

Monday, 11th December, 1950

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT



THIRD SESSION (FIRST PART)

of the

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, 11th December, 1950

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES (ISSUE)

*795. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that import and export licenses for a particular quarter or half year are not issued until after the policy in respect of issuing licences for the following quarter or half year is adopted?

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

(c) Do Government intend to take steps to see that the licenses for a particular quarter or half year are issued in the same quarter or half year, as the case may be?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to a certain lag in import licensing which has occurred in the past, because of which licensing for a particular licensing period could not be completed within that period. Government is aware that such a situation has occurred. There is no such lag in export licensing.

(b) The position stated above has been mainly caused by the fact that at times the import policy statement could not be announced before the commencement of the period to which it related and because of a certain time had to be allowed to applicants in which to file their applications. It is also found that there is a marked tendency on the part of applicants to defer the filing of applications till the last date fixed in that behalf.

(c) Yes, Sir, as a first step to secure the objective mentioned by the hon. Member the Chief Controller of

imports arranged for the policy statement relating to the July—December, 1950 period to be announced on the 15th June, 1950 and the last dates fixed for the filing of applications were advanced, relatively speaking, as compared with the previous period. As a result it is hoped that the main bulk of applications for the July—December 1950, period will be disposed of by the end of December 1950, that is within the period. The policy statement for the period January—June 1951 is scheduled to be announced by the 15th December 1950 and the imported licensing position will allow the last dates for the filing of applications to be further advanced within the period as a result, it is hoped to improve on the position attained in the current period and to complete January—June 1951 licensing within that period.

Shri Sidhva: May I know what is the maximum period of delay in the issue of licences after the receipt of the same from the applicants?

Shri Karmarkar: Normally, a major part of the applications have been disposed of within time. But, in those cases in which the applicants had not completed their forms in a proper manner or supplied all the material data, as much time as a year or so has taken place before the licences could be issued.

Shri Sidhva: May I know the number of such applications which have not complied with the requirements as the hon. Minister has stated?

Shri Karmarkar: I think that information will have to be compiled.

Shri Sidhva: When the procedure is that the licences should be granted according to the previous year's quota, why does a delay necessarily occur up to six months in granting the licence?

Shri Karmarkar: Last year, in view of the liberal opening for newcomers, as many as 120,000 applications were received and that was the principal reason for delay in the disposal of applications.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the staff has been strengthened after the system of levying a fee on the applications has been introduced, and may I know how much amount has been spent from the fees so recovered towards the staff required for the disposing of these applications earlier?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes. It was on account of the amount of work that remained to be disposed of that we strengthened the staff. I am not in a position to say how much of the fees has been earmarked for this purpose, because it is not so earmarked. It is on account of the employment of additional staff that we have been able to dispose of the applications during the current period.

Shri Tyagi: Is it a fact that when the import licences are issued, they are first issued to established importers, and afterwards when the commodity becomes cheap here in India and the rates go down, then only, licences are issued to newcomers?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri Frank Anthony: The other day I asked a question and the hon. Deputy Minister avoided answering it. I want to know whether the attention of his department has been drawn to specific charges of corruption made against senior officers in his department, and if so, what action has been taken?

Shri Karmarkar: Recently there were two allegations of corruption published by a journal in Bombay. We went to the root of one and we found it to be baseless. We are thinking about the latter and there appears to be no basis for that also. I should also add, in fairness to the hon. Member, that oftentimes charges of corruption come from people whose applications are refused or delayed and they offer to point out instances. When they disappear, they disappear altogether.

Shri Sidhva: May I know if the hon. Deputy Minister is personally satisfied that there is no corruption in his department in the matter of issue of licences?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise?

Shri Sidhva: In this way, Sir. Mr. Anthony put a question on corruption.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Members will have to be a little more definite. The hon. Minister said that two cases of corruption were brought to his notice, that he made enquiries and has assured the House that there was nothing so far as these two cases were concerned. God has not made the

world without sins. Generally whether in a particular department there is no corruption, nobody can guarantee. As and when it arises, they will look into it.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Who made the enquiry?

Shri Karmarkar: We called for reports; ultimately the Ministers looked into the matter very carefully.

Shri Sidhva: In how many cases did the applicants report to the Commerce Ministry that there was favouritism shown to particular persons and their licences granted?

Shri Karmarkar: During the last three months during which I have been looking into the subject, I have come across a few cases not exceeding ten.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not a fact that the applications of the established importers are first considered, and then only the cases of newcomers taken up?

Shri Karmarkar: With a view to dispose of the applications of the newcomers which were very large in number, the date for the newcomers is fixed first, then for established importers and then for the actual users as we call them.

Shri Tyagi: In reply to my question, the hon. Minister stated that it was not a fact that newcomers were given licences after the established importers had been granted licences. How is it that he is now giving a contradictory reply?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think he said so.

Shri Karmarkar: No.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted a definite reply as to whether it is a fact whether the custom in his department is to issue licences to the newcomers only after all the licences have been issued to established importers.

Shri Karmarkar: My reply, in the first instance, was in the negative and now also it is in the negative. The practice is this: we call for applications from newcomers, then from the established importers and then from actual users. The work of licencing goes on simultaneously in different sections which deal with this work.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know whether licences are granted in this turn, first to established importers, then to newcomers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister says that an earlier date is

fixed by which the applications from newcomers ought to be received. Later, applications from established importers and actual users are received. The work of licencing goes on simultaneously.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is there any proportion fixed for newcomers and is that proportion adhered to?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I know that the three hon. Members who are taking part in this question were Members of the Estimates Committee where this matter was thrashed out. What is the good of putting these questions on matters which the hon. Members know?

Shri Tyagi: Because in the Estimates Committee, quite a different reply was given, and we were given to understand that newcomers were given licences afterwards.

Shri D. D. Pant: Is it a fact that a cotton export licence was granted to a particular firm in Bombay when cotton export was banned?

Shri Karmarkar: It does not arise; if it arises, that question has already been answered with reference to another question.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the Export Control Organisation is only a co-ordinating organisation, whether the real licencing work is done in the Port offices, and whether there is any proposal to amalgamate this office with the Port offices?

Shri Karmarkar: The Port offices are part and parcel of the Export Control Organisation. They have offices in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras to dispose of the matters entrusted to them.

Shri Raj Bahadur: My question is whether the Export Control office at the Centre is going to be amalgamated with the Import Control Office or whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to amalgamate the offices at the Centre with any of the offices at the Port?

Shri Karmarkar: That is already a part of our office; there is no question of amalgamation.

Shri T. N. Singh: Sir, with regard to the reply to the question about corruption, are Government aware that those who receive licences are not likely to complain about any corruption?

Shri Sidhva: Sir, in how many cases were the applicants who had sent their applications by registered post, informed that their applications had been lost?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does that question arise?

Shri Sidhva: From this question of delay, Sir.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I could not follow the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will the hon. Member please repeat his question?

Shri Sidhva: May I know how many applicants were informed that their applications were not traceable, although those applications had been sent by registered post?

Shri Karmarkar: So far, we have had two or three such cases during the last few months, but the papers were later found.

STRIKES

*796. **Shri V. K. Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what was the number of strikes and lock-outs in industries during the last six months?

(b) What was the number of man-days lost during these strikes and lock-outs?

(c) How many of them have been settled by arbitration?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) During the six months ending September 1950, there were 400 strikes and lockouts resulting from industrial disputes.

(b) 90,14,795 man-days.

(c) Fourteen cases were referred to adjudication and two were settled by arbitration.

Shri V. K. Reddy: Sir, may I know in how many cases the strikers themselves withdrew the strikes?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In many cases. But I have not got their exact number. As many as 386 strikes were terminated during the period under reference, and in 60 cases the settlement was through mutual negotiations.

श्री बाल्मिकी : इन हड़ताओं का क्या कारण रहा ?

[**Shri Balmiki:** May I know what was the cause of these strikes?]

मि० डिप्टी-स्पीकर : बस ठहरिये ।

[**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Wait a while.]

Shri V. K. Reddy: Sir, may I know whether there was Government intervention in effecting these mutual compromises?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, in most of these cases; especially in cases where

the disputes arise in essential services, compulsory conciliation proceedings start and when these fail, and if Government consider it necessary, the matter is referred to adjudication.

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन हड़तालों का क्या कारण रहा ?

[**Shri Balmiki:** Will the hon. Minister kindly state what was the cause of these strikes?]

मि० डिप्टी-स्पीकर : ओर ठहरिये महाराज ।

[**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Please wait.]

Shri V. K. Reddy: So far as the strikes in the textile mills are concerned, may I know what has been the total loss sustained, in million yards of cloth?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got the figures handy here.

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछले छे महिनों में होने वाली हड़तालों के क्या विशेष कारण रहे और गवर्नमेंट का उन हड़तालों को तय कराने में क्या रुख रहा ?

[**Shri Balmiki:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what were the main causes of the strikes that took place during the last six months and what was the approach of the Government in effecting compromises in respect of these strikes?]

श्री जगजीवनराम: इसके कई एक बजूहात रहे, कहीं कहीं तो मजदूरी को बढ़वाने के लिये हड़तालें हुईं और कहीं छोटी छोटी बातों में किसी वर्क मैनेजर से किसी बात में मतभेद हो जाने की वजह से भी हड़तालें हो जाती हैं उन सब हड़तालों में माननीय सदस्य को मालूम होना चाहिये कि यह सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट का ही उत्तरदायित्व नहीं है, प्रांतीय सरकारों का भी है। इसलिये सभी हड़तालों में क्या रुख रहा यह कहना मेरे लिये मुश्किल है, लेकिन आम तौर पर जो तरीका होता है हड़ताल को सुलझाने का, वही रहा।

[**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** There were several causes of these strikes. Some

strikes took place in order to get an increase in the wages while others on account of any difference in opinion with the work managers with regard to trifling affairs. The hon. Member should know that the responsibility with regard to these strikes does not lie with the Central Government alone but also with the States Governments. Therefore it is difficult for me to express what has been the approach in such matters but generally the usual methods of terminating the strikes were employed.]

Shri Krishnanand Rai: Sir, in how many cases had the police to resort to lathi charges and firing?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not have the information now with me, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a list of strikes State-wise and also industries-wise, for the last year?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I would refer the hon. Member to the Indian Labour Gazette published by the Labour Bureau, a copy of which must be available in the Library of the House and in which all these statistics are published month by month.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know the number of man-hours lost during the recent Bombay Textile Strike?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got those figures here, but I can refer the hon. Member to the Bombay Labour Gazette wherein all the information is contained.

Shri Chattopadhyay: May I know which industry has recorded the maximum number of strikes?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Obviously the textile industry.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have Government any calculation to show the loss incurred as a result of these strikes, in terms of money?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have not got the necessary machinery to do that. It is a very arduous work.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have there been any strikes in the essential services during this period?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are. The hon. Member perhaps knows that several industries have been declared as essential services, such as the textile industry, the coal industry etc. and many strikes have taken place in these industries as well.

CURRY-POWDER, GINGER AND TURMERIC (EXPORT)

*798. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how much curry-powder, ginger and turmeric were exported from India in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

(b) What are the principal countries to which these goods were exported?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (**Shri Karmarkar**): (a) and (b). I place on the Table a statement showing the quantity and value of ginger and turmeric exported from India by sea, with details of the principal countries of final destination, during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 1].

Similar figures for curry-powder are not available as they are not separately recorded for purposes of foreign sea-borne trade returns.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, may I know the details of the concessions received and granted by India by direct negotiations with the countries mentioned in the Statement on the Table as regards all these goods?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I am afraid I require notice of that question.

Shri Kamath: Sir, from the figures available, which of these countries is the best customer of our curry-powder?

Shri Karmarkar: Separate figures are not available for curry-powder.

Shri Kamath: During the last few years?

Shri Karmarkar: The difficulty is curry-powder has not been a classified item and therefore separate figures are not available for it.

Shri Kamath: Then what about ginger?

Shri Karmarkar: I have placed the statement on the Table of the House. The export to Aden and Dependencies is about Rs. 12 lakhs and that appears to be the highest.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the names of the ports from which these goods are exported?

Shri Karmarkar: I will require notice, Sir.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, what is the total value of the foreign exchange earned by the export of these articles?

Shri Karmarkar: I have given the information in the statement placed on the Table of the House. Ginger we

have exported for Rs. 25 lakhs during 1948-49, and during 1949-50, we exported for Rs. 30 lakhs. Export of Turmeric is Rs. 84 lakhs during 1948-49 and Rs. 171 lakhs during 1949-50. That is the amount earned.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what portion of these exports were exported to other countries on the barter system?

Shri Karmarkar: We have not exchanged them on any barter system.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether Government have any export duty on ginger and turmeric?

Shri Karmarkar: No.

EXPORT AND IMPORT

*799. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing the amount of export to and import figure from the following countries due to trade treaty with them from January to June 1950:

(i) U.K., (ii) U.S.A., (iii) Belgium, (iv) Iraq, (v) Canada, and (vi) Burma?

The Minister of Commerce (**Shri Sri Prakasa**): There is no trade treaty with the countries named and so the latter part of the question does not arise. I have however a statement showing the value of imports from and exports to these countries for the period mentioned in the question and I shall be glad to supply a copy of it to the hon. Member if he would like to have it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any trade agreements have been arrived at after the Havana session?

Shri Sri Prakasa: A meeting of the GATT is taking place at Torquay at the present moment.

Shri Gautam: Are Government aware that some of the articles imported from U.K. could be imported from other countries at a cheaper rate?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I have made no calculations.

Shri Tyagi: Are Government aware that a lot of jute goods exported to the U.K. was re-exported from there at a great deal of profit to the U.S.A. and other countries?

Shri Sri Prakasa: That is possible.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how far the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee regarding the measures to be adopted for stepping up exports, so as to achieve balance of

trade with particular reference to exports to hard currency areas, have been implemented?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I do not see how, it arises out of this question.

Shri Gautam: Arising out of the answer given to my supplementary question, does the Government keep no account to see whether the articles imported are at the cheapest rates or not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does that arise from this question. The hon. Minister cannot be expected to have all the figures and statistics at his fingers' ends.

Shri Gautam: I beg to submit, Sir, that my question was: Is the Government aware that some articles imported from the U.K. could be imported from other countries at a cheaper rate?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants notice.

Shri Gautam: He does not want notice. He said that he does not keep account of it. I want to know whether Government keeps any account as to whether the articles imported are at the cheapest rate or not? I submit that it does arise and I request you to permit it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I did not say that Government keeps no accounts. I said that I had not looked into these accounts myself and made no calculations.

Shri S. C. Samanta: My question was regarding the import and export figures during the period January to June 1950. From this point of view may I expect an answer from the hon. Minister as to the implementation of the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee during the period. From the figures it should be possible to give the answer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not necessarily arise from this question. It should be put as a separate question. There are various recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee. How far they have been implemented and what Government propose to do are subject matter of a separate question.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know how much foodstuffs were imported and from what countries during the period?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether there have been cases of re-export of Indian tea from the U.K. to U.S.A. and other countries?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I could not give the information straightaway.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Do Government take into account the prices as well before entering into trade treaties with any countries regarding any particular commodity, so as to see whether they are cheap or dear compared with other countries?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is an elementary question. Irrespective of price which man will enter into a trade treaty with any country?

Shri Dwivedi: What quantity of Indian cotton produced in 1949-50 has been exported to the U.K.?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The total exports were asked and have been given. How can the hon. Minister give figures individually regarding cotton, jute and so on?

Shri Dwivedi: If there was no export let me know?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): I may answer the question, Sir. The normal policy is not to export any cotton which is useful for consumption in the country.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if under the agreement with Burma, some kind of arrangement regarding export of camphor and any quantitative agreement regarding rice have been made and have been fulfilled?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Burma is not in the list of countries referred to in the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Burma is the last item on the list.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I am sorry I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question relates to trade treaty and exports and imports from January to June. What more question does the hon. Minister want? It has been specifically asked as to what is the amount of export and import?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The amounts I can give. The hon. Member was referring to camphor. For January the exports amounted to 17½ lakhs and imports 20 lakhs. For February the exports amounted to 199 lakhs and imports 3 lakhs. For March....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is sufficient.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it the value?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not able to give the details offhand.

Shri Dwivedi: My question was whether cotton during 1949-50 was exported from India or not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister has already answered the question.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I said that our policy was not to export any cotton which is useful for internal consumption. Recently cotton to the extent of 6,500 bales has been exported to the U.K. at the request of the U.K. Government.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know whether such licence was issued in the name of an individual licensee?

Shri Karmarkar: Normally the practice is that when we make any allocation to a particular country it is that country's Government which chooses its own sellers and then we issue licences to them. In this particular case the U. K. Government gave the name of the person with whom they entered into trade and so we gave him the export licence.

Shri Tyagi: Was it given against the policy of the Government and in spite of the ban?

Shri Karmarkar: As hon. Members are doubtless aware with regard to Uganda cotton, the Uganda Government, the Raw Cotton Commission in the U.K. and we are the three parties. As a measure of goodwill to the U.K. Government when they made this request we treated it as an exceptional case and allowed 6,500 bales to be sent.

"MOST FAVOURED NATION" RELATIONSHIP IN TRADE

*806. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what are the countries from which we have received and to whom we have given the "most favoured nation" treatment, so far as our external trade is concerned, during 1949-50?

(b) What particular benefit and advantage did India derive during the last year by her being in "most favoured nation" relationship with Egypt?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) Egypt, Austria, Yugoslavia and Switzerland.

(b) In terms of the Anglo-Egyptian Commercial Convention of 1930 to which India was a party, she enjoyed "most favoured nation" relationship with Egypt in matters of trade and tariffs. The Indo-Egyptian Trade Agreement of 1949 only, continued and maintained her position in this regard. The benefits accruing from such "most favoured nation" treatment may

be said to be equivalent to the loss that might have been suffered by our exports if Egypt differentiated against Indian goods in the matter of application of her regulations regarding imports, customs and tariffs.

Dr. M. M. Das: In addition to the advantages and benefits mentioned by the hon. Minister in answer to part (b) of the question, what other advantages accrue from the existence of similar "most favoured" relationship with other countries?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The agreement is always on a reciprocal basis and we give what we receive.

Dr. R. S. Singh: May I know whether there is any arrangement prevailing as a substitute to the old Imperial Preference?

Shri Sri Prakasa: There are multi-lateral agreements. There is the GATT, the general agreement on trade and tariffs between 32 countries. There is nothing like Imperial Preference now.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the existence of a 'most favoured' relationship between two countries also signifies the existence of friendly and cordial relationship in the political sphere?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is going away to general principles.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I know whether the preferences granted under the Ottawa Agreement have now been ended or are being continued?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Under the Havana Agreement the Commonwealth preferences have been kept intact for sometime.

Shri Gautam: Is there any preference given to Commonwealth countries so far as trade is concerned?

Shri Karmarkar: I have just now answered that question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are continuing it. Possibly the Government is reconsidering the matter.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the existing relationship in trade with Pakistan can be called a "most favoured nation" treatment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a question of opinion.

WOMEN REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

*807. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of women (displaced as well as others) registered

for employment in the Employment Exchanges during the period from January, 1949 to June, 1950;

(b) how many of them were employed and in which category of work;

(c) how many amongst those registered were disabled women and how they have been dealt with; and

(d) how many amongst those employed were from the Scheduled Castes?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) During the period January 1949 to June 1950, 53,670 women applicants of whom 8,203 were displaced women, were registered by the Employment Exchanges.

(b) During the same period, 23,854 women, of whom 2,657 were displaced women, were placed in employment. The bulk of them were placed in trades/occupations such as those of clerk, typist, stenographer, telephone operator, nurse, midwife, school teacher, hospital servant, *ayah*, sweeper and unskilled labourer.

(c) No precise figures are available. As a matter of fact, very few disabled women have actually applied to Employment Exchanges for employment assistance.

(d) The information asked for is not readily available, as statistics are not maintained community-wise.

Shrimati Durgabai: Arising from answer to (b), may I know whether any instances have come to the notice of the hon. Minister where some women could not be employed, though they are qualified otherwise, on the ground that they are married women?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got any specific instances, but in certain categories of work that restriction still exists

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it is a fact that blind women can be trained in weaving and cane-work, and, if so, whether any State Governments have trained such women?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: They may be trained, but I am not quite sure whether in any of the training centres there are blind women being trained—I have not got the figures.

Shrimati Durgabai: Have any instances come to notice where in the case of married women employed their terms and conditions of service were different from those of unmarried women?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, it has not come to my notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether preference is given to Scheduled Caste women or any quota has been reserved for them?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will explain the working of the employment exchanges to my hon. friend. We don't employ ourselves. We submit names to the employers and if the employers, say the Central Government or the State Governments, have laid down or reserved certain quotas for Scheduled Castes and they demand from the employment exchanges a certain number of Scheduled Caste candidates, whether male or female, the employment exchanges do try to submit names of Scheduled Caste candidates in that proportion.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: What are the categories of jobs women have applied for?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is a very wide range.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: Generally?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Generally, the categories are: clerical, stenographers, typists, telephone operators, nurses, midwives, school teachers, hospital servants, *ayahs*, sweepers and unskilled labourers.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he would make enquiries with regard to this complaint that when they have the same qualification the married women are not given the jobs because they are married, or when retrenchment takes place it is always the married women who get retrenched because they are married and not because their work is not as efficient as that of the other women?

Shri Tyagi: I think that is because of divided loyalty.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That also to some extent is one of the reasons, but if specific instances are brought to my notice by the hon. Member, I will look into the matter.

Shri Ghule: May I know the categories where married women are not employed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, I am not quite aware of the present position, but sometime back there was a bar against employment of married women as telephone operators. Then there are other services as well where that bar existed. I know of one or two instances where I have removed that bar against married women but in some cases it still exists.

Shri Sidhva: Where a woman is employed as a telephone operator and her husband also is employed in the same Department, is it a fact that the woman is not given the allowances because the husband was employed in the same Department?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, that question should be put to the Communications Ministry.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is Government aware of the fact that although over Rs. 10 lakhs are lying unused in the Ex-Service Women's Welfare Fund, in spite of thousands of applications from destitute and unemployed ex-service women because of the inefficiency of the Regional Directors this money is still lying unused?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not quite sure whether these employment exchanges deal with that money for the ex-service women, but there are soldiers' boards which are dealing with that money. I am speaking offhand—I will ascertain the matter—but so far as my impression goes, these funds are not dealt with by the Labour Ministry but by the Defence Ministry.

Shri Hussain Inam: May I ask whether any representation has been made to the Government that this discrimination is against the Constitution?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not that I am aware of.

Shri Ratnaswamy: May I know whether the officers who handle women candidates are generally women officers?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not necessarily, because when equality is claimed by them they would not like to be treated that way.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.N. AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANISATIONS

*805. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how India's contribution made to the Budget of the United Nations Organisation, including its several parts or subsidiary bodies during 1950-51 compares with that made in the previous four years, since the establishment of the United Nations Organisation?

(b) On what basis is the contribution from Member Nations towards the Budget of the United Nations Organisation calculated?

(c) In what form is it paid, and on what dates?

(d) How many Indians have been employed by (i) the United Nations Organisation, or by any of its subsidiary or connected boards, bodies or

councils; (ii) the International Monetary Fund and (iii) the International Bank for re-construction and development, and what is the total salary bill of the Indians in each case?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The information required by the hon. Member is being placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 2.]

Dr. B. S. Singh: May I know whether the appointments to the U.N.O. and its subsidiary bodies are made in consultation with the Government of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sometimes informal consultation takes place.

Dr. B. S. Singh: May I know whether the number of Indians employed in the U.N.O. and its subsidiary bodies is in proportion to our annual contribution?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I don't believe they are in proportion. I don't think so.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Are applications invited for these appointments and any advertisements published?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I don't know what the U.N. rules are in regard to each appointment. What happens sometimes is that a request is made to us either by the U.N. headquarters or by some agent of theirs; they sometimes put some names to us, or they ask us for some names. Names are suggested and then they either choose them or they don't.

Shri A. C. Guha: Which subsidiary bodies of the U.N.O. have their branches here?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are several—I could not straight off say what they are. There is the Health Organisation—I really cannot mention the others offhand, but I believe there are two or three.

Shri A. C. Guha: And do they employ exclusively Indian staff?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no idea what they do.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: May I know whether the vacancies in the U.N. are advertised in Indian papers and the candidates are called for interview?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Members will realise that I am not in charge of the U.N.O.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it open to the Government to make this contribution in sterling or it has necessarily to be made in dollars?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe usually in dollars. It depends on the various countries, but almost always it is in dollars.

Shri Kamath: So far as contributions by member nations are concerned, are there different bases of determining them, or has it any relation to the per capita or to national income both for European countries and for Asian countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The same basis applies, though in the case of one or two it might vary slightly for particular reasons. I think the basis is some kind of a comparative assessment of the national income.

SYNTHETIC PETROL

*806. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Committee appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has submitted any report about the manufacture of synthetic petrol from available resources?

(b) If so, has the Planning Commission given it the priority recommended by the Council?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, is there any time-limit within which the Committee is required to submit its report?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). The report of the Committee appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on the manufacture of synthetic oil has not yet been received. It is expected that the report of the Committee will be submitted by the end of this month.

Shri Gautam: Has this sub-committee considered the question that the mixing of alcohol with petrol is harmful to motor vehicles?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. It has considered and it has found that it is not harmful.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: When was the committee appointed and when was it expected to submit its report?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot give the dates. The matter has been considered repeatedly by various scientific committees. This last committee, I should imagine, was appointed about two or three months ago.

May I just say that the answer that I gave to Mr. Gautam's question did not refer to this committee but to other enquiries?

Shri Gautam: But the Prime Minister was kind enough to say that it is not harmful.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It depends on the proportion in which it is mixed. Mixing too much of it may be harmful.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not the subject-matter of this committee. The report is still awaited. Independently, the Prime Minister has chosen to give an answer.

Shri Gautam: But since he has been kind enough to give the answer, may I know whether the proportion in which dealers mix alcohol with petrol under Government orders—I repeat, not privately but under Government orders—whether that proportion is not harmful?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our information is that it is not harmful. Because something is missing in the car, some harm comes. If that is provided against, no harm comes.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: What are the names of projects for manufacturing synthetic petrol which are being enquired into by this committee?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: You do not go about naming projects.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: By names I mean the Jharia coalfields and the Talcher coalfields.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member suggest that already these projects have been undertaken?

Shri Sarangdhar Das: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not understand the hon. Member's question. At present, synthetic petrol is not being manufactured. Various proposals have been made and they are being considered. There is no doubt that synthetic petrol can be manufactured. There is no difficulty about that. The process is well known, but the cost is very heavy. In fact, it is so heavy that unless some method is found out to have it done on a smaller scale, we cannot undertake it. They are considering whether it is feasible or desirable to do it on a smaller scale.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: Then, may I enquire whether there is a proposal to distil petrol from coal in the Talcher and Jharia coalfields?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is the subject-matter of the enquiry.

EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES WITH ISRAEL

*807. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to exchange diplomatic representatives with Israel; and

(b) if so, when?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). There is no present intention of doing so for financial and other reasons. Government are anxious to avoid additional commitments abroad at present.

Shri Kamath: Has the Government of Israel made any approach to our Government in this connection?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not that I am aware of.

Shri Kamath: Is Government considering the opening of Missions in the Middle East or the Arab world in the near future?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: But we have got some Missions in various places in the Arab world already.

Shri Kamath: New Missions, I mean.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that Government is opening a Mission in Syria?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I do not think so. Perhaps, the hon. Member has this in view, namely, that we authorised some existing Mission nearby also to represent us in Syria.

Shri Kamath: What is the volume of our trade with Israel and what is the machinery to look after it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not the faintest notion.

Shri Kamath: Are there Indians in Israel?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know.

Dr. R. S. Singh: May I know the agency through which we carry on our work in Israel?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not know what our work is.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Nor do I.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Prime Minister does not know what that work is. Next Question.

TEXTILES EXPORT TO EAST BENGAL

*808. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any textile goods are exported from India to East Bengal;

(b) if so, the quantity and price of such cloth to be exported in 1950;

(c) how the export licence is being granted for these textiles;

(d) whether Government have got any report of the textile goods allotted for such exports being diverted to other purposes; and

(e) how many firms have been granted such licence?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, except for certain quantities of fine and superfine cloth which are still going against supplies of raw jute received on the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement of April 1950.

(b) Under the Agreement referred to in part (a), it was agreed to supply 45,000 bales of fine and superfine cloth to both East and West Pakistan. There is no separate quota for East Pakistan.

Confirmed licences to the extent of about 12,000 bales of fine and superfine cloth have been issued for East Pakistan. The average export price of a bale is Rs. 1,600.

(c) Licences were issued on the principle of "first come first served". Licences were confirmed only if exporters had received letters of credit from the importers in Pakistan and had also entered into firm contracts with the supplying mills.

(d) Firms which have received export licences can make shipments up to 31st December 1950 provided the letters of credit are duly extended by their consignees. After the 31st December 1950, the licensing authorities will make a check to see that goods purchased by exporters for export have been duly exported. (Cloth purchased for export cannot be disposed of otherwise without the sanction of the Textile Commissioner. Government have not received any reports of any unauthorised disposal of cloth purchased for export to Pakistan. So far, application has been received from only one firm for permission to sell in the local market 18 bales purchased for export to East Pakistan.

(e) 69 firms have been granted licences for export to Pakistan.

Shri A. C. Guha: In giving licences for the export of cloth to Pakistan, is any distinction made between old exporters and new-comers?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, it is on the principle of 'first come at first served.' So far as I am aware, 90 per cent. is reserved for old shippers and 10 per cent. for new-comers. I speak subject to correction.

Shri M. L. Gupta: The hon. Minister stated in reply to part (d) that one application has been received for disposing of 18 bales in the local market.

May I know if permission has been granted to do so?

Shri Karmarkar: I require notice.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN HYDERABAD

*809. **Shri S. V. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many displaced persons from Pakistan are now staying in Hyderabad State?

(b) Did the Central or State Government give any aid in rehabilitating them?

(c) How many people have left Hyderabad for Pakistan till the end of September, 1950?

(d) What is the value of the Evacuee Property under the Custodian in Hyderabad?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Approximately 2,000 to 3,000.

(b) The small number of displaced persons has settled down mostly in the City of Hyderabad without any Governmental assistance in the shape of loans or grants. However, an allotment of Rs. 5,000 has been made for expenditure on the education of displaced students.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) Detailed lists of evacuee properties are maintained. The question of having these properties valued is under consideration.

Shri S. V. Naik: How many of these displaced persons from Pakistan have been allotted land for agricultural purposes?

Shri A. P. Jain: All these displaced persons are urbanites and none of them have been resettled on land.

Shri S. V. Naik: How many of these displaced persons from Pakistan have registered their claims regarding the property left back by them in Pakistan and the extent of the same?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is impossible for me to give separate figures for each of the States, but for the whole of India I believe about 4,75,000 or so claims have been received.

STAFF IN EMBASSIES, CONSULATES AND MISSIONS

*810. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the staff in each of our Embassies, Consulates and Missions in the non-English speaking countries of the world have a

working knowledge of the language and history of the country in which they are enposte; and

(b) how many officers trained in the School of Foreign Languages, run by the Ministry of Defence for the benefit of Services personnel and civilian officers of Government have been posted abroad?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The information is not readily available, but an effort is made to post officers, wherever possible, who have some knowledge of the language of the country. Other officers posted there are encouraged to acquire this knowledge.

(b) All Indian Foreign Service officers on probation have to qualify themselves in one of the prescribed foreign languages before they are confirmed. If they are serving abroad they study foreign languages in the countries where they are stationed. If they are serving at headquarters, they are given facilities for learning languages in the School of Foreign Languages here. In either case, the examinations in the foreign languages which the officers have to pass are conducted by the Director, School of Foreign Languages. Out of the 20 officers who had been afforded facilities for learning languages in the School of Foreign Languages, only 5 have so far passed the test and of them 2 have already been transferred abroad. Among the people who are serving abroad, 17 have passed the test.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that neither in Moscow, nor in Peking, nor in any of our Missions in Eastern Europe is there a Member of the staff of our mission there, who is well acquainted with the language of that country?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I do not think that is a fact.

Shri Kamath: In each of our missions there, is there a fairly good number of members of the staff who are fairly well conversant with the languages of the country?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what is the standard of knowledge that the hon. Member has in mind.

But in each one of these places, there is at least one, and sometimes more, who know the language adequately enough to carry on our work. In Moscow we have a scholar who knows the Russian language very well indeed and some other members of our staff know it not very well but adequately for their day to day work. In Peking also we have some officers who know the language not very well; but

anyhow they are improving their knowledge. I think in most missions there are people who know the language of the country.

Shri Kamath: Wherever there is no member of the staff acquainted with, or with working knowledge of, the language, are attempts made to secure the services of local interpreters, *ad hoc* or on a permanent basis?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is referring to Indians or non-Indians?

Shri Kamath: Non-Indians.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Naturally no mission can carry on its work without interpreters. We prefer having Indian interpreters. Where we cannot have one, we have to take some other interpreters.

Shri Kamath: Are they taken on an *ad hoc* basis, or on a permanent one?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Usually on an *ad hoc* basis.

Shri Kamath: How many officers have been trained in this School of Foreign Languages during the last two years it has been in existence?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I did give some figures in answer to the hon. Member's question. I cannot say about the past two years. But in this particular school, out of the 20 officers who had been afforded facilities for learning languages, only 5 have so far passed the test and of them 2 have already been transferred abroad. Among the people who are serving abroad, 17 have passed the test.

Shri Kamath: What are the various foreign languages in which courses are held in the school, and who are the teachers, or tutors employed to teach the languages?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say that exactly. But I will read out the foreign languages that concern us.

What I may call the important languages, from our point of view, one of which must be taken by a probationer (I am at the moment excluding English, because that is expected to be known) are French, German, Russian, Spanish (of the South-American variety), Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Persian.

The optional languages are: Amharic, Annamese, Arabic, Bulgarian, Burmese, Chinese (either Mandarin or Cantonese), Czechoslovak, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Javanese Bahasa

Indonesia, Kiswahili, Malay, Modern Greek, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Siamese, Spanish (Castilian), Spanish (South American), Swedish, Sinhalese, Tibetan, Turki and Turkish.

Shri Kamath: Are all the Professors and teachers in this connection recruited from the various countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know much about the School of Languages. I believe it is run in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence. In fact the Ministry of Defence runs it and we take advantage of this fact.

Apart from this the Delhi University teaches most of these important languages and we take advantage of that also. Thus we take advantage of the schools run either by the University or the Ministry of Defence.

Shri Tyagi: I could not follow the previous reply of the hon. Prime Minister, because it was neither in English, nor in Hindi.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the benefit of this School is restricted only to the Defence and External Affairs Ministry personnel, or it is extended to other persons also?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already replied that it is extended to Members of the External Affairs Ministry.

Shri Kamath: In the case of officers posted abroad to our Missions and Embassies and who have no working knowledge of the language of that country, are any attempts made to teach them that language after their appointment there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Prime Minister has already answered that question.

Shri Kamath: But what are the arrangements made?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall go to the next question.

VISIT OF DR. WILLIAMS

*811. **Shri Rathaaswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the object of the visit of Dr. Robert R. Williams to India shortly;

(b) whether it is a fact that his visit is on the invitation of the Government of India; and

(c) if so, what is the expense incurred on this?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Dr. Robert R. Williams (Chairman of the Williams-Waterman Fund for the Combat of Dietary

Diseases) arrived in India on 13th November 1950 for one month's stay, after which he will tour some other countries in the East. The purpose of his tour is to acquaint the principal rice-eating countries with the results of a recent experiment carried out by him in Bataan (Philippines) in the use of artificially fortified white rice as a cure for beri-beri. Mr. Williams is also anxious to conduct a survey of beri-beri disease in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) None by the Government.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Which are the places which Dr. Williams is likely to visit?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not got his tour programme with me. I can, however, give some information. He proposes to visit Bombay, New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Cuttack, Vellore, Coonoor and Mysore.

REHABILITATION IN HYDERABAD

*812. **Shri S. V. Naik:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that East Bengal displaced persons have refused to go to Hyderabad State;

(b) whether any colony or hutments were being erected to settle these people; and

(c) if so, what amount the State or the Central Government had to spend on the preparation of these?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No. In view of the comparatively lower rainfall and difficulties of rice cultivation in Hyderabad State it was considered inadvisable to send East Bengal agriculturists for settlement on land in that State.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. V. Naik: To what purposes does Government intend to put the 3,000 acres of land set apart and the hutments erected to settle these refugees?

Shri A. P. Jain: No hutments have been erected there.

Shri S. V. Naik: The lands were set apart. To what purpose will they be put?

Shri A. P. Jain: Some cultivable land is available in Hyderabad and I am considering the possibility of sending West Pakistan refugees there.

INDIANS IN TIBET

*813. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians residing in Tibet?

(b) What is the occupation that is followed by the bulk of the Indian population in Tibet?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) So far as we know, there are six Indians residing in Tibet, four at Yatung and two at Gyantse, apart from 10 or 12 Ladakhi families at Lhasa.

(b) Trade is their main occupation.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know, Sir, if the protective measures taken by the Government of India in order to protect Indian trade and commerce there in Tibet continue to function?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government cannot take measures to protect people in other countries except through those countries. So far as Government know, there is no danger to its nationals there.

Shri A. C. Guha: Do Government consider Bhutanese and Sikhimites to be Indians and included in the number?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, I do not know if the hon. Member is asking me some legal question. But, generally speaking, yes. I cannot for the moment guarantee how many people from Bhutan or Sikkim go across the border to Tibet and come back. We have no figures. We can only give figures registered at our Mission there.

Shri Kamath: Were the two Indians reported to have been arrested by the advancing Chinese troops in Tibet some days ago from amongst these people?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We know nothing about that. May I just state, Sir, if you will allow me, that news in regard to Tibet coming from Kalimpong is highly suspect. In fact it is 99 per cent untrue. And the present position is that there has been no main advance of the Chinese army from Chamdo during the last several months—that is the place where they arrived several months ago. There was a story in newspapers that two Indians had been arrested there. For the moment I do not know who they were. Possibly they might have got some information. But they were not any regular Indians.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

Thakur Krishna Singh: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Question No. 818 under the heading "Displaced Persons Bills and Claims (Payment)" as I find in the list circulated today has been struck off. In the list I received three

days back the question stood there without being struck off. I would like to know whether it is proper to strike off the question like this on the day—the question is to be taken up when no information was received by me that the question has been disallowed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question has not been disallowed. In the List of Questions I have, the question is crossed and by its side a note is put "Transferred to the Ministry of Transport for answer on 15th December, 1950." The hon. Member will certainly have an opportunity of putting his question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS COMMERCIAL EXHIBITIONS

*797. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state in how many world exhibitions India has participated?

(b) Are such exhibitions done in co-operation with Indian Commercial circles?

(c) What are the kinds of Indian materials exhibited?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) After World War II, India started participating in world exhibitions in the year 1947. Since then, Government have officially participated to date in 16 world fairs. Further, 8 wholly Indian exhibitions were held in important trade centres abroad. Government have also aided Indian firms to participate in one international trade fair at the participants' cost.

(b) Yes.

(c) Samples of exportable goods and such goods as are likely to become exportable, consisting of raw materials, manufactured goods, various cottage industry products are usually displayed in such exhibitions abroad. The selection of exhibits is done on the basis of products likely to find a market in the country or countries surrounding the venue of an exhibition. Specially prepared charts, maps, posters and publications disseminating commercial intelligence on India are also sent to these exhibitions.

TRADE BALANCES

*801. **Prof. Ranga:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the present condition of our Trade Balances with Soft and Hard Currency Areas as compared to last year;

(b) in what way Government propose to utilise the favourable balances for additional imports i.e., industrial

goods, machinery needed by industries, and industrial raw materials like cotton, cotton yarn, rayon, and wool; and

(c) whether in deciding upon the import policy for the next six and twelve months, Government propose to consult the Planning Commission and Import Advisory Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) I lay on the Table of the House statements showing the monthly imports, exports (including re-exports) and balance of trade with dollar, hard and soft currency areas for the period 1949-50 and 1950-51 (April 1949 to August 1950). [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 3.]

It will be seen therefrom that we had a deficit balance of trade with dollar, hard, and soft currency areas during the period from April 1949 to October 1949 which was followed by a short period of favourable balance of trade during the period from November 1949 to March 1950. This favourable balance of trade was due partly to devaluation of Indian currency in September 1949 which stimulated exports and partly to lower imports of foodgrains and to restrictions placed on imports. The balance of trade which turned out to be favourable after devaluation again became unfavourable in April 1950 and this unfavourable balance of trade continued upto the end of August. Since August the overall trade position has improved, but details in respect of each area are not yet available.

(b) Large deficit in internal output of foodgrains has necessitated their large imports, in addition, commercial imports of all essential commodities like industrial raw materials and essential consumer goods will be licensed.

(c) The Import Advisory Council has been consulted in deciding the import policy for January-June 1951 licensing period. Planning Commission were also kept in the picture.

IMPORTS (YARN)

*802. **Prof. Ranga:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government have requested the Government of India to allow greater imports of woollen yarn needed for their hosiery industry;

(b) whether any other States Governments have asked for greater imports of cotton yarn and rayon; and

(c) what Government propose to do during the next six to twelve months in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. The East Punjab Government had requested the Government of India for the issue of import licences for woollen yarn for their hand-loom industry.

(b) The only State Government other than the East Punjab to ask for imports of cotton yarn was the Madras Government. As regards rayon yarn, no State Government other than East Punjab specifically asked for greater imports of the yarn.

(c) The licensing policy for the next six months is likely to be announced on the 15th December 1950, and it would not be in the Public interest to disclose the licensing policy to be pursued for the goods in question before that date.

TRADE WITH CHINA

*804. **Prof. Ranga:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what are the most important exports from India to China?

(b) To what extent has our trade with China improved since the recognition of the Peoples' Government by India?

(c) What progress has been made in concluding a commercial, trade and peace treaty with China?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) India's major exports to China are jute goods, cotton manufactures, cotton waste and unmanufactured tobacco.

(b) A comparative statement showing the value of monthly imports and exports between India and China for a period of nine months before recognition and for a similar period after recognition of the Peoples Government of China is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 4.]

(c) Government have yet no proposal in hand for the conclusion of a commercial treaty with the Peoples' Republic of China.

अनुसूचित जाति के प्रतिनिधि

*८१४ श्री जांगड़े: बिचि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या लोक सभा के लिये मध्य प्रदेश की अनुसूचित जातियों के सदस्यों की संख्या १९४१ की जनगणना के आचार धर निर्धारित की जा रही है ?

SCHEDULED CASTE REPRESENTATIVES

[*814. **Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state whether the number of Scheduled Caste members to the House of the People from Madhya Pradesh is being determined on the basis of the 1941 census?]

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): The number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes from Madhya Pradesh, or for the matter of that, any Part A State or Part B State, in the House of the People will be determined on the basis of their population as estimated by the Census Commissioner under the provisions of the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950, made by the President under article 387 of the Constitution. This population has been estimated by the Census Commissioner as on the 1st March 1950, and has already been notified vide Home Ministry's Notification in a Gazette Extraordinary dated the 14th September, 1950.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL FROM INDONESIA

*815. **Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether negotiation has been going on for the import of copra and coconut oil from Indonesia and if so, what stage it has reached?

(b) How many tons of copra and coconut oil do Government intend to import and at what costs?

(c) What will be the landed cost per ton of copra and coconut oil to be imported from Indonesia?

(d) How will this deal affect the price of indigenous copra and coconut oil?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A trade agreement with Indonesia has been negotiated but is awaiting ratification by the Government of Indonesia.

(b) Provision has been made for the import of copra and coconut oil. Import, however, will not be effected by Government, but by the trade.

(c) The prices will depend on the market prices prevailing at the time of import.

(d) If imports materialise they may only serve to check further rise in prices within the country.

PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT

*816. **Shri Kazmi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to amend the

Payment of Wages Act (IV of 1936) as a result of the Judgments of the High Courts (Full Bench) as reported by the All India Reporter, 1946 Lahore 516, and 1950 Allahabad 80 and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The necessity of amending the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in view of the conflicting judgments of the two High Courts referred to is being examined.

DELIMITATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

*817. **Shri Deogirikar:** (a) Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state how many States have submitted the Delimitation Committee reports so far?

(b) Will those Constituencies be accepted as final or will they undergo changes and if so, when and who will make the changes?

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): (a) Proposals for the delimitation of constituencies for the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of States have been received by the Election Commission from all States except that West Bengal's proposals for the Legislative Assembly of the State have not yet been received. The Parliamentary Advisory Committees for the following States have sent their reports:

Assam, Bombay, Orissa, Hyderabad, Travancore-Cochin, Saurashtra, Delhi, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal, Tripura and Manipur.

(b) The procedure for making the Order delimiting the constituencies is contained in section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The Election Commission shall, in consultation with the Delimitation Advisory Committees set up in respect of each State, formulate proposals as to the delimitation of constituencies in that State and submit such proposals to the President for making the Order as to such delimitation. It is open to the Election Commission to amend or vary the proposals of the Delimitation Advisory Committees. The President also can amend or vary the proposals submitted by the Election Commission, and every such Order made by the President shall be subject to such modification as Parliament may make when it is laid before it.

MICA LABOUR WELFARE FUND

*819. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how much money accrues

to the Mica Labour Welfare Fund for Rajasthan annually?

(b) How is it disbursed and on what items?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) About Rs. 2,21,000 annually.

(b) No expenditure has yet been incurred out of this Fund. Welfare measures like medical assistance, establishment of hospitals, schools, child welfare and maternity clinics, recreational facilities, etc. will be undertaken in consultation with an Advisory Committee consisting of Government, employers' and workers' representatives. Steps have already been taken to set up such a Committee in Rajasthan.

IMPORT OF GLASS ARTICLES

*820. **Shri Kannanwar:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) how many import permits for glass articles have been issued to persons State-wise from the month of January 1950 up-to-date; and

(b) whether Government propose to stop imports of glass articles?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Licences are not granted to importers Statewise. However, licences that have been issued for import of glass articles from January 1950 to November 1950 show that such licences have been issued to 204 importers in the State of Bombay; 154 in West Bengal; 127 in Madras; 31 in Saurashtra; 29, in Delhi; 13 in Uttar Pradesh; one each in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Assam.

(b) Import of Glass Tablewares, Glass tumblers, Glass bottles and phials other than special types of containers and phials. Glass globes and Chimneys for lamps and lanterns, Glass bangles, glass beads and False pearls is not allowed at present. There is no proposal to stop imports of any other varieties of glass articles at present.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES

*821. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents in factories reported between July, 1950 and November, 1950;

(b) the compensation given to labourers; and

(c) where the number of accidents has been the largest?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). The particulars asked for will become available

only when the annual reports of the State Governments on the working of the Factories Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act are received. The Reports for 1950 are due only by April 1951.

PERMITS TO MUSLIMS TO ENTER PAKISTAN

*822. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) how many permits were granted to Muslims of the Indian Union to enter Pakistan in the years 1949 and 1950;

(b) the nature of permits so far granted; and

(c) what policy Government are adopting in this regard?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Government of India have no information, as the permits for going to West Pakistan are issued by the High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, and the Permit Officer of the Government of Pakistan at Bombay.

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

REHABILITATION

*823. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to absorb the East Bengal displaced persons in the organisations, offices and workshops that are being set up as part of the general industrial and economic development plan of the country; and

(b) the number of such displaced persons so far appointed in the Damodar Valley Corporation with the percentage of such appointments to the total number of appointments during the years 1949 and 1950?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) All placements of East Pakistan displaced persons in such Organisations Offices and Workshops are made through the Employment Exchanges of the Region concerned. The latter have been instructed to give over-riding preference to East Pakistan displaced persons in appointments to vacancies under Central Government establishments in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In other areas, East Pakistan displaced persons will be given the same priority consideration as allowed to temporary displaced Government servants from N.W.F.P., Baluchistan and Sind.

(b) 250 displaced persons have so far been appointed in the Damodar Valley Corporation. Information regarding the percentage of these placements to the total number of appointments during the years 1949 and 1950 is not readily available.

PRICE OF JUTE GOODS IN U.S.A.

*824. **Shri Tyagi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state what has been the monthly range of the market prices of jute goods in the U.S.A. during 1949 and 1950?

(b) What are the names of persons or firms in U.S.A. to whom shipments of jute were directed by the Jute Controller and what were the quantities?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) A statement showing the weekend prices of hessian (40" x 10 oz) in India and United States of America since January 1949 till the 16th November 1950 is placed on the Table. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 5.]

(b) Information is not readily available but is being collected.

LAND LEFT BY MUSLIMS IN WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM

*825. **Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state how many acres of agricultural lands have been left by Muslim displaced persons in West Bengal and in Assam since February 1950?

(b) How many acres from out of these have been given to Hindu displaced persons from East Bengal for cultivation?

(c) In how many cases Muslim migrants returning have claimed the harvest?

(d) Has any Hindu cultivator been deprived of the crop which has been produced in lands allotted to him for cultivation?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) West Bengal, 3,51,371 acres.

Assam. Information is being collected.

(b) West Bengal, 2,23,348 acres.

Assam. Information is being collected.

(c) Information is being collected.

(d) In West Bengal no such cases have been reported. About Assam information is being collected.

SAFETY OF INDIANS IN NEPAL

*826. **Shri A. P. Sinha:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indians, who casually reside in or visit Nepal, have either been mobbed and carried away to unknown destinations or killed by the Nepalese Government forces, during the operations against the Nepalese People's revolt;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the total number of Indians mobbed or killed and what steps the Government of India have taken to ensure the safety of Indians in Nepal;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian Press correspondents, who narrowly escaped being shot dead, had to leave Nepal for fear of being killed by the Nepalese State forces; and

(d) whether the Government of India have made any protests to the Government of Nepal for the aforesaid treatment meted out to Indian journalists?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (d). The Government have received some reports about the arrest and ill-treatment of Indians by the Nepal Government. Information in our possession, however, is scanty and we are trying to ascertain the facts. Two members of the Indian Embassy in Nepal have been deputed to tour the affected area. Necessary action will be taken after receipt of their full report.

DISPUTE BETWEEN ORIENTAL GOVERNMENT SECURITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY AND ITS EMPLOYEES

*827. **Babu Gopinath Singh:** Will the **Minister of Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Industrial dispute between the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company, Limited, Bombay, and its employees referred to the Government through the **Regional Conciliation Officer (Central)**, Bombay, more than six months ago, has not yet been referred to any Tribunal for adjudication;

(b) whether it is a fact that the **Chief Labour Commissioner** recommended to the Government to refer the dispute for adjudication;

(c) if so, when this recommendation was made and how the Government treated this recommendation;

(d) whether it is a fact that instances of alleged victimisation since

this dispute was referred to the Government, have been brought to the notice of the authorities; and

(e) if so, what have Government done to protect the employees concerned?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). Officers of the **Central Industrial Relations Machinery** at Bombay intervened in the dispute between the **Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Co., Ltd.**, and its employees with a view to bringing about a settlement. As conciliation had failed, Government have referred the dispute to their **Industrial Tribunal** at Dhanbad for adjudication.

(d) and (e). The Tribunal will examine the cases of alleged victimisation of employees as this matter has been included in the order of reference to it.

ILLICIT EMIGRATION TO CEYLON

*828. **Dr. M. V. Gangadhar Siva:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state how many out of the ten Indian villagers were booked and punished for illicit emigration to Ceylon?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The question is not clear, but, presumably, it refers to persons attempting to emigrate to Ceylon in contravention of the law.

Action has been taken by the local Police and the **Protectors of Emigrants** at the ports of **Dhanushkodi** and **Tuticorin** against 412 persons during 1949 and 348 in 1950 so far, for attempting to emigrate to Ceylon in contravention of the provisions of the **Indian Emigration Act, 1922**. Two hundred and six of these have been convicted of offences under the Act and under the **Indian Penal Code**. The maximum penalty under the emigration law is a fine of Rs. 50.

STATEMENT BY INDIA'S AMBASSADOR IN U.S.A.

40 **Shri Kamath:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a U.P.A. report from New York, dated 1st November, 1950, to the effect that our Ambassador to the U.S.A. recently stated in the course of a speech that "the fact that the U.S.A. tends to give military expenditures priority over those for peaceful purposes does not make sense to India" and that "to India, Russia comes as a champion of anti-imperialist, anti-colonial forces";

(b) whether the aforesaid report is correct; and

(c) if not, what exactly did she say?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes, Government have seen the report in the Press. They have also received the full text of the speech in question.

(b) and (c). The report is not quite correct and conveys a wrong impression of what was said. The full text of the address is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 6.]

I would commend it to the attention of the hon. Member.

MIGRATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST
BENGAL

41. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state community-wise figures of the movement of population between East and West Bengal from 13th November, 1950 to the end of the month?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 7.]

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

OFFICIAL REPORT

Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.

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**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Monday, 11th December, 1950

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

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

**STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE MINISTRY
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the House that up to 12 NOON on Friday the 8th December, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of External Affairs, three nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected:

1. Rev. Jerome D'Souza
2. Shri P. Y. Deshpande
3. Shri Bakar Ali Mirza.

**STATE RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND
(TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL**

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make temporary provisions for the payment of moneys in the State Railway Provident Fund to dependants of deceased displaced persons.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make temporary provisions for the payment of moneys in the State Railway Pro-

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vident Fund to dependants of deceased displaced persons."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Gopaldaswami: I introduce the Bill.

**SUPPLY AND PRICES OF GOODS
BILL**

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide, in pursuance of a resolution under article 249 of the Constitution, for the control of prices of certain goods, and the supply and distribution thereof.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide, in pursuance of a resolution under article 249 of the Constitution, for the control of prices of certain goods, and the supply and distribution thereof."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I introduce the Bill.

**INDIAN TARIFF (FOURTH AMEND-
MENT) BILL—concl'd.**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by the hon. Shri Sri Prakasa on the 1st December, 1950, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): When I was on my legs on the last day of the discussion of this measure I was saying that there have been a number of difficulties facing us in the matter of jute industry

[Shri Karmarkar]

and jute trade. I have looked carefully through the debate and I find it might be most advantageous for me and for the House if I dwell only on points which appear to me to be important.

There are certain points raised during the course of the debate about which there can be no difference of opinion. For instance the hon. Member Pandit Kunzru was asking us as to what our definite policy was with regard to the production of raw jute. As hon. Members are doubtless aware, our policy ever since partition has been to make ourselves as self-sufficient in jute as possible. It was also urged at one stage that this might not be advantageous. I understood one hon. Member to observe that after all if Pakistan is growing raw jute and if we have been manufacturing that raw jute into jute goods, then it might be advantageous for us to come together and continue as we were in relative positions with respect to the supply of raw jute. I think from the point of view of the best interests of the country, in respect of an industry which enjoys actual and potential foreign exchange resources, particularly in the dollar area, it would be very healthy for us to try to find out means and measures to grow the raw material in the country itself. In any case it is easily possible, as was hinted by another hon. Member, that Pakistan itself is putting up mills and trying to process its raw jute into jute goods. I should myself feel that there should be nothing wrong, when we consider Pakistan's policy, that it should try to process its raw materials into finished goods. Every country is bound to do that. We cannot find fault with that. But at the same time we have to take such measures and safeguard our own interests in this country. From that point of view it has been Government's policy to see to it that as much quantity of raw jute is produced in this country as possible.

There were some other minor points made in the course of the debate. Some complaint was made by the hon. Member Mr. Goenka in respect of the five per cent. shipper's commission. That was in the course of the argument relevant to show how Government have been losing a quantity of money in respect of the commission that is being remitted to the parties concerned. It was also his point that after the period when we separated, our policy in respect of our exports, so far as the commission on exports to the soft currency area and to the dollar area, some of the mills themselves have so arranged that a large amount of the commission

may be diverted to themselves. I wish that this House appreciates the peculiar position in which we are placed with regard to jute and the jute industry. Firstly it is obvious that it is an industry which gives us foreign exchange resources in a sector we need most. Secondly, it is obvious that that industry is being worked out by non-Indian personnel to a substantial extent. It is also obvious that we have to take all factors into consideration, and while coming to a relative judgment about priorities we have to take a long view and see that nothing is done which might prejudice the growth of the industry itself, the continued stability of the industry, and the continued security of earning foreign exchange resources on account of that industry. From all these points of view it was considered, when we fixed this five per cent. commission, taking into consideration the fact that during war times 2½ per cent. was charged and taking also into consideration the fact that these shippers had to meet various charges, that five per cent. would be a proper shipper's commission. Then, there is a point made about the essentiality of State trading. I am taking this point at this stage because two misapprehensions have been sought to be created, namely, that Government have a lukewarm interest in their policy of State trading and that Government have not taken that much care with regard to this problem as might have necessarily been taken, in this matter. I should do well to refer to the observations of the State Trading Committee because that would give the House much light on the care with which Government have been considering this question. In respect of this, I should like to take the opportunity of quoting from the report of the State Trading Committee which went into this and other matters very thoroughly. It says in page 52 of the Report:

"In view of the fact that 94 per cent. of the output of the jute mill industry is exported, the nationalization of the export trade in jute manufactures would virtually carry with it the direct responsibility for the prosperity and well-being of the entire industry and of the other interests dependent on it. The demand for jute manufactures, though fairly stable in the short run, has in the past shown a tendency to fluctuate violently according to the state of economic activity in consuming countries, and such fluctuations may call for drastic adjustments in internal prices and production. State intervention at the export stage may hamper such adjust-

ments by shifting the responsibility for them from the industry to the State."

Further on, they finally observe:

"In a period of depression, the industry of the State may be saddled with heavy stocks, and it may be difficult to establish beyond controversy whether the failure of the State trading corporation to find buyers for all that the industry is able to produce is due to a genuine change in the economic situation or to certain inherent defects of the organization itself. For these reasons, while the Committee recognizes that State trading may be an effective remedy for under-invoicing and other evils, the Committee would refrain from recommending it at this stage for jute manufactures and suggests instead that such evils should be tackled through a stricter enforcement of exchange control."

I am citing this extract from the State Trading Committee's report not so much as to justify what it says as it is to invite the attention of this House to the important considerations which I wish to take into consideration before coming to a final decision in this regard. On behalf of Government I may say that Government are seriously considering the matter and in case their present measures are not sufficient, we may have to take up seriously to State trading. Hon. Members are aware of the great strain and the present abnormal conditions in the country in every sector of economy and Government are very anxious that when they take this very important measure, they should not take it hastily, without making proper preparation for it.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): Have you started preparations?

Shri Karmarkar: We have started consideration. I come to the point about decontrolling both the prices of raw jute and jute goods. My hon. friend, the Minister of Finance has rightly invited the attention of the House to the fact that that is not the issue directly under our consideration now, and all the factors have to be taken into consideration when we come to take a final conclusion regarding the de-control of jute. I shall have occasion in the course of my succeeding remarks to invite the attention of the House to the way in which con-

trol has largely succeeded and apart from violent fluctuations in world prices and apart from the last three months how our control measures have largely eliminated what you might call the black-marketing. In view of that, it would not be proper at the present time to consider measures of de-control and principally for three reasons. One of them is that when we de-control jute goods, we have necessarily to de-control raw jute and when we de-control a commodity especially at the present time with very soaring fluctuations in prices, we could never be sure as to what ceiling the rising prices may reach. We are also aware of the fact that Government's requirements of jute and jute goods are fairly substantial. We would have to stand a considerable loss in respect of our own purchase. We also know we could not keep pace with our barter agreements in respect of our food requirements and there also we would be suffering a fairly substantial loss when we have to de-control jute and raw jute. Under these circumstances Government, at the present time, do not think it necessary nor advisable to withdraw control either from raw jute or jute goods.

12 Noon

Now, coming to a point about which much was said on the floor of this House. I certainly feel if what was said was right, then it would be a serious question indeed and I obviously refer to the existing loss which it has been alleged, we have had to incur on account of our policy. I would invite a careful consideration to the statement that has been presented to the House. It largely covers the ground which we are now considering. I should also add just at this moment that a very serious complaint was made by my hon. friend, Mr. Goenka in respect of the accuracy of this report. I should certainly have regretted it very much if any report coming from Government were to contain inaccuracies whatever on record. I would try to furnish replies to all his arguments and I should like to invite the hon. Member's attention to the disparity in some of the prices he referred to as quoted by the I.J.M.A. and the figures given by us. For example: In January the price given to me was Rs. 52-10-0 but actually the price ranged from 48-15-0 and 50-2-0. For February it was Rs. 50-2-0 and the price ranged from Rs. 49-14-0 and Rs. 50-2-0. I went into the matter, and I am in a position to tell the House that the figures vary because the prices noted by my hon. friend, Mr. Goenka

[Shri Karmarkar]

refer to a type of hessian which was 40" 10 oz and the prices that have been included in our statistics have been for 40" and 10½ oz and the difference that is there is exactly the difference caused by the quotation of hessian. I would like to be corrected by my hon. friend.....

Shri Goenka (Madras): May I inform my hon. friend that the question which I asked was in regard to 40" 10 oz and the answer was for 40" 10 oz? If the answer related to 40" 10½ oz. I would have certainly.....

Shri Karmarkar: It is not my grievance that my hon. friend contradicted me but I think it my duty to explain to the House that there has been no real discrepancy. It is a fact that we quoted prices for 40" 10½ oz.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think that in the note that was distributed it was noted as 40" 10 oz and not 40" 10½ oz.

Shri Karmarkar: I am sorry to contradict you. 11 Porter Hessian holds good for 10 oz. as well as for 10½ oz and in fact.....

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal): On page 2, it is mentioned: "comparative table of the landed cost of hessian 40" 10 oz in New York and the spot price prevailing there."

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid we are confusing the matter. I will explain this point because it is a point on record, and I should not like to avoid it in any manner. The discrepancy is in respect of the prices quoted "for an amount of period" and those are given on page 11. The internal prices are given for 11 Porter Hessian and I would draw attention to the fact that the statement simply mentioned "11 Porter Hessian" and that does not mention the Ounces. I find on a reference to the record that the sole difference is due to the fact that what we quoted was for 10½ oz and what was understood by my hon. friend, Mr. Goenka was for 10 oz. and I would also invite the attention.....

Shri Goenka: Will the hon. Minister refer to my questions regarding 8 oz. 40" and 10 oz. 40" to which this was the answer?

Shri Karmarkar: I was anxious to invite attention to this fact because it was a question of statistics. Hon. Members will also find from our usual record of statistics in the publication

the Monthly survey of business conditions in India a Table of prices for Hessian Cloth 10½ oz. 40". They will also note that whereas the controlled price is Rs. 55 per 100 yards the quotation given there is Rs. 57 and the total of it is 10½ oz. I was only anxious to point out that the prices quoted were not wrong in respect of 10½ oz., though I could freely say that it might have been made clear, that when they stated 11 Porter, they also stated that it is for 40 inches and 10½ ounces.

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): When the question was about ten ounces, why did you reply for 10½ ounces?

Shri Karmarkar: I want to take the House into confidence and say that what was intended was not an inaccurate thing, but it was an inaccurate description. Apart from this, this statement has not been questioned in respect of its accuracy. This statement gives us a fairly good idea as to the way in which our measures were found to be satisfactory in respect of the period prior to the abnormal period which arose on account of the Korean war.

I cannot go into very great detail. It is very obvious that at the commencement of control, the price stood at 55; the commission of five per cent. came to Rs. 2-12-0; export duty was Rs. 350; with the commission of five per cent. in USA, the total comes to 16.04 dollars. I would like to invite the attention of the House to the rates which held good during the period and if we compare very closely the rates from January up to date, we could get a fairly correct idea. In January, you find that the landed cost was 18.25 dollars. At that time, the price of jute goods was not controlled. The spot price stood at 18.35.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): Does my hon. friend think that anybody can understand what he says if he speaks at this rate?

Shri Goenka: It is supposed to be understood.

Shri Karmarkar: I am thankful to my hon. friend. That is a difficulty from which I have been suffering, without being conscious just at the moment when I speak, and I am reminded of the gentle hint that I got from the Steno-typists in the UNO, "For God's sake, if not for yourself, speak a bit slowly". I will speak slowly.

I am referring to page 2 of the note that has been circulated. In January 1949, we find that the landed cost of

nessian was 18-25 and the spot price was 18-35 and so on. In February and March, we find that there is parity between the landed cost and the spot price. When we come to September, the landed cost was 17-10 and the spot price 17-50. In October 1949, the landed cost was 15-90 and spot price 16-75.

At this stage, I should like to make one point clear. There is a point made that Government could mop up the whole difference as it existed between the control price here and the spot price in New York. A little reflection will show that there is a limit to which we can mop up this difference. We can easily appreciate the point of view if it is urged that we can successfully mop up by some measures taken effectively all the difference between the control price here and the black-market price here in Calcutta because we may either raise the duty or decontrol or do something to mop up the difference. I was unable to see how, after our jute goods reached New York or the U.S.A., leaving a margin for trade and speculation there, we would be able to take measures, unless of course we raise the export duty to a prohibitive level of 3,000 or 4,000 rupees, making it impossible for anyone, to indulge in speculation in the U.S.A.; and also making it impossible for anyone to import jute goods from here. One can do that. Apart from that, I was myself unable to follow, though I went through carefully all the arguments advanced in this behalf, as to how and by what measures we could mop up the profits which the U. S. A. importers are going to make on the goods after they have landed in the U.S.A. I was not able to appreciate that point.

One can see the relevancy of the argument so far as controlled price here and the black-market price here is concerned. We can take any action that is possible within the shores of India before the jute goods leave these shores.

Shri Sondhi: Did you take any action at all here?

Shri Karmarkar: That is the point we are now on.

From the middle of October 1949, price control came and the landed cost in New York stood at 15-85 and the following table indicates price movements in the spot market there. Hon. Members have already got the statement in their hands. During October and November, the spot prices stood at 17 dollars. Then, in December the

spot price stood somewhere round about 19 dollars. From January till about July, the maximum and minimum varied between 16 to 19 dollars; the maximum reached was 19-25 and the minimum was 16-20. With regard to the period between January and June, or even July, I would make a respectful submission to this House. After all, one fact is quite clear that we the Government are not traders either in the fair market or in the black-market. Were we traders, or to put it in other words, were we to take up this subject under State trading, certainly it would be up to us to see to it that the margin between what we offer for and the price which we can get should be minimised as much as possible. One of the principles of an export duty, is, it is obvious, that it will hold good for some time. Even as matters stand, though the measures that we have taken have been very conservative, one would be astonished at the resentment which is there in the United Kingdom and U.S.A. not primarily because we have raised the export duty, but because, firstly, exports of jute goods from India have been growing less and less and they are not available in the market to the required extent, and secondly, the uncertainty of the prices at which they would be obtainable. Now, I would ask in all seriousness, when in January or December the spot price rose to 19-25, whether it is the considered opinion of the House that immediately we should have sprung up from 15-85 right up to 19, and what should have been our conduct when the margin was three dollars or three cents a yard. In these circumstances, I wish this House appreciates the fact that we are not traders to go on increasing the export duty immediately there is a rise in the spot price, and lowering it immediately it goes down. If we have our duty at a reasonable level, it always might happen that the spot price may rise higher than what we have arranged for. Immediately it rises, it would be improper for us as Government to take a step immediately to step up our export duty to cover the margin completely.

Then, after June or July, we come to August, September and October.

Now, these have been abnormal months, doubtless. In August the spot price varied from 19-00 to 23-50. In September the variation was from 23-50 to 29-50 and in October also it was a fairly high figure and in November prices have been running round about 31 and the latest information I have is that the prices are between 24 and

[Shri Karmarkar]

28. But about these figures one need not be particular, because after all, these are, what you call, quotations which vary from day to day. But we can take it as a matter of fact, that since July, since the Korean war, prices in the U.S.A. have been running fairly high. There is a point connected with that. It has been said and said correctly that the black market arises only when there is a controlled market. When we impose controls, it is then that the black market prices begin to soar up. The obvious reason is this. Control is imposed normally when supplies fall short of the requirements. At such a time we impose a control on a particular commodity, on its trade, its price or export or import. But when we impose any type of control, a large portion of the particular commodity under control undergoes the control. However, there is a margin left. Buyers are anxious to buy, but sellers do not come forward to sell. It is under these circumstances that the black market arises. And that implies and that is the actual fact, that what goes out in the black market is but a very little quantity. How, this is relevant in connection with the various calculations made and the various surmises made as to the losses incurred. Well, after the debate in this House I was curious and wanted to find out the position and I found myself, confronted with different estimates of the foreign exchange, lost. I found an Economics journal of very good standing saying that the loss in foreign exchange stood at about Rs. five to seven crores. I found in another newspaper the estimate put down at about Rs. 15 crores. We also had the estimate of the hon. Member, Shri Goenka of about Rs. four crores a month—and if I understood him aright—it comes to about Rs. 47 to Rs. 48 crores.

Shri Goenka: My hon. friend is mis-quoting me. What I said was that in the first nine months, it was about Rs. ten crores and in the next five months about Rs. 35 crores.

Shri Karmarkar: I stand corrected. And so, according to him, the total foreign exchange loss involved would stand somewhere about Rs. 45 crores, taking the whole period into consideration. Well, that is another estimate. There was also the figure quoted by the hon. Minister of Commerce and we were understood to say that our estimate would be about Rs. 12 crores. There is always a different method of calculation. Now, let us consider these estimates. Let us give credit to that view which says that very serious foreign exchange losses have been incurred. Now, we have the figures for our exports. And here I may state

that this industry, the industry of jute happens to be one of the industries for which we have almost very complete statistics, complete statistical details regarding the production, regarding the export, regarding the prices and regarding every other aspect which is relevant to the industry. Now we calculated the ~~the~~ exact difference between the controlled prices and the spot prices by every month, for the whole period from October to about September and the calculation gives the figure of Rs. 12 crores, making the best possible allowance for everything. As I have said it is very fallacious to take into account the margin made by the American importer in the U.S.A. when we are judging the foreign exchange lost. Take whatever measures you may, you will never be able to earn in terms of foreign exchange the margin which the American importer makes because it is beyond our control, we cannot touch it, we cannot earn it. Short of that, we can take measures of control by which we may earn foreign exchange. On that basis we had calculations made, taking into account that what we have lost, assuming that what we have lost in terms of foreign exchange is the margin between the controlled price and the Calcutta black market price, and my calculation shows that during the period December—because my information is that from October-November, prices tended to approximate to the controlled price—from December, the black market price in Calcutta, according to our information, ranged somewhere between Rs. 59 to Rs. 63 per 100 yards. Taking it as a measure of difference between the black market price and the controlled price, the difference varies from Rs. four to about Rs. 13 when it is at the highest—at Rs. 68. On a rough computation, we have come to the figure of about Rs. six crores for the whole of this period. I put that also as a surmise, it is not a definite calculation. Now, I would ask the House to seriously consider whether taking into consideration the period from October 1949 to the end of July, whether we should, as a responsible Government, when the spot prices were varying between 16 and 19, take measures to mop up all the difference and come back to 16 cents? In cases where there is a gradual change, a gradual rise due to normal trade factors we do take such measures and even at the present time if the prices were to continue to soar by the next six months or so, we have to reconsider the position and see whether we should not take measures to control and to mop up the additional margin also. Now, between the months of October to July, in my view, a responsible Government was expected to

do only one thing. It should keep its control price at 15.85 and be observing whether the prices continued to rise. And as soon as the prices began to rise, in August, September and October, when they rose from 23 and 19 to 29 and 23, we raised the duty to Rs. 750. Then again the prices continued to soar and we took this measure, this legislation to increase the duty to Rs. 1,500 per ton. Well, it might be said by hon. Members: "You should have been much more careful. As soon as in July the spot price in Market rose from 19 to 23.50 and the minimum from 16.19 to 19, immediately you should have raised your export duty." But the fluctuations in the American market have been very sudden on account of the scarcity of the material and we had to pause for a month or so just to tell ourselves whether the step we were taking was the right one or not. If Government have committed an error in that matter in respect of that period, I can say that we might have lost some foreign exchange resources. But I would ask the House to consider all these matters in judging the relative merits of the case. I desire the House to fully appreciate the circumstances as I have had occasion to refer, in my few observations the other day. I said that jute is a commodity, and a sector of our economy with which we cannot afford to play.

Shri Goenka: You are playing with it.

Shri Karmarkar: Beg your pardon, Sir; I could not follow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You may go on.

Shri Karmarkar: It has to be remembered that its importance has increased on account of the fact that the prices of substitutes like cotton and paper have tended to decrease. I would like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that cheapness has been one of the virtues of jute goods. But more than that, what has worried the foreign market has been the continued decrease of the production year by year, and the uncertainty whether India would be able to arrange for raw jute for being manufactured into jute goods. This uncertainty has to a large extent worried them. Very recently one prominent industrialist concerned in the U.S.A. came forward with this plea: "We would rather prefer to go in for any substitute material for jute, because the position, I think, is absolutely uncertain." Part of their irritation was due to the fact that we withdrew from the scene of sale operations a certain substantial amount of jute goods to be diverted to Argentina. The sense of resentment was very keen in the U.S.A., because Government

have been taking measures to draw away from the market such a substantial amount of jute goods in order to meet its agreement with another country, in spite of their existing contracts.

After all what have been our exports to the U.S.A.? We have been making calculations of 40 and 50 crores as if it is something which you can easily make. Our normal exports have varied between 37 crores in 1948-49 and 31 crores in 1949-50. The current exports are getting less and less. We are asked to believe that in a transaction which amounted to the export of 31 crores worth of jute during a whole year, it has involved us in a loss of 48 crores during the year. If that is true then the average price level or the margin between the controlled price at Calcutta and the spot price in U.S.A. would have ranged between 100 and 220 per cent. Only under those circumstances could our export of jute ranging between 30 and 35 crores would have made us incur a loss of 48 crores...

Shri Goenka: May I tell the hon. Minister that 48 crores relate not only to our export to America but to other countries also. It includes also gunny bags and also hessian.

Shri Karmarkar: If so, the extent of the loss that we might be said to have incurred on account of our not having raised the export duty to the maximum level would be obvious in the records which we have. To make a long story short the tables show that when we controlled our prices the rates ranged round about 16 and they rose to a maximum of 19 at the end of July. During that period we could not take any action by way of raising the export duty without detriment to the industry itself.

Shri Himatsingka: That is not the only remedy suggested.

Shri Karmarkar: Regarding the three months it has been our deliberate policy and it is bound to continue to be our policy not to run after the hare the moment it gets into any bush. We have to wait and watch and give a period for price fluctuations before we adopt a policy.

In this connection by way of corroboration I should like to bring to the notice of the House that there were serious complaints, when there was directioning on our side in July, from the U.S.A. In a Journal called *Jute and Gunny* the New York correspondent said that people there were worried about the way in which jute control has been behaving. His words were that when there was directioning most of the goods that go to U.S.A.

[Shri Karmarkar]

go either to the consumers or 'reputed importers' and a very small margin is left to the general trade as a whole. When there was directioning in July, August and September, naturally the directioning was successful and goods could be definitely directed to the actual consumer or such reputable shippers with whom there were regular contracts. The complaint from the other side was that apart from what went to the consumers and what they called reputed importers, what was left went to the spot price market. What the consumers would get would go for their consumption or production, what will go to the reputed importers would go in a 'reputed' manner and what would be left free would be for the free market. That makes it obvious that during those three months when there was directioning a substantial amount of the jute goods that went to America went into hands which could not create a black market and the sudden upheaval in the spot prices was due to the fact that the quantity of hessian in the hands of the free market was small as compared with the requirements. During the last two years there has been an increasing demand and on our part a continued inability to meet that demand. If we take that factor into consideration we can easily appreciate the position. Even in those three months what would have been our foreign exchange loss would not be the difference between the controlled price at Calcutta and the spot price in U.S.A. for the whole amount of jute goods that reached America. This exchange loss could be true only of a limited quantity. Apart from satisfying actual consumers and reputed importers during directioning a selection was made. Contracts were gone into and only definite firm contracts of an irreproachable character and *bona fide* transactions were complied with. There did remain in the U.S.A. a certain amount of hessian for the open market and I would invite the attention of the House to the fact that the spot prices held good only in respect of a limited quantity of hessian which was available after satisfying the consumers and reputed importers.

I have dwelt too long on the point, for it was sought to be made that on account of the policy of Government we have been put to such a huge loss. It is natural that we are very critically observing the position. The fluctuating rates, the black market rates or the free market rates in America are not the correct guide as to how we should act, in view of the very difficult rising world prices today. Government will certainly watch the

situation in the coming months in respect of the rising prices. If the prices continue to show a continued rise I have no doubt that Government will come before you again asking for sanction to levy a higher export duty or take some other measures which may be more effective than an export duty. Under the circumstances I do not think it is necessary for me to dilate any further on this point. The point before the House is regarding the quantity and the necessity of the export duty. I have already referred in brief to what our views are in respect of State trading and decontrol of jute. As regards the export duty the position seems to be that the trade can stand a little higher export duty, because the margin between the spot and export prices is very large. It will be the duty of Government and this House to keep a close watch on the level of prices.

Finally, in passing I should like to refer to a few observations made by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. I am not dealing with them at length, for the hon. Commerce Minister might find it necessary to refer to them in his closing remarks. The hon. Member made certain observations in respect of our work. As the House is aware my experience in this Ministry has been very brief. Three months are not very much during which one should find himself at liberty to go off in respect of any matters connected with the Ministry. I should say, however, that the Ministry of Commerce at the present moment is a very difficult Ministry indeed. (*Babu Ramnarayan Singh*: Most corrupt). I wish the House waits till I have finished.

It is firstly because the work is of varying character. And if some of the hon. Members were to look through the work that we have been doing, that we have been compelled to do, they would find that right from the reading of applications, which we get nearly 100 per day at peak periods, down to looking into complaints saying, "My licence is not granted", or, "There has been partiality in that case", etc., and the interviews that have to be granted, we have to stand up to all these types of miscellaneous work. We have to look into it because ultimately we owe a definite duty to the public to see that in so far as it lies in the hands of the Ministry the best possible service is afforded to the public. Under those circumstances, it is the Ministry—well, we cannot blame the times for it—which is undergoing a strain. I wish we again come back to the times when Ministers would only be judges and

seers of policy and Secretaries the only means of execution. I would not dilate upon this point further because it is an obvious constitutional point. All of us know that under a democratic Constitution like ours it is the elected Minister that guides the policy, and it is the executive that carries out the policy, that prepares the material.....

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): Are the present executives carrying out the policy of the Ministry?

Shri Karmarkar: I was about to come to that point—my friend anticipated me. I am absolutely unable, when we judge this matter on the floor of the House or in any other forum, to treat the lowest link in the Commerce Ministry as something different, in its function or in its duties so far as our duty to the public is concerned, from the highest Minister in that Ministry. I wish this House to realise that in so far as the work is concerned, the Commerce Ministry is one and indivisible. We, the Ministers, are responsible for the policies. The Cabinet as a whole is obviously responsible for the policies, and this House has got the completest control over the policy of Government. That is an obvious thing.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar): No control.

Shri Karmarkar: But if a distinction is sought to be made between the Secretariat on the one side and the Ministry on the other, I think it would be an absolutely illogical distinction. By that I don't mean that this House or any member of the public should cease to exercise vigilance over the Secretariat and over the Ministry. And I wish sometimes that far greater vigilance is exercised both by hon. Members of this House and by the public on the Commerce Ministry, as on every other Ministry. A Ministry does gain by vigilance. We on our part need hardly assure the House that if any hon. Member has any complaint whatever—right from saying that a licence has not been granted to saying that our policy with regard to jute is absolutely wrong—we lay ourselves absolutely at the disposal of any Member of this House.

Shri Sidhva: That is an old offer.

Shri Karmarkar: It is an old offer but.....

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): Up to what period of night?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, including any period of the night. I would request

all hon. Members to exercise this vigilance. I did not want to suggest names but I may now mention my friend the hon. Shri Rohini Kumari who has thought it proper—and I entirely agree with him—to ring up at any hour of the day or night. I would like to ask him whether he has got a little attention or not.

I was coming to the point that it really does not serve us to pick out things and say that everything is all right with the Ministers, only the Secretariat is wrong. I hold the opinion that if the Secretariat is wrong, it does not do any good to the country to say, "The Secretariat is wrong, what could I do?" This House is bound to be vigilant over every aspect of the work of the Secretaries or the Ministers—I would not exclude the Ministers either from that vigilance. And I would like to inform the House that if there is any complaint about the working of the Commerce Ministry or about its delays, I should feel very grateful, and I am sure the Ministry would feel grateful, if the Members of this House were to tear ~~into~~ pieces by the amount of complaints that they make, and they will find us always welcome to consider those matters. It is only in that manner that we can ever hope to improve the working of the Ministry as a whole. They say there is one price we have to pay for democracy, and that price is vigilance. I have struggled within myself to see that more vigilance is exercised, and I would invite greater and greater vigilance, so that it might increase our opportunities of service.

With these remarks I oppose the motion for Select Committee and I support the motion before the House.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Sri Prakasa): After the speeches that have been made in this House by my hon. colleague the Finance Minister, and my friend the Deputy Minister, there is little for me left to say; but there are some points which I should like to mention before you place the motion before the House. I should like at the very start to say that having considered all the amendments that have been tabled, I have had to come to the regretful conclusion that I should not accept any of them except my own.

Many speeches have been made by Members of this House and I should like, with your permission, to refer to only a few points made by a few of them, as the main points have been met by my hon. colleagues on these Benches who have spoken before me.

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

My friend, Mr. Tyagi,—he being the first I come to him first—said that shepherds were the poorest people in the world and that we were fleecing them more than they fleece their own sheep. It is difficult to say who is poorest and who is richest in this world. The ancient verse tells us:

*Adho-dhah pashyatam kasya mahi-
ma-nopajayate, upari-upari pashyan-
tam sarva-eva daridrati.*

[When a poor man sees somebody else who is poorer than himself, he finds himself quite rich; and when the rich see others richer than themselves, they all become poor.]

If my hon. friend made an investigation of human society, he will always find that there is somebody richer than the person whom he thinks is richest and somebody is poorer than the person who he thinks is poorest. I may for the information of my hon. friend say that a shepherd does not only make his profits by shearing his sheep but also by evacuating them. It is a system of "black-market" that he indulges in; and as an agriculturist I know that very often peasants hire out the sheep of a shepherd to sit on his field for the night and manure it naturally; and the shepherd takes away a good bit of money in the morning. That is a very easy means of making money, by converting whole fields into commodes.

Shri Tyagi: No customs duty on it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Another thing that my hon. friend said when he got lost in his figures, was that he could count only up to five and that he was weak in mathematics. So am I, but I congratulate him that he can count up to five, for I cannot go beyond zero.

Now, I come to my violent friend Mr. Goenka. The sum total of his 2½ hours speech was to declare before the House that he knew everything about everything; that he had consulted his friends over the telephone and by personal visits and that he has come to conclusions that everybody else has arrived at. When his periods rolled like thunder; when the welkin reverberated with his sound; and the world outside waited with bated breath for his words of wisdom. I ventured to ask him what these conclusions were, because he had declared that all persons had come to the same conclusions without mentioning what those conclusions were. Mine was a very innocent question; and my friend Mr. Goenka replied: "The conclusion is that you are ignorant; that you do not know your job". If my hon. friend needed 2½ hours of rhetoric to

come to this simple conclusion, I am indeed surprised at his wasted breath and the trouble that he took. He had only to ask me whether I was ignorant or not; and I would have given him a very satisfactory answer. I am not one of those who pretend to know anything, and I have, since I was a child been taught to approach knowledge in a spirit of humility. The *Bhagavad Gita* has enjoined:

*Tad-viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena
sevaya .*

[Thou shalt learn by humility, by enquiry and by service.]

My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava was good enough to say kind words about my work in Pakistan and Assam. I want to assure him and all friends that I approached my problems there also in exactly the same spirit in which I have been approaching them as the Commerce Minister of the Government of India. I had no hesitation to say to persons who came with any new problem before me that I did not know the problem but that I was willing to investigate and learn. When I went to Assam, I knew the problems of Assam even less. I did not know how the Nagas or the Kasis or the Mizos behaved. By patient work, by enquiry and by confessing that I did not know but I wanted to know, I learnt something, if I learnt anything at all. But I must have learnt something because my hon. friend has said a word in praise of my work there, and I pray that when I lay down the reins of my office here, his successor sitting on those Benches may have a good word for my work also as the Commerce Minister. But I am not going to change the manner of my approach towards the problems of life; and if at the age of 60, my hon. friend thinks that I can do anything so miraculous, he is very much mistaken. I may tell my hon. friend Mr. Goenka—and I do not like to appear very learned,—.....

Shri Goenka: But does my hon. friend take my remark personally? I never meant it personally. I only meant in regard to his Ministry; and even now I maintain what I said. But I did not mention any remark personally to my hon. friend.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I was not present at the time the remark was made; but after reading the debate, I felt that all that need not have been said. We are not here to judge Ministers from what people in the trade say. From what outsiders say, we cannot say that the Minister is no good or that the Ministry is no good.

Shri Goenka: Does it mean that we cannot express our opinion in regard to the attitude of a Ministry?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do hold that it is improper to say in this House that the Minister is useless or that he does not know his job. Whatever may be the opinion held outside, let the hon. Member concerned keep it to himself. I would not also like any hon. Minister to say that X, Y or Z hon. Member here knows nothing. This controversy must end.

Shri Goenka: I am sorry. But if an hon. Member of this House feels.....
(*Interruption*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This House ought not to be used as a forum for recrimination.

Shri Goenka: It is not a forum for recrimination, but.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Pandit Kunzru: You have raised a very important point, Sir. Do you want that as a matter of taste people should not indulge in recrimination here or is it your ruling that no Member here is entitled to say that another Member does not know his business?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not want any recrimination to be indulged in on the floor of this House. There are ways of saying that the hon. Minister has been misguided or that he has not looked into the matter properly and so on. I would not allow any character certificate being given by outsiders and the same being repeated here. Everywhere if people say, "Well, the hon. Minister does not know his job; he does not know anything", I say that such kind of language ought not to be used at all in respect of a Minister, nor could such language be used by a Member of the Treasury Benches in regard to any hon. Member—whether he is big or small, high or low.

Shri Tyagi: May I just enquire from you, Sir, whether I would be in order if I say to a Minister that he is ignorant of what is happening below or that black marketing is going on and the Ministry is absolutely ignorant about it—if I say that, would I be in order?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member would be quite in order.

Shri Goenka: With due deference to you, Sir, I would like to make

one submission. When you criticised my statement, what is the reason for you to come to the conclusion that I repeated it on the basis of the experience of other people? Can we not come to our own judgment in this matter, and should we be guided by what other people say?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have looked into the proceedings and I find that it has been said by the hon. Member that such and such a thing was being said in Calcutta; some people said so and so etc. I said that such things ought not to be repeated here.

Shri Goenka: I am very sorry if you think that it was the conclusion arrived at by me on the hearsay evidence which we have heard. It is the conclusion which we have come to after due investigation according to the small brains which we possess and not with the brains of other people, and that conclusion is that the Ministry is ignorant of the job.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may go on.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): May I just draw your attention to the fact that what we are discussing at the moment is not that there is any bar—you have not said that—against criticising the action of a Minister or a Ministry. What is meant is that it should not be so low or personal as to make it offensive and recriminatory. I feel that is the correct reading of your ruling.

Shri Tyagi: The Chair has only taken objection to a Member directly addressing the Minister by the use of the word 'You'. To say, "You are ignorant"—this is out of order, because nobody can address the Minister directly. It is always the Chair which is to be addressed. Therefore, no one can say to a Minister, "You are ignorant; you do not know your job."

Shri Goenka: May I just say that before you made any comment upon this matter, I myself mentioned to my hon. friend Shri Sri Prakasa, "Do you take my remark personally? I never meant it personally." Before you made a reference to it, I mentioned it myself, because I never meant Shri Sri Prakasa personally. I will never go down to that low level as to mention him personally. I shall never mean anything personally to an hon. Minister or to any Member of this House.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May we indulge in speeches flattering to the Minister?

Shri Goenka: Hear, hear.

Shri Tyagi: No second person. That is all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid hon. Members ought to keep their temper. There is no good losing temper on the floor of the House. To the outside world, we should set an example. We are the representatives of 350 millions of people. May I suggest that the hon. Minister may go on?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I am very sorry indeed, Sir, if I have been the cause of any unpleasantness in this House. I should like to assure my hon. friend Mr. Goenka that I meant no reflection on him and I accept his assurance that he made no reflection on me. I am sorry that he should get angry when there is no cause for getting angry. It was he himself who had said that he had consulted various people on various points and I was just mentioning them. I did not mean any reflection on him; and if my hon. friend has interpreted my words to mean anything except humorous reference to persons whom he had consulted, I am indeed sorry.

I also want to assure him once again that whatever he said I took in the best possible spirit. But I should like to tell my hon. friend that all the knowledge that we may have—and without doubt he knows a great deal more about the whole situation than myself—should be used to good purpose. The ancient injunction is:

*Vidya vivadaya, dhanam madaya,
Shaktih paresham para-pidanaya;
Khalasya sadkoh viparita metad,
Jnanaya, danaya oha raksharaya.*

It is the evil-minded who use their knowledge for acrimonious controversies or their wealth for arrogance, or their strength for the persecution of the weak. The good, like my hon. friend, use their knowledge or wisdom for the spread of wisdom, of good feeling. They use their wealth for charity, as my hon. friend doubtless does, and their strength for the protection of the weak. Strong, rich and learned as my hon. friend is, I have no doubt that all the resources that he has are used to good purpose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long is the hon. Minister likely to take?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I will take about ten minutes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then he will resume his speech after Lunch.

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]

Shri Sri Prakasa: It was my misfortune to have allowed myself to be betrayed in speaking some indiscreet words just before the House rose for Lunch this morning, and I should like to repeat, if I may do so with your permission, my deep regrets for what I said and to assure all concerned that I did not mean any harm to any one, nor did I take any remarks made against me or the Ministry that I represent, as a personal one. I hope, Sir, that with this assurance the House will let the incident pass.

I was referring to various points that were made by various speakers in the course of this debate; and I was referring this morning to the points made by my hon. friend Mr. Goenka when the House rose. I have dealt with one of them before. I gather from what he said, that the present policy of Government was making the rich richer and the poor poorer. That unfortunately is not my experience or the experience of many others I know. Persons who are rich, or are regarded as rich, tell me that the policy of Government has been such that they are being reduced to penury; and when I go about in the villages, I certainly find that much of the rural indebtedness has been liquidated; that peasants get better prices for their crops, and have more clothes to put on. Therefore, I do feel that, whether the policy of Government is right or wrong—and that is a matter of opinion—it would not be correct to say that this policy is making the rich richer or the poor poorer.

My friend also said—and I speak subject to correction, lest I should be making another mistake—that one of the main reasons why he has voiced his opposition in the House was that he felt that he and other hon. Members of the House have been treated with scant courtesy by the Ministry and that they have almost been treated as untouchables. That is why he felt that he should say all that he wanted to say on the floor of the House and voice his protest thereby. I should like to assure him and the House, that it has been my consistent and constant endeavour to consult hon. Members of this House and all other persons who know the business of commerce very much more than I do; and I have made journeys to Bombay and Calcutta to consult people who are in the trade. I understand that more meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee and the

Import and Export Advisory Councils have been held during the last few months that I have been in charge, than ever before in a corresponding period. I am sorry indeed that I should not have had the occasion and the opportunity of consulting my friend on this particular problem of jute, though he will agree that I have consulted him on various other points. I am sorry that I should have missed consulting him on this particular issue.

Coming to my very esteemed and hon. friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, I should like to assure him that Government have not given up their plan of self-sufficiency in jute or anything else. The economy of the country has been rudely and rather suddenly disturbed by the Partition; and it will take some time before that economy is properly adjusted. Government have their plans, as the hon. Member knows, of self-sufficiency both in food and in jute. Only, that self-sufficiency cannot be attained overnight; and we are hoping very hard that by 1952 we might be self-sufficient both in food and in jute. But at the present moment we are not; and that is why so many difficulties are cropping up, and that is also why I said what I did when I introduced the Bill before this House.

My friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala is prepared to accept my facts so far as ten per cent. of the jute, which to my reckoning found its way to the free market of America, is concerned; but he is not prepared, he said, to accept my facts about the other 90 per cent. This is rather a strange situation . . .

Shri Jhunjhunwala (Bihar): I did not say that. I said that if the hon. Minister has made enquiries and if he is satisfied that there has been no black market in the 90 per cent., then I am prepared to believe it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I stand corrected. But what I heard the hon. Member to say was that he was not prepared to believe that 90 per cent. of the jute that was exported to America went as directed; and that only ten per cent. of the jute found its way to the free or the grey market. I must say I felt very embarrassed when one portion of what I said, which happens to suit the liking of an hon. Member, is accepted; and the rest is not. I cannot pretend that I have made such elaborate enquiries as can satisfy a judicial tribunal and as will enable me to say that nothing went to the free market out of the 90 per cent. directed. But from such rough enquiries that one can make from New Delhi

into affairs of the New York market, we feel satisfied that that is so. And that is all that I am able to say.

Lastly, I come to my learned friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. He was critical of my capacity to fill my present position and I have no quarrel with that, because I like to hear such things and say them myself. But I would like to say to him that the principle underlying his criticism is rather dangerous. He thinks that only such persons should be Ministers in a Government that have expert knowledge of the subjects with which they deal. Then, we can have only a Health Minister who knows the prescriptions of all the diseases that flesh is heir to; we must have a Defence Minister who would be a crack-shot—while I can quite imagine a Defence Minister not knowing the difference between a breech-loader and a muzzle-loader. I fear that if we worked on that principle we must have an Education Minister who can reel off at a moment's notice the names of all French Kings from Charles Martel to Louis XVI. Then we would have a perpetual Government of experts and not a Government of persons who pursue a definite policy, but who have at their beck and call, experts on all sorts of subjects who would be available to implement the policy that any particular Government at any time stands for.

Therefore I am not at all ashamed of the fact that when I became Commerce Minister I did not know that we were exporting such a lot of textiles. Thirty years ago when under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi, we started our freedom struggle, I remember my early talks with him when he said that we had to concentrate on cloth because we import Rs. 60 crores worth of cloth. Suddenly finding myself face to face with the fact that instead of importing cloth, we were actually exporting, my delight knew no bounds, and I expressed this openly. My hon. friend thinks that a person who did not know this simple thing was not fit for his position. I do not know if all judges know all the laws. I know a Chief Justice of my Province told me that he did not know whether a particular law like the thing I was mentioning existed in India or not; but nobody would say simply because of that that he was unfit to be Chief Justice. I do not want my hon. friend to infer from what I say that I think I am fit to be where I am; I am just saying this as a matter of fact.

The House may be interested to know of my ignorance in another

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direction; and that was about cosmetics. When I was assailed by a number of ladies who thought that there should be no check on the import of cosmetics, I had an idea that a lip-stick, of which I had heard a lot was some sort of paste that sticks to the lips; but when a lady pulled out what seemed to be a chalk-stick, which I used as a boy to write on the black-board, and applied it to the lips which changed the colour thereof, then I certainly discovered that a lip-stick was a sort of stick and not a paste that sticks to the lips. We all learn as we get along and I do not think that people should be unnecessarily accused because they do not know many things. I do not know whether my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is an expert in the use of lip-sticks.

Shri Sondhi: Unfortunately he is not here.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I wish my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava were here to hear this part of my story. My friend made many vague attacks on the general morals that were reigning in the Commerce Ministry. He is a lawyer of repute and standing; and I am sure that he would not allow a fly to be hanged without proper evidence. The difficulty is that we have not got out of the old ruts and our mentality today is the same that it was sometime back. In the old days when I sat at the place where Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is now sitting, these Treasury Benches were occupied by civil servants themselves; and they could defend themselves. As things are today, our officers are in the unfortunate position where they cannot defend themselves either in this House or outside; and therefore, we must be very sure of what we say. Vague allegations stick; but they may not stick to the right person. If my hon. friend were to assure me that he himself has made the necessary investigations and were to tell me that this thing is going wrong or that man is corrupt, I can assure him that I as well as Government would be very alert in going through all the evidence that the hon. Member may present and will surely take suitable action. But if my hon. friend says that he went to Bombay and he met some persons and they were all unanimous in their condemnation of the Department and comes to the conclusion that therefore, every person who is working in the Department must be called bad, I may say, with all respect, that that is not a fair method of coming to conclusions. I will not put it more strongly.

I will say with every caution and deliberation that unfortunately it does

happen that in the economic condition of the country we have got to have a large number of controls. Nobody would be happier than myself, believer as I am in free trade instinctively, if these controls could be removed. But when our adverse balances mount up immediately any control is removed, when the country has nothing practically to export and very much to import, then these controls become very, very necessary and almost inevitable. This Ministry is dealing with about 1,000 crores of good money in import and export; and because of these controls a great number of applications are being daily made to us for licenses for imports and exports. Not every one can be satisfied. If the House would lay down a policy that there would be absolute free trade; let anyone get what he likes and sell that at the best price, then the question of neither control nor corruption would arise. That being not so, we can all only try to do our best.

There are a large number of persons whom we cannot satisfy. We have our rules and regulations; we have to look to established shippers, to actual consumers, to new comers; and each category is governed by definite rules; and thus there are a large number of persons whom we have unfortunately to disappoint. I should very much like to please everyone if I can. What my friends have to make sure of is—I say this with all respect and with some hesitation also because I do not want to impute any motives on any one—that the person who is bringing a charge against me or my assistants, is not a person who has had the misfortune of having been refused a license. If he is so then my friend will agree that his evidence or surmise may be interested. I am not one of those who think that every one inside Government is absolutely honest; nor am I prepared to believe that every one outside the Government is so. What is required is that we must give credit for good intentions to each other; and if any one is going wrong, we must pull him up; but if we create an atmosphere where everybody suspects everybody else, where some persons describe those in office as corrupt, and persons in office call those who are in the trade, as dishonest, then we cannot go very far.

What is necessary is that the evil must be suppressed and those who feel that way must also take pains to find out where the evil lies. If when an evil is exposed, Government do not take suitable action, then, certainly, they are to blame. If they decline to take a general sort of action on a general sort of accusation that there is

something wrong somewhere, then I think my hon. friend would be the first to say that we are proceeding in the right way. I do hope that I have said nothing that has hurt any hon. friends when I have tried to meet the various points that they have made in the course of the debate.

There is no doubt that power is a dangerous thing, and I am one of those who hate having any power at all in my hands, because that is most embarrassing and tantalising. There is no doubt that the Ministry of Commerce has a tremendous patronage in its hands today and that is a source of great discomfort to me and the Ministry. I am hoping that the economic situation may get better and that the House may be able to find a way out of the difficulties with which we are faced: take away this patronage out of our hands and keep the people in general to come to their own.

I commend the Bill to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker: There is an amendment by Shri Tyagi for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. Do I place that before the House?

Shri Tyagi: In fact, Sir, I had given the amendment primarily with a view to amend that part of the Bill in which powers were being transferred. Now that, in that matter, the hon. Minister has accommodated me, I am not very keen, unless the House presses. I would like to withdraw the amendment with the permission of the House.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2—Insertion of new section 4A in Act XXXII of 1934).

Shri Sri Prakasa: I beg to move:

For clause 2, substitute:

"2. *Insertion of new section 4A in Act XXXII of 1934.*—After section 4 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:

'4A—*Emergency power of Central Government to increase or levy export duties:* (1) Where in respect of any article, whether included in the Second Schedule or not, the Central Government is

satisfied that the export duty leviable thereon should be increased or that an export duty should be levied, and that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct a temporary amendment of the Second Schedule to be made so as to provide for an increase in the export duty leviable, or, as the case may be, the levy of an export duty, on that article.

(2) Every such notification shall be laid before Parliament, if it is in session, as soon as may be after the issue of the notification, and if it is not in session, within seven days of its reassembly, and the Central Government shall seek the approval of Parliament to the notification by a resolution moved within a period of fifteen days beginning with the day on which the notification is so laid before it; and if Parliament makes any modification in the notification or directs that the notification should cease to have effect, the notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section and section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), every such notification shall have effect on and from the date thereof, but shall cease to have effect on the 1st day of March, 1952."

Not many words are needed from me to commend this amendment to the House. You will recollect, Sir, that it was at your suggestion and under your instructions, that various Members of the House met together and evolved this formula in order to meet the difficulties that were experienced in the clause as it originally stood.

After the hon. Law Minister has spoken, there should be very little doubt, even if there was any before, that Parliament had full authority to delegate this power of enhancing duties to the executive. As I myself said in my opening speech, Government were not happy at being armed, or seeking to arm themselves, with such extraordinary powers, because Parliament must have the first and the last word in the levy of any tax or duty. But the economic conditions of the country were changing rapidly—and with the world almost on the

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brink of war—there was much danger in refusing this power in case any difficulties should arise necessitating an enhanced duty. So, the original clause was drafted. But, as the hon. Members voiced—and voiced rightly—their protest to the original clause, this amendment has now been placed before the House. It meets practically all the difficulties that arose in the course of the general discussion on the Bill. First of all it limits the duration of the period to a year and a quarter, which really means one year as the next Budget Session is very near.

Then, the House will note that it will not be for the House as envisaged in the original clause, to take the initiative; but it will be the duty of Government itself to come before the House to seek its sanction to the enhanced duty in case Government have imposed any such enhanced duty in the interval. As the House is aware, a thing like that could be done by Ordinance. Some hon. Members did suggest that we should continue to do that by Ordinance instead of taking such powers in the law. The House knows that when an Ordinance has to be promulgated, the House has got to be prorogued and various formalities have to be observed when the House re-assembles. Government were anxious to avoid this contingency. The House will now see that it would not be necessary to prorogue the House in case a duty has to be enhanced while the House is in session. By the House being in session, it does not necessarily mean that the House was actually sitting. It might have been adjourned *sine die* and still legally it would be in session.

If a duty is enhanced in this interval, the notification by which the duty is enhanced, as now proposed, will be placed before the House immediately it re-assembles and Government will seek the support of the House to its action. In case the House is not willing to sanction the levy of the duty, then it goes. If the House wants to restrict or lower it, then also, the House will be in a position to get its views enforced.

3 P.M.

My hon. friend Shri Himatsingka has an amendment whereby he wants to give power to the Government to reduce the duty as well. I pointed out that there is section 3 of the Sea Customs Act by which Government is already authorised to do this. My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava may be thinking that because Shri Himatsingka was not aware of this section of the law, therefore, he is not a distinguished attorney.

I personally think that the mere non-knowing of the existence of this law does not take away from his eminence as a lawyer.

I feel that there is nothing else that I need say, for the amendment as proposed, meets all possible objections; makes provisions for all possible circumstances; and, above all, it makes it clear that this power is not going to reside in the hands of Government forever. I do hope that the House will accept this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Before I take up this amendment, I must take up the other amendments to the amendment. Does Shri T. N. Singh propose to move his amendment?

Shri T. N. Singh (Uttar Pradesh): No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: And Shri Himatsingka?

Shri Himatsingka: No, Sir. None of them.

Mr. Speaker: So the substantial amendment is only the one moved by the hon. the Commerce Minister. I am placing it before the House.

Amendment moved:

For clause 2, substitute:

"2. *Insertion of new section 4A in Act XXXII of 1934.*—After section 4 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:

'4A—*Emergency power of Central Government to increase or levy export duties:* (1) Where in respect of any article, whether included in the Second Schedule or not, the Central Government is satisfied that the export duty leviable thereon should be increased or that an export duty should be levied, and that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct a temporary amendment of the Second Schedule to be made so as to provide for an increase in the export duty leviable, or, as the case may be, the levy of an export duty, on that article.

(2) Every such notification shall be laid before Parliament, if it is in session, as soon as may be after the issue of the notification, and if it is not in session, within seven days of its reassembly, and the Central Government shall seek the

approval of Parliament to the notification by a resolution moved within a period of fifteen days beginning with the day on which the notification is so laid before it; and if Parliament makes any modification in the notification or directs that the notification should cease to have effect, the notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, but without prejudice to the validity of any thing previously done thereunder.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section and section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), every such notification shall have effect on and from the date thereof, but shall cease to have effect on the 1st day or March, 1952."

Shri Tyagi: I have not much to say in this connection now since Government have practically fully accommodated the wishes of the House. The House always appreciates the difficulty of Government in such cases when the House is either adjourned *sine die* or is not sitting. At such times Government should have the authority that it seeks now. To that I have no objection, since they have agreed that they would bring the matter before the House for its sanction, as a custom or practice or rule.

I would, however, have preferred if they had mentioned in this amendment at the very beginning that they would enhance the duty only when the President was satisfied that there is good reason to enhance the duty. In that case, the President will have the ultimate power as he has already been given the power in all financial matters, under the Constitution. He is already taken as an entity exercising such powers. If the President is also associated with this, it would be more in the fitness of the fashion or the manner in which Parliament or the Constituent Assembly thought it fit to bring in such measures. And moreover, the President is also a proper part of Parliament because Parliament, according to the Constitution, is composed of the House of Representatives and.....

Mr. Speaker: We are again repeating the same arguments. The hon. Member is looking at the whole position from the letter of the articles and is not taking into consideration the constitutional convention. The constitutional convention is that the President is the Head of the State and all action is taken, with his consent, by his Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional position.

Shri Tyagi: If that is the position, then where was the necessity to give special powers to the President to issue Ordinances? Why should the Constituent Assembly have done this?

Mr. Speaker: This is an agreed amendment, and let us not go again to discuss the same point which was discussed threadbare on the point of order of the hon. Member. At that time the hon. Member referred to the articles of the Constitution including those to which he has now referred. It will practically be a repetition of the arguments. Some other occasion may be found for discussing it.

Shri Tyagi: I only wanted to express this view so as to bring it on record, that it would have been better and preferable to have associated the President in this amendment.

I want to ask a few questions. I would like to know the manner in which Government would come to a decision about enhancing the duty. And also I want to know what is the procedure that they will adopt for including other articles in the Schedule. Will it be on the recommendation of the Secretaries of Government, or will there be any regular enquiry? Will they take the recommendations of the trade and others interested in the question? And I want to know whether that procedure will be a satisfactory one. I would like to have some light thrown on this point.

Mr. Speaker: There is not much scope for arguments on this.

Shri Hussain Imam: I will not take long, I only want to clear one or two doubts. Though this is an agreed amendment, I want to understand from the hon. Minister—I am not asking for any change—whether we can have an assurance that when the House is sitting, they would bring in a Bill as they did this session, rather than use this extraordinary power. I am not suggesting that this amendment should be amended. If Government can give us this assurance that as far as possible, they would adopt the straight course of bringing in a Bill in cases of this nature, rather than utilise this extraordinary power, that will be very desirable. That is the suggestion that I have to make.

Shri Sri Prakasa: As you have, Sir, rightly stated, the President is the Head of the State and Government represents him.

As regards the procedure that we follow, it is something like this. Prac-

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tically, before we ourselves go out to include anything, we are inundated by telegrams and letters on almost every matter that concerns the Ministry. Naturally, even if we were asleep, we would wake up when telegrams come in large numbers and letters follow each other in quick succession. Then we take all possible advice. If it is possible, we also meet the Standing Advisory Committee and put the case before them. We consult others also interested and those who can possibly help; and then the Ministry prepares a note, making its suggestions to the Cabinet and asks for its approval. Then that note comes before the Cabinet where the problem is discussed; and after its sanction has been received, the duty is enhanced.

Mr. Hussain Imam asks if it would not be feasible, when the House is actually sitting—not only in session, but actually sitting—to bring a Bill. I think, judging from the time it takes even to pass a small Bill, that it would be an unnecessarily prolonged procedure. In such circumstances, what will happen is this. When it is decided to enhance the duty, it will be enhanced by a Notification; and as the House would be sitting, that Notification will be placed before it at once, and its approval would be sought for the said Notification within a fortnight, by a resolution moved by Government in that behalf. Then we could have a debate—full-dress or short, as the mood of the House may like—and the House would accept the enhancement of the duty, reject it or reduce the amount. I think the purpose which my hon. friend has in view will be fully served by this procedure. I have nothing more to say and I hope the amendment will be accepted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

For clause 2, substitute:

"2. *Insertion of new section 4A in Act XXXII of 1934.*—After section 4 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:

'4A. *Emergency power of Central Government to increase of levy export duties:* (1) Where in respect of any article, whether included in the Second Schedule or not, the Central Government is satisfied that the export duty leviable thereon should be increased or that an export duty should be levied, and that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take

immediate action, the Central Government may, by notification, in the Official Gazette, direct a temporary amendment of the Second Schedule to be made so as to provide for an increase in the export duty leviable, or, as the case may be, the levy of an export duty, on that article.

(2) Every such notification shall be laid before Parliament, if it is in session, as soon as may be after the issue of notification, and if it is not in session, within seven days of its reassembly, and the Central Government shall seek the approval of Parliament to the notification by a resolution moved within a period of fifteen days beginning with the day on which the notification is so laid before it; and if Parliament makes any modification in the notification or directs that the notification should cease to have effect, the notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section and section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), every such notification shall have effect on and from the date thereof, but shall cease to have effect on the 1st day of March, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3.—(Amendment of the *Second Schedule, Act XXXII of 1934*).

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I beg to move:

In part (a) (ii) of clause 3, for "1,500" substitute "1,450".

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): I beg to move:

In part (a) (ii) of clause 3, for "Rs. 1,500" substitute "Rs. 1,000".

Mr. Speaker: Amendments moved:

In part (a) (ii) of clause 3, for "1,500" substitute "1,450".

In part (a) (ii) of clause 3, for "Rs. 1,500" substitute "Rs. 1,000".

Shri Tyagi: Is the figures suggested Rs. 2,000?

Mr. Speaker: Rs. 1,000.

Shri Tyagi: I would like to move...

Mr. Speaker: It cannot be done now.

Shri Jhunjunwala: I did not want to move the amendment. I only want to speak on the amendment.....

Mr. Speaker: He could have as well spoken without moving his amendment. If I were to permit him to speak I shall be creating the impression that because Members move amendments therefore they must be given a chance to speak. However, let the hon. Member be as short as possible. The matter has been discussed threadbare in the consideration stage.

Shri Jhunjunwala: My amendment is only a token amendment and hence I did not want to move it. I am not for the principle of levying an export duty to mop up the profits. My object in giving notice of this amendment was simply to point out to the House that this is not the proper method of mopping up the additional profits which are being made either by the black marketeers or white marketeers. If we want to mop up the profits and bring it into the coffers of Government the only practicable way is to adopt State trading. My hon. friend the Deputy Minister of Commerce disposed of the matter by quoting only a few passages from the report of the State Trading Committee, of which I was also a member, to show that State trading in jute should not be taken in hand. In view of the events that have happened and the great loss suffered by the country the matter should have been considered in that light. Then Government should have said anything, instead of pointing out merely its defects and difficulties in the way. The only practicable way by which we can get that money into the coffers of Government is by adopting State trading. How long can we go on being nervous and saying that we cannot take to State trading because there are so many difficulties? We have to meet the difficulties in the way and thus gain experience. We have lost 100 crores.....

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member propose to go into the whole question of State trading at this stage again?

Shri Jhunjunwala: I only want to say that I do not want the principle of mopping up the profits by putting

an export duty. I shall say only a few words.

Mr. Speaker: This point was also discussed threadbare during the consideration stage. He can mention it as one of the points which the hon. Commerce Minister or the House should bear in mind. It is no use again repeating the same arguments. The language may be different but the substance would be repetition.

Shri Jhunjunwala: Up till now whatever has been said about State trading has been said only half-heartedly.....

Some Hon. Members: He is saying now whole-heartedly.

Mr. Speaker: It will not be possible for me to allow a debate on this point.

Shri Jhunjunwala: I will not take more than five minutes. The Commerce Minister said that there has been blackmarketing only to the extent of 12 crores and on ten per cent., not on 90 per cent. The Minister further said that I have taken it as it suited me: it did not suit me to have 90 per cent. and therefore I did not believe it. It is not that a particular thing suited me or did not suit me. The only thing which suits me is the interest of the country, and there is no other criterion before me. I have here so much papers, statistics and figures. I do not want to go into the jugglery of figures. Every interested person has given figures according to his own idea and therefore I have taken Government's figures as the basis. Government say that there has been black-marketing to the extent of 12 crores on Rs. 144 crores worth of goods.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I did not say that there has been blackmarketing. What I did say was that if we could get all the profits that the American traders made with the price control on jute goods on this side, then we would have got, in my estimate, about Rs. 12 crores. I do not quite understand what my hon. friend means by black-marketing. As there is no price control in U. S. A. a man can sell at any price he can get, which is not black marketing. (An hon. Member: It is grey-marketing.) What I said was that if we had raised the duty at that time—and it always takes time for a Government to do it, because of the procedure we have to adopt, which I explained in answer to my hon. friend Mr. Hussain Imam—immediately

[Shri Sri Prakasa]
after there was a rise in the New York market, then we would have got so much more. That was all.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Call it black-marketing, call it anything you like, according to what the hon. Commerce Minister had said on the opening day of the debate this loss was only on ten per cent. of the trade and if we calculate the loss on 100 per cent. it will come to about Rs. 100 crores. You say that 90 per cent of the goods went directly to the consumer. That is our generosity. The Minister said in his speech the other day that his predecessor had been very fair to outsiders. He had calculated the cost of production, he had calculated this, that and the other and then allowed the goods to go to the foreign markets. Is it the policy we are going to follow? It is the Indian tradition that we are large-hearted and not small-minded as other countries are. But we should not give away so much without getting anything in return for it. We are trading with traders on the other side and we have given away 100 crores, whereas America will not give us food even at a reasonable price and would starve us. On the other hand this country has given 100 crores to U.S.A. without any sort of obligation on their side.

Having got these figures on the basis of what Government has given us, the only thing now left for us to say is that we must have State-trading. The hon. Minister said that it takes time for Government to impose duties, or to reduce or increase the duties—I quite appreciate his difficulty. But what is the other way? Shall we allow our money to go to foreign countries in this way? The moment the American people heard that we have imposed so much duty and are going to control this commodity, the tendency of the market there has been downwards—it has become stationary. So, either you have State-trading, or, if you say that you don't want State-trading, then if you want to have the proper price for your goods then you have to have de-control. In that case the money will go to our people here. They may be blackmarketers or whatever it is, but we know that so much is going to them, and in exchange we shall get at least something by way of income-tax. But anyway let us not be fool ourselves by saying that we are trading so generously as to give away so much money to other countries without any obligation. I very strongly submit that we must take to State-trading or if we feel frustrated and helpless then we must de-control jute—otherwise we shall not get the proper price for it.

Shri T. N. Singh: I have only a few words to say in regard to this clause. I feel that Government were compelled to revise the scale of duty here and raise it due to rise in price of jute manufactures in view of world conditions—the Korean war and the tendency for stock-piling both in America and in the Continent of Europe. But I would submit that if international conditions change and the peace moves are successful, then there may be a slump. I would therefore urge Government to consider whether by some method it is not possible to have a certain elasticity or adjustability in this duty. It should not be beyond human ingenuity to evolve some formula like that. I would suggest for your consideration that we may fix a certain duty and in every quotation that our traders may make to America, say, in the f.o.r. quotation, there should be an elastic amount or rate which may be charged not as a duty but as some other charge which Government may think about. I would urge this for your serious consideration. It should be possible to evolve some method whereby after a certain minimum or maximum duty which may be levied there may be a certain marginal amount of levy which can be varied according to the needs of the situation just as we have in the case of the price of sugar. In the case of sugar there is a relation between the cane price and the sugar price. Similarly, we should be able to devise a formula by which a variable levy, besides the duty, may be charged depending on the rise and fall in the prices due to the very unstable world conditions. I hope when the hon. Minister comes at the next session with a permanent measure some such method may have been evolved.

Shri Hussain Imam: I don't wish to say anything in opposition to the duties proposed by Government or in support of the amendment. I simply wish to say that we must take into account the conditions of the world as well as those in India. I agree that self-sufficiency in jute is attainable, most certainly, but it will take some time. I regret that I have yet to find that any effort is being made by Government to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of jute. I would refer to the increased prices which have been sanctioned only a few months back to cotton by the Industries Ministry and to sugar-cane by the Food Ministry. Here also it was possible for Government to increase the price of raw jute and thereby encourage its production, but Government have taken no steps. When I say this I am bringing to the notice of

Government the fact that during the period that we have had controlled production of jute the exports of raw jute to the outside world had been on the average of the order of about 22 lakh bales between the period 1st April, 1940, and 31st March, 1948. Last year according to my information Pakistan and India exported 34 lakh bales of jute, and it is said that this year the amount of jute that will be exported on account of India and Pakistan to outside world will be of the order of 40 lakh bales.

Shri Himatsingka: None from India.

Shri Hussain Imam: None from India. Perhaps to the dollar countries we might export some.

Shri Himatsingka: Not one single bale.

Shri Hussain Imam: All right. Anyway, last year we exported 34 lakh bales: five lakhs from India, 18 lakhs from Pakistan through Chittagong and another ten lakhs from Pakistan through Calcutta. That is a factor which must be borne in mind. Of course, it is always open and possible for Government—they have the inherent power—to reduce the duties. I don't wish to upset the duty clause now, but it is very essential that active encouragement in the shape of price increase should be given to jute growers.

About the way in which the Ministry has been working, I would only like to say one thing, that they have been working under a singular drawback, just as I am misunderstood and misquoted. The result is that unforeseen things happen. The P. T. I. in its published report on the debate of last Friday has misquoted me by saying that I stated that the condition of jute was not abnormal. The record is here. It will show that I stressed the point that the condition was abnormal. I had also stressed the fact that the jute exports from Calcutta on Pakistan's account should be taken into account. I had said nothing that Government should stop it. But the P. T. I. reported that I had asked for it being stopped. Pandit Kunzru, a great and valued friend of mine, misunderstood me when he stated that I was asking for something like opening of the trade with Pakistan. What I said was that if we worked it in the manner in which the trade wants it to be worked, that is that there should be no control on prices, the result would be that it would kill the goose that laid the golden eggs. That was what I

said in my speech. And I still believe that unless there is effort made by Government to keep the prices of jute under control, jute will be ousted and paper will replace it.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad: My amendment seeks to find a *via media* between the existing tax and the proposed tax. The proposed tax runs on the basis that the profit that is being made by the trade is illegal profit and therefore Government must rob the trade of this illegal profit. It is just like picking the pocket of a pick-pocket. I submit that the profit that is made is not all due to black-marketing. Much of the profit goes to honest traders. A fraction goes to the black-marketeers. So the honest trade which consists of a large number of limited companies is going to be robbed of a just wind-fall which has befallen it. I submit that the undue profit which has arisen should be shared between Government and the honest traders. There has been a talk of State trading. I shall tell the House what effect this talk has had.

In my opinion, India must not attempt self-sufficiency in the matter of jute. The mills of Calcutta have enough loom power to supply the whole world, but the production of raw jute is only 30 per cent. The talk of self-sufficiency has induced the Pakistan Government to start four new mills. They would be very big mills and would be started in the course of a few months and completed in two or three years. The result would be cut-throat competition. There would be overproduction of jute both in Calcutta as well as in East Bengal. The prosperity of the jute industry depends upon balanced production. There are great experts who study the world market and the world demand, and just under-produce in order to fetch a very high profit. One of the greatest enemies of jute is overproduction. If East Bengal produces to the maximum and Calcutta mills also produce the maximum, the market would be over-flooded and there would be undercutting between East Bengal and West Bengal and both would lose heavily.

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

It is for these reasons that I submit that the profits should be shared between the Government of India and the honest shareholders as well as the jute growers of East Bengal. I have it from the authority of people who are not black-marketeers, who are not millowners, but who are simply good authority on this matter, that the

[Shri Naziruddin Ahmad]

result of starting of new mills and of overproduction of raw jute would mean serious competition and as the result of the same, some of the small mills of Calcutta would be put out of business. So, in trying to meddle with business affairs, we should proceed cautiously. I know the hon. Minister keeps an open mind and I would request him to consider this matter carefully before starting State-trading or attempting self-sufficiency. My amendment strikes a medium. It says: you take something and leave something to the trade. After all, what you leave to the trade would be known, because the accounts of the big millowners of jute are known. They are certified and there is no black-marketing possible there. Government will get a large share of income-tax from those incomes. So, the income does not go. At the same time, it produces a sentimental satisfaction in the trade and there will be encouragement to the trade itself. Thus, my amendment is a *via media* which takes into consideration all the conflicting interests.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I hope that my friends who have taken part in the discussion on this amendment, will not accuse me of any discourtesy when I say that at this stage I should like to refrain from attempting to give an answer to all the points which they have made. So far as I recollect, all these points were referred to in the course of the general debate and to the best of our knowledge and information, we tried to meet those points. I should, however, like to assure all friends that the suggestions that they have made, will receive the greatest possible consideration at the hands of the Ministry when the whole problem is discussed and final decisions are taken. The situation has developed so suddenly that some equally sudden action was necessary, and from such discussions that we could have and such advice that we could get, the proposals made in the Bill were regarded as the most feasible and the most helpful. That is why this Bill is before the House; but all the points that have been made will be duly considered before final decisions are taken.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave,
 withdrawn.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad: I also beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave,
 withdrawn.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava (Ajmer): On this Bill the debate in the last several days has been confined mainly to jute duty and to the incidental questions arising therefrom, but the export duty on cotton, cotton waste and wool has not been considered at all very seriously. The hon. the Minister of Commerce who moved this Tariff Bill, in his introductory speech, has made reference only to the jute export duty, as though the subject-matter of the Bill is the imposition of the jute export duty only. There has been absolutely no reference to the reasons which prompted this Government to impose such a heavy duty as 30 per cent. *ad valorem* on the export of wool for the first time in the history of this country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the hon. the Finance Minister replied to it.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: I am coming to it. The hon. the Finance Minister and also the hon. the Commerce Minister made reference to this duty, but I must say that it was taken more in joke than seriously. No reasons at all at any stage of the debate were put before the House which motivated Government in taking this step. So far as I am concerned, I have a very serious objection to the imposition of export duty, both in principle, as well as in regard to the quantum and the burden of this duty. The main ground upon which I oppose the imposition of this duty is that it will hit very hard the primary producer of wool in this country. In fact, our country has immense potentialities for the development of raw wool and wool industry and this trade has been absolutely neglected by Government. It has not received any attention whatsoever. What is our position today in the world market? So far as the duty on jute or other commodities are concerned, they primarily hit the buyer. That is not the case at all in the case of duty on wool. It does not hit the buyer; it hits the seller. I would just like to illustrate my point.

Our wool is not sold here in India, as the other commodities are sold. The market for our wool is Liverpool. In fact, none of the considerations that have been urged by the hon. the Finance Minister justifying the imposition of an export duty on jute is present so far as wool is concerned. For example, there is absolutely no disparity in the price of wool as between India and the foreign markets. In fact the price of wool in India depends upon the foreign market price. This is the helpless position of our wool traders. They have exclusively to depend upon the Liverpool market. Today the prices in India are more or less gov-

erned by the expectations our raw wool sales are likely to have in auction in Liverpool. It is the auction prices that govern the prices in the Indian market. In fact whatever prices our raw wool fetch depend exclusively on what will be offered by the foreign buyers at Liverpool. Consequently, our traders who ship wool through exporters only get an advance on the prospective price the wool is likely to bring in the Liverpool Market, and as soon as the final bid is struck, the losses and gains are computed and accounts adjusted. So if the prices fetched at the Liverpool market are very low, the exporters who have advanced money to the traders on the prospective price of wool will take back the amount from the traders. So far as wool is concerned, it is the bargain struck in Liverpool market that counts and it will be the sellers that will be hit by this export duty and not the buyers.

The second very important factor which is established beyond doubt is that there is absolutely no disparity between the price of wool here in India and in the foreign markets, namely New York and Liverpool. If the trend of rising prices after the outbreak of the Korean War is taken into consideration, the level of rise is uniform throughout the world. It is not a feature peculiar to India. Therefore, this feature which was said to be a justification for the imposition of a duty on jute, is not present in the case of wool.

Now let us examine the third important factor. It was pointed out that the export duty was sought to be imposed with a view to seeing that the raw material is not insufficient to meet the requirements of the indigenous industry. My contention before this House is that so far as raw wool is concerned, we are producing much more than our local requirements. There is absolutely no chance whatsoever of our raw wool falling short of our requirements. I would in this connection respectfully invite the attention of the House to the fact that in pre-Partition India the total production of wool was about 8.5 million pounds. Out of this, the production of the territories now forming part of Pakistan, was only 2,71,00,000 pounds. That means the territories comprising India produced 5 crores and 28 lakh pounds and Kashmir accounted for 16 lakh pounds. So, that was the position just before Partition. These are the figures which I gathered from Government reports published in 1945. This clearly shows that of the total wool produced in India about two-thirds was being

produced by the Indian Union and the remaining one-third by Pakistan. During the last three years (that is 1948, 1949 and 1950) India exported 1,10,000 bales in 1948. In 1949 our export figures went down to 85,000 bales; from January to 30th of June 1950 our exports were 42,000 bales. It will, therefore, be seen that our exports of wool are decreasing year after year. That may be due to various reasons; but in spite of that there is one very important wholesome feature of our wool trade. The main purchasers of Indian wool prior to partition were the United Kingdom and the United States of America. United Kingdom was purchasing to the extent of 77 per cent. of our produce, while the United States of America was purchasing 18 per cent.; the remaining five per cent. was absorbed by other continental countries. In the course of the last war as also afterwards the U.S.A. has become our main purchaser. In 1950 out of 42,000 bales exported up to the 30th of June, no less than 19,000 bales were purchased by the U.S.A. and about 18,000 bales by U.K. The question that baffles me is why Government has felt it necessary to impose this export duty on wool. So far as my State is concerned—I mean the State of Rajasthan, Ajmer being a part of Rajasthan—it is the biggest wool producing State. Out of the total produce in the year 1948 amounting to 5,20,00,000 lbs. no less than 1,73,00,000 lbs. came from Rajasthan. That is, about 40 per cent. of the entire wool produced in India, Rajasthan is producing. And it is Rajasthan and its primary producer that will be greatly affected by this export duty.

What is the justification for the imposition of this duty on raw wool? Let us take the figures for 1949, and see whether there was any insufficiency of raw material for our industry. My submission is that the figures do not justify the imposition of the duty. In fact, even after satisfying the full demand of our local industries—not only full satisfaction, but even assuming that our manufactures will go up by 50 per cent.—even then there will be ample raw material and an exportable surplus. Consequently there is absolutely no justification for it. Prior to the imposition of this export duty, Government of India under the pressure of the industry had taken a very drastic step. That is, in July 1950 it absolutely banned the export of raw wool outside India. That step was taken by Government mainly under the pressure of U.P. or the local industrialists here. But that step on the part of Government hit very hard the people of Rajasthan, and particularly the towns of

[Pandit M. B. Bhargava]

Beawar, which is one of the biggest wool markets in India, baling about 40,000 bales of 320 lbs. every year. It was after great agitation and discontentment brought to the notice of Government that the ban was removed. But simultaneously with the removal of the ban on export we have imposed this 30 per cent. *ad valorem* duty on wool which means that for one rupee the price will go at once to one rupee five annas or more. This is likely to hit the primary producers more than any one else. My point was that the figures of 1949 do not in any way justify that there was any lack or insufficiency of raw material to meet the requirements of our local industries—and that can possibly be the only justification for the imposition of the export duty.

Now, the figures of 1948 show that we—that is, the Indian Union—produced 5,20,00,000 lbs. of wool. It also imported 1,92,00,000 lbs. from outside—the fine ones—because our industry requires the finer quality of wool for manufacture of woollen cloth mainly in the mills. Therefore, in any case, whatever might be the extent of production of Indian raw wool, our industry in order to keep it running has to depend on the foreign market for the finer quality of wool, unless we improve the quality of our wool by scientific methods. Therefore, as I was saying, we find that in 1948 we produced 5,20,00,000 lbs. and imported about two crore lbs. from outside. Out of the 7,20,00,000 lbs. of wool available in India our industry consumed only 3,20,00,000 lbs. That is, after meeting the entire needs and requirements of our industry there was an exportable surplus of nearly 4,00,00,000 lbs. in our country. Now, as the figures of 1949 show, we exported only 85,000 bales of 320 lbs. each, that is, about 3 crore lbs. and there was a surplus of 1,00,00,000 lbs. after meeting the entire requirements of our local industry. Under these circumstances and keeping in view these facts and figures I respectfully ask, is there any justification whatsoever for the imposition of the export duty? My submission is that there is none.

And then, if our traders and merchants get more by their sale in Liverpool, they are liable to be taxed and whatever extra profits they can take, Government has got the machinery of the Income-tax Department. All these figures cannot be concealed; there is no opportunity....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are general arguments that have been advanced against the imposition of the export duty. The hon. Member would have heard that the same argument

was advanced with regard to the levy of export duty on jute—that if the money is here there would be Income-tax and all that. I would request the hon. Member not to repeat the arguments on the same or on allied topics.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: I respectfully submit that I am not repeating anything that has been said on the question of wool. So far as wool and jute are concerned, they stand absolutely on different footing. In wool there is nothing like the possibility of black market inasmuch as all these sales are taking place through exporters. Those exporters send their accounts to the merchants, and the Income-tax Department would not assess the income-tax until and unless it has gone through the original invoices and accounts. Consequently, there is absolutely no possibility whatsoever of any black market so far as wool is concerned. My submission therefore is that there is absolutely no justification for the imposition of export duty on wool.

A few words I would also like to say as regards another aspect. Even if Government decide to impose the export duty, my respectful submission is that it is a legitimate demand on behalf of the wool industry that this amount should be earmarked for the improvement, grading and standardisation of wool. The conditions of the wool trade in India are miserable and it has the first right and claim to the attention of Government. Even Government inquiry held in 1945 suggested that we can very easily create a local market in India. Our merchants and traders have so far been at the tender mercy of the Liverpool market and its brokers. If Government paid a slight attention a local market can be established here and our traders and merchants can very well be saved all the great loss, besides the inconvenience, to which they are put. Nearly ten per cent. of the total sale proceeds goes for the satisfaction of these exporters and their charges and the wharfage, storage and so many other things in marketing. In a sale of Rs. two crores, a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs goes only for these incidental charges which can very well be saved if a local market is created. There cannot be any difficulty whatsoever because so far as the carpet type of wool is concerned—and that is the type of wool that India is producing—my submission is that practically India has a monopoly of this type of wool. If any country has a chance of competing with India it is Pakistan. And we find that its production, compared to India, is only half. China which is the other country that is producing this type of

wool is not in the market so far as export is concerned. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason why the Government of India should not take active steps in organising and creating a market for the sale of our raw wool where foreign buyers can come and compete. If the Government of India take that decision I think it will be welcomed by the commercial circles of the country and it will be to the benefit of our country and all our traders.

4 P.M.

The second point to which I would respectfully draw attention of this House is the miserable plight in which the primary producer, that is the shepherd is placed. It was stated by the hon. Finance Minister that this duty is not likely to hit the shepherd in any way. I fail to understand how it will not hit him, because so far as the merchants and traders are concerned, they will certainly pass on the incidence of this export duty to the collectors of wool and they in their turn to the primary producer. If we lose our foreign market because of this heavy export duty—as far as I know Pakistan has not imposed any export duty on wool—and because of Pakistan coming into competition, then I say we would stand to lose considerably.

If the low prices of carpet wool, which are a bargaining factor and an allurements for a foreign buyer, are unduly raised, then the finer type of wool can also be used for the purpose and then also we stand to lose our export market. My submission is that for all these reasons it was most illconceived and ill-advised to impose export duty on wool.

Then, there is another difficulty to which reference has already been made by Mr. Tyagi and it has been admitted by the hon. Finance Minister in regard to the recovery of this duty on wool. It will be very difficult to find out as to how this duty will be calculated and at what stage and from whom it will be recovered. For all these reasons, Government should re-consider its decision to impose the export duty on wool and at least an assurance should be given, that if we stand a chance of losing our market or the prices in India are affected, that is, they go down and hit the primary producer, the Government of India will be prepared to revise its decision. This is all that I have to say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member intend to move his amendment?

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: I do not wish to move my amendment.

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan): I am afraid the attention which was due to the point made out by my learned predecessor, the hon. Member from Rajasthan has not been there. It deserved the full attention of the House. That industry bears a very great promise—I mean the wool industry. I happen to belong to the province which is very vitally concerned with this industry. It is a pity that this new item has been added here in this new Bill, without ascertaining public opinion in this behalf and I do not know whether any investigation also has been made about the expediency which has compelled Government to impose this new duty on raw wool. So far as I know if there is any country in the world which can compete with us, it is Australia. So far as the wool industry is concerned, the people of Australia, even though they are so few in number, have not developed this industry to an extent which has enriched their exchequer considerably. Every year, they are exporting about £150 million of wool products from their country. Their climate and their conditions are not more favourable than the climate and conditions obtaining in our country. If we develop this industry, we can definitely compete with them and the arid deserts of Rajasthan can be converted into green fields and gardens if only this industry is developed there.

As has been rightly pointed out by Pandit Bhargava, ours is a State which produced the largest quantity of wool in the whole of India. As a matter of fact it produces more than 40 per cent. of the total wool production in our country. As such it should have been met and proper that before imposing this duty, steps should have been taken to develop this industry. At the present stage if this duty is imposed it is bound to happen that the prices of wool would fall in our country and the poor shepherds who are living by this industry will be hit. Therefore, I would still request, rather pray that the hon. Minister would reconsider this point—of course it is very late in the day—and something must be done to protect this industry which is still in its infancy.

Another point that I wish to make in this connection is about the increase in the price of raw cotton. So far as I know there has been a ban on the export of raw cotton. The duty is now being increased, but I learn on good authority that while there was a ban

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existing on the export of cotton, one particular firm out of all the Indian firms was allowed to raise huge quantities of raw cotton to the detriment of other interests. That is a fact and I would like to know from the hon. Minister how far my statement is true. One point is quite clear that this cotton was allowed to be exported long before this duty has been sought to be increased. It has been allowed to be exported even after this duty was going to be increased. We should have added first something to our exchequer and it should have been a considerable amount of money and that we have lost by allowing one particular firm to export cotton, thereby giving a right cause for complaint by other people and in this way we are losing lots of money in way of export duty ourselves.

Shri Tyagi: Was it long before the duties were applied or immediately before?

Shri Raj Bahadur: My information goes that it was just a little before this Bill was introduced. In the meantime the mischief has been done; we cannot get that money now and we have lost it.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar): What is the name of the firm?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is odious to go into names or specify them. It will not be meet and proper.

I had not been able to understand how this policy of tariff has been working. From an important journal that I happened to look at, I understand that we are allowing lot of concessions to other countries for their imports into our country but the concessions that we get from them are comparatively smaller and a few figures would tell the tale.

In 1948-49 the commodities that were covered by the concessions that we got from other countries amounted to a total of Rs. 88 crores, whereas to the same countries our total exports including those particular commodities which were covered by concessions came to Rs. 152 crores. For the same period their imports were valued at Rs. 29 crores which was covered by concessions that we allowed them and their total imports were Rs. 105 crores. It is obvious that in 1947-48 their total imports were 99 per cent. into our country and we allowed them concessions over Rs. 65 crores. That

amounts to 65 per cent. of the total imports that we got from these countries. On the other hand, we get hardly about 50 per cent. of goods which we could get by their concessions. That is the state of affairs. I do not know why we could not put to better advantage our conferences and meetings and get better tariff concessions by negotiation and settlement. I want to know why we get lesser concessions while we give a lot of concessions to others. With these remarks I would again revert back to the point that I made in the beginning regarding the wool industry and I would request the hon. Minister kindly to reconsider his decision.

Shri Karmarkar: Very interesting points have been made on the debate initiated in this particular aspect of the Bill. But, I must limit myself to the points relevant to the question under review.

The principal reason why we raised the duty on raw wool was to put a check on the rise in internal prices. Our difficulty with regard to wool has been that whenever this question is actively under consideration, if there is any question of imposing an export duty on raw wool, we begin to receive a number of letters and telegrams from the parties affected by this duty. If we permit export, then there is hue and cry from the industry. We have to follow the rule of the golden mean. Now, the price of raw wool of the Bombay *Jaora* white fine variety in September 1949 was Rs. 174-13-9 per maund. The same rose to Rs. 329-2-3 by about the 8th July of this year. A 30 per cent. export duty on this was not considered as a hardship either to the growers of raw wool namely the shepherds or the merchants. I should also invite the attention of the House that whenever we get any representations on this matter, it is either from the industry or the merchants and we have never yet heard any from the shepherds. The difficulty is that the shepherd is out of the picture altogether, it appears. This duty on raw wool.....

Shri Tyagi: He cannot reach you.

Shri Karmarkar:...should normally fall upon those who export and not on those who produce.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would be grateful to the hon. Minister if he would kindly say whether the price at which the shepherd himself sold wool to the merchants or middlemen was affected, and whether there was any rise in the price that he got. That is the point.

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to go into the point. But, I should think that the burden whatever of this 30 per cent. duty should fall evenly on the merchant and the grower and this was considered equitable to the industry. We have to keep in view the carpet weaving industry also. We cannot allow the rates to run high simply because the world prices are running high. From this point of view, it was considered that this quantum of export duty was proper. We are very much surprised that this is considered as anything in the nature of an excessive duty. Some point was made in regard to the desirability of helping the wool growing industry. I need hardly say that Government are in full sympathy with the whole thing and I am quite sure that the Agriculture Ministry will consider all the points made during this debate in respect of that.

There was also a point made in respect of Rajasthan. We are aware that Saurashtra and Rajasthan are the two principal wool growing tracts. Recently we had the pleasure of having friends from Rajasthan whom we were able to meet a long way. We regret very much that we are not able to meet the point raised by the representative of Rajasthan in respect of this wool export duty.

With regard to raw cotton and cotton waste, the same policy has been followed. Ultimately, it has to be appreciated that the primary object of raising this duty,—I say primarily, because incidentally, it is also there—is really not for any revenue purposes. It is really intended to keep the internal prices in check in terms of world prices. Supposing the world prices had not gone so high as to dislocate some of our internal prices. Government, so far as one can anticipate, would not have gone on with this proposition of putting up the export duty. It is a peculiar situation through which we are moving today and we have to take such steps as will not dislocate our internal prices, and if possible will regulate them.

A point was made about a particular case. Since interest has been raised in regard to that case, I should be fair to the House and give the facts. The facts as I have stated in answer to a question this morning, were that we negotiate through the Raw Cotton Commission in U.K. in respect of cotton. We hold joint sittings. The House perhaps knows that the Raw Cotton Commission in U. K. has been very helpful to us in our negotiations with respect to the import of the

cotton we need from Uganda. U.K. Government requested us to allow the export of 6,500 bales of cotton of a particular specification. In this particular matter, it is not as if we chose the seller at this end. U.K. Government indicated that they had come to an agreement with a particular firm and they said, "you permit this firm to export 6,500 bales."

Shri Tyagi: Which was that firm?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as my information goes, it is Kilachand Devichand. They said that they had come to some agreement with that firm and there was absolutely nothing for us to choose, in respect of the exporter from this country. I put it to the House whether it is good for us, whether it would be proper for us to have said, 'NO' in view of the precious services of the Raw Cotton Commission. In view of the limited quantity, it was not also a good proposition to keep it open for everybody. But, the UK Government representatives said that they had entered into some sort of agreement with that particular firm. That is the end of the whole story with regard to that matter. Government had nothing to do.....

Shri Raj Bahadur: Where the contract or agreement was entered into over the head of and without the knowledge of Government, it is not binding.

Shri Karmarkar: There is no question of over the head. Government are not in the picture at all. When the Raw Cotton Commission enters into an agreement with a party, it does not consult us.

Shri Raj Bahadur: My point is if the agreement was contracted without the intervention or without the knowledge of Government, how was Government bound by that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The main point is, we are told that we had to accommodate U.K. Government for all the services that they had rendered. There does not appear to have been any option in choosing the person to whom permit should be given.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: *Bakshish.*

Shri Raj Bahadur: The duty is being raised now. Who gets the advantage the merchant, U.K. Government or the firm?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Foreign country I think.

Shri Karmarkar: That is our part in the transaction. So far as Government of India is concerned, it had absolutely no say in regard to the choice of the particular seller at this end. When they made the request, we said, "O.K., they have done good service, let us do something in return." That is the whole story. It is a very good thing that the hon. Member from Rajasthan is particular with regard to cotton and also as regards wool. It is very obvious that these duties are imposed in order to operate as a wholesome check on the internal prices, not as a sort of a protection, but as a safeguard for the local carpet industry. There is no amendment which I will have to oppose.

Shri Hussain Imam: On a point of information, Sir. Is there any export duty put in by Australia and Pakistan on their export of wool?

Shri Karmarkar: I am obliged to my hon. friend Mr. Hussain Imam for this. Though I had made notes on this point, I omitted to refer to that.

Pakistan has imposed a duty of 25 per cent. on raw wool and cotton. Australia so far as I can say offhand, has also imposed a duty which may be 7½ per cent. or something like that: I am not quite sure.

Shri S. C. Samanta (West Bengal): On a point of information. I wanted to know, and this is what my hon. friend Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava also asked, what are the impediments in the way of opening auction offices as regards wool in India.

Shri Karmarkar: I think that is a suggestion which is under consideration. We have to make some preliminary arrangements with regard to that. I think in due course Government will be considering that matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no amendment now and I will put the clause to the House.

The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Shri Sri Prakasa: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I have not much to say at this stage, for enough has already been said. I shall only express my deep gratitude to the House for the very keen interest it has taken in the Bill and the very generous manner in which it has treated it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मैं पार्लियामेंट (Parliament) के इस सेशन (Session) में बहुत कम बोल रहा हूँ और जब दो बार बोला तो उस के बारे में कहा गया कि मैं मंत्रियों को या सरकार को श्राप देता हूँ। किसी ने इस तरह कहा।

श्री के० सी० शर्मा : क्या देते हैं, श्राप ?

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : तो मैं कहता हूँ कि मैं उस दर्जे का नीच नहीं हूँ कि मैं किसी को श्राप दे सकता हूँ। लेकिन उस के साथ साथ यह भी मालूम होना चाहिये कि जो हमारे मन्त्री लोग हैं या जिन लोगों से हमारी सरकार बनी है, वह मेरे सब के सब प्रिय हैं, उन को भला मैं श्राप कैसे दे सकता हूँ, मैं तो अगर उन को कुछ दे सकता हूँ, तो अपना आशीर्वाद ही दे सकता हूँ और उस के साथ साथ यह भी समझने की बात है सभापति महोदय कि जिस सरकार को बनाने, तथा जिस सरकार को जन्म देने में हमने जीवन गंवाया है, अपना सब कुछ दे दिया, उस को मैं आशीर्वाद के सिवा और क्या दे सकता हूँ, श्राप कैसे दे सकूंगा, ऐसा सोचना भी बहुत बुरी बात है।

सरकार आज जो कुछ कर रही है, उस के सम्बन्ध में तो बोलना मेरा धर्म है और

उस के साथ साथ समापति] महोदय, एक बात और भी है कि जैसा शास्त्र में लिखा है कि "हितं मनोहारि च दुर्लभं वचः" हित की बात भी हो और मीठी भी हो, यह बहुत मुश्किल है।

रई बाहर जाने की मनाही थी, एक फर्म को आज्ञा हो गई और जिस के सम्बन्ध में हमारे श्री राज बहादुर बोल रहे थे, वह कौन फर्म है, उन्होंने नाम लेना अच्छा नहीं समझा। तो खैर मेरे डिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब ने नाम कह दिया, और वह जस्टीफिकेशन (justification) देते हैं कि हां, हां वह तो ऐसी फर्म है जिस ने सरकार को बहुत मदद दी है।

श्री श्री प्रकाश : श्रीमान् डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब; मैं अपने माननीय सदस्य को यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे डिप्टी मिनिस्टर ने यह नहीं कहा था कि उस फर्म से हम को कुछ मदद मिली थी लेकिन उन्होंने कहा था कि जिस संस्था ने इंग्लैंड में उन को ठेका दिया था, उन से हम को बराबर मदद मिली है। इस वास्ते जब उन्होंने हम से यह कहा कि इतनी गांठ रई तुम फलों के हाथ हमारे पास आने दो, तो हम ने इस में कोई ऐसी बात नहीं देखी, जिस में कोई ऐतराज हो सकता था। इस वास्ते उन की बात मान कर और उन की पुरानी सेवाओं का ख्याल कर के उन के बतलाये हुये फर्म को जिन से हमारा कोई ताल्लुक नहीं था, इतनी गांठ रई हम ने बाहर भेजने दी। यही हमारे डिप्टी मिनिस्टर ने कहा है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : अब इसे कुछ साफ कर दिया गया है, लेकिन नतीजा वही रहता है जैसे नाक सीधी न पकड़ी, घुमा कर पकड़ी।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I have been speaking very rarely during the current session of the Parliament. When I spoke on last two occasions, it was said that I curse the Ministers and the Government. Somebody did say so.

Shri K. C. Sharma: (Uttar Pradesh): What do you give? Curses!

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I am not so mean that I may curse anyone. At the same time I wish to let everybody know the fact that the Ministers or those persons who constitute this Government of ours are all dear to me. How can I be supposed to curse such persons? If there is anything that I can give them it is only my blessings. What else but blessings can I give to a Government for bringing which into being we have devoted our entire lives and have sacrificed everything? How can I curse them? Even to think so is bad.

Primarily it is my duty to speak on what the Government are doing at present. Despite this there is a *sloka in Shastras viz., 'Hitam Manohari Ch Durlabham Vachah'* meaning thereby that such remarks that are useful as well as sweet are very rare.

The export of cotton was prohibited, yet a firm was granted a licence to export it. A reference about that firm was made by Shri Raj Bahadur. But he probably did not like it proper to disclose the name of that firm. Well the Deputy Minister did reveal the name and justified their action by saying that it was a firm that had helped the Government a lot.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I wish to make it clear to the hon. Member that our Deputy Minister had not said that we had received some help from that firm, but he had only said that we had been constantly getting help from a firm that had given the contract to this firm in England. As such when we were asked by the firm in England to let a certain amount of cotton bales be exported to them through that firm, we did not find anything objectionable in that and agreeing to their request and keeping under consideration their earlier services we permitted the export of those cotton bales through that firm, which was introduced to us by the firm in England and with which we had no earlier association. That is all what our Deputy Minister said.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Now it has been made a bit clearer but anyhow

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh]

the conclusion remains the same, may it be described straightway or in a round about fashion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I point out to the hon. Member that this has nothing to do with the subject-matter of the Bill? It is something which unfortunately the Deputy Minister brought in. It is not a question of any individual who has been or has not been granted a permit or licence. Government grants permits and licences to many for many things. Some hon. Members may be satisfied and others may not be, and Government may have its own justification. The hon. Member will kindly address himself to the general provisions of the Bill, upon its general nature, or how it will affect the future of the trade and so on.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): If anything is said by a Minister, whether relevant or irrelevant, cannot the House take notice of it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will hereafter take care of what the Ministers or Deputy Minister say; but before the words are spoken I cannot decide whether they are relevant or irrelevant. But it is clear that neither Ministers nor anyone else can be irrelevant.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It was Mr. Raj Bahadur who brought this matter up and there was an insinuation in that. Therefore, it was the duty of my hon. colleague to clear that point. It was not he who started the game.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभापति महोदय, बहुत सी बाधाएँ आने लगीं और मुझे कुछ इस तरह का ख्याल होता है कि आप भी कुछ बाधा दे देते हैं।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am unable to follow what he says.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, he says that you are also interfering with him.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : जैसा कि कहा गया सरकार के सम्बन्ध में कुछ कहना है और यह जो बिल अब पास होने जा रहा है। रुपया वसूल होगा, और कैसी कैसी कार्यवाही होती है, इस के बारे में तो बोलना ही है। वह लोग जो बोलेंगे, मैं आप से कहता हूँ, कि जितनी बातें इस पर बोल गये हैं, यह न्याय का तकाजा है, धर्म का तकाजा है कि सारी बातों का सरकार की तरफ से जवाब

होना चाहिये। यह कैसी बात होती है कि जो इधर से कहा जाता है और जिन लोगों के हाथ में सरकार को चलाने का कार्यभार है तो वह लोग सरकार की तरफ से जवाब दे देते हैं, तो जवाब की यहां जरूरत नहीं है। यहां पर जरूरत है काम की, काम करें। जो बात इस बिल के जरिये से होने जा रही है, कि पहले ८० रुपया टैक्स लगता था एक टन जट एक्सपोर्ट (Export) पर, उस से बढ़कर ७०० हुआ अब १५०० कहा जाता है। मैं आप से कहता हूँ कि हमारी हिन्दी में एक कहावत है कि—

रठ मरे बरघा, बैठा खाय तुरंग।
बैल बेचारा तो परिश्रम करे, और घोड़ा बैठे बैठे खाय : मला मेहनत और परिश्रम तो किसान करता है, अपना खून पसीना बहाता है और जो कुछ करता है वह करता है, लेकिन नफ़ा सरकार उठाती है, इस वास्ते इंसाफ़ का तकाजा ये यही था कि जितना लाभ इस व्यापार से हो, उस का उचित पुरस्कार किसान को मिलना चाहिये। धर्म और ईमान की बात तो यह है। और हां सरकार को भी घोड़ा बहुत लाभ उस से अवश्य पहुंचना चाहिये। लेकिन वैसे ही जैसे दाल में नमक। और जैसे कहा जाता है कि दाल में उतना ही नमक पड़ना चाहिये, जितना ठीक रहे, उस से ज्यादा नहीं पड़ना चाहिये यह ठीक है कि सरकार अगर कुछ टैक्स ले सकती है, तो देखिये कि एक मन जूट पर किसान को क्या मिला। इस तरह से ३५ रुपये किसान को मिलते हैं। एक टन जूट के माल पर १५०० रुपये टैक्स के लगने को हैं। इस रकम को मन पर बांटने से करीब ५५ रुपये प्रति मन जूट माल पर टैक्स होता है। तो मला कहिये कि यह किस धर्म और ईमान के मुताबिक है कि ३५ रुपया तो उस बेचारे किसान को

मिला और इस सरकार को ५५ रुपया वह टैक्स (tax) दे। तो सरकार से जो हम आशायें रखते हैं और जिस जिस तरह के उस से कार्य चाहते हैं, वह तो अभी नसीब में नहीं हैं। अब जो हमारे भाई श्री प्रकाश जी, जो हमारे बहुत पुराने मित्र हैं और बहुत ठिकाने से काम करते हैं, कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट (Commerce Department) में आ कर कैसे काम करते हैं, और सफलता प्राप्त करते हैं, यह हमें देखना है। कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट के बारे में कितनी बातें इधर उधर की हमारे सुनने में आती हैं, और खुद उन के सुनने में भी आई होंगी। लेकिन एक बात बहुत सुन्दर उन्होंने कही है जिस के बारे में उन को मालूम होना चाहिये और जो उन्होंने कहा कि यह कोई नहीं कह सकता है कि इस सरकार में जितने काम करने वाले हैं, सब के सब बेईमान हैं। यह सब ठीक है, लेकिन खुद श्री प्रकाश जी के महकमे में कितने आदमी ऐसे काम करने वाले हैं, जिन को ईमानदारी का सर्टीफिकेट (Certificate) वह दे सकते हैं कि यह लोग ईमानदारी से काम करने वाले हैं।

श्री हुसैन इमाम : मैनी (Many) ।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सरकार की तरफ से जब किसी महकमे में जो जो कमी होती है और गड़बड़ होती है तो उस से तो सारा समाज चौपट होता है। तो मैं तो श्री श्री प्रकाश जी से कहूंगा कि आप तो अब इस महकमे में आ गये हैं और आप ने सब से पहले बहुत बड़े बड़े काम किये हैं, जिन के लिये मेरी आप को बधाई भी है, लेकिन मैं एक बात कहता हूँ कि इस डिपार्टमेंट को जब आप ने अपने हाथ में लिया है तो इस को खूब सुन्दर तरीके से चलाया होगा और उस में सुधार करना

होगा ताकि उस डिपार्टमेंट की जितनी बदनामी है वह दूर हो जाये और उस बदनामी के दूर होने में सभी का लाभ है, दुनिया का लाभ है। नहीं तो मैं आप से कहता हूँ कि यह जैसे कहते हैं कि अरे भाई कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट तो ऐसा वैसा है, यह सब बातें जो भाज हर कोने में, हर तरफ सुनाई देती हैं, वह मुझे डर है कि हमारे लिये और देश के लिये अनर्थ सिद्ध हों। तो इसी तरीके से पी० डब्लू० डी० की हालत है, वहां भी सुधार करना है। तो यह बहुत गड़बड़ है और मैं आप से कहता हूँ कि जैसा कि आप ने सुना है इस वक्त जैसे फ्रेंच ला (French Law) में है ऐसी बात सम्भव हो कि जब किसी चार्ज पर कोई चार्ज (Charge) लगाया जाये, तो वह साबित करे कि वह निदोष है।

भाई श्री प्रकाश जी आप के कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट में लोगों की बड़ी बदनामी है, उस को दुरुस्त करना पड़ेगा, और जहां भी कुछ बुराई की बात सुनिये फौरन उसे निकाल कर महकमे की शुद्धी कीजिये। उस के शुद्ध करने में बहुत से लाभ हैं, देश को लाभ होगा और जिस को निकालियेगा उस का भी लाभ है, क्योंकि वह चोरी करने से बचेगा, बेईमानी करने से बचेगा और जितनी बदनामी हो रही है मैं कहता हूँ कि वह भी नहीं होगी। आप ने तो कहा कि १२ करोड़ का घाटा हुआ है, और हमारे बनारसी बाबू ने कहा कि साहब, वह तो दस ही सैंकड़ पर है। तो दस सैंकड़ पर बारह करोड़ का घाटा हुआ तो हिसाब करने से तो सारे रोजगार पर करोड़ नहीं अरब खरब तक के घाटे का सवाल आ जाता है। भाई इस घाटे की आप को जांच करनी होगी और मैं कहता हूँ कि जांच करने के बाद जिन के कुसूर से घाटा हुआ है उन को सजा देनी होगी। जो लोग छूटे

[बाबू रामनारायण सिंह]

छोटे काम करने वाले हैं उन को आप छोड़ दीजिये, मैं ने आप के डिपार्टमेंट की बहुत बात सुनी है, सुनते सुनते बदन छिद गया है। तो कम से कम जितने आप के डिपार्टमेंट के लोग हैं उनके बारे में पता लगाइये और पता लगेगा अगर आप ठीक तरह से काम करेंगे। जैसे आपने काम किया आसाम में और पाकिस्तान में। भाई श्री प्रकाशजी यहां भी कीजिये और जल्दी इस डिपार्टमेंट को शुद्ध कीजिये और यह जो घाटा हुआ है उसके कुसूरवार का पता लगा कर पूरी पूरी सजा दीजिये यह बड़ा अच्छा होगा अगर आप कामसे डिपार्टमेंट में जितने लोग हैं उन सब को निकाल दीजिये और नया डिपार्टमेंट कायम कीजिये, नये आदमी रखिये क्योंकि वह लोग जो रस चूस चुके हैं जो लोग हर तरह से पंसा पाते रहे हैं, पहले भी और आज भी, अब उन का सुघरना बहुत मुश्किल है। तो इस वास्ते मैं तो कहता हूँ कि अगर सारी सरकार को बदलना चाहें तो वह तो हो नहीं सकता इसलिये कम से कम कामसे डिपार्टमेंट को बदल दीजिये और नया डिपार्टमेंट कायम कीजिये तब शायद जो सफलता आप को दूसरी जगहों में मिली है अपने कार्य में, वह यहां भी मिलेगी। नहीं तो जो आपकी इच्छात बनी हुई है वह नहीं रहेगी और लोग आप को भी बदनाम करेंगे। लेकिन जहां आप का यश है वहां चूंकि मेरा भी हिस्सा है, आपके यश से मेरा भी यश होगा इस वास्ते मैं कहता हूँ कि आप इस बात को लीजिये।

इस तरह के कायदे कानून को मैं बहुत बुरा मानता हूँ कि किसान को मिले पैसा लेकिन सरकार ले पचपन। इस को टैक्स न कहा जाये, लूट कहिये। यह टैक्स नहीं साहब, यह तो लूट है। सभापति महोदय, एक और बात इन लोगों ने कही

और वह बहुत ताज़ुब की है। मैं इसके लिये भगवान से मनाता हूँ कि वह हमारे कामसे डिपार्टमेंट को अक्ल दे। वह लोग कहते हैं कि जूट को कंट्रोल कर दिया है ताकि उसका दाम बहुत न बढ़े और वह इसलिये कि अगर बहुत दाम बढ़ेगा तो जूट की चीजें अमरीका में बहुत बिकेगी जिसका नतीजा यह होगा कि खुद उन को तैयार करने लगेगा और हमको घाटा होगा, हरे भगवान, अमरीका की जो जाति है वह बहुत पुरुशार्थी है मनस्वी है वह हिन्दुस्तान के भरोसे नहीं रहना चाहती है रहना पड़े तो लाचारी है वह आज नहीं तो कल जूट के बदले दूसरी चीज तैयार कर लेगा। लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि कितनी मूर्खता की बात है। क्या हम नहीं समझते हैं? हम इस वास्ते दाम घटायें ताकि दूसरे लोग इस ढंग की चीजें न बना सकें। यह कभी सम्भव है? यह कह कर हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को ठगते हैं। आज जितना नफा जूट के व्यवसाय से हम को हो सकता है हमको लेना चाहिये अक्ल का यही तकाजा है, अगर अक्ल को ताक पर रख दिया है तो और भी सस्ता कर दीजिये जिसमें अमेरिका यह कभी सोचे भी नहीं कि जूट के बदले दूसरी चीजें वह बनाये। ऐसी ऐसी बातें लोग कहते हैं जिनको सुन कर बड़ी तकलीफ होती है। कहते हैं कि इस वास्ते दाम कम करो ताकि दूसरे इसके बदले कोई चीज बनाने को सोचे नहीं। यह कभी सम्भव नहीं है और हम को ऐसी बात कभी नहीं सोचनी चाहिये। सभापि महोदय, जैसा मैं ने पहले ही कहा कि जो बात हृदय में उठे किसी विषय में, वह कहना बहुत जरूरी है और धर्म है। वह मैं समझता हूँ, लेकिन इस के माने यह नहीं है कि मैं किसी के प्रखिलाफ बोलता हूँ, और उस को दुःख देने के लिये या बदनाम करने के लिये कहता हूँ।

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लेकिन यह देश का संसद् है। इस में किसी विचार की जो हृश्य में आये रोकना नहीं चाहिये। अगर मैं इसे रोकू तो मैं अपने को सब से पहले देश द्रोही कहूंगा। यह कहा गया है कि ऐसा नहीं कहना चाहिये। पर यह मंत्री लोग तो हमारे आदमी हैं। अगर यह कसूर करेंगे तो हम को कहना ही पड़ेगा कि कसूर किया है। उन को भी जो बात कहनी है साफ़ निश्चित से कहनी चाहिये और जो बह करतें हैं उस को साफ़ बतलाना चाहिये और तभी इस में हमारा सहयोग हो सकेगा। किसी बात को छुपा लेना बहुत बुरी बात है।

मैं अन्त में इतना ही कह देता हूँ मिनिस्टर साहब को और डिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब को भी कि इस डिपार्टमेंट को पाक साफ़ की-जिये और नहीं तो इस डिपार्टमेंट को खत्म कर दीजिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, a number of interruptions are being made. You also seem to be interfering.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am unable to follow what he says.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, he says that you are also interfering with him.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: As I said earlier, I have to submit a few words regarding the Government and the proposed Bill. Something has to be spoken on how the money would be realised and what actions would be taken. Duty and justice both demand that whatever points or issues have been raised in the course of the debate should be answered by the Government. Usually it so happens that whatever points are raised by the Members they are answered by the representatives of the Government. What is needed here is not a mere answer but a proof of work. Anyhow work should be done. Previously a duty of rupees eighty used to be imposed on the export of one ton of jute, later it was increased to rupees seven hundred and now it is proposed in this Bill to further increase it to rupees one thousand and five hundred.

There is a Hindi proverb which means that the poor bullock labours hard but the horse takes rest and eats. Similarly it is the poor peasant who toils hard but the entire profit goes to the coffers of the Government. Therefore justice requires that the peasant should be given a fair part of the profit. Duty and honesty demand such a fair play. It does not, however, mean that the Government should not earn any profit. It should earn, but much less in proportion. They say that only as much salt should be put to the pulses as is required and not more. The Government should also earn profit in a like proportion. It is true that the Government can impose any duty. Let us see what the peasant gets on one maund of jute. He gets only thirty-five rupees. It is being proposed to impose a duty of rupees one thousand and five hundred on one ton of jute. If we calculate the amount in terms of maunds, we find that about fifty-five rupees are charged as duty on one maund of jute. Let us consider as to how far it is justifiable that the poor peasant should get only thirty-five rupees while the Government may have rupees fifty-five as duty. What we expect of the Government to do and what we hope from them do not seem to be realized. It is to be seen as to how our old friend Shri Sri Prakasa, who has been an efficient worker, fares as in-charge of the Ministry of Commerce and how far he achieves success in the same. Many rumours about the Commerce Ministry are in the air. He himself might have heard them. But he made a mention of what appears like a beautiful point. He said that none could hold that all the employees of the Government were dishonest. May I ask how many persons are there in his Ministry whom he can certify as honest employees.

Shri Hussain Imam: Many.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: The slightest inefficiency and corruption in the various Departments of the Government may ruin the entire society. I would like to congratulate Shri Sri Prakasa for the great works which he has done in the past and would submit to him that as he has taken charge of this Ministry he should administer it so efficiently and should improve things in such a manner that the entire bad reputation about the Ministry may become a thing of the past. If it disappears it would prove beneficial not only to all of us but also to the entire world. If things do not happen to be so, I am afraid, such gossips about the Commerce Ministry, which are spreading today to every corner of the

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country, will prove harmful to us and our country also. In the same way the P. W. D. has to make improvements in its administration. So a good deal of corruption is going on. You might have also heard about it that such is the practice under the French Law that if a charge is framed against any officer, he must prove that he is not guilty.

My friend Shri Sri Prakasaji, the personnel of your Commerce Department is much defamed, the reputation has to be restored and wherever you come across corruption, purge your Department of such elements. It is very useful if it is cleared of such elements, the country will benefit and the persons who would be removed will also be benefited, as they will not commit undesirable things in future but will abhor dishonesty. I am of opinion that if such a step is taken the Department will not be subjected to this kind of criticism. You have stated that we have suffered a loss of 12 crores, but Benarasi Babu has informed us that this loss has been calculated at the rate of ten per cent. If this amount of loss has been calculated at the rate of ten per cent., then by doing mathematical calculations the total loss would come to millions and millions of rupees. You will have to hold an enquiry for this loss and I insist that the person responsible for the loss should be taken to task. Let the smaller fries go scot free. I have heard many complaints against your Department and I am tired of hearing them. You should at least enquire into the reports that are being made about the personnel of your Department. I ask you Sri Prakasaji, to cope with this affair with the very same ability with which, you carried out your duties in Pakistan and Assam. Here also prove your worth and soon purge this Department of such elements and find out the men responsible for this loss and award them due punishment. It would be better if you turn out all the personnel of the Commerce Department and establish a new Department altogether by appointing new personnel, because it is difficult for the people having corrupt habits, who accepted bribes in the past as also in present times, to change themselves. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if you want to change the entire Government, it is impracticable, therefore make changes in this Department and establish a new one, perhaps then only you will be able to achieve the same success in your performance of duties as you did elsewhere otherwise you will lose your well established reputation and the people will defame you as well. As my reputation is also

involved with that of yours so I would urge upon you to adopt this suggestion.

I consider such rules and regulations undesirable that the Government should get rupees fifty-five whereas the agriculturist may get only thirty-five rupees. It cannot be called a tax, it is loot. It is loot, rather than a tax. Sir, some hon. Members have disclosed certain facts which have sprung a great surprise. I pray to God to give wise counsel to the Commerce Department. They say that control has been imposed on jute so that the jute prices may not shoot up, and if the prices shoot up the jute goods will be sold at very high prices in America, and as a result of that America would manufacture jute goods itself and consequently we will suffer a loss. Americans are very industrious and laborious, they do not want to depend upon India if it be in their power to do so. If they do so it would be out of sheer helplessness and very soon they will manufacture other articles to replace jute. But I say how foolish it is to think that way. Do we not understand that? Should we reduce the prices so that others may not manufacture articles of this kind? Is it ever possible? By these statements they befool the people of India. We should have the maximum profit out of jute industry. This is the wisest possible course, but if wisdom is to be thrown to winds then sell it still cheaper so that America may never think of manufacturing articles in place of the jute goods. People talk such things which pain too much. They say the price should be reduced so that other countries may not think of manufacturing other goods in place of jute. It is not practicable and we should never think like that. Sir, as I stated before that what a man feels about something, he must express it as it is not only necessary but a duty as well. I understand that, but it does not mean that I am speaking against someone in particular in order to put him to trouble or to defame him. But it is the Parliament of the country. The ideas which one entertains in one's brain must not be suppressed. If I were to suppress my feelings I would stand self condemned as a traitor. We are asked not to express our views in that way. But the Ministers are our own men. If they commit mistakes we must point them out their faults. They should also, with clear conscience, say what they have to, and should state frankly what they intend to do, and only then we can give our support. It is very bad to keep things up one's sleeves.

In the end I would submit that the Minister and the Deputy Minister also should purge the Department of the

undesirable elements or else close this Department.

Shri Tyagi: I must congratulate the Minister for having gone through this ordeal peacefully and with a smiling face, because he has heard all palatable and unpalatable remarks. And while this Bill is in the third reading stage and while parting from my hon. friend, I want to give him one piece of advice. That is that I have a feeling—not only on this Bill, but it is a longstanding grievance—that the wishes of the House are least accommodated by Government in the matter of accepting amendments or amending their attitude towards the law which they come forward with in this House. I would only give one instance. I am absolutely sure that the majority of the Members of this House believe in State-trading. I have had talks in lobbies, I have had talks with persons, I have looked into the speeches. Most of the Members who have expressed themselves on this Bill have supported State-trading in jute at least. It is practically one solid opinion of the House: they want State-trading. If we cannot be accommodated and the voice of the House or the feeling of the House is lightly treated by Government, whether on account of their Secretaries not liking it or on account of other influences or whatever it be, I give them a warning: a time will come when the House perhaps also might want to treat the Government equally lightly. When so many times Members of this House put questions to the hon. Ministers, they evaded a reply, they side-tracked the issue altogether. If in this Bill they could not have State-trading, they could at least have given an assurance to the House as to what they really feel about it. Are they coming forward with any law just to enable this State-trading to come? That is the only thing which I wanted to point out. Many a time there have been speeches—this session as also in past sessions—and on every such occasion whenever this Commerce Ministry comes, comes the question of State-trading. And every time it is shelved. I want to submit that these duties here have been enhanced, all the rights asked for have been given, and the hon. Minister has got the full Bill passed as he wanted it. It is not the Secretariat alone, it is not only those advisers, who will have their say. Democracy means the House must also have its say. Give the House also the privilege and pride of sharing the supreme authority in the country and of having its say. This House has never had its full share. We have never been accommodated. That is my feeling. What is the good of people studying a question and

coming here? Of course, some hon. Members also must have said something unpalatable. I think we must see to it that we must put concrete suggestions. As you remarked, Sir mere criticism does not pay. But then the Treasury Benches also must appreciate the labour of those Members who go through literature, and study things, and come out with suggestions—whatever those suggestions are, they are sincerely put before the Treasury Benches, before Government. Government must pay some respect or heed to the opinion of the representatives of the people.

I am on my legs only because of this. I am having a sort of a feeling of frustration. My personal feeling is, let us try once, twice or thrice more. If things go to that extent and nothing is heard, no healthy suggestion or criticism is accepted, then things will remain as they are. The House cannot make changes, cannot mould policies. Then let 'X' Bills come and 'X' Bills be passed as they are.

All this discussion means only one thing: that the House expresses its feelings. Members have their opinions representing the opinion of the people whom they represent. They have the views of the masses of the people which are put before Government for due consideration. I hope they will be better respected in future.

In the matter of State-trading, the hon. Minister might, today when the third reading of the Bill is being considered, kindly tell the House as to what their final view about State-trading is. Are they going to consider it soon or have they shelved it for good.

Shri Hussain Imam: I don't like that the record should show that in this House the condemnation of our civil servants has been general. The civil servants have responded magnificently to the call of duty and I feel that the House should be grateful to them for the work which they have put in. There can be no gainsaying the fact that there are black sheep everywhere, and if there are I hold no brief for them. But that does not mean that we should condemn the whole body as, being people who are worse than Harijans. I feel that the Commerce Department had to tackle a job for which they had not been trained. Had it not been for the Supply Department of the war days, we would have had no officials who could know the A, B, C of this immense work. As the hon. Minister pointed out, it involves a question of thousand crores. A mat-

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ter of that magnitude has to be handled, and it has been handled, I should say, not badly. It may have been handled better, but you cannot say that it has been handled in a way which is to the discredit of all the civil servants concerned.

I would also like to endorse the remark of Mr. Tyagi that Government's attitude should be more responsive. I have had occasion to speak on this subject many times. It is not enough that Government are satisfied. I also wish to say that this House too must treat the present Treasury Benches in a different manner from the manner in which we used to treat them in the old days. The Treasury Benches at that time were acting not in the interest of India but in the interest of the powers that were. The present Treasury Benches are of the country and are working in the interest of the country. Maybe they have not got the same amount of easy confidence which we have, maybe they are badly advised, but they are guided by the same motive which guides this side of the House. But they must also try and convince us.....

Shri Sondhi: Is this advice to be given to the House also a part of the Bill?

Shri Hussain Imam: I have nothing more to say. Because remarks were made by two hon. Members, I wished it to go on record that it is not the general feeling that we condemn the civil servants or that we find the Treasury Benches are always in the wrong. I only say that Government must respond to the House better and more thoroughly than they have done in the past.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I have very little to add to what I have already said before. I am thankful for the blessings that my hon. friend, Shri Ramnarayan Singh, has bestowed on me and I hope I shall prove worthy of them.

As regards my hon. friend, Mr. Tyagi, who wants a specific commitment to be made on behalf of Government in the matter of State-trading, I may only draw his attention to the report on State-trading given to us by the Committee that was appointed in that behalf. Though they recommend State-trading in many directions, curiously enough they are very wary in recommending State-trading in jute.

Many Members are not satisfied with that part of the recommendations which relate to jute. We are examining the matter most carefully. There

is no idea of side-tracking the issue, as my hon. friend suspects, or proving unresponsive to the wishes of the House. The problem is not without its difficulties. A whole economic structure cannot be overturned overnight. Therefore, we have to walk very carefully. I do hope that some decision in this behalf will be taken and that ways and means will be found so that a new structure may be raised without creating too much confusion.

There is already much confusion in the jute industry and various other industries, due to events over which we have had no control. We want really to go slow. By temperament I am not a revolutionary. I may be right or I may be wrong, but where human institutions and human beings are concerned, and their interests have to be taken into consideration, I want to be very careful, lest I do more evil than good. This is a very important matter and if the hon. Member will take my assurance, it is a file with which I am dealing every day. The matter has gone through various stages and it may not be very long before I might be in a position to state the views of Government. But it would not be right for my hon. friend or any one else to think that we are careless or indifferent to the wishes of the House or the interests of the country.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar): May I know whether the report of the State Trading Committee has gone before the Standing Committee of the Commerce Ministry?

Shri Himatsingka: No.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I thought that copies of the report were supplied to all Members of this House.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Shri Tyagi: It was placed on the Table.

Shri Sidhva: We have not received it.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I hope the Standing Committee will be taken fully into confidence.

Saikh Mohiuddin (Bihar): Is the control only for rural areas or will jute be sold at the controlled price in Calcutta, Bombay, etc.?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The price control of jute applies wherever jute is sold, whether in Calcutta or outside. I shall make copies of the report of the State

Trading Committee available to all members of the Committee and I shall surely consult them before final decisions are taken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Dr. Ambedkar.

Several Hon. Members: There are only four minutes or so left.

An Hon. Member: We might adjourn now and take up Dr. Ambedkar's Bill tomorrow.

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): Yes, Sir.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 12th December, 1950.