

Monday, 7th August, 1950

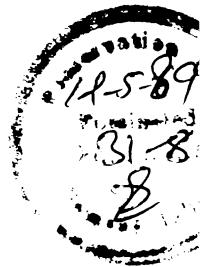


PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(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

Monday, 7th August, 1950

—

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

Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Radhe Lal Vyas (Madhya
Bharat).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 248.
I am sorry that the hon. Minister is
not in his seat. I shall take it as
soon as he comes. I wish the hon.
Ministers attend in time.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): I am very
sorry, Sir.

MAIZE HYBRIDS

***248. Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will
the Minister of **Agriculture** be
pleased to state whether it is a fact
that the Government of India have
decided to have an experimental
plantation of maize hybrids?

(b) What are the varieties of
seeds secured for this purpose?

(c) What is the yield expected?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes,
Sir, at 25 selected centres represent-
ing the more important maize grow-
ing areas in India. The hon. Mem-
ber's attention is invited in this con-
nection to the reply given by my
predecessor in this House to Starred
Question No. 1780 on the 17th April,
1950.

(b) A list of the varieties is laid on
the Table. [See *Appendix III,*
annexure No. 18.]

(c) It is too early yet to make any
statement as to the yield expected.
All the varieties under experimental
plantation have, however, given sub-
stantially increased yields in the
countries of origin and it is hoped
that the same results will be
achieved in India also.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know what
are the centres at which these ex-
periments are being carried on?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The trials are
being conducted at 25 centres repre-
senting the more important maize
growing areas in India. These cen-
tres are—

West Bengal—K Kalimpong.

Assam—Shillong.

Himachal Pradesh—Parala (Near
Simla).

Mysore—Mandya.

Uttar Pradesh—Almora, Bahraich, Bulandshahr, Jaunpur, Kanpur,

Bihar—Sabour, Sepaya, Pusa.

Madhya Bharat—Indore, Ujjain.

Rajasthan—Banswara, Kotah.

Hyderabad (Deccan)—Himayat Sagar, Sangareddy.

Punjab (India)—Jullundur, Mangwel Karnal.

Bombay—Dohad, Arbhav.

Madhya Pradesh—Nagpur.

Delhi—New Delhi.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know how far these experiments will help us in achieving our target in 1951?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The hybrids which we have imported have given on an average about 25 per cent. higher yield in the land of their birth. The question now is whether in this country the hybrids will give any higher result.

Prof. Ranga: Is it a fact that in the Delhi Institute there is no permanent research worker employed for carrying on research in regard to maize hybrids?

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

Dr. Deshmukh: Since hybridisation of maize and other grains is so profitable, what other foodgrains are subjected to this treatment and experiments carried on?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I should like to have notice of that question too. I may add that experiments are being conducted locally in the different varieties of grains which are grown in India.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know the country from which these maize hybrids were imported?

Shri K. M. Munshi: We have imported them from the United States of America, Australia and Canada.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the expenditure for these experiments are borne by the Centre or by the States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think it is borne by the Centre.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know what is the result of the experiment so far carried out in Assam?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They were sown only this season and it is too early to say what the result will be.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: How long will it take for results to materialise?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They have already been sown after the rains and as soon as the crop grows, we will be able to find out something about it.

IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS

*249. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of food grains for the current year has been stepped up from 1.5 million tons to 2 million tons;

(b) the reasons for such increase; and

(c) whether Government adheres to the target date for self-sufficiency in food?

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

(b) The increase in the original target of imports was found to be necessary because of unexpected deterioration in internal availabilities due to (i) failure of rains in Madras.

and Rajasthan, (ii) large scale movement of immigrants in Assam and West Bengal and (iii) diversion of land from foodgrains to Jute and Cotton.

(c) Yes.

Shri Kamath: What is the present estimate of the overall deficit in foodgrains?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The deficits were calculated taking 1947-48 as the basic year and it was calculated at 4.4 million tons at the end of 1951. The present position is that prior to 1948 the target fixed was 7,64,000 tons. In 1949-50 the actual production was higher by 9,34,797 tons. Target for 1950-51 is 2,733,701 tons and for 1951-52 is 3,638,215 tons. Total exceeds 4.4 million tons.

Shri Kamath: What is the *per capita* basis on which this deficit in relation to total production is computed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The increase in population has been taken into account up to the end of 1952 at the rate at which it increased in the past.

Shri Kamath: What is the *per capita* basis?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The basis is this: 12 ounces for urban areas and 16 ounces for the rural areas.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that very recently thousands of ghost ration cards have been discovered not merely in Delhi but all over India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Yes.

Shri Kamath: How many thousands or lakhs they are?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think that the number runs into lakhs, but many of the ghosts are untraced.

सेठ गोविंद दास : जब कि यहाँ की उपज बढ़ती जा रही है और जब गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि १९५१ के बाद हमको बाहर से और अनाज नहीं मंगाना पड़ेगा,

बेसी हालत में यह बाहर से मंगाना हुआ अनाज इस साल क्यों बढ़ा है, और अगर यह बढ़ा है तो यह कैसे आशा की जा सकती है कि १९५१ के बाद हमको कोई अनाज बाहर से नहीं मंगाना होगा ?

[Seth Govind Das: When our own produce is increasing and the Government has declared that we would not have to import any more foodgrains from abroad after 1951, why the imports of foodgrains this year show an increase, and since an increase has taken place how can we expect that we would not have to import any foodgrains after 1951?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have already given the reasons why we could not keep up to the target. As the House knows, whatever our calculation may be, the natural calamities which overtake this country in some part or the other almost every year it is difficult to calculate, and therefore the shortfall was on account of the reasons I gave.

सेठ गोविंद दास : तो फिर क्या यह मान लिया जाय कि १९५१ के बाद जो अन्न न मंगाने की बात है वह भी अभी संदिग्ध है और उसके सम्बन्ध में कोई निश्चय बात नहीं कही जा सकती ?

[Seth Govind Das: Are we then to understand that this decision, not to import any more foodgrains after 1951, is still rather dubious and that nothing definite can be said about it yet?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: As I pointed out on another occasion in this House, the factors are so imponderable that it is impossible to say with certainty.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that an item of the programme for reaching the estimated target was to bring increased land under cultivation to get increased production, and if so may I know whether the area which was to be brought under increased cultivation has really been brought under cultivation or not?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Well, not only do we have reasons to think that they were really brought under cultivation but the results show that they must have been so. Otherwise the increase cannot be explained.

Shri Kamath: What is the total estimate of foodgrains and cereals that were being issued against the ghost ration cards all over India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I must have notice of it because I must calculate the number of ghost cards and the increase.

SUGAR

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

(a) whether the sugar ration in Bombay State has very recently been reduced;

(b) whether there is any proposal of similar reduction all over India;

(c) the present position, and the position in the immediate future with regard to sugar production and supply in India; and

(d) whether any sugar is proposed to be imported?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes; the sugar ration has been reduced from 2 lbs. to 1½ lbs. per month in Bombay city and from 1 lb. to ¾ lbs. per month in the rest of the State.

(b) None.

(c) Stocks in hand on 1st July are about 4 lakh tons. Monthly quotas during July to November will be 70,000 tons, 68,000 tons, 70,000 tons, 78,000 tons and 74,000 tons respectively.

(d) Yes; 100,000 tons.

Shri Kamath: Do Government apprehend any serious sugar scarcity like what we were faced with last year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I hope not.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the sugar quota *per capita* in Calcutta?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I should like to have notice. I have not got the information on hand.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Is it a fact that the oftakē of sugar by consumers in Calcutta is more when it is controlled rather than when it is de-controlled and that the *bona fide* consumers do not get the sugar when it is controlled though the oftakē is more?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not know about this miracle.

सेठ गोविंद दास : बाहर से जो शक्कर मंगाई गई है उसके कबतक आ जाने की आशा है और उसके आने क बाद जो शक्कर का राशन घटा है क्या वह फिर वेंसा का वेंसा कर दिया जायगा ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** By what time is the sugar ordered out from abroad likely to arrive? Will the sugar ration that has been reduced be restored to its former quantum on the arrival of that sugar?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: In view of the world conditions I am not sure when the proposed order of sugar will be executed. As regards the rations there is no proposal to reduce the sugar ration anywhere in the country. On the contrary, as hon. Members will see, during the *Puja* and *Diwali* holidays it is going to be increased.

Shri Buragohain: What is the yield per acre of sugar in this country and how does it compare with that of Java and Hawai Islands?

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

Mr. Speaker: I think this question was replied to, in the last session.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know why it was necessary to reduce the ration of sugar only in Bombay and not in other places?

Shri K. M. Munshi: In the earlier months Bombay had consumed 20,000 tons more than what was their ration. The result was that the rations had to be reduced in order to bring it up to the level of the supply.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to ensure that a similar situation will not arise next year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That depends upon our making sufficient supply of sugarcane available to the factories during the season.

Shri Himatsingka: Is it a fact that the prices quoted will not be less than Rs. 37 per maund, if imported?

Shri K. M. Munshi: What has happened really is this. Since we began to enquire about the purchase of this, the prices are rising so rapidly in the world that it is difficult to say at what price we will be able to get it.

Prof. S. L. Saksena: Are Government aware that sugar is sold in enormous quantities in the black market at Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per seer?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I know that sugar is sold at a very high price in the black market. I do not exactly know the amount. I know it is about two and a half times more than the controlled rate.

Prof. S. L. Saksena: Are Government taking any steps to end the black marketing in sugar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am afraid it is not possible to do so for the simple reason that the people find it easier to sell sugar in the black market and live on *gur* which is cheaper than the black market price of sugar by about Rs. 60.

Shri Tyagi: Are Government taking any steps to make a proportionate allotment of the soil for the various crops including the cane crop?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as the sugarcane crop is concerned there is a very large acreage under sugarcane cultivation all over India, and perhaps there is a certain percentage of increase in that acreage too.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted to know whether Government had agreed to some plan under which the soil is proportionately allotted to the various crops according to the needs of the country or whether it is left to the whims of the peasants themselves to grow anything that they choose.

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as cotton, jute and foodgrains are concerned there is already a plan—I referred to it on the last occasion when questions were put to me. So far as sugarcane is concerned, as sugarcane is not forthcoming to the factories there has been no restriction placed. Only 25 per cent. of the sugarcane which is grown in the country comes to the factory for production of sugar.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister aware that sometime in the past sugar was issued in large quantities to fruit canning factories which were later found to be non-existent?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I know that a small percentage of the sugar available is issued to canning factories but I am not sure whether the factories which get this sugar did not exist. I will have to enquire.

Dr. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that black marketing in sugar is not an unmixed evil, what steps are the Government taking to facilitate better black marketing?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

SHIFTING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES
FROM NEW DELHI

*251. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given by him to starred question No. 189 on the 10th February, 1950, and state:

(a) how many offices from New Delhi have actually shifted to various destinations as mentioned in his reply; and

(b) the reasons why other offices have not yet shifted?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) Two offices have actually shifted out of Delhi so far, and two others are in the process of shifting.

(b) Three offices—all semi-Government Organisations have since been permitted to stay on in Delhi on their agreeing to make their own private arrangements for accommodation, and releasing all Government accommodation (both office and residential), now in their occupation in Delhi. The move of two Railway Offices has had to be indefinitely postponed till a decision is taken on the proposed regrouping of Railways. The move of the remaining 10 offices is held up on account of the difficulty being experienced in obtaining adequate and satisfactory residential accommodation for the staff at the stations selected by the offices concerned.

Shri Sidhva: May I know which are these two offices which have been actually removed and to what Ministry do they belong?

Shri Gadgil: The office of the Surveyor-General and the Directorate of Seamen's Welfare.

Shri Sidhva: What was the accommodation and who have been replaced in these buildings?

Shri Gadgil: The idea of shifting these offices is not to make accommodation available for other offices from outside Delhi. The object of this

scheme is to relieve congestion and it is only one way traffic.

Shri Sidhva: Who have actually occupied these buildings?

Shri Gadgil: They have been allotted to other offices which are absolutely necessary to be here.

Shri Sidhva: To what Ministry do they belong?

Shri Gadgil: I require notice for that.

Shri Sidhva: May I know why the three offices which were contemplated to be removed last time by Government and according to the hon. Minister's own statement have been asked to stay here? What are the reasons for reconsidering this proposal?

Shri Gadgil: They are the Indian Standard Institute, the Indian Medical Council and the Indian Dental Council. The Ministers concerned have agreed to release Government accommodation both office and residential and they will manage their own affairs with private landlords.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether there is any proposal of shifting the Supreme Court from Delhi to any other place in the country?

Shri Gadgil: It has been decided that the Supreme Court will be in Delhi.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know what places and what States have been surveyed with a view to shift offices from here?

Shri Gadgil: I cannot give the whole list but Kapurthala, Alwar, Bikaner, Jaipur, Baroda, Hyderabad are some of the places where accommodation was tried to be found out.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the removal of some offices from New Delhi will enable Government to provide accommodation for the Circuit High Court in Delhi?

Shri Gadgil: The idea is to give some accommodation for a Division of the Punjab High Court; it may be possible eventually.

IMPORT OF CEREALS

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

(a) whether any rice, wheat or other cereals have been purchased from or any contracts for these placed on foreign countries for the year 1950; and

(b) if so, what are the rates and quantities?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Purchases of cereals made or contracted during the year 1950 (beginning from January, 1950 to 31st July, 1950).

	Quantity tons.	Price per maund F.O.B.
Australia		
Wheat	7,00,000	Rs. 11-12-0
Wheat flour	80,000	Rs. 15-8-0
Millets	4,000	Rs. 9-0-0
Sorghum	6,750	Rs. 7-12-0
Argentina		
Wheat	5,50,000	Barter
Burma		
Rice	1,00,000	Rs. 19/8 to 20/4/-
Thailand		
Rice	33,000	Rs. 20/4/- to 22/8/.
U.S.A.		
Milo	2,50,000	Rs. 7/- to 8/4/-

Shri Sidhva: What is the quantity of rice and wheat that were imported from foreign countries and which are the countries, may I know?

Shri K. M. Munshi: From Australia we got 7,00,000 tons of wheat; 80,000 tons of flour, 4,000 tons of Millets and 6,750 tons of Sorghum. From Argentina wheat 5,50,000 tons; Burma—Rice 1,00,000 tons; Thailand—Rice 33,000 tons and U.S.A.—Milo 2,50,000 tons.

Shri Sidhva: Which is the country from which we received wheat at the cheapest price?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think Argentina.

Shri Sidhva: What is the price as compared with other countries?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That was bartered against jute goods.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether wheat or rice was purchased from Pakistan?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Not so far.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it was contemplated under the barter system?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Negotiations are going on.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any other fresh orders have been placed which are still to arrive, or whether the quantities contracted have already arrived or in what period they are likely to arrive or whether in future orders have to be placed for 1950-51?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Orders for 200,000 tons if I remember aright, have still to be placed. The other orders have been placed or negotiations are going on for their purchase and we have to receive them between September and November.

Prof. Ranga: Are any special efforts being made to import more rice from Burma and Indonesia and other countries in view of the serious shortage in Madras and Bihar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact attempts are being made in almost every country where rice is available, but we have not yet been able to finally come to a concluded bargain with regard to any of them.

Shri Tyagi: Were these purchases made on Government account or licences were issued to private parties for import?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think, all these are on Government account.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether any arrangements have been made to import gram from Pakistan in view of the serious shortage in Delhi?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, gram was placed on the O.G.L. recently and over 200,000 maunds of gram have been received from Pakistan.

AUTOMATIC LOCKING OF DOORS

*253. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the device for automatic locking of doors of railway compartments which was invented by Mr. P. C. Mukerjee, Calcutta has been introduced?

(b) If so, on what date and what are the results?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) and (b). The device referred to was installed in a rake after a prolonged period by Mr. Mukerjee himself with the help of the E.I. Railway officers and staff. It was tried on the E.I. Railway line between Howrah and Moghalsarai, the rake leaving Howrah on 31st May, 1950 and returning there on 2nd June, 1950. The trial indicated a number of defects in the working of the device and, though the General Manager and his advisers are not hopeful of success, it was decided that, after taking certain precautions to make the train reasonably safe for traffic, the rake fitted with the device should be put in actual service under the close personal observation of Mr. Mukerjee for a period of 3 months. Mr. Mukerjee, however wrote on 22.7.50 that he would be prepared to travel on the rake for this purpose only if an 8-wheeler Saloon with a kitchen and with accommodation for his family to remain with him to look

after his comforts could be placed at his disposal for the period of trial. This request which he has pressed on the ground of his health is now under the consideration of the Railway Board.

Shri Sidhva: May I know how many trials were made of this train and whether it was actually put on the traffic?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The preliminary trials were made on the 27th of April and the whole of the rake was taken from Howrah to Moghalsarai and from Moghalsarai to Howrah between the 31st of May and the 2nd of June.

Shri Sidhva: Was the return journey between 31st May and 2nd June also experimental or whether actual traffic was carried in it?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I think there was some traffic carried but it was mainly for purposes of trial.

Shri Sidhva: Am I to understand that the scheme is still in the experimental stage? What is the opinion of the Railway authorities?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is still in an experimental stage. The opinion of the Railway authorities is not very much in favour of it. We wish to give Mr. Mukerjee the longest possible rope.

Seth Govind Das: What would be the cost of this new device per compartment?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I cannot give it per compartment; but I can give the House an idea of the amount that we have spent so far on fitting a rake with this device and incidental expenses. The amount has so far mounted to Rs. 96,000.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

***254. Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the area of uncultivated arable land planned to be brought under cultivation this year in Rajasthan as a measure of "Grow More Food" campaign; and

(b) the sum set apart for this purpose?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) By 'this year', perhaps the hon. Member means the current financial year. If so, 4,000 acres of land are planned to be brought under cultivation in Rajasthan during 1950-51.

(b) The acreage referred to in part (a) above, will be cultivated with the help of tractors. Land reclamation by mechanical means is not eligible for a subsidy from the Central Government under the rules. The State Government, however, propose to spend a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for this purpose.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know what is the area actually brought under cultivation under this scheme?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Up to April 1950, 10,889 acres were reported as reclaimed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What is the total area planned to be brought under cultivation?

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

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether this includes well subsidy also?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Subsidies are given to the extent of about 75 per cent for minor irrigation works; the rest is for other purposes.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know how many wells have been dug in the

Madras State and how much subsidy was given?

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

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, this question does not arise.

MAILS AND TELEGRAMS ON SUNDAYS

***255. Shri Raj Bahadur:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any complaints have been received regarding the total holiday observed in the Post Offices on all Sundays and the consequent non-delivery of mails and telegrams on Sundays?

(b) If so, have any steps been taken to remove the cause of such complaints?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Some complaints have been received regarding suspension of delivery of ordinary letters on Sundays but none about delivery of telegrams.

(b) Arrangements have been made for delivery of Express Delivery articles from offices in all important towns. Articles with late fee are accepted for despatch on Sundays at all R.M.S. offices, Departmental Telegraph Offices and at the more important Combined Offices. Sunday editions of Registered Newspapers are being allowed to be posted at Press Sorting Offices and R.M.S. offices even without any late fee.

As regards telegrams, all Departmental Telegraph and Combined delivery offices are kept open on Sundays for delivery of telegrams without any extra charge during the Sunday working hours of the office. Late fee telegrams are booked on Sundays under the normal conditions.

It will be seen that arrangements exist for delivery of letters and telegrams at the more important places on payment of a little extra charge.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the names of the countries, if any, where the system of total holiday so far as delivery of mails is concerned, obtains?

Shri Khurshed Lal: A number of them; I could not give the names off-hand. United Kingdom is one of them.

Shri Sidhva: What is the latest position with regard to the clearance of mails on Sundays?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): Letters with a late fee are cleared if they are posted in particular letter boxes.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it is only in one post office in the City or in all the boxes?

Shri Kidwai: It all depends on the size of the city.

Shri Sidhva: In Bombay and Delhi, in how many post offices letters are cleared on Sundays?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member wants the exact number, he will have to give notice.

Shri Sidhva: Is it not a fact that in foreign countries clearance is made from several post offices on Sundays?

Shri Kidwai: I would be grateful to the hon. Member if he would give me a note on his experiences in other countries.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that the Standing Advisory Committee was not consulted before this decision was taken?

Shri Kidwai: I do not exactly know. But, we have had the Standing Advisory Committee meetings several times. No body raised this question there.

Dr. Deshmukh: Was this matter ever placed before them? In a reply already given to one of my questions, it has been stated that this proposal

was never placed before the Standing Advisory Committee.

Shri Kidwai: That is true; I accept it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is not a fact that large number of newspapers have made strong protests to the Communications Ministry against stopping delivery of newspapers on Sundays?

Shri Kidwai: That is true.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What steps are taken to remove this disability?

Shri Kidwai: No steps are possible if you want to give one day's holiday to our staff.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What is the amount of loss to the State on account of this arrangement?

Shri Kidwai: There is no loss of revenue, as a late fee is affixed for Sunday clearance, the revenue will increase.

Shri Sidhva: Is it not a fact that in foreign countries, all postal work including registration and money orders, is done in all the 24 hours in certain post offices?

Shri Kidwai: I have not been to foreign countries. If the hon. Member will give me a note on the subject, I shall study it.

Shri Tirumala Rao: I would like to know the names of at least one or two countries where Sunday holiday is observed, if my hon. friend could give them.

Shri Khurshed Lal: U.K., U.S.A., our neighbours Ceylon and Burma.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that even in the U.K. and in the U.S.A. there is only clearance, but no delivery?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is clearance here also.

Shri Kamath: There is no clearance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Gautam: Do Government propose to stop railways working on Sundays?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Kidwai: I think the Minister of Railways will answer.

Shri Tyagi: Will the Deputy Minister please explain whether really there is clearance of letters in all the letter boxes?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I never said that there is clearance of all the letter boxes. There is clearance in the more important towns at particular letter boxes.

Shri Sidhva: Is it not a fact that in Delhi, in the Central Telegraph office alone, one small box is kept for this purpose?

Shri Kidwai: There are more than one office in the city.

Shri Sidhva: Will you please make enquiries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the step to declare Sundays as total holidays was taken as a result of a demand on the part of the Postal Employees Union or otherwise?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, in response to a demand of the Postal Employees Union and also, so that every one could get a day's holiday. For more than two years, the question was under our consideration. We tried to so arrange that there may be delivery every day and every one could get a holiday. That was found possible in Bombay and Delhi; but it was not possible in the villages where there is only one man in the staff. More than 90 per cent. of our post offices are such that there are about one or two men and therefore, to give a holiday it was found necessary to order Sunday as a holiday.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

RAILWAY STATIONS AND PLATFORMS

***256. Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there was any specific provision in the budget for re-modelling and extensions of stations and platforms or construction of new stations and platforms for the year 1950-51 and if so, what was the amount?

(b) What portion of this has so far been spent?

(c) By whom were these proposals finally approved?

(d) Were they placed before the Central Advisory Council of Railways and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways?

(e) Do Government propose to postpone the expenditure not so far incurred?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalswami): (a) Yes. There is a provision in the Budget for 1950-51 of a sum of Rupees 178 lakhs for remodellings, extensions or constructions of new stations and p'atforms.

(b) Rs. 22 lakhs.

(c) and (d). These proposals do not go before the Central Advisory Council of Railways, but are planned in consultation with the Local Advisory Committees, State Governments, etc. All schemes costing over Rs. 1 lakh each are, however, individually included in the Budget which is approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. Schemes of Rs. 20 lakhs and over are specifically brought before the Standing Finance Committee and their prior approval obtained before inclusion in the Budget. Schemes costing below Rs. 1 lakh each are sanctioned by the Railway Administrations themselves, but a lump sum provision for all such works is included in the Budget.

(e) The reply is in the negative.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know whether there were any recent enquiries whether these extensions were necessary before they were undertaken?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Enquiries were made before these works were included in the budget.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know in what year these enquiries were made? My impression is that the enquiries were made a few years before and the immediate urgency has never been enquired into.

Shri Gopaldaswami: The list of works which may have been considered in previous years is brought under review before the Budget for the year is made up. Therefore, scrutiny must have been made of these works when it was decided to include them in the Budget.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, with reference to reply to part (e) of the question, am I to understand that in spite of the fact that his officers or the hon. Minister himself have been convinced of the futility of any particular extension, he is going to persist in that project?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The assumption is wrong. I do not think either my officers or myself are convinced now that even some of the works that have been undertaken are unnecessary.

Dr. Deshmukh: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to examine the necessity of any of the extensions hereafter, before spending the remaining amounts?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The works have been put into the budget, and many of them have been started, and it would be a waste of funds to stop works which are in progress. As I said, scrutiny must have been made before the inclusion in the budget. I can give the assurance to the hon. Member that before putting such works into the budget in future years,

I shall ask that these lists should be very carefully scrutinised.

Shrimati Durgabai: Arising from answer to part (a), may I know what are the railway stations where the platforms are proposed to be remodelled or extended?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I can give a list if the hon. Member will give me notice.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the plan for remodelling stations and platforms in the Jhansi—Manipal section (G. I. P.) has been abandoned?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I want notice.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether these amounts will be spent from the Betterment Fund or from the general funds?

Shri Gopaldaswami: This is a budget allotment which is outside the Betterment Fund, I think.

Mr. Speaker: Next question, No. 257.

(The hon. Member did not rise in his seat.)

No. 258, Dr. Deshmukh.

Hon. Members: Sir, there is question No. 257, also in his name.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but it was called, the hon. Member was inattentive. So it goes.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, question No. 258; I am content with that.

CRT OF SUGAR

*258. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of sugar that has been decided to be imported in the course of the year 1950-51?

(b) Is it proposed to be imported by Government or through private trade channels?

(c) Has any contract been made by Government?

(d) If so, what is the rate at which it will arrive in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 1,00,000 tons.

(b) Import will be made in either manner the aim being to import at the cheapest possible price.

(c) An order for the purchase of 1,00,000 tons of sugar from abroad has been placed.

(d) It is not in the public interest at present to disclose the prices.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that it will not be in the public interest to disclose the price at which this sugar is to be purchased, but may I know at what rate Government want to sell this sugar to the public, for that will be in the interest of the public to know.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Government may want to sell it at different rates, but unless the prices are fixed, it is not at the present moment in public interests to disclose at what price they are going to be sold or at what price they are going to be purchased.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know with what countries we are negotiating for obtaining this sugar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Negotiations are going on with the United States of America, Cuba, Italy and several other countries.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister said something about the placement of orders, but he has not told us anything about the definite shipment of these one hundred thousand tons. When will they be shipped?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have already mentioned to the House that in view of the changing world conditions we have not yet been able to secure firm bargains so that the shipments could be certain.

Shri Sidhva: That is to say, no order has been actually placed, is that the position, may I know, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Then what is the position, Sir, is the matter still in the negotiation stage or has it been completed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: In some cases orders have been placed, and in other cases negotiations are going on. But even in regard to orders that have been placed, it is difficult to say that they will be executed.

Shri Sidhva: Then, Sir, what is the meaning of an order being placed? Will it be executed or not?

Shri K. M. Munshi: When an order is placed, it is an offer, and unless an order placed is executed there is no completed bargain.

Shri T. N. Singh: Will the hon. Minister please inform us whether the consumer will have to pay more for this imported sugar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It depends upon the price at which we are able to secure these supplies.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Will the sale price be near the control price or will it be near the present black-market price for sugar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Government have not yet decided whether any subsidies should be given for the sale of this sugar; and that will depend upon the rate at which we are able to buy it.

SURPLUS PULSES

*259. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the financial year 1949-50 the State Government of Bhopal reported that the State was surplus in respect of pulses?

(b) Is it a fact that about 25,000 tons of pulses were rotting in the

godowns simply because permission was not given to declare the stock surplus?

(c) Is it a fact that finally it was agreed that the Ministry of Defence should acquire these pulses?

(d) What is the total tonnage of these pulses which have been declared unfit for human consumption?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (d). Pulses other than gram are not controlled and there is no ban on inter-State movement of pulses. No State is, therefore, required to declare stocks or surpluses to the Central Government. The question of accumulation of stocks and their deterioration owing to official regulations does not arise.

Prof. Ranga: Does it mean that this 25,000 tons was not gram?

Shri K. M. Munshi: No, they are not gram.

Shri Tyagi: May I take it then that there is no restriction on the movement of pulses in the whole country?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is no ban on the movement of pulses other than gram.

SCHOOL OF PRINTING

***260. Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is proposed to start a School of Printing to train personnel for manning various printing presses under the Government of India?

(b) How many apprentices are taken every year in the various presses under the Government?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) Two apprentices are taken every year, one at the Government of India Press, Calcutta and the other at the Government of India Press, New Delhi.

Shri Kesava Rao: What is the duration of training for these apprentices.

Shri Gadgil: Two years.

Prof. Ranga: Are there any proposals to increase the number of apprentices from two, to four, six or ten?

Shri Gadgil: The whole question is under consideration because there is the recommendation of the Expert Committee which was appointed a few months ago and the Government are thinking of starting a regular training school.

Shri Tyagi: What is the estimated cost of this proposal?

Shri Gadgil: When the proposal is finalised, the estimate will be placed before the House.

Shri Tyagi: Will the financial estimate be placed before the House before the hon. Minister comes up with his proposals?

Shri Gadgil: The regular procedure will be followed.

Shri T. N. Singh: In what sections of the technique of printing. I mean in what branches, for instance, rotary printing, etc. will the apprentices be given training?

Shri Gadgil: They will be allotted to the various jobs connected with the trade called printing.

Shri Tyagi: Are there not sufficient personnel, trained hands available now in private concerns? How was the work of the Government Press going on till now? From which source were they recruiting their hands?

Shri Gadgil: They were recruited from the open market, and some had gained experience in the press during their many years' service there.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government propose to make public the report of the Expert Committee?

Shri Gadgil: The question of publishing the report of the Expert Committee to the general public is also under consideration.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will it be made available to the Members of this House at least?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I call the next question, No. 261.

VEGETABLE MILK

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

(a) the names of countries in which vegetable milk is produced;

(b) the quantities in which it is believed to be produced;

(c) the nutrition value of such milk;

(d) whether any experiment has been made for the production of such milk in India; and

(e) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) There are three different kinds of vegetable milk obtained from (1) Soyabean, (2) a mixture of groundnut cake and soyabean and (3) from the bark of a tree called "Cow tree", Soyabean milk is largely produced in China, Korea, Manchuria and U.S.A. while milk from "Cow trees" is reported to be produced in hot and temperate regions of Venezuela, where the "Cow tree" thrives.

(b) No information is available.

(c) As a result of research carried out on the nutritive value of soyabean milk at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, it is observed that the nutritive value of soyabean milk is 85 per cent. to 95 per cent. of cow milk. Regarding

the nutritive value of "Cow tree" milk all that is known is that the inhabitants of Venezuela use it freely as a substitute for milk.

(d) and (e). Experiments on the production of soyabean milk have been carried out at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and a method for its manufacture on small scale has also been evolved. As regards milk from "Cow tree" a scheme for the introduction of such trees has been sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the State of Bombay. Arrangements have been made for obtaining seeds of "Cow tree" from abroad.

Shri Tyagi: Do Government propose to take any steps to colour this vegetable milk, so that it will not be used for adulteration with real milk?

Shri K. M. Munshi: First of all let us get the milk and then the question of colouring it can be taken up.

Lala Raj Kanwar: To tide over the shortage of milk in the country, even though partially, do Government propose to import vegetable milk into the country?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not think that it is possible to import this milk.

Shri Kamath: Have any experiments been made in Venezuela or any of the other countries mentioned to manufacture vegetable ghee or butter out of the vegetable milk?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Khwaja Inait Ullah: Will Government very kindly ban the vegetable milk in India to save the health of the people of India which is already undermined by vegetable ghee?

Dr. Deshmukh: Which produces more milk, the cow or the cow tree?

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure rural development and uplift of villages by setting up Model Villages or otherwise in the Centrally Administered Areas since 15th August, 1947; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend the Etawah scheme of Uttar Pradesh for Model villages to the Delhi State or any other centrally administered area?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). A scheme for the establishment of Model Villages is in operation in Delhi and Coorg. Proposals in this direction are also under the consideration of the Chief Commissioners of Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh and Kutch. The Delhi Development Scheme is run by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and a detailed note relating to the scheme and the work done so far is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, *annexure* No. 19.] The scheme is designed to bring about an all-round development of the contiguous villages in the irrigated area of the Delhi State. The question of extending the scheme to other Centrally Administered Areas will depend on the success of the experiment already being tried.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What is the number of model villages set up by Government so far since the 15th August 1947 in the Centrally Administered Areas?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As I have said in my reply the scheme has been started in ten villages in Delhi Province.

Lala Raj Kanwar: Has it been started in any other Centrally Administered Area?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As I said in Delhi and Coorg.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Could the hon. Minister give the names of the model villages constructed in Delhi?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Badli, Shampur, Sahibabad, Pehladpur, Barwala, Puth Khurd, Sultanpur Diwas, Bawana, Daryapur Kalan and Anchandi.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that this scheme in Delhi has been entrusted to a person who is ignorant of agriculture, rural economy or the rural people?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the question is full of inferences.

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is, as I pointed out, under the care of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The question is irrelevant.

Prof. Ranga: It is not for you to say.

INDIAN AIRLINE COMPANIES

*263. **Shri Gautam:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many Indian Airline companies are running at a profit and how many at a loss?

(b) Is any proposal under consideration to render any assistance to the Companies and if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) The position in this respect was stated in reply to Question No. 136 on 30th November 1949. Since then only four out of the ten companies operating scheduled services have submitted their balance sheets for the year 1948-49, according to which all of them have been operating at a loss.

(b) From 1st March 1949 to 30th September 1950 financial assistance is being given at the rate of -/9/- per gallon of aviation spirit consumed

on aircraft belonging to Indian companies. The nature and form of financial assistance to the companies after 30th September 1950 will depend on the recommendations of the Air Transport Inquiry Committee.

Shri Gautam: What is the total amount that Government has given to these companies either as subsidy or petrol tax rebate?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 46,30,679 was given to the air transport companies on account of petrol consumed by them during the period 1st March 1949 to 31st March 1950. It is also estimated that during the first six months of this year, that is from the 1st April to the 30th September 1950, an amount of Rs. 33,75,000 will be required for payment to the air transport companies and the flying clubs.

Shri Gautam: Is it a fact that with a fewer number of air lines the total amount of loss would have been less than what it is today?

Shri Khurshed Lal: That is a matter of opinion.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): Every one will agree that there would have been no loss at all, if there had been no air lines!

Shri Tyagi: That would have been better.

Shri Gautam: Do Government propose to abolish all these air lines and save the money thereon because of the present economic crisis?

Shri Kidwai: A Committee has been appointed, which is expected to report by the 25th of August. Let us therefore await the report. If the hon. Member so desires, he can move a resolution to that effect when the report is under consideration by the House.

Shri Gautam: What steps do Government propose to take in order to put the industry on a sound footing?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As was said a Committee has been appointed for that express purpose and it would be better if the hon. Member awaits the report of that Committee.

Shri Gautam: When is the report expected to be ready?

Shri Kidwai: I said just now that by the 25th August we expect to receive the report.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN BOMBAY

***264. Shri Hanumanthaiya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state what was the sanctioned estimate for installing metering equipment of Telephone System in Bombay?

(b) Did the amount actually spend exceed the sanctioned amount and by how much?

(c) What are the reasons for the excess expenditure?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Rs. 5,75,747.

(b) Yes; by Rs. 1,38,511.

(c) The excess was due partly to an error in estimation and partly to increase, made after the estimate had been prepared, in the percentages for overhead charges for stores.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Who was responsible for the error in estimation and what were the reasons which brought about the error?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I will not be able to give at present the name of the officer responsible. But the reason for the error was that the cost of labour was estimated at less than what it should have been. And then there was a change made in the overhead charges from 6 to 12 per cent. after the estimates had been prepared and actually the change in the percentage of overhead charges accounts for an increase of Rs. 1,06,716.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Was the increased expenditure the result of

the delay in implementing the scheme?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No.

Shri Joachim Alva: Has this metering system been checked actually and found fool-proof? It is a fact that in Bombay there have been complaints from certain householders that they have been charged for 300 calls, whereas they should have been charged for 30?

Shri Khurshed Lal: This question does not arise out of the one under answer, which relates to the estimates for installing the metering equipment.

Shri Joachim Alva: These complaints are very common.

Shri Kamath: By whom, technicians, experts or otherwise, was the first estimate vetted and scrutinised before it was sanctioned?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice of that.

Short Notice Question and Answer

FIRE-ARM PARCELS AT SEALDAH RAILWAY STATION

Shri Tyagi: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to give details of the one hundred fire-arm parcels that caught fire, while they were, in the process of being transhipped to Dacca (Pakistan), piled in a few rows at the R.M.S. office in the Railway station premises of Sealdah?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): 100 parcel bags in transit from Karachi to Dacca were received in Sealdah R. M. S. via Lahore. They came by the Punjab Mail and reached Sealdah between 12 NOON and 1.00 P.M. on 29th July, 1950. They were to be despatched to Dacca by the Assam Mail leaving at 11.10 hours the next day. They were locked up in a separate room adjoining the main sorting hall. At about 3.30 P.M. the staff of Sealdah R. M. S. working in

the main hall experienced a choking smell. The Inspector R. M. S. on duty located that the smoke was coming out from the above mentioned room and, on opening the rooms, found smouldering fire at the bottom stack of bags. The fire was partially brought under control by using fire extinguishers and the fire brigade which was also requisitioned came and completely extinguished the fire at little after 4.00 P.M.

Out of the 99 bags kept in the heap (the insured bag having been kept away separately in the strong room) it was noticed that 6 bags had been damaged by fire and 10 bags, which were profusely emitting choking smoke even after the fire had been extinguished, were opened by the fire brigade to segregate the contents to prevent further damage. In these 10 bags, 30 parcels were found all of the same nature, *viz.*, kerosene tins containing a white powder and wrapped over with gummy, bearing Urdu inscription 'Hydro Sulphite Caustic'. The contents of several parcels in these 10 bags and in the 6 bags badly burnt which also contained, among others, several parcels of the above description, were found to have come out due to the containers having been damaged in transit.

The Inspector of Explosives examined the powder and found it to be 'Hydro Sulphite Caustic' as indicated in the inscription on the tins and, according to him, the fire was caused by this powder coming into contact with moisture.

Among the contents of 6 mail bags damaged were found 3 parcels containing 4 guns and 2 rifles. All the bags and parcels, except those which contained the explosive material, are being forwarded to East Pakistan. I may add here that while there is no objection to transmission of closed bags of parcels containing guns and rifles, the Pakistan Postal authorities under the Universal Postal Union Parcel Post Agreement should not

have booked parcels containing 'Hydro Sulphite Caustic'. The matter is being taken up with them.

Shri Tyagi: Is it permissible for a foreign country to transport fire-arms through our country?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes.

Shri Tyagi: Is it also permissible for them to import into our country, that is send such parcels to destinations in our country also?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It is not a question of importing. The position is this. These parcels were being sent from West Pakistan to East Pakistan and we were only a country in transit. We get these parcels in a sealed condition; we have only to send them across the border.

Shri Tyagi: What is the precaution taken in the case of such parcels containing similar articles but addressed to some addressee in India?

Shri Khurshed Lal: If these parcels containing arms were received in India they will be dealt with under the Arms Act.

Shri A. C. Guha: Were those parcels declared as containing arms and ammunition?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Those parcels come sealed. Their contents are not required to be declared, but they should not have contained explosives because the booking of explosives whether for external or internal transport, is prohibited.

Shri A. C. Guha: Even if they are sent as postal parcels, is it not necessary to declare them?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No, it is not necessary to declare at all.

Shri Gautam: Have our Government protested to the Pakistan Government for the mistake that they have committed in sending these parcels containing explosives?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kishore): The mistake was

both of the booking clerk there and of our own men because the powder contained in the tin was indicated on the labels, and therefore we should not have accepted it.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, in connection with this question, I just wish to point out to this House that in spite of great publicity given to these facts, the facts are trivial—four shot guns. We talk about arms being imported—it is absurd for they are shot guns for children to use, and some such things. They have no importance. Anybody can send them at any time to any place. But the whole thing seems to have been given the colour of a conspiracy for sending arms and ammunition. But as I said, it is a case of four shot guns—it can be done at any time without anybody taking any objection to it.

Shri Tyagi: He mentioned rifles also.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not discuss that matter now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CHAMARAJANAGAR—SATYAMANGALAM RAILWAY LINE

*265 { **Shri Hanumanthaiya:**
Shri Channiah:

(a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether steps are being taken to construct Railways between Chamarajanagar and Satyamangalam?

(b) Has any survey been made in this connection and what is the cost of this survey?

(c) What will be the estimated cost of the said Railway construction?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam section forms part of the Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam project which was considered by the Central Board of Transport, who decided that it

should be brought up for review after the completion of the investigations into the engineering and financial aspects. The survey has been completed and reports are expected shortly.

(b) Both Traffic and Engineering surveys at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,56,221 have been carried out for the Chamara-janagar-Mettupalayam project.

(c) The line between Chamara-janagar and Mettupalayam has been estimated to cost Rs. 4 crores approximately. The cost of Chamara-janagar-Satyamangalam section will be roughly Rs. 3.25 crores.

RIVER BRIDGE AT JORHAT

*267. **Shri Chaliha:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the bridge on the Bhogdai River at Jorhat town in Assam has been widened?

(b) If not, when it will be done and what sum has been provided for the purpose?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) No.

(b) The work of providing foot-paths on the existing Bhogdai bridge to which, presumably, the hon. Member refers, was sanctioned at an estimated cost of about Rs. 35,000 in December 1949. Funds to the extent of Rs. 30,000 were allotted to Assam P. W. D. during 1949-50 and the balance of Rs. 5,000 has been allotted during the current financial year.

RIVER BRIDGE ON GRAND TRUNK ROAD

*268. **Shri Hossain Imam:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the following facts about the bridge on Barakar river in Hazaribagh district on miles 249—251 of Calcutta to Delhi Grand Trunk Road:

- (i) the date when the original bridge was swept away by floods;
- (ii) the cost of the original bridge;
- (iii) the estimates of repairing the original pile bridge;

(iv) the original estimate of the new bridge built and of its approach road;

(v) the date of commencement of the work and approximate date of its completion;

(vi) the cost incurred so far on the bridge and approach road; and

(vii) the estimated final cost?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (i) 18th September 1946.

(ii) Rs. 1,39,780.

(iii) The bridge was considered unsafe and not fit to be repaired.

(iv) Rs. 25.28 lakhs.

(v) The work was commenced in July 1947 and practically completed and opened to traffic in the beginning of July 1950.

(vi) Rs. 22.98 lakhs.

(vii) Rs. 27.14 lakhs.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

*269. **Shri Hossain Imam:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the following facts about sugar production and distribution:

(i) the total production this year and during the last year;

(ii) the total stocks with the Mills on 31st March 1949 and 31st March 1950; and

(iii) the total stocks with Mills on 30th June 1950 and with wholesale agents in the States, on that date?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (i), (ii) and (iii). Three statements giving the available information are placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 20.*]

RAILWAY LANDS (CULTIVATION)

*270. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the area of cultivated lands acquired by the Railways at Barakana, Pochra, and Layo in the district of Hazaribagh and the

neighbouring villages which are not being used by the Railways; and

(b) what arrangements, if any, have been made for the cultivation of those lands?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) and (b). 1948·37 acres of land were acquired in Barkakana, Pochra, Layo and neighbouring villages in the District of Hazaribagh. After retaining the land actually required for the Railway and Military Departments, the balance of 1505·64 acres has been disposed of as follows:

(i) 1299·36 acres of land were handed over by the Railway to the Civil authorities for custody, of which they have leased out 245 acres for cultivation.

(ii) 206·28 acres of land have been leased out by the Railway themselves for cultivation.

UNAUTHORISED WIRELESS SETS

***271. Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of possession of unauthorised Wireless Sets detected since January, 1950; and

(b) the action taken to check the retention of such sets?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) (i) Number of unauthorised transmitting Wireless Sets—32.

(ii) Number of unauthorised receiving Wireless Sets—23,732.

(b) Monitoring stations have been set up to detect illicit wireless transmission and mobile direction finding equipment has been provided to determine the exact location of such transmitters.

To detect unlicensed wireless receivers, wireless Inspectors are provided for the examination of the licences of all receivers and periodical surprise inspections are arranged

by P. & T. officers. The result of action taken is summarised as follows:

18,584—cases compounded by levying surcharge.

423—cases prosecuted.

2,107—cases condoned.

2,618—cases still under correspondence with parties.

TILAIYA DAM PROJECT

***272. Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of electricity that is being generated at Tilaiya dam site since April, 1950;

(b) the quantity of electricity utilised for the work on the site; and

(c) the mode of utilisation of the surplus electricity?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) 195 Kilo-watts.

(b) 195 Kilowatts.

(c) The power station at Tilaiya dam site consists of three 480 K.W. diesel sets. It is estimated that the amount of surplus electricity from the power station, after allowing for standby and full amount of power required for the works, will be about 700 K. W. which the Government of Bihar have agreed to take over for distribution at Kodarma, Hazaribagh and adjacent areas. The supply to Kodarma and Hazaribagh will be available as soon as the Government of Bihar have constructed the transmission lines and are ready to take power.

RAILWAY GUIDES

***273. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the only two Passenger Guides, appointed in August, 1948, under the plan of providing amenities to Class III. passengers, at Ajmer Railway

station, have been brought under retrenchment from November 1949?

(b) Is it a fact that Passenger Guides on other Indian Railways have been allowed to continue?

(c) If so, why have they been abolished only on the B. B. & C. I. Railway?

(d) In view of the Railway Minister's views in the last Budget Session, do the Government of India consider the advisability of restoring these posts for the guidance of general travelling public and if not, why not?

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

(c). Social Guides are to be provided only at such large stations where passengers tranship from one train to another or wait for connecting trains or where there is continuously heavy traffic mainly composed of people from rural areas not accustomed to railway travel. This policy is being followed on all major Indian Railways including the B. B. & C. I. Railway. In accordance with this policy, it was considered unnecessary to provide such Guides at Ajmer.

(d) No restoration of the posts at Ajmer is justified for reasons stated in the answer to clauses (a) to (c) above.

AJMER ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

***274. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:**

(a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Ajmer Electric Supply Co. is unable to meet with the demand for power for lighting and industrial purposes for the city of Ajmer?

(b) If so, what action the Government of India propose to take in the matter; if none, why?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Government of India are aware of the shortage of electric power in Ajmer. Similar shortage of power at present

exists in many other cities in India; due partly to post-war difficulties in obtaining plant and equipment, and, a sharp rise in the demand for power, which has been aggravated in Ajmer by influx of displaced persons.

(b) The Electric Company is understood to be installing a new generating set and also taking other steps to relieve the shortage. The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer, is keeping a careful watch on the activities of this Company.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

***275. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: (a)** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that due to the extension of the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act in the State of Ajmer, the indigenous money lenders in the rural areas have refused to advance money to the Agriculturists, thereby seriously hampering the agricultural activities in the State?

(b) If so, what steps have the Government taken or intend to take to initiate and organise banking facilities for the benefit of rural people in the State?

(c) Have Government any scheme of organising multi-purpose Co-operative Societies for the rural population of the Centrally Administered Areas including Ajmer with a view to implement the recommendations of the Rural Banking Committee?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Reports have been received that money lenders in certain rural areas have curtailed credit facilities to agriculturists on this account.

(b) These reports are under investigation.

(c) Yes. A scheme for organising multi-purpose co-operative societies in the rural areas of Ajmer is under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner.

POSTAL PARCELS AND TELEGRAMS

*276. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that since 1st April, 1950 there has been an all-round reduction in the volume of registered and unregistered parcels and telegrams as compared to that of the past year for the corresponding period?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): Registered parcels (including V.P. and insured parcels) registered a decline during April and May, 1950 as compared with the corresponding months of 1949. During June, 1950, they registered an increase. Figures for unregistered parcels are not kept month by month but, based on the figures of enumeration returns of February, 1950 and February, 1949, they show an increase of 9 per cent. Telegrams during the months April to June, 1950, show an increase as compared with the corresponding months of 1949.

BAUXITE DEPOSITS IN ORISSA

*277. **Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Bauxite deposits have been discovered near Sambalpur in Orissa?

(b) If so, have Government formulated any plan for the exploitation of these deposits?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes, Bauxite deposits have been discovered in Sambalpur District at a distance of about 150 miles from Sambalpur town.

(b) The Central Government have no such plans. The exploitation of mineral deposits is primarily the concern of the State Government.

IRRIGATION WORKS

*278. **Shri Jagannath Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state what were the

amounts sanctioned to various State Governments for minor and major irrigation works to make India self-sufficient in the matter of food by 1951?

(b) Did the State Governments supplement the central grants from their own funds and if so, by what proportion?

(c) What was the total amount proposed by the State of Orissa to be spent for this purpose in the year 1949-50 and 1950-51?

(d) What sums out of the amount stated in part (c) above, were set apart for administrative purpose and for actual irrigation works?

(e) How many works have been completed so far and what is the amount spent?

(f) Did Government get any report of actual increase in the production of food grains attributable to such measure?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a), (c) and (d). Two statements giving the required information in respect of minor irrigation works are placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 21.*] Major irrigation works do not come within the purview of the self-sufficiency plan.

(b) The State Governments are required to make an equal contribution towards the net cost of the scheme, except in the case of Assam and Orissa which make 1/3rd contribution. In the case of schemes financed from food bonus funds, the net subsidy cost of the schemes, which includes both Central and State Government's share of the expenditure, is first debited to the food bonus funds; and the balance, if any, uncovered by the food bonus is shared between the Government of India and the State Government in the proportion mentioned above.

(e) and (f). The State Governments are required to submit monthly and six monthly reports to the Government of India on the working of the schemes. A statement showing

the number of works completed and additional production achieved during 1949-50 is placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 22.] Information regarding the actual expenditure incurred on these works during 1949-50 is not yet available. The work for 1950-51 is at present under progress and it is not possible to give any information for this year.

JUTE

*279. **Shri Jagannath Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state what is the requirement of jute in India?

(b) What was the total production in the years 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 69 lakh bales of jute.

(b) Year	Production (Bales of 400 lbs.)
1947-48	16.58 lakh bales.
1948-49	20.55 lakh bales.
1949-50	31.17 lakh bales.

I might mention that production of mesta fibre, which can be partially substituted for jute, rose from 4 lakhs to 6 lakh bales during 1949-50.

JUTE AND COTTON CULTIVATION

*280. **Shri B. K. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state what acreage of land in different States has been diverted to the cultivation of jute and cotton from that of foodgrains?

(b) How will the resulting deficit in foodgrains be met?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi) (a) Detailed information is not yet available. As soon as it is received from the States a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) By increasing production by means of intensive cultivation and by bringing fallow land under cultivation.

ASSAM RAIL LINK (REPAIRS)

*281. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss sustained by the Assam Rail link in consequence of the floods in June last; and

(b) the estimated cost of necessary repairs?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Rs. 5 lakhs approximately.

(b) The cost of temporary repairs for restoration of traffic including the construction of a temporary pile bridge across the gap in the eastern embankment of the Tista approach is estimated at Rs. 5.75 lakhs. The permanent extension of the Tista Bridge is estimated to cost another Rs. 20 lakhs.

SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION

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

(a) the area cultivated for sugar cane in 1949-50; and

(b) how this area compares with that cultivated in 1948-49?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 36.41 lakhs acres in 1949-50.

(b) It shows a decline of four per cent. in the area of 37.91 lakh acres in 1948-49.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR JASIDIH

*283. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the major Railway accident that took place near Jasidih some time back;

(b) the number of persons dead and injured separately;

(c) in how many cases compensation has already been paid; and

(d) the capital loss to the Railways excluding the compensation paid?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The derailment of 5 Up Punjab Mail between Jasidih and Lahabone stations on the 7th May, 1950, was the result of the track having been tampered with by some unknown person or persons.

(b) 92 killed and 178 injured.

(c) The Claims Commissioner reports that no payment has so far been made.

(d) The approximate cost of damage to the engine, rolling stock and permanent-way was Rs. 1,89,000.

AIR MAIL

***284. Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for the carrying of mails by air from Jorhat, Tezpur and Silchar in Assam?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): First Class mails for and from all these three places are being conveyed by air from 1st of August, 1950.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND CANALS

***285. Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state what measure of support has so far been obtained for India's proposal to set up a new international body to be called the International Commission on Irrigation and Canals?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): Thirteen countries which include some with large irrigation interests have agreed to participate in the Commission. The first meeting of the International Executive Committee of the Commission was held on the 24th and 25th June 1950 at Simla. This was

attended by representatives of 17 countries including 9 representatives of participating countries and 8 observers from 8 other countries. The first plenary session of the Commission has been provisionally proposed to be held on the 9th January 1951 in New Delhi by which time some more countries may possibly agree to join the Commission.

EFFECT OF WEEDS

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

(a) the extent of devastation that is being done to otherwise good fertile land by weeds in various parts in India;

(b) whether weeds have a toxic effect on cattle that graze on it; and

(c) whether any research work is being undertaken regarding biological control of weeds?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No quantitative assessment has been attempted and no reliable data are available.

(b) Some weeds are poisonous to livestock.

(c) None just at present. Biological control is being replaced in recent times by chemical control. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have under consideration a scheme for research on the eradication of a few of the major weeds in each region by the adoption of these modern methods.

IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS

***287. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the amount and cost of the imports of different kinds of food-grain during the period 1st July, 1949 to 30th June, 1950?

(b) What amount is estimated to be imported in the remaining 6 months of 1950, and at what cost?

(c) How do these imports compare with similar imports in the period—1st July 1948 to 30th June 1949; and in the period—1st July 1947 to 30th June 1948?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (c). A statement showing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) 1231 thousand tons of the approximate C and F value of Rs. 47 crores.

STATEMENT

Quantities and C & F values of various kinds of foodgrains imported from abroad during the 3 years ended 30-6-50

Name of commodity	July 47 to June 48		July 48 to June 49		July 49 to June 50	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Wheat	843	3561	1860	6924	1471	5135
Flour	245	1339	101	502	176	829
Rice	796	4308	819	4534	304	1659
Milo	337	1022	310	782	164	423
Barley	203	723	171	513	32	96
Millets	24	74	35	108	5	12
Saize	407	1219	124	359	9	26
Samolma	(less than a thousand)	3	15	97	14	70
Spelt	..	..	8	21	..	..
Rye	..	..	1	2	..	..
TOTAL :	2855	12249	3444	13642	2175	8250

SUGAR

*288. Prof. K. T. Shah: (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state in which areas sugar is still in short supply, and has therefore, to be rationed?

(b) How much quantity of sugar is on an average consumed therein?

(c) What has been the total production of sugar for the season of 1949-50?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Sugar is in short supply all over the country.

(b) Quantity of sugar actually consumed has varied according to the supplies available. Under normal circumstances the annual consumption in this country has been estimated between 12 to 13 lakh tons.

(c) 9.76 lakh tons.

CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

*289. Prof. K. T. Shah: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what progress has been made in regard to the provision of additional accommodation for the increased membership of Parliament under the new Constitution?

(b) What is the estimated cost of such additional accommodation, including the cost of enlarging, air-conditioning and remodelling the Chamber of the House of People?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 23.]

CATTLE INSURANCE

*290. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have considered any scheme of insurance of cattle, and if so, with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): A research pilot scheme on Cattle Insurance has been prepared by an Officer on Special Duty. The scheme is under consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for inclusion in their research programme.

DECONTROLLING OF COMMODITIES

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

(a) the names of articles or commodities which Government have recently decontrolled; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating lifting of control over other commodities in the near future and if so, what are those commodities?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No commodity under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture has been decontrolled recently.

(b) The working of the controls is being constantly reviewed. It would not be in public interest to give further information on this subject.

PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT

*292. **Ch. Ranbir Singh:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the procurement of wheat under monopoly purchase system prevailing in the Punjab State has been slackened in Rohtak district and at several other places in the Punjab State for want of storing facilities;

(b) whether Government are aware that the agriculturists of places referred to in part (a) above are finding it difficult to sell their wheat; and

(c) if so, what step Government propose to take to buy the wheat which comes to markets in these places?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a), (b) and (c). No. In the Rohtak district, however, it is understood, the Punjab Government had to close the Gohana and Mudlana markets for a short while for want of sufficient godown accommodation. Before closing these markets, Government gave a clear notice of three days to the growers so that they could take their produce to other adjoining markets. Gohana market has already been reopened. Mudlana is not a regular market. This was opened just to bring the marketing facilities nearer the home of the growers. The market will, however, be reopened as soon as Government have succeeded in securing sufficient storage accommodation.

PRICE OF GRAM

*293. **Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the disparity of market price of gram from State to State and from rural area to urban area of the same district and State as for example, in Rohtak district of Punjab?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove the disparity of prices of gram prevailing in producing areas and consuming areas throughout the country?

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

(b) The matter is under urgent consideration of Government.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

***294. Shri S. O. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state the names and number of Highways maintained and controlled jointly by Central and State Governments?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): There are no such Highways. National Highways in all States are the responsibility of the Central Government only. State Highways in all Part A and B States are the responsibility of the State Governments only. State Highways in Part C States are the responsibility of the Central Government only. Thus there is no highway whose responsibility is joint.

NEW MINES

***295. Shri S. O. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state whether any mines have been explored in India since August 1947?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): Presuming that the question relates to the discovery of new mineral deposits by the Geological Survey of India since August 1947, a list of the more important discoveries is laid on the Table. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 24.*]

KOSI DAM PROJECT

***296. Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the First Part of the Kosi Dam Project has been broken up into several stages; and

(b) if so, what are the stages, the reasons for the break-up and the date from which the actual construction is to begin?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). The Kosi Project has been planned for execution in seven stages. The reason for the break-up in stages is to facilitate the taking up of each stage as a self-contained project as and when the necessary financial, material and technical manpower resources become available. A statement showing the various stages is laid on the Table of the House [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 25.*] The project report for stage I is now under print. It will then be considered in consultation with the Governments of Nepal and Bihar. It is not possible to say at this stage when the actual construction is likely to be taken in hand.

RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES AND COAL

***297. Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of various types of locomotives purchased annually from the year 1946 up-to-date;

(b) how many of these locomotives are capable of consuming ordinary and non-coking coal and coals of grades II and III;

(c) how many are actually consuming low grade coals;

(d) the quantity of metallurgical high grade coking coal and grade II and III coals consumed annually by the locomotives from the year 1946;

(e) the cost incurred annually for each grade of coal referred to in part (d) above; and

(f) the economy effected on 100 miles by locomotives operated by coal as compared to those operated by electricity?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) A statement giving the information desired is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 26.*]

(b) It is possible to burn ordinary and non-coking coals of Grade II in all these locomotives but this involves an increased coal consumption of from 25 per cent. to 60 per cent. compared with the use of Selected grades of coal. None of these locomotives is designed to burn Grade III quality coal.

(c) The numbers actually consuming Grade II coals at any particular time varies with the quantity of such coals supplied to different Railways.

(d) and (e). The information required by the hon. Member is not readily available.

(f) Comparisons in operating costs of steam and electric locomotives depend on a large number of variable factors including the cost of coal, the cost of electric energy, the cost of conversion from steam to electric traction, the initial costs of steam and electric locomotives, the cost of transport of coal etc., and no general conclusion can be reached without a careful study of these factors on a particular section.

RAILWAY COAL CONSUMPTION

***298. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to my Starred Question No. 801 asked on the 21st December 1949 and state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the leading article of *The New Sketch* of Dhanbad dated the 10th July 1950, emphasising that the contention of the Government in the reply that no metallurgical coal was consumed in the new engines was incorrect?

(b) What are the main recommendations of the Indian Coalfields Committee 1946, Indian Railway Enquiry Committee (The Kunzru Committee) and the Indian Railway

Fuel Committee in the matter of coal consumption by the Railways?

(c) What decisions have been taken by the Government on the recommendations of the reports referred to in part (b) above and on what dates were such decisions taken?

(d) How far the recommendations of the reports and the decisions, if any, of the Government have so far been implemented?

(e) What is the annual cost of coal consumed by Railways from the year 1940 up to date?

(f) What amount and percentage of economy have the Railways effected since the recommendations of the reports referred to in part (b) above?

(g) How long will Government take for a complete change over from the consumption of metallurgical or high grade coking coal to ordinary coking and low grade coal?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) It has not been possible to obtain a copy of the "New Sketch" of Dhanbad dated 10th July 1950, and therefore Government are not aware of the contents of the article referred to.

(b), (c) and (d). The main recommendations of the Committees mentioned by the hon. Member and the decisions reached by Government on these recommendations, as well as the progress so far made in implementing these decisions, are shown in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 27.*]

(e) A statement giving the information desired is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 28.*]

(f) The quantity of coal consumed on Railways and its cost depend upon the engine miles run, the quality of the coal supplied and prevailing prices. Instead of a decrease, there have been increases both in quantity

of coal consumed and its cost to railways as engine miles and prices of coal have shown an upward trend during this period while the quality of coal supplied has deteriorated.

(g) It is not possible to specify a definite period at present. In this connection, the hon. Member's attention is invited to the Final Report of the Committee for Conservation of Metallurgical Coal.

E. P. RAILWAY STORES

***299. Kaka Bhagwant Roy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that huge amount of E. P. R. General stores are lying in the open space at Shakoorbasti?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to save the stores from deterioration?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Some stores of the E. P. Railway, like similar articles on other Railways, are stacked in the open at the Shakoorbasti Stores Depot.

(b) Among these, such articles as are likely to be adversely affected by weathering are protected with tarpaulins, grease etc. and their condition is frequently inspected.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS (AMENITIES)

***300. Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the additional amenities provided for long distance 3rd class passengers and the railways on which they are now available?

(b) Is it a fact that good carriages are not available for 3rd class long distance passengers who reserve their seats on S.I.R. while some of the best carriages are set apart for shuttle services in Trichy?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the first part of the reply given to Starred Question No. 29 asked by Seth Govind Das on the

2nd February, 1950. The amenities mentioned therein are available on all the major Indian Railways.

(b) No; as far as possible only newly turned out 'Indian Railway Standard' type carriages are set apart for long distance third class passengers on the S. I. Railway.

FOOD PROCUREMENT POLICY

***301. Shri Deogirikar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the food procurement policies in the various States of the Indian Union differ?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) Is there any dissatisfaction in States where open market sales of food grains are not permitted on account of this difference in the policy?

(d) Will the procurement of food grains increase or decrease if a uniform policy is adopted everywhere?

(e) Do Government contemplate to adopt a uniform policy?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (e). The food procurement policies in the various States of the Indian Union differ. The reasons for such differences as exist are:

(i) the difference in the supply position of the various States;

(ii) the difference in the available administrative machinery; and

(iii) the individual preference of the State Governments.

In the heavily deficit States where intensive procurement is done there is dissatisfaction about the existence of free markets in the other States.

The entire question of uniform procurement policy and its effect on the procurement of foodgrains has been examined by a Committee presided over by Shri Tirumala Rao, M. P. The report of this Committee is under examination of Government.

HARASSMENT OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS

*302. **Shri Deogirikar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a gang of Baluchis harasses the Railway passengers and robs them between Amalner and Sindkheda Stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the 14th July, 1950, this gang looted several passengers at Nardhana and other stations; and

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

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No, no such report or complaint of harassment of passengers has been received either by the Railway Staff or the Railway Police.

(b) Government are not aware of any such incident.

(c) Does not arise in view of answers to (a) and (b).

'GROW MORE FOOD' SCHEMES

*303. **Shri J. N. Hazarika:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many "Grow More Food" Schemes, small scale as well as large, have been submitted so far by the Government of Assam for approval, and how many of them have been sanctioned; and

(b) what are these schemes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) In all, 22 Grow More Food Schemes have so far been received from the Government of Assam. Out of these 21 have been sanctioned and one is under consideration.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 29.]

DELHI-KASHMIR AIR ROUTE

*304. **Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any complaints have been received from passengers or other persons in regard to the planes put on the Delhi-Kashmir route prior to the Pathankot disaster?

(b) Were representations made to Government that the type of aeroplanes running on the Delhi-Srinagar route were not suitable especially during the monsoon period?

(c) What steps did Government take as a result of the representations prior to the Pathankot disaster?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take now after the Pathankot disaster in regard to the nature of planes flying between Delhi-Srinagar route?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The cause of the accident is being investigated by a Court appointed by the Government, and any necessary action will be taken on the receipt of the report of the Court of Enquiry.

PROCUREMENT OF FOOD GRAINS IN BHOPAL

46. **Thakur Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state what system is followed for the procurement of food grains in Bhopal and whether it is a fact that the merchants buying the food grains, on the pretext of mixture of dust etc., pay to the *kisans* much less than the fixed prices and take 2 seers extra for every *mani* of food grains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): Jowar, wheat and gram are procured only

for export under a system of monopoly purchase through purchasing agents. One agent is appointed for each sector.

It is understood that there have been no complaints to the effect that the agents are paying less than the approved procurement price. 2 seers per *mani* (160 seers) is being charged extra for admixture and dirt as margin for quality rebates payable by the Agent to the recipient administrations according to the F.A.Q. specifications of the Government of India.

ARREST OF P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

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

(a) the number of Posts and Telegraphs employees who were arrested and detained early in 1949 in connection with the strike which was, however, subsequently called off;

(b) the number of such employees who were dismissed from service;

(c) the number of those who have since been reinstated; and

(d) the reasons why the others have not been reinstated?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Altogether 55 employees were arrested or detained by the Police early in 1949 under the relevant Security Acts of the State Governments and not specifically in connection with the Strike.

(b) 19 (including those removed or discharged from service).

(c) 16.

(d) The cases of the remaining 20 officials are still under consideration. Adequate steps have already been taken to ensure their expeditious disposal.

NEW HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

48. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what amount has been spent in the year 1949 for construction of new highways and roads from the Petrol Fund?

(b) What is the programme for the year 1950 for construction of these roads?

(c) How much money has been spent during this year for maintenance of these roads?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) A total expenditure of about Rs. 135 lakhs, inclusive of an amount of about Rs. 42 lakhs recoverable from the Defence Services Estimates, was incurred on the construction and improvement of roads in the former Governors' and Chief Commissioners' Provinces during the financial year 1949-50. Information regarding expenditure incurred in the former Indian States during this period is not available.

(b) The programme for the year 1950-51 envisages a total expenditure of Rs. 237 lakhs approximately.

(c) Under the Road Fund Resolution maintenance charges cannot, ordinarily, be met from the Central Road Fund. No expenditure has been incurred from the Fund on this account during the year 1949-50, nor is such expenditure expected to be incurred from the Fund in 1950-51.

RICE FROM BURMA

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

(a) whether an agreement has been reached with the Government of Burma for the purchase of rice; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity and what is the price of that rice?

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

- (b) **Quantity:** 1,00,000 tons.
Prices: Rs. 20-5-3 F. O. B. per maund for Milchar No. 1
 Rs. 20-1-4 F. O. B. per maund for Milchar No. 2
 Rs. 19-9-6 F. O. B. per maund for small Mills special.

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL PLANTS

50. Shri Jnani Ram: Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether any research is being carried on for the investigation of indigenous medicinal plants in India and if so, what?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix III, annexure No. 30.*]

PRIVILEGE OF FREE POSTAGE

51. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Departments of the Central Government like the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Departments and those of any Departments of the Governments of States which enjoy the privilege of free postage;

(b) whether for the sake of uniformity there is any proposal of abolishing this privilege wherever it exists; and

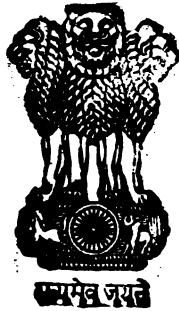
(c) if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) All Branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, namely, Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones and Wireless, are permitted to send correspondence relating to P. & T. matters free of postage by using the superscription "Posts and Telegraphs" and by franking by the Officers of the Department. The Government of India Forms Press, Aligarh, and the Government of India Presses, Simla, Delhi and Calcutta, are also allowed to send letters etc. free of charge in connection with work required solely by P. & T. Department.

(b) No.

(c) The practice now followed is only an extension of the Universal Postal Convention under which communications relating to Postal and Telegraph matters between one Postal Administration and another are carried free. The abolition of this concession and its substitution by the use of service postage stamps for communication between one branch of the Administration and another would only mean avoidable expenditure on the use of service postage stamps.

Monday, 7th 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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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

*Monday, 7th August, 1950**The House met at a Quarter to
Eleven of the Clock*[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-51 A.M.

DEATHS OF SHRI AKHIL
CHANDRA DATTA AND SHRI
GOPINATH BARDOLOI.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the very sad demise of two of our distinguished friends. One is that of Shri Akhil Chandra Datta who was a prominent member of the Legislature. He was in the Bengal Legislative Council and he resigned his seat in 1930 under the mandate of the Congress. He was for some time President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and also one of the oldest Congressmen of Bengal. He was a Member of the Central Legislature till December 1934 and then its Deputy-President up to 1945. He passed away at a comparatively ripe age, but all the same, we feel very sad at his demise.

The second person I should mention is a very prominent figure and known

to many of us very closely, and that is Shri Gopinath Bardoloi. He died at a very young age and at a time when his services and guidance were very useful and needed by us in connection with the present situation. As we all know, he was the Premier of Assam and was a Member of the Constituent Assembly. He died all of a sudden.

We naturally mourn the loss of these two friends and our sympathies and condolences go to the families of the deceased.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I should like to join with you in the expression of sorrow at the passing away of these two eminent countrymen of ours, Shri Akhil Chandra Datta and Shri Bardoloi. Shri Dutta, as you said, Sir, has passed away at a ripe age, and though the passing away of an old friend and leader is a matter of sorrow, yet he lived his life and did his duty to his country in many ways. The passing away of Shri Gopinath Bardoloi, a relatively young person in full harness and bearing on his broad shoulders the responsibility of one of the most difficult States in India, is a very severe blow to us—not only to his State of Assam but to all of us in this country. There are many millions and millions of people in this country—we count them in the hundreds of millions—but when it comes to assuming

[**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru**]
responsibility, discharging duties, the numbers become rather limited. When it comes to occupying a post of difficulty the numbers become still more limited. And so, when one of them drops out it produces a gap which is always rather difficult to fill. For many of us who have been Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi's comrades and colleagues in past years, it is a personal sorrow: the passing away of a friend and comrade. As these old comrades pass away and as the old ranks are thinning out, a sense of loneliness comes over us and the future becomes more solitary than the present. The passing away of Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi has been a deep sorrow to us, and I join with you, Sir, and I am sure the whole House joins with you, in what you have said about his sad demise.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

STRIKE BY DELHI TONGAWALAS

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of two adjournment motions—both on the same subject, namely, the strike by the Delhi Tongawalas' Union, consequent upon, as is alleged here, the failure of Government to supply gram to the horses of the Tongawalas. The hon. Members who have given notice are Shri Shibban Lal Saksena and Shri Deshbandhu Gupta. In addition, I have already received—prior to the receipt of these notices—notice of a short notice question. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta also has given notice of another short notice question on the same subject.

Now, apart from the short notice questions, I have already explained, *in extenso*, in this House when I gave my ruling on the adjournment motion relating to the escape of Mir Laik Ali, the grounds on which adjournment motions should be tabled and would be admissible. I do not think the present matter is of such importance, in the whole set-up now, or is of such urgency as will justify giving my consent to this adjournment motion. There are already, as I said just now, short

notice questions, which I am going to admit; I trust the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture will be willing to answer them. Therefore, I do not think there is any need for me to proceed with these adjournment motions.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Will the short notice questions be taken up tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: That will depend upon the hon. Minister's convenience.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri K. M. Munshi**): I will be replying to both the questions tomorrow.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): May I point out that the strike of about 10,000 tonga and rehriwalas for three days continuously is certainly a matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. Speaker: I agree entirely that it is a very important matter so far as Delhi city is concerned, but the hon. Member should remember that Parliament is sitting here for doing business for the entire country and for considering various very important questions, one of which relates to the Bengal situation. So the importance has to be judged relatively and not absolutely and not from the point of view of the convenience of Delhi citizens only.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of order. I submit to your ruling regarding adjournment motions, but I would request you to give us the precise reasons as to why the present adjournment motions are not allowed or are declared to be out of order. My fear is that the situation and circumstances in which the House is placed at present are such that without such an explanation, things may not be properly interpreted by future Parliaments. My difficulty therefore is procedural. I want a clear ground on which the present motions are declared out of order.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going into the merits. I have already stated that I am not giving my consent, because I do not agree—whatever the importance of the matter may be to Delhi citizens—that this question is of such urgent importance that Parliament should adjourn for its discussion. That is the specific ground on which I am withholding my consent.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, may I submit that in deciding the urgency of this question, you should kindly take into consideration the fact that Centrally Administered Areas have no other forum for the expression of their grievances in such matters. So far as Delhi is concerned, the strike is causing great inconvenience to its people and as such is very important from their point of view.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has not caught the point of my ruling. The matter certainly is an urgent matter but it has to be of importance, and there, I have said that the matter is not of such importance as to warrant an adjournment of the House. Apart from that, the hon. Member himself has tabled a short notice question which is going to be answered tomorrow. That is one remedy. If he is not satisfied with the information given, he has another remedy, namely the half-hour discussion. Thus, adjournment motion is not the only way; there are a number of ways. So no further arguments on this, and we shall proceed with the further business of the House.

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

NOTIFICATIONS MAKING CERTAIN FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIAN AIRCRAFT RULES, 1920 AND 1937.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Ministry of Communications' Notifications making certain further amend-

ments to the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1920 and 1937 under sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934:

(i) Notification No. 10-A/2-48 dated the 26th September 1949.

(ii) Notification No. 11-A/1-49 dated the 4th November 1949.

(iii) Notification No. 10-A/5-49 (i) dated the 20th March 1950.

(iv) Notification No. 10-A/2-48 dated the 24th April 1950.

(v) Notification No. 10-A/56-48 dated the 29th May 1950.

(vi) Notification No. 10-A/4-49 dated the 26th July 1950.

[Placed in the Library. See No. P-106/50]

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND BONUS SCHEMES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I introduce the Bill.

AJMER RURAL BOARDS AND MUNICIPALITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satyanarayan Sinha): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Ajmer Rural Boards Regulation, 1886, and the Ajmer-Merwara Municipalities Regulation, 1925.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Ajmer Rural Boards Regulation, 1886, and the Ajmer-Merwara Municipalities Regulation, 1925."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I introduce the Bill.

ALLIANZ UND STUTTGARTER
LIFE INSURANCE BANK,
(TRANSFER) BILL

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Sri Prakasa): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer of the business of the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank, Limited, to the United India Life Assurance Company Limited, and for matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer of the business of the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank, Limited, to the United India Life Assurance Company, Limited, and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I introduce the Bill.

CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA
BILL.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Contingency Fund.

Mr. Speaker: The question:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Contingency Fund."

The motion was adopted.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When this Session was convened, it was hoped that we might finish our work by Friday the 11th of this month, but the way we have proceeded thus far has taken more time than was estimated to begin with. There are certain important measures still which require full discussion by the House. I may mention that, apart from those that have already been placed before the House in some form or other, there might be one or two others which have not thus far been placed before the House dealing with urgent situations arising now. Therefore, I think it is necessary for this House to sit not only on Saturday next but also on Monday, the 14th of this month.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose it is definite that we won't sit beyond Monday.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I hope not, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I think there should be no objection to that. We shall sit, therefore, on Saturday the 12th and also on Monday the 14th.

MOTION RE: BENGAL SITUATION

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg to move:

"That the Bengal situation with reference to the agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan signed on the 8th April, 1950, be taken into consideration".

I have been thinking what would be the best way for me to deal with this motion before this House, because there are so many aspects of it and the House no doubt is interested in all these aspects. But, on the other hand, if I go into all these details it may be that we might lose sight of the main theme: we might lose ourselves in the trees and miss the wood itself.

People often talk of the success or failure of this agreement. Many of our friends right from the first day the agreement came to be signed were talking about the success or failure of it—many of them prophesying failure, many of them expressing certainly in their mind that it is bound to fail. It was rather an odd approach to this question. Nevertheless, there it was.

Now, what exactly does this talk of success or failure of this agreement mean? My poor mind has tried to grapple with it and has not quite understood it. This agreement was meant to deal with a particular and a very serious situation that had arisen, especially in East Bengal, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura and as a consequence of that it had affected the whole of India and the relationship of India with Pakistan. We met to deal with that particular situation which, of course, was the outcome of many other things that had happened previously. No one thought—certainly I did not think—that this agreement was going to solve the major problem which might be called the Indo-Pakistan problem. Apart from everything else the House knows that there are a number of other matters of great importance. There is Kashmir, there is the evacuee property, a problem which affects large numbers of people, and the Canal water question which has also assumed some importance. Now, obviously, all these major problems were not touched by this agreement.

Therefore, this agreement was meant to deal with a particular situation which had come to a head in East and West Bengal and surrounding areas. It was meant to stop a certain drift towards catastrophe. It was meant to bring some relief to vast numbers of people both in East Bengal and West Bengal, the minorities in both countries who were suffering tremendously, who were living in constant fear and, in fact, who were even prevented from migrating, more by force of circumstances, not by any statute or law. So the immediate

object was to put an end to that grave tension and danger and to bring relief to millions of people and to produce an atmosphere which would take us towards the solution of many of those important problems that had arisen in Bengal, in the hope that as a better atmosphere came we could take measures, step by step towards some kind of a solution. But remember that that solution ultimately depended not on agreements in regard to Bengal alone, but on the total context of Indo-Pakistan relations. Therefore, for people to talk of the success or failure of this agreement seems to me to be completely beside the point.

Speaking, I hope with due moderation, I would say that few things to my knowledge have succeeded so tremendously as this agreement and anyone who talks about it as a failure is thinking on a different line, or has not got the facts with him, or there is something radically wrong either with my thinking or that person's thinking, because I do not know what they mean. One may say, and one could rightly say, that the position in Bengal, in West Bengal or East Bengal, is not a satisfactory one. I agree entirely. One may say that all kinds of difficulties persist there, that minorities are by no means happy or secure. I agree. Let us face that problem; let us deal with it. But to say that the agreement has failed does not convey anything to me. You may, perhaps, say that the agreement has not solved the problem of Bengal completely. Well and good, it has not. I never thought that it would, although I did think that it would help us to bring a solution of the problem and in my opinion it has helped more than I expected it would help us. True, conditions in Bengal are not satisfactory; true also that they are infinitely more satisfactory than they were. You can draw the line where you like.

The real thing is that we have been suffering in India, not only in Bengal but also in other parts—and also in

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

Pakistan, probably—from a fever, from a sickness, which did not begin even from partition, but which partition certainly aggravated. It began earlier than that. We thought, perhaps mistakenly, that we could get rid of that fever by that surgical operation which was partition. Other forms of eruptions followed that partition on a big-scale, which affected the whole body of India and no doubt the whole of Pakistan. So, here is this deepseated illness, the disease with which we are dealing, which comes out in all kinds of shapes and forms and which will no doubt take a considerable time to heal. If we do not solve the problem quickly and suddenly, it is not surprising. We are dealing with enormous social and economic upsets in the minds of millions of people. It is not a small matter.

I may remind the House of one thing. We talk about migrations. There have been migrations on a tremendous scale since August 1947. But I should like the House to remember that this business of migration did not begin in August 1947. It began earlier than partition. It began in Bengal a year before from Noakhali and other places. It began in the Punjab, especially from the Pindi and the Multan areas, in March 1947 many months before partition. There was that disease, that mounting fever, at work which we tried to deal with in our way whether it was right or wrong we need not discuss at the present moment and that was by partition. Partition dealt with it in a way and brought in other forms of eruption. We have been trying to face them and deal with them ever since.

I mention this background because people seem to think that the troubles that we have been faced with are easy of treatment and, perhaps, can even be treated by strong language, whether it takes the form of a resolution or a speech. May I also remind the House that during this period, if we look at this question objectively, we have had to face

trouble not only created or originating from Pakistan—and that we have taken notice of quickly enough—but plenty of trouble which has originated in our own country. And I think we will not be taking a balanced view of the situation in this country unless we look at both sides. I say so with all deference because when I read the various amendments of which notice has been given, it seems to me that not a single one of them has even tried to consider what has happened on this side. They have only looked at the sins of others, not at our sins, not at our failings. And I think if we do that we do the wrong thing. We not only do the wrong thing but we fail to understand the situation. And if we fail to understand the situation we must necessarily fail to deal with it. I find from reading these notices of amendments that most of them concern themselves with condemning the Pakistan Government. Most of them want us to do something *vis-a-vis* the Pakistan Government. Most of them, in fact, want us to make Pakistan to do something.

Now, that is an interesting matter for you to consider. Pakistan is a foreign Government. One deals with a foreign Government, roughly speaking, in two ways. One is the way of negotiation with such pressure as can be exercised through negotiation—whatever the pressure may be, political, economic, diplomatic, but fundamentally it is the way of negotiation. The other is the way of war. There is no third way. There may be many types of negotiation. Or, there may be, of course, an intermediate stage, that is, neither war nor peace but breaking off of relations. These facts should be borne in mind. When hon. Members advise the Government to do this and that, that is, to make Pakistan do this and that, what exactly does it mean? Would any hon. Member advise me to do this and that, let us say, with respect to the United States of America or to the United Kingdom or to Russia? Not in this context; not in this way.

We are dealing with a foreign country, and we have to deal with it in ways which international usage has laid down. I am not quite sure how far—it might be my ignorance but I might put the difficulty to you—it is right and proper for a House like this to discuss the condemnation of a foreign country. It might be right for aught I know, but normally speaking I believe it is not supposed to be done. But this is just the background.

Let us come to the actual facts of the case insofar as Bengal is concerned. There is no doubt about it that conditions in East Bengal and West Bengal are not normal. There is no doubt about it that there is a feeling of frustration and insecurity in the mind of the minorities. Now, I shall express my own opinion for what it is worth, because one can't judge. I think that, on the whole, the Muslim minority in West Bengal—which also certainly, I think, suffers from a feeling of frustration and a certain insecurity—is relatively more secure than the Hindu minority in East Bengal. It is a relative matter. And I want you to remember that so far as the Muslims in West Bengal are concerned they are frustrated. I say so with certainty, and I say so with a certain measure of knowledge also that that might apply to large numbers of Muslims in other parts of India too. Let us not by any means please ourselves by saying that we have done this and others have failed. For my part I am prepared to apply one test, and it is an adequate and sufficient test for me. I am prepared to apply the test to Pakistan and to India. And the test is this. What does the minority think the majority is doing? Not what the majority thinks. So long as the minority in Pakistan itself does not feel secure and does not give a hint to the majority, so long there is something wrong there. I am prepared to apply it to India too. So long as the minority in India does not feel secure and is not prepared to give a hint to the majority, so long there is something wrong here.

Because, we must consider the picture on both sides evenly; objectively and fairly. If we do not do so we put ourselves in the wrong and take a lopsided view of the situation.

There is so much talk of exodus. So many times it has been said that there is a one-sided exodus. I am amazed at it because nothing could be falser than that statement. It has not been, for one day, a one-sided exodus—not for one day, not for one hour. How then dare any one tell me that it is one-sided? It is not so, I say. True, there may be more on one side than on the other. True, in the balance, the numbers on one side may be greater. But to go on repeating that it is a one-sided affair is absolute falsehood and wrong and contrary to the facts. Look at the figures. I have supplied you the figures, and I stand by them. It is no use telling me that the figures are wrong. My figures are based on the normal ways of getting figures, that is, through the railway operators, the Provincial Government operators. I have not got any particular agents of mine. It is the West Bengal Government's apparatus and the Railway Department's (Mr. Gopalswami Ayyanger's) apparatus that jointly and separately work to get these figures for us the railway tickets sold etc. We cannot check every individual case. But I think that is as good a way of getting at the numbers as any that might be devised. We cannot be sure of people crossing the borders on foot. That is difficult. We can only estimate that. But in regard to people who travel by air, by steamer or by rail we can be fairly certain, and we are fairly certain about them. So, we give you these figures. Look at these figures carefully. If you take West and East Bengal for the moment and the proportion of the Hindu minority in East Bengal and the Muslim minority in West Bengal and then compare the figures of exodus from one side to the other, I think, you will find relative to their

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population the exodus was more or less the same. There is not much difference. What do we come to then? We come to this that conditions were produced for the minorities both in East Bengal and West Bengal which were not to their liking, which in fact exercised a powerful pressure upon them to leave their hearths and homes and migrate. Without going into a deep enquiry one can come to that conclusion. You know, and this House knows, that plenty of Muslims migrated from Uttar Pradesh. Again, without any enquiry one can say straight off that conditions were produced there which compelled them to migrate. It is no good saying that they were invited by a few persons to do so. The fact is that the conditions were such that they were afraid, that they felt insecure and went. When these conditions were reversed, well they felt better, more secure now and they are coming back. So you see these upsets, and all the failings of narrow-minded humanity at work whether in regard to property, trying to take of other property or pushing them out or in other ways. And if you want to deal with this problem, you will not deal with it by saying: "Here we are of spotless purity and conduct and there the people in Pakistan are sinful and pushing out people". If that is said, I say it is an untruth. An untruth will not succeed and will not prosper.

Now, coming back to this situation, if you examine the figures of migrations, disturbing as they are, you will see that they continue to create a more and more difficult situation. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of improvement. I cannot say if that improvement is fast enough to catch up with the other disturbing features of the situation. I am disturbed, I am distressed, I am not content with things that are happening, that is true, but I am merely pointing out to you that, if you examine the figures as well as certain other factors to which I shall refer, the situation is an improving

one. Whether that improvement is rapid enough to catch up with events, with other events, I cannot say and it may be that the West Bengal Government or any of our Government may be faced with a more and more difficult situation with which they cannot easily deal either politically or economically. Therefore, we have to be wary and vigilant and try to do our best. Nevertheless, the position improves, both in regard to numbers, that is the minorities will go back, and in regard to other matters too.

Now, I have said and I repeat that my opinion is that the Hindu minority in East Bengal feels—it is an important fact how they feel—insecure and, therefore, they cannot settle down, you might say and there is a tendency to come away or even if they remain, they do not know how long, they will remain; that is a fact, I think. I think also that gradually and slowly a certain feeling of normality is coming back in the relationship of peoples. I am quite sure that that feeling of normality has grown greatly in West Bengal; it is not fully normal yet but it has grown, although in the course of the last two or three months there were two or three rather bad incidents in West Bengal. Nevertheless, the Government and the people there have gradually got over them and thus a feeling of normality has grown. I cannot easily say how fast that feeling might grow in East Bengal; it is difficult to judge. On the whole, conditions are still very insecure there. The insecurity comes not from major incidents but rather from a breakdown of the law and order situation there. There are dacoities, plenty of them and often enough, these dacoities take place on the houses of members of the minority community and we have had far too many complaints of molestation of women in connection with these dacoities. It is very difficult to say definitely how many of these complaints can be proved or not, because we get complaints naturally from

refugees and we get complaints sometimes two or three weeks after the incident. Nevertheless, we try and we are trying to lay down the procedure whereby every complaint should be investigated fully, whether it is a complaint by us in regard to what happened in East Pakistan or by others in regard to what happened in West Bengal.

Two things might be said, apart from these incidents that have happened. There has been a very definite improvement in regard to two matters. One is the abduction of women and the other is the so-called forcible conversions. Our reports are that practically forcible conversions do not take place at all. Our reports are in regard to the abduction of women that such cases have occurred some time ago, some months ago and no fresh cases have been reported. The number reported even previously was relatively small and each case is being investigated. Some have been investigated and results achieved and a number have still to be investigated. Relatively the number is not great, although, of course, however small the number, one must have an effective machinery to deal with it. However, our opinion is that in regard to abduction of women and in regard to conversions, practically speaking, nothing is being done and no particular complaint is laid. Because of that and because of some other factors, I venture to tell the House that gradually there is a return to normality and because of the other factors and specially the incidents, I have come to the conclusion that the normality is still far off, and so you can balance the two and I do know how things might shape themselves; it depends on so many things in India and in Pakistan, our relations with Pakistan, apart from Bengal.

One other factor has to be remembered and that is this: The administrative apparatus of East Pakistan is acknowledged to be rather poor. After partition, most of the efficient officers came away to West Bengal or elsewhere and left East

Bengal with very junior and rather second-rate people to carry on the administration. Some others were imported there from outside, not in touch with the Province, not understanding them. Generally the administrative apparatus compared to West Bengal is very poor, and that is another difficulty that comes in dealing with the law and order situation there. I have no doubt at all that the Central Government in Pakistan has anxiously, and to the best of its ability, tried to give effect to this Agreement of April 8th, just as we have done here. I think the Provincial Government of East Pakistan, on the whole, also tried to do so. I have not been quite clear about every act. Some acts have seemed to me to be quite wrong. I am by no means clear how the petty officials have behaved there; many of them have not behaved correctly. You know in the terms of the agreement, we appointed two Central Ministers of our Governments. our Government appointed a Minister and the Pakistan Government appointed a Minister too and those two Ministers were specially charged with seeing to the implementation of this agreement. We have had about two months or a little more experience of their work; they have toured about a great deal and made various recommendations etc. and in the course of the last few days, I have been seeing a great deal of them; both of them were here as well as the Chairman of the Minorities Commissions and Chief Secretaries of West Bengal and East Bengal. I should like to say that both these gentlemen, our own Minister Mr. Biswas and the Pakistan Minister Dr. Malik, have in my opinion, done extraordinarily good work. I need not say much about our own colleague, Mr. Biswas, because he is our colleague. But, I should like to express my appreciation of the work of Dr. Malik, the Pakistan Minister, who has been working with him. So, we find a difficult situation, which honest people are trying to grapple with, trying to solve it, coming up against the difficulties, against evil

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru] designs of other people, against inertia of the people, against economic collapse, against the whole upset, we may say, of the social fabric, more especially in East Pakistan. With all these difficulties, we see a highly complicated situation. If you want me to say or describe it in a sentence or a phrase I cannot do it. If you really say it is all the fault of Pakistan, I think you are wrong. Nobody, not even the bravest of us, can suddenly solve the problems. We are trying to do our best.

I should like to mention one thing which has troubled me considerably; that is the question of requisitioning of houses in East Pakistan. We attached importance to this right from the beginning and I mentioned it to Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan that things were not very satisfactory. Suddenly in July, that is less than a month ago, we got a crop of complaints of requisitioning and we were surprised and amazed at this. We protested. To my amazement, we were told that these houses were being requisitioned by agreement with the Government of India. That surprised me: Then, when we required further, it was found that I was supposed to be the culprit; that is to say, a letter of mine to the Pakistan Government was pointed out. Now, that letter of mine dealt with agricultural land entirely and completely. We were discussing the question of giving back the agricultural lands to the returning migrants. The Chief Minister of West Bengal Government had said that it was a little difficult for him suddenly to push out the people, refugees and others, who had been placed there to cultivate the land, because the lands could not be allowed to remain fallow on account of the food situation, and that he would get back the lands after they had reaped the harvest. Meanwhile, we had agreed to give every kind of accommodation, etc., to the returning migrants in this intervening period. There was argument about that between Pakistan and India. I had written to the Pakistan Government

what the Chief Minister of West Bengal had said to me that these people may be allowed to remain till they complete the harvest and then the lands will be returned. If the Pakistan Government wants to do likewise, obviously, we cannot object to it. We were talking about agricultural land. They apparently extended that to urban properties and houses and started requisitioning on a large scale, on a very big scale. I think in the month of July 811 houses were requisitioned, all over East Bengal, a pretty large number.

I would like to draw attention to another aspect of the East Bengal situation. We talk about forty lakhs of people having come away from East Bengal since the Partition. Most of them, of course, came away long before this year, long before this Agreement. Half of them came before this year. Quite a number of them came almost immediately after the partition because they wanted to come over and that process, though slow, still continues. This process was largely a process of the middle class elements leaving East Bengal because of pressure of circumstances, because of all kinds of things. They were in a sense squeezed out by circumstances from East Bengal; they could not carry on their professions successfully, practice at the bar or the medical profession, and so on and so forth. The problem has been there. Many stayed there. In this last migration, many more middle class people came away. Even now, some middle class people remain there. After all, remember this that 10 million people, nearly a crore of Hindus, are still in East Pakistan. It is a very large number. It is true that a very large number of middle class people have come over; it is also true that specially after these February-March disturbances people like teachers came over. Schools were closed; educational institutions ceased to function, so that the normal life of the minority community was completely upset there. There are children without schools and school

masters without children and so on. All these upsets have taken place. It is impossible to get back to the pre-upset stage. That is very difficult. We cannot do it by any amount of juggling. I do not know what the future holds. It may be that some new equilibrium will be established. Some people say that not a single Hindu can remain in East Bengal. I am not a prophet; I cannot say. But, I should imagine that, normally speaking, a very large number of Hindus will remain there. Something may happen tomorrow as between India and Pakistan which worsens our relations. That would be an upset and would widen the gap and make it more difficult. Something may happen which might bridge the gap. There are so many uncertain quantities in this that I cannot say. Normally speaking, I see no reason why a very large number of Hindus should not remain there and a very large number of Muslims remain in West Bengal. Although I know that the exodus is continuing on both sides, it is after all a matter for serious consideration. The other aspect of it is that since April 8, since the date of Agreement, there has been a continuous flow back of minorities who had migrated previously, both Hindu and Muslim. You have got the figures. Since I gave you the figures in the printed leaflet, the figures have changed because they are added to every day. The figures up to the 3rd of this month of Hindus who have gone back to Pakistan from West Bengal was 600,000. Six hundred thousand is a fairly considerable number. A number of them, no doubt, go there to get their goods and chattels, and come back. Our own estimate is—it can only be an estimate after some enquiry—that that figure is 15 per cent. of those who go. Out of these 600,000, we may say 100,000 have come back. Even so, half a million people remain. That is a fair number. If you examine the figures, again you will find that these people who go back take a large number of women—young women and children. People do not take their

young women and children, normally speaking, if they are just going to get hold of their property.

There are two processes at work; one process, a very powerful one, making the minorities in East Bengal insecure and frightened, the future appearing dark to them and, therefore, tending to squeeze them out; and the other process of people going back, no doubt with mixed motives, partly, no doubt, because they find no particular help given to them, and no particular opening in West Bengal. They want to go back partly on account of attraction of property and various other things. Nevertheless obviously, the great fear that drove them out does not exist, otherwise, that would overcome all the other attractions. So, the question is what we are to do in the circumstances? What are the possible ways out for us?

The various amendments that have been proposed mostly refer to Pakistan doing something or our making Pakistan do something. Whether it is a question of exchange of population in that region or elsewhere, or some kind of territorial redistribution, or whether it is simply, as some people say, an annulment of Partition, I must confess that when I read these proposals and resolutions which very responsible people pass, I begin to doubt my own sanity or the sanity of the others. Something must be wrong somewhere; and as I naturally cannot easily examine my own mental apparatus, I suspect that the other's has gone wrong. Now, if people go ahead and talk in connection with the Bengal problem or the refugee problem about an annulment of partition, that raises a number of issues. One of them, of course, is that they are proposing something which involves a war and a conflict on a prodigious scale. And even if you go through such a war, what happens after the war is another matter. After, if you like, a victorious war, what then? But leaving that

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 out, what I am interested in is, this approach of any help to the minorities? Now, with all deference, I would like each hon. Member to consider how either an individual member of the minority community or the minority community as a whole, is going to be helped this way. A way that involves a big-scale conflict means that the first victims of that conflict are the minorities themselves, and we do not help them at all in this way. Secondly, that way involves the uprooting and upsetting of all things and does not produce conditions for rehabilitation about which we talk so much either here or elsewhere. In fact, you put an end to the whole idea of rehabilitation, or setting or solving a single problem of the minority community, in the hope that after you have removed all kinds of obstructions in the shape of a foreign State etc. then you would deal with the problem. But meanwhile the minorities, or a good part of them, may cease to be. Every one of these proposals involves an upheaval and upsetting and conflict, and sometimes though not always, war. You do not help these minorities at all. Of course, you may say that in the national interest, taking everything together, it is worthwhile doing this or that, and pay a heavy price for it. I can understand that argument, whether I agree with it or not. But you cannot say that it is done in order to help the minorities, in order to settle them or rehabilitate them. You cannot say that, because in fact what you suggest does not help them at all, but would cause the greatest possible distress and possibly much worse than distress. You will uproot them completely.

And take the other proposals, even of exchange of populations. I ventured to describe that some months ago, I think in this House, or may be elsewhere, as a completely impracticable and fantastic proposal. I would like to repeat that. It is fantastic and impracticable and this Government will have nothing to do with that, more so because it is some-

thing which is completely opposed to the whole political, economic, social and spiritual basis for which we stand, and so long as this Government remains where it is it will not have anything to do with it. It will not touch it with a pair of tongs or a barge pole. Let us be quite clear about it. If you want to proceed with that, then you have to change the whole basis of not only this Government, but all that we had stood for all these thirty years and more, during the whole Congress movement and the whole freedom movement in this country. You will have to change the very basis upon which we had fought, the spiritual and other basis for which we stood. Other people I can understand, who have never had that basic background, I can very well understand them flailing about without any convictions or anchor or faith; but we have a certain anchor, and if that anchor goes, we go with it. We cannot change to-day and leave the anchor that held us all these years and that faith that has kept us going. Therefore, let us be quite clear that these proposals are fantastic and impracticable, not only because they involve war or something approaching war, but also because in trying to work them out, you destroy the minorities, you uproot millions and you spend the rest of your life and the next generation's life in trying to settle them down. And there is something even greater involved in this. It is a question of faith. It involves the whole spiritual background on which we have stood and which is even more important than the inconvenience and the distress which may be caused to us by taking any particular action. Therefore, I would beg this House to look at this question from this point of view and also from the practical point of view.

Now, people talk to us in regard to this Agreement and say that it has failed, that anyhow the Agreement has not done its job. Very well, but the Agreement is not a law which cannot be touched. Sometimes some

of our own Secretaries to Government go on carrying on with East Bengal or West Bengal a tremendous amount of correspondence about the interpretation of this line or that line in the Agreement, as if that has become a final statute which has to be interpreted. I have no patience, I am sorry, with this kind of business and I have told them so. You leave aside the Agreement, let us consider the problem. What are you going to interpret there? I am prepared to say something else now that is more suitable. After all the importance of the Agreement is in its approach, not in this article or that paragraph of the Agreement. Where necessary we can change the paragraph, and we can make a fresh agreement. The whole point is in the approach of the Agreement, and the approach of the Agreement was such as the House knows, that it thrilled the whole country; it made a difference to the world, it made a difference to millions and millions of people, Hindus and Muslims in India and Pakistan. That was the approach, the friendly approach which made them feel that a great burden was going to be lifted from their shoulders, that we are going to settle these things by friendly discussions, by negotiations and so forth. Either that approach continues or this approach of hurling abuse at each other, trying to make out that it is the other's duty to do this or that. If we perform our duty, others are likely to perform theirs, and we will be in a position almost to enforce performance by them. But if we do not perform our own job and duty, then surely we have neither the might, nor the strength nor the power to make others do their duty. Therefore, I would beg the House to consider this matter from this point of view, of the approach.

And again, it is not good having an approach which is neither this nor the other. I can understand, though I disapprove of it, the approach of defiance and of war and taking the consequences of all that. Well, a

nation does that when it feels like it. Or, I can understand the approach of friendly negotiation, trying to get as much as we can out of it. But in a middle course, you lose the advantage of either. It means nothing at all. It becomes a weak man's approach. You do not get the benefits of the friendly approach nor those of the approach of defiance which does not weigh the consequences. Therefore, do not have a middle approach. And as far as I can see, there can be no approach at this time, and under the circumstances there should be no approach of the warlike kind. Therefore, we come from that to the other approach. And having done that, let us not talk about it as something which we do not believe in, which we have no faith in, and one which we think is bound to fail but through the generosity of our hearts we permitted to function for a few months and then we shall see. That is not the way to deal with serious matters: it is not the way of dealing with grave matters of policy. If one disagrees with anything let us fight it and put an end to it, politically or otherwise but a kind of inner sabotage all the time like this is not going to do any good.

Therefore, I submit that so far as this agreement is concerned it has done a great deal of good. It has not solved the problem: nor was it expected to and we have to deal with that problem in all its aspects, not in any way we like, but in the spirit of that agreement and not its details. Because the alternative to that, the only valid alternative, is defiance, the alternative of conflict. In between there may be some slight variations of emphasis. The position is a grave one. I do not wish in the slightest to underestimate the gravity of the situation but I do submit that every single proposal which I have seen—I mean these amendments—will add to the gravity and the mischief of the situation and will not ease it. It is in this spirit that I would have this House to approach this matter, remembering that it does not help

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 very much for us sitting in this House to criticise a foreign government. If we start this game, in their Assemblies they will criticise us and, normally speaking, it is not a practice which hon. Houses like this should encourage. Sir I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That the Bengal situation with reference to the agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan signed on the 8th April, 1950 be taken into consideration.”

When the House reassembles after Lunch we shall first take up the amendments.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, may I submit to you that in view of the importance of the subject two days might be allotted to discuss this question.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the request made requires much argument to support it. We shall see to it later on.

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

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Speaker: Now I will call out the names of the hon. Members who have tabled amendments. Of course, as I said last time, I find an amount of argument in the amendments, more on the lines of speeches in support of the proposition, and I propose to delete all those parts. I need not read out each amendment just at present, but after all the amendments are moved, I will read them out deleting the portions which to me appear to be unnecessary and not in accordance with the rules. Prof. S. L. Saksena.

Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh): I am moving my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kanhaiya Lal Balmiki. He is not present. Shri S. N. Das.

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): I am not moving my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kodanda Ramiah.

Shri P. K. Ramiah (Madras): Not moving, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Borooah.

Shri Borooah (Assam): Not moving.

Mr. Speaker: Master Nand Lal.

Master Nand Lal (Punjab): Not moving.

Mr. Speaker: Sardar Hukam Singh. He is absent. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Prof. K. T. Shah.

Prof K. T. Shah (Bihar): Yes, Sir, I am moving it.

Mr. Speaker: Shri A. C. Guha.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): Not moving, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then Shri Syamnan-dan Sahaya.

✓ **Shri Syamnan-dan Sahaya** (Bihar): Yes, Sir, I am moving it.

Mr. Speaker: Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. He is absent.

Now, I will place before the House Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena's amendment, as amended by me after deletion of certain words. Amendment moved:

“That for the original motion the following be substituted:

‘That in the opinion of this House, the Bengal situation being extremely grave the Government and the people of Pakistan having failed to implement the agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and

Pakistan, signed on the 8th April, 1950, the Government should give top priority to this problem and take whatever measures may be necessary to ensure an honourable existence for the Hindu population in East Bengal, and proper and immediate arrangements be made for the relief and rehabilitation of all those who decide to stay in India'."

Then, Prof. K. T. Shah's amendment, as amended by me. Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the motion the following be added:

'and, having fully and carefully considered it, this House has come to the conclusion that the said Agreement has failed to achieve the object for which it was concluded, and accordingly urges upon Government that definite and immediate steps be taken, and effective guarantees obtained, to ensure the safety of the minority across the border, as well as to take all possible measures to safeguard the health of the refugees in India and provide for their housing, education and employment'."

Then, Shri Syamnandan Sahaya's amendment. Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the motion the following be added:

'and having considered the same, this House suggests that the properties left behind by the evacuees from India be disposed of and the amount thus raised be distributed among the refugees coming to India in the same proportion relating to every refugee's property as the total loss of the refugees bears to the total amount recovered from the disposal of evacuee property, and further suggests that the realization of income-tax from the refugees, levied either by the Government of India or the Government of

Pakistan on assets or incomes accrued or received before their arrival in India, be postponed till the question of evacuee and refugee property is finally settled'."

So, these are the three amendments that are moved.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Sir, may I with your permission bring to your notice that it appears that your office has amended some of the amendments of which notice was given? Since you have been pleased to use the proper form for some of the amendments that have now been moved, I presume the office did not amend these other amendments in accordance with any directions that you may have given. I don't know how far it is proper for the office on its own initiative to amend any of the amendments given by us.

Mr. Speaker: What happens is this. Amendments come in to the office, some are got by the office in time to receive my attention, others arrive a bit late and sent up for cyclo-styling direct. That is how it happens.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Do I take it that the office does not amend any amendment in any manner except with your approval or consent?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, that is what is happening. They do not amend unless my orders are taken on that.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of clarification, the motion moved by the hon. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru merely states:

"That the Bengal situation be taken into consideration."

Are we going to pass this motion as a formal motion?

Mr. Speaker: No proposition is put to the House. There is no voting too. It is merely discussion.

At this stage, I may make it quite clear that although we are sitting for

[Mr. Speaker]

tomorrow also to discuss the Bengal situation, a large number of hon. Members are anxious to speak with the result that there ought to be a time-limit. I am not fixing any myself, but I leave it to hon. Members to fix it themselves voluntarily.

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I listened very carefully to the speech of the Prime Minister. I appreciate his sincerity and admire his faith. I have not the least doubt that he is trying to translate his faith, even though he might be in a minority—even a minority of one. That is a great thing in a leader. What I object to is that he should deny the same right to others who, while admiring him, also wish to hold to their own opinions. I claim to be a humble follower of the Great Master who led our fight for freedom. He taught us that we should frankly say what we feel to be right, even though it may not be palatable to our leaders and to other people.

The Leader of the House has said that the traditions of the Congress have been those which he is trying to follow. I know those traditions. I have been brought up in those traditions. The unity of India, the freedom of India—these are our cherished goals. A secular State where every man, whatever his religion may be, can live: that has been the ideal which sustained us throughout the long years of our struggle. Today the leader says that he feels that the country and Congressmen too are not living up to that faith. He himself said: "Either I am insane or the whole country is insane". I agree that there is a hiatus between what he feels and what many people—even the very comrades who respect him highly and hold him in great reverence—feel. There must be some mistake somewhere. I only want him not to brush aside the opinions of his life-long comrades by his temper and his anger, but try to see what is wrong. Why is it that the companions of his life feel differently, think differently and feel it their duty to talk differently?

I think, Sir, that the greatest tragedy occurred when the Congress gave up its ideal of unity of the country and accepted partition. That was the day on which we sacrificed all our ideals. The country had cherished the ideal of unity of India, and suddenly—probably for a mess of pottage—for a temporary gain, for the acceleration of the date of freedom by a year or so, we gave up that ideal of unity and accepted partition. I remember the debate in the A.I.C.C. Only a minority of 29 voted against partition, but I am glad to say that the Father of the Nation was of the same view of which the 29 were. He also thought that by accepting partition, we were giving up the principles of the Congress. What has followed since has come about because of the grave mistake made on that day when we accepted partition. Had not the partition taken place, we would have been spared all that has happened afterwards. But partition is a fact and if it is a fact, we have to submit to the consequences. We cannot brush them aside.

Sir, I have lived in the tradition of loving my Muslim friends. I belong to a district where I have worked amongst the masses, the peasants and labourers and there I had learnt to serve both Hindus and Mussalmans in an equal way. The leader knows it. In my province, I am supposed to belong to a party which is led by a Muslim leader and I am proud of it, because his religion makes no difference to his outlook. His integrity is unquestioned in my province.

I wish to tell my leader the bitter truth: he has to put his faith to the test of events and adjust it according to events as they have shaped themselves. What I feel I want to tell him plainly. I feel that Pakistan has got a set policy, and that policy is that Pakistan should be a theocratic State, peopled by people of one religion and that is the religion of the Mussalmans. I need not go into arguments to prove my thesis. What they did in Western Pakistan, the

Frontier Province, in Sind and at present in Eastern Pakistan proves beyond doubt that this is their set policy. Probably, last March-April, they tried to do something in Bengal in a manner which almost brought them to the brink of war with India and they evidently thought that they were going too fast. So they thought it wise to enter into this Pact. But the fundamental policy has not changed. That is what I feel. I cannot accept it. If it was the real desire of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan to implement this Pact, then these 45 lakhs of refugees would not have come upon us. I am proud to say that whatever our Prime Minister pledges himself to, he carries that out, even though he may not have a single follower. I wish that the Pakistan Prime Minister had done the same thing. My complaint is that he does not do it, and he is trying to further his policy by keeping our leader—who is one of the greatest statesmen in the world—in the dark. He is trying to play a dirty game and trying to deceive us. This problem is not a Bengal problem. It is a national problem. It is the national policy of Pakistan to have that country peopled by Mussalmans. The question is what policy shall we adopt. I am not for the injury of even a single hair of a Mussalman in this country, but at the same time I do not want to shut my eyes to the sufferings of my brethren in Pakistan. We are pledged to the safety and honour of the Mussalmans here; similarly, I believe the Pakistanis are pledged to the safety and honour of our brethren there. Therefore, we have to take into consideration the sad facts. Panditji gave us figures which prove, according to him, that the Pact has succeeded in stemming the tide of the exodus. He feels the current is running the other way. He feels that it is no longer a one-way traffic: it has now become a two-way traffic.

Sir, I have had occasion to discuss this matter with many of my friends from Bengal. Mr. Guha showed me the figures published by the Government of West Bengal

which show that about 18 lakhs refugees came to West Bengal since the first of this year. Previous to that about 12 lakhs had come. That means that even according to Government version about 30 lakhs of refugees have come. To this must be added about 16 lakhs who have come back from East Bengal. I had also occasion to meet many representatives of refugees at the refugee conference who gave me an account of the state of affairs in West Bengal. I, therefore, think that facts have to be faced impartially. What I feel is that in his zeal to sustain his faith and to support his dream, he tries to see only one side of the picture. None of us here wish that there should be a war with Pakistan; none of us here wish that people who have come here after leaving their hearths and homes should not go back. None would be happier than us to see that they go back to their homes. There is much common ground among us on this matter. Only I want to tell our leader that while he has got a rosy picture, his comrades, his colleagues who would do anything for him and are even prepared to sacrifice their lives, think and feel that facts are otherwise. I do not know how all of us, friends of his, could think differently. But I do feel if we go on in this way our country will be torn. This would mean that 80 lakhs of Hindus who are still left in East Pakistan will have to come back and that would be a disaster.

Wherever I go people mock at me—at my Gandhi cap and *khadi kurta*. They know I am a Member of Parliament and they begin to taunt me. I feel ashamed. But I cannot help it. I feel there is something dividing us from the people of India. Probably, it may be our leaders have become secluded from the masses. I was told that even our great leaders like Profulla Chandra Ghose who went to Pakistan at the instance of the Prime Minister returned back because Hindus could not safely live in Pakistan. It is a hard fact; it is a reality which has

[Prof. S. L. Saksena]
to be faced and we have to find some way out.

In my amendment I have not suggested any war with Pakistan or snatching any territory from her. All that I have said is that the situation is very grave and we must take proper steps. My only sorrow is that our leaders think otherwise. If only they realise the gravity. There are many ways of bringing pressure on Pakistan, so that we can stop their present policy. But when our leader himself feels that the pact has been fully implemented by Pakistan and that it has worked beyond his expectation, I think it will have bad repercussions on Pakistan with regard to those who have been driven away from their homeland.

I, therefore most humbly submit that he must not dispise his comrades. Mere anger, I belong to his province and I know he does not mean it, will not solve matters. But I do want to tell him that there is a gulf between himself and his comrades and the people. This must be bridged if the country is to be saved. Otherwise, if the leader thinks one way, the party in another and the people in a third direction, I think we will be doomed.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (West Bengal): In the last three months and a half it was given to me to travel in various parts of my province and of Assam and to come into direct contact with lakhs of persons who have migrated from East Bengal to West Bengal and Assam. I have addressed them at meetings, I have talked to them privately and I have tried to understand with as much openness of mind as possible as to the reasons why they have been compelled to leave their hearth and home and come away as destitutes to India.

Sir, what I have seen naturally is most distressing. I have seen all classes and conditions of people, men, women and children, many of whom

never knew what poverty and want were. But today they are homeless; they are hopeless. Their physical suffering was great. But what struck me as most ominous and most distressing was the moral torture through which millions of people have passed through.

Sir, it fell to my lot to tender my resignation from the Government on the issue of this agreement. But I can assure the House and especially the Prime Minister, that after my resignation I tried my best to see whether the Pact was going to solve the very difficult and complex problem with which the country was confronted, and it would have given me the greatest possible pleasure if I had found that as a result of the pact this problem which perhaps has had no parallel in the history of the world, had either been solved or there were signs of its speedy solution.

Sir, I have said on various occasions that I do not minimise the good effects which have been produced as a result of the agreement. The Prime Minister has analysed them while he stated that movement is freer and safer, there is less fear in the minds of the people (those who wish to come away) and people are now in a position to bring a portion of their movables with them. But, I ask, Sir, in all seriousness and with all humility: what was the main purpose of the Pact? Was not the chief object of the pact that Hindus would be able to live in East Bengal with a sense of security and without fear; that there would be no exodus and those who had come away would gradually of their own accord feel emboldened to go back to their home? Was it not the purpose of the Pact that there would be a sense of security in the minds of the minorities themselves so that they could decide on their own course of action without any fear or expectation of favour from any quarter? Judged from this stand point the Pact has failed. The exodus continues; the

intense sense of insecurity in the minds of the minority continues. In fact, the figures which have been placed before the House require careful scrutiny.

Sir, I do not want to spend much time on the figures, but there are certain aspects of the statistics which I would consider my duty to place before the House. We have to be very careful about statistics. As one American once said, there are three kinds of lies in this world: lies, damned lies and statistical lies. All of us have to be extremely careful that the statistics we prepare are dependable, that conclusions can be fairly drawn from them. We should not be anxious—either side, either Government or their critics—to “manufacture” statistics. While preparing statistics from the government side it has been stated clearly and categorically that the figures represent only those who had come through the two customs stations, namely, Benapole and Darsana and they do not include those who had come on foot or by boat. No statistics have been kept with regard to this number. What this number will be none can tell. It may be anywhere between 10 lakhs and 20 lakhs. But even if you take the statistics as they are I would have wished the Prime Minister to have included in the statistics the number of unfortunate migrants who were compelled to come away from East Bengal up till December 1949, because the House will remember that it spent many anxious days in dealing with the exodus problem of those people who were being systematically squeezed out, to quote the language of the Prime Minister himself when he mentioned this alarming number in his speech made before Parliament in March last; and he said that 1,600,000 had been thus forced to come away from East Bengal to West Bengal during the period ending on 31st December, 1949. Why did they come? Who

forced them to leave their hearth and home? They were not the persons who had come away prior to 15th August 1947. I am not including those persons who were forced to come away after the Noakhali outrage. But these were persons who came systematically because they found it impossible to live in Eastern Bengal.

Now, what is the total figure therefore according to Government? If you take into account the 16 lakhs who came to West Bengal plus about 4 lakhs who came to Assam and other areas, you get 20 lakhs. If you add to that the figure which the Prime Minister has given—a little more than 21 lakhs—it gives you a little over 40 lakhs. If you add to that the figure of 11 lakhs which the West Bengal Government has given, representing the unregistered migrants who have come away after December 1949, you get 51 lakhs. These are not my figures. These are figures of the Central Government and of the West Bengal Government.

How many have gone back? A point was attempted to be made by the Prime Minister. I wish he had not laboured it so much, because he was on extremely flimsy ground. He tried to make out the point that 6 lakhs had gone back, and he got the figure that out of those 6 lakhs, 5 lakhs were going to stay. He will correct me, Sir, if I am wrong, but in the statement which he has circulated he has stated that he had two days' figures collected of persons who are now coming, and from such figures it appears that about 15 to 20 per cent. are those who had come previously to West Bengal, had gone back to East Bengal but are now compelled to come back. And from that he concludes that 90 per cent. of those who had gone away had decided to stay in East Bengal. I do not know under what logical argument the Prime Minister makes this statement and who ad-

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee] vised him to make this statement. It is wrong, completely wrong, on the basis of the figure which he has himself given. On the other hand, what he proves is that even today amongst the people who are coming there are 80 per cent. newcomers. I would ask him to appreciate the false argument which he had placed before the House and the country from his own figures. 20 per cent. represent the old people and 80 per cent. represent new people who today also feel so insecure that they are coming out from East Bengal to West Bengal. Amongst those who are going away daily, the Prime Minister has made much about those six lakhs from which he has concluded that five lakhs will stay there. Out of this fallacious line of argument which he had adopted he has challenged—and rightly challenged—that so long as no other statistics are placed his statistics must be accepted by the House and the country. I know he admires statistics, the whole science of statistics, and I had also been a humble follower of his in this respect. So, without waiting for Government to take what I thought was the duty of Government to have taken, for the last six weeks I engaged a number of workers under proper scientific supervision to examine Hindus and Muslims who are going away from West Bengal to East Bengal, and I shall place before the House the result of those statistics that I have thus obtained.

Beginning from 14th June 1950 and ending on 3rd August 1950—I got the last report yesterday evening—15,000 Hindus had been interrogated by our workers. Out of these 15,000 Hindus who were going back to East Bengal about 90 per cent. of them declared that they had no intention whatsoever to go and stay in East Bengal. About 10 per cent. said that they wanted to make an attempt to live in East Bengal.

But even amongst that ten per cent. there was a good percentage of people who said that they did not wish to go back to East Bengal but that they found conditions of refugees and living in West Bengal to be so hard and oppressive that they had no option but to go back and make another trial.

In the same way I had advised my workers to interrogate the Muslims who were going to East Bengal. Of course not all the Muslims were willing to answer the interrogation, for obvious reasons. We could get an answer from 4,500 Muslims and their answer was that about 40 per cent. of them were going away to live in East Bengal but 60 per cent. wanted to come back to West Bengal. Mind you, both the Hindus and the Muslims included a number of people who were trying to go for other reasons, trade etc.

Now, what does this statistics show?—that in the minds of 90 per cent. of the Hindus who were going back to East Bengal there is no return of confidence at all. On the other hand, in the minds of the Muslims, 60 per cent. of them feel confident to live in West Bengal and India but 40 per cent. would prefer to go and settle in East Bengal. I have placed these facts before you because this knocks at the bottom the chief argument advanced by the Prime Minister, so far as his dependence on statistics goes, that because six lakhs of people had gone back he feels that there is a return to normalcy. I would ask him to refer to a statement issued by the East Bengal Relief Commissioner, Mr. N. M. Khan, himself about three weeks ago. He is a person who is not expected to be very partial to West Bengal Hindus but he has given his figure that one lakh of Hindus are attempting to resettle in East Bengal. While the East Bengal Relief Commissioner is not prepared to put the figure beyond 1 lakh, my Prime Minister puts it at 5 lakhs.

obviously misled by statistics which he will no doubt realize immediately.

The House may ask me what are the sources from which I have got my information. I may assure you Sir, that I have tried to keep my calculations as moderate as possible because I know that people who suffer are often inclined to make statements which are not always dependable especially when they concern other people. I had to depend on these three sources of information. I have taken evidence at random from persons who have actually suffered. I have not taken the evidence of persons who have come and give me hear-say stories. I have taken the evidence of persons who are daily coming from East Bengal. We have examined them at random; sample checks have been made to find out as to why they are coming in such large numbers from day to day and I have taken evidence of distinguished and patriotic Hindus who are still in Eastern Bengal and fighting to live there in spite of heavy odds. I have got, Sir, the evidence of at least 45 Hindu public servants who were serving in East Bengal and who were compelled to leave East Bengal and come away to West Bengal. I have got their written reports. I have got a copy of the representation which they have submitted to the Prime Minister which, I believe, he must have also seen. These are the types of informants who have come and told us as to what is happening in East Bengal today. It is true that there are not any large-scale operations against the Hindus in East Bengal now. That is admitted. In fact, Sir, we have now come to know the details of the atrocities which were committed in East Bengal in February and March. I shall not go into these details here, because I know that they are bound to rouse passions which is not my intention to do today. But they disclose brutal and ruthless planning which is unparalleled in the history of the civilized world. I do not know, Sir, whether

the world will ever know as to how the oppression went on in a systematic way for about a fortnight in February and March. But it is not my intention, Sir, to refer to that chapter today, because we are examining as practical men the working of this agreement and we are trying to find out whether this agreement has served the main purpose which it had in view. As I said this is not my saying alone, this has been the saying of many leaders that the main test of the pact would be whether conditions of security are being created in East Bengal whereby the Hindus can live there out of their own freewill.

So far as the incidents which have happened in East Bengal after the pact, I have got a summary of them between 8th of April and 30th of June 1950. I have not been able to compile the list of occurrences in the month of July but these are incidents about which we have got the written evidence of individuals who have suffered or of families of individuals who have suffered. I shall only read a summary of this list. Between the date of the pact and 30th of June 1950, there have been 757 cases of dacoity, robbery and theft, 219 cases of extortion, 194 cases of trespass, 180 cases of assault, harassment and threats to leave Pakistan, 129 cases of abduction, rape and outraging the modesty of females, 70 cases of murder, 70 cases of grievous hurt, stabbing and looting, 67 cases of arson, 21 cases of wrongful confinement and restraint, 39 cases of defiling Hindu temples and places of worship and 72 cases of illegal possession.

By no means, Sir, is this an exhaustive list. This is only an illustrative list of occurrences which have happened in East Bengal right up to 30th of June 1950, and spread almost throughout the length and breadth of Eastern Bengal. In every one of these cases, I should add the minority, the Hindu is the victim and

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee] the oppressor is a member of the majority community. The entire social and economic structure in which Hindus lived has collapsed and it is impossible for them to live there.

Shri Tyagi: Have these cases been reported to the Minority Commission?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Most of these cases have been sent either to the East Bengal Government or to the West Bengal Government and we are trying to deal with one or two cases ourselves because they related to some cases of abduction. One reply from the Deputy High Commissioner's Office I got here in Delhi only yesterday. He stated that there had been no trace of these girls in spite of all efforts made. I met the father of that girl the day before I left Calcutta for Delhi. This girl was given in marriage and when the marriage party was returning, both the girl and her sister and two or three members of the family were taken away. The reply says that the Police had been trying to recover these girls but no trace had been found.

With regard to classes of persons who went back and came away, I do not want to go into details because I know that will take not days but weeks but I am narrating such of the incidents as I have in my possession on the testimony of persons who have suffered or of families of individuals who have suffered. There are some Members of Parliament who happened to be in Calcutta on that day, a few weeks ago, when a particular case was reported to me and I took this young man to some Members of this House sitting here and who if they get a chance will, no doubt, speak on this problem. This is a typical case. Here was a family who after the Pact wanted to go back to Barisal and they did go back. Within a week of their return, their house was attacked. The father, an old man, who was a retired Police Sub-Inspector was killed. The mother was seriously stabbed and the son also, but both escaped death

miraculously. The mother and the son came away to Calcutta; they came to me and we did arrange for their medical treatment through Government agency. This is the story which the son gave and I presented the son in person to some Members of the House, so that those hon. Members of the House could satisfy themselves that these were not stories, concocted stories as Pakistan Government usually says and that young man described in his own way as to how his father was murdered. He also mentioned another story where there was an attack on two girls in a neighbouring village—I do not know whether I should say this; it is shameful to say this, the breasts of one of these girls were cut off and she was taken to Barisal Hospital. This girl died in Barisal Hospital while the young man was still there. I do not want to multiply instances. I happened to go to Agertala a few weeks ago and the day I arrived there the officers were there and one of them was extremely anxious because he just then received a telegram that some families which they had persuaded to go back to East Bengal from Agertala, they had gone back and some of them were butchered. And the others who were still clinging to their villages were forced to come away. They were somewhere near the Agertala border. I am not saying that these incidents are happening in any large scale; far from me to make any such suggestion. If these incidents happen to persons who are attempting to go back, without remedy—and the remedy must come forthwith; it is not a question of holding a commission of enquiry, finding out the result and communicating it to the Government of India—how do you expect confidence to be restored in the mind of the people.

When I was moving in Murshidabad, I asked how many were prepared to go back and I told them, why do you not take advantage of the Pact and boldly go back, assert your right, and if your rights

are not respected, then you confront the Government of India with the difficulties which you have to face. In Murshidabad, there were at least three families, the members of which had gone back and had returned again. They did so because their girls were abducted or their male members murdered. What is happening in East Bengal is this. There are no large scale mass incidents. But, stray and serious incidents are happening here, there and everywhere, and destroying confidence.

The Prime Minister has rightly referred to the cases of dacoity. Suddenly, there has been a large rise in the number of dacoities. When you report to the Pakistan officials, they say, this is a dacoity, it is not communal and it is accidental that a Hindu is a victim. That cannot be accidental as the Prime Minister pointed out himself. In almost all these cases, the Hindus are the victims and the aggressors are Muslims. The Prime Minister just touched the point; I am sure he has got evidence with him. I wish he had placed that before the House. I do not know whether he has asked an explanation from the Pakistan Government. It is true that a large number of abductions are not happening today. We have got reports—it is only shameful to tell this to you—that in a large number of cases dacoities are accompanied by ravishment and rape of women. They go there, loot, ravish women and go away. Do you expect that these people would continue to live—either the people who suffer or those who are living around them?

I have met school teachers who attempted to go back. They have narrated after their return the woe-ful tale which they had experienced themselves, not what they heard from other sources. It breaks my heart to say this; but it is as well that the Prime Minister and the House should know that this is the state to

which the Hindus in East Bengal have been reduced. Demands are often made of their womenfolk at night, that they ought to go to a Muslim's house at night and return home the next morning. There are people who are submitting to this ignominy because they find themselves unable to counteract this aggression. This is what is happening and reports have come; I am sure reports have come to the Prime Minister also from various sources which are open to him.

Now, who are the persons who are still living there? They are not cowards. Some of the persons who are still there are the flower of our race. Many of them were Congress-men, who still cling to their faith, who are true Gandhites, perhaps better Gandhites than many in India. I have met many of them. I am sure the Prime Minister has also met at least some of them. They still consider it to be their moral right to remain in East Bengal. What happened in Barisal? I am not talking of the large scale incidents, because if I go on with that narration, I am sure, your blood will boil. I have no desire to do that. I do not want to go to a period before the 8th of April, 1950. Gentlemen like Satin Babu and Durga Mohan Babu highly respectable citizens, were asked to put down their signature to certain documents. They refused to do that. They were subsequently put under arrest. Satin Babu is a member of the East Bengal Assembly and he was arrested on a charge of murder. A man who perhaps in his whole life has never killed an ant was put under a charge of murder. He was tied with a rope with other leading Hindu gentlemen and dragged along the streets of Barisal, kept in the police station and classified as C class prisoners,—dacoits, murderers, abductors of women remaining in class I. They rightly asked the local officials, how, if they were treated in this way, they expected that any Hindu would be able to live in East Bengal.

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

Only a few weeks ago, the house of a sister of a Hindu Member of the Pakistan Assembly was attacked. I need not mention his name; he is still a member of the East Bengal Assembly; his sister was living in Khulna. There was a report that she was taken away for the night; she however said that she was not taken, because she shut herself up in a room, the door was heavily bolted and the attackers could not enter into it. No action was taken by the police against the offenders whose names were given. This member of the East Bengal Assembly went to the Collector and told him frankly,—if this is the way you want to treat us, tell us plainly to go away and we shall go. I do not know what further action has been taken. This incident took place a few weeks ago. The whole characteristic of the present behaviour of Pakistan is that the Hindus should be squeezed out.

Sir, let us understand at least now, after all these tragic occurrences after all these sorrows, sufferings of millions of people, what exactly is the technique of Pakistan. I would beg of the Prime Minister, I would appeal to him that he should himself go down to Calcutta and live with the refugees. He should not depend upon his paper statistics; let him throw them into the waste paper basket, and stand before the human statistics there. They have told me, they have begged me to tell Sardar Patel and Panditji; "Have they forgotten us? Why are they in Delhi? Why are they regarding themselves as Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister? Where are these leaders of the nation? Let them come and stay with us; we shall tell them how we have suffered; let them share with us our sorrows, our humiliations and our miseries, and not merely make statements on the floor of the Parliament." That is what the people are expecting the Prime Minister to do. He went to Calcutta a few weeks ago and the only public function which he could find time to attend was the dinner given by the Muslims where he was hailed "Shahanshah".

Psychologically he committed a grievous mistake. If for five minutes—I know his magnetic personality—he had gone and stayed with these sufferers, I know his heart would have melted. Stone melts; I have no doubt Jawaharlal's heart would have melted. Let him not take these facts from me, from his officers. I would ask him to go straight to the individuals, stay with them, enter into their hearts and understand their suffering. Then only he will be able to tackle the problem. There is no use playing with the figures. Whom does he satisfy by saying that there is a return to normalcy because five lakhs of people are going back to stay in East Bengal? Five lakhs are not going to stay there. I have got it on the authority of the people who are still there. India must make up her mind. In the present state of things in Pakistan Hindus cannot live there. There may be some individuals who are good and who really want a change of policy and change of administration. But, the loot mentality has been roused. The blood lust is there. The lust to abduct women is there. You cannot escape from these telling and terrible facts. This is what is happening and they will not be able to control it.

Forget us who are persons saying or doing things here in India. Ignore us, completely. Look at the resolutions which the Hindus now living in East Bengal have passed in Mymensingh. I am not going to read it in detail, because it runs into 7 or 8 pages. The Prime Minister has got a copy of it. What do they say? They say that conditions are in existence which if not changed will make it extremely difficult for any Hindu to live there. No effect has been given to any of them. In one para. they say as to how this rehabilitation is taking place. In para. 7 of this resolution they have stated thus:

"This Convention regrets to note that in spite of the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement to rehabilitate the returned migrants in their original homes, most of the

migrants, on return, are getting no help from the authorities and are living in pitiable, deplorable conditions, without any shelter, without any means of subsistence. Their own houses are under occupation of Muslim refugees from India and the arable lands of these evacuees have been distributed to them. The efforts of the Members of the District Minority Board and the Minority Commission have so far been fruitless, and the indifferent attitude of Government is causing immense hardship to the returned people."

This is the resolution which was passed on the 13th June, 1950. And by whom is this statement? Not by critics in India, but by those brave men who have the courage to put this down in writing at the convention held in Mymensingh, for which there were effusions in the Pakistan Press, for which they have decried them, abused them, and called them fifth columnists. What did they do? They demanded among other things the abolition of Ansars. Sir, the "Statesman" is not a paper which carried on propaganda against Pakistan. But look at the observations made by a representative of "The Statesman" who had been to East Bengal and come back. What does he say? He says, so long as the Ansars remain, there is no peace for the Hindus. And the Ansars are still there. It has been demanded that the Ansars should be disbanded. Let the Government of India stick to one or two things. Disband the Ansars. That is the first demand or condition for the return of security in the minds of the minorities. And then the Minority Convention asks for the return of the arms, guns, gun licenses to the minorities. As the House knows, most of the Hindus have been deprived of their licenses. Many here and elsewhere ask me, "What has happened to the Hindus of East Bengal? What have they become? Are they not the children of the brave Hindus who defied the British?—

Where is the race of the young men and girls who in the famous Chittagong Armoury Raid could not be easily captured by the British police? What has happened to them?" I say, during the last few years they have been completely throttled. Sir, if you want to exercise your right of self-defence you must be given the means for doing so. I have said this a number of times, and I say it again now. Let not the Government of India do anything. They will not have to do anything; but let them demand that the Hindus of East Pakistan should be given arms to which they are entitled for exercising the right of self-defence. It is a right which any citizen in any civilised country can exercise, and then, I have not the least doubt that the Hindus of East Pakistan will be able to take care of themselves. But you have disarmed them, emasculated them. They have no means of defending themselves. And these attacks and fears of attacks on their womanfolk, that is something which naturally acts as a horrifying spectacle on their minds. Sir, I would ask the Prime Minister to take the House into his confidence as regards the contents of the memoranda which were handed over to Mr. Biswas and Dr. Malik while they were on tour in East Bengal. These are documents which were handed over to the Central Ministers by Hindus who are still living there and who have the courage to put things in writing, responsible people in Chittagong, Mymensingh and other places. What have they told these two Ministers. Dr. Malik and Mr. Biswas? I would ask the Prime Minister to take the House into his confidence. You have a Minority Board in Dacca. What has it done? I have been informed that not in any one single case has any action been taken by the Board. The Hindu Member on the Board feels completely helpless and he does not know what to do. There are no means of giving redress to the grievances placed before the Board. Sir, the whole administration has collapsed. They are moving on with a

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 set purpose, whether you like it or not, that is the fact. They want to create a homogenous Islamic State. They have done so in West Pakistan and they are now in the process of doing it in East Pakistan. When they did it in West Pakistan we were helpless, because it came suddenly, but we cannot plead want of notice and our inability to step in when it is happening in East Pakistan? The Prime Minister rightly asks, "what is the use of talking about treatment of Hindus in Pakistan, if we are not prepared to say that we are behaving properly to Moslems in India." I beg of him to remember one thing, one aspect of the matter. After the Punjab tragedy, after the Delhi tragedy, when normal conditions had been restored in India, between then and about February or March of 1950, all these sixteen months, was there a single incident, a single instant of a Muslim being attacked by a Hindu in any part of India? But what happened in Pakistan? The entire Hindu population in Sind was pushed out, except a few thousands, some 90,000. And according to the Government's own figures about twenty lakhs of Hindus from East Pakistan had been pushed out. There was no retaliation so far as India was concerned. It was completely a one sided exodus, planned by Pakistan. There were protests by the Government of India. I was one of those unfortunate Ministers who deliberated on minority pacts in order to try to get Pakistan behave properly. I ask, Sir, was there any reaction against Moslems in India? There was none. The reaction came only this year, because there is a limit to human endurance, there is a limit to human patience. In his own words, the Prime Minister himself described that if things happen in Pakistan, whether one likes it or not, reactions are bound to come in India. And these reactions came in India, but the Government of India and also in the Provinces asserted themselves and they checked them. They checked the growth of such tendencies where individuals tried to

oppress or molest innocent individuals because others were suffering on the other side of the border. I have also never believed in that ideology, and in the three and a half months, whatever my critics might say, they will not be able to point out one single speech or a single sentence in which I have said that Hindus should go and attack and butcher innocent Muslims in India, for I consider that to be butchery of the human soul. If you start doing it to-day with a Muslim, to-morrow you do it against a Hindu. But I must say on the floor of the House that Government must take action swiftly and properly, and that is the only way to keep the hands of the private individual straight, clean and unsullied. But if Government delays, if Government vacillates, if Government allows a policy of drift, as indeed it did in the fateful weeks of March—then the people will take the law into their own hands, whether you like it or not. Elemental passions will come into play as they did come to play with regard to the Punjab. The responsibility for such a state of affairs will fall on Government and on no other. It is for this reason that I have been urging with all my emphasis, face realities, face facts. It is no use your behaving like the ostrich hiding your head in the sand. It is a deep game that Pakistan is playing, and they make no mistake this time. The attacks on women, abduction, rape, murder, arson, loot went on in East Pakistan and that led to migration of Hindus. They have now changed their technique. Their purpose is served. They have done it so far as the fear complex is concerned. This has been now created and this fine squeezing method is being adopted, and the people go away. How many of them have come away? Fifty lakhs according to the Government's figures and sixty lakhs according to us. But let us not quarrel about figures. Out of 120 lakhs, 50 lakhs have come away, and you are still occupying the chair of self-complacency and say, "Now normalcy is returning, and Hindus

are going back." On whose authority are you making that statement? Not the people who have come from East Pakistan, not the people who are still there, nor of those who are in intimate touch with the affairs in East Pakistan. To make such a statement on the floor of the House, to the country is, I say, wrong. You may say, "I am helpless". That is different from saying that they will go back or Hindus will stay, that is not right. The Prime Minister's statement shows the way his mind is working. He has admitted that there is no sense of security in the minds of the people. He has admitted that dacoities etc. are going on. But he has remarked that we also have been guilty. While there are some reactions in some parts of West Bengal, let us not ourselves magnify them. Let us not ourselves declare that we are equally guilty, for we know that it is not right. You have got to take a comparative estimate of how Pakistan and India have behaved. Our Prime Minister, according to truth, must be able to say to Pakistan—"Although in a few places in India there might have been some cases of people going astray, I have checked them. But in your case you are proceeding in an entirely different way and so I have got to find a remedy, and I have to think of other methods, whatever these others might be."

Therefore my proposition is this on the basis of the information that we have been able to collect I have not the least doubt in my mind that a large majority of Hindus will not live there, and those who live will live as helots or converts.

The Prime Minister talked about conversion. Today a large number of cases of conversion are not taking place. But conversion on a mass scale, even volutarily, will come. A pathetic instance came to my notice a few days ago, which discloses the tragic circumstances in which Hindu girls are still living there. I might as well narrate it to the House. It is a report which I got from a Hindu

Member of the East Bengal Assembly who came over and gave all the facts and the girl is still in Calcutta who can be examined if the Prime Minister so desires. This girl went to the Khulna police station about three weeks ago all by herself and said "I want to become a Mussalman." There were two points of view among the police officers who were present in the Khulna police station. One group asked the girl "What sort of bridegroom do you want—a man with Rs. 200 or 300 a month?" The other group said "No. We should not do that. Let her go to the S. D. O. and let him decide." She then went to the S. D. O. and the S. D. O. thought that he should not allow her to be converted like that, because she was absolutely alone. She was sent to some of the leading Hindus in Khulna. For two days this girl had nothing to say except, "I have made up my mind. Please do not worry. I have decided to embrace Islam. It does not concern you in the least. Please let me go." She was a young girl living in a place like Barisal. She was not highly educated but I am told she was quite intelligent, sensible and with a complete control over her own willpower. On the third day she relaxed and relented after she came into contact with friendly people. She burst into tears and came out with her own terrible story. She happened to belong to a family, all the members of which had been butchered, the father, brother and others. She had no one else to care for. She of course was taken to a Muslim house. There were some Namasudras who were living nearby and they also came away to West Bengal. She said, "I thought to myself, what will be my fate?" Then she told the Muslims, in whose family she was living, of her intention to embrace Islam. She said, "I have nothing to look forward to in this world. Let me go and embrace Islam and live my life in such manner as I can." "This is not the entire story" she added. "You go to

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the various villages in Barisal and you will find many girls like myself who have been lost to society and whose names you will never hear either now or ever." These are girls whose families were butchered. Who will give accounts of them? Who will lodge complaints to the Pakistan Government or to the Government of India? There is no means of recovering them. This girl is now in Calcutta. She is changing her mind and she wants to be helped to lead an honourable life.

During my tours I have seen people fall at my feet and say "All that we have suffered is because we are Hindus. That is the only crime we have committed and if we had given up our religion we would not have been tortured in this way."

I do not think the world's history will ever record another such example where millions of people, educated and uneducated, simply because they loved their religion, allowed themselves to be desecrated, butchered or driven out of their home land, just because they could not get protection from the Government, which they are entitled to get.

There is one pathetic instance of a leading Congressman whom the Panditji knows. He is a man who is not afraid of his life, he is not a coward and he is still in East Bengal. He came to see me about three weeks ago and his words are still haunting me. He had seen West Bengal and moved about the place. He had seen the terrible misery of the millions of refugees who have come to West Bengal. He told me: "Dr. Mookerjee, I have seen West Bengal. In East Bengal there are thousands of Namasudras who are waiting to come over. If I come away they will also come away, whatever happens to them. That is why I am sticking on there, though I know it is impossible for them to stay. I see nothing but death on either side, death in East Bengal and death in West Bengal but with this

difference. In West Bengal it is death without dishonour whereas in East Bengal it is death with dishonour." That summarises the situation. In East Bengal it is death with dishonour and in West Bengal it is death without dishonour but death, all the same in either case.

Such are the reports coming from the fellow-workers of the great leaders who adorn the Treasury Benches today. They mention their names and ask "Have they forgotten us? Do they not think of us? Who gave them freedom? They are today occupying positions of power and authority in Delhi. Who made them what they are? Do they remember that we also contributed to the freedom of the country and gave whatever we had without expecting anything in return? And today when we are in this troublous state, when we are being hounded out like cats and dogs, without getting any protection which any civilised Government worth the name is bound to give are they not thinking of us?"

These are questions which the Prime Minister has to answer. It is not a question of want of sanity. He said that there are people among his opponents, who suffer from insanity. He and I are both perfectly sane. There is no question of insanity or a perverted angle of vision. He should not have used such expression. Why should he think that people who do not agree with him are perverted? I know that he has tried in his own way to look at problems. We have done so in our way. I know that if these words reach his heart he will be stirred.

I have been reading his book "Discovery of India" and there are a few sentences there which I came across last night, which if he will permit me, I may remind him of. It will describe the position that India occupies today and the possible dangers facing us.

If you look at the condition of the refugees in West Bengal, if you go

to Sealdah or to the camps, you will wonder whether rehabilitation has disappeared. I am not blaming anybody in particular. Rehabilitation is not an easy job. Rehabilitation of millions of people cannot be done like this. It can be done only as a war measure and such an atmosphere has not been created. I wish the Prime Minister had concentrated on it. I wish the Prime Minister had sent down his Planning Commission to Calcutta. Let them plan there and execute their plans and show some results. What is the use of the Planning Commission functioning in Delhi? Here is a catastrophe which has happened in one part of the country, for which no solution has been found. Let the social and economic rehabilitation of the millions of people be taken in hand by the Planning Commission with full power given to them to function and show some results. If you look at the condition of the refugees and their sufferings you will be amazed how they are tolerating this state of affairs. Children are dying like flies. I have seen mothers with dead children on their laps. At Dhubulia I saw such a woman and she said, "It is not my first child whom I have lost after coming away here. This is the fifth child." You read the newspapers and see how people are dying at the Sealdah platform every day. Is that a credit to any Government that people should die like that for want of food, for want of clothing and for want of shelter? Some Members of the House will speak, who have visited Sealdah station. One cannot stand there for ten minutes. Such is the horrible condition of the refugees. We cannot manage 15,000 people at Sealdah. How are we going to rehabilitate one crore of people? You go to the camps and look at the death rate. I have got it on good authority that 50 per cent. of the children may die. I have seen some children who do not look like human beings at all. They look like ghosts and shadows. People come and accost you and ask

"What crime have we committed that we should be suffering like this?" They mention the names of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel and ask "Where are they? Why do they not come here and see our sufferings and see the way in which we have been treated." Thirty per cent. of the people may not live. You will see again the tragedy that happened in the Bengal famine. Something like that is coming on. They are facing the spectre of death, not for any fault of their own. They cannot get shelter and they cannot get work. They do not want to live as idlers and it is amazing how even today they raise their feeble voice and shout *Bande-mataram* which they have not forgotten and shed tears. There are many who have tried to rehabilitate themselves. Go to Nadia and some places on either side of the Hooghly and you will find with pleasure thousands of people who on their own are trying to rehabilitate themselves. There are lakhs who do not get any work and who are facing extinction in the manner described.

Now this is what the Prime Minister wrote about the Bengal Famine.

"But here death had no purpose, no logic, no necessity; it was the result of man's incompetence and callousness; man-made, a slow creeping thing of horror with nothing to redeem it, life merging and fading into death, with death looking out of the shrunken eyes and withered frame while life still lingered for a while. And so it was not considered right or proper to mention it; it was not good form to talk or write of unsavoury topics. To do so was to 'dramatize' an unfortunate situation. False reports were issued by those in authority in India and in England. But corpses cannot easily be overlooked; they come in the way."

Today responsible people say we are over-dramatizing events. The

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Press in India in many places is silent—it does not know what is happening. Bengal is suffering, isolated—as if something that is happening there does not concern the rest of India. Again the Prime Minister said:

“But those Indians who functioned in this way showed the wide gulf that separated them from their own people, which no considerations even of decency and humanity could bridge.

* * *

Everyone is agreed that there was amazing indifference, incompetence and complacency shown by all the authorities concerned.

* * *

They were all to blame, but most of all inevitably that authoritarian Government which the Viceroy represented in his person and which could do what it chose anywhere in India. In any democratic or semi-democratic country such a calamity would have swept away all the governments concerned with it. Not so in India where everything continued as before.”

We witness today a repetition of these tragic events and similar colossal failure to check them.

Sir, I remember Panditji's stirring Lucknow speech after his release in 1945, when he expressed his surprise that people allowed themselves to be starved to death, that they died on the streets, before the shops of sweetmeat-makers, but that none had the temerity or the courage to go and loot them. That was his charge against the Bengali people. He said, “Where was your courage? Why did you not revolt and act?” Today, I am asking him, Sir, to break away from the shackles of office. Let him come out and take up this issue. We will all follow him. Not only we, but the whole of India will stand behind him. We have got to see that this matter is solved not necessarily on an official level, because I have known for two

and a half years what governmental work means. Many kinds of work cannot be done on governmental level. Where is the spirit of enthusiasm which must be roused among the people to make them stand up before a calamity such as has never happened in this country? In the matter of rehabilitation I have said it times without number that there is no difference here, no politics here, it is purely a matter of serving humanity and the Government will get co-operation from every side. We have offered it times without number. I myself appointed a committee of experts and we have prepared a plan for rehabilitation of West Bengal. Let us not forget that all this refugee trouble that has arisen is not the only problem of West Bengal. Sardar will remember the difficult times that faced West Bengal when the communists raised their head. As the Prime Minister described it in his historic meeting in Calcutta last year, there is a big economic problem there. West Bengal is a truncated Province. This is a Province which gives you nearly one-fifth of your total national income. Even today nearly two-thirds of your hard currency earnings are got from West Bengal. Today that West Bengal represents the life-blood of India's industrial destiny and you have got to save West Bengal. West Bengal needs you, you also need West Bengal.

Therefore, the problem of refugees has to be looked at in this integrated fashion. How to tackle this problem? The communists today are lying low—lying low for this reason, that they are finding today the communist problem is raising its head and the people who are suffering from discontent are not anxious to follow their lead and destroy tramcars or set fire to buses. But the inherent danger is there.

Now, Sir, you will ask me, and the Prime Minister will ask me, “What is your remedy?” The first proposition which I, Sir, ask the

House to accept unhesitatingly is that conditions as they are today will not last long. Can you allow this one crore of people to come out and then will you have them rehabilitated? What is the remedy? There are three remedies which have been suggested. I know the Prime Minister is very angry with me, but I would appeal to him not to get angry with anything. We are offering some suggestions. He may not like any one of them. Let him give another remedy—I welcome any remedy. But to adopt an attitude of self-complacency, to say, “No danger”, where danger has come, is, as he said on the Korean debate, not a practical proposition. He gave the example of man run over by the car, and who had to be saved and he said it was useless to talk of “isms”. Here also the car has come and it is about to run over the entire people. So you have got to find the remedy. My first proposition relates to the very basis of partition. I am one of those persons who mentioned this remedy—not that that is the only remedy, but I have publicly put this before the country as a possible remedy. It is no use being hush-hush about it. Today the very basis for partition has gone. That is a proposition which I would place before the House and that is the proposition which the Prime Minister himself placed before the House only in March last. India was not partitioned as a result of war. It was partitioned as a result of agreement between two great parties which controlled the affairs of the country in those days, and, as he put it today, he thought that it would bring peace. I know, Sir, the way in which the Interim Government ran. There were practically two sets of administration working everywhere, and naturally it was thought, “Let this portion go out, so that we will live peacefully and happily and we will no more hear of the communal problem.” The Prime Minister has said it. Sir, this is what he said on the floor of the House on the 17th March.

I cannot get better language than quote his own words:

“We agreed to the constitution of Pakistan by the partition of India because of a variety of things that had happened previously..... We did not accept it at any time on the basis of a two-nation theory... it was clearly understood that those communities which became the minority communities on this side or that must have the fullest protection and fullest security for their lives; otherwise the whole structure which we had built up collapsed; the whole basis of it went.”

I would suggest to him that once he is satisfied, on the basis of facts and figures, that Pakistan by following a particular policy has turned out the minorities from Western Pakistan and is now in the process of turning out this huge number from Eastern Pakistan, let him stand up and say, or let him tell Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan on the terms of his own speech made on 17th March, “The whole basis of partition goes if the minorities cannot live there”. That is one alternative which I have suggested. I know the implications. Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan came here to sign the agreement, not because of any sudden love of us. There were three reasons which forced him to do it. One was the story of war which was going on. He knew that India is a little more determined this time and meant business. Secondly, he knew it was not a one-way traffic. He found that lakhs were pouring in just as he was turning out lakhs, and he knew this was a game which both could play. Thirdly, there were the economic sanctions by India which had practically brought Pakistan on the verge of collapse. Their jute was selling at Rs. 8 which we have now raised to Rs. 28 by signing the trade agreement. Then, he had to go to America with certain things in his pocket. I am not blaming him. He had acted as a Prime Minister who is anxious to look after the interests of his country first, second and third.

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In any case, our Prime Minister has to be satisfied about the condition of minorities in Pakistan. And no one has worked as honestly as he has done in the last four months for the success of the Pact. The main test of the Pact, as Sardar once very clearly put it in his radio talk, is whether the Hindus could live there. That is the proof, that is the acid test. And from that point of view the Pact has failed. We have reports in our possession that it has failed, and more are coming. Therefore, the basis for partition has gone. As he said here on the floor of this House:

"What happens in Pakistan affects India and we cannot help it." and:

"I mentioned very specially those who are in Eastern Bengal and I said that we could not rid ourselves of the feeling we have for them or our ultimate responsibility towards them."

This is what the Prime Minister further said:

"Therefore, it comes to this: we owe it to these people in Eastern Bengal who may be in danger to give them protection in their territory, or if there is no other alternative, in their own territory if circumstances demand it."

What I would implore the Prime Minister to consider is that a stage 4 P. M. has arisen when it is clear that Pakistan has failed, whatever the motive may be, to give protection to the Hindu minorities in Eastern Bengal. The question therefore is: is the Government of India prepared to say, as the Prime Minister had said, that the basis of the partition goes? Is he prepared to say that he will now hold himself responsible for the welfare of Hindus in East Bengal? If he says that, lakhs will go tomorrow. If they only know that the Government of India will take necessary action for the protection of their lives, this will happen. But I know the danger of it. I know what it

means. It means war. This is a method which was contemplated by Mahatma Gandhi himself in extreme circumstances. He said in one of his prayer speeches a few weeks before his death quite clearly that he hated war, but he said that if minorities are protected in India—and they have been generally protected during the last two and a half years after the Delhi tragedies were over—and if the minorities in Eastern Bengal are not protected, he said: Let the Government of India take action. He hated individual retaliation. He said that if the Government of India declared war on Pakistan on that basis, only he will not take part, but he would certainly bless such a step. I am not suggesting that we should declare war. I know the implications of it. I have given this as an alternative. This is an alternative which was mentioned by the Prime Minister of India himself, and he has to answer this question: is he willing to act up to what he has said on the floor of this House only on the 17th March last? If he says no, he cannot do it, especially in view of the international situation, let him say so. I know it is not an easy job. But I differ from what he said that after all, if we think in terms of minorities, war will not help them. He is mistaken there. People have come from Eastern Bengal and they say: "When there was loose talk of India marching into Eastern Bengal, the very esteemable gentlemen who had come and attacked Hindus came to the Hindus and said: 'Please tell the Army when they come that we are your friends. Let us not be tortured.'" It is not therefore exactly as the Prime Minister has said, that the minorities there will be butchered. The minorities will be butchered, if they are butchered, only once, but what is happening today is that they are being butchered inch by inch day after day. These millions of people, their moral degradation and the deprivation of their human rights that is going on will suffer only once. But I am not saying that this is the only remedy,

because it has very serious repercussions not only on our relations between India and Pakistan but also on the present international situation. I cannot be foolish enough to say that here and now you should declare war. This is only a possible alternative. We have to consider the ways and means.

My second proposal is that we should make a demand for one-third of the territory of Eastern Pakistan. In fact, I re-echo what Sardar Patel said in Nagpur about one and a half years ago. We must tell them: If you turn out one-third of the population from Eastern Bengal, pray give us one-third of your territory. It may remain part of Eastern Bengal or it may join with the Indian Union, as it may like. The reply to that is that supposing there are four crores of Muslims in India who wish to go away and Pakistan wants one-eighth of the territory of India, then what shall we do? I may say that that question does not arise. We are not asking Muslims to go. We are not. We shall make it possible for them to stay, if they wish to do so. If it is known that this problem is going to be settled honourably, favourably and justly, then the Hindus here, barring a few here and there, will stand by the Muslims—the mass population of Hindus will do that, because they will know that they will be able to live together in accordance with our past traditions. If you say that, and they do not give you one-third of Eastern Bengal, then what happens? That means also war and again we cannot go into war. In view of this, I have given my third alternative.

My third proposition is exchange of population. I have given it as the third proposition—as a peaceful way of settling this question. If this one crore of people come away, look at it purely from the economic standpoint. Forget the political aspect or the communal aspect. Where are you going to keep these people? I have made some calculation. I asked some economists to study West Bengal conditions. West Bengal today has a

density of population which is about 750 per square mile. This is the highest in India and possibly one of the highest in the whole world. How many more can West Bengal take? We have calculated and with the utmost effort you can accommodate about 15 lakhs more people there, or make it 20 lakhs. Then where will the other one crore go? According to your present Government calculations, other provinces have agreed to take 2½ lakh refugees. Mysore and Coorg areas may accommodate about a lakh. Hyderabad may take a lakh. Add it all up and it comes to five lakhs. In addition, if U.P., C.P., Orissa and Bombay, say that they will take refugees, and another five lakhs. Even then what will happen? Even if you can manage to take 40 or 45 lakhs, where are you going to keep the rest of the 65 lakhs? You are also leaving aside properties worth about four to five thousand crores of rupees. You are allowing an Islamic State to be created there—a homogeneous Islamic State—at your own cost. Why should you do that, and that too a homogeneous Islamic State surrounded by an area where you will have about 50 lakhs of Muslims in West Bengal, about 15 lakhs in Assam, about 5 lakhs in Tripura, about 4 lakhs in Cooch Bihar and 30 lakhs in Bihar. You will remember that these are the people who during the 1945 elections—or at least 99 per cent. of them—had voted for Pakistan. I know that this exchange of population is not an easy job. I know it is a painful job. It may be an inhuman job. I am prepared to admit that even, but what is the alternative? I do not wish to go into war. I do not wish that one crore of people should die. I do not wish that my country's economy should collapse. I do not wish that there should be chaos in the country. Therefore, the only other alternative that I can think of is to tell Pakistan that they are anxious to build a homogeneous Islamic State, they cannot do so at the expense of the Hindus or of India. The Prime Minister of Pakistan on the *Id*

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day a few weeks ago issued a message. I believe the Prime Minister of India has read that *Id* message. I have got a copy here, but I will not read it. There is not one word there about the Hindu citizens. From beginning to end, it is Islam, Islam and Islam, not only Islam in Pakistan, Islam in India but Islam in the whole world. Even on such a day, Mr. Jinnah used to say a few sweet words to Hindus who lived in his country, but Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan has not got one word to say about his Hindu citizens. You have to tell Pakistan that if they are anxious to create a homogeneous Islamic State and they have been unable to give protection to the minorities, then for this one crore of people who are being turned out, they will have to take from India one crore of those people who created Pakistan. You will have read Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan's American speech. He made it very clear there. I am sure the Prime Minister must have read it. I am referring to the speech which he made before the American Senate. He said that no one will be able to appreciate Pakistan unless and until he read the history of conditions which led to the creation of Pakistan. And what is that? The blood bath of August 16, 1946? The Great Calcutta Killing? Hatred of Hindus? Hatred of India? What is the good of our looking into the conditions which led to Pakistan? None is proud of those events. In that speech Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan has made it clear as to what his State stands for. He says that Pakistan came into existence with the help of and for the purpose of liberating 10 crores of Muslims. Let us look at realities. Pakistan came into existence, not to liberate those who are living in Pakistan—Hindus and Muslims—not to do that, but to liberate the ten crores of Muslims including those who are still in India today. The Prime Minister of Pakistan after signing this Pact with Pandit Nehru goes to America and announces from the house top that Pakistan means the liberation of ten crores of Mus-

lims. We must tell him that we agreed to Pakistan on a regional basis. We must not forget that they wanted both Bengal and Assam. They have not got it, and so they are creating these conditions. My point is: let there be an exchange of population and property plus compensation in the eastern region. Our Prime Minister says that it goes against his faith. He kept his faith in cold storage while India was partitioned. He kept his faith in cold storage when he had himself to organise exchange in the Punjab. He organised special trains to take Muslims to the other side—may be not he individually, but his Government. I am not blaming him. He faced realities then. He realised what was happening, namely, that Hindus and Sikhs were coming out and Muslims were going away and so he thought: "Let us make it possible for them to go away". I feel that here also, at another time, he has to put his faith in cold storage. This exchange of population is an alternative which has been suggested not by some crazy and insane persons in India. Here is a volume entitled "European Population Transfer of 1939-1945". It is a book which is published under the authority of the World Council of Affairs of the League of Nations and it describes vividly the circumstances in which Governments in various countries in Europe, as the Prime Minister knows very well, were compelled to accept exchange or transfer as the only inevitable solution. Of course, they point out and quite rightly that this is not a solution about which anyone feels happy.

So far as transfer of population is concerned, one-way traffic is dangerous. If, in any case, as it happened in Turkey and Greece, there can be an exchange of population along with property, then it works much better. Of course, it is a painful operation. But it is something like the growth of a cancer in our body politic. An operation is necessary: the question is when and how to de-

it. We have suggested this exchange of population not on a communal basis. It is a means of solving a political problem the like of which the world has not seen. What is the use of our being anxious about Korea and the international situation? What is happening today in our own country? This is a problem which is going to destroy our economy and you have got to find a solution. It is with this objective, Sir, that we have given these three possible motives. I am not suggesting that he must accept one or the other of them. All that I am telling him is that he cannot remain in an atmosphere of complacency. He must come out of it. The situation is very grave—the situation is immensely grave.

I happen to be in a peculiar position. For two and a half years I had the good fortune of being in the Government with those distinguished leaders. I know, Sir, the difficulties of Government. I know the momentous problems which the country had to face during the last two and a half years. I know the reasons why Government could not deliver the goods where people expected such goods could have been delivered. With that knowledge I have gone to the people.

For the last four months I have travelled amongst them without any police protection, but in some places followed by C. I. D. friends! I have gone and mixed with people and I am alarmed to find the gap which is daily increasing between the Government and the people. I do not want chaos and destruction. No one wants trouble. In fact, those who create chaos should be severely dealt with. But you will not be able to deal with possible chaos or trouble with the help of the police and the military. Peoples' consciousness has been roused. It is not I who am quoting for the first time these lines from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's "Discovery of India". It is young students who have read out these

words to me. I have seen fire in the eyes of young boys and girls—little boys and girls came and stood before me and put these elementary questions: "Why should we wake up at night feeling hungry? Why should I not get my food? Why should my father and mother not get their food from day to day and give us something on which we can live?" These are elementary questions which young boys and girls are asking. You have got to solve them. You cannot create an atmosphere of unreality and say everything is all right. Everything is not all right. But things will be all right even today if we face the issue. And that is what Mahatma Gandhi would have done if he were alive today. He went to Noakhali. I might not have agreed with some of his techniques. But he had an affection for me. I had the privilege of meeting him off and on. He always saw the other man's point of view. He did not get angry or lose his temper. He tried to appreciate the other man's point of view and tried to find a solution. In fact his magnetic and practical approach to the problem would even convert the other man's point of view. But he tried to come to a solution. You are his inheritors. You find a solution for this problem, a solution consistent with courage, with national prestige and with our national dignity. It is not a communal question. Why bring this Hindu-Muslim question into this? It is the Hindus who are suffering. Hindus as a race must live and it is not communal if you work for this end.

Only the other day Mr. Ghulam Mohammad in his speech in London described as to how the Muslim nations in the world should combine to have a Muslim economic belt. We have no Hindu belt. I hate the word secular;—in the dictionary it is defined as 'Godless, profane'—we claim to be a civilised democratic state, where people will have equal rights, no matter what their religion

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is. But that does not mean we will allow Pakistan to play havoc with Hindu lives and honour and destroy the peace and stability of India.

This is a peculiar problem which has arisen in our history. Partition came and this is a corollary to partition. Those who wanted Pakistan, those who supported it will have to be told, with folded hands, "You go and live in the Heaven which you have created." If you do not like to say so, then follow other effective remedies to check the evil designs of Pakistan; for Heaven's sake have a strong policy and solve this problem before it is too late.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Sir, after the very exhaustive and emphatic speech that Dr. Mookerjee has delivered on the subject, I might come almost as an anti-climax, if I were to repeat many of the points which could not have been put in better words than he has done. I would nevertheless venture to submit, from another angle, similar thoughts on the same subject, which I trust would not suffer from the sin of repetition, and which nevertheless might throw a different light.

Sir, there are two points in the Prime Minister's speech which I think it necessary to bring to the notice of the House. I have not got the text of his speech before me, but I think, in the first place, he said something to the effect that: it would be lacking in propriety if this House sat in judgment, or discussed the actions and policies of another Government. I think, for my part, that is a doctrine to which a sovereign democratic legislature like this should not subscribe. We have a right to discuss the actions and policies of our neighbour governments, or Governments with which we have relations, particularly when we are affected so vitally as in this instance. We have discussed in this House before, and I am afraid we may have to discuss again, the do-

ings, for instance, of the Government of South Africa, when they relate to Indians. We have discussed also the policies of other countries more distant from us; and, therefore, that doctrine, if it were pressed to its logical conclusion, would render the foreign relations of this country completely out of the control of this House. I for one, Sir, would be utterly unable to support such a doctrine; and I trust the Prime Minister in his reply will clarify the position in accordance with correct democratic traditions of which he is such a great champion.

Another thing that I would like to bring to the notice of the House, and which in part has already been brought to the notice of the House by Dr. Mookerjee, is in regard to the ideal, the objective for which, the Prime Minister said, we stand. I am afraid, Sir, the entire objective of what was once called "Akhand Hindustan," of undivided, integral India, has been sabotaged by him and his colleagues, rather than by those who criticise him. There may have been reasons, there may have been considerations which may have influenced him. It may not have been acceptance of the two-nations theory, which led to the Partition. Nevertheless it is a Partition painful as it has been disastrous and still bringing unexpected and unbelievable consequences in its train.

When first the idea of Partition was formally mooted, it was described as something that a decent person would not even look at; yet those very persons have accepted it and given effect to it. It was called "vivisection"; yet they carried it out; it was thought to be a "sin"; yet they committed it. Having committed that you want to take shelter under the logic of the *fait accompli*, and now call your State a "Secular State". The evils of the Partition have been many and I am afraid we have not seen the last of

it yet. I trust, therefore, that the mere insistence upon such a word or term or description as being "secular" is out of place. You do not become secular by calling yourself so, quite apart from the fact that the dictionary meaning may be utterly different from what you desire it to be.

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

The State is a secular institution; and, being a secular institution, it need not add the word to its description. Nor need it convey by calling itself secular that it is unfavourable or in any way partial to one or the other of the several communities which may be inhabiting it.

My point is our emphasis upon the term 'secular' is likely to mislead us, as I am afraid it has in the past to the extent that this problem of East Bengal has now come before us. I was amongst those persons who were the week before last in Calcutta; and I had the opportunity to see for myself the conditions at Sealdah station. I went without, of course, any official announcement or accompaniment; and, therefore, I flatter myself I was able to see things in their naked form, in their naked horror. There were thousands there where there ought not to have been even hundreds. There was no room even to walk. In the two and a half hours that I spent there it was impossible to move inch by inch without hurting somebody, or without hurting yourself by the obstacles that were lying on the way.

The condition of those who were actually living there could not but bring tears to the hardest heart, for the conditions under which they were living were sub-human. I have no time to go into the details of those conditions. Perhaps Government have more information about it than I have. But I would say one thing, that the figures that have been given are by no means reliable. I enquired there on the spot about the method by which this statistical material was collected, and the police officers who

alone were responsible for the purpose told me that collection was made, in a manner of speaking, at the terminus. Obviously, therefore, that does not take into account all those people who either do not come by rail, or who, having left their homes by railway, have, after crossing the border, left the railway, because these trains are so crowded and so impossible even to stand in, that it is no surprise that hundreds leave the train after they have crossed the border.

The figures, therefore, that we are presented with are, I am afraid, not at all dependable. Those, therefore, who feel by personal observation or such other devices as Dr. Mookerjee has described, that the magnitude of the evil is much greater than the statistics suggest, are, I am afraid, entitled to have their view; and Government have not got sufficient material to contradict them.

The idea again, that so many are going back is apt to lull you into a sense of self-satisfaction, of self-complacency, which is far more dangerous than the alarm that some people take at the dimensions this problem has reached. As Dr. Mookerjee has pointed out, it is very true that a very large percentage, much larger than the Prime Minister has been informed that it is, is going back, merely to recover what little property they may have there which they may bring back with them, or to settle their affairs if they can do so there. And there may also be a few migrants going back to that country.

The simple fact of the matter, therefore, is that the minority in Eastern Pakistan cannot live consistent with honour in those parts. They are threatened with every kind of difficulty and disgrace, and their only salvation lies—if salvation it can be called—in coming back to this country, and finding such habitation, and such employment as they can possibly manage to get.

The tragedy becomes deeper when we consider that no satisfactory

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arrangements have been made, either for their reception when they come there, or for their location, for their housing, for their resettlement, for their employment, and for their eventual absorption in the population here. Assuming that you have to face this problem—and there is no denying it—assuming that lakhs of people are coming back by the month or by the term, you must take much greater and much more effective steps to see that they are, within the shortest time possible, absorbed and made part of the country.

There are difficulties, no doubt, in absorbing them in the normal life of the country. After all, this is a very abnormal situation; and, therefore, that difficulty must be there and it will have to be faced. Several remedies that are being talked about, namely exchange of population with rather the return of a portion of the territory in which these people can be accommodated, may bristle with their own particular difficulties. But these difficulties are there. I venture to submit, for us as a challenge to our ingenuity to solve them, rather than submit to them quietly, sit down helplessly and hopelessly, and allow those who have tried to find shelter to wither away, as it were, amongst us.

The problem, I am afraid, is not to be solved merely by the method of negotiation, by the method of press statements, by the method even of periodic visits of the great and the mighty of our country to the distressed millions of Bengal. They may have their magnetic influence in going there and heartening the people to face the difficulties they are being faced with. The remedies will have to go much deeper. I agree that you cannot rule out, you must not rule out, any remedy as utterly impossible and unthinkable.

I am afraid circumstances are driving you to a position in which it

will have to be perhaps the dire necessity for us to say "Thus far, no further"; and that if partition means, if the existence of Pakistan means that there is no hope for the minority there to live consistent with their human rights, consistent with their human dignity and honour, then we certainly cannot put up with those conditions. Precedents are not lacking in the history of this world where peoples have had to go to war, however hateful the word and the action may be, in order to undo wrongs upon millions, such as those which are being perpetrated there today. I, therefore, feel that our lulling ourselves into the idea that we shall have no war, that we shall not question the Partition, we are only creating difficulties for ourselves. Once you talk in terms of a determined resolve, once you speak in the language which the other side understands, once you say that "if you try our patience beyond a certain point, we shall not put up with it, and will adopt any measure which will right the wrongs that are being perpetrated", I for one am convinced that the other side would think twice before indulging in the atrocities and outrages that they have been reported to be guilty of.

It is not for me to state these remedies, for it is not, I submit, the duty of the Opposition to suggest alternative measures. Even at the risk of being regarded as merely destructive criticism; I submit, Sir, that it is not my business to put forward constructive suggestions. It is the responsibility of Government; it is they who have to face the difficulties of the situation, and find remedies which will commend themselves to the people. But speaking as a friend of the Government, speaking as one who means well by them, because they have the huge burden of this country's Government upon their shoulders, I would say that, however difficult and however dark the situation is, they need not regard it as utterly hopeless. If only they have the courage of their own

convictions, if only they would face it with determination and resolve not to flinch from any remedy however drastic it may seem, the problem can be solved.

I know, Sir, that the declaration of war is apt to scare away people, and scare away those who at times affect to be pacifists. But though myself a Jain and by conviction a pacifist, I do not think that it is right ever to say that we shall never, under any circumstances, resort to that last expedient of organized Governments to secure the right being done to them.

Even if War is not to be considered a solution, I do not see why other effective guarantees cannot be obtained from the other side for the due protection and safeguard of the minorities within their territories. I am speaking, of course, in the first place, of what are called Economic Sanctions, which it is in your hands to apply, which you could have applied at the right moment, which you failed to apply when they would have borne the greatest fruit; and, therefore, you are suffering from the difficulties from which you are suffering today. The economic sanctions which this country can apply to Pakistan, with the full concurrence, I venture to say of the United Nations even, are bound to bear fruit. The case, if placed before them, is strong enough, effective enough to bring the other side to reason, and obtain those guarantees, those assurances, practical and effective which can satisfy the present needs of the country.

Lastly, if even that does not meet the case, if even the economic sanctions fail, and if you are still not thinking of more drastic and logical methods, then there is yet open to you a resort to the United Nations of which you are so fond; and where you can demand, after submitting your case, and find out ways and means to attain the object. The other party who is also a Member of the United Nations should listen to

reason. After all, as far as I know, it cannot be consistent with the United Nations Charter, with the policies hitherto followed by that organization, to allow any State to deny even the common human rights to its citizens, no matter what may be the religious complexion of any section in it. If I am not mistaken, in the last two or three meetings of the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations, this question of the human rights and the right of each individual to complain against his own state to the United Nations, and the obligation of the United Nations to see that the right is secured has been such that you ought to have some hope, some avenue of solution, even in that direction. I know also that the final agreement on that subject has not yet been made or signed, and the legislative body of the United Nations has not passed it. But I do think that is the direction in which those deliberations were made, and the Human Rights Committee has so decided. If you have sufficient faith in the United Nations Organization, it is also a direction in which you can try to get some solution for the problem that meets it.

If, on the other hand, you do not want to rely upon any outside authority, if you want to solve this problem by your own efforts, and if you want to see that these people themselves,—and you, as their Government,—are equal to meet any emergency, those suggestions made on the floor of this House by the earlier speaker may also be considered, such as securing arms of self-defence to the population which is being terrorized, which is being denied its simplest human rights, and so terrorized as to fly from its hearth and home.

Any of these remedies, Sir, and all of them may have to be, and must be, tried to see that the problem does not remain a perennial sore on the body politic; and that we are able to get a satisfactory and early solution of this matter. This you will not get by saying in advance,

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declaring in advance, that certain remedies you will not even think of, that certain solutions you will not even contemplate. You have to bear in mind, if you are dealing with realities, that there is nothing that you must in advance discount and disown. You must be prepared for anything. And then only you will be able to meet any situation that may arise, no matter what the conditions of the world around you may be or what the dimensions of the particular problem may be.

I do not wish to take further time of the House. But I do think that such agreements as these being observed faithfully on the one side, and being observed hardly even in the letter on the other side, are not going to solve the problem. If the problem is to be solved, more drastic, more effective methods will have to be adopted; more substantial guarantees will have to be obtained, if the terror that now reigns in Eastern Pakistan is to be ended.

लाला अब्दुल राम : माननीय स्पीकर साहब, कल मे आपके मामले में इम जरूरी मामले पर बहस हो रही है और हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपने ख्यालात का इजहार दो दफा किया है, कल भी अपनी पार्टी की मीटिंग के अन्दर और आज भी उन्होंने अपने ख्यालात का इजहार किया है। मैंने बड़े गौर के साथ उनकी तमाम बातों को सुना है और मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि उन की तमाम बातों को सुनने के बाद बहुत से आदमी ऐसे हैं जिन को उन की बातों से तसल्ली नहीं हुई है और मैं यह भी समझता हूँ जितने हल अब तक बतलाये गये हैं उन से खुद प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब की भी तसल्ली नहीं हुई है। इसका कारण क्या है? इस सारी बात पर मैंने बहुत अच्छी तरह गौर किया है। प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब के जो भाषण हुए हैं उन से मुझे

मालूम होता है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब के सामने बड़े बड़े उसूल हैं जिन पर वह सस्ती के साथ पक्के रहना चाहते हैं। उन का यह ख्याल है कि उन उसूलों पर कांग्रेस सारी उम् पक्की रही और अगर अब उन उसूलों से कांग्रेस हट जाये तो कांग्रेस भी तबाह हो जायेगी और अपनी तमाम जिन्दगी का करा करारा खत्म हो जायेगा। मैं इस बारे में उन से बिल्कुल इतिफाक करता हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि जिन उसूलों को उन्होंने पकड़ा है अगर आज उन को छोड़ दिया जाये तो दर हकीकत कांग्रेस की हालत और उन की हालत बहुत खराब हो जायेगी। मिमाल के तौर पर मैं कहता हूँ कि हम अमाम्प्रदायिकता (secularism) के लिये मरने रहे हैं। हमने इसके लिये अपनी जिन्दगी दे दी है। कांग्रेस ने इम आदर्श के लिये अपना जीवन दिया है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर हम एक अमाम्प्रदायिक स्टेट कायम करेंगे। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन का उसूल बहुत अच्छा है। अगर वह इम उसूल पर पक्के रहते हैं तो बड़ी अच्छी बात है। उन का यह ख्याल है कि हम अल्पसंख्यकों (Minorities) की रक्षा के लिए काम करते रहेंगे और अगर आज हम उन कम गिनती के लोगों को हिन्दुस्तान से निकाल दें तो हम अपने उसूल की छोड़ देंगे। मैं कहता हूँ कि यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है। जिन उसूलों पर वह रहना चाहते हैं वह बहुत अच्छे हैं। वह चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर कोई हिंसा न हो, एक दूसरे की मारकाट न हो। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन का यह उसूल बड़ा अच्छा है क्योंकि अगर यह उसूल छोड़ दिया जाये तो वाकई कांग्रेस का सारा करा करारा खत्म हो जायेगा।

उन का यह भी ख्याल है कि हमारा दिमाग साफ नहीं है, कभी हम गंभीर जी

का नाम लेते हैं, कभी हम अहिंसा का नाम लेते हैं, हमारे दिमागों में कनफयूजब (confusion) है, एक गड़बड़ी मची हुई है। मैं कहता हूँ कि यह बात ठीक है कि हमारे अन्दर विश्वास की शक्ति (courage of conviction) नहीं है। कांग्रेस दुख उठा रही है, मुल्क दुख उठा रहा है, मैं उनकी इस बात को मानता हूँ। मैं यह भी मानता हूँ कि कांग्रेस जिन उसूलों पर खड़ी है, अगर वह उन को छोड़ देती है, तो वह खत्म हो जायेगी। यहां पर आप कहते हैं कि पाकिस्तान से ऐसी बात करवाइये, पाकिस्तान से वैसी बात करवाइये, हम कैसे उस से करवा सकते हैं, वह सावरन स्टेट (sovereign State) है। यह छे उसूल बहुत अच्छे हैं, और अगर कांग्रेस और मुल्क इन पर खड़ा नहीं रहता, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट खत्म हो जाती है। मुझे उन के भाषणों से यह भी मालूम हुआ कि यह साम्प्रदायिकता (communalism) के बड़े बरखिलाफ हैं, कोई चीज़ कम्युनल (communal) नहीं चाहते, वह यह नहीं चाहते कि भारतवर्ष के अन्दर कोई साम्प्रदायिक गवर्नमेंट हो, मैं इस में उन के साथ हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन का यह ख्याल ठीक है। बदला लेना बुरी चीज़ है, इस को हम प्रोत्साहन नहीं देना चाहते, अगर कोई कम्युनिटी (community) दूसरी कम्युनिटी के साथ बुराई करती है, तो उस के खिलाफ बुराई करना हम बुरा समझते हैं, अगर पाकिस्तान हमारे साथ बुरा करता है तो इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम उसका जवाब बुराई से दें। मैं इन सब बातों में उन के साथ इत्तिफ़ाक करता हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि उनके यह छे उसूल बहुत सुनहरी सिद्धान्त हैं और वह बड़े आला हैं और जिन चीज़ों से वह नफ़रत करते हैं, वह वाकई नफ़रत के लायक

हैं और जितने हल श्यामाप्रसाद मुखर्जी या रिफ़्यूजी कान्फ़ेंस ने सुझाये हैं, वह इन उसूलों पर परखने से ग़लत साबित होते हैं। मैं भी उन के साथ इत्तिफ़ाक करता हूँ कि वाकई वह सुझाव ग़लत है। अगर आबादी की अदला बदली (exchange of population) होती है, तो बड़ी गड़बड़ी मचती है, इधर से साढ़े तीन करोड़ आदमी निकल जायेंगे और उधर से पचास साठ लाख इधर आ जायेंगे। टेरीटरी (territory) अगर हम मांगते हैं तो उस में भी गड़बड़ी मचती है, हम मांगेंगे एक करोड़ के लिये, वह मांगेंगे साढ़े तीन करोड़ के लिये। मैं समझता हूँ कि उनका एसा ख्याल करना सही है।

मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि अगर यह बातें तमाम ठीक हैं, यह छे उसूल ठीक हैं और यह जितने भी हल हम को सुझाये गये हैं सब के सब ग़लत हैं तो मैं आप से कहूंगा कि क्या आप खुद ही जो आप के यह छे उसूल हैं, इन पर आप खुद चलते हैं या नहीं। अगर आप इन उसूलों के मुताबिक़ चलते हैं तो मैं कहूंगा कि वाकई आप ठीक हैं, और आप सच कहते हैं, लेकिन मैंने ग़ौर से इस को देखा है, विचारा है और मुझे यह मालूम पड़ता है कि जिस बात का इलज़ाम आप दूसरों पर लगाते हैं कि उनके दिमागों के अन्दर गड़बड़ी है, वह ठीक तरह से सोच नहीं सकते, तो मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा कि वहां भी कुछ गड़बड़ है, आप का भी दिमाग़ साफ़ नहीं है। मसलन मैंने इन्हीं कानों से सुना है इन को यह कहते हुए कि पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में जो अल्पसंख्यक हैं क्योंकि एक खास बुनियाद पर तक्रसीम हुई थी, उन की रक्षा का भार हम पर है। वह बात दो तीन महीने हुए कही गयी थी, इस एलान को सारे हिन्दुस्तान ने सराहा था। लेकिन अब हम उन्हीं से सुनते हैं कि पाकिस्तान

[लाला अचिन्त राम]

सावरिन स्टेट है, हम उस से कैसे कह सकते हैं कि तुम यह करो, वह करो। जिम्मेदारी होने पर आप ऐसा कह सकते हैं, लेकिन अगर आप जिम्मेदारी नहीं मानते हैं, तो फिर दूसरा रास्ता है। तो मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा कि आप के दिमाग के अन्दर यह कैसी गड़बड़ी है और मुझे मालूम पड़ता है। कि हमारे दिमाग के अन्दर सफ़ाई नहीं है We must be clear in our mind whether we should do this thing or that thing. अगर हम वहाँ के अल्प संख्यकों के प्रति अपनी जिम्मेदारी समझते हैं, तो हम हस्तक्षेप कर सकते हैं और हमें इसका हक हासिल है। जिम्मेदारी है या नहीं, इस के बारे में हमारा दिमाग साफ होना चाहिये और कोई गड़बड़ी नहीं होनी चाहिये। दूसरी बात आप कहते हैं कि ऐसा रास्ता मत बतलाइये जिस से कि गड़बड़ी मच जाये बल्कि ऐसा रास्ता सुझाइये जिस से आबादी की अदला बदली न हो। हमारी जो असांख्यिकता है वह ठीक तरह से बनी रहे, मैं इन सारी बातों को मानता हूँ। लेकिन मैं आप से अदब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप के पास कोई ऐसा हल है, जो इन तमाम उखूलों के खिलाफ न जाये और जिस पर आप अमल कर सकें। आप नहीं चाहते कि यहां से मुसलमान निकल जायें अगर साढ़े तीन करोड़ मुसलमान निकल गये, तो इस में आप की सेक्युलरज्मि टूट जायेगी और इसी वजह से आप आबादी की अदला बदली नहीं चाहते। क्या यह कहने के साथ साथ कि हम हिन्दुस्तान से एक भी मुसलमान को जाने नहीं देंगे जो और कोई भी अल्प संख्यकों को सतायेगा उस का सिर कुचल देंगे, हम उस को जेल में दूँस देंगे, लेकिन साथ ही साथ हम इस चीज़ को बरदास्त नहीं कर सकते

कि जो हमारे अल्प संख्यक वहाँ पाकिस्तान में रह रहे हैं वह हमारी जिम्मेदारी है उन की रक्षा की जिम्मेदारी हम पर है। श्यामाप्रसाद मुखर्जी ने अभी बतलाया कि वह बहुत अरक्षित हैं और लगातार भारत में आते जा रहे हैं, वहाँ उनका रहना दुश्वार हो रहा है। आहिस्ता आहिस्ता दो दो हजार चार चार हजार की तादाद में वहाँ से निकल रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह जिम्मेदारी हमारी है और इसको न रोक कर के हम अपने आप को इस अभियोग का मुजरिम ठहराते हैं कि we are confused in our mind and we are stone hearted. हमारे अन्दर विश्वास की शक्ति नहीं है और हम अपने उसूलों पर खुद अमल नहीं कर सके।

(English translation of the above speech)

Lala Achint Ram (Punjab): This important problem is being debated since yesterday during which interval the hon. Prime Minister has twice expressed his ideas—once in the Party Meeting held yesterday and again today. I have listened with close intent to all that he has said and after hearing all that, I can say that there are many persons to whom all these things have not carried conviction. I also think that even hon. the Prime Minister himself is not very sure of the various solutions that have been set forth of this problem. What is the reason thereof? I have pondered over the whole issue very deeply. From his various speeches it transpires that the Prime Minister has before him very lofty principles to which he intends to stick quite fast. He believes that the Congress has held fast to these principles throughout its career and a deviation from them will mean its destruction and a clean sweep of his own life-time achievements. I entirely agree with him on this score. I consider that a denunciation of those principles will land both him and the Congress into

serious difficulties. As an instance, we have been sacrificing tremendously to uphold secularism. We have given lives in its defence and the Congress has dedicated its existence to set up a Secular State in India. I regard it to be a commendable principle. His intention of holding fast to it is also praiseworthy. He intends to continue to work for the protection of the minorities and has no wish to forsake this principle by agreeing to drive them out of India. I repeat that it is quite a noble idea that he wishes to stick and follow. He does not want to see violence and mutual slaughter going on in India. I consider that a departure from this stand will really undo all that the Congress has accomplished so far. It is also his apprehension that our brains are not quite clear. At times we invoke Gandhiji's name and plead for *Ahimsa*. There is, according to him, a confusion in our brains. I admit that we lack in courage of conviction. I admit again that the Congress, in common with the country, is in distress. I agree further that a deviation from its life-long principles will sound a death-knell of the very existence of the Congress. Next he expresses helplessness in getting the various things done and demands fulfilled by Pakistan—a Sovereign State by itself. These few principles are so good in their import that a departure from them by the people and the country may well mean a destruction of the Governmental structure itself. From his speeches I also gather that he is very stiff in his opposition towards communalism and will have no truck with anything communal and for that matter he certainly does not wish India to be ruled by a communal Government. I regard him again to be right in his outlook. Retaliation is an undesirable course which we do not want to encourage. We think it an evil to hold a community as ransom for the wrongs done by another Community elsewhere. Any wrong deeds on the part of Pakistan should not excite us to repay them in the same coin. I regard his six principles in question to be golden and

par excellent. I think that things he hates, really deserve to be hated. Let me accept also that the suggestions made by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee or the Refugee Conference do not stand when tested on these principles. I, therefore, agree with him that those suggestions are untenable. There will prevail much confusion if an exchange of population is decided upon. It will mean a migration of 35 millions of people from this country and an immigration of five or six lacs from across the border. There is bound to be confusion again if a demand for territory is made. A demand for conceding place for a crore of people may be countenanced by a similar and yet a bigger demand for a place for three and half crores of people. I think he is justified to think on these lines.

My submission is that taking all these assertions as right and the six principles in question as based on righteousness, and taking all the various proposed solutions as wrong, we need to have an introspection and think whether or not we ourselves are acting up to those very principles. If you are acting up to them, you are then certainly right and justified. I have, however, studied and thought over the whole thing very closely and it is my impression that the accusation that our brains are confused and they are incapable of thinking properly must be to some extent shared by you also. I respectfully submit that you too are suffering from confusion to some extent and that you also do not have a clear brain. For instance, with these very ears I have heard him say that the partition of the country having been agreed upon some definite basis, protection of the minorities in East Bengal becomes our responsibility. This was said some two or three months back and the declaration was hailed by the whole country. But now we hear from no other person than himself that Pakistan is a Sovereign State and we cannot compel them to do

[Lala Achint Ram]

things in a certain way. With a sense of responsibility perhaps you could say so, but once you disown responsibility then it becomes a different matter. I, therefore, invite your attention to this sort of confusion in your brain and it is my submission that we all are not quite clear in our brains. We must be clear in our mind whether we should do this thing or that thing. In case we feel a responsibility towards the minorities there, we have a right to interfere. We should be quite clear and there should be no confusion about the existence or otherwise of our responsibility. Again you plead that no remedy should be suggested which may create disorder and that the remedy should be such as should rule out the exchange of population and which does not infringe upon the principle of secularism in any way. I give my support to all these things. But respectfully I want to know whether you, on your own part, can provide such a solution which does not go against all these fundamentals and which you may like to act upon. You do not want the Muslims to quit India because emigration of three and half crores of Muslims will mean a break from secularism. This explains why you do not agree to an exchange of population. Along with our resolve not to let a single Muslim leave India and to crush all oppressors of the minority community, we certainly feel a concern for our minorities across the border, whose protection is our responsibility. Shree Syama Prasad Mookerji has just stated that they feel much insecure and their influx into India continues. They find it hard to live there and they are gradually coming out in groups of two to four thousands. I think it to be a charge against us and by not putting a stop to it we hold ourselves guilty of the charges that we are confused in our mind, are stone-hearted and callous, lack in courage of conviction and have failed to act up to our own principles.

Let us be clear in our minds; let us

have courage of conviction. We shall not turn out a single Muslim from our country, we shall bring all the Hindus from Pakistan and plan out to this end. There are thirty crores here; one crore is not going to make any difference. Of course, there will be difficulties. We shall face them boldly. If you really believe in secularism, if you have faith in Gandhiji's principles, if you have faith in *Ahimsa* and Non-violence, if you really believe that you cannot order Pakistan to do this and that, if you believe in all these three things, then have courage of conviction and declare that we shall not turn out a single Muslim from our country, and we shall bring all Hindus to our country and rehabilitate them. If you have no money, have a capital levy. Have one principle. It does not behove us to be confused in mind. What is all this confusion, I cannot understand. I would request you to have courage of conviction and be clear in your mind.

Then, I will come to my third suggestion. If my other suggestions are not acceptable, this is my last suggestion. I say is it not possible for our leaders with their faith in *Ahimsa*, with their faith in Gandhiji's principles, to undertake a mission to Pakistan as Mahatmaji did at the time of the Dandi March? Let there be sixty or seventy gentlemen; let us collect all the gentlemen, members of the Parliament who cheer up our Premier here, march into Pakistan with our sons and daughters, and live there as their sisters and mothers who are living in constant panic and dying inch by inch, and show to the world how we can bring about peace. These people of East Bengal will realise that our leaders are not only talking but that they are capable of action and have active sympathy with us. We will send sixty of our men. I offer myself in this mission and I would deem it a piece of good fortune to be a follower of Jawaharlal Nehru. Myself and my daughter, as Gandhiji did at the time of Dandi March, I shall follow him. Let us

march; let us remain there for six months and show by practical example what we want to do. This is what I suggest, if you reject what has already been suggested. Either you follow Gandhiji's principle or follow Mr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee; either violence or non-violence. Follow one principle. I cannot understand this confusion. I am sure Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru will get sixty Members to follow him, and I shall be a humble follower. This is all I have to say.

Shri B. Das (Orissa): Sir, one feels so subdued after hearing the poignant story which my friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee recited before the House, and one is afraid to speak. But let me take this opportunity of congratulating Dr. Mookerjee on the great speech that he has delivered a few minutes back. That is his first great speech after he joined us on this side of the House, as a free Member of this Parliament.

Sir, I happen to be a neighbour of my friends from Bengal and so I hear every now and then distressing stories from friends like Dr. Mookerjee, Shrimati Renuka Ray and others, and not only from them, but also from humbler people, and I know the suffering has been great. I have to-day heard three speeches, the speech of Dr. Mookerjee, the speech of my esteemed friend Prof. K. T. Shah and also that of my friend Lala Achint Ram. But so far I could not find that they had probed the situation so as to give us some remedies on which the Government could act or solutions or programmes which the Government could adopt. Prof. Shah touched on the economic aspect of the situation. He talked of the powers of the U.N.O. and our appeal to the U.N.O. I am not very fond of the U.N.O. Sir, I have been badly treated and mauled by U.N.O. in the matter of Kashmir. I do not think U.N.O. has any moral levels or moral dignity to tackle problems of human rights of the kind India is facing, in the

migration of Hindus from East Bengal to India. I do not, therefore, think that we should think of outside agencies to solve this problem, at present.

We must admit that the Nehru Liaquat Ali Agreement has done a certain degree of good to everybody. It relieved the tension. It created a better atmosphere. There have been harrowing distresses in East Pakistan, but yet the harassments by the Ansars and the police and the officials is not as great now as it had been in the months of February to April. So let us see whether we cannot explore further this goodwill approach between India and Pakistan and create an atmosphere whereby the ninety or eighty lakhs of Hindus that still live in East Pakistan can remain there with sense of security. Sir, the whole question is an economic problem. The people of Pakistan and of India are of the Orient and they want to possess without effort. The people of Pakistan found that they could get wealth by driving out the wealthy Hindus from West Pakistan and they are now doing the same thing, following the same policy and tactics in East Pakistan. I do admit that I had under-estimated the wealth of the Hindus in East Pakistan. If I take the figures given by Dr. Mookerjee to be correct, then I find that the Hindus will have to leave behind some Rs. 4,000 crores of wealth in East Pakistan if they run away from there to India. My friends of the Punjab have told me in the past they left behind them wealth worth Rs. 4,000 crores. Although the valuations perhaps might not have been quite correct, yet I thought the wealth left behind in West Pakistan should have been higher than that could be left behind in East Pakistan owing to the low standard of life in that region, in East Pakistan. However that might be, my leader, the Prime Minister of India had made an effort to bring the Government of Pakistan into a happier mood. Why should that Government allow the Muslims to get other people's wealth in order to

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improve their economic condition? Why not India and Pakistan combine to improve the economic prosperity of India and Pakistan together, by industrial development and by productive wealth and not by unproductive wealth? Robbers stealing other people's property do not create wealth, that is not productive wealth. Much of the wealth left behind in West Pakistan has not gone to increase the productive wealth of the people there. It has gone into the black-markets, much of it has been sold at low prices, in short, it has not enriched the Pakistan Government or State in any way. No State can stand the test of allowing its people to rob and thus increase their wealth, as is happening in East and West Pakistan. Of course, I have not gone to the extent of saying that we must condemn Pakistan Government. But when people talk of exchange of people, exchange of population, of bringing down one crore of Hindus to India, they forget that India will not remain quiet. There will be repercussions and in spite of the assurances from Dr. Mookerjee and my friend Lala Achint Ram, the Hindus in India will not tolerate this kind of forced emigration of a crore of people, when they see that their Muslim neighbours are enjoying high benefits under the Government of India. I do not want to use the word "secular" and while I do mean well to the Muslims residing in India, it is for them to go and teach their Pakistani brothers honest living. There are many a Muslim Member in this House and outside, whose brothers and sons are living in Pakistan and occupying high positions in the Government of Pakistan, and there are also Members in this House and outside this House who occupy high positions of trust under the Government of India. If anybody fancies that the Indian people will remain completely selfless and non-violent for ever, I am afraid they are in the dreamland. That would not be the situation in India, if one crore

of Hindus compulsorily migrate to India. Therefore I appeal to the Government of India to send a Peace Mission. I know my hon. friend Mr. Biswas is going to Pakistan. I am glad to see him in this House after sixteen years. He was a Member of this House in 1934. But I want a Peace Mission of the Government of India at the Cabinet level, so that they may meet the Ministers of the Pakistan Government and tell them 5 p.m. and ask them whether they want to survive as a State as will be respected by the rest of the world.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can have five minutes more.

Shri B. Das: I would require ten minutes to finish my speech.

Some Hon. Members: He can continue his speech tomorrow.

Shri Kamath: Sir, in order to enable the House to have a little more time for discussion may I request that the questions for tomorrow may be postponed as such for Saturday?

Several Hon. Members: No, no, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order. It was not originally expected that we would sit on Saturday. Now that we are going to sit on that day, since there are no questions on that day, a suggestion has been made that the questions for tomorrow may be postponed to Saturday. I find that there are a number of Members who are anxious to take part in the debate. Even at the rate of ten or fifteen minutes to each we may not be able to afford opportunities to all and I do not think there is any harm in postponing the questions for tomorrow to Saturday. If necessary we will sit for some time even after five o'clock. Today there seems to be a lot of business and there is also a Cabinet meeting. We will therefore adjourn for the day.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 8th August, 1950.