of a Province. There are few provinces, barring Madras, which could boast of proper statistics, because they have no village officials and the statistics compiled by those provinces have been recognised and admitted even by the highest officials in the provinces to be incorrect. Therefore, I beg of the Government to take a long range view whereby India would be self-sufficient and to have a system of village officials for compilation of proper statistics. Sir, we can no longer depend on Pakistan or Burma; much less could we depend on Australia or America. It is a disgrace. The time has come.....

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up.

مولانا حسرت موہانی : جناب والا ! معزز فوڈ منسٹر نے جو تجویز اس وقت آپ کے سامنے رکھی ہے - میں اسکی تہ دل سے تائید کرتا ہوں - انہوں نے اپنی پوزیشن کے لحاظ سے اسکی تشریح کی ہے - لیکن میں ان سے یہ تجویز کرتا کہ وہ جیسے کہ انگریزی میں کہا جاتا ہے کہ to take courage in both hands کے کہہ دیتے کہ کنٹرول اٹھا دیا گیا ہے - تو بہتر ہوتا - میرے خیال میں تو ہر ایک چیز پر سے کنٹرول ختم کر دینا چاہئے - جب تک کنٹرول کو بالکل ختم نہیں کیا جاتا تب تک ہلدومہاں میں بلہک مارکیٹ اور یروڈیگرنگ ختم نہیں ہوگا - حضرات میری رائے میں گتھی جی اور معزز فوڈ منسٹر نے جو بات کی ہے وہ نہایت برومی ایماندارانہ ہے - آپ حضرات کو معلوم ہوگا کہ ہمارے صوبہ کی اسمبلی میں جب تقریباً ساڑھے تین سال قبل abolition of zamindari کے متعلق ریپوزیشن پیش ہوا تھا تو انہوں نے یہ کہا تھا کہ جب تک کنٹرول کا سسٹم ختم نہیں ہوتا ہے تب تک ریپوزیشن سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہو سکتا - اور میں نے اس کے متعلق دلائل پیش کی تھے - وہ ریپوزیشن وغایت بہ اتفاق رائے پاس ہوا - اس وقت انہوں نے یہ کہا کہ ریپوزیشن کا متعدد اسوقت یہ ہے کہ جتنے بھی intermediaries ہیں : ختم ہو جائیں - تو میں نے اس بارے میں ایک ترمیم پیش کی تھی کہ جتنے جب

تک intermediaries میں سے آپ موروثی کاشتکار کو بھی نکالینگے تب تک abolition of black marketing اور پرائیٹرائزنگ ختم نہیں ہوگی - اور اس of zamindari کے معاملہ پر عمل نہیں ہو سکیگا - میں نے کہا تھا کہ اگر آپ بڑے زمیندار کو ختم کرتے ہیں - تو اس کے ساتھ ہی آپ موروثی کاشتکاروں کو بھی ختم کریں - دوسری بات میں نے یہ کہی تھی کہ جب تک آپ Procurement پر کنٹرول نہیں کرتے آپ distribution پر بھی نہیں کر سکتے ہیں اور نہ ہی آپ distribution کی قیمتوں کو مقرر کر سکتے ہیں - آپ کو معلوم ہوگا کہ یورپی ایک surplus پر اوزن ہے - وہاں پر جو پروکیورمینٹ سسٹم پلنت جی نے جاری کیا ہے - اس میں اُنکو کامیابی نہیں ہوئی ہے - اور وہ اس لئے کہ جو غلہ وہاں پر پیدا ہوتا ہے وہ کاشتکاروں کے قبضہ میں ہوتا ہے - جب اس کو پروکیورمینٹ کے طریقہ پر غلہ دینے کے لئے کہا جاتا ہے تو اُسکو ساڑھے دس روپیہ فی من کی قیمت دی جاتی ہے - لیکن مجھے اچھی طرح سے معلوم ہے کہ کانپور شہر کے بلیک مارکیٹ کرنے والے وہاں پر آتے ہیں اور ان کاشتکاروں کو ساڑھے بارہ - پندرہ اور بعض دفعہ اٹھارہ روپیہ فی من دیکر غلہ لے جاتے ہیں اور شہر میں آکر دو روپیہ فی سیر کے حساب سے فروخت کرتے ہیں - یہ بات فطرت صاف کے خلاف ہے کہ اگر ایک کاشتکار کو اٹھارہ روپیہ فی من کوئی شخص قیمت دینا ہے تو وہ حکومت کی طرف سے کس طرح ساڑھے دس روپیہ من پر اپنی پیداوار کو فروخت کریگا - لہذا میں یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ یہ پروکیورمینٹ کا سسٹم تب تک ٹھیک نہیں چل سکتا جب تک کہ آپ موروثی کاشتکار کو بھی ختم نہیں کرتے - اس بارے میں میری یہ ایک گزارش ہے - کہ اگر آپ اس پروکیورمینٹ کے سسٹم کو کامیاب بنانا چاہیں تو ایک یہ صورت ہے کہ جنگلی بھی پیداوار ہو وہ سب سٹیٹ کی ملکیت میں جائے - اور اس طرح سے جب یہ گورنمنٹ کے ہاتھ میں آجائے تو وہ اسکو اچھی طرح سے تقسیم کر سکتے ہیں - جناب والا! اسوقت سب سے عمدہ کنٹرول جو ہے - سٹیٹ ریشا میں ہے - انہوں نے سب intermediaries کو اُٹھا دیا ہے - co-operative اور cultivative farms کو جاری کر دیا ہے - اسی طرح سے جب تک یہاں پر بھی نہیں کیا جائیگا - کنٹرول کا سسٹم فائدہ مند نہیں ہو سکتا - تک کاشتکاروں کے ہاتھ میں غلہ رکھنا تب تک کنٹرول ہونے پر بھی بلیک مارکیٹ ہوتی رہیگی - یہاں پر سب سے زیادہ بلیک مارکیٹنگ کرنے والے کاشتکاروں کی کرتے ہیں - میں جناب والا! آپریبل فوڈ مسجر کی پرزور تائید کرتا ہوں - اور میں کرتے ہوں کہ وہ رفتہ رفتہ ہر ایک چیز سے کنٹرول ہٹائینگے - ساتھ ہی میں بھی اُمید ہے کہ جب تک وہ سب چیزوں پر سے کنٹرول رفتہ رفتہ ہٹائینگے تب تک اُس درمیانی عرصے میں یہ بھی کوشش کریں گے کہ یہاں پر cultivative Co-operative farms کو رائج کرنے کے لئے کب بل بنا دی جائے - جب تک کہ ایسا نہیں کریں گے تب تک ہندوستان سے black marketing اور پروفیٹنگ

(English translation of the above speech)

Maulana Haqrat Mohani (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker: Sir, I heartily support the motion which the Honourable Minister for Food has placed before you at this time. He has elucidated it keeping in view his position. But I would have suggested to him that he should have acted up to the saying in English, *viz.*, "to take courage in both hands" and declared that the control has been withdrawn. Then it would have been better. In my opinion the control should be removed on every commodity. As long as the control is not absolutely withdrawn, the black-marketing and profiteering will not cease in India. Sir, in my opinion the action taken by Mr. Gandhi and the Honourable Food Minister is honest. You will, Sir, be aware of this that when eight months ago a Resolution regarding the abolition of *Zamindari* was brought up in our Provincial Assembly, then I had stated that unless the control system was not wound up, no useful purpose would be served by this Resolution. I had put forth arguments in support of this. That Resolution was unanimously carried. At that time it was stated that the Resolution was intended to do away with all the intermediaries. Then I had moved an amendment in this connection suggesting that until and unless you eliminate the hereditary cultivator, from these intermediaries the black-marketing and profiteering would not stop, and no practical effect to the abolition of the *Zamindari* could be given. I had stated that if you end the big landlords, you should also at the same time end the hereditary cultivators. The second thing which I had pointed out was that until you do not control the procurement, you cannot control the distribution. And further you cannot also fix the distribution prices. You might know that U.P. is a surplus Province. Pandit Pant has not been successful in the Procurement System introduced by him in the Province. This is due to the reason that the foodgrain that is produced there remains in the custody of the cultivator. When he is asked to supply the foodgrain in pursuance of the Procurement Policy, then he is paid @ Rs. 10-8-0 per maund. But I know fully well that the black-marketers from Cawnpore come there and purchase the foodgrains by paying these cultivators prices @ Rs. 12-8-0, Rs. 15 and sometimes even Rs. 18 per maund. They sell this in the city at Rs. 2 per seer. Sir, this violates justice. If somebody pays the price of Rs. 18 per maund to a cultivator, then how is it possible that he should sell his produce to the Government on the payment of Rs. 10 per maund? Therefore, I will submit that this procurement system cannot be worked successfully unless you do away with this hereditary cultivator. In this connection, my observation is that in case you want to make the procurement system a success, the only way is that the entire produce should be the property of the State; and in this manner when it comes within the hands of the Government, then they can distribute it properly. Sir, at this time, the best control system exists in Russia. They have dispensed with all the intermediaries and introduced Co-operative and Cultivative farms. Unless similar course is adopted here, the control system will not prove beneficial. The cultivators will continue to indulge in black-market so long as they are in possession of the foodgrains. Here the cultivators are supported by those who are the biggest black-marketers. Sir, I support the Honourable Food Minister with all the emphasis at my command and hope that he would gradually de-control every commodity. At the same time I do hope that up to the time the commodities are gradually decontrolled, he will try to formulate a Bill to introduce cultivative and co-operative farms in this country during the intervening period. Unless he does this, black-marketing and profiteering cannot be eradicated from India.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Food and Agriculture):

Sir, I am not at all surprised with the reception which the Government policy has got in this House. If in the course of the reply, I do not refer to every individual member who has participated in this debate, it is not for lack of

respect for the views expressed, but because I think it would be best to deal with the questions that have been raised in a comprehensive way rather than by taking it point by point raised by each speaker.

It has been suggested that control should be continued, because control is in consonance with modern economic thought and to the extent that we have already got it, we should not give it up, but rather we should extend it. I may assure Honourable Members that in coming to the decision to which I have come and which has been endorsed by the Government, we have not been influenced by any such larger issues as are involved in that suggestion. We have not been thinking of the Marxist theory or of any other theory in coming to that conclusion, but we took facts as they are, the difficulties that we have to face and the further difficulties which we anticipate and we came to certain conclusions. If it were a case of planned economy, as has been suggested by another speaker, which we were going to disturb, the position might be different. But, as we all know, these controls are a legacy of the war and war conditions. They arose, as has been pointed out, in a haphazard manner; they have grown equally in the same haphazard manner. And if we want to have planned economy the first step is to scrap this haphazard growth and then think of that planned economy. I should not like planned economy to be introduced by the back door in this way. Let the country, let this House, let Government make up their minds about planned economy; let them prepare a scheme of that planned economy and then introduce it. That may be something worth having, not this pseudo planned economy which has neither its birth—illegitimate birth—nor is going to have its end—in anything like planned economy. I would therefore not expect Honourable Members to look upon this de-control as a rejection of the policy of planned economy. It has nothing to do with that. That is a different matter, an independent matter which has to be considered and will be considered when the time comes for it.

We have been told that decontrol, even if it is in a progressive way gradually introduced, is bound to lead to a spiral of inflation. In the very beginning I was careful enough to inform the House that we did apprehend that there were risks in the policy which we are adopting. We did apprehend that there might be a rise in prices; and having appreciated the risks involved we decided that it was better to take those risks rather than to take the greater risk of a complete breakdown which will end in greater disaster. Therefore if there is a rise in prices we should be prepared for that; only it should not be allowed to go to such heights that it may upset our whole economy. If there is going to be a disturbance generally in our economic life we should be prepared for that; only it should not be allowed to go up to such an extent as to make our life difficult in this country and to upset our whole economy. Therefore the policy which Government have adopted is a policy of gradual decontrol. I am thankful to Mr. Santhanam who suggested the expression 'planned decontrol'. That is exactly what is intended; we are not going to decontrol—come what may—tomorrow or the day after; that is not the intention. What is intended is that we shall take each step, watch its effects, see the developments; and if we find that as a result of the step that has been taken any serious difficulties are taking place, we have kept the door open for retracing our steps if it becomes necessary. That does not mean that we are not going to stick to the policy which we have adopted; it only means that if this policy fails, if there are indications that it is going to fail and to end in disaster, we shall retrace our steps; not that the moment we have taken the step and we find that there is something wrong here and there we shall retrace our steps. That is not the idea and that cannot be the policy of Government under any circumstances. If Government have to take certain decisions they have to stick to those decisions until circumstances arise which make sticking to that decision detrimental to the best interests of the country; and that is what we propose

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

to do. I am not at all afraid that the prices will go up to such heights as are feared by some honourable members of this House. As I said, my own appreciation of the situation is this that the prices may go up to some extent but they can never go to the heights which black market prices have reached. We were told that there are various kinds of prices and markets now prevalent,—white, grey, black, and another which was characterised by an Honourable friend as jet-black. While undoubtedly there are gradations I think we shall be somewhere near the grey; we shall not get near the black market and certainly not near the jet-black. I think in this country grey is the best colour for all things.

Sir, I listened with great respect to the speech of my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru whose devotion to duty, whose sacrifices, whose learning and whose knowledge we all respect. I listened to him with all the respect that is due to him, but I found that he relied upon the kind of arguments on which all who have fought against decontrol have relied. I should have expected from him an analysis and a consideration of the situation as it prevails in this country and then to arrive at conclusions which will be in keeping with those conditions.

An Honourable Member: His time was short.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It may be that if he had more time he would have probably developed his argument, but I am sorry I can go only by the arguments that were advanced and I cannot wait for the other arguments that were not advanced by him. One argument that he put forward was that other countries like America are either maintaining or re-imposing control whereas we are thinking of removing control, even though in a gradual way. I do not think it is always correct to take the analogy of other countries and to apply them in their entirety to our own country, because conditions differ. If the arguments that have been put forward by several Honourable members in this House are to be accepted, namely, that decontrol can only be possible if there is a surplus, there is absolutely no reason why America should have control, because it has not only a surplus for its own needs but it has a tremendously big surplus which it exports to other countries. If the existence of a surplus is all that is required for decontrol there is no reason why a country with a surplus should have any control at all at any time. But in spite of that big surplus I understand America is now reimposing control, and control is being maintained or continued in some other countries which have a surplus.

It has been said that ours is a deficit country. Yes, from the figures available it is a deficit country. But the deficit is not very heavy and, as pointed out by an Honourable Member, it does not exceed 10 per cent.; the deficit is probably nearer 5 per cent.

Now in a country of our dimensions, if we could raise one maund more where we are producing 10 maunds, the deficit will be more than wiped out, and that I believe is not an impossible task. After all, whether we have control or not, the food position in this country can improve only if there is more production and that is true not only of food but of every other thing which is in deficit. Therefore naturally the attention of the Government must be concentrated more on the production side than on the distribution side. From my own personal experience of only 15 months in this office, I can say that this control has taken more of my time than production. I think that is a position with all who are engaged in this work and who are interested in it. Controls take an abnormally long time; they take a disproportionate amount of more attention than necessary and the result is that control requires more control, and more control requires still more control, and we are landed in what has been

called a spiral, not of inflation but of control with the result that we reach a position when we cannot think of getting rid of this control. As I said in the beginning, these controls are a legacy of the war. They are not normal things. The deficit which the country is now experiencing is not a new deficit. Even before the war we were importing $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of rice. That deficit was there. Did we have control then? Did we not manage without controls till before the war? And if war had not come, could anyone have imagined that we would have introduced controls in this country? Now that the war is over, now that the exigencies which made these controls necessary on account of the war have disappeared, isn't it better to come back in due course to the position in which we were before the war, that is to say, even if there is a deficit, let the deficit be met in the normal way in which a deficit has been met in the past, in which it is being met in some other countries, or in which it may be met in this country—without control.

What I have been pleading for is this: that the time has come when we should think of going back to normalcy and not stick to the abnormal conditions which have been created by war, and this is a step in that direction. But as I have said, because we felt that there were risks involved, we thought of going slowly and of waiting and watching at every step the effect of the action taken and then proceeding without taking undue risks. That is what we propose to do. Therefore, if normalcy has to be restored, this vicious circle has to be broken at some place, and we have decided that we should begin the breaking at this point, and we are going to do it.

It has been pooh-poohed that decontrol will increase supplies, will release larger quantities of grain from producers which will be brought into the market. Personally, I do not think that it is a thing to be pooh-poohed. We know how panic works. The mere existence of control creates panic and that panic leads to hoarding; hoarding not in a bad sense. I do not mean hoarding of profiteers, I mean hoarding by people of ordinary prudence, with ordinary commonsense, with ordinary intelligence, so that they might not have to meet a certain emergency in future. Because of the existence of control they fear that something might happen when they would not be able to get grain, because if there were grain there would be no control. Because there is no grain, there is control, and therefore we must keep back something which may be of use in time of need. As soon as this panic disappears, as soon as people feel confident, more and more will come into the free market and more and more will be actually available, just as it used to be before the war, before controls were introduced and before controls were in force.

I anticipate that there will be not an inconsiderable amount of grain which will come into the market as a result of progressive decontrol, and there will thus be a larger quantity available. But let us look at it from another point of view. After all, by this method of decontrol, are we going to lessen the quantity of grain now available in any way? The grain that is now available in the country will be there. The imports will be there. We are not stopping imports. Therefore whether we control or do not, the grain that is now available will be available even after decontrol.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But will you get foodgrains if you decontrol now?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We used to get it before.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But you used to after introducing rationing. Will you be able to get it now after accepting a policy of removing control over the distribution of foodstuffs?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have no apprehension that we shall not get the grain. All that the international body is interested in is to see that the grains we get is not used for profiteering purposes or used by private individuals for making undue or illegitimate profit out of them.

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

The position of the country is well known. That we are a deficit country is well known and we shall continue to press our case before international organisations. We shall continue to import from other countries on the understanding and on the condition that no profit by private parties or by individuals will be allowed to be made out of this grain which is imported. There is no reason why they should withhold the grain which they have been giving us up to now.

Therefore, I do not apprehend that we shall lose our imports. After all, these imports are very costly for us. I wish we could do without them. We should try to do without them, and the Government must try to do without them as far as possible. Members will be shocked if they learn the prices that we have to pay simply because we import.

The procurement price of rice in Burma is only £18 per ton, to which may be added certain charges to make it £25. That is how it was calculated last year.

Procurement price in Burma	...	£ 18
Handling charges, sewing gunnies, etc.	...	£1.25
Overhead and loss by deterioration at 7½ per cent	...	£1.5
Export duty	...	£4.25
This came to		... £ 25
		per ton.

To this there is to be added 33.13 per cent. rehabilitation charges, coming to £8-6-6 and the price which we paid was £33-6-6 in 1947.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: What are these rehabilitation charges?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Burma needs money for rehabilitation and she wants to get that out of her exports.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Something like a donation for the price?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I cannot say a donation but they are entitled to sell their goods at whatever price they want.

In 1918 this price is going to be £88 per ton. Now you can imagine how hard it is on this country to have to pay this high price. But Burma alone is not to blame. I have got the figures for Argentine. Let it be said to the credit of Argentine that it does not hide the fact but admits that it wants to make profits out of other countries as much as she can. The purchase price of wheat was 16 pesos per 100 kilos at port or Rs. 5-10-0 per maund according to our calculation. The export price was 40 pesos which comes to Rs. 14-1-0 per maund. These prices relate to 1946. In 1947 the producer's price of wheat was 15 pesos per 100 kilos which came to Rs. 5-7-0 per maund and the export price was 60 pesos, which came to Rs. 21-13-0. If we took corn their own procurement price was Rs. 3-10-0 per maund and we have got to pay 95 pesos which comes to Rs. 11-11-0 per maund. This is what we are paying to other countries on account of these imports.

Australia has been a very good neighbour, I must admit. Australia has considered our needs and at the present moment we are engaged in very delicate negotiations. But even with regard to Australia we have to say that we have to pay very heavy prices. The price guaranteed to the farmer by Government is 5s. 2d. per bushel F.O.R. at the port of shipment, which comes to Rs. 3-7-0 per maund. The export price to India is 100s. per 480 lbs. or 17s. 4d. per bushel which comes to Rs. 11-11-0 per maund. The price demanded now (and this is under negotiation at the present moment) is 18s. 6d. or Rs. 12-6-0.

For the purpose of maintaining control and rationing all this import becomes absolutely necessary and if Government has to import it has to pay the high prices. If things were left to return to normalcy I am not without hopes that the position might improve. I cannot say that it will improve. All that I can say is that it might improve. Our dependence upon imports must be reduced as far as possible and that is the policy which we have adopted. We have decided to encourage procurement within the country by giving bonuses for procurement, so that if we have to pay anything it goes to our own people and in any case it does not add to the poverty of the people but enriches them to some extent.

It has been complained that this policy does not say anything about increased production. As I said in the beginning, that matter is still under consideration and no decision has yet been taken. In fact the Committee itself has not made any recommendations on that point but that does not mean that no attention is going to be paid to that aspect. As a matter of fact with less of control with less attention required for maintaining control more attention is bound to be devoted to the production side and that is what is going, I hope, to take most of the time and attention and I hope also that the funds that are now being wasted on imports will also go to increase production.

What I have said is only hope and expectation or as Pandit Kunzru would have it, only pious wish, which he thinks is only another name for self-deception, if not hypocrisy. It all depends on how one looks at it. If one really feels that it is all false and still expresses the hope it is hypocrisy. If, on the other hand, one really hopes that things will turn out well and expresses that hope it is not hypocrisy. I submit that it is a genuine and real hope and sometimes hope is fulfilled, even though it appears at first that the hope may not be fulfilled.

I did not bring in the name of Mahatma Gandhi to support the policy of decontrol. I mentioned him as a difficulty in the way of maintaining the control. Pandit Kunzru thinks that that is the argument in favour of decontrol. To many people that should be a conclusive argument. In this country we have seen that it has proved a conclusive argument on many points. I can say from my own experience extending over thirty years of my close association with him that my intellect and my logic have very often failed to reconcile themselves to what I call his pre-science or what Pandit Kunzru will call his instinct or dictate. But I have found that his instinct has proved to be true and my intellect and logic have proved to be false. I am not without hopes that in this case, at any rate, his instinct will prove to be true and all our intellect, all our intellectual gymnastics and logic will prove to be false.

It is not necessary to go into the details of the other points that have been raised. I desire to give the assurance to this House that we propose to hasten slowly, to go along with caution and not to close the door for retracing our steps, if we find that we are treading on dangerous ground. As to the other assurances which have been asked for by some other members I am in a position to give some of them. I am prepared to say that we shall do the best that we can for improving and increasing our production. We shall try to build up a reserve. I must say that we cannot build it up in a day. In five or six years of control we have not been able to build up any stock at all. Now in a year of progressive decontrol we are going to try to build it up. Honourable Members can very well understand the difficulty. They can realise that what has not been achieved during the period of strict control all these years cannot easily be achieved in a period of decontrol. Nevertheless we are going to do it and I am prepared to give this assurance that we shall do our best in that line. There has been a lot said about deaths and things of that sort.

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

Well, in spite of what has been happening I am not one of those who can revel in deaths, and I am sure nobody in the Government can think of deaths due to starvation with any sense of equanimity. The whole policy is not intended or even expected to bring about deaths, as some Member was pleased to say that it would end only in uncontrolled death. All that I say is that if any situation arises which threatens to bring about deaths due to starvation we shall be prepared to reconsider the whole thing and to do what is thought best in the circumstances. For that purpose, as I have said, we propose to keep the organisation more or less intact for some time. Whatever difficulty arises, it will be more in the beginning and gradually things will settle down. So it is in the earlier part of decontrol that all this difficulty will have to be experienced and faced, and we are going to face all these difficulties with the consciousness of being prepared to meet them, because we propose to have the organisation intact.

Some other suggestion has been made that in order to help grow more food we should institute a number of prizes. That is a good suggestion and I am sure the Government will bear that in mind and will take steps in that direction. Other suggestions for improving our production will also naturally be accepted with alacrity and pursued.

One word more about sugar. There has been a lot said about decontrol of sugar, that the price of sugar has suddenly shot up from Rs. 21-4-0 to something like Rs. 35. The increase in the price of sugar is not due to decontrol but, as I said, it arises out of conditions which now prevail when the new season is starting and when fresh sugar is being manufactured. The price of sugarcane is increased; the wages of labour are increased; and these two between themselves make a very big difference—from Rs. 1-4-0 per maund for sugarcane to Rs. 2 and from Rs. 22-8-0 of wages to Rs. 45. These are big differences and we can easily understand that if the price rises to Rs. 35 it is not on account of decontrol but on account of these other elements which have come into force.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: These two items account for only Rs. 8-8-0 out of the total increase of fifteen rupees. At seven rupees profit per maund of sugar the mill-owners will get an extra profit of about thirty crores of rupees in the next twelve months.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Honourable Member wants to go into the figures meticulously. That can be done, but I am taking the figures by and large. And I say that these two big elements in the cost of production are largely responsible for the increase in the price of sugar.

An Honourable Member: What about old sugar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The price is that of the new sugar. Can you have in the market two prices of sugar—one for old and one for new sugar? Can we do that and is it possible? And how is the purchaser going to distinguish between the old sugar and the new sugar, and how can he insist on the old sugar for Rs. 21-4-0 or be prepared to pay Rs. 35 for the new sugar? That cannot be done. It can only be done by taking away the extra price which the old sugar now fetches, and that is exactly what has been done. All that Government has done is to freeze all the old stock at the price at which it was selling on the day of decontrol. It is now for the Government to release this sugar at whatever price it likes and it proposes to take the bulk of this increase to itself because it is not possible to maintain two prices in the market. That is what is being done.

I must pay a tribute to the Premier of U.P. who has been largely responsible for bringing this about. I cannot also refrain from paying a compliment

to the mill-owners who have been coming in for a certain amount of abuse. They have come forward with proposals to keep down the prices of sugar and there has been an arrangement made with them that the prices will not be allowed to go beyond what they would have been if control had continued. I think we should be satisfied with that. What we were able to enforce by law we are now getting out of them by their consent. I think that is any day better. I have no reason to think that we shall be let down. But, if that happens, we still have the power because we have still got sugar in our control.

I hope, Sir, I have touched the points which have been raised, and I am grateful to the Members for the interest which they have evinced in this. The difference of opinion in this House is only a reflection of what prevails in the country at large. If I am not disclosing a secret it is only a reflection of what we have in our own Cabinet. So there is no reason to fear that anything disastrous is going to come about and we can in a spirit of helpfulness accept the decision and go forward.

Shri Deshbandu Gupta: Before the House disperses, as Delhi is under the direct charge of the Honourable Minister, may I enquire as to what will be the effect of these decisions on control so far as Delhi is concerned, both in respect of cereals and sugar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, the decision is left very largely to the Provincial Governments.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: There is no Provincial Government as such in Delhi.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: There is a Provincial Government even in Delhi.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It is only in name.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We cannot do anything over the head of the Provincial Government. But there is no doubt that all points will be taken into consideration by that Government. If there is any question in which we can help we will certainly do so.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: But there is no sugar in Delhi for the last three days.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Sugar will be available very soon.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 11th December 1947.
