

Thursday, 10th August, 1950

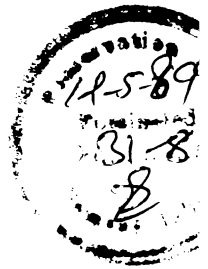


PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I— Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

Volume IV, 1950
(1st August to 14th August, 1950)



Second Session
of
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
1950

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**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 10th August, 1950.

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**UNDERGROUND WATER SPRINGS IN
RAJPUTANA**

*441. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the progress made in the development of Rajputana desert by the use of under-ground water springs?

(b) What is the amount of money so far spent and what are the items of expenditure?

(c) What is the total acreage at present under cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Five wells, each giving a discharge varying from 10,000 to 1,20,000 gallons of water per hour, have been completed in Rajasthan and experimental cultivation of *Rabi* crop on 72 acres of land in Bamsen village has been undertaken.

(b) The amount so far spent by the Rajasthan Underground Water Board is about Rs. 1,62,668/- out of

which Rs. 65,510/- is recurring and Rs. 97,158/- non-recurring expenditure.

(c) 150 acres. Arrangements are being made to supply water to the surrounding villages.

Shri Kesava Rao: What is the total quantity of foodgrains produced during the last year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The farm was organised only late in the year, so it had not the benefit of the full year; but I understand it has produced for the *Rabi* season, 1949-50, 260 maunds.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the discharge of these wells in cusecs? What is the particular reason for which this discharge is given in gallons?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I don't know exactly the reason, but this is the computation on which all estimates are based.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : राजस्थान में पानी

निकालने के लिए गवर्नमेंट ने जो कूवे बनवाये हैं उन में से कितने पानी महाराज के कारण बने हैं और कितने उन के सिवा बने हैं, और इस वक्त पानी महाराज क्या कर रहे हैं ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Out of the wells sunk by the Government in Rajasthan how many have been sunk

with the help of *Pani Maharaj* and how many without his help? What is *Pani Maharaj* doing these days?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: If the hon. Member waits till the next question which is about *Paniwalla Maharaj*, perhaps it would be much better.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: In what part of Rajasthan is this experiment being carried out?

Shri K. M. Munshi: On the banks of the Luni River at a place called Samidri.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: Have any other places been tried?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact these wells have been dug at other places also. One tube well has been completed at Dandera in Jodhpur.

Sardar B. S. Man: What is the total acreage now under cultivation during this irrigation season?

Shri K. M. Munshi: 150 acres. I have given it in answer to part (c).

श्री त्यागी : क्या मैं दरयाफ्त कर सकता हूँ कि इस स्कीम पर जो खर्चा हो रहा है उसका कुछ हिस्सा वहाँ की स्टेट भी खर्च करती है, और आया स्टेट ने इस बात पर कोई ऐतराज किया है कि यह स्कीम ठीक नहीं है ?

[**Shri Tyagi:** May I know whether the State Government is also sharing the expenditure that is being incurred on this Scheme and whether the State has raised any objection to the effect that the Scheme is not sound?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far there has been no sharing of the expenditure by the State except that they have acquired the farm of 72 acres and are conducting that farm.

Sardar B. S. Man: May I know whether the income from this area of 150 acres will meet the expenses incurred thereon?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as the farm is concerned, I mentioned to the House that it is the farm conducted by the Rajasthan Government, and the income from it will naturally go to them.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is the Government contemplating to experiment with this scheme in any other State?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, this scheme was undertaken because there was a report by experts that there is considerable underground water in Rajasthan. This Board was specifically formed for the purpose.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is the heavy cost incurred in irrigation per acre, which works out at Rs. 320 due to the low level of the tube wells or due to other reasons?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, as I pointed out, a considerable part of the sum is non-recurring expenditure, that is, with regard to tube wells and other things. The recurring expenditure is only about Rs. 65,000/.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know how many rotary rigs were employed for constructing these wells?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think two rotaries were employed at Samidri.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is there a special organisation for tapping underground water-supply, and, if so, what is the present condition of that organisation?

Shri K. M. Munshi: This organisation called the Rajasthan Underground Water Board was set up in 1949 for the purpose, in the first instance, of exploring the underground water resources.....

Dr. Deshmukh: My question was, is there a special organisation for tapping underground water-supply, and, if so, what is the condition of that organisation?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Well, I would like to have notice of that question.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO EXISTING SYSTEM OF TAXATION ON MOTOR VEHICLES

***442. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to enquire into the existing system of taxation on motor vehicles used in this country; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference and whether any report has been made?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) and (b). The Motor Vehicles Taxation Committee was appointed on the 20th April, 1950 in Resolution No. 30-T(14)/49 dated the 20th April, 1950, published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of date. The terms of reference to the Committee are contained in paragraph 2 thereof. A copy of the notification is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix IV, annexure No. 1*). The Committee has not yet furnished its report.

Shri Sidhva: What are the main terms of reference?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The main terms of reference are to:

(i) survey the existing systems of taxation of motor vehicle users in India; and

(ii) recommend—

(1) the basis of a scientific system of taxation of the motor vehicle users to ensure the provision and development of cheap, rapid, and efficient transport, for different categories of users by the means best suited for the kind of traffic involved and with a view to obtaining proper co-ordination between the different forms of inland transport;

(2) the method of securing reciprocity in taxation between the various taxing authorities; and

(3) the principles on which any part of the proceeds of the taxation of motor vehicle users by the Union and State Governments and Local Authorities, should be made available for road maintenance and development.

Dr. Deshmukh: At whose request was this enquiry—especially into the incidence of taxation of motor vehicles—undertaken?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It was in response to a resolution of the All India Transport Advisory Council.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that the main enquiry concerned with taxation at the import stage and not with internal taxes?

Shri Gopaldaswami: No, it covered both.

Shri Nandkishore Das: Is it a fact that the system and rate of taxation varies from State to State?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Yes, it varies very widely.

Shri Nandkishore Das: Will Government consider the idea of introducing a uniform system throughout the country?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Well, we shall have to await the report of the Committee.

KANDLA PORT

***443. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Experts for the survey of Kandla port has been received;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations and whether they have been accepted; and

(c) when the work of the development of this port will start?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes. The reconnaissance survey report has been received from the firm of Consulting Engineers.

(b) The report deals with the general layout of the Port including the siting of berths, the location of warehouses and transit sheds, the railway arrangements within the Port, the programme of construction of berths, the location of the oil jetty, the problem of reclamation and other important points. The recommendations contained in the report are now under technical scrutiny and decisions will be taken by Government on these shortly.

(c) Work on development has already started, but major construction activity will begin only after detailed drawings and designs have been prepared. This will be taken up immediately after Government have arrived at a decision on the recommendations. The construction of the port will be taken up according to a phased programme based on an appreciation of the resources in money and material.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the recommendations cover the existing areas of salt works or even those on the eastern side?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The area covered by the salt works has also been taken into account, but I believe that there is no recommendation that the salt works should be moved from there.

Shri Sidhva: In how many stages will the construction of the berths be completed, and in the first stage how many will be taken in hand?

Shri Gopaldaswami: In the opening stage four open wharves works will be required.

Shri Sidhva: How much time will it take for the first stage to be completed?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It will take about two years.

Shri Sidhva: Two years from now?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Practically from now, but preliminary use of the port will be arranged for long before that.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the construction of the railway from the other side connecting the Kundla port has been started and if so, how many miles have been completed?

Shri Gopaldaswami: As a matter of fact, the work on the railway line has been started. I am not in a position to give the mileage that has been already completed.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if it is a fact that work on this port is considerably slowed down for want of finances?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I do not think so. I think we have all the finance necessary for expenditure on the work that has been programmed.

SUBSIDIARY FOOD SCHEME

*444. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on subsidiary food scheme, namely "Grow More Sweet Potatoes and Bananas";

(b) what is the result of the scheme; and

(c) whether it is still in force and what quantity of cereals has been actually saved by this subsidiary scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) For the year 1949-50, the original provision was 10 lakhs but the final estimate is net Rs. 2,77,900. Against this, the expenditure so far made is about rupees two lakhs.

For the year 1950-51, the original provision was 5 lakhs but the final estimate is Rs. 30,000. Against this, Rs. 22,000 has been spent upto 1st August, 1950.

(b) and (c). Hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given on 2nd August, 1950 against Starred Question No. 74 by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether this scheme has been subsequently abandoned?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It has not been abandoned altogether. It has been altered by Government.

Shri Sidhva: What are the alterations?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The alterations are: (i) to increase the production and popularise the use of subsidiary foods in selected areas by intensive propaganda, and (ii) in the areas selected for this purpose, to reduce the issue of cereals to establishments such as hotels, restaurants, eating houses and so on by one day's ration per week and to ask them to use only subsidiary foods on that day.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the scheme of sweet potatoes has been abandoned or whether it is still going on?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The production of non-cereal food includes production of sweet potatoes.

सेठ गोंविन्द दास : क्या इसके सिवा और भी कोई स्कीम, जिससे कि अनाज का उपयोग कम हो, सरकार के सामने है? मैं एक बात और आपकी मार्फत माननीय मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना में कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे हिन्दी प्रश्नों का उत्तर हिन्दी में ही दिया करें। वे हिन्दी अच्छी तरह जानते हैं और हिन्दी साहित्य सम्मेलन के सभापति भी रह चुके हैं।

[**Seth Govind Das:** Besides this, have the Government any other Scheme, whereby the consumption of foodgrains be lessened, under consideration? Through you, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to answer in Hindi the questions put in Hindi. He knows Hindi quite well and has been the President of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan.]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I confess my inability to answer questions in Hindi

as admirably as my learned friend asks questions. To answer his question, there is no other scheme for the moment than the one I have mentioned.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that the subsidiary food scheme is proposed to be substituted by the supplementary food scheme and if so, what is the difference between subsidiary foods and supplementary foods?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The difference is this that the subsidiary food was mainly sweet potatoes, while the supplementary food includes every non-cereal type of food.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that Government have instituted a campaign called the 'Miss a meal' campaign and if so, what is the progress of that campaign and what is the expenditure incurred on it?

Shri K. M. Munshi: 'Miss a meal' movement is an independent movement. It has nothing to do with Government.

Shri Karunakara Menon: Are Government aware that there are restrictions on the export of these non-cereal foods from one district to another inside the Madras Presidency and that this affects the full development of non-cereal foods?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am not aware of it. I shall make enquiries.

Shri Jhunjunwala: Is it the policy of Government to stop import of cereals or other food materials from abroad if subsidiary or other non-cereal food materials are available in India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Of course, if non-cereal food is available and people change their habits a little, it is bound to result in a reduction in imports.

Shri Sidhva: Out of the three lakhs which the Minister mentioned, how much has been spent on saving cereals

like wheat? I want to know, in other words, how much cereals have been saved as a result of this expenditure.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have no figures.

Shri Sidhva: Was any saving made?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Some saving was attempted to be made by mixing sweet potato flour with what *atta*, but that was given up lately.

CLASSIFICATION OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS

*445. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the date on which the old classification on Railways was re-introduced?

(b) Whether any estimate was prepared of the cost for the introduction of the changed classification of Compartments on the Railways and if so, what is the estimate?

(c) Was this estimate placed before the Standing Advisory Committee for Railways and the Standing Finance Committee and if not, why not?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the classes of passenger accommodation obtaining prior to 1st January, 1949; if so, this was restored with effect from 1st July, 1950.

(b) and (c). It was estimated that the reduction of four classes to three would bring in a loss of about half a crore of rupees a year. The change was, however, proceeded with in response to the public demand as expressed on the floor of this House and accepted by the Central Advisory Council for Railways, which includes all the Members of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

Dr. Deshmukh: Was any estimate prepared for the purpose of making changes in the classifications and if so what was that estimate? My question has not been answered properly.

Shri Gopaldaswami: The question is very ambiguously worded, and according to one interpretation of it, my answer is quite adequate and to the point, but if I am to answer the question that has now been put to me, I think the cost of the conversion of one class into another in order to give effect to the orders that were issued is estimated to have been about Rs. 24 lakhs when the four classes were reduced to three.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if this estimate of Rs. 24 lakhs was placed before the Standing Advisory Committee and the Standing Finance Committee and it was approved by them?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I don't remember. I should like to have notice of it.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that no estimate was prepared of the expenditure necessary for this conversion and no sanction therefor was obtained either of the Standing Advisory Committee or the Standing Finance Committee?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is only putting the previous question in another form.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if it is the intention of Government to levy a surcharge on such officials or Members of this Parliament who were responsible for this loss to the exchequer?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I do not know if this sort of punishment can be meted out to officers connected with the implementation of this decision. If it can, it will be difficult to discriminate in favour of those who were responsible for the decision.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the reason which led to the change of classification from Class I, Class II(S), Class II(O) and Class III to First, Second, Inter and Third Class?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I think those who were originally very enthusiastic about introducing a reduced number

of classes had, in the course of a year, been educated into the opinion that the previously existing state was a better one.

Sardar B. S. Man: Is there any further scheme under the consideration of the Department to introduce re-classification of already re-classified compartments?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Shri Goenka: Is it a fact, Sir, that it was unanimously approved by the Central Advisory Committee of Railways, of which I was also a Member, that this classification should be changed and some of the very Members now oppose the proposal?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jangde: Is there any change in railway fares after the re-classification of compartments in railways?

Shri Gopaldaswami: There was, of course. Conversion involved certain alteration in railway fares.

RAILWAY INCOME FROM CLASS I PASSENGERS

*446. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the income from Class I passengers from the date when the fare was reduced from 30 pies to 24 pies per mile upto the end of June 1950?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): 5.33 crores on the 9 Railways under Government management throughout the period, namely B.N., B.B. and C.I., E.I., G.I.P., M. and S.M., O.T., S.I., E.P. and Assam Railways.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know the considerations on which, after the new classification, relief to Class I passengers was given?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It was then expected that fairly half the number of passengers who were travelling previously in the Second Class might migrate to the First Class and if the fare was kept at thirty pies it would

be a heavy burden. Encouragement of that sort of movement from Class II to Class I was one of the reasons which justified a reduction of fares.

Dr. Deshmukh: Was this expectation fulfilled, and, if not, is it proposed to raise the fares to make good the mistake?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid the expectation was not realised—I am free to confess that. That certainly was one of the reasons which enabled a decision to be taken later on to go back to the original classification. But at present we have no proposal to raise Class I fare from 24 pies to 30 pies.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it is the intention of Government to increase First class fare and reduce Inter and Third class fares?

Shri Gopaldaswami: As a matter of fact, I do not think we have monkeyed with the rates for the Inter class. But there is no proposal of doing anything of the kind as suggested by the hon. Member.

Shri Sidhva: Out of these Rs. 5 lakhs how much was recovered from the public in the First class and how much from Government servants?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I should have notice of the question. Even if I had notice I do not know whether I can obtain the figures.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the demand both in this House as well as outside was for the abolition of the First Class; whereas, when the Three Class system was brought about, it was not the First Class which was abolished, but it was the Second Class which was abolished and therefore the whole trouble arose?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not asking for any information.

Seth Govind Das: I am asking whether it is not a fact that when the reclassification was introduced, it was the Second Class which was abolished and not the First Class?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We shall go to the next question.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

*447. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the mileage of national highways that has been constructed upto the end of June 1950?

(b) How many miles are proposed to be added in the course of the present financial year?

(c) Is there any proposal to stop expenditure on this item hereafter?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The total length of national highways for which the Central Government had assumed responsibility on 30th June, 1950, was 12,400 miles. Out of this, 80 miles were newly constructed and 800 miles improved under the National Highway Scheme, the rest being old roads.

(b) (i) Miles to be newly constructed 60.

(ii) Miles to be improved 130.

(c) No.

Dr. Deshmukh: When is it contemplated that the length of 12,400 miles will be completed?

Shri Gopaldaswami: As a matter of fact, all but a very small percentage of this length was already in existence and we simply took them over from the authorities who had been in charge of these roads previously. That is why we have had to build only a certain amount of mileage of roads where there were gaps between the terminal point of one national highway and that of the next one. That, I think, will be about a thousand miles in all. For the rest we only attempt to improve the quality of the surface of the mileage that we have taken over as national highways.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know what length of mileage has been brought up to the standard of national highways out of the total length of 12,400,

and is there any plan spread over a number of years to complete the whole length?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I think the great bulk of the mileage under national highways is up to fairly decent standards required. About 160 miles of national highways which were of a low standard have been brought up to proper standard. We have a programme of doing this continuously from year to year so that we may be able to bring up all portions of national highways which are not up to standard to standard.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if progress of bringing the roads to the national highway standard has been slowed down for want of finance?

Shri Gopaldaswami: That is true.

Dr. Deshmukh: Did the hon. Minister impress upon the hon. the Finance Minister the greater need of national highways than post offices?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I hope the hon. Member will trust me to do that.

Shri Chaliha: What is the mileage of national highways in Assam: does it include the Stillwell road running up to the border of Burma?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I think a bit of the Stillwell road at the Burma end has been allowed to fall into a very bad state of disrepair.

The question of repairing it and bringing it up to the standard which will allow of easy traffic for ordinary vehicles, including motor vehicles, is now under consideration.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any proposal to start construction of the national highways through the Travancore-Cochin State?

Mr. Speaker: He is asking in respect of the southern part of India.

Shri Gopaldaswami: I believe we are adding a new national highway in Southern India.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that some foreign experts have been imported as usual in this connection as well?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I do not think so. There is a foreigner at the head of our Roads organisation. He has been here for many years.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know how many roadways are in existence in Vindhya Pradesh and whether Government proposes to build any new one?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I must have notice.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any test has been conducted by the Ministry in regard to the economic use of stones, cement and other materials, and if so, which is more economical and suitable?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I believe—I have a vague recollection—that my hon. friend has put a specific question on this matter. I am not sure whether it has been answered already or whether it will come up. If it has been answered I would refer him to the answer. If it has not come up I would advise him to wait for that answer.

Shri Sidhva: But it is an unstarred question.

DELHI TRANSPORT SERVICE

*448. **Lala Raj Kanwar** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total number of buses being run at present by the Delhi Transport Service?

(b) How many of the existing buses require replacement and when are they likely to be replaced?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The Delhi Transport Service has a fleet of 264 buses of which on an average 161 buses are in daily service.

(b) 83 buses require replacement. Of these 40 are likely to be replaced by December 1950, and the rest as soon as possible thereafter.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What was the total number of buses taken over from

the previous management, how many of these were considered roadworthy and put on the road, and what happened to the remainder?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The number of buses taken over from the G.N.I.T. Company was 189. I can give other figures about how many were purchased, how many were repaired. But I cannot answer the particular question put by the hon. Member. He wants information as regards the number of buses from amongst those taken over which had been repaired or replaced. I am afraid I am not in a position to give that answer without notice.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What is the likely cost of replacements?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It has varied with the type of vehicles purchased.

Lala Raj Kanwar: How much profit or loss has occurred since the service was taken over by Government?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Perhaps the hon. Member would put down a question on that subject.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that certain bus routes have been cancelled as a measure of economy?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I hope hon. Members would realize that the Ministry is not now in direct charge of this service. It is in charge of a Road Transport Authority which we have created for Delhi. Details of this description cannot be given by the Ministry without reference to that Authority.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what was the amount paid by Government to G.N.I.T. for these 189 buses which were taken over?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The price paid to the G.N.I.T. Company for the 189 buses was approximately Rs. 19.5 lakhs.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Standing Finance Committee's sanction was obtained before this payment was made?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I do not remember and I would like to have notice.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether a departmental enquiry was held by the Government in this deal and the state of the buses in which they were taken over, and if so, will Government lay on the Table of the House the report of the departmental enquiry?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Well, there has been more than one enquiry in this connection. I do not know which enquiry the hon. Member is referring to. But I shall look into the reports received from all enquiries and see which of them I can make available to hon. Members.

Shri Sidhva: After taking over from the G.N.I.T. of the new buses that were purchased, how many became totally unserviceable and how many partially unserviceable?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I cannot give an exact answer, but if the hon. Member would like to have information as to the age of the vehicles when they were taken over from the G.N.I.T. Company, I can give it.

Shri Sidhva: I am talking of new buses, after taking over from G.N.I.T.

Shri Gopaldaswami: The new buses purchased were 128 and the approximate cost is Rs. 21.8 lakhs.

Shri Sidhva: How many are serviceable?

Shri Kamath: What is the proportion of the number of buses to the Delhi population as compared with the number of buses and trams to the population in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta?

Shri Gopaldaswami: That would require a certain amount of arithmetical calculation which I shall certainly attempt to do.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that these new buses which have cost Government round about

Rs. 21 lakhs are kept in open and there is no garage accommodation for these buses?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Some of them are left in the open, I know as a matter of fact. But we are trying to build covered accommodation for all the vehicles that may require that kind of accommodation. I believe the Authority has some programme of works to be executed in that connection.

MAP OF INDIA

*449. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to publish an up-to-date map of India showing the new set-up of the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): An up-to-date political map of India in the scale of 70 miles to an inch, was published in February 1950. The publication of a bigger map is under consideration.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What is the price of this map which has been published and how many copies of it have been made available?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The map is on sale to the public at Rs. 2 per copy in all important sale agencies.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is this map in Hindi or English?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is in English.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know when the bigger map is likely to be printed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It will be ready in a few months time.

सठ गोविन्द दास : जो यह बड़ा नक्शा बनाया जा रहा है, क्या वह हिन्दी में भी बनाया जा रहा है ?

[Seth Govind Das: Is the big map, that is under preparation, being printed in Hindi also?]

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am going to the next question.

UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCES IN RAJASTHAN

***450. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have utilised the services of a water diviner of Saurashtra or Rajasthan known as Shri Jeevram Vyas alias "Pani Maharaj" for locating underground water; and

(b) if so, on how many occasions he was tried and with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) He has been tried as under:

- (i) Four wells at Sandari. All are successful.
- (ii) One well at Dundara which is successful.
- (iii) Three sites at Jaipur out of which two are successful.
- (iv) Eight sites at Faridabad which have all been successful.
- (v) Five sites at Rajpura out of which 2 were successful.
- (vi) Six sites at Ajmer which have still to be tested.

Information regarding other consultations in Saurashtra and elsewhere is not available.

Lala Raj Kanwar: Is water divining an art or science or an amalgam of both?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am not a diviner myself.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What steps are Government taking to impart training in water divining?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as the *Pani Maharaj* is concerned, he has acquired his power by *Yog* and if any young boy of twelve is prepared to work under him and be trained for six years, he is willing to give him training.

Mr. Speaker: I think we must go to the next question.

FOOD CONTROL SCHEME

***451. Shri Jhunjunwala:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the average quantity of Cereals distributed per day under the Food Control Scheme throughout India and the value thereof;

(b) the average number of persons per day throughout India to whom cereals under part (a) are given; and

(c) the sources of supply of cereals for such distribution?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The average quantity of rationed foodgrains distributed under Government's rationing system throughout India is about 18,000 tons per day. Besides this, about 3,000 tons of cereals per day are being distributed through organised industries who draw their supplies from Government stock. No reliable estimate of the value of daily distribution of grains is possible as the issue prices vary from grain to grain and place to place.

(b) The average daily number of persons at present getting a part or whole of their foodgrains supplies direct from Government is 109 million.

(c) The sources of supply of foodgrains are (i) locally procured grain, (ii) grain made available from internal surpluses, and (iii) grain imported from abroad.

Shri Jhunjunwala: What is the proportion of foodgrains under the three sources?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice of that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, the system of distribution of foodgrains adopted in Delhi?

Shri K. M. Munshi: In Delhi 468 tons are being distributed under statutory rationing and 40 tons under informal rationing.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the handling for distribution of food-grains is entrusted to one firm in Delhi on monopolistic basis?

Shri K. M. Munshi: One firm has been entrusted with the task of stocking the grains received on account of Government and that firm supplies to the different ration shops such quantities as are directed by Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the amount paid to this firm as commission during the last five or six years ever since the work was entrusted to it?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is a separate question on this and I think the hon. Member will wait for that question.

Shri Satish Chandra: Do the figures that the hon. Minister has referred to in the beginning, represent the actual offtake that is distributed, or which is only supposed to be distributed through the ration shops in various States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They are the supplies issued by the Government.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know what is the margin between the highest and lowest *per capita* rationing in this country and the States where they prevail?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government received complaints that most of the cereals that are sold in the black market are obtained through these monopolists who are distributors for Government?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not received any complaint of that nature.

FOOD CONTROL SCHEME (EXPENDITURE)

***452. Shri Jhunjunwala:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state the total amount spent by (i) Central and (ii) State Governments under the Food Control Scheme and what the break-up of the total amount is under following heads:

(i) overhead establishment expenses at Centre and States,

(ii) distribution expenses, and

(iii) subsidy given by Centre and States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (i) During the year 1949, which is the latest year for which figures are available, the establishment cost of the Central Government and the States was estimated at Rs. 40 lakhs and Rs. 9.5 crores respectively.

(ii) It is presumed that by 'distribution expenses' the hon. Member has in mind the incidental charges, over and above the wholesale prices at which grain is acquired by the States. These vary from State to State. The information is not readily available.

(iii) The subsidy on imported grains is divided between the Centre and the States on the basis of $\frac{3}{4}$ th and $\frac{1}{4}$ th respectively. The total estimate of the Central share of subsidy for 1950-51 is Rs. 12.84 crores.

Shri Jhunjunwala: In reply to part (i) the hon. Minister stated that it cost the Provinces 9.5 crores and the Centre Rs. 40 lakhs. I do not follow what is meant.

Shri K. M. Munshi: If you want by State-wise, you must give notice.

Shri Satish Chandra: How much amount was paid to Bombay Government out of the total subsidy given last year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice.

KOSI FLOOD IN NORTH BIHAR

*453. **Shri Jhunhunwala:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news appearing in papers regarding Kosi flood and the havoc it has created in North Bihar in districts of Darbhanga, Saharsha, Bhagalpur and Purnea?

(b) Apart from the big Kosi Dam Project which the Government have in contemplation, have the Government got in view any short term scheme for stopping or minimising this periodical havoc?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, by what time will it materialise?

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

(b) For effective control, the construction of Kosi Dam is essential. No flood protection works without the construction of the dam will successfully meet the situation. No short term schemes to combat floods are in sight.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: Is it a fact that the Government have divided the scheme into seven parts? If so, what part of the work will be taken up first?

Shri Gadgil: The first part of the scheme relates to construction of barrage at Chatra. It is mainly to hold water with a view to divert it into irrigation canals and for the purpose of generation of electricity.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the cost of the present work that the Government desire to take up first?

Shri Gadgil: It is approximately Rs. 5 crores.

Shri Jhunhunwala: At what stage is the first part of the work?

Shri Gadgil: It has not yet begun but estimates are being worked out.

TUBE WELLS

*454. **Shri Hanumanthaiya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two crores of rupees have been given to U.P. as loan for construction of Tube-Wells?

(b) What are the other States to which such loan has been advanced and what is the amount granted to each State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A loan of Rs. 15 lakhs only has so far been sanctioned to the U.P. Government in the current year towards their scheme for the construction of tube-wells. The State Government has another tube-well scheme under consideration. If that is sanctioned, a further loan of about one crore and seventy-six lakhs of rupees is likely to be given by the Centre, spread over two years.

(b) Loans of Rs. 43,37,000 to the Punjab and of Rs. 7,50,000 to the Patiala and East Punjab States Union have been sanctioned.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इन स्टेटों के सिवा
क्या और भी कोई स्टेटें हैं जिनको
दरखास्तें इस तरह के कर्ज लेने के
सम्बन्ध में आई हैं, और क्या उन पर भी
कोई विचार किया जा रहा है ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Besides these States are there other States also on whose behalf such applications for loans have been received? Are their applications also being taken into consideration?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: Yes. The Governments of Bihar and Punjab are also expected to enter into contracts about these tube wells and similarly the Governments of Bombay and Saurashtra are also carrying on negotiations for the purpose.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: What are the other States which have applied for a loan for this purpose, Sir?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have already completed their negotiations.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: My question was what are the States which have applied for this loan?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Has the Government of Bihar applied for the loan and if so, at what stage is their application for such a loan?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Bihar Government has been given a grant already. For 1950-51 they have been given Rs. 4,50,000.

श्री द्विवेदी : जब कि मालवा, विन्ध्या प्रदेश और राजस्थान को अधिक अन्न उपजाओ योजना के अन्तगत सरकार ने ले लिया है, तो क्या कारण है कि इन स्थानों पर ट्यूब वेल लगाने के लिए रुपया नहीं दिया गया है ?

[**Shri Dwivedi:** When the Government have included Malwa, Vindhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the 'Grow More Food Campaign' then what is the reason of money not been sanctioned for sinking tube wells in these areas.]

Shri K. M. Munshi: The tube-wells can only be successfully and economically operated in certain alluvial regions and so far no attempt has been made to ascertain whether tube-wells will be successfully worked in those regions.

Shri Tyagi: Are these loans being utilized by the State in sinking their own State tube-wells or are they given to individuals as subsidies?

Shri K. M. Munshi: These are used for tube-wells.

Shri Tyagi: Are they for State tube-wells or private tube-wells?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They are, I think, for private tube-wells.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: What is the interest charge of this loan?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: What is the maximum amount set apart for this purpose by the Government for these loans?

Shri K. M. Munshi: What happens is that when the Grow More Food Schemes are considered then a certain amount is set apart for minor irrigation and the quota is given according to the facilities and the readiness of the States to contribute their share to it.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: My question was what was the amount set apart for this purpose in the Budget?

Shri K. M. Munshi: This forms part of the general Grow More Food programme.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the total number of tube wells so far constructed in U. P., Punjab, and Patiala States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As regards the total number of tube-wells, I would like to have notice. So far as 1950-51 is concerned, installation in Bihar 110, Punjab—it is sinking tube wells—250. Jagadhri Tube Wells project 256. U. P. 350.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Central Government will have control on the contracts given to any firm?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Central Government has no control over the contracts. The Central Government arranges for the negotiations. The negotiations are carried on separately by the States themselves. So far as the carrying out of the schemes are concerned, that depends upon the contractors and the States.

से गोविन्द दास : क्या कोई ऐसी भी स्टेटें है कि जिन्होंने इस प्रकार के खर्च के लिये दरखास्तें दी थीं और उनकी दरखास्तें नामंजूर हो गयीं ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Are there any such States that had submitted applications for such expenditure but whose applications have been rejected?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am not aware of it. My hon. friend will please give notice of it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that a contract has been given to a British firm, and the average cost of a tube-well was round about Rs. 30,000, whereas the quotation given by some Indian firms was much less?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is not correct. The reason is this. In the contracts, the negotiations for which are completed with the Associated Tube Wells, in respect of the three States, Bihar, U.P., and Punjab, the cost contemplated is Rs. 40,000.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Rs. 40,000 per tube-well?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Yes; Rs. 40,000 per tube-well. The cost of digging a well is just the same as in the quotation of the Indian firms, about Rs. 15,000. In addition to that, they provide electricity apparatus, and arrange the whole distribution system for which we have got to rely upon various things imported from outside. So, there is no difference in the cost so far as digging the well is concerned. There is additional material which they are providing.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I have got one important question, Sir. Is it not a fact that in the estimate given by one of the ex-engineers of

the Government of India for a complete tube-well, energised, working with electricity or with diesel, the amount was not more than Rs. 20,000 per tube well?

Shri K. M. Munshi: What is the name of the Engineer?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Mr. Kashyap.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Mr. Kashyap was an engineer who said that he would put up a well for the amount mentioned by my friend. It has been found by all the experts that the claim was unfounded. My hon. friend who has asked the question wrote to me about it and I have left the whole file with him to sit down with my officers and discuss. If Mr. Kashyap could produce a well for a smaller amount, anybody else can do it.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What about...

Mr. Speaker: Now, we will proceed to the next question.

PRODUCTION OF FOOD GRAINS ?

*455. **Shri Hanumanthaiya:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the extent to which the policy of the Government of India to stop imports of food grains by 1951 and grow sufficient food grains by that time has fructified?

(b) What is the number of tons of each of the food grains that are estimated to be produced in the years 1950 and 1951?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 117 asked by Shri Jagannath Mishra on 2nd August, 1950. The extent to which the Policy of the Government of India referred to by the hon. Member has fructified can be judged from the additional production achieved during the last year, which is given in the above

reply. Moreover, as stated therein, it is not possible to furnish the quantities of each foodgrain to be produced.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether you have received any reports, regarding this year's *Kharif* crops, that the expectations of your food planning have been achieved? What do the reports indicate?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I should like to have notice of the question.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS RECRUITMENT

*456. **Shri Tyagi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of clerical and other posts in his Ministry were recently advertised?

(b) How many posts were advertised and how many applications were received?

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

(b) The number of posts advertised were 28 and the number of applications received were 549. These figures do not include the Posts and Telegraphs Department in respect of which the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Tyagi: May I know whether it is a fact that some posts of clerks were advertised in Madras recently?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not only in Madras, but for Posts and Telegraphs, all over India.

Shri Tyagi: Is this the total for all the posts? $\frac{3}{4}$

Shri Khurshed Lal: These figures do not include the Posts and Telegraphs Department. We have not got the exact number. We will supply the information.

Shri Tyagi: May I know approximately how many posts have been recently advertised?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Probably, I think, the number of clerks for the Posts and Telegraphs is 5,000.

Shri Tyagi: How many applications have been received?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I have said, we have not got the correct information. It is much more than we advertised for.

Shri Tyagi: My information is that 60,000 applications have been received. Is that correct?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I would not be able to guess that.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I know if any attempt has been made to absorb those people retrenched from other departments of the Government of India or any other Government before an advertisement of this kind is issued to the public inviting applications?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): According to the rules, we have to have a competitive examination. Therefore, many people who have been employed in the department on a temporary basis, had also to sit in this examination.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that persons who have had an experience of three years and more are eligible and are as qualified as other persons who may have academical qualifications, later?

Shri Kidwai: It is true that persons who have got experience of more than one year have been allowed not to sit in this examination, but there is a proficiency test for them. Persons who were employed since a date in March last year had to sit in this competitive examination.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Has any number of posts been reserved for these persons who have had experience as against those who have to apply with academical qualifications?

Shri Kidwai: As I said, there were a large number of clerks in our department who have been working on

a temporary basis for the last six or seven years. Some of them who have experience have been taken permanently. Those who have less experience had to undergo a proficiency test, and had not to sit in this competitive examination. Persons with less than one year's service have been asked to sit in this examination.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether any reference was made to the Employment Exchanges in regard to this recruitment?

Shri Kidwai: This recruitment is by competitive examination. For temporary appointments, the Employment Exchanges were always being asked to supply the people; but they have also to sit in this examination.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it a fact that the Employment Exchange have got a pool of officers who have been retrenched and who are competent to serve in the department? May I know whether any reference has been made to that pool for recruitment?

Shri Kidwai: As I have explained, according to the rules, we have to have a competitive examination. Persons who pass that competitive examination can be taken. There has been no competitive examination for the last three years. Therefore, we have made an exception in the case of persons who have worked satisfactorily in this department. For others, they will have to sit in the competitive examination.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I know if exemption from academical qualifications is granted only to those who have had experience in the hon. Minister's department or for others also who have had experience in other Ministries?

Shri Kidwai: As I have said more than once, according to the rules, we have to take only those who successfully compete in the competitive examination. But, we have made certain exceptions in the case of those who have been working temporarily for the last five or six years.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT GURPA NEAR GAYA

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 87 Down train on the E.I. Railway which left Patna Junction on 2nd August 1950 at 22.00 hours met with an accident at the Gurpa Railway station beyond Gaya?

(b) If so, what was the damage caused to rolling stock and passengers?

(c) Have Government started any enquiry into this accident?

(d) If so, do they propose to associate a non-official with the Enquiry Committee?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) 87 Dn. Passenger train which left Patna Junction on 2nd August, '50 at 21/50 hours met with an accident at Gurpa Railway Station at 2/38 hours on the 3rd August, 1950. The banking engine while coming to attach in rear of the train severely bumped into the rearmost vehicle which was a first and second class composite bogie with a servants' compartment.

(b) The estimated cost of damage to rolling stock was Rs. 303. 15 passengers received simple injuries. 14 of the injured continued their journey after receiving first aid; the 15th person was admitted in Dharbad hospital for treatment. He is reported to be progressing satisfactorily and is expected to be discharged in a few days.

(c) On investigation it was found that the gauge glass of the banking engine having suddenly burst, the driver was confused and failed to control his engine. The driver has also accepted his responsibility in the matter. In the circumstances no further enquiry has been considered necessary.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Was any enquiry made as to whether the sudden breaking was due to old materials being used, or whether it was merely a case of an accident?

Shri Gopalswami: I do not know whether the hon. Member is referring to the gauge glass. I have not got the information about it. But the glass broke and the driver got confused. Therefore he was not able to control the engine.

Shri Joachim Alva: During last session, in reply to an interpellation of mine, the hon. Minister stated that he was calling a conference of experts to enquire into railway accidents. I want to know, Sir, how many accidents have taken place after that conference was held.

Shri Gopalswami: I did give some figures as to the number of accidents that have taken place during the last six months and during the last three months also. Those figures will require a certain amount of adjustment if I have to relate them to the period between the holding of the conference of these experts and now. That would also require a certain amount of arithmetic.

Shri Tyagi: Are accidents becoming less and less now after the conference? Are they getting reduced?

Shri Gopalswami: I think the number of accidents has gone down considerably.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

IMPORTED FERTILIZERS

*457. **Shri Tyagi:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the amount of fertilizers imported by Government during the past seven months, and the cost thereof?

(b) Is it a fact that a substantial portion of these fertilizers deteriorated at the Port of Bombay? If so, what loss has been incurred by Government on this account?

(c) How much has been spent in re-bagging this heap of deteriorated fertilizers?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A total quantity of 3,74,678 tons of fertilizers valued at Rs. 11,19,46,065 were imported during the period from 1st January to 31st July, 1950.

(b) No. The question of loss incurred, therefore, does not arise.

(c) The expenditure incurred in re-bagging small quantities of sweepings which lie in the course of clearing and forwarding is included in the clearing and forwarding charges paid to the Clearing and Forwarding Agents at the ports. No extra expenditure is, therefore, involved in re-bagging these sweepings.

HARMONE TREATMENT OF STERILE COWS

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

(a) whether any experiment has been made to produce milk from sterile cows by hormone treatment; and

(b) if so, what are the results?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. Experiments have been conducted on three animals at the Indian Dairy Research Institute and six animals at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

(b) The response varied. Two cows did not react to this treatment. The rest gave a yield which varied from 3 lbs. to 13 to 14 lbs. per day. One dry cow gave a total of 2324 lbs. in 343 days. This treatment, however, is still in an experimental stage. The effect of hormone treatment on body metabolism as well as the dose and

method of administration have to be determined. Further experiments to this effect are being made.

TUBE WELLS SUNK UNDER "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

***459. Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state the number of Tube Wells sunk under the "Grow More Food" Campaign scheme?

(b) What is the grant given to the various States for this purpose?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 825 tube-wells have been sunk in the States under the Grow More Food Campaign since 1943-44.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix IV, annexure No. 2*].

COLLISION BETWEEN 38 DOWN PASSENGER AND THE 3 UP TRAINS AT TAPRI STATION

***460. Shri Lakshmanan:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway authorities on the 5th April, 1950 flashed news of collision between the 38 Down Passenger and the 3 Up trains at Tapri station, to the station-master and loco-foreman at Saharanpur, asking them to rush a relief train with medical van;

(b) whether in fact any such collision took place; and

(c) if not, what was the reason for raising such an alarm?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) This was one of the relief train 'drills' conducted on the Railways to test the efficiency of Relief Train arrangements particularly in respect of the promptness with which a relief train, complete with the necessary

staff etc., is turned out on receipt of intimation of the occurrence of an accident requiring such assistance.

RAMAN COMMITTEE REPORT

***461. Shri Bhatt:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the Raman Committee Report on Sanitation, Hygiene, etc. on the Railways and if not when they propose to consider them;

(b) the cause for the delay;

(c) whether Government are aware that many third class latrines in the railway stations on Ajmer-Delhi Section of the Metre Gauge line are without doors;

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take steps to set matters right; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that in New Delhi Railway Station doorless latrines exist?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The Raman Committee's Report has been considered and orders on the recommendations made therein, except those contained in Chapter IV, have already been issued to Railways. Chapter IV deals with proper organisation to supervise environmental sanitation on each Railway. The recommendations made in this Chapter are still under examination and as the matter involves large questions of policy and organisation and, to some extent, is interlinked with the question of regrouping of railways, a final decision on these recommendations has not so far been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) It is proposed to provide new latrines and improve the existing ones at 34 stations on the section as soon as funds permit.

(e) Yes; the provision of doors is, however, already in hand and nearing completion.

PASSENGERS' AMENITIES PROGRAMMES

*462. **Shri Bhatt:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many major programmes (involving an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 or more) of Railway passengers' amenities sanctioned for the current year have been started Railway-wise?

(b) How many such programmes are yet to be started and how many are not likely to be started and why?

(c) Is it a fact that certain passengers' amenities programmes on the Delhi-Ajmer Section of the M. G. Line are held up for want of estimates, designs and planning?

(d) If so, which of them are so held up and what is the cause of the delay?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) 449, distributed over the following Railways:

Assam	..	5
B. N.	..	38
B.B. and C.I.	..	13
E. I.	..	107
E. P.	..	16
G. I. P.	..	24
M. and S. M.	..	120
O. T.	..	90
S. I.	..	24
Bikaner	..	4
Mysore	..	3
N. S.	..	2
Saurashtra	..	3

(b) 391 schemes are yet to be started. Plans and estimates for these are under preparation and materials required are being collected. Only four schemes are not expected to be commenced in the financial year, as steel required for these is not likely to be available.

(c) and (d). 50 per cent. of the proposals programmed for the Ajmer-Delhi section for this year have already been sanctioned and work commenced. On the remainder work on designing, estimating, etc. is in hand.

BOGIES FOR M. G. AND B. G. LINES

*463. **Shri Bhatt:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a greater shortage of bogies on M. G. Lines than on B. G. Lines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Delhi-Ahmedabad section of the M. G. Line experiences acute shortage of bogies;

(c) whether it is a fact that many unserviceable bogies are put on service and if so, why;

(d) what steps Government have taken or intend to take to expedite the manufacture of new bogies; and

(e) how many new B. G. and M. G. bogies have been manufactured in India and how many have been imported since April 1950 month-wise?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) There is general shortage of passenger carriages and it is a little more acute on some Metre Gauge systems.

(b) The shortage of passenger coaches on the B.B. and C.I. Metre Gauge system is shared by the Delhi-Ahmedabad section. The position there is no worse.

(c) No.

(d) Steps are being taken to utilise the installed capacity of railway workshops to the maximum extent in building new bogie passenger carriages during the next four years. Arrangements have also been made to manufacture 150 bogie carriages each year in the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., factory at Bangalore. In addition, 50 bogie passenger coach bodies are on order each year from Switzerland and these will be fitted and furnished on arrival in India. It is also the intention to purchase another 200 to 300 bogie passenger coaches each year from either Indian or foreign firms depending upon capacity available, delivery dates, and prices. The hon. Member is probably aware of the proposal to

establish as soon as practicable a large Railway Coach Building Unit in India designed to produce 350 to 500 carriages annually.

(e) In each of the months April, May and June, 1950 an average of 17 broad gauge and 17 metre gauge making 34 in all bogie passenger carriages were built in India. None have been imported during this period.

FAMINE IN BIHAR

***464. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state the number of deaths caused due to starvation in Bihar during June and July 1950?

(b) What arrangements have been made by the Government of India to supply food grains to the famine-stricken areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) I have already given the necessary information in my statement in Parliament on 2nd August, 1950.

(b) Though as I have said before there is no famine in Bihar, additional allotments of foodgrains for Bihar were made in July and movement of these allotments arranged by special trains, to relieve the situation.

EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL POSTAL EMPLOYEES

***465. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the total emoluments of Extra Departmental Postal employees were reduced by Re. 1 to Rs. 3 while the salaries and allowances of departmental employees were doubled and trebled after the last revision of pay and allowances?

(b) Is it a fact that the allowances of Extra Departmental Sub-Postmasters are not fixed according to the

work hours statistics and the Postmasters are not paid according to the Point System as per rules of the Department?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) No.

(b) Yes. The basic allowance of Extra Departmental Sub-Postmasters is fixed at the discretion of the Head of the Circle concerned with reference to local conditions. The 'point system' for the fixation of allowances is applicable only in the case of Extra Departmental Branch Postmasters.

DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY DAMAGE

***466. Shri A. B. Gurung:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the damage done by the recent flood to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): On the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway, there were many land slips, mostly of a minor nature between Siliguri and Kurseong, but between Kurseong and Darjeeling there have been heavy land slides. Repairs have already been done and rail services restored upto nine miles beyond Kurseong.

RICE FOR WEST BENGAL

***467. Shri A. B. Gurung:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of rice given to West Bengal in 1949-50 and the quota to be given for 1950-51; and

(b) the total quantity of salt given to West Bengal in 1949-50?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The Central Government allots quotas of foodgrains for the calendar year and not the financial year. During 1949 West Bengal Government received under the Basic Plan 94,000 tons of rice. No rice has been allotted for 1950.

(b) During 1949-50 a quota of 40,76,000 maunds of salt was allotted to West Bengal against which the quantity actually supplied was 55,84,000 maunds. During 1950-51 a quota of 51,09,000 maunds has been allotted. Against this 13,71,000 maunds have actually been supplied for the first three months—April to June 1950.

DAMAGE TO TEESTA-GANGTOK ROAD

*468. **Shri A. B. Gurung:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state the extent of damage done to the road between Teesta and Gangtok by the recent flood?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): Damage by the recent floods to the Teesta Gangtok Road is roughly estimated at Rs. 20 lakhs.

SUBSIDY GIVEN TO P.E. P. S. U. FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD' CAMPAIGN

*469. **Sardar B. S. Man:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state the amount given to Patiala and East Punjab States Union as subsidy for "Grow More Food", in 1949-50?

(b) How much is given for the year 1950-51?

(c) How much of it has been spent on construction of new wells, and tubewells, and repairing the old wells?

(d) What amount was spent on manures given to agriculturists?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Grants amounting to Rs. 17,22,855 and Rs. 36,88,512 were sanctioned to P.E.P.S.U. Government during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 respectively.

(c) During 1949-50, the Government of P.E.P.S.U. spent Rs. 2,78,793 on the construction of new wells. No expenditure was incurred either on the construction of tubewells or on the repair of old wells.

As regards the current year 1950-51 this information will not be available until after the end of the year.

(d) Nil.

DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT (LOAN)

*470. **Shri B. K. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state whether the negotiation for loan from the International Bank for the Damodar Valley Project has been concluded?

(b) If so, what are the conditions?

(c) What use is at present being made of the money received?

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

(b) A copy of the agreement is placed on the Table of the House. (Placed in the Library. See No. P. 107/50).

(c) None of the proceeds of the loan has yet been drawn, as certain technical formalities have to be completed.

RISE IN FOOD PRICES DUE TO WAR IN KOREA

*471. **Shri B. K. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state whether the rise in prices of food materials after the breakout of war in Korea has been examined?

(b) What steps have been taken in this connection?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

IRON AND STEEL FOR AGRICULTURE

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

(a) the total quantity of iron and steel allotted for agricultural purposes for the current financial year; and

(b) the quantity allotted to Bihar State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The allocations of Iron and Steel for Period I (Jan.—March) of 1951 have not yet been made. It is, therefore, not possible to give the information in respect of the current financial year which ends on 31st March, 1951. A quantity of 1,86,140 tons of iron and steel was allotted for agricultural purposes during the current calendar year (Jan. to Dec. 1950).

(b) The allotment to Bihar State during the current calendar year was 7,830 tons.

LAC PRODUCTION AND EXPORT

***473. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under cultivation of lac and the total annual yield therefrom during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(b) what quantity and value of lac produced in India is consumed locally for industrial and other purposes;

(c) the total quantity and value of lac exported out of India in 1948-49 and 1949-50 and what proportion thereof was exported to hard and soft currency areas;

(d) whether Government have any scheme in hand to increase its cultivation and also the quality and quantity of the yield and how far the research carried out by the Indian Lac Research Institute has succeeded in increasing the yield or extending the cultivation of lac in the country; and

(e) whether the Government of India have fixed any target in this connection and if so, by what date is it likely to be reached?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) It is not possible to estimate the area under lac cultivation as the lac hosts are not confined to any particular area

but are scattered throughout the lac producing zone. The total yield during 1948-49 was estimated to be 8 lakh maunds and that during 1949-50 to be 11 lakh maunds.

(b) Between 50,000 to 80,000 maunds, valued roughly at 10 lakhs of rupees.

(c) The total quantity of lac exported during 1948-49 was nearly 24,500 tons valued at Rs. 868 lakhs and that during 1949-50 was nearly 22,700 tons valued at Rs. 808 lakhs. The proportion of lac exported to hard and soft currency areas was 137 to 108 in 1948-49 and 103 to 124 in 1949-50 by weight.

(d) Two schemes are in hand, one for improving the yield and the quality, and another for extending the cultivation of lac.

Under the former scheme, 13 demonstration centres covering 491 villages have been established for demonstrating the latest improved methods.

Extension of lac cultivation has been initiated with the survey of idle lac hosts in easily accessible forest and other areas. During the year 1949-50, over 13 lakhs of hosts, remaining idle, were located in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab and Bhopal. Over 3 lakh hosts were infected with lac. Brood-lac worth Rs. 27,000 was distributed.

The survey of lac hosts has been followed up by detailed working plans and by training the villagers in improved methods of cultivation.

The production of stick-lac has gone up from 9.7 lakhs maunds in 1947-48 to 11 lakh maunds in 1949-50.

(e) The target of stick-lac production has been fixed at two million maunds per annum. It is difficult to state the date by which the target is likely to be reached. Much depends upon the co-operation from the State Governments and the extent to which immature harvesting can be prevented.

MADRAS HARBOUR

***474. Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state the progress made in the expansion of the Madras Harbour?

(b) When is it likely to be completed?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Attention is invited to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 648 on 6th March, 1950. The Madras Port Trust are still in correspondence with the Government of Madras with regard to the transfer of the land opposite Fort St. George to the Trust and the terms thereof.

(b) The first stage of the Project, namely, the construction of a wet dock capable of berthing four 600 ft. ships drawing 30 ft. with modern double-storied transit sheds and overflow sheds adjoining will take about five years to complete from the date of commencement.

FOOD RATIONING

***475. Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to abolish food rationing in India?

(b) Have Government made any effort to ascertain public opinion in this regard?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No.

(b) Public opinion as reflected in the Parliament, the State Assemblies, the Press etc. is always before Government.

GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS (RESTAURANT CAR)

***476. Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that much difficulty is experienced by the passengers on the Grand Trunk Express as there is no restaurant car attached to it between Madras and Nagpur?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Government have received no such complaint so far nor are they aware that much difficulty is experienced by passengers of the Grand Trunk Express travelling between Madras and Nagpur for want of a restaurant car on the train. There are refreshment rooms and restaurants at important stations *en route* which together with the buffet car run between Nagpur and Balharshah serve the needs of passengers.

(b) In view of the answer to (a) no immediate action is called for, but the extension of the Restaurant Car service upto Madras will be considered.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE FACTORY

***477. Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the locomotive factory at Chittaranjan so far; and

(b) the names of companies producing boilers in the country?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Rs. 787 lakhs upto June, 1950.

(b) Locomotive boilers are being manufactured at present by the Telco Works at Tatanagar. The only other firm which is reported to have taken up the manufacture of stationery boilers in the country is that of Messrs. Textile Machinery Corporation Ltd., Boiler Project, 8, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta.

ROAD LINK BETWEEN BOMBAY AND MADHYA PRADESH

***478. Shri Deogirikar:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no metalled road joining Bombay State with Madhya Pradesh State; and

(b) whether there is any provision made to construct this road in the immediate future?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) There is a National Highway No. 6, which is metalled and which connects the Bombay and Madhya Pradesh States.

(b) Does not arise.

Vanaspati (COLOUR)

***479. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that research has been carried out in Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun to the effect that a plant known as *Roli* can be used for colouring *Vanaspati* oil, which will not have any injurious effects on the human system?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of colouring the *Vanaspati* oils in the country to guard against adulteration of ghee?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the Research made by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun on 'Kamala Dye', a product of *Robini* plant. Kamala Dye was found unsuitable for colouring *Vanaspati* due to the following reasons:

- (i) It is not sufficiently stable.
- (ii) Large quantities are needed to give *vanaspati* the required depth of colour.
- (iii) The dye is used medicinally as an anthelmintic and it cannot be said with certainty that the colour has no adverse effect on the human system though it is reported to be non-injurious in small doses.

(b) No suitable colouring matter has yet been discovered though Research to find one is continuing. The colour to be used must be pleasant in appearance, taste and smell, non-injurious to health and sufficiently

stable to heat. It should also not be easily removable by ordinary physical or chemical methods. The question of adding a colour to *Vanaspati* can only be considered when a suitable colour is found.

MINERAL CONCESSION RULES, 1949

***480. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the Mineral Concession Rules, 1949 were adopted without any consultation with the Coal Industry and Labour?

(b) Have any representations been made by the Coal Industry and Labour against some of these Rules?

(c) If so, who are those persons or bodies?

(d) What are the main features of their objections?

(e) What steps, if any, have Government taken so far or do they propose to take in the matter?

(f) What is the policy of the Government in the matter of grant of mineral concessions to the private individuals, firms or bodies with special reference to coal?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Mineral Concession Rules were adopted after consulting the Coal Industry but not Labour as the rules do not affect the latter.

(b) Representations have been made by the Coal Industry but not by Labour.

- (c) (1) Indian Mining Association.
- (2) Indian Mining Federation.
- (3) The National Cement Mines and Industry Ltd.
- (4) Shri N. D. Lal Singha, Chairman, Indian Mining Federation.

(d) Their main objections were against,—

- (i) the application of the rules to the permanently settled areas;

- (ii) the prohibition of acceptance of *salami*;
- (iii) insistence on the possession of a certificate of approval as a pre-requisite for the grant of a prospecting licence or a mining lease;
- (iv) fixation of the maximum period of lease; and
- (v) fixation of the maximum area of a lease.

(e) The suggestions of the Coal Industry were carefully considered by Government before the Mineral Concession Rules were promulgated. The rules are under further consideration, and if desirable they will be suitably amended to the extent considered necessary.

(f) The policy followed by Government in regard to grant of concessions for coal to private individuals, firms or bodies is as follows,—

- (i) If the right to work new undertakings has already been conferred by grant of a prospecting licence or a mining lease to any party, the party is permitted to develop the undertaking unless for any special reason it is taken up for development by the State Government or the Central Government.
- (ii) In respect of areas in which no subsisting rights to work or develop collieries exist, each case is examined on merits and a decision taken whether in the national interest the development should be undertaken by the State or whether private enterprise should be encouraged.

RINDERPEST AMONG CATTLE

*481. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate loss of cattle per year due to Rinderpest disease in the Indian Union;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Rinderpest eradicating scheme has been devised in the Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteshwar; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, has the scheme been put into execution, if not, why not?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) About two lakh heads of cattle annually.

(b) Yes. The scheme is for immunization of the entire cattle—goat and sheep population in India with lapanised vaccine produced from rabbits.

(c) No. The reasons are its high cost, the present financial stringency and difficulties of training of the large personnel required and the procurement of elaborate machinery and equipment from abroad. Arrangements have, however, been made for procuring some of the essential equipment and for obtaining technical aid of the F.A.O. A short-term pilot scheme for obtaining preliminary data connected with field trials has also been prepared by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute which is now under the consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

INDIAN VETERINARY INSTITUTE, MUKTESHWAR

*482. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the reasons for not taking any decision on the post-war plan for re-organisation scheme of Indian Veterinary Institute, Mukteshwar, submitted to the Government of India in the year 1948?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The implementation of the re-organisation scheme of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute has been held in abeyance pending improvement in the financial condition of the country.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

***483. Dr. Parmar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether any thing has been done to connect Mandi with Simla by motorable road and if not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that certain roads in Mandi and other parts which were under construction at the time of merger were left where they were and that they have not been completed so far and if so, why?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) A proposal exists for a motorable road between Simla and Mandi via Narkanda and Aut. The Simla-Narkanda section is on a National Highway and is being gradually improved from National Highway funds. The Narkanda-Aut-Mandi section passes through very difficult hilly country and a major part of it lies in the Punjab (India). The portion in Himachal Pradesh will be developed gradually as and when funds permit.

(b) Not to my knowledge. But, if the hon. Member can name any project or projects, where further work has been held up according to his information, I am prepared to enquire.

EJECTION OF TENANTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

***484. Dr. Parmar:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government intend to bring in Legislation regulating the relations of landlords and tenants and stopping ejection of tenants in Tehsil Paonta, District Sirmur, Hinnachal Pradesh?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India. In the meantime, so far as the Sirmur District is concerned, the relations between landlords and tenants are regulated

by the Punjab Tenancy Act. This Act had been extended to the erstwhile State of Sirmur, long before its integration, and is still in force.

USE OF COWS FOR AGRICULTURE

***485. Dr. R. S. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have suggested the "use of cows for agricultural work" to all State Governments; and

(b) if so, what would be its effect on the milk production of the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). The Indian Council of Agricultural Research forwarded a proposal to the Governments of Madras, Punjab, West Bengal, Bombay and Mysore and to the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore to conduct investigations on the possibility of using cows for agricultural work. The investigations are still in the initial stage and the results of the experiments cannot, therefore, be anticipated.

ADMINISTRATION OF B. B. L. RAILWAY

***486. Dr. R. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any change has occurred recently in the administration of the Bihar Bakhtiarpur Light Railway (B. B. L. Railway) of the Patna district of Bihar?

(b) If so, under whose administration is that Railway being run these days?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes. The Railway has been taken over from the Bhukhtiarpur Bihar Light Railway Company by the District Board of Patna from the 25th of June, 1950.

(b) The District Board of Patna.

THEFT OF GOODS FROM RAILWAY GODOWNS

*487. **Shri Nandkishore Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cases Railway employees were detected to be involved in theft of goods from Railway godowns and goods-sheds on the B. N. Railway from January 1950 to the 15th of July 1950;

(b) the stations where these thefts occurred and the dates of their occurrence; and

(c) whether all or any of the offenders have been departmentally punished or sent up for trial by law courts?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) 26 cases during the six months from January to June 1950. Information regarding the first 15 days of July is not yet available.

(b) The stations and the dates are as follows—

Itwari (28-1-50, 10-2-50 and 1-5-50),

Chakardharpur (5-1-50),

Jharsuguda (19-1-50, 28-2-50 and 26-5-50),

Tatanagar (5-1-50, 20-2-50 and 17-6-50),

Shalimar (2-2-50, 18-2-50, 26-2-50, 11-3-50, 20-3-50, 21-3-50, 16-5-50 and 25-5-50),

Burnpur (28-2-50),

Balaghat (10-3-50),

Manendragarh (3-4-50),

Bilaspur (14-4-50 and 12-5-50),

Rajkharwan (31-5-50),

Adra (6-5-50), and

Purulia (19-5-50).

(c) Of the 26 cases, 20 were handed over to the police and six to the departments concerned for investigation. Of the 20 cases in the former category, convictions were obtained in four and acquittal in one, the other 15 being still under investigation; of the six cases in the latter category, the staff concerned have been removed from service in two, the other four are still under investigation.

RAILWAY STRIKE AT KHARAGPUR

*488. **Shri Nandkishore Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of June last, there was a strike by some Railway employees at Kharagpur on the B. N. Railway;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the number and category of these employees;

(c) what were the causes of the strike and how long it lasted;

(d) whether the strike was inspired by any of the recognised unions of Railway employees; and

(e) how the strike terminated?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) The following number and categories of staff were involved on an average per day:

	Categories.	Number.
Workshops.	Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled.	8,000
Loco shed.	—do—	600
Carriage shed.	—do—	220
Transportation Yard.	Traffic yard staff and yard technical staff.	378
Stores Depot	Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled.	924

(c) and (d). The staff did not present any grievances before they went on strike. After the strike started, on being pressed by the B. N. Railway Administration, the two recognised labour Union, i.e. the Indian Labour Union and the Employees Union, while disclaiming any responsibility for the strike, gave a list of grievances which it was alleged had not been redressed. The strike lasted for 16 days in the workshops, 8 days in the loco shed, 3 days in the carriage shed, 5 days in the transportation yard and 12 days in the stores depot.

(e) The strike terminated on the men returning to duty of their own accord.

POWER PROJECT

*489. **Dr. R. S. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Power Projects whose plans have been prepared by the Government of India since 1947;

(b) the number of Projects which are undergoing construction; and

(c) the names of Projects which have since been abandoned?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Central Electricity Commission generally assists State Governments in regard to the preparation of power projects and also similarly assists the Ministries of the Government of India and the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission with regard to their plans for power projects, including schemes for power development which form an integral part of multi-purpose river valley development projects undertaken by the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. Strictly speaking, the number of power projects whose plans have been prepared by the Government of India since 1947 are the four multi-purpose development projects, *viz.* Damodar, Hirakud Kakrapara and Kosi.

(b) Three, *viz.* Damodar, Hirakud and Kakrapara.

(c) Nil.

FISHERIES

*490. **Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated acreage of salt-water fisheries in the country and the yield of edible fish in weight per acre per annum from those;

(b) the total acreage of freshwater fisheries and the annual yield of edible fish per acre; and

(c) what percentage of each of the said classes of fisheries is fertilised with the object of increasing the yield?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (c). The information asked for by the hon. Member is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

*491. **Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether India was represented at the Fishery Section of the United Nations Scientific Conference for the conservation and utilisation of Natural Resources held at Lake Success in August-September 1949?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): Yes.

WATER TRANSPORT

*492. **Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to survey the possibilities of transport in the Brahmaputra system of rivers?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): The river Brahmaputra is navigable from Dibrugarh downwards and a regular steamer service operates all the year round on this stretch. The need for undertaking any fresh survey of this river has not, therefore, been felt. The Government of India have, however, under consideration a proposal to conduct an all-India survey of the possibilities of development of water transport and the Brahmaputra system of rivers will be included in that survey when it is taken up.

TRACTORS

*493. **Shri M. L. Gupta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of Tractors are lying idle due to short supplies of the implements and spares?

(b) What is the remedy proposed by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Government are aware that a considerable number of tractors in the country are lying idle due to lack of implements and spare parts.

(b) The following remedial measures have been taken by Government to meet the shortage of implements and spare parts:—

Implements are allowed to be imported from U. K. and soft currency countries under O.G.L.

Import Licences for spare parts are granted liberally. During the last licensing period all applications for licences for spare parts have been granted in full. Further, no licences for fresh importation of tractors and implements will be granted unless 20 per cent. of the value of the equipment is also imported in the form of spare parts.

In addition to the above, measures are under consideration under which trading in tractors and agricultural implements for tractors will be confined to licensed dealers, who will have to satisfy Government that they keep a minimum stock of spare parts and employ a reasonable staff of trained technicians.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN HYDERABAD

***494. Shri M. L. Gupta:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware of reports of scanty rains and famine in the two districts of Hyderabad, namely, Bir and Osmanabad?

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

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Government have been informed that there has been less rain this year than normal in these two districts and there is some scarcity but not famine.

(b) It is understood that Hyderabad Government have opened 50 fair price shops in Bir and 130 in Osmanabad district. Besides, the Government have made the movement of foodgrains within these districts free. The Central Government have allotted to Hyderabad an adequate quota of foodgrains.

वनस्पति (निर्माण)

*४९५ श्री बी० स० आर्य : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) वनस्पति घी बनाने के कारखानों की संख्या कितनी है तथा उन का वार्षिक उत्पादन क्या है ?

(बी) इस उद्योग में निर्माताओं का कुल कितना धन लगा हुआ है ?

(सी) क्या यह सत्य है कि सरकार को जनता की ओर से अनुयोग प्राप्त हुए हैं जिन में वनस्पति घी के निषेध की मांग की गयी है, और यदि ऐसा है, तो सरकार ने उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

Vanaspati (MANUFACTURE)

***495. Shri B. S. Arya:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of *Vanaspati Ghee* Manufacturing Factories and their annual output?

(b) What is the total investment made by the manufacturers on this Industry?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have received complaints from the public demanding prohibition of *Vanaspati Ghee* and if so, what action have they taken on them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The total number of factories producing *Vanaspati* at present is 46 and their output in the current calendar year is estimated at 160,000 tons.

(b) The total investment is about 22½ crores.

(c) Government have received numerous letters both for and against the manufacture of *Vanaspati*. In consultation with the Industry, Government have taken action to secure that *Vanaspati* shall not have the aroma and colour resembling that of *ghee*. *Vanaspati* will now stand on its own merits as a distinctive product and not be easily substituted for *ghee*. Further action to be taken, if any, will be determined when a non-official Bill, which has been circulated for eliciting public opinion, is considered in this House again.

DELHI GRAIN SYNDICATE

***496. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:**
Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the distribution of rationed cereals to the ration shops of Delhi has been entrusted by Government to one firm called the Delhi Grain Syndicate;

(b) whether it is a fact that a good deal of resentment prevails amongst the grain dealers of Delhi against this monopoly given to one firm and if so, what steps have been taken by Government to allay that resentment;

(c) the amount of commission paid by Government to the Delhi Grain Syndicate since the distribution work in Delhi was entrusted to this firm till 30th June, 1950;

(d) the amount paid during the same period as being the cost of wastage;

(e) the total quantity of wastage and the percentage of same to the whole quantity distributed through them;

(f) when this contract terminates; and

(g) what are the terms of the contract?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. The Delhi Grain Syndicate receives, stores and distributes foodgrains on behalf and under the instructions of the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi.

(b) Government was recently informed that the wholesale dealers of Delhi in cereals had a grievance on account of the Delhi Grain Syndicate having been entrusted with this work. Government is looking into the matter.

(c) A statement of payments made to Delhi Grain Syndicate is laid on the Table of the House, [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 3].

(d) No payments were made to the Grain Syndicate as cost of wastage.

(e) The total quantity of foodgrains wasted since beginning of contract upto 31st March, 1950 in handling and storing was 81,691 maunds or about 0.28 per cent. The total quantity of foodgrains distributed by the Syndicate upto 30th June, 1950 was 296,47,945 maunds.

(f) The contract is a running contract but can be terminated by the Director of Civil Supplies giving a written notice.

(g) The terms of the Agreement with the Delhi Grain Syndicate provide that the Syndicate would receive a fixed remuneration of Rs. -/5/9 per maund for wheat and wheat products and Rs. -/6/6 per maund for rice, gram and gram products for services rendered by them in connection with receiving, storing and distribution of foodgrains. The remuneration covers expenses on Terminal Tax, cartage, unloading and weighment, godown rent, godown staff, shortage in handling and storage, and inspection agency commission. The cost of the grain representing the difference between the weight of grain received by the Syndicate and delivered by them to the Ration Dealers is recoverable from the Syndicate.

REQUISITIONING OF BUILDINGS

***497. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the total number of private individuals' houses, business premises and plots of land respectively which stood under requisition by Government on the 1st April, 1950, in (i) Calcutta; (ii) Madras; (iii) Bombay; (iv) Delhi; and (v) New Delhi?

(b) How many of such requisitioned houses, business premises and plots respectively have been under requisition:

- (i) for over—10 years;
- (ii) for over—7 years;
- (iii) for over—5 years;
- (iv) for over—3 years; and
- (v) for less than—1 year?

(c) What is the Government's programme for de-requisitioning of private individuals' premises?

(d) How many of these premises have been de-requisitioned during the last two years?

(e) What principles have been followed by Government in de-requisitioning private individuals' premises?

(f) What is the total maximum percentage of an individual's house property which can at any time be under Government requisition?

(g) What is the manner of payment of rents in the case of requisitioned premises?

(h) Is it a fact that in Delhi rents have not been paid or even determined in many cases for over one year?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a), (b) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 4].

In respect of the houses at Calcutta and Bombay the houses are a proportion of those requisitioned by the

State Governments for their use and placed at the disposal of the Government of India. The West Bengal Government is not at present requisitioning any buildings for the Government of India.

(c) No programme for de-requisitioning has been drawn up by the Government. The feasibility of de-requisitioning these houses is considered from time to time, but no programme can be drawn up for the present.

(e) De-requisitioning has been done on considerations of the hardships of owners of such premises or when any particular building has become surplus to requirements.

(f) No such percentage limit has been fixed in respect of old buildings. In respect of newly constructed houses generally those built for the owners' own use are requisitioned—those newly built for purposes of being sold or let out on rent, are requisitioned to the extent of not more than 50 per cent. of the accommodation.

(g) The Estate Officer makes payment of compensation in respect of requisitioned premises to the landlord directly, in arrears, either monthly or quarterly according to the convenience of the landlord; compensation for premises requisitioned by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi is remitted to the landlord through the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, Central Public Works Department, New Delhi; compensation in respect of buildings requisitioned for military purposes is paid monthly in respect of buildings and monthly or annually for lands according to the terms of the respective agreements through Collectors concerned.

(h) The reply is in the negative except in cases where the ownership of the premises is in dispute, or is unknown, or the landlords have refused to accept the compensation offered to them and the matter is under arbitration.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE

***498. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:**

(a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state how many and which officers serving in or under the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power have been granted extensions of their service beyond the age of 55?

(b) What is the technical education and qualification of each of them?

(c) What is the period of extension of each of them?

(d) What are the special reasons for extension in each case?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix: IV, *annexure No. 5*].

जौक बांध योजना

***४९९. श्री जांगडे :** (ए) क्या खान, निर्माण तथा विद्युत मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जौक बांध योजना के संबंध में मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार किस अनुपात में खर्च सहने को प्रस्तुत है ?

(बी) क्या यह सत्य है कि अभी तक उक्त राज्य सरकार कुछ भी खर्च सहने के लिए तैयार नहीं है ?

(सी) क्या वह सत्य नहीं है कि (ख) के फलस्वरूप भारत सरकार ने उक्त बांध योजना की प्रारम्भिक जांच को भी स्थगित कर देने का निश्चय कर लिया है ?

(डी) क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि उक्त बांध भारत के अन्य भावी बांधों में से सब से कम खर्च में तैयार हो जायगा और तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से अधिक उपजाऊ और अधिक विस्तृत भूमि की सिंचाई करेगा ?

JAUNK DAM PROJECT

***499. Shri Jangde:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the extent of expenditure which Madhya Pradesh

State Government is ready to bear in respect of the Jaunk Dam Project?

(b) Is it a fact that so far the said State Government is not willing to bear any expenditure at all?

(c) Is it not a fact that in view of part (b) above, the Government of India have decided to postpone even the preliminary investigation of the said Dam Project?

(d) Is it not a fact that the cost of the said Project will be the least of all the future Dam Projects of India, whereas, in comparison, it will serve to irrigate more productive and more extensive tracts of land?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). For the Madhya Pradesh Projects of which Jaunk is one, the Government of Madhya Pradesh originally agreed to a financial arrangement according to which the cost of investigations would be advanced by the Central Government and debited to the project estimates in case the projects materialised; otherwise, the cost was to be debited to the Central Government's post-war development grant to the State. Subsequently due to the changed financial situation the Central Government decided not to make any development grants to State Governments during 1950-51. Consequently the Madhya Pradesh Government were requested to accept periodical debits in respect of the expenditure incurred on the investigations. The State Government have expressed their inability to accept the debits and have asked for the continuance of the original arrangement, failing which the State Government desired the investigations to be suspended. The whole question is now under active consideration.

(c) No; the investigations are continuing pending consideration of the financial arrangement mentioned above.

(d) The cost of the Project has not yet been worked out and no definite statement can be made about its cost and comparative benefits.

LOCUST MENACE

***500. Shri Balmiki:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state which are the States affected by recent locust menace?

(b) What measures are being taken to cope with it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) At present Rajasthan appears to be most affected by the locust invasion.

(b) (i) Steps have been taken on a war emergency basis to keep down the locust population in the breeding areas in this country.

(ii) An extensive field organization with 27 outposts in the desert areas and in the States likely to be affected has been set up.

(iii) 270 officials and non-officials have been trained in locust control work and posted at different places.

(iv) Arrangements for collecting immediate information about egg laying and hoppers have been made.

(v) Leaflets in Hindi and local languages have been widely distributed. These explain in non-technical language simple control measures to be taken.

(vi) Co-operation of the Defence Forces stationed in the desert breeding areas in giving information and assisting in control measures has also been enlisted.

RAJMAHAL - TINPAHAR LINE

***501. Shri Ramraj Jajwara:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state with reference to the discussions of the Chief Commissioner of Railways with Bihar Chamber of Commerce, by which time the reconstruction of the Rajmahal-Tinpahar Railway line is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. 80 put by Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala on 2nd

August 1950, on the subject. When the Central Board of Transport accords priority to the restoration of this line and when funds become available, it should be possible to carry out the restoration during one working season.

CHITTARANJAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP

***502. Shri Ramraj Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the progress of the works in connection with the Chittaranjan Railway Workshop is hampered due to lack of technical assistance in India and if so, what steps are being taken to improve the position?

(b) Are Government aware that roofs of a good number of newly-built quarters are leaking and if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) Do Government propose to make an enquiry and take necessary steps in the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The progress of this project has not been hampered by the lack of technical assistance and the question of improving the position in this respect does not therefore arise.

(b) The roofs of a few newly-built quarters were reported to have leaked during the very heavy rains in this area in the second week of June. Such defects have, however, now been rectified.

(c) The Government do not consider that either an enquiry or any other special steps are necessary.

PUNJAB MAIL DISASTER

***503. Shri Ramraj Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state, with reference to the Punjab Mail disaster which occurred on 7th May 1950, about 5 miles up from Jasidih junction, whether it was derailed at 1 P.M. and if not, what was the exact time?

(b) Is it a fact that the relief train reached on the spot at 5 P.M. from Madhupur about 23 miles down from the spot?

(c) When was the station master of Madhupur informed to send the relief train and when did the same start from Madhupur?

(d) What arrangement was made to provide water to the sufferers of the ill-fated train and the public volunteers on the spot?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) At 1.14 A.M. (not P.M.) on 7th May, 1950.

(b) At 5-15 A.M. (not at 5 P.M.).

(c) At 2-35 A.M. and 4-8 A.M. respectively.

(d) Water was sent by 20 Down Express and the Relief Trains which reached the site at about 5.00, at 5-15, 6.00 and 7-30 hours. Meanwhile water was procured from nearby sources with the assistance of relief organisations which had arrived at the site.

RAILWAY DISPLACED EMPLOYEES

*504. Sardar Jogendra Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what instructions have been issued by the Government of India to various Ministries for the employment and absorption of the Railway Displaced employees since the 15th August 1947, and what were the numbers so employed or absorbed on the 15th August in each year subsequent to 1947?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): It is not understood what the hon. Member's intention is in asking "What instructions have been issued by the Government of India to the various Ministries etc. etc." since the Government of India and the various Ministries at the Centre are not separate entities. The position, however, is that so far as Railway Displaced employees—by which term, it is presumed, the hon. Member is referring to Railway employees of the

old B.A. and N.W. Railways who opted for service in India—are concerned, orders for their absorption were issued by the Ministry of Railways to the various Railway Administrations formerly known as Indian Government Railways.

These instructions were to the effect that the Indian-opting staff of the old B.A. and N.W. Railways rendered surplus to the immediate requirements of the E.P., Assam and the Sealdah Division of the E.I. Railway, should be borne on a supernumerary list to be compiled and maintained by these Railways. Copies of the lists were to be circulated to the remaining Indian Government Railways with a view to the absorption of the staff mentioned therein. Those who could not be absorbed were required to take leave on average pay standing to their credit and after such leave had been exhausted they were granted special casual leave (on their substantive pay) until they were absorbed.

As regards the numbers of Displaced Railway employees absorbed on the Railways on the 15th August each year subsequent to 1947, complete information is not readily available, but so far as the displaced persons from Western Pakistan are concerned, the figures are as follows:

15th August, 1948	37,638
15th August, 1949	37,710
31st July, 1950	37,733

POSTAL EMPLOYEES (ACCOMMODATION)

***505. Maulvi Haneef:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what amount has been provided in the Budget of 1950-51 for the construction of buildings for accommodation of Postal employees?

(b) Has the amount been distributed among all Circles?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Rs. 11,91,400, for Posts and Telegraphs employees.

(b) I lay on the Table a statement showing how this amount has been distributed. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 6.]

ENGINEERING DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

***506. Shri Vyas:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether for purposes of appointments to the Central Public Works Department, "Diplomas" granted by the Delhi Polytechnic (which is a Government institution) are recognised;

(b) whether "Certificates" from the same institution are not recognised;

(c) whether it is a fact that "Certificates" granted by certain non-Government engineering institutions are recognised;

(d) if the answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, why is a differentiation made in respect of Delhi Polytechnic "Certificates"; and

(e) whether the advice of the Ministry of Education (which controls the Delhi Polytechnic) was taken in the matter and if not, why not?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Delhi Polytechnic prepares students for the All India Diploma in Engineering and this qualification is recognised for appointment in the Central Public Works Department.

(b) No, they are not recognised.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The advice of the Ministry of Education has been fully taken into account.

SAMPLE SOCIAL SURVEY

***506-A. Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a Sample Social Survey of the living conditions in Delhi carried out;

(b) if so, when, and by whom;

(c) the qualifications of those persons who are to be entrusted with the work; and

(d) the object of the Survey?

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

(b) and (c). The work is to be undertaken by the Town Planning Sub-Committee for the Development of Delhi, who have appointed a small Committee consisting mostly of Architects and Town Planners to direct the Survey. Statistical, economic and health experts will be associated with the Committee. Help in the work of enumeration will be rendered by the staff of the Health Officer and student volunteers from the various Delhi Colleges after some preliminary training. The Survey is likely to be carried out in the months of September and October 1950.

(d) The object of the Survey is to collect statistical and other data regarding housing and transport conditions in Delhi, which are essential for the planning of Greater Delhi.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION (APPOINTMENTS)

***506-B. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that a high engineering officer has been appointed in the Damodar Valley Project?

(b) Was this officer responsible for commending to the former Jodhpur Government an irrigation and hydro-electric scheme, as also, for that purpose, considerable capital outlay on account of machinery and equipment?

(c) Is it a fact that experts gave an unfavourable opinion in respect of the data and calculations of the scheme?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) to (c). The Chairman and two members, the Secretary and the Financial Adviser of the Damodar Valley Corporation are appointed by the Central Government under sections 4 and 6(1) of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act. All other officers and servants are appointed by the Corporation under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Act. The particular officer referred to in part (a) of the question was appointed by the Damodar Valley Corporation after such enquiry about his technical competence etc. as was considered necessary. Neither the Corporation nor the Government of India have any information on the specific allegations made in parts (b) and (c) of the question.

Y.W.C.A. HOSTEL AND WESTERN HOUSE, NEW DELHI

***506-C. Shri Tirumala Rao:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of working girls in the Western House Hostel, Curzon Road, New Delhi run by the Y.W.C.A. as on the 1st August, 1950 showing how many of them are Government employees and how many are employees of private concerns;

(b) whether Government are aware that the quality of food supplied in this Hostel has considerably deteriorated and has affected the health of the residents;

(c) whether Government are contemplating as a remedial measure to remove this hostel from the control of the Y.W.C.A. and manage it themselves in the same manner in which they are running other Government hostels in New Delhi;

(d) whether Government are aware that the treatment meted out to the

residents is far from satisfactory often giving rise to communal quarrels; and

(e) what is the amount of house rent and other expenses, which is a loss to Government, as a result of this Hostel having been placed free at the disposal of the Y.W.C.A.?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) 138, of whom 117 are Government employees and the rest are employees of private concerns including the Foreign embassies.

(b) Government have made enquiries and are satisfied that there has been no deterioration in the food affecting the health of the residents.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The Government have no such information, and have had no complaints during the last eighteen months.

(e) The standard rent of the building under Fundamental Rule 45-A is Rs. 1,434 per month. Government do not consider it a loss as the hostel caters for the needs of low paid girl employees for whom Government should find cheap living facilities. There is no other expense incurred by Government on this hostel. It is proposed to examine the accounts of the Hostel, but there is reason to believe that it is not a source of profit to the Y.W.C.A.

FAMINE IN TEHRI STATE

***506-D. Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conditions of famine are prevailing in Rama, Ramoli, Bhadura and other parts of Tehri State, U.P.; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to give relief to people?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Pattis Ramoli, Bhadura, Gajnakathur, Raunan Ramoli of Tehri Garhwal district of U.P. State are normally deficit in foodgrains. The position

has been aggravated by unemployment caused by the discontinuance of some of the P.W.D. Works. There is, however, no famine in this area.

(b) The State Government are fully alive to the situation. The following action has been taken by the State so far to meet the requirements of the area:—

(i) gram is being issued freely to all the co-operative societies according to their demand; and

(ii) supplies of 500 maunds of barley and 5,000 maunds of coarse rice have been sent.

P. AND T. SERVICES IN KASHMIR

*266. **Shri Tyagi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether Government have taken over the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone services in Kashmir from the Government of Kashmir State?

(b) If not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) The postal organisation in the Jammu and Kashmir State already belongs to the Indian P. and T. Department. The Indian P. and T. Department also own and work telegraph lines and offices in certain areas in the State. The State telegraph organisation in the remaining parts of the State and the State Telephone Systems have not yet been taken over.

(b) The Jammu and Kashmir Government have raised certain questions about the details of the transfer of the telegraph and telephone systems at present worked by them. These are under discussion with that Government.

ENQUIRY COMMITTEE ON SUGAR

87. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state when the Committee inquiring into last year's Sugar shortage is expected to submit its report?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): Within four months.

FOOD GRAINS AND FOOD PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

88. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two committees appointed by Government to enquire into the quality of grains supplied and their procurement, have submitted their reports; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations and what is the decision of Government thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) A summary of the recommendations of the two Committees is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix Iv, annexure No. 7.*] These are under consideration and no decision has yet been taken.

RAILWAY COACHES

89. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new coaches received from Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore, up-to-date;

(b) how many are still on order and when they are expected to be delivered;

(c) whether any coaches have been received from the firm in Switzerland where an order was placed;

(d) whether any coaches are manufactured in the Railway Workshops in India; and

(e) if so, what is the number of such coaches so far received?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) 100 complete new 3rd class coaches have been received from Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. up till 1st August, 1950.

(b) 150 third class coaches are still on order with Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. and these are expected to be delivered within the next 12 months.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) The total number of complete coaches manufactured in Indian Railway Workshops between 1st April, 1949, and 30th June, 1950, was 455 and all these have been put into service.

“ GROW MORE FOOD ” CAMPAIGN

90. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new plans under contemplation for the “Grow More Food” campaign;

(b) how many of them have been put into operation and what is the target period under this new “Grow More Food” campaign?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) There is no new plan as such for growing more food. All that has been done is to integrate the food self-sufficiency programme with the programme of increasing more cotton and jute and to intensify the efforts for growing more food. A copy of this integrated plan which has already been approved by the Standing Advisory Committee of the Parliament for the Ministry of Agriculture, is placed on the Table of the House. [Sec Appendix IV, annexure No. 8.]

(b) The target period for making the country self-sufficient in food, viz. end of 1951, remains unaltered. The steps outlined in the integrated plan have been put into operation as under:

(i) In order to achieve proper co-ordination between production and distribution of foodgrains, an Emergency Co-ordination Committee of the Food and Agriculture Ministries has been set up with myself as Chairman. This Committee meets frequently and takes immediate decisions on important questions of policy. Setting up of similar Emergency Committees has also been suggested to States.

(ii) The country has been divided into 8 zones with a special senior officer of the Ministry incharge of each zone. His duty is to see to the implementation and intensification of the food production plans.

(iii) With a view to promote a healthy spirit of rivalry and to increase yields per acre, a scheme of organizing crop competitions in every village has been framed.

(iv) Development of large compact areas suitable for intensifying production and procurement of foodgrains is accepted as one of the important items in the programme. To this end, a Central Malwa Development Board has been set up in order to take up the development of Malwa areas situated in Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Bhopal and Vindhya Pradesh. Four Regional Boards for each of these areas will also be set up to look after the intensive production programmes for each region.

(v) Organisation of a Board to develop the rice areas of South India intensively is under consideration.

(vi) Organising agricultural areas around the Agricultural Education and Research Institutions under the supervision of such institutions has also been taken up as another means of intensifying production and providing demonstration to other farmers. The Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, and the Potato Research Institute at Patna, are taking up from 1000 to 5000 acres of land for intensive cultivation under their supervision and guidance. Similarly, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, at Delhi and the Agricultural Institute at Anand in the State of Bombay will shortly start a scheme for 2000 acres of land around the Institutes. It is expected that similar institutions in other States will also come forward with such schemes.

(vii) A contract for the construction of 1000 tube-wells in U. P., Punjab and Bihar has been finalized with a British firm and the possibility of

constructing further 2000 tube-wells in other parts of the country is also being examined.

(viii) The Central Tractor Organization is being re-organized with a view to achieve intensification of the work relating to land reclamation.

(ix) A draft Bill to be called "the Indian Council of Go-Samvardhan Act" is being drafted with a view to establish a statutory corporation for safeguarding, regulating, organizing and administering charitable institutions connected with the protection of bovine cattle of the cow family and amongst others, to take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter of useful cattle.

ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE, DELHI

91. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of Electric Power House in Delhi as regards its extension and supply of electricity to the public of Delhi; and

(b) what additions have been made during the current year for the extension of the Power House?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Central Power House of the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority which is responsible for the generation of electric power is being extended by the installation of a 5,000 KW turbo generator plant and a new station with a capacity of 20,000 KW.

(b) Work on the installation of the 5,000 KW turbo generator plant has been going on during the current year and the plant is expected to be brought into commission by the end of this year. Work on the new station of 20,000 KW capacity has also been in progress during the current year.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (MATERIALS)

92. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any test has been conducted by the Ministry of Transport for the economical use of various types of stones, cement and other materials for the construction of roads (National Highways); and

(b) if so, what type is considered most suitable and what is the economic effect of various types of materials required to build a strong road?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) No particular type can be said to be the most suitable without reference to the set of conditions obtaining at a place.

(ii) The economic effect of using various types of binding materials is also not amenable to generalisation. Speaking in a very general way cement bound roads, i.e. cement concrete roads have longer life than asphalt or tar bound roads, but the former are very much more expensive to construct and are justified only when there is very heavy traffic.

AMENITIES TO PASSENGERS ON RAILWAYS

93. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amenities provided for passengers on all Railways from 1st January, 1950 up-to-date from the 3 crore rupees fund set aside for the current year; and

(b) how many of the items come under the category of extension of station buildings and railway yards?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) It is only from the beginning of the current financial year, i.e. 1st April, 1950, that a sum of Rs. 3 crores per year has been set apart for passenger amenities, and a statement showing details of amenities for passengers programmed for the financial year 1950-51, together with the expenditure booked during the first quarter,

i.e. upto 30th June 1950, is attached.
[See Appendix IV, annexure No. 9.]

(b) 102 items come under the category of additions and alterations to station buildings. The expenditure incurred on extensions of yards is not debited to passenger amenities.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

94. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to his answer to my question in last Budget Session that the Chief Commissioner for Railways was considering ways and means to prevent railway accidents in future and state whether any steps have been taken in this direction?

(b) If so, what are they and were any definite proposals made in this direction? If so, what are the proposals?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) and (b). The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to part (d) of Shri Raj Bahadur's Starred Question No. 71 on 2nd August, 1950.

WHEAT FROM PAKISTAN

95. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any purchase of wheat from Pakistan Government and if so, what is the price and the quantity; and

(b) if not, whether during the discussion on trade, the deal on the purchase of wheat was considered, and if so, with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The Government of India have not purchased any wheat from Pakistan.

(b) Yes. The question of purchase of wheat from Pakistan was discussed but no agreement could be reached on price. The matter is still under consideration.

DERATIONING OF PETROL

96. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state when will petrol be derationed?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): As a first step petrol rationing has already been cancelled in the port towns of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Cochin and their immediate vicinities and throughout the States of Assam and Manipur. The position is constantly under review with a view to extend this derationing throughout the country as soon as conditions permit.

STATE TRANSPORT SERVICE (ASSISTANCE)

97. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state the names of States which have introduced State Transport?

(b) Have any State authorities been assisted or are proposed to be assisted financially by the Centre and if so, what are the States and to what extent assistance is given?

(c) What are the conditions attached to the financial assistance?

(d) Were any enquiries made as to how far the services were working efficiently and what profits were being made?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) All the States with the exception of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Pepsu, Tripura and Vindhya Pradesh have introduced transport services in which Government holds financial interest but in varying degrees.

(b) In addition to a loan of Rs. 15 lakhs given to the Government of Orissa for development of their transport services and investment of Rs. 41.70 lakhs in the Delhi Transport Service, Rs. 1.00 lakhs in the Bilaspur Transport Service, Rs. 11.15 lakhs in the Himachal Government Transport Service, Rs. 2.60 lakhs in the Kutch State Motor Service, and

Rs. 0.50 lakhs in the Manipur State Transport Service, the capital investment made by the Central Government through Railways in road transport undertakings amounts to Rs. 116.53 lakhs made up as follows:

Bombay State Road Transport Corporation Rs. 102.00 lakhs.

Provincial Transport Company (Madhya Pradesh) Rs. 3.47 lakhs.

C.P. Transport Services Ltd., (Madhya Pradesh) Rs. 9.66 lakhs.

Kulu Valley Transport Ltd., (Punjab) Rs. 1.40 lakhs.

A proposal involving Central Government's share of further investment of Rs. 5 lakhs in the Provincial Transport Company (Madhya Pradesh) is under consideration.

(c) No specific conditions are attached, but before any investment is made by the Central Government, schemes are fully scrutinised from the viewpoint of public need, rail-road coordination and soundness of investment and is made only after obtaining approval of the Standing Finance Committee and where railway finances are involved of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

(d) Annual balance-sheets and reports on the working of the undertakings are scrutinised and enquiries instituted whenever working of any concern made this necessary.

STARVATION DEATHS

98. **Dr. R. S. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have died of starvation during the past few months;

(b) the number of States in which such starvation deaths have occurred; and

(c) what steps, if any, the Government of India have taken or propose to take to check such starvation deaths?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Between the 28th June and 29th

July, 1950, 38 cases of deaths were reported to have been caused by starvation in certain districts of Bihar affected by floods. As I have already stated in the Parliament after returning from Bihar, excepting the case of a beggar, it cannot be said that there was any death due to starvation.

(b) No such report of starvation death was received from any other State.

(c) Does not arise.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

99. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have asked the Government of India for a loan in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign?

(b) If so, what is the result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

PUNJAB MAIL ACCIDENT

100. **Shri Ramraj Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that no arrangement was made to shift dead bodies from the place of Punjab Mail accident, to the rescue-bogie as a result of which, the corpses decayed and became unidentifiable?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway administration failed to arrange to take photographs of the victims for identification purposes?

(c) Is it a fact that the local public workers and officers, after waiting for a long time, ultimately removed the dead bodies and took photographs?

(d) How many corpses were identified?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) to (c). Adequate arrangements were made to shift the dead bodies on completion of the aid to the injured. 68 dead bodies which

were recovered from the debris by mid-day on 7th May, 1950, the date of the accident, were despatched to Deoghar the same day and nine more extricated late in the evening were sent early next morning. Out of the five dead bodies which lay buried deep under the wreckage and were released on 10th May, 1950, one was handed over to the relatives and the remaining were cremated near the site of accident. The bodies recovered by mid-day on 7th May, 1950 had not appreciably decomposed but the others had.

Photographs of 65 of the dead bodies were taken on 8th May, 1950 at Deoghar. The remaining corpses had reached a stage of decomposition rendering photographing useless.

The arrangements for the removal of the dead bodies were made by the Railway with the collaboration of the police and the public volunteers etc. under the direction of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Deoghar.

(d) 16.

PUNJAB MAIL ACCIDENT

101. **Shri Ramraj Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether he had talked to or discussed with the local officers regarding relief operations when he visited the spot of accident of the Punjab Mail and if not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the State Government was not informed of the accident until Shri G. S. Dalmia, M.L.A., insisted on the day following and the District Magistrate was informed after 28 hours approximately and if so, what was the reason for such delay?

(c) Is it true that the local public who had assembled for relief works complained to the Minister of State of the late arrival of official relief party?

(d) Have Government received any report from the State Government or local officers?

(e) When was the Claims Commissioner appointed, when was he due to join office and when did he do so?

(f) Do Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Apparently the Minister of State for Railways is meant; if so, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) No. The Sub-Divisional Officer and the Deputy Superintendent of Police were informed at about 2-32 hours, immediately after the information about the accident reached Jasidih. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar was also advised the same day, 7th May, 1950, by the Divisional Superintendent, Asansol.

(c) Yes.

(d) Preliminary police reports have been received.

(e) The Claims Commissioner was appointed on 10th May, 1950; he was due to join office on 23rd May, 1950 but he actually did so on 1st June, 1950.

(f) The statutory enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways has already been held.

PRIORITY SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS

102. **Shri Ramraj Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the Assam Railway, priority system has been abolished and "first come first served" system had been adopted with preferential reservation for the movement of urgent commodities?

(b) Has the Railway Board received any complaint about the violation of the above system?

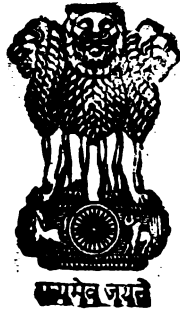
(c) If so, have Government conducted any enquiry into the matter and if so what was the result of the enquiry?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under enquiry.

Thursday, 10th August, 1950



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME V, 1950

(31st July, 1950 to 14th August, 1950)

Second Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



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**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 10th August, 1950.

—

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(See Part I)

11 A. M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**FORTY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLO-
SIVES IN INDIA**

Mr. Speaker : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. The hon. Mr. Gadgil.

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami) : May I lay them on the Table ?

Mr. Speaker : I know it is a very formal business ; but then I do not like hon. Ministers not attending to the proceedings here. They should respect the House to that extent. Whenever their business is called, they should not be absent from the House.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha) : May I lay them on the Table ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Forty Second Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Explosives in India for the year ending 31st March, 1949.

[Placed in the Library. See No. IVR.4(1).]

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha) : Sir, the Prime Minister has to make a Statement.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : I should like to have your advice regarding the time-table of this House. The other day you were good enough to decide that we might continue to sit up to Monday the 14th so that we might finish our work, and I hope we would finish all our work by that date. But the rate of progress has been rather slow, and I am beginning to doubt whether we can finish our work by that date, unless we proceed in a somewhat different fashion. I did hint at the last occasion to the House that we had some important legislation in view that we must get through during this session. That has not been placed before the House yet. But I hope in the course of the day, or may be on Saturday morning they will be placed before the House, and I may request you, Sir, to suspend various rules so that we might deal with them immediately. It is legislation in regard to certain powers to deal with the situation of the rising prices in which the House is interested in which we are all interested. It is a very important matter and we must control the situation with all the strength we have. And so we have given a good deal of thought to this and tried to devise some methods for that purpose. But I may add the

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

if these methods are not enough we shall take more extreme powers and that we will deal with the situation. Well; with that object, we propose to bring in an amendment to the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act. Further, we want to bring in a Resolution recommending Parliament to take power to legislate in respect of certain items in the State List under Article 249 of the Constitution. There is far too much lack of uniformity in this matter and we want Parliament to deal with it in order to bring about uniformity. This latter proposal would require the formal approval of the President.

Now, I am just giving the House some indication of these two matters which we will bring up before the House, probably on Saturday. They are important matters and we would like the House to consider them fully, as fully as possible, and I do not want the House to be rushed. But if we carry on for a considerable time with other business, then the only alternative before us will be either to rush through these important matters, or extend the session.

Some Hon. Members : Extend the session.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : Whichever way the House decides ; I am only pointing out the two alternatives. So I should like your advice as to what we should do.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa) : Sir, in regard to the question of extending the session, as has been suggested by the hon. Leader of the House, I have to convey to you and through you to the Leader of the House and to the hon. Members that we, the Members of the Estimates Committee have been here from (interruption). We, the Members of the Estimates Committee have....

Some Hon. Members : We cannot hear him.

Mr. Speaker : If hon. members are a little more quiet perhaps they may hear him better.

Shri Biswanath Das : Sir, I have the right to make my representation to the House.

✓ Shri Syamannandan Sahaya (Bihar) : We have no objection to the hon. Member making his representation, but let him please make it through the mike. That is all we want.

Shri Biswanath Das : Sir, my difficulty is this. I have unfortunately to be in the position of having to oppose the proposal that has fallen from the hon. Leader of the House.

Some Hon. Members : It is not a proposal.

Shri Biswanath Das : Even if it is a suggestion, from the Leader of the House, I take it as a proposal. Whether it is a note, or suggestion or proposal, I see that there is a tacit acceptance by certain sections of the House.

Some Hon. Members : All.

Shri Biswanath Das : My friends say 'all' but I only saw certain Members muttering approval. However, as a Member of the House I have a right to make a representation to the House as a whole. On behalf of certain members of the Estimates Committee I wish to say that we have been sitting in the Estimates Committee from the 5th July and we were given intimation that the special session would be over by the 11th. The House felt it necessary to extend the session and we had no objection and I for myself did not object. In fact I had to cancel some of my engagements. It is rather unfortunate that we have now to celebrate the 15th August either here in Delhi or on the train. However extension has been made but further extension would mean great inconvenience at least to some of us or those who are of my way of thinking. With this representation I leave the House to decide as they please.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इसवार को बैठने में क्या हानि है, मैं नहीं समझता ।

(Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh) : What is the harm if we meet on Sunday ?]

Mr. Speaker : I understood from the hon. Leader of the House that there are two important matters. One is the resolution to take more powers for the Centre and the other is the amendment of the Essential Supplies Act...

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : Apart, of course, from the other Bills.

Mr. Speaker : But, they seem to me to be more or less not so contentious, as far as I can see. However, it is for hon. Members to have a debate for any length of time.

The other point is this. I was thinking whether it was not possible to adjust our business in such a manner that, some of the business not so essential in this session may be taken up in the next session. I have in mind the question of the Supplementary Demands. We have gone through some of them but they apparently do not seem to be a matter which must be put through during this session and they can come up at the next session, so that Government may have ample time for other business. But the difficulty appears to be that they will not be able to bring the Essential Commodities Bill before Saturday. However the resolution could be brought forward tomorrow.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : We have to approach the President first and certain formalities have to be gone through.

Mr. Speaker : So that is the difficulty. I thought we could save time and take up that business tomorrow.

Shri Satya Naryana Sinha : We can take up that resolution on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker : Can we not change the order of business and take up the legislative business just now instead of going into the supplementary demands?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : We are agreeable to that procedure.

Mr. Speaker : Obviously, if there had been no session now, the supplementary demands would have been brought forward at the next session.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh) : The Bill relating to the

Contingency Fund will have to be gone through during this session.

Mr. Speaker : The supplementary demands, I understand will take one day and we can save that day by postponing these supplementary demands. If there is time we shall go through them; otherwise, we shall be able to end the session by the 14th without much rush. We shall now proceed with the legislative business

12 NOON.

Sri B. Das (Orissa) : Sir, I intend going away on Sunday. As I am interested in the resolution relating to legislation in respect of certain items in the State List of the Constitution, I shall be grateful if the discussion on it could be arranged to take place on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker : That is what they are proposing to do. So we do not take up the supplementary demands now but proceed with the legislative business.

FAIR WAGES BILL

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for fixing fair rates of wages in certain classes of establishments and for certain matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for fixing fair rates of wages in certain classes of establishments and for certain matters connected therewith”.

The motion was adopted.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I introduce the Bill.

MOTION RE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN

Mr. Speaker : We shall now take up the resolution to be moved by Mr. Keskar.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh) : May I know why this particular resolution on the treaty with Iran has been brought before this House? So far no other

[Shri Sidhva]

such treaty has been placed before us, the Goodwill Treaty with Nepal made recently is not placed for ratification. Is there any specific article in this treaty that it should be approved by this Parliament?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): I will explain it during the discussion on the motion. I beg to move:

“This House approves the Treaty of Friendship signed at Tehran on the 15th March, 1950, by the representatives of the Government of India and the Imperial Government of Iran.”

In the normal course of things a treaty does not come before the House for approval but there is a specific provision or clause in this treaty to the effect that this treaty shall be approved by the legislative bodies of both the countries and it is for this reason that we have sought to bring it before the House. I do not think I need say much about the treaty. It is a treaty of friendship and goodwill and I hope the House will approve of it.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Why was this clause put in this treaty and not in the other treaties?

Dr. Keskar: It was due to some misunderstanding with regard to the word ‘ratification’. The other Government thought that ratification means approval by Parliament and that it was necessary for the respective legislatures to approve it. They suggested this and the treaty was signed. It was too late to get it modified, though we did explain to them that under our Constitution the ratification is done by the President.

Dr. Deshmukh: Who was our representative who committed the error?

Dr. Keskar: Our Ambassador.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar): Sir, under our Constitution the power of ratification of a treaty is vested in the Executive. With all desire to give as wide a power to our legislature as possible, I fear it cannot be done and I submit the motion is out of order.

Dr. Keskar: I submit, Sir, there is

nothing in the Constitution which debars Parliament from approving a treaty, but it is for the President to ratify the treaty—not for us.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, the motion is not out of order at all. If I may say so, it is in excess of order.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“This House approves the Treaty of Friendship signed at Tehran on the 15th March, 1950, by the representatives of the Government of India and the Imperial Government of Iran.”

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I heartily support this Resolution moved by Dr. Keskar, and I want to congratulate the External Affairs Ministry for signing this Treaty of Friendship. It is a great thing. Even an individual is weak when he is isolated and secluded, his strength lies in society and in friendship alone. Indeed, after having made friends with Iran, a country with whom we had historical relations, we really feel very rich. I hope both the countries will thrive through this Treaty and help each other. The Treaty begins with the words:

صلح و دوستی دائمی بین دو
دولت هندوستان و ایران برقرار و هر
دو دولت این صلح و دوستی را بین اتباع
خود توسعه داده و تحکیم خواهند نمود۔

The very first paragraph is really the crux of the whole Treaty, and it gives us a perpetual friendship. The translation is:

There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the Governments of India and Iran and the said Governments shall promote and strengthen such peace and friendship between their respective nationals.

This is just the time when the External Affairs Ministry should be more active in making such friendships with other neighbouring countries. I would suggest that goodwill missions or other contacts of Parliaments may also be made with Iran so that we

may stand together. Since in Europe there are troubles arising, it is very urgent, strategically, for us to be absolutely on friendly relations not only with Iran but also with the nearest neighbours like Pakistan, Burma and others. I, therefore, welcome this Treaty, and I do give it my whole-hearted support.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh) : The House, Sir, will, I have no doubt, welcome this Treaty of Friendship concluded between the ancient countries of India and Iran, by their representatives, that is to say our Ambassador at Tehran and the Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 15th March, 1950.

This Treaty is in line with the general policy of Government—rather, of India—to have treaties of friendship with all the countries of the world. But, Sir, certain points arise in regard to the conclusion of this Treaty of Friendship. Indians in Iran have been, for the past few years at any rate, labouring under several disabilities. I should like to know from the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs whether this question of disabilities of Indians in Iran was considered at all when negotiations were in progress for the conclusion of this Treaty or at any time before the Treaty was signed by the representatives of the two countries. To a question put by my hon. friend—Dr. Deshmukh—in the Legislature on the 8th February, 1949, the then Commerce Minister, Mr. Neogy, gave a list of disabilities which Indians in Iran were suffering from. This question arises because of article 3 of this Treaty of Friendship which says :

“The High Contracting Parties agree to conduct their commercial, customs, navigation, aviation and cultural relations as well as matters relating to :

- (a) extradition,
- (b) Judicial assistance between the two countries, and
- (c) the conditions of residence and stay of the nationals of one party in the territory of the other,

in accordance with special agreements between the parties.”

The Preamble to the Treaty refers to the mutual need for co-operation in strengthening and developing the ties which have existed between the two countries for centuries and says “urged by their mutual desire to establish peace between the two countries with a view to the common benefit of their people and the development of their respective countries” etc.

So many things are envisaged in this Treaty relating to the development of cordial relations between them and the strengthening of the ancient ties between India and Iran, but judging by the answer given by the Government on the floor of the House on the 8th February, 1949, to a question by my hon. friend, Dr. Deshmukh, I find that Indians in Iran are not treated at all on a basis of equality. In this connection, there was a news item in the *Kesari* of Poona some days ago to the effect that Iranian citizens in India are treated on quite a different basis from the basis of treatment accorded to Indians in Iran. The then Commerce Minister, Mr. Neogy said on the 8th February, 1949, as follows :

- “(i) They cannot become members of local Chambers of Commerce.
- (ii) They cannot become Directors of Companies with monopoly rights, such as Telephone Co., and other public utility services organisations.
- (iii) They cannot act as Brokers or Clearing Agents.
- (iv) They cannot operate hotels, garages, cinemas, theatres, etc.
- (v) They cannot own agricultural land or properties, except those required for their business and residence.
- (vi) The foreign exchange regulations hit hard the Indians in particular. They are not allowed to remit money to India to meet the family expenses, insurance premia, etc. Even for their air passage to India they have to get money from India as it has to be paid in sterling and the

[Shri Kamath]

Iranian Government do not give it.

- (vii) Foreigners desirous of staying there for more than a month have to obtain residential permit on payment. Even travelling from one town to the other is subject to permit system.
- (viii) They are not permitted to leave that country unless they have produced clearance certificates from the Exchange Control Department, Income-tax Department, Bank Melli and the Police Department.
- (ix) Indian traders are not allowed visa for that country unless they have an established business house there or intend to go there for touring. Even for the old traders it is difficult to obtain visas. New traders are not normally granted visas.
- (x) They cannot reside in frontier towns. This law has not yet been enforced strictly. There is a large number of Indian merchants in Zahidan and Khorramshahr which are on the frontier.
- (xi) They have to obtain a special licence for trading.

Iranian Government have also enacted a law which would root out foreigners from the import trade of that country and also drastically curtail their other trading activities. Full details have not yet become available."

This was the position on the 8th February, 1949. I would like to know whether since that date any progress has been made, or rectification or remedy found, for the civil and other disabilities that Indians in Iran are labouring under. Recently we had a news item in the *Kesari* of Poona—to which I referred earlier—that no foreigner, including an Indian, can do business in Iran unless he takes as a partner an Iranian citizen. In India, so far as I know, Iranians are not subject to the various disabilities that were mentioned by Government last year.

Now, Sir, this treaty of friendship is specifically to the promotion of

friendship and developing and strengthening of old ties. A reference has also been made to customs and cultural relations, etc. I for one hold that so far as foreign relations are concerned, there must be a basis of reciprocity. Otherwise, we shall be nowhere in the long run. It is no use saying that whatever the other Government does, we shall do the right thing or the good thing. The House has been regaled with answers to questions touching on various matters about our foreign relations that we do not strictly proceed on the basis of reciprocity. In international relations, we must be just first before we can be generous, and unless we take precautions and safeguard the interests of our citizens in Iran, it is futile to sign a treaty of friendship with any country. What friendship can there be between a *rakshak* and a *bakshak*? While we on our part give liberal treatment to citizens of other countries, I would like to know from the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs what steps were taken since February 1949 to remedy this state of affairs and see that our citizens in Iran are treated on the same basis as Iranians in India are treated. If this has not been done at all.....

AN HON. MEMBER: You are referring to Pathans in Bombay. They are Indians.

Shri Kamath: I do not know how many Iranians there are in this country and what are their professions or trades. Perhaps the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs may be able to tell us. But I feel that if this question of reciprocal treatment was not attended to by our Government while negotiating the treaty of friendship, then this treaty should not have been signed. If the state of affairs mentioned by Mr. Neogy in February 1949 continues even today, then there is no room for friendship between us and Iran. There is no scope, there is no basis of friendship. India should treat Iranians in India on a reciprocal basis. Just as in the case of South Africa who ill-treats our citizens we have imposed some sanctions, so should we impose some sort of sanctions against Iran

this state of affairs continues. Therefore, firstly, I would like to know whether before this treaty was concluded or even during the course of the negotiations this matter of disabilities of Indians in Iran was taken up by our Government and if so in what fashion. What was the response of the Iran Government to our overtures? Secondly, I would like to know what disabilities, if any, Iranians in India are labouring under. If they do not suffer from any disabilities, then why should there not be reciprocity between India and Iran and why was not this point taken up before this treaty was signed? If the answer of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs is satisfactory, then it is all right; otherwise, I cannot at all support this treaty so long as Indians are suffering from various disabilities, while Iranian citizens in India are treated in a generous manner by us.

Dr. R. U. Singh (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Kamath has, I am afraid, overstated the case, although the points that he has made are definitely sound. It is true that Indians in Iran are suffering from some disabilities, but my information is that such disabilities are general to all foreigners in that country. Indians have suffered and the Press there is—I would not say hostile—but not quite favourable. The propaganda done by a certain country for some time has been quite harmful to us. I have no doubt that this House is quite aware that in recent years we have lost very greatly in our trade with Iran. For instance, before World War II we occupied the fifth place in our trade with Iran. Later, we came to occupy the first position. Since 1947-48, U.K. and U. S. A. have dominated the Iranian market. These questions certainly cause us a great deal of concern and we are greatly interested in them. But that is precisely the reason why the Government of India may have thought of concluding a treaty of friendship. I do not know what has been behind the scenes, but no doubt these matters will have to be taken up, if they have not already been taken up.

I look at this treaty of friendship from another point of view too. We have

had very long associations—cultural, linguistic and racial—with Iran. We belong to the same stock. Our languages have a common origin. The emperors of both our countries have in the past invited scholars and others. India can even today claim a galaxy of Persian poets and scholars. But to be frank with the House, I look at this treaty or any other treaty of friendship from a political angle. The second World War as also the first World War had demonstrated beyond doubt that our defence line does not stop with our frontiers. It extends from the Himalayan countries to the Persian Gulf and from Burma and Malaya to Indonesia. From that point of view, I welcome this treaty. When India was under British rule, Persia was a protecting bastion to our country. The strategic importance of Iran is no less today than what it was to India under British rule. Therefore, I suggest very strongly that treaties of friendship with all countries which fall within this defence line should be entered into. So far, we have entered into treaties of friendship with Nepal, Iran and Afghanistan. I suggest that we should enter into treaties with other countries that are left out.

In connection with the resolution that is before us, there is another point which I think is of the greatest constitutional importance. Certain treaties have been entered into by the Government of India, not one of which was ever brought before this House. I welcome this Resolution made by the hon. Deputy Minister for External Affairs for associating the House with treaty making. I will not go into the question in greater detail, but when certain other treaties were concluded this House was not taken into confidence. The Constitutional position, as the hon. Minister himself indicated is clear. As the present position stands, while Parliament has got the power to legislate with respect to treaties, the Executive has got the power to ratify as such. In fact, as things stand, it is not necessary for the Executive to consult Parliament. But I believe that is not the spirit of the Constitution. Even though Parliament may not deem

[Dr. R.U. Singh]

it fit to legislate with regard to making of treaties, just the same Government will deem it fit to place before the House all these questions. It is open to the Government to adopt two courses. They may adopt the British practice—place all treaties before the House and if there is a demand for discussion, allow discussion of that particular treaty: or, they may take the approval of the House so far as all treaties are concerned.

The hon. Deputy Minister for External Affairs rightly pointed out that there is some difficulty here in Article 5 of the Treaty. In fact, if I may say so, the phraseology that is used is unsatisfactory, if not wrong. The words here are: "This treaty shall be ratified by the legislative body of each party and the exchange of instrument of certification can take place in Tehran as soon as possible." The word "ratification" appears to be used in the international sense of the term. Ratification, really speaking, is an executive act performed by the head of the State announcing the formal acceptance of the treaty and it denotes a formal act. But if the contracting parties concerned give their consent, the word ratification as it appears in this Treaty would indicate that the approval of the Legislature in this case is ratification. In fact, the resolution as it stands seeking the approval of the House itself is really speaking sound. The House will approve the treaty and then the Government will ratify and then the exchange of instruments of ratification will take place.

I join my friend Mr. Kamath in asking for certain points to be clarified—namely, as to what is being done by the Government about the disabilities of Indians in Iran. My own feeling is that they would certainly have talked about the matter and would pursue it: otherwise, a treaty of friendship has no meaning. But on the other question which I have raised, I would like to have a clarification from Government as to what is their policy with regard to treaties. Do they propose to bring forward legislation defining how treaties

are to be made? Do they propose to place all treaties before the House: or do they propose to adopt the British Parliamentary practice, namely place all treaties and seek approval of the House only when there is a demand for discussion?

Shri Sidhva: I rise to support this motion moved by my hon. friend Dr. Keskar. My friend Mr. Kamath has brought forward some points regarding the disabilities that exist in Iran against all the foreigners.

Mr. Speaker: His point was that there are some disabilities which apply only to Indians.

Shri Sidhva: There are certain disabilities, I know, apply to Indians as well. Stricter disabilities existed before February 1949. There are nearly 11,000 Zoroastrians residing in Iran and the most ancient of their sacred temples is in Tehran. But they are suffering under certain religious disabilities.

Despite all these facts, I am very glad that the Government of Iran has voluntarily come forward to make a treaty of friendship with us. If certain disabilities exist, under the treaty of friendship we can bring this matter to the notice of the Government of Iran and request them to remove them. Article 1 of the Treaty says:

"There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the Governments of Iran and India. The said Governments shall promote and strengthen such peace and friendship between the respective nationals."

Now, friendship of nationals will come about when these disabilities are removed. Suppose there is no treaty, then it will be difficult to remove these disabilities. So, the door has been opened by executing this treaty. I am sure our Government know very well the disabilities under which our nationals are suffering in Iran—it was not that they were unaware of them. In fact, all of us knew them. I myself was at one time very much annoyed at the various disabilities to which our

people were subjected. But with all that, I am today glad that our Government have been successful in getting a treaty of friendship from a Government which has enacted certain provisions in their constitution which imposes certain disabilities on foreigners, particularly Indians. I am hopeful today that our Government will from time to time bring to the notice of the Government of Iran as to how this country feels about these various disabilities that exist against our nationals. From that point of view I attach very great importance to this Treaty. My hon. friend Dr. Keskar will reply as to what really is the object of this Treaty, —particularly in the face of the disabilities under which our nationals in Iran are suffering. I am sure he will be of the view that that is exactly the reason why a treaty has been entered into between the two Governments. The Government of India, no doubt, will take early steps in representing to the Government of Iran the disabilities under which our nationals are suffering in Iran.

Shri Kamath : First of all have equality of treatment and then have friendship.

Shri Sidhva : If my hon. friend Mr. Kamath could get a treaty signed on those terms I would be the happiest man. As Mr. Tyagi rightly pointed out under the existing circumstances in the country today we must have friendship with all the countries in the world.

Shri Kamath : But with dignity.

Shri Sidhva : Certainly with our dignity. Let me tell my hon. friend Mr. Kamath that I would not allow any treaty to be entered into if the dignity and honour of our nationals is at stake. But the point is when a Government which has imposed such disabilities is prepared to enter into a treaty, we should be prepared to snatch that opportunity and our Government should take such action as is available under this treaty of friendship to impress upon the Government of Iran to remove them. Supposing there is no such treaty, what can we do? What

influence can we bring to bear upon the Government of Iran, I ask. After all, Iran is an independent country. In fact, there are so many other Foreign Governments which have imposed similar or much worse disabilities in the way of Indians. Have we been able to do anything? But when there is a treaty of friendship there is scope for removing them. After all, it is a treaty of friendship and it loses its meaning if the disabilities against Indians are continued, as for example an Indian cannot be the Director of a telephone company, or he shall not do such and such business. If, however, these discriminations are continued, we shall certainly have to reconsider this matter.

Shri Kamath : We have had commercial agreements without such discriminations.

Shri Sidhva : Commercial agreements stand on a different footing from political treaties of friendship. Commercial and political treaties are two different things. From these points of view I welcome this treaty realising very well that there are difficulties existing. It is not that we do not know of them. Our nationals have suffered from great difficulties in Iran. But since 1949 there has been improvement in the position, though there are many difficulties still. I hope, therefore, that this treaty will be accepted by the House and that our Government will take care to see that after this treaty of friendship has been entered into these difficulties which affect Indian nationals will be removed as much as possible.

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

Shri Joachim Alva (Bombay) : This is the first time in the history of the Republican Parliament that a treaty of friendship has been placed before this House. This motion is in the right way and in the right manner of democratic and parliamentary practice. We do hope that every treaty of friendship that will be signed between any country and ours will be placed before this House for its final acceptance. Treaties of friendship are a very important instrument. They need ratification and, above all, they need the

[Shri Joachim Alva]

approved of the elected Members of Parliament of any country.

Today India can claim a group of friends in South East Asia right from Burma up to Australia—Burma, Indonesia, Australia—and Japan and China. We can claim them all as our friends, just and true. As regards Japan, our Prime Minister raised his voice that the period of military occupation by America be ended and that Japan be restored to her old position of friendship and equality. And today, again, on the other side of our land, right from Cairo to Ankara we want to claim all those countries, countries of our friends. In Egypt our stock is very high today. In Turkey also. But in Iran, may I say, it was not so high in the time of Partition. As a matter of fact our Ambassador was flayed by the Press there and the Iran Radio carried on a vicious propaganda against us just after the Partition. But those are things of the past. Today we want to cement our friendship by a treaty of friendship.

It has been admitted and it is a fact that many nationals of our country have been ill-treated in the oilfields run by the Americans or by the British or by any other foreign country in Iran; so many of our nationals who are employees there have not received proper treatment in Iran. The Bombay docks have been the witnesses of people who have come down from Iran and complained about ill-treatment there. But today by this treaty of friendship we turn our back upon those incidents. We have appointed Consuls in one or two places beyond Tehran. Our Ambassador in Tehran finds it very difficult to handle all these cases of injustice and maltreatment. We cannot have a treaty of friendship without cleaning and clearing up our hearts. Today we are trying to build a ring of friendship right from Cairo to Ankara and we cannot avoid it on the front of Iran. Iran is a very important factor in the cultural point of view and other points of view. Today we are trying to put all those things right. The subjects of Iran are quite a number in

India. In Bombay the Iranians are a very prosperous and flourishing community. They have no obstruction and hindrances. On the other hand they have followed their avocations freely all the twenty-four hours day and night without being disturbed and remitted vast sums of money to Iran. And we look to Iran for a reciprocal treatment of courtesy, kindness and friendship. We shall not merely cement commercial and trade relations but friendship on a lasting and firmer footing.

Hence we welcome the move of the hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in having placed this treaty of friendship before the House for approval. We do hope that we shall be able to have more treaties of friendship with other countries, with Afghanistan, Egypt and countries right up to Turkey which will be bound to us with hooks of steel. Let all these doubts and mis-understandings of the past which, came as a result of Partition and due to the fierce propaganda carried on by Pakistan, be wiped off so that we shall be able to have our relations on a firmer footing.

Dr. Deshmukh : In view of the somewhat long speeches delivered so far I want to be very brief. I am prepared to welcome the Resolution, although I think it has come here more or less by a mistake. I am prepared to accept also the method suggested by my friend Mr. Sidhva to have friendship first and then try and remove the handicaps and other things later on. But it would have been far better if we had declared ourselves as friends with all the handicaps and restrictions placed upon our nationals having been removed.

My main purpose in getting up is that I have interested myself in this subject for a very long time and I have asked very many times questions with regard to the treatment of foreigners in India and of our nationals in foreign countries. But I am afraid that from the time of Mr. Bhabha no satisfactory answer has ever been given.

Mr. Bhabha in fact, when he replied to my question, admitted in so many words that there was no supervision of any of the foreigners here, that there was no proper register, that there was no full information available in the Commerce or any other Department of the Government. I think that position ought to be altered.

Secondly, all our international relations ought to be based upon the foundation of mutuality and reciprocity. If we are not going to get the treatment that we are prepared to offer to other people, I think it is time that our relationship with every State was examined in detail by the External Affairs Ministry and the same placed on the basis of mutuality and reciprocity. We have found that it is more or less by an accident that this thing has come here. My friend Mr. Kamath has pointed out the innumerable handicaps and restrictions placed upon Indian nationals living in Persia stated on the floor of the House in reply to a question asked by me. On the other hand, we know the latitude we allow and the freedom and extent of scope we give to the nationals of Iran. That being so, the general question ought to be examined not only so far as Iran is concerned but in respect of all countries. So far as Iran is concerned we hope that after this treaty of friendship all these handicaps will be removed. If they are not removed then the same handicaps should be imposed upon the Iranian nationals, in India and the same thing ought to be done with respect to the nationals of every foreign country, irrespective of their colour or the nation that they belong to.

Shri P. Y. Deshpande (Madhya Pradesh) : I feel rather perturbed because of the unfortunate turn given to this motion by my friend Mr. Kamath. A treaty of friendship with Iran or any other foreign country stands on an altogether different footing from a mere commercial transaction of mutuality. Even if there are disabilities—and it is bad, I admit—it is worth while for India to have such treaties with as many countries in the world as possible.

Shri Kamath : It is not merely trade and commerce but of residence, foreign exchange, etc.

Shri Sidhva : You read article 4 of the Treaty.

Shri P. Y. Deshpande : Despite all the disabilities that exist today and many more, we stand today in such a situation internationally that we need friends. In the absence of friends and such treaties India will have the fate of such an isolation, and such a desolation internationally that without friends we will be nowhere in the world at all.

I therefore maintain that and I will appeal to my hon. friend, Mr. Kamath and to such of our hon. Members who think on these lines and I would tell them: "Please do not mix these issues—disabilities and mutuality—on grounds of commerce or other things". These are questions quite apart from a Treaty of Friendship of this type and whether the disability exists or does not exist, if our Ministry for Foreign Affairs were to bring about more such treaties with other countries, despite the fact that the disabilities are there, it is worth while for India's safety, for India's freedom and for India's position internationally.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, जहां तक वैदेशिक विभाग का सम्बन्ध है मुझे उस से बहुत दिलचस्पी रही है। परन्तु आज यहां पर इस विषय को जिस दृष्टि से देखा जा रहा है उस दृष्टि से शायद हम इसे स्वतंत्रता के बाद ही देख सकते थे। मुझे ऐसा जान पड़ता है कि श्रीयुक्त कामत साहब के कथन में और इस प्रस्ताव के समर्थन में जो कुछ कहा जा रहा है दोनों में कुछ न कुछ तब्ध है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : बहुत कुछ तब्ध है।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह बात ठीक है कि हमें इस प्रकार के सन्धि पत्रों को उभारना

[शेठ गोविंद दास]

एक ऊंचे स्तर से देखना चाहिये परन्तु इस के साथ बर्तन जो वास्तविकतायें हैं उन से हम आंख मूंद लेंगे तो हमारा काम चलने वाला नहीं है। श्रीयुक्त कामत ने यहां पर उन अयोग्यताओं के सम्बन्ध में हमें व्योरेवार बताया है कि जो ईरान में रहने वाले भारतियों के प्रति बरती जा रही हैं। ऐसी हालत में हम उनका कुछ भी ध्यान न रखें और इस प्रस्ताव को इसी रूप में पास कर दें तो यह कोई उचित बात नहीं होगी। हम इस प्रस्ताव का विरोध नहीं कर रहे हैं, परन्तु जहां हम इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन कर रहे हैं वहीं हम ईरान का और ऐसे दूसरे देशों का भी जिनसे अभी हमारे सन्धिपत्र नहीं हुये हैं, ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहते हैं कि हम एक ओर यदि मित्रता का हाथ बढ़ाने को तैयार हैं तो दूसरी ओर एक स्वतन्त्र राष्ट्र होने की दृष्टि से हम इस बात को भी विस्मृत नहीं कर सकते कि उन देशों में रहने वाले भारतियों के साथ उन देशों की सरकार किस प्रकार का बरताव कर रही है।

तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि जैसा मैं ने अभी आप से निवेदन किया कि मुझे इस विषय से बहुत वर्षों से अनुराग रहा है, कि जहां हमारे उप मन्त्री जी इस प्रस्ताव को हमारे सामने लाये हैं और उत्सुक हैं कि हम इसे पास कर दें, और हम भी चाहते हैं कि वह एक मत से पास कर दिया जाये, वहां पर, जैसा कि मेरे मित्र श्री देशमुख ने कहा है, इस बात पर भी वह निगाह डालें कि किस किस देश में भारतियों के साथ किस किस प्रकार का बरताव हो रहा है, और वह इस बात का भी प्रयत्न करें कि भारतियों के साथ उन देशों में ठीक ठीक व्यवहार हो, और अगर ऐसा नहीं होता है तो हम उन देशों के निवासियों के साथ अपने देश में भी उसी प्रकार का बरताव करें जिस प्रकार का

बरताव दूसरे देशों में हमारे देशवासियों के साथ होता है।

अभी श्री महावीर त्यागी जी ने कहा कि इस सन्धि पत्र में हिन्द नाम आया है। विधान परिषद् में इस बात पर बहुत विवाद हो चुका है कि इस देश का क्या नाम रखा जाये और बहुत विवाद के बाद हमने इस देश का नाम भारत रखा है। तो जहां तक इन विदेशी सन्धि पत्रों का सम्बन्ध है वहां तक हमने विधान में अपने देश का जो नाम स्वीकार किया है उस नाम को स्थान मिलना चाहिये किसी दूसरे नाम को नहीं। जहां तक इस प्रकार के सन्धि पत्रों का सम्बन्ध है जिस समय भी हम किसी दूसरे देश के साथ इस प्रकार की सन्धियां करें उस समय इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि जिन शब्दों का हमने अपने विधान में उपयोग किया है उन्हीं का उपयोग करें। साथ ही हमारे देश की जो प्रतिष्ठा है उसका भी ध्यान रखें, हमारे भारतियों के साथ उन देशों में किस प्रकार का व्यवहार होता है इस पर ध्यान रखें और इन बातों का उचित ध्यान रख कर इन सन्धि-पत्रों को स्वीकार किया जाये।

इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुये मेरा विश्वास है कि जिन बातों की ओर वैदेशिक विभाग का ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है उन पर वह पूरा पूरा ध्यान देगा।

(English translation of the above speech)

Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh): So far as the Ministry of External Affairs is concerned I have been taking much interest therein. But the manner in which this Ministry is being reviewed here today has been possible probably only after our attaining independence. I feel that there is much truth both in what Shri Kamath has said and the submissions that have been made in support of this motion.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar) :
There is much truth.

Seth Govind Das : It is true that we must see such treaty proposals from a high level, but at the same time if we would shut our eyes from the real state of affairs then also it would not serve our purpose. Shri Kamath has given out in detail the disabilities that are being imposed upon the Indian nationals there in Iran. Under such circumstances if we were to pass this motion in its existing form without taking into consideration these disabilities then this action would not at all be proper. I am not opposing this motion, but while supporting this motion I wish to let countries like Iran and others, with whom we have no treaty alliances as yet, know that while on the one hand we are prepared to extend a hand of friendship yet on the other being an independent country we cannot fail to take into consideration the treatment that the Governments of those countries are meting out to the Indian nationals living there.

So I wish to submit that, as I have just stated, I have been taking much interest in this matter since years. As the hon. Deputy Minister has moved this Bill and is anxious to get it passed, in the same way we also wish to get it passed unanimously. But at the same time, as my friend Dr. Deshmukh has said, he must also keep in mind the fact as to what sort of treatment is being meted out to the Indian nationals living in those countries. Besides this the Government should also see that proper treatment is meted out to the Indian nationals living in these countries. If this is not done then we should mete out the same treatment, as our nationals have to experience in other countries, to the nationals of those countries living here in this country.

Just now Shri Tyagi has pointed out that the name 'Hind' has been used in the said treaty document. This question of name was well discussed in the Constituent Assembly and after long and lengthy discussions we

adopted the name 'Bharat' for this country. Then as far as these treaties with foreign countries are concerned, the name that we have provided in our Constitution should be used and no other name should find a place therein. Then so far as such treaty documents are concerned, whenever we enter upon such treaties with foreign countries we should always remember to use those very words that we have used in our Constitution. At the same time we must also keep in mind the honour and prestige of our country, the treatment that is being meted out to the Indian nationals living in those countries and only after keeping these facts under consideration the treaty proposals should be agreed upon.

While supporting this Motion I believe that the Ministry of External Affairs will take into consideration the things suggested by me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

"That the question be now put".

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Keskar : I never expected that this Resolution would engender so much heat and discussion. It was a formal resolution and I thought that the House would welcome this treaty of friendship with a country with which we have had long standing friendship.

With regard to the criticism that has been levelled by many hon. Members, I will say at the very outset that when we began negotiations with the Iranian Government, the negotiations were with regard to the position of Indians in Iran and also with regard to our trade and commerce with that country. But during the course of negotiations it was the view of the Iranian Government, that as in certain other countries and according to certain international usages, we should first make a treaty of general friendship and goodwill and that a treaty of trade and commerce and a treaty with regard to position of Indians in Iran will come afterwards. That does not mean that the

[Dr. Keskar]

question of the position of Indians in Iran or the question of our trade there has been left over till this treaty is signed. Negotiations with regard to these questions have been going on and I might remind my friends that a Trade delegation from Iran visited India some months back. They negotiated some proposals with regard to exchange of trade and commerce. Mr. Kamath has put forward a long list of disabilities.....

Shri Kamath : Government, not I.

Dr. Keskar : I am sorry. He gave the reply given by the hon. Minister for Commerce last year on the floor of the House. It is true. I may also inform him that some of the disabilities have already been removed....

Shri Kamath : Which was removed?

Dr. Keskar : I am sorry. I would require notice, but I will certainly put it before him very soon and with regard to the others, negotiations are going on and I am quite sure that we will come to a successful and friendly conclusion.

My hon. friend, Dr. R. U. Singh referred to the position of Indians in Iran and also with regard to the opinion of Iranians with regard to India. I might say this that it would be unjust to the Government of Iran and also the people of Iran to say that they have shown generally a hostile attitude to India.

Dr. R. U. Singh : What I said was that the Press and the people to whom Pakistan propoganda reaches are hostile. I did not put in the word 'Government' at all.

Dr. Keskar : With regard to the Press it would be unjust to say that the Press in Iran is hostile to India. I have seen certain cuttings from the Press in Iran. That does not mean that we can generalize and say that the Press in Iran is hostile. In fact quite a number of Iranian papers have been writing consistently favourable to India and the Government of India. I quite appreciate the point

that he has made with regard to the general question of putting the treaties that are ratified by the Government of India on the floor of the House. This question is under the consideration of Government and a decision will be taken very soon in this matter.

Lastly, I would like to say a word with regard to what my friend Seth Govind Das said, especially, as it might be misunderstood in Iran. He asked why in the Persian copy of the Treaty the word *Bharat* has not been used instead of *Hindustan* or *Hind*. I will only say this to my hon. friend that foreign countries, in their own language, have every right to use the word with regard to any country which they have been using continuously.

सेठ गोविंद दास : परन्तु हमें उनसे कहना चाहिए कि हमने आने विधान में इस देश का भारत नाम स्वीकार किया है।

[Seth Govind Das : But they should have been told that in our Constitution we call our country 'Bharat'.]

Dr. Keskar : That has nothing to do with their practice. For example, if a Frenchman says *Angleterre* for England, I do not think the English Government can ask the French Government that in the French translation of their treaties, they should be called England.

Shri Tyagi : May we use the word 'Persia' in Hindi ?

Shri Kamath : If we wanted ?

Dr. Keskar : We can use whatever we like in Hindi. They are not going to object. I think we should not insist that they should say something with regard to India in Persian. The question of our differences in English or in Hindi is quite different in regard to this matter. I say this simply because this might be misunderstood in Iran. I have nothing more to say.

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan) : May I know from the hon. Minister while on the one hand, the Treaty is in Persian on the Iranian side, why it is not in Hindi on our side ? Why is it in English ?

Dr. Keskar : Because we have accepted English as the State language for the next 15 years.

सेठ गोविंद दास : परन्तु इसी के साथ हमने यह भी मंजूर किया है कि इन १५ वर्षों तक हम अंग्रेजी के साथ हिन्दी भी चलाना चाहेंगे। यदि कोई सन्धि-पत्र अंग्रेजी में लिखा जाय तो उसके साथ हम उसको हिन्दी में भी रख सकते हैं, इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए।

[**Soth Govind Das :** But besides this we have also agreed to adopt Hindi along with English for 15 years. If any treaties were to be drawn up in English then besides the English version we must keep a copy of the same in Hindi also. There should not be any objection, whatsoever, to this.]

Dr. Keskar : I am putting this motion before the House in the full expectation that they will give it a hearty approval.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : हज़ूर मेरा एक सवाल है। वह यह कि उन्होंने जो कहा है कि विदेशों में हमारे देश का नाम हिन्द है, तो क्या हम अपने देश का नाम रखेंगे या दूसरे हमारे देश का नाम रखेंगे ?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh :** Sir, I wish to put a question. As he has stated that in foreign countries the name of our country, generally known to the people, is 'Hind' then will the others be allowed to suggest a suitable name for our country or else we ourselves would adopt a name for it.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Kamath : On a point of information, Sir,.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : I would like to avoid all this controversy. I think in future the Government will certainly take this matter into consideration.

Shri Kamath : On a point of information, may I ask whether the Iranian nationals in India are subjected to any of the disabilities under which Indians in Iran are labouring ?

Dr. Keskar : Iranians in India have also certain restrictions placed on them.

Shri Kamath : What are they ?

Dr. Keskar : Even with regard to trade and commerce, with regard to exchange regulations, export of capital, or the money that they want to send. I cannot give them off hand. This was not the subject matter of discussion and I have not brought the requisite facts here.

Shri Kamath : May I, (*Interruption*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Order, order. I think under Article 3, the hon. Minister could have said that the High Contracting Parties have agreed to conduct their commercial, customs, navigation, aviation and cultural relations as well as matters relating to extradition, etc., in accordance with special agreements between the parties. I believe Government is now engaged in entering into special arrangements to remove all these disabilities as far as possible.

I will now put the Question to the House.

The question is :

"This House approves the Treaty of Friendship signed at Tehran on the 15th March, 1950, by the representatives of the Government of India and the Imperial Government of Iran."

The motion was adopted.

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

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

[**SHRI HIMATSingka** *in the Chair.*]

**VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF
SALARIES (EXEMPTION FROM
TAXATION) BILL**

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for exempting from taxes on income a portion of the salaries of certain persons who have in the public interest volunteered to forego it, be taken into consideration."

The provisions of this Bill apply only to those persons whose salaries are fixed by law, that is, either under the Constitution or any other law made thereunder—the salaries of the President, Governors, Ministers, Speaker, Deputy-Speaker, Judges, etc., these are governed by the Second Schedule to the Constitution, and these are salaries payable under the law and become due to the person concerned. And under Section 7 of the Indian Income-tax Act, the basis of taxation is the salary due, whether paid or not. The salary may be voluntarily surrendered, but it is still chargeable, if no exemption were granted. The Bill exempts part of the salary which is voluntarily foregone in the public interest by a declaration in writing. The declaration in writing may be in any form, either by a letter or an endorsement on the salary bill itself, and it is necessary for audit purposes and it makes it clear that no further liability remains to Government. The words "in public interest" occurred in the two Ordinances which the Bill seeks to replace and our legal experts advise us that they are necessary.

In the case of the other persons whose salaries are not fixed by law, an emergency cut has been imposed under the rule-making powers of the President, under Article 309 of the Constitution. Although originally the cut was conceived as a voluntary measure, it was finally implemented as a compulsory one. Therefore, in their case,

nothing more than the reduced salary is in law to be regarded as due to them. In other words, they will be liable to pay tax only on the reduced salary. Hence they are outside the purview of the present Bill.

The effect of granting exemption to that part of the salary which is voluntarily surrendered is that a person does not suffer reduction in the nett amount receivable by him, to the same extent as the amount foregone.

The only thing that is necessary for me to say is that a Minister who gives up a part of his salary will in every case be worse off than if he were not to give up any portion of his salary. There is, therefore, no advantage to a Minister in giving up any portion of his salary, however high his own private income may be.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for exempting from taxes on income a portion of the salaries of certain persons who have in the public interest volunteered to forego it, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I do not wish to move any of the amendments standing in my name.

Mr. Chairman : Anyone who wants to move his amendment ?

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal) : Sir, I have some difficulties and want some clarification.

Mr. Chairman : But your amendment is merely a formal one ?

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad : No, Sir: I have some real difficulties which I would like to place before the House. Sir, my amendment is :

"In part (h) of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, for the words 'Ministers of States' substitute the words 'Ministers in the States'."

Sir, I submit that there is confusion between Ministers of State and Ministers of a State.

In clause (b) there is the expression 'Ministers of State' which means Ministers of State of the Central Government. But in clause 8 we have 'Ministers and Deputy Ministers of States'. This 'States' means the places which were formerly known as the Indian States of the Provinces.

Now the word 'State' has been used in two different senses. So far as the Ministers of State in the Centre are concerned, the word 'State' does not mean what it means in clause 8. If the word Province had not been changed in the Constitution, this anomaly would not have arisen. So the word 'State' being ambiguous and the expression in the two cases being almost the same, it requires some kind of differentiation. If clause 8 reads like this : "The Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the States" that would mean in the Province or the old Indian States as they were formerly known. That would at least eliminate the confusion between these two expressions. I have discussed this matter with some of my friends and they are also under the same impression that there are some difficulties but that there are different ways of removing the difficulty. I have placed the matter before the House for its consideration and finding a solution for it. The same expression should not be used to mean two different things altogether. That is the reason why I have submitted this amendment.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I do not see the slightest necessity for accepting the amendment moved by my hon. friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. He has imagined a difficulty where none exists at all. I am afraid a very careful student as he is of every thing he seems not to have given his proper attention this time. Sub-clause (h) of clause 2, which he seeks to amend, says "Ministers and Deputy Ministers of States" The word 'States' is in the plural and not singular. We have Ministers of State in the Central Government but there is no such thing as a Minister of

States either in the Centre or in the Provinces. Therefore there is absolutely no difficulty of any sort whatsoever in accepting sub-clause (h) as it stands in its present form. I submit, therefore, that this amendment need not be accepted.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : Sir, my hon. friend's amendment reminds me of Mr. A. P. Herbert who once sought in the British Parliament to move an amendment that for the words "exploring every avenue" the words "leave no stone unturned" be substituted. I agree with the previous speaker that there is really no difficulty and.....

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad : No difficulty but just an anomaly.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : That is the anomaly of the English language. The plural of Minister of State is Ministers of State and when you have Ministers referring to different States you say 'Ministers of States'.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad : Singular and plural cannot much be distinguished in legislation.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : The fault is that of the English grammar. It would serve really no useful purpose to make any amendment. You can possibly substitute 'for' instead of 'of' but since the meaning is clear and is not likely to be misunderstood I suggest that the amendment be rejected.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I would like to know if any Parliamentary Secretaries in the States have surrendered any part of their salaries. There are no Deputy Ministers in any of the States. They have got Ministers and the second category there is that of the Parliamentary Secretaries in practically all the States. There are no Deputy Ministers....

An Hon. Member : There are.

Shri Tyagi : If so, why give the benefit of this law to these few State

[Shri Tyagi]

only and why should not the second category, namely the Parliamentary Secretaries in the States get the benefit of the legislation? I therefore want to know whether any Parliamentary Secretaries have surrendered their salaries and if they have they should be included in the Bill.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad : They should be given the opportunity.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : I understand that there are Deputy Ministers in the States but the point raised is since there are Parliamentary Secretaries why they have not been included in the Bill. The answer is that their salary is not fixed by law, whereas this Bill applies to persons whose salary is fixed by law.

Shri Tyagi : Is it not fixed by law?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : That is my reading.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad : Sir, I do not want to press my amendment.

Dr. Deshmukh : I do not propose to move my amendments.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : Sir, I move:

“That the Bill be passed”.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

CANTONMENT LAWS (EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh) : Sir, I move :

“That the Bill to extend the Cantonments (House Accommodation) Act, 1923 and the Cantonments Act, 1924, to Part B States, to provide for elections to Cantonment Boards on the basis of adult suffrage and to provide for a temporary extension of the term of office of elected members of Cantonment Boards, be taken into consideration”.

Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House in explaining the provisions of this simple Bill. As hon. Members might have seen from the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to this Bill, the first object is that although the forces of the Union are stationed in some of the Part B States the present Act does not apply to them. The first objective is to extend the Bill to those States also.

The other provisions are quite simple.

I want to say a word or two about the amendments which are to be moved by hon. Members. I propose to accept the first amendment of Mr. Sidhva reducing the period from 12 to six months. I also propose to accept the second one by Mr. Kapoor. I am pointing this out in the beginning so as to avoid unnecessary discussion on these amendments. The other two amendments tabled by Mr. Sidhva and the latest one by Mr. Kapoor I find it rather difficult to accept. My difficulty if I agree to accept this last amendment is that it might be held illegal. I would like to have this last amendment of Mr. Kapoor examined and also refer it to a Committee which is going into the question. After the report of that Committee is received it may be necessary to have some more amendments. This matter can be examined along with the other recommendations whenever they are received.

This is all I have to say. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

“That the Bill to extend the Cantonments (House Accommodation) Act, 1923 and the Cantonments Act, 1924, to Part B States, to provide for elections to Cantonment Boards on the basis of adult suffrage and to provide for a temporary extension of the term of office of elected members of Cantonment Boards, be taken into consideration”.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, my friend the hon. Mover of this Bill stated that this is a very simple Bill, and, therefore, no discussion is necessary ; and he has been good enough to accept two amendments to curtail the discussion. The Bill may be considered simple, but not so the object of the Bill. I wish the hon. Minister had waited and seen the report of the Committee that has been appointed for the purpose of the amendment of the Cantonments Act. That Committee was appointed not only for suggesting amendments to that Act. The whole object is, as the hon. Minister knows, that certain areas in Cantonments which have civil population are to be transferred as a local self-governing agency, either through a separate body or by including them in the adjoining local bodies. This Bill may be passed now, but its passage will prejudice the case of the Committee when its recommendations come before the House, as it will be found that the House is only in favour of extending the period of office of the elected members. The main object, the laudable object, for which the Committee is sitting is to consider whether the right to exercise the vote guaranteed under the Constitution to every adult citizen, and the right of local self-government, should be given to the residents of Cantonments. However, I would request the hon. Minister to bear in mind that the Committee is considering the question and he should have its report expedited. Even after passing this Bill, if the recommendations of the Committee come in early, he should amend the Act accordingly and not wait for a longer period on the presumption that the term of the elected members has been

extended and therefore the recommendations may be considered after that period is over. That is my request as far as this point is concerned.

The most important feature of this Bill, as the hon. Member stated, is that the qualification period of a voter is given as one year whereas under the People's Representation Act it is definitely put as 180 days. But I am very glad that in order to avoid discussion the hon. Minister has at the outset accepted the amendment that I have suggested.

As regards the postponement of elections, there is provision for six months in the Bill. Sir, the voters' list is under preparation and if we wait to have a complete list within 180 days I doubt if we could do it at all. It is absolutely impossible because the lists have to be prepared afresh. The previous lists were very defective. Formerly there was no adult franchise whereas now adult franchise will come into existence ; formerly there were many wards in the Cantonments, now they are going to be unified into one ward. All this requires careful consideration for the preparation of the electoral rolls so as to see that every resident in the Cantonment has the right to vote. I, therefore, tabled an amendment seeking to extend the period by one year, but the hon. Minister has not found his way to accept it. My friend, Mr. Kapoor's amendment, which he is accepting, is an improvement but then it does not stipulate that the elections should be held after one year. They can say even after one month that the electoral roll is complete—though it may not be complete—, that it is perfect—though it may not be perfect—, and hold the elections. Therefore, I would suggest putting in an amendment saying that until the completion of the list of voters, that is until every adult citizen is registered as a voter, the elections should not take place.

I might tell you, Sir, that the hon. Minister has received from several

[Shri Sidhva]

Cantonment Boards copies of the telegrams which I have received. There are 52 Cantonments, and I have got telegrams from 34 Cantonments in my capacity as the President of the All India Cantonments Board. From these telegrams you can very well see the views of the Cantonment citizens in the matter. They feel the matter is being hustled with the result that the right which is guaranteed under the Constitution may not be given. That is to say, all the persons who shall have the right to vote may not be included in the list if the elections are hurried up. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to accept this amendment. He has been pleased to accept Mr. Kapoor's amendment because there was no time-limit there whereas in mine there was a time-limit mentioned. My presumption is that if the hon. Minister feels that the election could be held earlier, then it would be held earlier. I myself would like to have the election as early as possible, but I would not like it to be held early until the name of every citizen is entered in the roll.

Sir, in conclusion, I welcome this Bill seeking to give adult franchise to the citizens of Cantonments. The constitution under which they are functioning now is most undemocratic. They are all mostly nominated members on the Boards and the elected members are in a minority. Of course, I do not want to argue that point today because the Committee is sitting to consider the question. The object of that Committee is to convert those Cantonment areas into local bodies which is proper and which right is enjoyed by all the self-governing bodies. So, I support the Bill with the proviso that the amendment that I have now suggested should be considered. Otherwise the Bill will not serve the purpose. Mr. Kapoor's amendment will not serve the purpose because all the citizens may not be registered in the electoral rolls. Therefore, I am prepared to accept that amendment if the hon. Minister accepts my view, that every citizen should have the right to vote. If he accepts that proposition then he

should let me know how it is going to be implemented. As the Bill stands at present that proposition is not supported. He is not prepared to accept my clear amendment which I have tabled. Why? Why should it be so when the Constitution has given the right of adult franchise to every citizen? The Election Commissioner is taking great pains to see that the rolls are all correct, and I see no reason why that situation should not obtain in the Cantonments. In the Cantonments there are ten lakhs of people who are entitled to that right. This is a right which is invested in every citizen under the Constitution, and it should be seen that that right is exercised by them, by not hurrying up this election in the manner in which it is proposed to.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : सभापति जी, मैं एक ऐसे स्थान से आता हूँ जहाँ पर बहुत बड़ा कैंटूनमेंट है। जहाँ तक इस क़ानून के मसौदे का सम्बन्ध है हम लोग इसके विरुद्ध नहीं हैं और यह हर्ष की बात है कि अब छावनी में रहने वाले लोगों को भी बालिग मताधिकार मिल रहे हैं। परन्तु प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह समय इस क़ानून को पास करने के लिये उपयुक्त है। अभी मेरे मित्र श्री सिधवा ने उस कमेटी का ज़िक्र किया कि जो इस सारे विषय पर विचार करने के लिये नियुक्त की गई है। हम यह आशा करते थे कि इस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट इस से बहुत पहले आ जायेगी, परन्तु अब तक वह नहीं आई। इस लिये हमारा यह कहना है कि बिना उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आये इस बिल को पास करना उपयुक्त नहीं होगा।

अब आप देखें कि यदि यह बिल पास हो गया तो इसका नतीजा क्या निकलेगा। इसका नतीजा यह निकलेगा कि बालिग मताधिकार के अनुसार चुनाव तो हो जायेंगे परन्तु उन चुनावों के हो जान के बाद भी इन कैंटूनमेंट बोर्डों (Cantonment

Boards) का विधान पुराना ही रहेगा। नये चुनाव होने के पश्चात् भी सारा काम पुराने विधान के अनुसार चलेगा। जिस समय यह पुराना विधान बनाया गया था उस समय देश पराधीन था और भिन्न भिन्न छावनियों में उस समय जो सेना रहती थी उस सेना पर हमारे देशवासियों का किसी प्रकार का कोई प्रभाव न पड़े और कैंटूनमेंट बोर्डों के काम सरकार जिस तरह चाहे उस तरह चलाती रहे, इस उद्देश्य से वह विधान बनाया गया था। इस सम्बन्ध में हम विधान की एक बात ले लें। इस विधान के अनुसार छोटे कैंटूनमेंटों में तीन आदमी चुने जायेंगे और बड़े कैंटूनमेंटों में सात आदमी। परन्तु इस संख्या से उन सदस्यों की संख्या अधिक रहेगी जो सरकार द्वारा नामजद किये जायेंगे। इसका अर्थ यह होता है कि वहां पर जो सदस्य चुने नहीं जायेंगे उनका बहुमत रहेगा। सम्भव है कि श्री एस० के० पाटिल के सभापतित्व में जो कमेटी सरकार ने बनायी है उस कमेटी की यह सिफारिश हो कि नहीं, वहां पर बहुमत चुने हुये लोगों का रहना चाहिये। एक दूसरी बात में और बतलाना चाहता हूं। यह तीन सदस्य और सात सदस्य जो चुने जायेंगे इन सब के चुनावों के क्षेत्र एक कर दिये गये हैं। बहुत सम्भव है कि जो कमेटी बनायी गयी है वह इस को स्वीकार न करे और यह कहे कि एक क्षेत्र से तीन या सात सदस्यों का इकट्ठा चुना जाना उपयुक्त नहीं है और उन के क्षेत्रों का भी बटवारा करे। मैं ने केवल ये दो दृष्टान्त ही दिये हैं। इनके सिवा और भी कई अन्य सिफारिश उस कमेटी की हो सकती हैं। इस लिये मेरा यह कहना है कि इस बिल का कोई विरोध न होते हुये भी इस समय जब कि वह कमेटी बैठी हुई है तब यदि कुछ दिन के बाद ही इस बिल को लाया जाये तो कोई बड़ा अनर्थ नहीं होने वाला है, क्योंकि काम वहां अभी चल ही रहा है।

एक बड़े हर्ष की बात यह है कि माननीय सरदार बलदेव सिंह जी ने श्री सिधवा का एक संशोधन स्वीकार कर लिया है जिसमें यह कहा गया है कि मत दाताओं को अपने क्षेत्र में वर्ष में केवल १८० दिन रहना आवश्यक है। जब पार्लियामेंट और भिन्न भिन्न प्रान्तों की धारा सभाओं के उम्मीदवारों के लिये भी केवल १८० दिन ही अपने क्षेत्र में रहने की क़ैद है तब कैंटूनमेंट के रहने वालों के लिये एक वर्ष की क़ैद रहे यह उचित नहीं है। तो यह हर्ष की बात है कि उन्होंने यह सुधार स्वीकार कर लिया है। अब इसके स्वीकार करने का एक नतीजा यह निकलेगा कि अभी जितने मतदाताओं की सूचियां हैं वह फिर से दोहराई जायेंगी और फिर से दोहरा कर नई बनाई जायेंगी। मुझे इस बात का बहुत सन्देह है कि इनको दोहरा कर बनाया जाना बहुत जल्दी पूरा हो जायेगा। इस लिये हमको यह आशा है कि यह जो कमेटी श्रीयुत पाटिल साहब की अध्यक्षता में बनी है उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट भी जब तक कि इन मतदाताओं की सूचियां बनेंगी हमारे पास आ जायेंगी। हम चाहते हैं कि जब सूचियां बनाने के कारण इन चुनावों में देर होने ही वाली है तो फिर यह बिल उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के पहले पास न हो। इस लिये इस बिल का विरोध न होते हुये भी बल्कि इसका समर्थन करते हुये भी हमारा यह कहना है कि उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आ जाने के बाद और जो बालिग मतदाता हैं उनकी सूची १८० दिन अपने क्षेत्रों में रहने की बिना पर बन जाने के बाद एक नया बिल हमारे सामने आवे और इस समय यदि सरदार बलदेव सिंह जी इसे वापस ले लें तो ज्यादा अच्छा है।

English translation of the above speech)

3 P. M.

Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh) :
I come from a place which is a very big

[Seth Govind Das]

cantonment. So far as this Bill goes we are not against it. It is gratifying to note that the residents of cantonments are also being given adult suffrage. But the question arises, is this the proper time for enacting this legislation? My friend, Shri Sidhva, has just mentioned the Committee that has been appointed to consider the whole question. We expected the report of this Committee to be submitted much earlier but it has not been received so far. It is, therefore, my view that it will not be proper to pass this Bill until the report of that Committee is received.

Now let us see what will be the result of the passing of this legislation. The result will be that elections will be held under adult suffrage, but even after the elections the constitution of these boards will remain the same as before. Even after fresh elections the whole of their business will be conducted in accordance with the old constitution. When the present constitution of these boards was framed the country was under foreign rule and the idea behind that constitution was that the armies living in the various cantonments should not in any way be influenced by their country-men and that the Government might be in a position to run the cantonment boards in any manner it liked. Let us, in that connection, consider just one aspect of that constitution. According to that constitution three men are to be elected in the case of small cantonments and seven in the case of the big ones, but the number of members nominated by the Government would exceed the number of those elected. It comes to this that the non-elected element would be in a majority. It is just possible that the Committee appointed by the Government under the chairmanship of Shri S. K. Patil, might make a recommendation that the elected members should be in a majority. Moreover the constituencies in respect of these three and seven members have till now been joint, but the Committee, that has been appointed, may not accept that

arrangement. It might say that it is not proper that three or seven members may be elected all together from one and the same constituency and the Committee might like to split up the constituencies. I have cited these two cases just for the sake of illustration. The Committee might also make other recommendations. Hence I submit that even though there be no opposition to this Bill there would be no harm if it were to be brought before the House on a later date, since that Committee is already sitting and also because there is no particular urgency.

We are pleased to note that the hon. Sardar Baldev Singh has accepted an amendment of Shri Sidhva which provides that a voter should have resided in his constituency for only 180 days in the year. In view of the fact that the condition in the case of candidates for the Parliament and the various Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces also is that they should have been residing in their particular constituencies just for 180 days, it was hardly desirable that the period in the case of cantonment people should be one year. It is, therefore, gratifying to note that he has accepted this amendment. The result of the acceptance of this amendment will be that the existing lists of voters will have to be revised and recompiled. I doubt if this revision and recompilation would be possible in a short period. Now we hope that by the time these voters' lists are ready we shall also receive the report of this Committee which is presided over by Shri Patil. Since the elections are in any case going to be delayed on account of the preparation of these lists we wish that this Bill, should not be passed before the Committee's report is received. Hence even though not opposing this Bill, even though lending it my support, I would urge that we should wait till the report of that Committee is received and the revised lists of adult voters on the basis of 180 days' residential qualification are ready. Then a fresh Bill should be brought before us and it

would be better if Sardar Baldev Singh were to withdraw it for the present.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh) : Most of what I wanted to say has been said already. I only wish to emphasise one point. As my hon. friend Shri Seth Govind Das ji said just now, in cantonment areas where the number of members to be elected varies from 3 to 7 only, it is really a healthy practice that the election is held on the basis of plural constituencies. These plural constituencies help minorities to send in their representatives. If a town is divided into seven wards and in each ward only 30 or 40% is the minority, then from all the wards the minority will get defeated, because their vote is only 40%. But if there is one plural constituency and the minorities in various wards can combine together according to the proportion of their population in the whole of the cantonment area, they may send two or three representatives—whatever may be the number proposed. Since we have adopted the joint electorate recently, it is possible that majority communities might take too much advantage of it and may be a stumbling block in the way of minority representation. Therefore, while doing the work of delimitation of constituencies in cantonment areas, I would request the hon. Minister of Defence to adopt the system of plural constituencies in the interests of minority representation on the cantonment boards.

Seth Govind Das : For seven members!

Shri Tyagi : Seven members also, but you can have three or four or five as the case may be. The plural constituency is always helpful. I do not want the cumulative system of voting, because it is tendentious to separate electorate again. The votes must be distributive but the constituencies should be plural.

Now, I want to have one clarification. I have here copy of a letter which was addressed to the Ministry of Defence by the Headquarters of the Southern

Command, Letter No. 1530-III/MLC. dated 12th May 1950. There the authorities have sought a clarification. Obviously, a circular had been issued that in each Board a seat must be allotted to a scheduled caste or a depressed class member, and for the election of that seat, the letter enquires :

“It is presumed that the scheduled caste member is to be elected by the scheduled and depressed classes separately and not by the general voters including the scheduled and depressed classes jointly. If so, the electoral rolls will have to be prepared separately for the depressed and scheduled classes of the Cantonment. Please confirm.”

I am surprised at the reply sent from the Ministry of Defence to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, dated 1-7-50 which reads thus :

“With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. (so and so) dated 13th June 1950 on the above subject, I am directed to say that the presumption made in your letter dated the 12th May 1950 is confirmed.”

meaning thereby, that in the cantonment areas one seat which is....

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal) : On a point of order, Sir. I believe the hon. Member is reading from some confidential official documents. If it was not read inside the House, it would perhaps have come within the mischief of the Official Secrets Act. I do not seek the application of the Official Secrets Act at all. But the question is whether information received from official documents which are not ordinarily available to the public could be allowed to be used openly inside the House?

Shri Tyagi : This is not a confidential document.

Mr. Speaker : It appears *prima facie* to be an official document. But every

[Mr. Speaker]

official document need not necessarily be a confidential document. So, I see no objection to the hon. Member referring to the document, on his own responsibility and if there is anything wrong in the way in which he has got it, or he has been supplied it, I am sure the hon. the Defence Minister will take necessary steps in the interests of discipline.

Shri Tyagi : In a democracy there cannot be anything secret about elections and every document in regard to elections is a public document. There is no question about the secrecy of this document. All that it says is that elections should be fair.

What I was trying to impress upon the House was that the Defence Ministry is trying to enunciate a principle which will go against the very fundamentals of our principles. Only recently did we decide that there should not be separate electorates. The Members of the Scheduled and other backward classes have been given reserved seats but then they will have to come through the general electoral roll. If the Defence Ministry now starts a practice which we have given up after the bitterest experience, if that pernicious thing is again going to be started, it will stultify the whole basis of democracy as it was conceived by the Constituent Assembly. I therefore seek a clarification from the hon. the Defence Minister. If he is convinced that it is against the spirit of the Constitution to have separate electorates, he will withdraw the order. If, however, separate electorates are going to be introduced into the cantonment boards, I am afraid, I at any rate will have to put up a strong opposition to it.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh) : I have been encouraged to speak on this occasion by my hon. friend Seth Govind Das's assertion of a claim to speak on this motion on the ground that he comes from a very big cantonment, namely Jubbulpore. No doubt, Sir, Jubbulpore, is a very respectable cantonment, but so far as its bigness

is concerned, I do not know how far this assertion is correct. Of course, we can call it big because from it come big persons like my hon. friend Seth Govind Das. But judging from the population, there are several other cantonments which have a much greater population and one of such cantonments is the Agra cantonment which has a population of 44,000 whereas Jubbulpore has a population of not more than—I do not know whether I should give it for fear of embarrassment, sing my friend—15,000. Of course, there are bigger cantonments like Ambala with a population of 64,000 and Meerut with about 38,000.

Seth Govind Das : But I never claimed that Jubbulpore is the biggest cantonment.

Shri J. R. Kapoor : All the same, I am much obliged to Seth Govind Das for having encouraged me to speak.

Sir, I welcome this Bill particularly because for the first time in the history of cantonments it makes provision for election of cantonment boards on the basis of adult franchise. I am rather surprised that my hon. friends Seth Govind Das and Mr. Sidhva would have preferred if the hon. Minister for Defence had not brought this Bill at this stage. I do not know whether they realise the implications of what they have said. But the fact is that according to the existing legislation, the present elected members of the cantonment boards would automatically cease to hold office after the 30th of September of this year....

Seth Govind Das : Prolong their life.

Shri J. R. Kapoor : My hon. friend wants that their life should be prolonged. That is exactly the intention of this Bill. This Bill seeks primarily to extend the period of office of the existing elected members of cantonment boards. Of course, it seeks to do something more, but its main object is to extend the period of office of the existing elected members of the boards until new elections take place. So

that it is very necessary that this Bill should have been brought now.

The next question that arises is as to when are the next elections going to be held. According to clause 9 of this Bill, it seems to be the intention of the Government to hold elections before November 1950. I am in entire agreement with my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva and also Seth Govind Das that if it is the intention of Government to give really effective representation to the residents of the cantonment areas on the basis of adult franchise, Government should give up the idea of holding elections so early as November 1950. It is with this object in view that I have tabled an amendment which is on the agenda paper and which the hon. the Defence Minister has assured us that he is going to accept. That amendment, when accepted, would leave it open to the Government to conduct the elections whenever they consider it desirable to do so. It will not tie them down to any particular period ; they may hold the elections even in 1951 or after the report of the committee which they have appointed is out. So that, it is to give them an absolutely free hand in the matter that I have worded my amendment in the manner in which it appears on the agenda paper. If any particular date were fixed there will be difficulty again, if for certain reasons the elections could not be held by that time. In that case either the boards will have to go without elected members on them, or the Government would have to promulgate another ordinance, or come before this House with another amending Bill. To obviate that necessity I have purposely worded my amendment in the general terms in which it is appearing.

I must submit, Sir, that if the Government wants that the elections should be held on a proper basis, they should not be in any particular hurry. I know it for a fact that in many cantonment areas the electoral rolls are grossly incomplete. They have been drawn up for the first time on the basis of adult suffrage. There

has not been any efficient staff in most of the cantonment boards. The lists have been drawn up in a hurry under the impression that since the date of the existing legislation on the subject is going to expire in September they must somehow or other prepare electoral rolls and hold elections before that date. If my amendment is accepted there will be no particular hurry about it. I would earnestly request the hon. the Defence Minister to send out definite and clear instructions to the various cantonment authorities impressing upon them the necessity of having a very complete and exhaustive roll. The Cantonment Boards after carefully preparing the rolls must give ample opportunity to the residents of the cantonment areas to file objections and should give sufficient opportunity to those persons whose names do not appear on the electoral roll to apply and get their names registered thereon. All this will take considerable time and it is therefore necessary that the Government should not think of holding the elections before November 1950.

There is another reason why I suggest that the elections should not be hurried. Certain rules have to be framed to properly conduct the elections. One of the rules on this subject that is in force only for the last two or three months is to the effect that there shall be no wards in the cantonment area, the implication of this rule being that the whole of the cantonment area will be one single constituency. But divergent viewpoints have been expressed with regard to this rule, one by my hon. friend to my left and another by my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi on my right. My hon. friend Mr. Tyagi does not seem to have very clearly realized that in many a cantonment there are to be as many as six or seven elected members.

Shri Sidhva : In Poona there are seven.

Shri J. R. Kapoor : So I say. No only in Poona but in various other cantonments like Agra, Ahmednagar

[Shri J. R. Kapoor]

Ambala and half a dozen or more cantonments that is so. In some there are six, in some five.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar) : What about the nominated members ?

Shri J. R. Kapoor : That is another story. I am confining my remarks here only to elected members. Now that we are going to have elections on the basis of adult franchise a large proportion of the voters in each constituency would certainly be uneducated. Under these circumstances it is idle to expect that every voter would easily remember the names of six or seven candidates for whom he has to vote. It is idle to expect that. From our past experience we know it that an illiterate voter cannot possibly remember more than one or two or at the most three names.

Shri Tyagi : Every illiterate man knows every other illiterate man. There may be two thousand of them, all illiterate, but each one of them knows every other of them.

Shri J. R. Kapoor : My hon. friend Mr. Tyagi's experience is, of course, entirely different from ours and that is because of the fact, as he has so very often proclaimed very loudly, that he himself is a representative of illiterate persons. If every illiterate person were to be of the capacity of my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi I would of course then say that there will be no harm in having constituencies with seven seats to be represented by seven members. But the fact is while it may be otherwise in Dehra Dun, which may have been very properly educated by my friend Mr. Tyagi, so far as other places are concerned the persons are not so very much educated, literate, or intelligent as they seem to be in Dehra Dun or in the area nearabout.

My submission therefore is that the cantonment area must be divided into several wards. If not singular constituencies there might be plural constituencies but they should be no more than two or three-member consti-

tuencies if we really want to have effective representation of the people there.

Shri Tyagi : What about the minorities ?

Shri J. R. Kapoor : The point has been made out by my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi that in order to secure effective representation of the minorities the constituencies must be plural. I fail to see how any minority interest can be safeguarded by having plural constituencies. If you have plural voting also then it is a different matter altogether. But if every voter has to cast only one vote for each of the six or seven candidates then I do not see how his interest is particularly safeguarded. If every voter has the right to cast six or seven votes—as many votes as there are seats in the constituencies—to any particular person, then of course a handful of persons in a constituency can by casting all their votes to a particular candidate secure his election. That is not what my hon. friend has suggested. All that he has suggested is that there should be plural member constituencies. Merely having plural member constituencies would not meet his viewpoint in the slightest measure. And I do not think that Mr. Tyagi is an advocate of virtually a separate representation, for if you have a system of plural voting it means nothing more, nothing less and nothing better than having separate representation. We have luckily cast off separate representation altogether.

My hon. friend Mr. Tyagi is complaining against the Government for having issued some circular or notification or some letter to somebody which suggests that the scheduled castes will form a separate constituency by themselves. I am given to understand that that letter has been withdrawn and the point has been clarified. I speak subject to correction. Of course it is for my hon. friend the Defence Minister to clarify this point. But assuming that it was so I find that my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi is opposed to that sort

of thing. It seems he is blowing hot and cold in the same breath. He would not like to have anything like separate representation. On the other hand he would like to have plural member constituencies for safeguarding the interests of the minorities. Sir, the sooner we brush away the question of minority and majority the better for us. My submission is that these cantonment areas must be divided into several constituencies and the whole of the area should not be allowed to remain one single constituency. That is my submission.

In the end I would once again urge on the hon. the Defence Minister not to hurry through this election. He should proceed slowly and cautiously in such a manner that the electoral rolls may be framed properly and everyone who is entitled to be a voter on the basis of adult suffrage is enrolled on the electoral roll and such of them as do not find their names thereon are given sufficient time and opportunity to get themselves registered, and secondly that all these various rules on this subject are properly redrafted so as to give complete satisfaction to the residents of the cantonment areas.

Shri T. N. Singh (Uttar Pradesh) : I want to ask a question. My I know from the hon. the Defence Minister whether it is proposed to bring any further measure later on in connection with these Cantonment Board elections? For instance, in view of the point raised by Mr. Tyagi, can the Defence Department under the existing rules delimit constituencies and fix the number of seats for individual Cantonment Boards without any new measure or any amending measure, under their rule-making power, so that it will be possible to have joint electorates and such other things for the scheduled castes as provided in the Constitution? I would like to have a reply from the hon. Minister.

Shri Nasiruddin Ahmad : Sir, I have one question to be clarified.

Mr. Speaker : What clarification does he want?

Shri Nasiruddin Ahmad : A compromise seems to have been arrived at between the hon. Minister and some of the Members that the elections may be delayed so that the electoral roll may be framed in accordance with the new set up of things and not under the old set up. I think there would be difficulty because in clause 9 it is said that the existing members should sit up to the 30th day of November 1950. This is an amending Bill and therefore this date could not be further extended by an amendment. There is a limitation to amendments to an amending Bill, but so far as the amendment of Mr. Kapoor is concerned, amendment No. 2 in the list, it might extend it beyond that date. To that extent, I would ask you to consider whether it would be beyond the scope of the amending Bill. It is understood that the object of this is to extend the date beyond the 30th November, which is fixed by the Bill itself. This being an amending Bill, this amendment should be subject to this limitation. I have raised it at this stage, so that the matter may be clarified and so that a point of order need not be raised. It has to be seen whether this is permissible and if not the Bill should be withdrawn and in accordance with the new set up of things in due course an electoral roll may be prepared and the election held.

Sardar Baldev Singh : There are one or two points raised by Mr. Sidhva. He suggested that we should wait for the report of this Committee which has been appointed to go into the Cantonments Act. My difficulty is that Committee has already taken quite a long time and I do not know when it is going to finish its deliberations. So, I do not think it is necessary for us to postpone this matter till the report of that Committee is received.

Shri Sidhva : Would you not enquire from the Chairman why it is taking a long time.

Sardar Baldev Singh : The hon. Member knows better. He is a Member of that Committee. That is why I thought it would be much better to proceed with this measure and then

[Sardar Baldev Singh]
when the report of that Committee is received and if some suggestions are made, they could be considered later and given a practical shape. That is why I thought of proceeding with this matter at this stage.

The other point which was raised by Mr. Sidhva and this has been made quite clear by Mr. Kapoor. By accepting Mr. Kapoor's amendment, it gives a free hand and the elections may be held within a specified period or if it is not possible, they can be delayed. So I think on the whole Mr. Kapoor's amendment gives all Mr. Sidhva wants. I think it is far better to leave the matter to the Boards and if the elections can be held earlier, I do not see any reason why they should not be but here I want to make one point clear. As far as we are concerned, we have no particular interest. We want to see that every opportunity is given to the electors to register their vote or to have them enrolled. There is no intention at all to deprive anybody to get himself enrolled as an elector but I would not like to fix a definite date for holding the elections. If it could be done earlier, there is no reason why it should not be. From that point of view, I find that Mr. Kapoor's amendment gives all that is required in this connection. The other point was raised by Mr. Tyagi—he is not present in his seat—and I do not really understand what he meant by it. Most probably he raised the point why the Scheduled Castes have been given separate electorates, if I correctly understood him. I do not see if the question of separate electorate arises here. I think he has misunderstood the position and as far as reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes is concerned that will be done according to rules. If the reservation is provided, it will be reserved. It will all be according to rules and nothing is going to be done against the rules. I do not think, Sir, I have got anything more to add.

Seth Govind Das : What about making the whole cantonment as one constituency ?

Sardar Baldev Singh : I cannot say off-hand, but when the report of this Committee is received, we will see what other amendments are necessary and that is all I am in a position to say at present.

Shri J. R. Kapoor : I would bring to the notice of the hon. Defence Minister that this rule regarding the whole cantonment being one constituency has been recently promulgated in July last. I think the hon. Minister's intention is not to make important changes until the report of that particular Committee is out. Then the only consistent course for him is to let the old rule remain, *i.e.*, dividing the cantonment area into various constituencies as they were before July. I ask why enforce this new rule when you are waiting for the report of the Committee to be out. Our submission is that *status quo* should remain and the new rule be withdrawn or amended.

Shri Tyagi : With regard to the interpretation of the letters I have read, may I know if the hon. Minister has issued instructions to the effect that there will be no separate electoral roll for the Scheduled Castes. I am anxious because I know in the letters which I have read it is definitely written that separate electoral rolls shall have to be made.

Sardar Baldev Singh : How is it possible for me to reply to this question which Mr. Tyagi has raised. He is referring to some correspondence between the Department and the Headquarters in Poona. It is very difficult for me but I shall make it clear if reservation is required, it will be made and nothing is going to be done against the rules.

Seth Govind Das : What about Mr. Kapoor's proposals ?

Mr. Speaker : I think it is no use arguing. The matter is perfectly clarified. The question is :

“ That the Bill to extend the Cantonments (House Accommoda-

tion) Act, 1923 and the Cantonments Act, 1924) to Part B States, to provide for elections to Cantonment Boards on the basis of adult suffrage and to provide for a temporary extension of the term of office of elected members of Cantonment Boards, be taken into consideration”.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 6.—(Amendment of Section 27, Act II of 1924.)

Amendment made : In part (i) in the proposed sub-section (1) of Section 27 of the Cantonment Act, 1924, for the words “twelve months” occurring in line 5, substitute the words “six months”.

—[*Shri Sidhva*]

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Sir, in view of the fact that the hon. Minister is going to refer this question also to the Committee, I do not propose to move my amendment.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9.—(Extension of term of office of elected members of cantonment Boards)

Shri J. R. Kapoor: If my amendment is accepted the clause would read like this : “ Notwithstanding anything contained in section 15 of the said Act, the elected Members of every Cantonment Board holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue to hold office until the date of the election of their successors under sub-section (7) of section 13 of the said Act.”

I need hardly add anything to what I have already said on the subject, and I commend this amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Amendment made: In clause 9' for all the words beginning with the words and figures “ up to the 30th day of November, 1950” to the end, substitute the following.

“ until the date of the notification of the election of their successors under sub-section (7) of section 13 of the said Act”.

—[*Shri J.R. Kapoor*]

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I move

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

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

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

Shri Tyagi : Sir, I want one clarification. The wording as it is now accepted is, “...and who has resided in the cantonment for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the qualifying date...”. I hope these six months will not be taken to mean six months in continuation. Suppose one man has been away on a Sunday or has been away for three days in connection with some case. These six months must be counted even if there has been a small break. This may be clarified. Otherwise, a man may not be taken in at all.

Seth Govind Das: That was the reason why the wording ‘180 days’ was used everywhere.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any special clarification is necessary.

Seth Govind Das: This wording ‘six months’ would give power to the returning officers to reject the names. Therefore the wording ‘180 days’ was put in everywhere.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: For the sake of consistency also, it is better to have the same wording.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think this requires further elucidation.

Shri Tyagi: If it is your ruling, Sir, that it cannot be so construed, then it is all right.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it is necessary because the wording "resided" is well understood.

Shri Tyagi: That word has not been defined.

Mr. Speaker: That need not be defined. That occurs in so many enactments.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab): I wish to say a few words, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: At this stage? This Bill has been discussed threadbare in the First Reading.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: It will mean saving of a few lakhs of rupees.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is too late now at the Third Reading stage.

The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

NAVAL FORCES (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to make certain additional provisions respecting the naval forces of the Union so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them, be taken into consideration".

This, again, is a simple Bill and I do not want to take the time of the House, in explaining its provisions. The House will remember that during the last session we passed a Bill for the administration of the land forces and air forces of the Union. A Bill for the administration of the Naval forces of the Union on these very lines is not yet ready. Unfortunately, it has been

held up for want of certain information which we required in this connection. I propose to bring a Bill most probably by the next Budget session, and if it is, unfortunately, not ready by then, a little later. The intention is to bring forward a Bill on the same lines as the Bill that we passed for the Air and Land forces. As that would take some time, it is necessary to continue the present Act. That is why an Ordinance was issued some time ago and it is intended by this Bill to convert that into law. Later on, when the other Bill is ready, it will be brought before the House, and the House will have an opportunity for discussing the different clauses in detail.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to make certain additional provisions respecting the naval forces of the Union so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them, be taken into consideration".

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): This Bill, Sir, brought by my hon. friend the Defence Minister is, as he said, a simple one and I find from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that it has been modelled on similar provisions passed by this Parliament in the last session in respect of the Army and the Air force. So far so good. I do not know what exactly those provisions are, whether they are identical with this, or are in any way different. I was not present on that day and I do not exactly recollect what the provisions in respect of the Army and the Air force are. Taking these provisions on their own merit, I would like to raise one or two points for elucidation mentioned by the hon. Minister in the course of his reply to the debate.

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

It is admitted on all hands that so far as the Armed Forces are concerned, they must be enabled to discharge their duty efficiently and to maintain discipline among them. The Constitu-

tion provides for this matter as well. Article 33 of the Constitution is to the following effect:

“ Parliament may by law determine to what extent any of the rights conferred by this Part shall, in their application to the members of the Armed Forces or the Forces charged with the maintenance of public order, be restricted or abrogated so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them”.

Clause 3 of this Bill deals with this matter. I have no quarrel with many of the rules laid down therein; but, Sir, there is one little point with reference to sub-clause (a) (ii) of clause 3, where they are prohibited from attending any political or other meeting. The relevant clause reads as follows:

“...the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules—

(a) restricting, to such extent and in such manner as may be necessary, the right of any member of the naval forces—

* * * *

(ii) to attend.....any meeting..”.

It goes on to say, “ address, or take part in any demonstration” etc. I can very well understand that they should be prevented or prohibited from addressing any meeting and taking part in any demonstration. But, Sir, attending a meeting is on a different footing. So far as I am aware, the members of the Armed forces in the U.K. are not prohibited from attending a political meeting, especially, when the elections are going on. I remember, Sir, when I was in England myself, several years ago, I used to see several members of the Armed forces, British soldiers, attending meetings in the Hyde Park Corner and other places.

The Constitution enfranchises all adults in our country and by reason of

that, and by virtue of that all adult members of the armed forces are also enfranchised and they are entitled to cast their votes, to exercise their franchise at the next election. Because of the ensuing general elections this provision assumes more importance than it would otherwise have done. Now, if you really mean what you say, that all members of the armed forces are enfranchised and they are entitled to cast their votes as they like, vote for the candidates that they choose, then how in all conscience can you tell them that they should not attend meetings addressed by candidates of various parties. Certainly we must give them the opportunity to make up their mind as to the candidates of the various political parties that may contest in the coming elections, and unless they attend these meetings and listen to speeches made there, they cannot be in a position to make up their minds as to which candidate they will vote for. Therefore I feel, Sir, that it is wholly wrong and unreasonable to prevent anybody, either civilian or non-civilian, or a member of the armed forces, and wholly unconstitutional, may I say, to prohibit them from attending political meetings. They need not address those meetings, they need not take part in demonstrations. That sort of thing is necessary to maintain discipline among them and to ensure efficient discharge of their duties. But if we are serious about the Fundamental Rights that we have conferred on all our citizens, and about the franchise that we have conferred upon all adults in our country, then we cannot prevent anybody from attending a meeting that is being addressed by a candidate of any political party whatsoever. Apart Sir, from elections, at no time should there be any valid reason why a member of the armed forces should not attend a meeting and get enlightened about various matters. Sir, that is one of the ways in which people who have no time to read books, or newspapers or even to go to pictures, get some enlightenment and knowledge, namely, by hearing people speak on various matters.

[Shri Kamath]

And then, Sir, there is one other point. Suppose a member of the armed forces is on leave and he goes about in plain clothes, in *mufty* as it is called. Can you find out whether he attends a meeting or not? It is all right if he is on duty and is in his uniform, people will find out that he has attended a meeting and may inform the authorities, but what happens when he is off-duty or on leave?

Therefore, Sir, I for one feel that this rule or this provision prohibiting a member of the armed forces from attending any meeting and deriving enlightenment or not enabling him to vote for a particular candidate, is bad, unreasonable, unconscionable and unconstitutional, and therefore I believe that this part of the rule must be modified. There should be no ban on the members of the armed forces from attending meetings. That should be removed and the Bill amended accordingly. I therefore, suggest that this part of the clause may be deleted.

Dr. R. U. Singh (Uttar Pradesh): I endorse what Mr. Kamath said. When I read clause 3 of the Bill I felt that it was a little too.....

Shri Sidhya (Madhya Pradesh): I rise on a point of order. Article 16 of the Constitution of India, in Clause 2 says :

“ No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of any employment or office under the State”.

And Sir, I remember there was some article regarding the armed forces. I may invite your attention to Article 33 which says:

“ Parliament may by law determine to what extent any of the rights conferred by this Part shall, in their application to the members of the Armed Forces... be restricted etc. etc.”

But that does not apply here because here we are dealing with “ Naval Force” and not “ Armed Forces”.

Shri Kamath: But Armed Forces include the Army, Navy and the Air Forces, all the three.

Shri Sidhya: But even if you take it that Armed Forces include this category also, as the Armed Forces are charged with the maintenance of public order, so as to ensure that they discharge their duty properly, proper discipline should be maintained among them, and I think even Article 33 does not apply or relate to Article 16, clause 2. Therefore I think it would be illegal to make a law for preventing women from being employed in the Naval Forces.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): Sir, there is no substance in the point of order raised. Section, or Article 33 completely exempts the application of Article 16, clause (2). Article 33 applies to the Armed Forces. Probably in Mr. Sidhya's opinion Naval Forces are not Armed Forces, they are all disarmed forces or they are

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): Or they are having all ladies there.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad: Or the Naval Force is a non-violent force in which case, of course, it may consist of ladies.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think there is any point of order. The hon. Member has made the initial mistake of supposing that Armed Forces do not include or apply to the Naval Force. Moreover, I think Art. 33 gives power to prevent ladies or women taking part in any of the Armed Forces.

Dr. R. U. Singh: Sir, the phraseology of clause 3 (i) is very wide. It says, the authorities can restrict the right of any member of the naval force to be a member of “...any society, institution or association, or any class of societies, institutions or associations”. And then there is the sub-clause to which Mr. Kamath referred :

“ to attend or address any meeting or to take part in any demonstration

organized by any body of persons for any political or other purpose ;”.

I dare say the provisions here are too wide and they will operate to the prejudice of the members of the naval force.

The second point that I wish to raise is about the Ordinance itself. I do want to know from the Defence Minister how is it that they were able to frame the Indian Army Bill and push it through Parliament, the Indian Air Force Bill and push it through Parliament but they were unable to frame the Indian Naval Discipline Bill? What were the special difficulties that arose in this connection with which they have not been able to cope? The Constitution was started to be framed right in earnest some three years back and I take it that the Defence Department was quite aware of the provisions that were going to be inserted, because these clauses regarding the Fundamental Rights were passed very early, and how is it that when they could push through the Indian Army Bill and the Indian Air Force Bill, they were not able to push through the Indian Naval Force Discipline Bill? I wish to know the special reasons that are responsible for an Ordinance being promulgated. Sir, I do not wish to say very much in this connection, but I do feel strongly that Ordinances as a mode of Government are extremely unsatisfactory. The other day I found that an Act made by Parliament was modified by an Ordinance. Having Ordinances seems to have been taken as the proper way of governing the country.

An ordinance should be promulgated only when absolutely necessary. I do not think that in the present circumstances an ordinance was necessary and I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that this kind of law-making is unsatisfactory. It should be resorted to only when absolutely necessary.

4. P.M.

The third point which I wish to emphasise in this connection is this.

In neither the Statement of Objects and Reasons nor in his speech the Defence Minister has been able to give any reasons why women ought to be excluded from the Naval Forces. A reference was made to article 33. The reference is there in the Statement of Objects and Reasons itself. I dare say that article 33 refers to the members of the armed forces. Article 33 reads :

“Parliament may by law determine to what extent any of the rights conferred by this Part shall, in their application to the members of the Armed Forces or the Forces charged with the maintenance of public order, be restricted or abrogated so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them.”

For article 33 to be applicable it is necessary that a person whose rights are sought to be abrogated is a member of the armed forces. If he is not I do not think any resort to article 33 is possible for the abrogation of the rights of a person. To state the point clearly, the abrogation of the rights of the individual sought to be made under clause 3 of the Bill can be justified with reference to article 33 of the Constitution but the abrogation of the rights of females under clause 2 of the Bill under discussion cannot be justified with reference to article 33 of the Constitution. I was wondering whether in trying to exclude women from the naval forces Government are relying on article 15 of the Constitution. I do not know what they have in view but perhaps if any defence of this kind or any such exclusion is possible it may be possible only under article 15(3). Article 15(1) says :

“The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.”

And Article 15(3) says :

“Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any

[Dr. R. U. Singh]

special provision for women and children."

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): That contemplates a provision for their benefit.

Dr. R. U. Singh : That is what I was going to say. Article 15(3) was intended for the protection or benefit of women and children. It was not intended to be a discrimination against them.

Shri Kamath : It is a case of a dangerous occupation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Objection was raised by a point of order and I have already given my ruling, that there is nothing to prevent this clause being enacted prohibiting women from being enrolled in the naval forces. Does the hon. Member mean that women must first be entertained in the armed forces and if they are not able to discharge their duties they should be chucked out? Article 33 says "so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties". It is open to Parliament to say that women are not capable of discharging the duties required of the naval forces. It is a matter of decision by the Parliament. So far as the point of law is concerned we need not labour it.

Dr. R. U. Singh: Am I to understand that you have given a definite ruling?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : I have already given the ruling and I once again stated to the hon. Member. The enabling provision is there and anything can be done. Under article 15 no discrimination ought to be made between one person and another but under article 15(3) special provision may be made for women. For instance the profession of nurses may be reserved for women. Special stipends or salary or allowances might be given to women and children.

Dr. R. U. Singh : What have you said about article 15(3)? That question also has been raised. Clause 2 of this Bill is abrogated by article 15(3) of the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : It is an enabling provision to give them additional facilities where the State thinks that they are necessary.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): Sir, Section 33 of the Constitution reads :

"Parliament may by law determine to what extent any of the rights conferred by this Part shall, in their application to the members of the Armed Forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order, be restricted or abrogated so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them."

So those fundamental rights are there and the Constitution in its anxiety to see that those rights are not abrogated by any person has given this particular right to the Parliament alone. It is the Parliament alone which can determine to what extent any of the rights conferred shall be restricted or abrogated.

An Hon. Member : Reasonably restricted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : Restricted in any manner whatever.

Dr. R. U. Singh : Is the matter closed, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The matter is closed. He has no objection to clause 2 standing provided some modification is made. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava wants to say that it is Parliament that has to decide what are the restrictions to be made.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : My reason is entirely different from the point raised by Mr. Sidhva. I am submitting that the Parliament cannot delegate this power to the Central Government or to any other person or body. In clause 3 we find that the rules shall provide for certain restrictions which will be of the nature that the armed forces will not be allowed to attend or address any meeting or

to take part in any demonstration organised by any body of persons for any political or other purpose. I agree with Mr. Kamath that the restriction is so big that no person will be allowed to attend any meeting even. Part (iii) of clause 3 says :

“to communicate with the press or to publish or cause to be published any book, letter or other document.”

The rules may provide that with regard to religious books there may be no restriction. What I am submitting is that the Parliament is the judge of what is to be taken away or to be permitted. The Central Government as such is not entitled to frame such rules. The matter must come before us in its concrete form as to what extent those rights have to be abrogated.

If we give this power to the Central Government, the Central Government may, in its wisdom, do things to which Parliament may not agree. For instance, in this matter of attending a meeting or communicating with the Press, it is too early for us to say how far the Government will abrogate the right or how far keep it. Sir, my contention is one of substance. It is that the Government should not be allowed to make the rules. Government should come before this House with concrete proposals and only this House shall determine to what extent these rights should be taken away. Therefore, my humble submission is that according to a plain reading of article 33 of the Constitution, this clause 3 goes against the very root and substance of that article. In my humble opinion, clause 3 is not *intra vires*.

Shri Nasiruddin Ahmad : Sir, in support of the point which has just been raised, I wish to say a word or two. Clause 3 proposes to empower the Central Government, by rule, to impose certain things, namely certain restrictions which would go against the fundamental rights given by the Constitution. But there is a limit to

which this can be done. Article 33 of the Constitution clearly says :

“Parliament may by law determine to what extent any of the rights conferred by this Part shall, in their application to the members of the Armed Forces or the Forces charged with the maintenance of public order, be restricted or abrogated so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them.”

Therefore, it is the right of Parliament alone to determine to what extent those rights may be modified. Clause 3(a), sub-clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) affect the fundamental rights. These could certainly be modified but that could be done by Parliament alone. For instance, if there is a naval officer who wants to write a book on religion or philosophy or a text-book of military law, the Central Government may prohibit all that but that would go against the fundamental rights. So, as read with article 33, this power to restrict their rights resides only in the Parliament and it cannot be delegated to Government because the judgment must be exercised by Parliament alone as to the exact extent to which the rights may be restricted. Sir, I support the point of order which has just now been raised.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Clause 3 describes the power to modify certain fundamental rights in their application to members of the naval forces. One of the restrictions is contained in sub-clause (iii) of clause 3(a), which says :

“(iii) to communicate with the press or to publish or cause to be published any book, letter or other document ;”.

It is for hon. Members to decide whether this is too wide a provision, whether they should accept it or not, whether the members of naval forces should be allowed to publish any book or not. In case any restriction has to be placed from time to time, what

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

is the kind of restriction that has to be placed? It is a matter of detail and for that purpose power is being given to the Central Government to declare by notification in the official gazette what book, for instance, may be published, or on what subject, and what may not. It is open to Parliament to reject this sub-clause of clause 3 altogether. But I do not see any objection if it is retained. In case Parliament wishes that the power ought not to be exercised freely but that there ought to be some check on it then that can be done by requiring the restrictions to be published by way of rules in the official gazette. But Parliament has got every right to clothe the Central Government or any other authority with that power.

Sardar Baldev Singh: There seems to be some misunderstanding in the minds of some hon. Members. Pandit Bhargava has raised the question of restriction. This is not a new provision. He will remember that the same provision is contained in the Army Act and the Air Force Act which the House has passed. My difficulty is that if I were to specify a certain book on certain subjects under clause 3 here, tomorrow some other book on some other subject may be published and then I will have to come to Parliament again. That is why power is sought to be given to the Central Government. It is not a new thing. This question was discussed in detail when the Air Force and the Army Bills were before the House.

Shri Sidhya: Sir, I bow to your decision in regard to article 33 of the Constitution, but I think I am right in discussing on merits whether a woman shall be eligible or not for service in the naval forces. I fail to understand why a provision has specially been made that no female shall be eligible for enrolment or appointment in these services. What are the reasons? Why has the hon. Minister felt that no woman is competent to serve in our Naval Forces? Is he not aware that there are very good women pilots today in other countries who are fight-

ing in the Armed Forces of those countries? Why should he not expect it to happen in India, if not today at least in future? Indian women would be as good for the naval services as men could be. Therefore, I strongly object to this provision. I do not know whether the Bill has been passed by the Cabinet. Our Prime Minister has a soft corner for the women and I do not know whether this escaped his notice. I am sure he would not have allowed this clause to be inserted here. You may not be able to get women suitable for the services today, but why mention that no women would be allowed? If some extraordinarily capable and ingenious woman is capable to serve in the naval forces, in future why deprive her? I fail to understand it.

Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, for the information of the hon. Member I may mention that the Bill has been approved by the Cabinet.

Shri Sidhya: Therefore, I strongly object to this kind of a provision. On the merits of the case you will be doing a wrong thing and establishing a wrong precedent in laying down that women should by law enacted by Parliament be ineligible for a particular class of service. How women shall be a nuisance to public order? I can't understand. How shall she be unfit? I can't understand. The hon. Minister has not said one single word on it. This is a matter of high importance and yet he has discarded that point and not touched it at all, in his statement of Objects and Reasons or while moving for consideration. I therefore request him to reconsider it. Even if it is the decision, I would ask that it should be reconsidered because it involves a matter of high principle and policy which will come in the way of Government if they are going to adopt clause 3.

Coming to clause 3, while it is really a very wide power that is being given, I do not agree with the views Mr. Kamath has expressed. After all, you are framing laws for the Armed Forces,

and there should be some kind of discipline in our Armed Forces. Only because of their discipline our Armed Forces have stood equal in comparison with any others of the world. Why do you want the Armed Forces members to join the trade unions or go into a political organisation? It is a very risky and dangerous thing if we, in our enthusiasm to give freedom to everybody, allow the members of the Armed Forces also to go and attend political meetings and join trade unions. I am very strong on this matter. Sir, I stand for the preservation of the right of every individual citizen but as far as the Armed Forces are concerned I am very particular that their discipline should be maintained ; you cannot maintain it if you allow them the freedom of taking part in political meetings etc.....

Shri Kamath : On a point of information.....

Shri Sidhva : Today various kinds of meetings are.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : If the hon. Member does not give in, then he should not interrupt him.

Shri Kamath : I will ask him later.

Shri Sidhva : Today various kinds of meetings are held in each town. Most rabid types of speeches are made. My friend, Mr. Kamath does not know it. Violent speeches are made.....

Shri Kamath : I know it very well.

Shri Sidhva : Violent speeches are made preaching violent methods. Does he want that our Armed Forces should attend meetings? If they do, it will revolutionise their minds and they would like to join some political association and take part in political activities. From that point of view, I strongly oppose this suggestion. Our Armed Forces have done very well. They will do better. Their morale is very high. I am sure they themselves would not like this suggestion. We have very high regard for them.

I do not say that they should not be allowed to read books or papers. They may read, but I strongly object to their being associated with any kind of organisation which will be detrimental to discipline.

In regard to clause (2), I again plead with the hon. Minister to reconsider the matter. It will be a disgrace if we eliminate women through this Bill. You may not have women coming forward, but why do you put it down in law as a disqualification? Supposing there is a woman who is highly ingenious and is of an adventurous calibre, let the door be open to her to join the Naval Forces. This is all, Sir, that I have to say.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava :—
With your permission, Sir, I should like very humbly to point out that it is not the Central Government which shall determine whether ladies ought to be allowed to join the Naval Forces or not. It is only the Parliament that can do it. A reference was made to the Army and Air Acts. I am afraid that even though they have been passed, they will be declared *ultra vires*. If your ruling is that these clauses are all right, then I am afraid the whole of clauses 2 and 3 will be absolutely *ultra vires*. The wording of the Constitution is absolutely clear. This power rests only with the Parliament. It cannot be delegated. It is the Parliament that alone has the right to determine to what extent a fundamental right can be abrogated, because the Constitution says :

“Parliament may, by law, determine.....”

So they must pass an Act. No delegation is provided in the Constitution and it is Parliament alone that has to determine to what extent this fundamental right can be abrogated. My hon. friend the Minister of Defence will have to bring a legislation saying that ladies will not be allowed to become Marshal or something like that, but if there are certain branches where

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

ladies cannot serve, it is the Parliament and not the Government that can decide whether ladies can serve in those departments or not. Similarly in regard to other restrictions, Parliament is the deciding authority. This matter is of great concern to me and the house, because after being passed in this House, the law goes to the Supreme Court and that Court holds, that the matter is not *intra vires* and that the legislature has not done well in passing it, it brings discredit to the House. Therefore, this point may be considered in detail. There is no hurry about this Bill. Let the hon. Minister of Defence consult the Minister of Law or the Attorney-General before he proceeds with it further.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the point of order is concerned, I do not propose to give answers once again. But hon. Members may recollect that when a point is raised that a particular Bill or a clause of a Bill is *ultra vires* of the legislature. It is not decided by a ruling of the Chair. It is left to the House to throw out that Bill or clause. When Dr. Deshmukh's bill was being discussed, for instance, at a particular stage a point was raised that it was *ultra vires* and the then President said that such matters ought not to be decided by the Chair, but it must be left to the House. Similarly, I now leave it to the House to decide as to whether we ought to have this clause or not. If it decides that it should be deleted, then it can vote against it.

श्रीश्री उमा नेहरू: माननीय डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, इस बिल को जब मैंने खास तौर से देखा कि लफ्ज़ 'फ्रीमेल' आया है तो मुझे जरा तकलीफ हुई। मैं समझती हूँ कि वे लफ्ज़ 'मेल' और 'फ्रीमेल' तलीक़देह हैं और इसके बजाय अगर लफ्ज़ "बीमेन" होता तो क्यादा मुनासिब बात होती। अब यह सवाल रहा कि हम नेवी के क्राबिल नहीं हैं, इस बारे में मैं आनरेबिल सिधवा साहब

से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ कि चाहे हमारा जी चाहे नेवी में जायें या जी चाहे न जायें, लेकिन यह रास्ता हमारे लिये बिल्कुल रुका हुआ नहीं होना चाहिये। यह ओपनिंग हमारे लिये बन्द नहीं रखी जानी चाहिये। दूसरी बात यह है कि जब हमने कांस्टीट्यूशन बनाया तो उसमें हमने कोई मतभेद नहीं रखा। लेकिन अब आप यह कह रहे हैं कि औरतें जो हैं वह कमज़ोर हैं। मालूम नहीं आपके दिल में क्या है कि आप उनको इस क्राबिल नहीं समझते हैं कि वह नेवी में जायें या वह आपकी मिलिटरी में सैनिक (सोलजर) बनें। मैं आपको यह बतला दूँ कि यदि आज हिन्दुस्तान में औरतें मिलिटरी में नहीं गयी हैं तो कल वह इसमें ज़रूर जावेंगी।

एक बात यह भी है कि आपके सामने रूस की मिसाल मौजूद है। रूस में औरतों ने लड़ाई में बहुत कुछ भाग लिया, वायुयान तक उन्होंने चलाये, पैराशूट से वह नीचे उतरें, सारा मिलिटरी का काम उन्होंने किया। मैं नहीं समझती हूँ कि रूस की औरतों से हम किसी प्रकार भी कम हैं। बल्कि मैं तो समझती हूँ कि रूस की औरतों से हम बहुत ज्यादा समझदार, ताक़तवर और विद्वान् हैं। इस लिये कोई ऐसा क़ानून बनाना, और खास कर हमारी आज़ादी के बाद, कि जिस से हमारे रास्ते में रुकावट हो ठीक नहीं है। हम तो आपसे कहते हैं कि हम में और आप में ज़रा भी भेद नहीं है बल्कि मैं तो उन औरतों में से हूँ जो यह समझती हैं कि आप की बनाने वाली हम ही हैं। यह मेरा विचार है। इसलिये मुझे यह कहना है कि इन रुकावटों को आप दूर करें और इस पर ग़ौर करें। आप कान्टीट्यूशन का भी अध्ययन करें। आज अगर यह चीज़ें सामने आवेंगी तो मैं तो कहती हूँ कि भारत ने एक युद्ध आज़ादी का तो ख़त्म किया

लेकिन मुझे बहुत डर है कि अगर इस तरह की रूकावटें औरतों के रास्ते में आवेंगी तो यहां भी विलायत की तरह कोई औरतों का मूवमेंट पैदा हो जायगा और आपके यहां कोई गृह युद्ध (सिविल वार) न हो जायें। यह कह देना कि नेवी में औरतें नहीं आ सकती हैं, वह अच्छत हैं, वह उस में शामिल नहीं हो सकती, वह इस काबिल नहीं हैं, यह मुझे बहुत ही सख्त जिल्लत मालूम होती है। इस लिये मैं अपने डिफेंस मिनिस्टर साहब से कहूंगी कि वह इस पर गौर करें। मैं उनको भारतीय स्त्रियों की तरफ से यकीन दिलाती हूँ कि हम में हिम्मत है, हम चाहती हैं कि हम में और भी ज्यादा हिम्मत हो और हथियार चलाना भी हम आप से सीखें और आप से अच्छा सीखें, यह मेरी स्वाहिश है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह भी कहने आई हूँ कि जो देश में सत्याग्रह की लड़ाई हुई थी उसमें भी हम अपने घरों को छोड़ कर युद्ध में आईं और उस से भारत को कामयाबी मिली और विजय प्राप्त हुई। अभी भाई ठाकुरदास जी ने कहा 'लेडीज़', मैं 'लेडीज़' और 'जैन्ट्स' शब्दों को पसन्द नहीं करती। मैं आपको इतना बता दूँ कि कोई भी स्त्री वह पसन्द नहीं करती है कि वह अपने घर के दायरे को छोड़े। लेकिन साथ ही कोई भी स्त्री यह पसन्द नहीं करती कि वह अपने बच्चों को गुलाम और कमजोर देखे। तो देश में जब गुलामी थी तो स्त्रियाँ घर छोड़ कर बाहर आईं और अगर वह स्त्रियाँ बाहर न आतीं तो आपको विजय भी नहीं प्राप्त होती। इस लिये मेहरबानी करके इस पर गौर कीजिये और कान्स्टीट्यूशन को भी देखिये। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि कान्स्टीट्यूशन को देखने के बाद और हमको कमजोर न समझ कर, इस में हमारे वास्ते रास्ता खुला रहने दीजिये। हम जी चाहे इसमें जावें या जी चाहे

न जावें, लेकिन मेहरबानी करके हमारे रास्ते में कोई रूकावटें नहीं डालिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shrimati Uma Nehru (Uttar Pradesh)
On a close scrutiny, I felt a bit pained to come across the word 'female' occurring in the Bill. I regard the words 'male' and 'female' as irritating and it would have been more proper if 'female' had been substituted by 'women'. Now with regard to the question concerning our competence or otherwise to join the Navy, I am in entire agreement with Shri Sidhva that women may or may not join the Navy but certainly no impediments of any kind should be placed in their way to do so. This branch of service should not be closed to women. Further in our Constitution we have not laid down any discriminating thing of this sort. But now we are told that women are weak. It is not known on what basis you regard them weak and unfit to join the Navy or enlist themselves as soldiers in the Army. I may warn you that many women be not present in the Army today but they are sure to join the ranks tomorrow.

Further you have the example of Russia before you. Women of that country took a leading part in the World War. They piloted aeroplanes and on many occasions made parachutes landings. Every kind of military service was personelled by them. I fail to see in what way we are inferior to the women there. On the other hand, I regard the Indian women to be more intelligent, braver and more educated than their Russian counterparts. It is, therefore, very improper, especially after the attainment of independence, to proceed with the enactment of a legislation which seeks to place obstacles in the way of our progress. We maintain that there exists no difference of any kind between you and us. I am rather one of those who regard women primarily responsible for the development of men. This is the

[Shrimati Usha Mehta]

opinion that I hold. I, therefore, ask you to reconsider this Bill and do away with these ineligibilities sought to be included therein. You should also closely study the Constitution. If things of this sort continue to come up before us even in modern times then though the country has emerged successful out of its fight for freedom, yet only because of these impediments in the way of women's progress it might see yet another fight or movement like the 'Suffragette Movement' that England had to face. I fear lest a kind of Civil War may hold grip over the country. I take it the height of degradation to be told of the ineligibility or unfitness of women to enlist themselves in the Navy and thus declaring them a sort of 'untouchables' in this respect. I, therefore, call upon the hon. the Minister of Defence to reconsider the proposed measure. On behalf of the Indian women I assure him of their possessing adequate strength and courage and convey to him that they have every desire, as I personally possess, to acquire further strength and courage as also to receive training in the use of weapons from their brethren and even surpass them in this respect.

Further I have to remind the House of the part played by the Womanhood of India in the Satyagraha movement. At the time of that movement they had left their hearths and homes and the country eventually succeeded in winning its freedom. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has just used the word 'ladies'. I do not like the words 'ladies and gents' and the like. I may convey to you that no Indian woman likes, in the first instance, to come out of the domestic circle but, at the same time, none amongst them wishes to see her children becoming slaves and weak-kneed. So that explains their coming out of the domestic circle at the time when the country was a slave one. But for their following this course, victory would not have been yours. I, therefore, appeal to you to reconsider this aspect and also to go into the provi-

sions of the Constitution. I hope that after you have proved into those provisions and shaken off the wrong notions about our weakness, you will not try to place impediments in the way of our progress. It should be upto us women whether to join the Navy or not, but please do not try to place obstacles in our way.

Sardar Baldev Singh : Sir, I have very carefully listened to the points that have been raised by hon. Members. I must frankly admit that I have not been able to appreciate the points made by Mr. Kamath. Now he wants all members of the armed forces to be allowed to attend meetings. Now, may I enquire of him whether he was really serious when he put forward this suggestion? I am quite certain an enlightened member of Mr. Kamath's experience would not make this kind of suggestion in all seriousness.

Sir, supposing he was serious. Will he kindly examine what is going to be the effect if this concession is extended to the members of the armed forces. Now, today I allow them to attend meetings of one party; tomorrow the claim will be put forward that they should be given facilities to attend meetings of another party; and on the third day they might come forward with a claim to attend the meeting of yet another party which may perhaps be represented in this House. I make bold to say that I am prepared to bear all the criticism in this connection, but I am not prepared to suggest to the House that any concession should be made which will ultimately deteriorate the discipline in the Forces. Of course, we are prepared to bear all criticism, but we would resist any pressure, from whichever quarter it may come, which is likely to lead to deterioration of discipline in our armed forces.

Therefore, I would very earnestly suggest to the hon. Members of this House that this sort of proposal does not help us at all; on the other hand they create complications. May I in all seriousness remind the House that we are passing through very critical

times and we have got to be very careful. The members of the armed forces fully realise this fact—they have served us well and they will continue to serve us well. We want to maintain perfect discipline among our armed forces. Therefore purely from the discipline point of view, it is not at all advisable to allow them to attend any political meetings.

Shri Kamath : On a point of information, Sir. May I know in which countries in the world there is an absolute ban—absolute ban, I mean, on members of the armed forces attending public meetings.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The clause only says “restricting, to such extent and in such manner as may be necessary.” It is not an absolute restriction.

Sardar Baldev Singh : May I inform the hon. Member that this kind of restriction always applies to members of the Armed Forces when they are in cantonments. But when they are on leave, they may be permitted to attend, say, election meetings. As long as they are in the cantonment area, or in their official place of residence, they are normally not allowed to attend the meetings. That is one point.

The second point was raised by Mr. Sidhva. I hope it slipped out of his mouth by mistake when he said that naval forces do not form part of the armed forces. They are very much part of the armed forces of the Union.

The third point he raised was as to whether this Bill has been approved by the Cabinet, or has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister. May I inform the hon. member that every Bill that is brought before the House is approved by the Cabinet and therefore the Prime Minister is fully aware of it.

Shri Sidhva : It may have escaped his notice.

Sardar Baldev Singh : I can say definitely that it has not escaped his

notice. In the Army and Air Force Acts there is a provision restricting the employment of women in certain branches. Let me make it quite clear that, so far as we are concerned, we do not want to impose any restrictions on the employment of women. There are certain branches in which women can be employed, but women cannot be employed in the operational branch. (*An Hon. Member :* Why not?) The hon Member asks: “Why not?” If he will kindly look into the history of other countries—even advanced countries—he will find that women are not employed in any of the operational branches. In certain branches like nursing and administrative posts, we do employ women. There is absolutely no ban on that but there is a ban on their employment in operational branches.

The other point made was about clause 3 (a) (iii) :

“to communicate with the press or to publish or cause to be published any book, letter or other document”.

I have already replied to that and I do not think it is necessary for me to take up the time of the House in explaining those provisions. These provisions are required in order to maintain and enforce strict discipline amongst the armed forces. I want to assure the House that there is nothing in this Bill which the House has not previously approved. These provisions were approved during the Budget session after very careful consideration.

I hope the explanation which I have given to the various points will satisfy hon. Members and they will accept the Bill as I have moved it.

Shrimati Benkua Ray (West Bengal) : Mr. Sidhva has raised certain constitutional points and I think the Bill cannot be passed until those are solved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I have already given my ruling on that point.

The question is :

“That the Bill to make certain additional provisions respecting the

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

naval forces of the Union so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sidhva: I have to speak on clause 2 of the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Bill has been very elaborately discussed and there is no point in repeating the same argument.

Clauses 1 to 5 were added to the Bill.

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

Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MINIMUM WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a very simple and small one. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, minimum wages in the scheduled industries were to be fixed by the end of March 1950. But we found that due to various reasons it was not possible in many States to fix minimum wages in those industries. Efforts were made to expedite the fixation and several of the States were able to fix minimum wages in certain scheduled industries just after March 1950. It was later on pointed out to us that the wages that had been fixed after the end of March 1950 may not be held to be legally valid and therefore

promulgation of an ordinance became necessary. The ordinance was promulgated on the 16th of June 1950 in order to validate the wages that were fixed before the promulgation of that ordinance as well as to extend the period by one year, so that in all the scheduled industries minimum wages could be fixed in all States. This small amendment is to replace that ordinance. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (Uttar Pradesh): While I support the Bill to the extent that it seeks to legalise the fixation of wages that took place after 15th of March 1950, I seek this opportunity to give expression to my deep resentment against the indifference, if not the contempt, with which the various State Governments treated the Minimum Wages Act. Two years and a quarter have already elapsed since the Bill was passed and the Act was put on the Statute Book. The hon. Minister has just stated that due to certain reasons the Act could not be implemented, and in another sentence he has observed that the States took every possible step to see that the provisions of the Act took concrete shape. But he has not explained and I am yet at a loss to know as to what were the reasons due to which it was not possible for the State Governments to implement this Act. My own feeling is that ample opportunities were given to the States but they slept over the Act and they took no action in the matter. They did not pay any serious attention to it. I am very doubtful whether even if this Bill is passed and it is extended by a year more it will take any concrete shape. I have arrived at this conclusion from what I notice even today. It was only a week or ten days back when a Conference in regard to the fixation of minimum wages to the agricultural workers took place

and I very much regret to say that at that Conference, barring one or two State Governments, the attitude of the State Governments in the generality of cases was that they did not favour fixation of minimum wages for agricultural labour. As a matter of fact, the attitude of the State Governments is that they do not want fixation of minimum wages in regard to any industries at all.

That, Sir, raises the question as to what is proposed to be done to tide over such a situation. In fact, there is a pertinent question on everybody's lips in this country and that is whether the Government of this country is really serious about the implementation of its programme of labour legislation. Last year I paid a tribute to the hon. Minister for the huge programme of labour legislation which I still feel is unprecedented in the history of any country. But the real test is as to how far the Government has been able to give concrete shape to its programme of labour legislation. Two years and a half back this House at the instance of the Government passed the Employees State Insurance Act which was applauded throughout the country by the working class. But in regard to that Act also two years, or rather more than two years, have already passed and nothing has to far been done. I understand that instructions were issued by the Government of India to two particular States to give concrete shape to the Act. But I understand that the move was opposed not only by the Governments of the States concerned but also by the employers, and the latest rumour is that the Government of India is seriously considering as to whether to succumb to the insistence of the Provincial Governments rather than proceed with this measure against their will. Well, so far as the hon. Minister is concerned I have nothing to say. As I observed last year, it is still my opinion that he is much more earnest in his zeal and his devotion to the cause of the workers than many others. All the same the impression is gaining ground in the country that he too is rather helpless. And in such a situa-

tion one does not know what is going to happen.

These are some of the sentiments which are not my personal sentiments. I represent the viewpoints of a large section of the community which feels that in the course of the last two years and a half while a large number of legislative measures have been enacted, yet that particular class has not been fairly treated. If such feeling gains ground none knows what may happen. Sir, with these words—I do not know whether I should support the motion or whether I should oppose it—but these are some of my sentiments which I want to give expression to.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): On a point of information, Sir, may I ask whether the hon. Member who represents labour has any view about the Bill?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has given his views in extenso. The hon. Member need not reply to it.

Shri Venkataraman (Madras): I thought that the hon. the Labour Minister would give this House, and not only this House but the public and the vast masses of the working class who are every day expecting to hear from him hopes and promises from time to time, the reasons why this Minimum Wages Act was not implemented within the time prescribed in the Act itself.

Sir, if I may recall to him the discussions that took place when this Bill was being passed, my hon. friend, Mr. Shibbanlal Saksena said that the period of 2 years which the Government has fixed for determining the wages for industries and 3 years for agriculture is too long a period and that it should be reduced to 6 months. The hon. Minister replied:

“The point that has been raised by my hon. friend Mr. Shibbanlal Saksena deserves consideration. I may state for the information of the

[Shri Venkataraman]

House that all the Provincial Governments are anxious to put this Bill into execution as soon as possible. Only recently I had a conference with Provincial Labour Ministers in which the Bill was considered apart from the opinions we have received from the Provincial Governments where it was circulated. All these Ministers expressed their anxiety that the passage of the Bill should be expedited".

and then he referred to Madras and Orissa where there was agrarian trouble.

If the Provincial Ministers were as anxious as the representatives who came to have this Bill passed, I ask in all earnestness why it was not implemented within the period prescribed in the Act. The hon. Minister for Labour certainly owes an explanation to the labour which is criticizing him and his Government that they do not mean to stand by what they pass in this legislature. You are aware that the promises which we make are always very sweet to the ear but the promises which we break certainly break the heart and if the working classes are told time and again that for some reason or other or as it is stated in the Objects and Reasons, for one reason or other, it was not able to implement, I am quite sure the working classes would not be satisfied. As far as I know there was only one reason and no other, the only reason being the State Governments slept over the whole matter and woke up when it was too late. This brings it in clear relief, Sir, the dual control which is now being exercised over labour legislation and labour administration, the dual control, one existing in the Central Government which enacts Acts merely and the other in the Provincial and State administrations which are charged with the duty of carrying them out has caused not merely in this but in every other field of legislation considerable confusion. I would therefore like that if the Central Government is anxious that they should implement the several laws which they enact in

this House, they must also arm themselves with certain powers that in case the State Governments do not implement those provisions within the time prescribed the Central Government itself should have the power to do it and get the approval of this House. If the hon. Minister had come forward in this Bill with a clause saying that since the State Governments had not implemented the Minimum Wages Act, the Central Government proposes to notify the minimum wages in respect of the scheduled industries and call for objections from all the parties interested including those Provincial Governments who have not implemented it I would be the first man to support it and not only that but the entire labour in this country would be the first to acclaim him.

Then there is another point to which I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention. Under the Minimum Wages Act, it was proposed that the Minimum Wages should be fixed under clause 5(a) by a Committee which will hold enquiries and advise it and with the help of sub-committees constituted with representatives of labour as well as the employers. But what we found today is that having slept over the whole matter, the State Governments have resorted to this remedy of notifying the minimum wages in the Gazette and calling for objections against those notifications. I ask you in all seriousness, do they expect the labour organizations to go about hunting the Gazettes of the Provincial Governments to see where these notifications appear in the gazettes? Is it not the duty of the State Governments to see that these minimum wages are fixed in consultation with the representatives of the working classes as well as the employers so that an agreed formula can be reached? Now, Sir, the time is extended to one more year under this Bill. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to exert his influence with the State Governments to see that the minimum wages are prescribed not by notification but by an enquiry and by a committee so that it may command the acceptance at the hands of both parties without

being merely a fiat of the administration. Of course, I must support this Bill. The reason is that if I do not support it, all the various minimum wages so far fixed in my State would be declared *ultra vires* and the High Court will come down and quash all those orders passed. Therefore, Sir, we must be grateful for small mercies and I support this Bill with these observations and I trust that the hon. Minister for Labour will use his best influence to see that at least within the prescribed period now under this Act the minimum wages shall be fixed not only in industries but also in agriculture where the demand is very great and trouble is growing.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I do not propose to go into detailed reply to the points that have been raised. One point has been raised, namely, why there has been so much delay in the implementation of the minimum wages Act and the answer to that question has also been given. I do not propose to throw the entire blame on the State Governments. It is no doubt their primary responsibility to fix the minimum wages in the scheduled industries because most of the industries in the schedule, according to the present arrangement, fall in the provincial or state sphere. I have therefore only to request them earnestly, and to send reminders that they should expedite the fixation of the minimum wages. Then, there are certain other factors as well. A situation has been created that because the present time is a time of financial and economic stringency, all measures which give some facility to the workers will add to the cost of commodities generally and therefore they may be delayed and postponed. There has been a general atmosphere created to that extent by interested parties and it has produced its effect on the Governments too. That has been also to some extent instrumental in delaying the implementation of the minimum wages Act. However when the time came near about to expire, there was an anxiety on the part of the State Governments to fix it and I am sure that before the time expires this

time, they will be able to fix the minimum wages in most of the industries, perhaps in some of them, it is not necessary, because tribunals have done the work. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is :

“That the Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

[**MR. SPEAKER** in the Chair.]

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Shri Jagjivan Ram : Sir, I move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed”

The motion was adopted.

5 P.M.

DISCUSSION ON GOVERNMENT HOUSING FACTORY AT DELHI

Mr. Speaker : We will now take up the notice given by the hon. Member Mr. Kumath raising certain points in respect of the Government Housing Factory. Now, with reference to it, this is what I have stated in my order admitting the notice. “It appears, therefore, that information on points (a), (f) and (i) in Mr. Kumath’s notice is fully given, and that in respect of points (b), (d), (e) and (g) it is partially given. No information is given on points (c) and (h) though the same was given to me in the Health Ministry’s note. Therefore, I would like to have this discussion restricted to points (c) and (h).”

Shri Kumath (Madhya Pradesh) : Point (b), Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : If all the points are taken up, I am afraid....

Shri Kamath : It is only partially given. The material point seems to be that the original estimate was submitted for £ 10,000 ; later on the High Commissioner gave an estimate for £ 24,000 and payment to the extent of £ 19,000 have been made. The other point is about the delay.

Shri Sondhi (Punjab) : I have also given notice of certain points, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : These two points are there for discussion.

Shri T. Hussain (Bihar) : May I know, Sir, if there is any time limit for this?

Mr. Speaker. Half an hour. Mr. Kamath will raise the point and the hon. Minister will then reply. If hon. Members want to intervene, they can put questions, provided they have given notice about putting questions.

Shri Kamath :—The Government Housing Factory in Delhi for the manufacture of prefabricated houses was due to roll out houses at the rate of 500 per month in September 1949 so as to relieve the acute housing shortage that we were experiencing in the capital. Somehow, this has got stuck up in the mud without any action. Not a single house has yet been produced even though it is now nearly one year after the original scheduled date, and the date has been receding steadily month by month. Even though a patented process, that is to say, a definite perfected process is being followed, for the manufacture of wall panels, innumerable experiments are being made about the right mixture for the light weight foam concrete used in the manufacture of wall panels for the houses. I understand every experiment has cost about Rs. 1,000. Even then, a very large percentage of the panels came out cracked. No design of the house has been finalised and submitted to Government so far through under the Agreement, the

British consulting firm, the Structural and Mechanical Development Engineers Ltd., were bound to submit such a design forthwith. The word use! is forthwith. Payments were to follow after that. Payments have been made in spite of the fact that no design or specification has been submitted by the Consultant firm.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to make a reference to the way in which the British Consulting firm mocks at the Indian people, who pay them hundreds of thousands of rupees. In the magazine "Building" for January 1950, published in England, the Consulting firm has a note on these prefabricated houses, manufactured in India, to the following effect:

"Thus the shower and w.c. are built as out-buildings within the traditional compound yard, and the front and rear doors face each other across the room, since the native (that is, Indian) believes that if the devil comes in at one door, he will pass out at the other without disturbing the occupants."

This, Sir, is the attitude of the Consulting firm towards India and Indian people. They mock at the very people who are paying lakhs of rupees for no work done so far.

The other point which you have been pleased to allow to be raised in the course of the discussion is this. As I already said, the Consulting firm have failed to submit a design forthwith as bound to do by the Agreement, and so, the service charges should not have been paid to the Consulting firm at all. That is the point raised in question (b) of this note. There was a breach of contract *ab initio*, at the very outset, and the Government should not have paid a single pie for service charges because there has been a breach of contract.

Then, I come to the other point about the roof design. This has not been finalised even now. Though the factory was estimated to start about

18 months ago, no design has yet been submitted to the Government. Aluminium roofs for the first one thousand houses were ordered to be imported from England, last year, at a cost of about 35 lakhs of rupees for one thousand roofs. That is to say, each roof costs about Rs. 3,500. The hon. Minister had the optimism—I would not say temerity—to say that these aluminium houses would not cost more than about Rs. 3,000 while every roof for this house is going to cost Rs. 3,500. I am sure the aluminium house when it is ready, if at all it gets ready in our life time, will cost about Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 if not more. The hon. Minister stated in the last session that nothing that we have agreed to with the Consulting firm will come in the way of introducing any changes that we like. Now the pertinent point arises if aluminium is going to cost you so much, if you are going to discontinue aluminium after 1,000 houses, what stands in the way of your discontinuing aluminium straightaway and going for some other material which is less costly than aluminium?

The other point in this note is about the qualified Architect and Mechanical Engineer, point (g) of the note. One Mr. Archibald was imported from England last year to serve in the factory in his capacity of Qualified Architect and Mechanical Engineer. My submission is that he is a mere Surveyor, and if necessary, I will pass on to the Minister later on, if he is so minded to look into it, a document in which Mr. Archibald describes himself as a Surveyor. I will pass it on to the Minister later on. We were told that he is a mechanical engineer; but I would like to know where he got his qualification or diploma or degree from, and from which university or college he got this qualification.

There is thus the first point about the reasons for the delay in production. Various excuses have been advanced in this House for this delay and ever since last October no satisfactory

answer has been forthcoming from the Minister why there should be this delay in producing the panels. I am told that when the President visited the factory some time back some broken panels were put together just to show how the panels are built up into a wall.

They had also a number of prototype units ordered from England. I think six units were ordered from England, six pairs, at a cost of ten to twelve thousand pounds. Three of them were erected in Delhi. One was erected—a cracked one—in the factory premises for the benefit of the President Dr. Rajendra Prasad when he visited the factory, just to show how things are being done. And as for the others there is no trace of them. We do not know where they are lying though we have paid for them all. When the prototype costs so much I do not know how much the actual houses will cost and whether they will at all be available for use of the common man for whom they are supposed to be intended.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras) : For the “natives”.

Shri Kamath : Yes, whether they will be available to the “natives”. I am thankful to the Deputy-Speaker for the distinction.

And lastly, Sir, I feel the affairs of the factory are going from bad to worse. During the past sixteen or eighteen months people not only in this House but outside also have come to believe that what is going on there is not pre-fabrication but complete fabrication of everything, of accounts and other things there, and matters have come to such a stage that the only thing that can meet the position is an impartial enquiry into the affairs of the factory.

Shri Sondhi : Sir, would you take up my question also now ?

Mr. Speaker : Let the Minister give whatever reply he has to give and then further questions may be put.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh) : Sir, you ruled that

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

clauses (c) and (h) were the only clauses to be dealt with, but in the speech of the hon. Member, there were references made to various other clauses too. I am wondering whether I should not go through these and give such information as I have.

Mr. Speaker : The better course would be this. I read part of the order which I had passed when admitting this notice and as I have said, information on (b), (d), (e) and (f) is only partially given. As I pointed out in the beginning, the more important points were under (h). But it is perfectly open to the hon. Member to ask for information on all the points.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : In regard to (a) and (b), the estimate of service charges submitted by the Consultants was £10,000. The Consultants' claims in respect of design work, and salary of experts sent out to India amount to £31,900 approximately. A sum of £19,460 has already been paid and the balance has been either disallowed or held under objection in consultation with the Ministry of Supply, U.K. The payment of £19,460 can be described only as a payment on account. While submitting the original estimate of £10,000 it was pointed out by the Consultants that this was only an estimated figure based on past experience and they will charge on the basis of actual cost of the services provided, plus the amount of overheads based on the figures for similar works in the U.K. for the British Government. This is also provided for in the agreement with the firm which lays down that the Government shall pay to the Consultants actual cost, including overhead charges on design work and preparation of drawings, schedules and specifications carried out on behalf of Government, such cost to be ascertained by the same procedure and on the same basis as similar work already carried out for H.M. Government in the U.K.

Payments are made to the firm only after necessary check by the Director-

General Indian Stores Department, London in consultation with the British Ministry of Supplies.

In the circumstances there is little chance of any unsustainable claim being allowed.

With regard to the reasons for the increase in the cost of services the explanation offered on behalf of the firm is that their estimates were based on their past experience with the British Government. In the U.K. as the subsidiary firms which undertake construction had their own teams of well trained draftsmen, it was not necessary for the consultants to send them a large number of detailed drawings. On the designs furnished by the consultants the factories could produce the detailed drawings necessary. In the present case it was found that there was no trained staff available in India to produce the detailed drawings, which consequently had to be undertaken by the consultants. This meant that instead of about 100 drawings the consultants were called upon to produce the whole of about 1,700 drawings required for the plant. Further the firm had to handle a large number of enquiries for machinery and the preparation of detailed drawings of about 200 different types of machinery. The increased volume of the drawing work is said to have contributed to higher service charges.

In regard to (c) in the report of the consultants originally submitted to Government each house was estimated to cost about 2,460 including site value and service. It was assumed that this should include the customs duty payable on the imported aluminium components. Also it was subsequently discovered that the quantity of aluminium required per house was somewhat higher than originally anticipated. These and certain other factors showed that the cost was likely to be higher than the original estimate. The consultants were however not asked to submit any revised estimate of the price of the house and revised

estimate was not produced earlier, because the intention was that the cost should be worked out after experience of actual production in the factory had been gained. This will ensure a more accurate figure of cost than an estimate made at an earlier stage. Some experience of the production of panels was gained in the months of May, June and July 1950 and an estimate based on it is ready for the consideration of the Factory Committee. While the cost of the first 1,000 houses involving the use of imported aluminium components will be in excess of the original estimate, it is anticipated that when the factory goes into full production and the components are replaced by indigenous material, the cost of production would decrease, so as to bring the cost of a house nearer the original estimate.

Prof. Ranga (Madras) : That means Doomsday.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : The house is being designed with other component roof replacing the imported aluminium roof.

As regards (d), the delay in production has been mainly due to the late arrival in Delhi of the various imported items of the factory plant. This was due to shipping difficulties in the U.K. and transport difficulties in India. Difficulties in the supply of essential raw materials also delayed the execution of orders placed with the Indian machinery manufacturers. Further the technical personnel required have not been readily available.

The next question is the number of prototypes. Six pairs of prototypes of the prefabricated houses proposed to be manufactured in the Delhi Factory were imported from the U.K. in order to test them in the Indian climate, correct their minor faults and adapt them for production here. Some spare panels were also indented for. About 20 per cent of the panels were found broken on arrival. Only actual cost, subject to a ceiling price of £1700 per pair, has to be paid

for these prototypes. The actual amount paid to the consultants on account of prototypes is £9,210. The cost of crating and transport from British ports to Bombay was included in the ceiling price of £1700 per pair. The total cost of transport from Bombay to Delhi, from Delhi to Dhanbad—because one pair was sent to Dhanbad—and unloading charges, amounted to Rs. 44,016-2-0.

An Hon. Member : What is the weight?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : I do not know what the weight is. I am sorry I cannot give information about it. Now, with regard to (f).....

Mr. Speaker : Information as to (f) need not be given.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : Yes, Sir, you said it was fully covered.

Then (g). Mr. L. R. Archibald is a trained architect and mechanical engineer. He attended the course of building and mechanical engineering of the Southall Technical College, London.

Shri Kamath : Attended ? Last time he said "qualified".

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : Together with other officers of his firm he has been to a great extent responsible for the design of the British aluminium houses and for pioneering work in the design of prefab. houses with foamed concrete. It may be mentioned that Mr. Archibald is the representative of the consultants and it is to their own interests that they should send out their best man to India for the chance of earning royalty is dependent entirely on the Government of India manufacturing panels. It will be obviously against the firm's interest to send out inexperienced or unqualified men to help Government set up their factory and to start production of prefab. houses.

(h) *Roof design :* The roof design is not yet finalised. Test roofs are being watched under monsoon conditions.

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

We do not want to make the same mistake as in the case of prefab. stalls. The use of aluminium for roofing purposes has from the beginning been regarded merely as a temporary expedient and the intention has been to replace it by indigenous products as soon as possible. It was recognised at a very early stage in the course of planning for production that the heavy import duty on aluminium components imported from abroad and the devaluation of the rupee would render the continued use of aluminium impossible from the point of view of economic price of the house to be manufactured at the factory.

It was therefore decided that every effort should be made to bring into use, as quickly as possible, indigenous materials for the purpose of roofing. This, however, was expected to take some time and it therefore became necessary to make use of imported aluminium during the initial stages of production for the first one thousand houses. Before this decision was taken, Government had already completed arrangements for the purchase of the required quantity of aluminium and it was not possible to go back on them. The most that could be done was to reduce the requirements to the barest minimum.

(i)—Shall I answer it, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker: It need not be answered.

Shri Kamath: On a point of clarification. Does the Minister of Finance think that attending a course for a day or a month qualifies him for the degree of Mechanical Engineering? I do not know further how long he attended.

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of opinion.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): I would like to know the total cost so far that has been incurred.

Mr. Speaker: He may total it up. Let others ask questions.

Shri Sondhi: Sir, when this matter came up before the Standing Finance Committee, according to the published proceedings of the meeting of March 12, 1949, we were given to understand that the total estimated cost of the scheme would be as follows:

Capital grant Rs. 30 lakhs

Working capital Rs. 48 lakhs

But we now find that the expenditure has gone up beyond one crore as against these Rs. 78 lakhs. Further the note says:

“The proposal is final and complete in respect of the factory to be set up in New Delhi”.

What follows is more interesting:

“... These prices have been obtained from the suppliers and are subject to variations and Suppliers will not at present give a firm quotation until they are certain of the order being placed. In view of this a substantial contingency has been added.”

In view of this, I would like to know the reason for this extra Rs. 25 lakhs or so being allowed to be spent. I would also like to know whether the sanction of the Finance Ministry was obtained for it.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The information I have says that the fixed capital expenditure which includes the main building, machinery, workers' quarters and subsidiary plants for the manufacture of indigenous roofing material is estimated at Rs. 52 lakhs.

Shri Sondhi: That was three months back.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The initial working capital is Rs. 23 lakhs.

Shri Goenka (Madras): In point of time, when did the figure stand at Rs. 52 lakhs?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have not got the date.

Sir, there were two points which I wished to refer to. One was in regard to costing. A Cost Accountant was appointed some time ago and he has submitted a report, which in my capacity as Finance Minister I have not yet had the opportunity of examining. It only arrived a day or two ago.

Then there was something said about an enquiry. In my opinion, any such question should be taken up only after the Ministry of Finance have had an opportunity of going into the Cost Accountant's report and observing also what demand there is for the houses that will be produced, on the assumption that the factory will start working from the end of August 1950. The people responsible still hope that they will be able to sell the houses at least 20% below the construction price of traditional houses of the same size. It remains to be seen whether their expectation is realised or not when production gets into swing. So, although I think there is reason for believing that some kind of investigation is necessary into this matter I do think any decision on that ought to be postponed till these two things which I have mentioned have happened.

Shri T. Husain : Is it a fact that Mr. Archibald, whose name was mentioned by the hon. Minister of Finance, was the designer of about 75,000 pre fabricated houses built in England?

Mr. Speaker : After all, the hon. Minister is replying on the information given by the constructing firm—he has no independent information on that point.

Shri Soudhi : When the design has not been finalised, how does the hon. Minister expect that the production will commence from next month?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : The factory will produce houses with aluminium roofs in the beginning, while experi-

ments in alcrete roofs are going on. When they find the right type of alcrete roofs, then they will start manufacturing houses with alcrete roofs.

Shri Kamath : Is it not a fact that the consulting firm, that is to say, the Structural and Mechanical Development Engineers, Ltd., were bound to submit a design and specification of alcrete roofs forthwith under the agreement?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : Forthwith must be construed in a reasonable way.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar : May I make a suggestion. I would request that hereafter the hon. the Finance Minister ought not to undertake the responsibility of answering any other Minister's questions. I have been watching from the beginning. Ultimately I was glad when he said that an enquiry is necessary. In future the hon. the Finance Minister ought not to undertake the responsibility of representing other Ministers, because he will be obliged to support whatever undertakings have been started by other Ministers. He must reserve his judgment till the end, since he is the watchdog of the finances of this country.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : It was my intention only to give information and not to support or to withhold support.

Mr. Speaker : I might point out the difficulties which I myself felt. As the Hon. Minister in charge is not well, some other Minister had to answer on her behalf.

The other alternative was to keep the motion pending.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar : Some other Minister could have answered.

Mr. Speaker : So, we now adjourn.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 11th August, 1950.