

Monday, 12th March, 1951



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VI, 1951

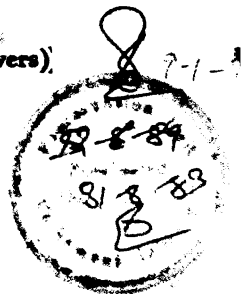
(5th February to 31st March, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951



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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Monday, 12th March, 1951

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

*2085. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any move is afoot to have another trade agreement with Poland after the expiry of the previous one in June 1950; and

(b) whether there was any talk between the representatives of India and Poland regarding trade between the two countries in November last?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). As a result of trade talks between the representatives of India and Poland held in November last, trade arrangements were concluded with a view to promoting trade between the two countries during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1951. Copies of the trade letters exchanged are in the Library of the House.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Sir, may I know whether stipulated exports and imports under the agreement were made during last year?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, the position is like this. Both in respect of imports and exports the stipulated maximums were not reached. For instance, on the export side Rs. 25 lakhs worth of raw jute were exported, while according to the stipulated amount it was Rs. 46 lakhs. The export of coir fibre etc. reached very nearly the stipulated figure. Besides raw jute, coir fibre etc. the agreement provided for the export of stipulated quantities

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of raw cotton, shellac, mica etc. but there were no actual exports of these commodities. Regarding imports also the actual figure came up to the stipulated figure in respect of coir mattresses and technical instruments but in certain other items the figure was considerably below the stipulated target.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Under the new agreement, is it a fact that there have been only a few changes in the items of exports and imports?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes. On account of the previous experience, the necessary changes have been made. For instance as regards export of raw jute and raw cotton to Poland, according to the new agreement, these have been omitted. Similarly items which could not be imported are also omitted.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Sir, may I know whether there is a favourable balance of trade with Poland?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, except in the current year which shows a small adverse balance.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, may I know whether there is any particular section of the Commerce Ministry or the joint Ministry of Industry and Commerce which is in charge of this matter, to see that the trade agreements are fully fulfilled?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes.

Dr. Deshmukh: What is the name of that section?

Shri Karmarkar: I take it that what my hon. friend wants to know is whether there is a section dealing with this particular subject. As my hon. friend knows, there are various sections in the Ministry and different sections deal with different matters. For instance one Joint Secretary is in special charge of international trade agreements and he looks after the whole thing, subject to our guidance.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, may I know whether the deficiencies similar to

those mentioned in this particular instance, are present in other trade agreements also?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I would require notice.

Shri Kamath: Sir, before trade talks opened between India and Poland, for how many years before that there used to be *ad hoc* trade transactions between India and Poland?

Shri Karmarkar: My hon. friend wants to know for how many years we have been having trade with Poland. I should imagine for more than 20 years, in any case. If he wants particular figures of trade, I shall be glad to collect them and give them to him. Last year there was a trade agreement and this year's is a continuation of the agreement of last year.

EDUCATION OF DISPLACED STUDENTS

*2086. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have taken the responsibility to educate displaced students?

(b) If so, have they any comprehensive Plan for the purpose?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A note on the schemes of financial assistance to displaced students in India and abroad is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 1.]

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Sir, may I know whether scholarships have been provided for the study of engineering and other technical subjects in technical colleges?

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, that is mentioned in the note placed on the Table of the House.

Pandit Maltra: Sir, may I enquire from the hon. Minister if Government has got any plan or policy for giving education in technical subjects to these displaced persons?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, Sir. This has been explained on the floor of the House times out of number. The first part of the plan is that where a student gets admission in.....

Pandit Maltra: Sir, I am not asking for that information. I am just enquiring whether technical schools have been established for the purpose, and secondly whether these displaced students are given facilities for education in medical, engineering and other subjects?

Shri A. P. Jain: That is what I am going to state. The scheme consists of two parts. One is, when the student succeeds in getting admission into an engineering or medical or agricultural college he gets a stipend on the scale prescribed. Besides that this Ministry has provided for vocational technical training for a large number of deserving young displaced persons.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, may I know whether Government have given any grants for displaced persons from Sind to construct a building for higher education?

Shri A. P. Jain: I believe displaced persons coming from Sind are as much part of the Indian nation as any other person and therefore they are eligible to all the facilities available in all the institutions. Besides, we have given a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for the building of the Jai Hind College at Bombay and we propose to make some further grants to that institution.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is the Government aware that there is not much room for students in the technical institutions even as it is, and displaced students find great difficulty in getting admission, and may I know what steps are being taken by Government to meet this difficulty?

Shri A. P. Jain: Government is already giving vocational and technical training to about 15,000 young displaced persons through the technical institutions of the Labour Ministry and there are also some technical institutions in the Ministry of Rehabilitation at the Centre and under the State Governments also.

BHOPAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

*2087. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to refer to the answer given to my starred question No. 424 on the 28th November 1950 and state whether the report of the Commission appointed by the Rajasthan Government to inquire into the affairs of the Bhopal Co-operative Society for houses built in Udaipur has been received?

(b) What are the reasons for 33 houses not being occupied as yet?

(c) What was the amount of loan paid to the Society and how much of it has been used for construction, and has any account been rendered to Government by the Society?

(d) Has any instalment been paid by the Society towards the loan amount?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No. Enquiry is still proceeding.

(b) 24 mud houses collapsed during the rains and 9 houses are unoccupied because they are incomplete and partially damaged.

(c) (i) Rs. 4 lakhs were advanced to the Society by the Mewar Government. A loan of Rs. 25 lakhs was paid by the Government of India in addition to the above. Another loan of Rs. 5 lakhs has been sanctioned but not yet paid to the State Government.

(ii) The Society spent about Rs. 14 lakhs on construction work.

(iii) The accounts of the Society are being scrutinised by the Enquiry Commission.

(d) No.

Shri Sidhva: May I know, Sir, the reasons why Government have taken such a long time to get this matter enquired into, and whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that there have been defalcations in this matter?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have to admit with regret that the affairs of this society have been in a pretty mess. To begin with, the Rajasthan Government began to enquire into this matter. But the process adopted by that Government was slow and to my mind unsatisfactory. When I visited Udaipur last time, about six months back, I came to the conclusion that some strict measures were necessary and I deputed an officer from the Centre and also an officer from the Ministry of Finance to go into this matter and they both have submitted reports which are under scrutiny. I confess that even a preliminary study of the reports gives us the feeling that quite a number of persons combined together to make benefit out of the funds of the society and the whole matter requires strong handling.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, in view of the revelations and facts which the hon. Minister has been good enough to make, is he going to take this matter up himself or is he going to let the Rajasthan Government complete the enquiry? I first put the question on this matter on 4th August and I was told that it would be enquired into very soon. Again on the 20th of November I put a question on this subject and the reply was that the matter was being expedited. And even to-day we learn that the matter is not yet complete. In view of all this, will the hon. Minister himself take up the matter and expedite the disposal of this question and let the House know the result?

Shri A. P. Jain: As I said I had deputed two officers and they have

submitted a report. Certain things have to be done in consultation with the Rajasthan Government. The report has been sent to the Rajasthan Government for their comment. I have after all to proceed in a constitutional manner and I cannot ride roughshod over everybody else. I can however assure the House that so far as I am concerned as also my Ministry is concerned I will not allow the matter to be delayed or postponed.

Shri Sidhva: What are the suggestions of those officers appointed by the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Let us proceed to the next question. He has already said that their report is under consideration.

Shri Sidhva: With your permission, Sir, I shall put one more question. May I know at whose instance was this loan granted? Was any security taken?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Central Government advanced the loan to the Rajasthan Government on the security of the revenues of the Rajasthan Government. In their turn the Rajasthan Government advanced that loan to the society on the security of the assets of the society.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES IN LAJPAT NAGAR

*2088. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many houses have been built in Lajpat Nagar and how many have been allotted so far?

(b) In how many cases have filtered water taps been provided?

(c) Is electricity provided in these houses?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 2,398 single roomed tenements, 250 double roomed tenements, and in all 20 two-roomed houses have been constructed in Lajpat Nagar. 2,329 single-roomed tenements, all the double-roomed tenements and 14 two-roomed houses have been allotted.

(b) No water taps have been provided. 59 hand pumps have been installed in various blocks. In addition, there are 6 wells in this area from which the residents draw water, which is reported potable.

(c) No.

Shri Sidhva: What is the difficulty in giving water taps for drinking purposes, since as many as 2,000 houses have been built there?

Shri A. P. Jain: That requires the construction of water works and when they are constructed it will be possible to give water taps.

Shri Sidhva: Is it contemplated to construct a water reservoir?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is contemplated to construct a water reservoir but I am not in a position to state how many taps will be provided and whether they will be provided for each family.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether individual members are also given houses or they are given only to societies or associations?

Shri A. P. Jain: Houses are given to individual members.

Shri Sidhva: Besides societies and associations?

Mr. Speaker: Yes; he has already said it.

RECRUITMENT OF GURKHAS

*2089. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the recruitment of Gurkhas of Indian nationality has been stopped by the Government of the United Kingdom?

(b) If so, since when has their recruitment been stopped?

(c) How many Gurkhas of Indian nationality are still in the British Army?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes.

(b) The recruitment was stopped early in 1950.

(c) The exact figure is not known. According to the information available, the number is small and consists chiefly of clerks, motor drivers and nurses.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that some Gurkhas of Indian nationality were recruited to the British army until early 1950, may I know whether they were recruited according to some agreement or whether that agreement has now been rescinded?

Dr. Keskar: As my hon. friend is aware the recruitment of Gurkhas is subject to an agreement between the Government of India, the Government of Nepal and the Government of the United Kingdom. Whatever recruitment has been taking place in certain recruitment centres in India has been according to this agreement. What happened was that we came to know that a certain number of Gurkhas who were Indian nationals were being recruited. When we brought it to the

notice of the U.K. Government they told us that they had done it by mistake and that hereafter no Gurkha of Indian nationality would be recruited.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether India will continue to be a party to the agreement between the U.K., the Government of Nepal and India, which provides for the recruitment of Gurkha soldiers, who are used by the British Government to suppress Asian peoples in several British dependencies?

Dr. Keskar: There is now a certain agreement between the three countries. Whenever Government considers that the usefulness of that agreement is no more, certainly we will withdraw ourselves from that agreement.

Shri A. B. Gurung: May I know why the recruitment of Gurkhas for the U.K. Government is permitted in centres in Indian soil?

Dr. Keskar: That is for facilitating the method of recruitment and not for anything else.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the attention of my hon. friend has been drawn to a statement of the Foreign Secretary of U.K. Government stating that they are going to recruit more Gurkhas? Will they be Gurkhas of Indian nationality or Nepalese nationality?

Mr. Speaker: They cannot be Indian nationals. They have already admitted the mistake and said that they would not repeat it.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if there are Gurkhas of Indian nationality at present engaged under the British army in Malaya? If so, what is their position and what do Government propose doing in regard to their continued employment in the British army?

Dr. Keskar: I cannot say if there are any Gurkhas of Indian nationality who opted for the British army at the time of the partition of the Gurkha forces between India and the U.K. If my hon. friend wants the information I would try to get it. But Gurkhas recruited after this tripartite agreement came into force are very, very few and most of them, as I said, are clerks and motor drivers.

GAZETTE OF INDIA (RECEIPT BY ADDRESSEES)

*2091. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that copies of the Gazette of India, and particularly of its Extraordinary

issues, are sometimes received by the addressees in Delhi and New Delhi 10 to 15 days after the date of their publication; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps are proposed to be taken to eliminate this delay?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes. A few instances have been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) Ministries have been requested to send materials for publication sufficiently in advance in order to eliminate delay in printing. The capacity of the Presses is limited, especially during the session of Parliament. With the opening of a new press at Nasik, rush of work at the Delhi/Simla Presses will be reduced and such delays will be minimised.

Shri Raj Kanwar: Does the delay take place in the printing of the copies of the Gazette owing to want of adequate printing machinery or in their distribution to addressees? If both factors are responsible, which of the two can be eliminated sooner than the other?

Shri Buragohain: With regard to the first part, the answer is yes, as I have already said. With regard to the latter part of the question, the real difficulty arises out of the fact that the Ministries indenting state in their requisition a date to appear in the gazette in order to satisfy statutory obligations in some cases. Therefore we have to antedate some of the issues.

Shri Raj Kanwar: Is it a fact that sometimes the gazettes are received nearly a fortnight after the alleged date of their publication?

Shri Buragohain: It is so. Recently we have taken certain steps. As I have already explained, the reason is that there are certain statutory obligations regarding the date. But I may inform the House that since the beginning of this month there has been no delay.

POWER ALCOHOL

*2092. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of power alcohol manufactured in India from molasses during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950;

(b) its average cost of production per gallon; and

(c) how far the experiment of mixing this with petroleum has proved successful and helped to ease the petroleum requirements of this country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) The quantity of power alcohol manufactured from molasses is:

1948.—37,76,335 gallons.

1949.—42,29,959 gallons.

1950.—44,97,333 gallons.

(b) The cost of production in U.P. works out to annas -/12/- per gallon. In other producing States, the cost price varies slightly according to the prevalent price of molasses and coal.

(c) Petrol/Power alcohol mixture in the ratio of 80:20 has been found as efficient as straight petrol.

In 1950, nearly 40 lakh gallons of petrol have been saved by using the admixture.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Is it the policy of the Government to encourage consumption of mixed power alcohol with petrol?

Shri Mahtab: That is the policy.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Is it a fact that from molasses Eastiyme can be manufactured, which has great food value?

Shri Mahtab: I cannot say that.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know if this power alcohol is used for military vehicles also in the Defence Ministry?

Shri Mahtab: It is used in all motor vehicles, including military vehicles also.

Shri V. J. Gupta: May I know whether all the power alcohol factories, which do not manufacture sugar also, complained to the Government and asked Government to control the price of molasses and divert the same from the sugar factories to the power alcohol factories?

Shri Mahtab: I did not follow the question.

Shri V. J. Gupta: Some power alcohol factories are not manufacturing sugar. As such they have to buy the molasses from the sugar factories. These sugar factories are selling the molasses at a very high cost, and the power alcohol factories are suffering because they are not getting the products easily. Therefore,.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Sardar B. S. Man: May I know how far this power alcohol has affected adversely the durability of the engine?

Shri Mahtab: In the initial stages there was some complaint but after experiments we found that admixture in the percentage of 80:20 does not do any damage to the engine.

PENICILLIN

*2093. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state the quantity and value of Penicillin and other sulphha drugs imported into India during the years 1949 and 1950 and how much of them was imported from soft and hard currency areas respectively?

(b) What progress has been made so far by the Government of India for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of penicillin and other sulphha drugs and would such a factory be State-owned?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Information regarding the quantity and value of Penicillin and Sulpha Drugs annually imported is not available as these items are not separately recorded in the Indian Sea-Borne Trade Accounts. From the beginning of 1950, however, statistics regarding the monthly imports of certain essential drugs are being collected by Government and the information available regarding imports during the year 1950 is as follows:

Item	Import from Hard currency areas	
	Quantity	Value
Penicillin	31,28,000 Mega Units.	Rs. 144 lakhs.
Sulpha Drugs	13,400 lbs.	Rs. 2.4 lakhs.

Item	Import from Soft currency areas	
	Quantity	Value
Penicillin	34,41,770 Mega Units.	Rs. 89 lakhs.
Sulpha Drugs	2,32,960 lbs. approx.	Rs. 39 lakhs.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 2.]

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know what is the answer in respect of my question whether Government intends to have a factory for the manufacture of these drugs?

Shri Gadgil: Yes, that is so.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: What are the particulars of that scheme? This answer does not give any information.

Shri Gadgil: It will require quite a lot of time to state the particulars, but the statement that I have laid on the Table will give the hon. Member a sufficient idea of the whole thing.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether it is a fact that our scientists have discovered an equivalent as efficient as penicillin from Indian drugs, and if so, do Government propose to take up its production?

Mr. Speaker: I think he is giving some information contained in today's papers.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the Government factory which has been started is manufacturing any quantity of sulphha drugs just at present?

Shri Gadgil: The position is that the preliminaries with respect to the erection of that factory are over, but actual contracts have not yet been signed because there is an offer from the W.H.O. That offer is being considered by the Government of India.

Shri A. C. Guha: Will it be a fully Government-owned factory or will there be some private participation also in it?

Shri Gadgil: Whatever be the result one thing is certain, that it will be a Government-controlled factory.

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST BENGAL

*2094. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred for the displaced persons from East Bengal since 1947 onwards year by year; and

(b) what is the allotment for 1951, and under what items of expenditure?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. F. Jain):

(a) 1947-48—Rs. 4 lakhs.

1948-49—Rs. 2.49 crores.

1949-50—Rs. 3.97 crores.

1950-51 (upto Dec. 1950)—Rs. 9.50 crores.

Total Rs. 16 crores approx.

(b) 13.25 crores.

Relief and Rehabilitation grants.—
Rs. 7.64 crores.

Loans.—Rs. 5.61 crores.

Shri Barman: What is the total number of refugees that have already been rehabilitated and what is the number that remains to be rehabilitated?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have given the figures of those who have been rehabilitated more than once in this House. Speaking from memory, their number would be more than twelve lakhs. Of the remaining, some may have rehabilitated themselves. It is difficult for me to give the number of those who yet require to be rehabilitated, except about 1½ lakh persons who are living in camps. These have to be rehabilitated. Of these 1½ lakhs in the whole of the eastern region, I believe about 70,000 are in West Bengal.

Shri Barman: What is the number of refugees that have rehabilitated themselves or who have been rehabilitated by Government on migrants' lands, and what is the total acreage of such land under use of these refugees?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not got the exact figures with me and I would not like to hazard figures from memory.

Shri Barman: Have Government any alternative proposal for rehabilitating those refugees who may be ousted when any migrant Muslim may return and demand his land?

Shri A. P. Jain: Well, I am sure the hon. Member knows that the West Bengal Government is very vigilant, and when a refugee who has been settled on a migrant's land is evicted from that land, he will be given some alternative land.

Shri Chaliha: May I know the expenditure incurred on displaced persons in Assam during that period?

Shri A. P. Jain: For Assam, in 1949-50 it was Rs. 1.89 lakhs, and in 1950-51 (up to November/December) it was Rs. 25.88 lakhs.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभापति जी, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रुपये का हिसाब दिया गया है उन में से कितने रुपये प्रवन्ध में खर्च हुए हैं और कितने सीधे शरणार्थियों के हाथों में पहुँचे हैं ?

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I want to know as to what amount, out of the amount accounted for, has been spent

by way of expenditure on administration and what amount has gone direct into the hands of the refugees.]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : उन के हाथ में जो कर्ज है वह दिया गया है और रिलीफ का भी ज्यादातर हिस्सा उन के हाथ में दिया गया है। लेकिन वह आंकड़ें इकट्ठा करने में बहुत समय लगेगा। इस वक्त मेरे पास वह पुस्तकें नहीं हैं जिन से हिसाब किताब इकट्ठा किया जा सके।

[Shri A. P. Jain: The loans have gone into their hands and the greater portion of the amount meant for relief has also reached them. The collection of these figures would, however, involve a good deal of time. I have not with me at this time the books from which the calculations might be made.]

Shri A. C. Guha: Of the twelve lakhs that have been rehabilitated, may I know how many are in West Bengal, and how many in Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Tripura?

Shri A. P. Jain: Twelve lakhs is the figure for West Bengal only.

Shri A. C. Guha: And how many in the other areas?

Shri A. P. Jain: Again, Sir, I have given exact figures in this House more than once, and I am not expected to remember all those figures.

Pandit Maitra: Arising out of part (b), may I enquire of the hon. Minister if it is the policy of the Government to make any *ad hoc* grant to municipalities and district boards or even to union boards where there are large concentrations of refugees for whom these institutions cater?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is not the policy of the Government to make *ad hoc* grants to municipalities or district boards, but in exceptional cases—I remember one or two cases—we have given some sort of assistance.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister in a position to give an idea of the per capita expenditure incurred by the West Bengal and the East Bengal Governments on the returning migrants from either State?

Shri A. P. Jain: So far as West Bengal is concerned, we give an *ad hoc* grant up to Rs. 200 to a returning migrant wherever he stands in need of it. So far as East Bengal is concerned, we have not got the correct figures, but I understand that of late the East Bengal Government have been giving some assistance.

Shri Kamath: Some. But how much?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not got the figures.

EVACUEES' LANDS IN DELHI

*2095. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of agricultural land left behind by evacuees in the State of Delhi;

(b) how much has been allotted to displaced persons; and

(c) the number of families rehabilitated on them?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 17,816 acres.

(b) and (c). 10,319 acres have been allotted to 1,096 displaced families.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is being done with regard to the remaining 7,497 acres?

Shri A. P. Jain: The details relating to them are as follows:

Uncultivable land and lands jointly owned by Muslim evacuees and non-evacuees which were used as pastures—(these are not fit for cultivation).—3,830 acres.

Lands reserved for the township schemes of the Rehabilitation Ministry—(these are being used for the benefit of the D.Ps.)—778 acres.

Land under the Court of Wards.—297 acres.

Lands under cultivation of Hindu tenants prior to partition—(with regard to these, it is the policy of Government not to disturb the people).—1,682 acres.

Area under gardens jointly owned by Muslim evacuees and local Hindus and in the possession of the latter.—182 acres.

Area under gardens covered by applications for restoration—(this is disputed and therefore we cannot make use of it until the dispute is settled).—194 acres.

Land under cultivation by local cultivators and available for allotment to displaced persons—(this is the only item which can be retrieved and allotted to D.Ps. and that is being done).—554 acres.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With regard to the reply given to part (a), may I know if the 10,000 and odd acres are under plough or they are uncultivated?

Shri A. P. Jain: To the best of our information, they are under plough.

Sardar B. S. Man: What was the basis of allotment—the size of the family or the size of the holding abandoned in Pakistan?

Shri A. P. Jain: Not the holding abandoned in Pakistan. Allotment has been made to each of the families on the basis of an average of 10 acres per family.

EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED STUDENTS

*2096. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on loans, freeships, educational facilities and stipends given to displaced students so far by Government?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether a Committee has been appointed specially for the education of the displaced persons and if so, what is its report?

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not know of any such Committee, Sir.

ARMY PRESS, DELHI

*2097. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army Press of Delhi has been declared evacuee property and if so, whether it has been given on lease to some displaced firm;

(b) what are the terms of the lease;

(c) whether it is a fact that some printing machinery belonging to the said Press which was imported in the year 1947 remained undelivered at the Delhi Railway Station for over two years; and

(d) if so, when was the delivery taken and whether that machinery has been disposed of?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes. The Press has been leased out to a combine of six displaced persons.

(b) A copy of the lease deed is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure Nc 3.]

(c) Yes. The delay was due to a great extent to the position in regard to this property not having been resolved. There was civil litigation also in the case.

(d) Delivery of the consignment was obtained on 13th May, 1949. One of the machines has been made use of in

the Vocational Training Centre at Arab-ki-Sarai. Remaining machines have not yet been disposed of.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What was the amount of demurrage incurred on this machinery?

Shri A. P. Jain: My information is that it comes to about Rs. 18,000 but the Custodian is negotiating with the Railway Authorities whether the demurrage should be paid or not.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: When did the information that these machines were lying idle in the Railway Station come to the notice of the Custodian for the first time?

Shri A. P. Jain: This matter came to the notice of the Custodian at a fairly early stage, but there were some very insurmountable and obvious difficulties. This property was declared to be evacuee property only by about the end of December 1948 and the notification was published on the 4th January 1949. Obviously the Custodian could not take delivery of the machines until they had been declared evacuee property and an appeal was filed before the authorised Custodian and it was decided only by about the end of March. Thereafter, the R and R. Ministry wanted to take over this consignment and intimation was given that delivery might be taken. Actually, delivery was taken on 13th May, 1949.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that most of the valuable parts of this machinery were pilfered when it was lying in the Railway Station?

Shri A. P. Jain: Those who might have pilfered or those who know about those who have pilfered know it more than me.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I want to put one more question.

Mr. Speaker: There are so many other more important questions.

Dr. Deshmukh: But this is a scandal, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Scandals should not be pursued for long.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Just one more question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the estimated value of the machinery now?

Shri A. P. Jain: An officer has been appointed to evaluate this machinery

and until his report comes I am not in a position to state what is the value of the machinery.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will it cover the demurrage amount?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

NEPAL (SUBSIDY)

*2098. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual subsidy of Rs. 10 lakhs which was being paid by India to Nepal Government during the British regime is still being paid to that Government;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, for what specific object it is paid and on what grounds its continuance is justified; and

(c) whether any such payment is made to Sikkim and Bhutan, if so, what is the amount and why is it paid?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). An annual contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs is being paid to Nepal since the year 1919. The object is to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries, and to assist in the general and economic development of Nepal.

(c) Annual subsidies of Rs. 3 lakhs and Rs. 5 lakhs respectively are being paid to Sikkim and Bhutan under the recent Treaties with them. These payments are made in the case of Bhutan in lieu of earlier commitments arising from previous Treaties and in the case of Sikkim to assist in the development of that State.

Shri Raj Kanwar: What is the quid pro quo or return which India gets in connection with the payment of these subsidies to Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim?

Dr. Keskar: These are not commercial bargains and there is no question of quid pro quo.

Shri Raj Kanwar: Was the question of discontinuance of the Nepal subsidy discussed in connection with the recent negotiations which took place in Delhi with regard to the future of Nepal?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir.

Shri Chaitra: May I know whether in addition to the subsidy to Bhutan the Government of India have given 30 sq. miles of area from Assam?

Dr. Keskar: There has been an adjustment of the boundary between Assam and Bhutan. In fact, the Bhutan Government was claiming for a long time that a much larger area

was theirs and should be returned to them. After some negotiations a small area of about 30 sq. miles was returned to them.

CONVICTION OF INDIANS IN MAHE

*2099. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians convicted in Mahe (French India) for taking part in national movement; and

(b) how many of them are undergoing imprisonment?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to answers given to supplementary questions arising out of Question No. 4 on the 1st August, 1950 by Shri Kesava Rao and Seth Govind Das.

Shri Jnani Ram: Has there been any improvement since August last year and how does the matter stand at present?

Dr. Keskar: The question is with regard to the number of Indians convicted in Mahe. There can be no question of improvement in this. But I might inform the hon. Member that, as stated by me on 1st August 1950, the Government of India drew the attention of the Government of France regarding the unduly heavy sentences passed on Mahe prisoners. We have since received a reply that it is not possible for the French Government to interfere in the sentences, as they are judicial.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the number of persons undergoing imprisonment is the same today as it was in August last, and whether any of those who were imprisoned are also detained under the Detention Acts?

Dr. Keskar: There are a number of persons detained. I cannot say off-hand whether they are being detained in connection with the disturbances that took place in Mahe. But a number of persons who have been sentenced are, to the best of my information, still in prison; some who may have been sentenced for a short term may have been released.

HOUSES FOR LABOURERS .

*2100. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mill-owners had agreed to set apart a certain portion of their sale money on molasses for building houses for labourers;

(b) if so, the amount credited for this fund in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950;

(c) the manner in which the money has been spent;

(d) the number of houses built for labourers; and

(e) the amount, if any, spent on any other items?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Enquiries made indicate that arrangements of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member exist only in the Uttar Pradesh where, since 1948, the sugar mills have been crediting to Government the excess over annas 4 pies 3 per md. realised from the open sale of molasses.

(b) 1948-49.—Rs. 12,00,000.
1949-50.—Rs. 30,70,927/15/-.

A sum of Rs. 7,00,000 is likely to be available in respect of 1950-51.

(c) to (e). No money has so far been spent out of these collections which are proposed to be constituted into a statutory fund to be administered under the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Sugar and Power Alcohol Industries Labour Welfare and Development Fund Act, 1951, recently passed by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature.

Shri Jnani Ram: When is this money expected to be spent?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said, the Act has been passed recently—a week ago. And money will begin to be spent in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Shri Jnani Ram: Has any attempt been made in other States?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, it has not been made in any other State. In Bihar they are considering the question.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

*2101. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the raw materials which were considered to be short in India by the Development Committee on Industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): A list is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(1) Steel (particularly pipes and fittings, billets, tin-plate, and bolts and nuts).

(2) Sulphur.

(3) Copper.

(4) Zinc.

- (5) Nickel.
- (6) Aluminium.
- (7) Tin.
- (8) Antimony.
- (9) Cotton.
- (10) Wool and Wool Tops.
- (11) Hair yarn (for belting).
- (12) Newsprint.
- (13) Packing Paper (for manufacture of coated abrasive paper).
- (14) Cork.
- (15) Timber (for shipbuilding and repair, bobbin industry and railway sleepers).
- (16) Wood pulp.
- (17) Caustic Soda.
- (18) Soda ash.
- (19) Bleaching powder.
- (20) Phosphorus.
- (21) Borax.
- (22) Freon gas.
- (23) Calcium carbide.
- (24) Stearic Acid.
- (25) Cryolite.
- (26) Casein.
- (27) Potassium chloride.
- (28) Carbon Black.
- (29) Asbestos fibre.

Shri Jnani Ram: May I know if the quantities in deficit have been ascertained and if so what steps are going to be taken to produce them in the country?

Shri Mahtab: I have given a list of raw materials which are in short supply. The exact quantities cannot be given. We have set up some panels and they will let us know in course of time their requirements. Efforts are being made to secure them from abroad.

Shri Jnani Ram: May I know the articles which are partially deficit and those which are totally deficit?

Shri Mahtab: This report will be received soon from the panels which have been set up by the Panels Committee.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any proposal to stockpile essential raw materials in our country?

Shri Mahtab: There is such a proposal.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether India has joined any stockpiling plan with the United States or the United Kingdom?

Shri Mahtab: Recently a meeting of several representatives of some countries was held and some commodity group committees have been set up. India is now on these committees, except one.

NEWSPRINT

*2102. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported in this country during the last three years;

(b) whether U.S.A. has increased its total purchase of newsprint considerably; and

(c) if so, how it will affect the world market in future?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):

(a)	Year	Quantity (in tons)
	1948-49	57,638
	1949-50	44,584
	1950-51 (April to December 1950)	42,349

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This has already resulted in a world shortage of supplies and consequential rise in prices.

Shri Kamath: May I point out that I have tabled a Short Notice question related to this subject. That may be taken along with this.

Mr. Speaker: He may put his supplementaries. That question need not be put.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Are the Government aware that the Newsprint Association of Canada which control a very large portion of newsprint supply have stated that the position in 1951 is going to be very tight for the supply of newsprint? If so, have Government made some arrangements for securing adequate supply of newsprint this year?

Shri Mahtab: I can frankly say that there is no prospect of having any supply from Canada for the time being. Therefore, efforts are being made to secure supplies from some other countries and we have been able to secure promises to the extent of about 31,000 tons for the current year.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know how the prices of newsprint, proposed to be

imported from new sources compare with the price of newsprint in Canada?

Shri Mahtab: The prices are not known yet; we are anxious to have supply according to our requirements.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The hon. Minister in reply to part (c) of the question stated that prices have gone up. May I know to what extent prices have gone up?

Shri Mahtab: The price only two years back was about £35 to 38 per ton; now it is more than £100 per ton.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that in the course of his speech in Calcutta on the 6th March 1951, while opening the Cigarette Paper Mill at Tribeni, the Minister stated that India's newsprint stocks would be completely exhausted on the eve of the General Elections? If so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy this state of affairs?

Shri Mahtab: That is a fact. If no further supplies come, the stocks will only last for four or five months more. The stock in India at present is only 19,500 tons, while average consumption per month is about 5,000 tons. About the steps taken, we are arranging with some other countries to give us as much as they can and we have been able to secure promises to the extent of about 31,000 tons.

Shri Kamath: Is there any apprehension that on that account the General Elections will be postponed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the quota of newsprint supply will be further curtailed during the next quarter of this year?

Shri Mahtab: May be further curtailed. It is with that end in view, in order to create an atmosphere in favour of that cut, that I placed that fact before the public.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what is the average consumption of newsprint in the year?

Shri Mahtab: About 60,000 tons.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society represented to the Government more than a year back drawing its attention to the scarcity of newsprint and made certain recommendations? If so, what action was taken on those recommendations?

Shri Mahtab: The recommendations of the Newspaper Society have been accepted in full and it is in accordance

with their recommendations that the recent control has been introduced.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The information given by the hon. Minister is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member should not contradict it here. He should point it out to the hon. Minister and if he is convinced that he is wrong, he will make a statement about it. Mr. Alva.

Shri Joachim Alva: I am prepared to yield my precedence to my elder brother in profession.

According to the reported move of Government for stock-piling, is newsprint one of the items to be stock-piled?

Shri Mahtab: The question of stock-piling will arise only if there is availability of stock. If the hon. Member can suggest the sources where it is available, I am prepared to consider the question of stock-piling of newsprint.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: When the hon. Minister said that the recommendations of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society had been accepted, was he referring to the recent recommendation? My point was that the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society as early as a year and a half back had made recommendations that in view of its scarcity, newsprint should be controlled. What action was taken by Government on that recommendation?

Shri Mahtab: If the hon. Member refers to past history, I would refer him to still earlier history. In 1948 there was plenty of supply of newsprint. The Newspaper Society did not make any attempt to secure supplies. If they had done so, there would have been no difficulty now.

EXPORT OF SURGICAL DRESSINGS

*2103. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of surgical dressings exported from India during the first half of 1950?

(b) What was the corresponding export during the first half of 1949?

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

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 60 tons 18 cwts. and 14 lbs. of surgical dressings were exported from India during the first half of 1950.

(b) 84 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. and 6 lbs. in addition to the export of the value

of Rs. 10,470 during the first half of 1949.

(c) The principal countries to which surgical dressings are exported are Burma, Ceylon, Thailand, Federation of Malaya, Straits Settlements, Zanzibar, Iraq, Hongkong, West and East Pakistan, Tanganyika Territory, China and Afghanistan.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the names and location of the firms that produce these dressings?

Shri Karmarkar: I would require notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there was any import of these dressings in 1950?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, as far as I am aware, except of a very few special varieties.

SKARDU GARRISON

*2104. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Skardu garrison which was taken prisoner by the Pakistan Army at the beginning of the Kashmir fighting has been repatriated?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): The garrison was repatriated in May, 1950.

Dr. M. M. Das: What was the original strength of the garrison before its fall, what was the number taken prisoner and what is the number repatriated?

Dr. Keskar: I would not be able to give the strength of the garrison off-hand. But I might inform my hon. friend that the personnel taken prisoner were about forty of whom nearly half were only followers and not military personnel.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the number of deaths that took place under captivity? Have Government any information?

Dr. Keskar: I would require notice. I can get it if my hon. friend wants it.

SCHEME re PRESERVATION OF WOOD

*2105. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government have finalised their decision on the scheme submitted by Dr. Kamesam, for the preservation of wood?

(b) Is it a fact that some private firms are willing to establish factories for the preservation of wood according to the formula submitted by Dr. Kamesam?

(c) Has the formula submitted by Dr. Kamesam proved to be practical and effective?

(d) Do Government propose to buy the patent right of Dr. Kamesam's formula?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only one private firm has shown willingness to give Dr. Kamesam's preservative a trial.

(c) No incontrovertible evidence is yet available about the efficacy of Dr. Kamesam's preservative.

(d) Government have not yet come to any decision.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any method of preservation of wood has been evolved as a result of research work carried on in our Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun?

Shri Mahtab: Several experiments are going on, but no experiment has yet been proved conclusively effective.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any method of preservation of wood is practised by the Government of India?

Shri Mahtab: Apart from the ascu method which has been discovered there are several methods—I forget the names of those methods—and in some of the hydro-electric projects these methods are put in operation.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know whether Government have enquired about the present condition of the structures put up by Dr. Kamesam with ascu treated timber in Travancore?

Shri Mahtab: I know all about Dr. Kamesam's method. He is in correspondence with me. Government at one time offered him a loan of Rs. 2,000 and selected a site for the purpose. But he has not taken advantage of it because of the condition attached to it. There is correspondence going on between him and Government and I am also carrying on personal correspondence with him.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: May I know whether it is a fact that the Mysore Government got a bridge built with this kind of wood and it did not prove a success?

Shri Mahtab: That is a fact.

JOURNALS PUBLISHED BY MINISTRIES

*2106. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of journals, weekly, fortnightly, monthly, etc., published in the year 1950 by the different Ministries of the Government of India;

(b) the total annual cost of publications of all these journals;

(c) what per cent. of the cost is recovered by the sale of these journals; and

(d) which is the Ministry which has
(i) the largest number of journals and
(ii) the smallest number?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain):

(a) 57.

(b) Rs. 26,02,450/4/-.

(c) 67 per cent. approximately.

(d) (i) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, (ii) Some Ministries do not issue any journals and several others issue only one journal each.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what is the exact purpose of Government in publishing and distributing these journals and how far that purpose has been served?

Shri Buragohain: The purpose is mainly to give information and knowledge about the working of the different branches of Government.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the economy drive of the Government has affected these publications in any way?

Shri Buragohain: Not so far, Sir.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the number of journals published by a Ministry varies directly or inversely with the efficiency of the Ministry?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: As it was stated that the purpose of publishing these journals was to give a knowledge of the departments of Government, may I know whether these publications are sent to the Members of Parliament at least?

Shri Buragohain: The distribution of these publications is done according to rules. Some are sent to Members of Parliament, free, others are priced publications, and some are placed in the Parliament Library.

SWEDISH PRE-FAB HUTS

*2107. **Shri Ghule:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply, be pleased to state:

(a) whether any civil suit has been started against the Swedish firm which supplied the pre-fab huts, which were not according to the order; and

(b) if so, when and what is the amount for which the suit has been filed?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) No. but in accordance with the conditions of the contract, the matter has been referred to arbitration.

(b) The claim was filed before the arbitrators on 28th December 1950. Meanwhile representations of the Supplies have approached the Government for a settlement out of Court, and arbitration proceedings have been postponed.

Shri Ghule: May I know the reason why the idea of launching a suit against the firm has been abandoned?

Shri Gadgil: Precisely because there is a clause in the contract which requires recourse to arbitration before the matter is taken to a civil court.

Shri Ghule: May I know the probable date by which the matter would end?

Shri Gadgil: I think it should end within a fortnight, for the latest position is that there is some sort of agreement and the matter has been referred for further instructions by the firm concerned to their principals in Sweden.

Dr. Tek Chand: Sir, may we know the name of the arbitrator?

Shri Gadgil: I require notice, but I may inform the hon. Member that one of them is a Superintending Engineer from the Ministry.

PRIVATE JUTE TRANSACTIONS-

*2108. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, by the end of the last year, Government issued a circular to jute business organisations in Calcutta, that in view of the decision of Government to adopt State trading for *hessian* goods, no private jute transactions extending beyond the 31st December 1950 should be entered into; and

(b) if so, whether that circular was later on rescinded or otherwise countermanded?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) There was no circular issued by the Government of India. What actually happened was that a letter was sent to the Chairman of the I.J.M.A. on the 8th November 1950 asking him to warn the mills that in the event of Government finally deciding to introduce with effect from the 1st January 1951 the scheme of State Trading for jute goods which was then under consideration, it would not be possible for Government

to give any exemption in respect of contracts for later delivery, regardless of the date on which they were entered into. This was brought to the notice of all member mills through a circular issued by the I.J.M.A. on the 11th November 1950.

(b) This does not arise in view of the fact that in a Press Note of the 20th November 1950, Government of India announced their decision to drop the idea of introducing State Trading for jute goods for the time being.

Shri A. C. Guha: Was there any representation or complaint from the I.J.M.A. against that letter of the Government?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know why Government have changed their idea?

Shri Karmarkar: The idea of State-trading? There was no actual idea. The matter was under consideration. But for certain reasons it was abandoned for the time being, as I said. The whole matter is under our consideration now.

Shri A. C. Guha: Am I to take it that even now it is under consideration?

Shri Karmarkar: The whole question of State-trading is under consideration. The Report of the State Trading Committee is being examined and Government will come to a final conclusion after the whole consideration is over.

Short Notice Questions and Answers

INDIAN TROOPS TO NEPAL FOR CAPTURE OF DR. K. I. SINGH

Prof. S. L. Saksena: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the full details of the circumstances and the reasons which led the Government of India to send its troops under G.O.C., U.P. Area, to enter the Nepal territory to capture Dr. K. I. Singh and his associates?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Government of India received information, both from the Nepal Government and the U.P. Government, that a gang of over 200 persons under Dr. K. I. Singh had committed a large number of dacoities and some murders on the Nepal-Gorakhpur border. A number of individuals, who are Indian nationals living near the border, also complained directly to the Government about the murder of their relatives by this gang and the looting of their property. Government received not only general and vague charges, but also specific information about several murders committed in cold-blood and

numerous dacoities. Cases of rape on young women were also reported. These murders were apart from people killed in actual fighting. This gang was reported to be well armed with rifles and automatic weapons.

The activities of this gang naturally created great consternation on both sides of the border, and both the Nepal Government and the U.P. Government were anxious that effective steps should be taken to put an end to these lawless activities. It was proposed that joint action should be taken in this matter by the forces of the Nepal Government and the Government of India. Both Governments agreeing to this action, orders were issued accordingly by both of them, and importance was attached to the speed of the operation as it was feared that if the gang entered the mountainous regions, it would be difficult to take effective action. This joint action was thereupon taken and Dr. K. I. Singh's gang was surrounded. They offered opposition and some fighting took place as a result of which seven of the gang were killed and one was wounded. There were some light casualties on the side of the Indian forces. On the 20th February, Dr. K. I. Singh and 357 persons belonging to his gang were captured. Large quantities of arms and ammunition and looted property were also captured. Among the people who were captured along with Dr. K. I. Singh were several well-known dacoits wanted by the U.P. authorities for serious crimes.

It is the policy of the Government of India not to interfere with the internal affairs of Nepal. When, however, criminal activities take place on considerable scale on the border, the two Governments have agreed, in the past, to take joint action. Indian forces have strict orders not to enter Nepal territory except in such cases of joint action by agreement. It was at the request of and with the permission of the Nepal authorities that a certain number of police and soldiery entered Nepal territory from India for the purpose of this joint action. This was entirely confined to the suppression of a criminal gang and had no political significance.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is this Doctor a Member of the Medical profession or what?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am glad the hon. Member has asked that question. He is a doctor of his own making.

Shri Hussain Imam rose—

Mr. Speaker: No questions are permissible on statements.

**COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE CONFERENCE
IN LONDON**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of Commonwealth countries will shortly be held in London in order to formulate a Commonwealth Defence Plan;

(b) if so, whether India has been invited to the conference;

(c) whether India has accepted the invitation; and

(d) who will represent India at the Conference?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) We have no such information. The press reports on this subject are misleading.

(b) No.

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

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that at the last Conference held in London early in January, I believe, there was a suggestion that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers or their representatives might hold informal talks outside the Conference with the United Kingdom War Minister or Defence Minister, with a view to evolving a joint Defence Plan? Was there any truth in the press report which appeared at that time to this effect?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In the course of Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conferences, there were frequent informal meetings. I believe, there was some such meeting, not about Defence generally, but about some particular areas. I cannot give the hon. Member any further information about it, because I was not in it.

Shri Kamath: Has India not made it clear to the British Government that so long as British Colonialism is not liquidated, India cannot be a party to a Joint Commonwealth Defence Plan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think it need be replied to.

Shri Kamath: Is there any truth in the press reports that the U.K. Government is trying to dovetail the Commonwealth Defence Plan into the Atlantic Powers Plan and the West Europe Army Plan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know nothing about it.

Shri Kamath rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He says he knows nothing about it.

Shri Kamath: Has our Government made it clear to the U.K. Government that no commitment of this nature such as the Commonwealth Defence Plan can be entered into by India which might jeopardize her freedom of action in the event of war?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think they are all suggestions and hypothetical questions. We will now proceed with the next business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COAL SUPPLIED TO PAKISTAN

*2109. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal supplied to Pakistan in the year 1950 month by month; and

(b) the basis on which the price of this quantity of coal was fixed?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The quantity of coal supplied during 1950 was—

January—640 tons.
February—511 tons.
March—149 tons.
April—178 tons.
May—122 tons.
June—211 tons.
July—422 tons.
August—518 tons.
September—4,018 tons.
October—6,592 tons.
November—2,215 tons.
December—1,374 tons.

(b) In fixing the price a sum of Rs. 12 was added to the controlled price in view of the disparity in the currencies of the two countries.

Hessian

*2110. **Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the present landing cost of 100 yards of hessian in the U.S.A.?

(b) What is the market price of 100 yards of hessian in the U.S.A.?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 22·75 dollars for 40"×10 oz. construction.

(b) The latest available spot market quotation in New York for the same construction is 34·50 dollars per 100 yards (nominal).

TEA

*2111. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of tea transported from Assam and North Bengal to Calcutta via Assam Link Railway during the last rainy season?

(b) What was the quantity that was declared "waste" out of the aforesaid quantity by the health authorities of the Calcutta Corporation?

(c) What are the reasons for tea being wasted during transit?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 278,96,600 lbs. of tea was brought down to Calcutta from Assam and North Bengal by the Assam Rail Link during the last Rainy Season.

(b) Accurate data relating to the quantity of tea declared waste during the last rainy season are not available.

(c) (i) Dampness through leaky wagons or uncovered transhipment points, especially during the Monsoon.

(ii) Damage to chests in transit due to rough handling.

COTTON

*2112. **Shri Munavalli:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the number of bales of cotton consumed by the mills in India during the years 1948-49, 1949-50, and 1950-51 up to date?

(b) What is the requirement of cotton for our Mills during 1951-52?

(c) How do Government propose to meet the requirements of cotton for our mills during 1951-52?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 1948-49—4,254,636 bales; 1949-50—3,684,885 bales; 1950-51 (September and October 1951)—484,837 bales.

(b) 42 lakh bales.

(c) By imports of cotton from East Africa, Sudan, Egypt and United States of America over and above the cotton available from the indigenous production.

LOAN TO TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY

*2113. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations for Central Government's loan to the Tata Iron and Steel Company have been completed;

(b) if so, the amount and purpose of the loan;

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(c) whether similar loan has been granted to any other Steel Company; and

(d) if so, the amount of the loan?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) Rs. 5 crores in all to the Steel Corporation of Bengal Ltd., and the Indian Iron and Steel Co., Ltd.

RUBBER

*2114. **Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state when and with what objects was the Rubber Board formed?

(b) What is the quantity of rubber produced in India per year and what is the requirement of India and how is the deficit, if any, met?

(c) What is the total acreage brought under fresh rubber plantation in each of the years 1949 and 1950?

(d) Is there any scheme for rehabilitation of the Industry and what progress has so far been made?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) The Indian Rubber Board was formed in 1947 for the development of the rubber industry in regard to production and marketing of rubber, encourage research on rubber, supply technical advice to rubber growers, improve marketing and collection of statistics, and to advise Government on all matters relating to development of rubber, including imports and exports of rubber.

(b) Indigenous production estimated at 15,000 tons per annum and; requirements at about 20,000 tons. Deficit is met by imports.

(c) 1949—793 acres,
1950—116 acres.

(d) Government had set up a Development Committee to go into the question. The Committee has recently submitted its report which is under examination.

INTERNATIONAL COAL COMMITTEE

*2115. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the recommendations of the International Coal Committee held in the year 1949 at Pittsburg (U.S.A.) under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation?

(b) How many of them have been adopted and implemented by Government of India?

(c) Do Government propose to implement the other recommendations and if

eg, how long will it take to implement them?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Kam): (a) to (c). A statement containing—

- (i) the resolutions adopted at the Third Session of the Coal Mines Committee of the International Labour Organisation held at Pittsburg in April 1949; and
- (ii) a brief account of the position regarding the implementation of each resolution is placed on the Table. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 4.]

CONCESSIONS TO COLLIERY LABOUR

*2116. Shri E. L. Malviya: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government granted an increase of Rs. 3-8-0 per ton in the price of coal to colliery owners to provide concessions to colliery labour in wages, rations, bonus, Provident Fund etc.?

(b) If not, what is the exact amount of such increase in different coal-fields per ton and how was it calculated and for which concessions?

(c) Have Government, since the grant of the increase, examined the concessions and satisfied themselves that the concessions were fully implemented and the amount of increase in coal price was fully spent by the colliery owners?

(d) If not, do Government propose to examine them in view of the increase in the price index?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) No; Sir.

(b) The increase allowed in the price of coal in different coalfields was an overall increase taking into account the production cost and the concessions granted to colliery labour under the Conciliation Board Award. The amount of increase allowed in the coal prices per ton was—

Bengal/Bihar	Rs. 3/8/-
Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 2/13/- to Rs. 3/7/-
Assam	Rs. 1/- to Rs. 3/8/-
Bewa	Rs. 2/8/-
Talcher	Rs. 1/8/-
Korea	Rs. 1/2/-

(c) No such examination has been made but Government are satisfied

that the recommendations of the Conciliation Board and the Fact Finding Committee have been generally implemented by the Colliery Owners.

(d) No, Sir.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES

*2117. Seth Govind Das: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of persons who got compensation during the year 1950 under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Kam): Figures for 1950 are not yet available. The attention of the hon. Member is however invited in this connection to Statement II laid on the Table of the House in reply to question No. 1452 on the 14th February, 1951 which gives information for 1949.

SETTLEMENT OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

*2118. Seth Govind Das: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the effect of settlement of evacuee property at Government level with the Government of Pakistan indicating the value of money made over to the Pakistan authorities and the amount received from Pakistan authorities?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. F. Jain): The Government of India made a proposal to the Government of Pakistan that immovable property left by evacuees in either country in areas in which the evacuee property law is in force, should be acquired by the respective Governments, the Government acquiring the property of the greater value paying the difference in cash to the other Government. No such settlement has, however, been arrived at and therefore the question of one Government paying any amount to the other has not arisen so far.

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

*2119. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved of a scheme for construction of houses in pursuance of which a private company has been floated with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs;

(b) if so, what is Government's interest in this concern;

(c) for whom these houses will be built and what are the terms and conditions; and

(d) how much money will be raised for building houses in the country by this Company?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) Government proposes to invest 51 per cent. of the capital.

(c) The houses will be built for displaced persons in Delhi State, and sold to them outright or on hire-purchase. The precise terms will be settled by the proposed company in due course.

(d) No estimate is possible at this stage.

SALT

*2120. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state when and why Salt was transferred to the Ministry of Industry and Supply from that of Finance?

(b) What are the sources of Salt supply in India and what is the quantity produced at each source?

(c) Is it in the contemplation of Government to have free manufacture of Salt in the country?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) After the Salt Duty was abolished, the subject of Salt was transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the late Ministry of Industry and Supply on 1st November, 1947, in view of the desirability of placing the industry under a Ministry responsible for development of industries.

(b) A statement showing the sources and their production in 1950 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 5.]

(c) The manufacture of Salt in areas not exceeding ten acres is already free. The question of simplifying the licensing rules in respect of areas exceeding 10 acres is engaging the attention of Government.

ज्ञान शालिकों के लिए सुविचारों

* २१२१. श्री बापड़े : उप मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) ऐसे ज्ञान शालिकों की संख्या क्या है जिन्होंने श्रमिकों तथा उनके बालकों के मनोरंजन हेतु विनोद स्थल, बगीच, खेलकूद के स्थान, विद्यालय तथा प्रौढ़ शिक्षा केंद्रों की व्यवस्था की है, तथा

(बी) इन सुविचारों को प्रदान करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है

FACILITIES FOR MINE LABOUR

[*2121. **Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mine-owners who have made provision for recreation grounds, gardens, play grounds, schools and adult education centres for the benefit of labourers and their children; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for providing such facilities.]

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 6.]

(b) Government have established the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund and the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the two mining industries. Part 'B' of the statement laid on the Table gives in detail the steps so far taken by Government in that direction.

REMOVAL OF OVER-BURDEN IN COLLIERIES

*2122. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies employed for and the terms of removal of over-burden in Government Railway Collieries;

(b) the cost of removal of over-burden per ton of coal in individual Collieries during the last five years; and

(c) the cost of removal of over-burden per ton by machine cut and by hand cut?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) to (c). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 7.]

HARIJANS IN WEST PAKISTAN

*2123. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Harijans in West Pakistan are not allowed to visit their ancestral homes in India under the Ordinance of Essential Services of Pakistan;

(b) whether the Government of India have exchanged correspondence with Pakistan on this question; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keshkar): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). There has been no recent correspondence. The matter

was first taken up by the Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in October 1948. In reply the Pakistan Government stated that sweepers were not desirous of coming to India on account of the very high wages prevailing in Pakistan. At the same time, they expressed their inability to remove the ban. The ban on the movement of Dhobis was, however, removed. On a further representation against the ban on sweepers the Government of Pakistan did not agree to remove it but intimated that they would look into complaints in genuine cases where facilities had been refused.

VISIT OF MR. ROBERT BURLEY

*2124. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Robert Burley, Regional Director of the U.S. Far East Command visited Delhi?

(b) If so, what was the object of his visit?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). An American National, Mr. R. A. Burley came to Madras from Colombo and later to Delhi. Government have no information about his official designation or the purpose of his visit. Presumably he was on a private visit on his way to some other country.

ARRESTS IN NEPAL

*2125. **Shri A. B. Gurus:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens arrested on charges of murder, arson and loot in Nepal territory since the outbreak of recent trouble there; and

(b) the measures Government adopted to stop such occurrences?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) A number of persons have been arrested recently in Nepal as members of gangs which were indulging in criminal activities. Most of these were Nepalese citizens, but a few are probably Indian nationals. The exact number is not known.

(b) Joint action was taken by the Government of India and the Government of Nepal to check and put an end to these criminal activities.

NON-OFFICIAL AID FOR REHABILITATION

*2126. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the amount of non-official aid, if any, in cash or kind which Government have received in the course of rehabilitating displaced persons registered by Government?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): A large number of individuals and societies rendered help in preliminary stages by feeding and finding temporary shelter for displaced persons, as a measure of relief. Non-official agencies have helped in organising Co-operative Societies, Education, Training and Vocational Centres and the like. Some non-official institutions have admitted unattached women and children and undertaken their supervision, finance being supplied by Government. Private-owned mills and factories have supplied employment. Some foreign institutions like American Friends Service Unit and Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe have supplied powdered milk and food packages, while others like Watumal Foundation, National Catholic Welfare Conference, and UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) have promised large quantities of powdered milk and rice, for distribution among displaced persons.

JUTE EXPORT PRICE AND FOOD GRAINS IMPORT PRICE

*2127. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly indices of the average export prices of our jute manufactures since devaluation to date, with the quarter preceding devaluation as the base; and

(b) the monthly indices of the average import prices of foodgrains since devaluation to date, with the quarter preceding devaluation as the base?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 8.]

CHANDERNAGORE

*2128. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-French treaty was signed on the 2nd February, 1951 for the cession of Chandernagore;

(b) whether this treaty includes the transfer of all State property lying within Chandernagore to the Government of India; and

(c) whether any provision has been made to settle differences in respect of assets and liabilities arising out of the transfer?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Government of India's press note dated the 2nd February 1951 on this subject, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 9]

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST BENGAL (REHABILITATION)

*2129. **Manvi Wajed Ali:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many displaced persons from East Bengal have so far returned to Assam since Delhi agreement and how many of them have so far been resettled in their old houses and lands?

(b) What is the total amount of grants given by the Centre for the (i) rehabilitation of East Bengal displaced persons in Assam; and (ii) re-settlement of Muslim displaced persons returning to Assam, since the Delhi Agreement?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keshkar): (a) About 41,788 families of displaced Muslims returned from East Bengal to Assam up to the 31st January, 1951. Of them about 27,772 families have been resettled in their old houses and lands.

(b) A sum of rupees one crore and nine lakhs has been sanctioned so far for the relief and rehabilitation of East Bengal displaced persons as well as of returning Muslim migrants in the State of Assam. No allocation of this grant separately for Hindu displaced persons and returning Muslim migrants has been made.

PORTUGUESE "OVERSEAS PROVINCES"

*2130. **Shri S. V. Naik:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a report that the Portuguese Government is going to enact law making the Overseas colonies as "The Overseas provinces", which include territories from India?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Yes. Our attention has been drawn to the proposed legislation in Portugal. The main features of the proposed amendments to the existing Colonial Act are changes in the various names and designations. The Portuguese "Colonial Empire" is to be called "Overseas Empire". The word "Colony" will be replaced by "Overseas Province". It is also proposed to give a measure of local autonomy to colonial territories but a large measure of control and supervision will continue to remain with the Portuguese Government. These proposed changes, though no doubt in-

tended to produce an impression of change, in effect make no difference.

The House will be interested to know what the Portuguese Government consider the justification for their presence in Goa. Article 2 of the Colonial Act reads as follows:—

"It is part of the essential objects of the Portuguese nation to fulfil its historical mission of possessing and colonising Overseas dominions and of civilising the native population inhabiting them, as well as to influence them by its culture, a function ascribed to it by the Eastern Padroado."

It is proposed to change this Article 2 now as follows:—

"It is of the organic essence of the Portuguese nation to fulfil the historical function of colonising the discovered lands under its sovereignty and to import to and to propagate among the populations of those lands the benefits of civilisation, simultaneously with the exercise of the moral influence deriving from the patronage of the East."

I think it may be said that the people of Goa have had sufficient experience now of the benefits of civilisation and the moral influence of the patronage of Portugal of the East. It is not surprising that they wish a change now. In any event, it is of the organic essence of the Indian nation and of the historic process that brought independence to India, to free those parts of India which are still under colonial rule. Verbal changes and enactments make no difference to these essential facts and the Government of India will adhere to the policy which has been so frequently reiterated.

INDIAN NATIONALS ARRESTED IN NEPAL

*2131. **Shri M. P. Mishra:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether all the Indian nationals arrested in Nepal in the course of the rebellion have been set at liberty and their properties restored?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keshkar): All the Indians who were arrested during the disturbances in Nepal have been released. The property of none of them was confiscated.

TRADE TALKS WITH JAPAN

*2132. **Shri Sivaprakasam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the programme for the talks with the Japanese Trade Mission has been completed?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): The Japanese Mission which arrived in New Delhi on the 18th February 1951 has already left this place on the 21st February. During their three days stay here, the members of the Mission called on the various officers of the Ministries of the Government of India and also had with them brief informal talks regarding the Indo-Japan trade.

LOAN APPLICATION FROM BIHAR

*2133. **Shri Kameshwara Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any application for a loan has been received from the State of Bihar for the rehabilitation of displaced persons?

(b) If so, when, and how has it been dealt with?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) August, 1950. The amount of loan has been sanctioned.

COFFEE CESS

*2134. **Shri M. V. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when the present rate of levy of coffee cess was first decided upon;

(b) whether representations have been made to the Government of India that the rate of levy of the cess should be increased by eight annas per cwt. of coffee;

(c) the estimated annual income which will accrue if the cess is increased by eight annas;

(d) whether it is a fact that dearness allowance has not been paid to the employees of the Indian Coffee Board for the last twenty-five months; and

(e) the annual expenditure estimated to cover payment of dearness allowance to the employees of the Indian Coffee Board?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 1940.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) Rupees two lakhs,

(d) Yes, Sir. The employees of the Board drawing salaries up to Rs. 250 p.m. only have not been paid the increase in dearness allowance of Rs. 10/- p. m., sanctioned with effect from 1st January 1949 by the Government of India.

(e) The annual expenditure to meet the increase in dearness allowance mentioned in (c) above is estimated to be Rs. 1,44,000.

बीरगंज कोषागार

* २१३५. श्री बी० ऐस० आर्य : क्या प्रधानमंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) क्या यह सत्य है कि नेपाल कांग्रेस की सेना जिस घन को नेपाल कोषागार से लूट कर भारत में लाई थी, उसे पुलिस ने तलाशी लेने के पश्चात् अपने अधिकार में ले लिया था, तथा

(ब) यदि यह सत्य है तो उस लूटे हुए घन में बकद रुपए, सोना तथा चांदी कितनी थी तथा भारत सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

BIRGANJ TREASURY

[*2135. **Shri B. S. Arya:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the treasure, which was looted by the Nepal Congress Forces from the Birganj Treasury and which they had brought into India, was detected by the Police and confiscated; and

(b) if so, what was the amount of cash, gold and silver in that looted treasure and what steps have been taken by the Government of India with regard to that?]

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, the treasure was seized in Bihar and Delhi.

(b) Details of the amount confiscated in Delhi are as follows:

	Rs.	As.	P.
i) Indian Currency	35,00,552	10	9
ii) Nepal Currency	12,690	23	1

Precise information about the value of the treasure confiscated in Bihar is not yet available.

The treasure will be kept in safe custody pending its return to the Government of Nepal.

INDIANS IN CHINA AND SINKIANG

*2136. **Shri Krishnchand Rai:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether figures are available about the number of Indians residing in China and Sinkiang at present, and if so, what are their numbers; and

(b) whether there has been any influx of refugees from the above-mentioned countries into India after their occupation by Communists in 1949 and if so, the number of such refugees?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) The latest figures are not known. About two years ago, the number of Indians residing in China was reported to be 830. The number of Indian nationals at present residing in the Province of Sinkiang is less than 25. There are also 100 to 150 Kashmiris residing in Sinkiang.

Our Ambassador in Peking has been asked to supply the latest figures.

(b) There were no Indian refugees from China but about 50 Indian nationals, who had become destitute, were repatriated to India at Government expense.

About 650 Chinese refugees, most of them Turkey Muslims, arrived in India from the Province of Sinkiang in 1949. They came to Kashmir. Most of them returned later to Sinkiang or went on to some foreign country.

STATISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

*2137. **Shri M. P. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any all-India statistics of unemployed persons among the educated middle class are collected and maintained; and

(b) if so, what was their number during the year 1950?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). No such statistics are maintained.

CLOTH QUOTA TO BHOPAL

*2138. **Thakur Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of (i) fine and (ii) coarse cloth given to the State of Bhopal during the year 1949-50;

(b) the quota for the year 1951; and

(c) the reason for the difference?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A total allotment of 10,267 bales of cloth was made to the Bhopal State during 1949 and 1950. No information is available regarding the quantities of fine and coarse cloth purchased by the State during the period January 1949 to September 1949 against the above allotment. During the period October 1949 to December 1950, however, 315 bales of fine and 50 bales of coarse cloth were released to the

State from Madhya Bharat and the Bombay/Ahmedabad selected mills.

(b) and (c). The monthly gross cloth quota of Bhopal State was fixed in December 1948, at 600 bales. This was based on the population computed according to the 1941 census, due weightage for increase in population having been given to the extent of 20 per cent. in cities and 10 per cent. in urban and rural areas. The quota is inclusive of the handloom cloth production in the State which was estimated at 100 bales per month but was reduced to 50 bales per month from October 1949. The mill cloth quota of the State during January/September 1949 was, therefore, 500 bales per month and from October 1949 onwards 550 bales per month. From September 1949, the Government of India assumed responsibility for the distribution of only two-third of the mill production for civil consumption, the balance of one-third being allowed to be sold through normal trade channels. The cloth quotas for purposes of allotment through controlled channels were, therefore, reduced and Bhopal's quota was reduced from 550 bales to 367 bales per month. The present quota of 367 bales per month is likely to be continued in 1951.

MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES IN BHOPAL

*2139. **Thakur Lal Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the maximum capacity for the manufacture of matches in the match factory at Bhopal?

(b) Are Government aware that its material is not as good as foreign matches?

(c) If so, do Government propose to improve it, so that the local product may come up to the standard of foreign matches?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) About 2,880 cases of 50 gross boxes of 60 sticks each per annum.

(b) Government have had no complaint in regard to the quality of the matches manufactured by this factory.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the question.

REPORTS OF DISTURBANCE ENQUIRY COMMITTEES

*2140. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Disturbance Enquiry Committees of West Bengal, Assam, and East Bengal formed under the terms of the Delhi Agreement have submitted

their Reports to their respective Governments?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of such reports and also state the steps taken by each Government for implementing the recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes.

(b) The reports of the Enquiry Commissions of West Bengal, Assam and East Bengal were exchanged between the Governments of India and Pakistan on the 7th March, 1951 and will be published on a date to be agreed between the two Governments when copies of the West Bengal and Assam reports will also be laid on the Table of the House.

The recommendations of the West Bengal and Assam Enquiry Commissions are at present under examination.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON REHABILITATION

*2141. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total amounts spent by the Government of India and the Governments of West Bengal and Assam, on the rehabilitation of the East Bengal displaced persons and returning Muslims, up till 31st January 1951?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): According to the latest information available to the Government of India, a total sum of Rs. 1409.59 lakhs has been spent on the rehabilitation of the East Bengal displaced persons in West Bengal and Assam from the date of partition up to the end of 1950. In addition about Rs. 6 lakhs have been spent in West Bengal up to the end of November 1950 and Rs. 25.1 lakhs in Assam up to the end of January 1951 on the relief and rehabilitation of returning Muslim displaced persons.

PRODUCTION IN TEXTILE MILLS

*2142. **Shri Hussain Imam:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the expected production of cotton textile mills for the year 1951 and what is the export quota fixed for the first six months?

(b) What was the highest quantity produced, in what year and what were the reasons for the reduction in the year 1950?

(c) Is there any system of checking actual production by checking it with the consumption of cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Expected Production 4,000/4,200 million yards.

Export quota for the first six months 120 million yds.

(b) Highest production (1948)—4,319 million yds.

Reasons for low production in the year 1950:—

- (i) shortage of cotton,
- (ii) strikes and absenteeism, particularly strike in the cotton textile mills in Greater Bombay,
- (iii) closure of mills due to un-economic conditions.

(c) Yes, the mills are to submit periodic returns for the cotton allotted and the quantity used in production under section 3 of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (XXIV of 1946).

RAW JUTE EXPORT

*2143. **Shri Hussain Imam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan raw jute is being exported from Calcutta Port;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the total number of bales and their approximate value in sterling or dollars for each of the eight quarters of the years 1949 and 1950;

(c) whether the foreign exchange accrues to India or Pakistan and who realises the jute export duty; and

(d) what is the method of valuation of raw jute and how are they shown in our monthly statistics of trade (foreign)?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmakar): (a) Yes, Sir, the hon. Member is presumably referring to Pakistan raw jute in transit through Calcutta Port.

(b) A statement giving the quantities (in bales) of Pakistan raw jute exported to foreign countries in transit through Calcutta during these periods is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 10].

Information about values is not available.

(c) As this is transit traffic, the foreign exchange accrues to Pakistan, and no export duty thereon is also leviable in India.

(d) Since it is Pakistan raw jute in transit, the question of our valuation thereof does not arise, and it is also not exhibited separately in our statistics.

DR. BHARATAN KUMARAPPA

*2146. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa, India's delegate to the United Nations Social Commission, was stopped from speaking in the University of Houston, Texas, U.S.A.,

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

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). According to newspaper reports this is true. Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa has, however, stated that some speeches, of his were distorted and misquoted by some local paper in Houston.

I should like to add that Dr. Kumarappa is on a private visit to the United States for the purpose of a lecture tour. This has nothing to do with the Government of India or with the United Nations Social Commission. The next meeting of this Commission will be held in Geneva some time this month. Dr. Kumarappa is authorised to speak for the Government of India only in the Social Commission and that too on subjects coming before that Commission and according to Government's instructions. Any views expressed by him on topics outside the Commission, or on topics other than those before it, are his own and the Government of India have no responsibility for them.

Hessian Cloth

*2147. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the approximate cost per hundred square feet of Hessian Cloth on its landing in each of the various Dollar areas and how it compares with the market price in the Dollar countries concerned in each case?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): The landed cost of 100 yards (not 100 square feet) of 40" x 10 oz hessian in U.S.A. is 22.75 dollars. The latest available spot market quotation in New York for the same construction is 34.50 (nominal). Information about prices in other dollar countries hessian, however, is exported to U.S.A.

BORDER RAIDS

129. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made by the Minority Ministers of India and Pakistan to find out the causes of repeated border raids by armed

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Pakistani gangs into the border areas of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are those causes, and what steps have the said Ministers taken to neutralise them?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The Minority Ministers have been appointed mainly to ensure the implementation of the Prime Ministers' agreement of April 1950 and thereby to help restore confidence in the minds of the minorities. The Ministers have no direct responsibility for looking into border raids. These are dealt with in accordance with the procedure agreed upon by India and Pakistan in December 1948. An enquiry is held jointly first by the District Magistrate concerned on both sides and if they disagree by the Divisional Commissioners. Later, if necessary, they are discussed by the Chief Secretaries of East Bengal and West Bengal at their periodical conferences. Apart from other factors, one of the principal reasons for border raids is the lack of a proper line of demarcation along the greater part of the boundary between West Bengal and East Bengal. It is hoped that where as a result of the operations now in progress the boundary is finally demarcated, the frequency of such raids would decrease and it would be possible to deal with them more effectively.

CEMENT IMPORT

130. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantities of cement imported from Pakistan into India during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 up to date?

(b) Is it a fact that the Pakistan manufactured cement has the same controlled price as cement imported from Europe which is 50 to 80 per cent. higher than India manufactured cement?

(c) What is the import duty imposed by Government upon foreign cement?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 1949-50—38,960 tons; 1950-51 (up to January 1951—263 tons).

(b) The price of cement imported into India from Europe and Pakistan varies in accordance with the landed cost. The maximum price chargeable at Ports is landed cost plus 10 per cent. or Rs. 135 per ton, whichever is less, and for inland destinations the actual freight is added to the Port price. The selling price of cement imported from

Pakistan is usually 50 to 60 per cent. higher than that of Indian cement.

(c) Rs. 16/8/0 per ton.

REHABILITATION IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

131. Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the amount spent by Government, if any, for development work, to

make the Andamans fit for rehabilitation of displaced persons?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):

Jungle clearance	Rs. 60,000
Construction of Transit Camps.	Rs. 1,08,000
TOTAL	Rs. 1,68,000

Monday, 12th March, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME IX, 1951

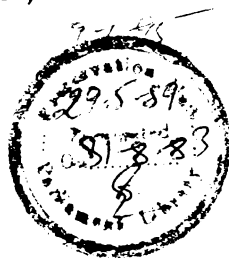
(5th March, 1951 to 30th March, 1951)

Third Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51



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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Monday, 12th March, 1951

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-54 A.M.

DEATH OF RAJA^{*} BAHADUR HARIHAR PRASAD NARAIN SINGH

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed further, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Raja Bahadur Harihar Prasad Narain Singh of Amawan, who died at Benares on the 19th February, 1951. He was a Member of the old Legislative Assembly from November 1934 to April 1937. He was a great parliamentarian and was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1939. In the Central Legislative Assembly he was elected from Bihar and Orissa constituency.

I am sure the House will join with me in conveying our condolences to his family. The House may stand in silence for a minute.

The House then stood for a minute.

PENETRATION INTO ASSAM—TIBET BORDER BY CHINESE SOLDIERS

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): In reply to Supplementary questions to Starred Question No 1433 of 14th February 1951 by Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, a reference was made to the penetration into our territory by Chinese soldiers on the Assam-Tibet border and about the position of Rima. As a great deal of

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publicity was given to the replies and in order to remove any misunderstanding, I beg to state, firstly that Rima is not in Indian territory and there was no violation of our territory by Chinese soldiers. Secondly regarding the penetration by mistake into our territory, there is a case of only one solitary soldier. No other penetration ever took place.

Shri Chaliha (Assam): May I know, Sir,.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; what is it that hon. Member wants now?

POINT OF ORDER RE. SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON STATEMENTS

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I want to raise a point of order with regard to your ruling so far as allowing supplementaries to Statements are concerned. I can understand that if an hon. Minister or the Prime Minister makes a Statement on his own then it may not be open to ask supplementaries. I see that on two occasions you disallowed supplementaries when the Statements were made in reply to questions. My submission to you is that there should be no difference between making categorical replies to each part of the question and making a statement as a sort of a consolidated reply to the whole question. I would therefore like to have your ruling clarifying the situation whether if simply because an hon. Minister chooses to make a Statement in reply to a question, that alone precludes any supplementary being asked, and whether that is your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: He wants me to state it now?

Dr. Deshmukh: If possible; otherwise, you may take your own time.

Mr. Speaker: It does not require any further consideration on my part. But, I would have preferred to put it in

[Mr. Speaker]

writing and state it so that the statement would be more exact. That is the only point. But, I see no reason to differ from what I have already ruled or stated. That I may make very clear.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): You are giving a ruling later on in writing?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. The ruling stands; the reasons will follow.

PROCEDURE ON MOTION FOR VOTE ON ACCOUNT

Mr. Speaker: Before the House takes up the general discussion of the Budget, I wish to place one aspect of the matter before the House.

As hon. Members are aware, according to the present time table, the General Discussion of the Budget is scheduled to end tomorrow by 5 P.M. and the motion for Voting on Account will come for the vote of the House on the 14th March. As hon. Members are also aware, the procedure for Voting on Account is designed to give the Members a longer time for discussion on the Budget by putting the same off to convenient dates after the 31st March. The principle of the practice is that the House ought to grant sufficient funds to Government to enable it to carry on till the Demands are scrutinised and voted upon. In this procedure, as full discussion follows, the grant of supply for the interim period on the Motion for Voting on Account is always treated as a formal one just like a Motion for leave to introduce a Bill or the introduction of a Bill. I trust hon. Members will appreciate this position and treat Voting on Account as a formal affair as they would have a full opportunity to discuss the Demands for Grants in a detailed manner later from the 26th March to 10th April. On this understanding of the matter and on the assumption that it will be agreeable to the Members to treat the Motion for Voting on Account as a formal affair, I have been thinking of allotting one more day, namely the 14th, for General Discussion so that a larger number of hon. Members desiring to participate in the General Discussion may have an opportunity of doing so. In that case, the Motion for Voting on Account will be put to the House at 5 P.M. on the 14th. Such an allotment will give hon. Members more time for general discussion without detracting from the opportunities of discussing the Demands for Grants in a detailed manner.

May I take it that hon. Members are agreeable to what I am proposing, both as regards allotment of the 14th for General Discussion and the nature of the Motion for Voting on Account being treated as a formal one? I shall make the necessary announcements on having the sense of the House.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then, I take it that on the Motion for Voting on Account, there shall be no discussion, and that the Motion will be put and assented to by the House.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): May I know whether this will be binding for ever as a rule of procedure?

Mr. Speaker: That is the usual practice.

Shri Sidhva: In the House of Commons, by common consent, some discussion is allowed. I am not for any discussion this time; but I want to know whether this will be a precedent.

12 Noon.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, this will be a precedent. The whole idea is that the Budget is coming up for scrutiny and discussion at greater length. In the present case, Government wants to carry on only for a month. I do not see what useful discussion can be had on a month's supply, when eleven months' supply is going to be discussed by the House and when there has been ample General Discussion for four days. Any discussion on the Motion for Voting on Account will mean a repetition of the same discussion. If the House is not agreeable, certainly, I shall end this discussion tomorrow and have the Motion for Voting on Account. That will be a wrong precedent, to my mind.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Could you allow a formal discussion on a formal motion for one-eleventh of the time that would be allowed for the other Demands later on?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members while trying to put their arguments need not go to the extent of one-eleventh and all that.

Then, we treat this Motion as a formal one, as is the practice, of course, for the reasons which I have stated, and the discussion on the Budget may take place later on. I am going to allot the 14th for general discussion on the distinct assumption that there will be no discussion on the Motion for Voting on Account.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar): May I enquire if this will be exactly one-twelfth of the Demand under each Head or anything more or less? The object of my asking this question is, though it is not a possibility in this House, it may be a matter of refusing the whole Grant and therefore a part may not be allowed. I am only on a procedural ground, the matter of confidence sometimes. Therefore, if you rule that this will be a precedent and that there will be no discussion on this matter, hereafter, I would request you to bear in mind this possibility that the entire Demand may be refused and in that case if one-twelfth has been passed without discussion, it may prove embarrassing.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): The procedure that you have suggested, Sir, is that a lump sum grant will be made and it is presumed that the Demand to be moved will not be split into different Heads. Therefore, our voting supply does not debar the House from refusing supply or any specific Demand. We are only making a lump sum grant without specifying the Heads. Care should be taken by Government to see that it is not an inordinately large sum. It should bear a proportion to the entire Budget; it need not be exactly one-twelfth and all that.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): I do not object to the ruling and the decision taken; but.....

Mr. Speaker: I am not yet taking a decision.

Dr. Deshmukh: Every time, it should be with the consent of the House that discussion should be waived and not arbitrarily by the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. Speaker: The Speaker does not want to be arbitrary at all. What he wants to see is that no Member acts arbitrarily so as to deprive other Members of their legitimate rights. Now, each Demand will be there and voted upon to the extent approximately, not exactly, of one-twelfth. I said approximately; it may be a little more or a little less. The whole idea of Voting on Account is that Government functions may not come to a standstill because of the absence of the vote of the House authorising the expenditure. That is the whole point. Therefore I said approximately one-twelfth. If an occasion arises where the Motion for one-twelfth is intended to be taken as a vote of no-confidence, then, of course, that will stand on a different footing. I do not wish to bind myself to anything just now. We will consider that when the occasion arises. Just as in the ordinary circumstances,

though it is perfectly competent for an hon. Member to speak on a Motion for leave for introduction of a Bill or introduction of the Bill, still, we never do that but accept the Motion as it is, and the discussion takes place at the consideration stage. Similarly on this vote on account, we shall not have any discussion now but shall treat it as a formal business and...

Shri Kamath: It will not be a precedent then?

Mr. Speaker: It will be a precedent for the future. And Prof. Shah seems to be satisfied, at any rate.

Prof. K. T. Shah: If I heard you correctly, Sir, you said if a question like a vote of confidence should be involved in the grant of one-twelfth of the Demand, then that would stand on a different footing. That is what I heard you say.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Prof. K. T. Shah: If that is so, then I am satisfied.

Mr. Speaker: But I may also make it clearer further. Because of the question put by Mr. Kamath a suspicion arises in my mind. I have to be satisfied that the vote on a question is reasonably going to be treated by the House as a vote of no-confidence. Merely because a Member says that he treats the thing as a vote of no-confidence, I am not going to treat it as such. That is not going to change the position. So I assume that this arrangement or convention or precedent is agreed to.

Shri Sidhva: For this session.

Mr. Speaker: For this year, for the future and for all time, so long as I happen to be here and hon. Members happen to be here also. I do not think we can bind future legislatures for all times, but at least let us be clear to ourselves.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa): Sir, I do not see any reason to differ from the view expressed by you. We will not discuss the motion of a grant on account. That is the only decision we are taking. Regarding the point raised by Prof. Shah, namely that of a vote of confidence on the Ministry, that does not arise at present in the present Parliament. If we take that view, then the only question that will be kept as a precedent that has been started now is that we will not discuss the motion. But the House can vote and reject the whole Demand. Therefore the expression of the vote of confidence will be there and the

[Shri Biswanath Das]

Ministry will be out of office. Therefore what I say is, the point of view that has been stressed by Prof. Shah is being attended to, and there is no difficulty on that score.

Regarding the point made out by Mr. Kamath, I do not see any justification for it because you cannot exactly divide the grant into twelve definite and distinct lump sums. There will be difference in the amounts.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members may also remember that the vote on account will be followed by the Appropriation Bill and the Government will not be able to draw from the Consolidated Fund any amount at its will.

Shri Kamath: Will that also be a formal affair?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, and I believe in the House of Commons they vote for three or four months supply.

Now I may say that I allot the 14th for general discussion and the vote on account motion will be taken at 5 o'clock at the end of that day.

We will proceed with the general discussion of the Budget now.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*contd.*

FIRST STAGE

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): Although the hon. Finance Minister has imposed tax to the extent of 31 crores, the market seems to have reacted favourably to his Budget. This is no doubt, partly due to the confidence of the country in my hon. friend's finance judgment and ability. but I believe that it is largely due to the fact that the terror-stricken market heaved a sigh of relief that the disasters it had feared had not befallen it. It expected taxes to be imposed which would cripple its activities and it is naturally relieved to find that the burdens imposed are such as to place no undue strain on it.

However, when we consider that the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister between themselves are going to take about Rs. 50 crores more from the people during the course of the next year, our duty is not merely to agree to the imposition of new taxes because there is a deficit either on the revenue account or on the capital account, but we have also to enquire whether Government are making proper use of the money available to them,

whether the expenditure is adequately controlled, whether revenue estimates take into account all sources of revenue income and also what method Government propose in order to create a better atmosphere and a better economic situation in the country. Sir, we have, therefore, first to ask ourselves whether there has been any under-estimation of income. I find that both the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister have taken no account of the beneficial effects of the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement which has been recently concluded. Its effect both in the case of the Railways and in the case of general revenues, I have no doubt, will be considerable and it should, so far as the General Budget is concerned, increase both our customs revenue and the yield from income-tax. There is no indication in the hon. Finance Minister's speech or in the Explanatory Memorandum that this has been taken note of in estimating the revenues for the year 1951-52.

Now, as regards expenditure, we know that the debates that have taken place in the House on the Lamoda Valley Corporation and the Housing Factory has revealed a sad state of things. Besides that the article that has appeared in the January number of the Bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India on the results of the Grow More Food Campaign throws a great deal of doubt on the efficacy of the methods adopted by Government in order to increase our food production. It is true that this article is based on an enquiry that was made in 1948-49. But I should like to know whether there is any reason to believe that the Food Department has radically changed its methods and that the results that may be expected to be achieved in the course of the next two or three years will be much better than those that have been achieved during the last eight years. Some changes have been made in the methods employed by the Food Ministry but the question is whether the basic defects to which the article that I have mentioned has drawn attention has been sufficiently removed to warrant the high expectations that have been formed, at least by Government as a result of the expenditure that they are incurring on the Grow More Food Campaign.

My hon. friend the Finance Minister has told that the deficit he is faced with is due to the deficit in the capital budget. It has been evident for sometime that Government have not been able to induce the country to enable it to borrow the money required by it to execute its development

schemes. My hon. friend proposes to levy taxation in order to meet the capital expenditure that will be necessary, in view of the past commitments of Government. How long does he propose to rely on this source of additional income?

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI *in the Chair*]

He may use this method during the next year but it is obvious that this policy will not lead us anywhere. We have entered a blind alley and we must find some means of getting out of it.

This question has come before the House every year during the last three years and we have therefore to ask the Government as to what their policy is going to be in the future. If they find that their present industrial or economic policy as a whole has turned out to be a failure, do they propose to review this policy and to adopt any new methods of dealing with the situation, which has become so acute?

My hon. friend's predecessor said in the course of his budget speech last year that the level of taxation in the country is such as to hinder industry. His exact words are:

"I am perfectly clear in my own mind that the effect of the present level of taxation is not disinflationary but positively inflationary, because, if you take the line that the solution to the problem of inflation is production, then a very high level of taxation which reduces the margin of saving and the amount available for investment is a potential inflationary force."

Because of the view held by him he remitted taxation to the tune of about eight crores in connection with this year's budget.

Again, speaking on this subject in 1949 he said that the real difficulty was that capital though available was not being invested in the manner desired by the Government. He thought that owing to the serious risks with which industrial investment was attended those who had money were investing it in the purchase and sale of easily marketable commodities and he said that the real problem before the Government was to reverse this process and to induce investors to put their money in new industries, so that they might lead to an increase in the total production. I should like to know whether the Finance Minister agrees with these views or thinks on different lines from his predecessor. It is not enough that he should tell us what his difficulties are and how much money

he needs to balance the budget, taking both revenue and capital expenditure into account. He must be able to take a wide view of our financial and economic situation and tell us how he views the future, because, let me repeat, we cannot go on endlessly in the way that he has proposed to do in the course of the coming year.

While on this subject I should like to put a question to my hon. friend the Finance Minister. I find that the notes that have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India during the last 12 months have increased appreciably in value, while the difference between the notes issued by the 3rd March 1950 and the 2nd March 1951 amounts to over 63 crores. This is obviously due to the purchase of securities by the Reserve Bank of India. Whatever their purpose in purchasing the securities may have been, it must have led to the injection of a large amount of new money into circulation. I should like to know how this fresh money has come to be put into circulation and what steps Government propose to take in order to prevent further inflation. Owing to the difficulties either of the Reserve Bank or of the Scheduled Banks it is quite possible that the Reserve Bank may have acted thus, because to a certain extent of the withdrawal of a large portion of their deposits by the Scheduled Banks. But in any case it ought to be a part of the overall policy of the Government to see that nothing is done either by their own departments or by the banks which would exert an inflationary pressure on the market. My hon. friend, the Finance Minister, has told us that the effect of a deficit, whether it is in the revenue budget or in the capital budget, is the same. I should agree with that view, provided the money spent in respect of capital expenditure outside the country were left out of consideration. And if we take this matter into account, we find that there is no deficit in respect of the capital budget so far as expenditure in the country is concerned. I find from the last page of the Explanatory Memorandum that taking the Budget as a whole, transactions in India are estimated to give a surplus of about Rs. 88 crores, and transactions abroad a deficit of about Rs. 171 crores. Obviously, the deficit in transactions abroad can have no inflationary effect on the internal economy of the country. It is true that the Government balances would have fallen very low, but for the taxation imposed by my friend, if his revenue estimates are taken as they are, but it is difficult to understand how the deficit in the capital budget has led already to inflation in the country.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has two minutes more.

Pandit Kunzru: Then I should like to say a word with regard to Army expenditure. The expenditure on the Army has decreased by about Rs. 30 crores. A substantial reduction has already been brought about in the strength of the Army, or will be brought about by the 31st March. But not content with this reduction, Government propose to make further reductions in the course of the next year. I do not say that no economy in the Defence budget is possible. There are certain items that deserve to be looked into. For the sake of illustration, I can mention two: the Chief Administrative Officer and his organisation, and the Director-General of Medical Services. I have no time to go more fully into this question, but while this economy is possible, we should like to know from Government what is their general policy in respect of reduction in the Army. Do they think that the safety of the country does not require so large an Army, or are they compelled by financial reasons to reduce their expenditure? If financial causes are compelling them to reduce Defence expenditure, will they tell us what is the maximum reduction that they propose to make and within what period it will be done? It is not right that they should merely tell us that they propose to bring Defence expenditure down. We ought to know what is their general policy in respect of this matter, what are the considerations on the basis of which they are proceeding, and what is the maximum amount of economy that they propose to achieve. We should also like to know the effect of this economy on the desire of the Prime Minister to have balanced Defence Forces, and the effect on the general safety of the country.

Mr. Chairman: While calling upon hon. Members to speak, I would like to request them to strictly confine themselves to the time-limit of fifteen minutes. Otherwise it would be difficult to put through the whole list.

Shri Hanumanthaiya (Mysore): The hon. Member who spoke just now made the observation that the Budget had a good effect on the market. Even when the present Finance Minister was appointed to the post the business community was pleased, nay, even elated. Therefore, it was but expected that the business community would have confidence in the present occupant of the Treasury Bench. I was rather amused to find in the statement of the Federation of the Indian Merchants Chambers a sentence accusing the present Finance Minister for not being

bold and imaginative in his proposals. They ought to have known that the present Finance Minister is as shy as their capital, and being shy they should not have expected him to show the unexpected qualities of courage and imagination. So far as I know, by his training and tradition he is a devotee of the qualities of steadiness and sobriety, and may I say he is very honest in his own way? But he has done one very bold thing which the Chamber of Commerce ought to have given him credit for. He has chosen for his colleague an ever smiling man, one who was a very vociferous Member of this House. That ought to make up his deficiency in courage which the businessmen in the country accuse him of.

Two years ago, in this very month, when the then Finance Minister presented his Budget, he promised an economy of Rs. 2½ crores. He said that in anticipation of the recommendations of the Committee appointed for the purpose he would make provision for it. But when the revised budget figures were known it was found that instead of there being a reduction in expenditure by that amount the figures had actually gone up by Rs. 4 crores. The figure under the head 'Civil Administration' was Rs. 34.5 crores in 1948. The then Finance Minister promised an economy of Rs. 2.5 crores, but, as I said, the figures actually went up in the revised estimate, by Rs. 4 crores, to Rs. 38.5 crores. In the next year, the Budget estimates under this head went up to Rs. 50 crores and this year's Budget estimates have gone up to more than Rs. 56 crores. I very much wonder why the past Finance Minister was not able to keep up his promise. The fault is not personal. Many of the shortcomings that we accuse the present administration of are not personal. As Gandhiji pointed out many a time, the fault is that of the system. Once Gandhiji wrote that the machinery that the Britishers had set up in India is so strong in its influence over individuals that invariably everyone who went into it succumbed. That is the fate not only of the Finance Minister who made that promise but it is the fate of everyone who has gone into it including the hon. the Leader of the House and the hon. the Home Minister, who (claim to) have inherited all that Gandhiji taught and achieved. The talk of economy has not merely been in vain, but it has actually been defeated as shown by the figures. I would not have minded it if this increase in expenditure had led to increase in efficiency. The Estimates Committee report which has been published reflects the feeling of all of us

in the country. That report has said that in the Secretariat files pass from hand to hand and the last man, who is the underdog, does the work, while all the top officers do more or less supervisory work. The Estimates Committee has given us the figures. The staff has increased by five times and the expenditure also has increased by about Rs. 22 crores. Instead of having efficiency to that extent, the Estimates Committee report says that there has been a decrease in efficiency in the Secretariat. It is a well known fact in human affairs that if there are more working persons we can get the work done quicker, but in the Secretariat the reverse is the case. If there are more people employed, there are more hands to handle the files and consequently more time is taken. Not only in the interests of economy and of saving money, but also in the interests of efficiency of the administration, it is essential that this economy measure has to be taken up seriously by those people who are in charge of the administration today. The question then arises: How are we to deal with the people who are likely to be unemployed? The Budget shows that we are undertaking numerous capital works running to the tune of Rs. 115 crores. There are factories and various other ventures which the Government are undertaking in the next few years. Instead of recruiting fresh personnel for those undertakings, retrenched personnel may be very well employed. Instead of doing that, we go on increasing the number of hands in the Secretariat and at the same time recruiting personnel for the new undertakings. Therefore, I would make an earnest appeal to the present Home Minister to take this matter up very seriously, to reduce the expenditure and to give employment to those who are unemployed, in the new undertakings.

Sir, I would like to tell you a tale of woe from the category of States from which I happen to hail. All Part B States, as is well known, have been placed under a kind of control and supervision under Article 371 of the Constitution. That Article presupposes that politically people of Part B States are in mental calibre, patriotism and political acumen inferior to the people of Part A States. I do not suppose that the representatives of the people sitting here who come from Part A States were mainly responsible for this Article. The then Deputy Prime Minister for some reason thought it necessary to incorporate that Article. I need not go now into the reasons which led him to propose that Section and the Constituent Assembly to adopt it. (Interruption). Whatever might have been the reasons, it is now time that that

Article should be taken away from the Constitution. There is in that Article a proviso that Parliament may by law shorten the period, and there is also a proviso that a particular State can be exempted by the President. By one of these two means, it is time that this House as well as the Ministry make the people of Part B States feel that they are quite equal to the people of Part A States.

Secondly, as though intentionally—I do hope that there is no intention behind it—the representatives of Part B States are completely absent in the counsels of the Government of India, whether it be the Ministry or it be the diplomatic service or it be any other field that matters at the Centre. Whether this is equality of opportunity which the Constitution envisages, I leave it to the House to judge.

Thirdly, one more point and I finish. There are more than sixty lakhs of people in Part C States and for the last three years they have been insistently asking that they should have opportunity for democratic government in the same way as people in Part B or Part A States. I do not know for what reason they have not been given this opportunity. Their requirements have been constantly neglected. This is not the kind of treatment that should be meted out to anyone in India. As I said, the Constitution which we have adopted and to which we owe allegiance is based upon the fundamental principles of equality and fraternity. Strangely enough, I am sorry to say, the Congress Ministry that now occupies the place of power here is denying those very principles.

Shri B. R. Bhagat (Bihar): The budget of 1951-52, to me it appears, represents the barometer of the stress and strain through which the country has passed since the war. The main theme of the speech of the hon. the Finance Minister was that our economy has been kept out of gear through the continuous rise in prices and the inflationary spiral.

For the past three or four years it has been the practice of all the budget speeches to attribute all the evils in our economic life to inflation and the rising spiral of prices. Economists in the country have agreed that one of the major ills with which our economy suffers has been inflation and rise in prices. But it is now my painful duty to point out that no concerted effort has been made by Government since it came into power, or since independence dawned upon this country to solve this problem, in the manner

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

in which it should have been done. It is a failure not only of the measures undertaken by the Central Government, but also by the State Governments. The budgets that have been presented in the States also indicate that there is a lack of policy in the economic programme of the Governments.

It is my painful duty to say that in spite of the repeated assurances given by the previous Finance Ministers, no attempt has been made to check the rise in prices, and they continue to rise. The excuse has been given that this rise in prices is not peculiar to India, but it is a world phenomenon. Governments in other countries have been able to check the rise in prices—or at least have been able to stabilise the cost of living. The rise in prices in other countries has been coupled with increase in production and an expansion in the economic activities of the country and hence, to a very great extent the rise in prices was mitigated by an expansionist phase in their economy. But in our country inflation and rise in prices have been in co-existence with a restrictive form of economy. There has been a rise in prices; but according to economic principles along with rise in prices there should be an increase in production. But here with the rise in prices the entire economy has been put out of gear. Our production has fallen; capital has become shy; and every sphere of our economic life has been affected. This is a phenomenon which is peculiar to our country. In other countries with rise in prices, production goes up, leading to expansion of economic life. But here, with rise in prices production has gone down. This is really a peculiar feature.

Government found that since 1947 there has been no capital formation. It drew up plans, in the Centre as well as in the States, of rehabilitation and reconstruction to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crores. But it found that the capital market would not just respond to the needs of the reconstruction programme. Government, therefore, came to the conclusion that more tax relief should be given to the higher income groups, so that they may make savings with a view to make investments. But the Finance Minister's statement and the programme that he has laid before us, shows that the expectations of Shri Shanmukham Chetty and Dr. Matthai have been belied. The failure of capital to respond has been one of the key-notes of the financial policy of Government during the last two or three years. The previous Finance Ministers, Shri Shanmukham Chetty and Dr.

Matthai framed their Budgets on the basis that adequate relief should be given to the higher income groups. Now Mr. Deshmukh has based his Budget on the assumption that every poor man should contribute for the sake of the country. He cited the example of a farmer who sent him Rs. 5 as his contribution. May I humbly ask him whether the nation is really in a position to bear any more taxation?

The capacity of a nation to make sacrifices, depends not upon economic factors alone, but on psychological and other factors too. In an expansionist economy when production is going up the nation is capable of bearing more and more of taxation. We have examples of this in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. We are all familiar with the policy of Sir Stafford Cripps, whose policy was based upon a high level of taxation combined with strict austerity measures. But he was able to show increased production and exports, and expansion in the economic life of the whole country. Therefore the nation bore the high taxation very cheerfully. Similar was the case in the U.S.A. But in our country the entire production level has gone down. Those who know the state of agricultural economy of this country will bear with me that at present India is facing a grave crisis. The crisis is not so much nature-made; as it is made by lack of any coherent policy on the part of Government.

In order to meet the 10 per cent. deficit a Grow More Food campaign was evolved. Later the entire food production was put on a war footing by a declaration by the Prime Minister. Now we have an integrated programme of agricultural production. But our experience shows that every reorientation of the food production programme proved a greater failure and landed us into a greater crisis.

Industrial production this year has received a set-back by about 10 per cent. In major industries like jute, cotton and sugar we have not been able to keep up to the targets. This is partly due to our relations with Pakistan and the shortage of raw materials.

In the case of strategic raw materials, other countries are stock-piling. We have certain strategic raw materials like monazite. Our bargaining capacity as would appear from the balance of payment and other factors is not weak. Our balance of payment position is fortunately good for us. We can bargain to our advantage and have all those raw materials. But our experience is that Government lacks a

coherent programme and co-ordinated action, and that is why we are losing in the "battle of wits" not only with Pakistan but with other countries, whether it is a big item or a small one. So our ills are not due to the fact that our economy has at present reached a stage of crisis but because we lack a coherent programme and co-ordinated action.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Administrative wisdom has reached the crisis.

Mr. Chairman: Let not hon. Members be interrupted. When they get their chance, they will make their statements.

Dr. Deshmukh: There is very little chance, Madam.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I look at the budget proposals from two points of view. One is from the point of view of a financier, looking only at the receipts and expenditure. From that point of view I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Minister for not only presenting a very straightforward budget, in the forthright and honest manner but also clearing a good deal of "muddled thinking" from the world of Governmental finance to which Mr. Goenka referred in his speech while initiating the discussion. I am sure that much of the muddled thinking that is present in our economic set-up today will be cleared as a result of his budget.

But as regards the taxation proposals he said that the taxation has been widely and equitably distributed among all classes. I would like to say only one thing. Whatever justification he has given for widely and equitably distributing the taxes, it is only nominal. This will become clear if we see it in the background of tax-relief in successive years afforded to the industrialists and increase in railway fares. We find that not only has taxation been uneven as between direct and indirect taxes, but even in respect of its incidence it has been uneven. This is because sixty per cent. of the taxes are indirect. I therefore wish to say that the justification of distributing the taxation burden widely and in an equitable manner is nominal and not a real one.

I have to say something about the surcharge of five per cent. on income-tax. This is a flat rate. I would humbly make a suggestion to the hon. the Finance Minister that this flat rate surcharge should be graduated in a progressive manner. The unfortunate feature today is that we have given a

go-by to all progressive forms of taxation in our country. We have not distributed it equitably and we have not given tax-relief graduated on the basis of family-units, and other such considerations. Indeed we have given a complete go-by to all progressive forms of taxation.

In respect of imposition of surcharge on imports I have to make a suggestion that certain articles of universal consumption such as kerosene and other such things should be excluded, because it will not only be inflationary in character but will also tell upon the poor man too much.

Before I finish I have to say one last sentence, and that is as regards the philosophy of budget. The budget is an excellent financial statement, but is a failure as a philosophy of economic progress because the Government have lacked a coherent and co-ordinated programme. I would request the Finance Minister that he must view the whole economic development of the country in the context of not only of greater social well-being but higher production and more equitable distribution of the national income.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Damodara Menon.

Some Hon. Members: It is already time for Lunch.

Mr. Chairman: Let him start.

Shri Damodara Menon (Travancore-Cochin): I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity and leaving me in possession of the House. I shall resume my 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.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

Shri Damodara Menon: The Budget proposals have been subjected to such severe criticism in the House that one feels rather hesitant and a little diffident to strike a different note. But I confess that when I first heard the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, I had a feeling of satisfaction and that feeling has persisted in spite of the wide variety of criticism that has been ventilated in the House. I think, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister deserves praise for careful budgeting at a time of acute economic distress. Having said this, I must also point out that the Budget taken as a whole is

[Shri Damodara Menon]

'conservative' in its outlook and scope. Let me explain my meaning. I use the word 'conservative' not in its reactionary sense. 'Conservatism' is reactionary when it stands against all progress and attempts to maintain *status quo* in circumstances that call for change. The Budget proposals of the hon. Finance Minister are intended to strengthen and to stabilize our finances at a time when unprecedented economic difficulties are facing us, but conservatism has its drawbacks too. We are passing through a period of revolution. There are such periods in the history of a nation when gigantic forces are released which move towards making changes. Our country has just achieved political revolution and we are on the threshold of an economic revolution and a social revolution of an equally gigantic nature. The question we have to answer today is: Have we the strength and the determination to achieve this economic revolution? Now, if we are hesitant, if we do not go forward, if we do not mobilize the resources of the nation, both natural and human, we would be failing to respond to that historic call that has come to us. My doubt is whether the conservative financial policy that is shaping the Budget proposals would really help us in this revolutionary march. It was, therefore, Sir, that I said that the Budget was conservative in its scope. Acharya Kripalani made a feeling reference the other day to the frustration that exists in the country. Of course, we have to get out of that frustration. I have my doubts whether the Budget proposals will help us to get rid of that feeling of frustration.

Now, let me explain this general statement by examining one or two specific points. I will take our achievements in the price front. Now, Sir, the price level is in a sense very, very significant. It reflects many of the economic problems that face us today. The price level will indicate to some extent the supply position of essential commodities, the living condition of the people, the capacity of the nation to bear further tax burdens. Also it will show us whether there is saving in the different income groups of the country which would help towards formation of capital. The Finance Minister has stated that in spite of our best efforts the prices of commodities are going up. If I remember aright, the index number stands today at 412. Now, how are you going to solve this problem? If we do not solve it, many of the dire economic ills that have preceded unhappy revolutions will overtake us. Therefore, Sir, we have to

examine this question carefully. It is true that the Government have made great efforts to control prices and I do not want to minimize those efforts; we have passed stringent rules and laws here and tried to control prices, but the fact remains that our attempts have not proved very much successful. I would therefore suggest a more revolutionary approach to this problem. My suggestion is this. We must now think in terms of taking over the entire machinery of distribution from the merchants. We have tried to induce these good merchants to follow certain standards. But hoarding, profiteering and black-marketing and all those other evils are persisting. Why do we not try a revolutionary change? I know, Sir, there are people in this House and outside who look askance at suggestions like these. They would say that the normal trade channels must be allowed to continue. Then there is the spacious plea that our administrative machinery is not capable of handling such a huge task. I believe that this plea is not quite correct. It is the result of indolence. It must be possible for us to evolve sufficient strength and capacity and efficiency in our administrative machinery to tackle this big problem of taking over the distributive system of our country. In an indirect way it will also solve another problem. The hon. Finance Minister has been saying that capital is shy. If our merchants who are sinking all their money in trade with a view to get easy and huge profits, find that they have no such avenues open, they should be forced to sink their capital in more productive enterprises and probably also to put them in Government loans. Looking at the problem in that way also, I would suggest that the Government must think in terms of taking over the entire machinery of distribution of commodities essential for the life of the nation.

I want now to refer to the administrative machinery itself. It is absolutely necessary, and many hon. Members have also pointed that out, that we must prune our administrative machinery to make it capable of undertaking the task of rebuilding this nation according to the dreams we have cherished so long. That is a painful task. Perhaps, a lot of ruthlessness will have to be shown in that task. My hon. friend, Mr. Mirza, who made a thought-provoking speech yesterday, addressed himself to this question and said that retrenchment on a large scale in the administrative services would not be good at this time. I agree to some extent with that view. If we are not able to provide

alternative employment to the men we retrench, it will be bad. Also, as we said, the security of service which is implied in Government service should also not be shaken. But, all the same, we do not want such an inflated administrative service. The Estimates Committee has pointed out in its report that an Assistant in the Secretariat has only to attend to about five receipts per day. That is a very, very poor quantity of work. These gentlemen seem to be enjoying a good holiday. I do not want to refer to the superior services; they may also be taking things quite easy in this country. A holiday mood is quite good, but not in the Secretariat and in the administrative services. George Bernard Shaw once defined Hell as a place of perpetual holiday. Let us not in a small measure convert our administrative service into a place like Hell. It must be possible for us to prune our administrative services.

In saying this, I must also refer to another point. We are expecting the report of the Planning Commission soon and we will be called upon to implement that report as best as we may. Not only the Central Government, but also the State Governments will have to be organised for the task of implementing the report of the Planning Commission. It is a well known fact that our own provinces—they are not provinces now, they are called States—are not distributed on any scientific basis. The Congress has been claiming for a long time that these provinces should be distributed on a more rational basis. My hon. friend Mr. Hanumanthaiya referred to the position of these States. There are Part A, Part B and Part C States, Centrally administered areas. All these things must be levelled up and we must have only certain units in this country which will be economically capable of carrying on the work of re-building India. I do not want to offend the hon. Members from U.P. But, looking at the map of India, I have always felt that this huge leviathan-like province crawling over a large portion of North India is too huge administratively to do anything effectively. It must be possible for us to divide that as a prelude, I should say, to the great task. Let us have more economic, healthy, viable units in this country, which will be capable of implementing the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

Sir, I do not want to take more of the time of the House.

श्री अश्वघोषवर प्रसाद सिन्हा : समापति महोदय, इस साल गवर्नमेंट का जो बजट हम लोगों के सामने पेश हुआ है उस बजट को हम आदर्श बजट नहीं कह सकते, केवल इसीलिए नहीं कि उस में कुछ खामियां हैं जिस पर कि हमें कोई खास ऐतराज है, बल्कि इसलिए कि कांग्रेस (Congress) ने या इस नेहरू गवर्नमेंट ने जो देश के सामने अपने सिद्धान्तों को रखा था उससे यह नीचे जाकर गिरता है। लेकिन सवाल मेरे सामने यह है कि जो हमारी आज की हालत है उस हालत में किसी दूसरे ढंग का बजट क्या बन सकता था ? इस हाउस (House) में, मुझे परेशानी हुई, खास कर शनिवार के दिन, जब हमारे कुछ बड़े नेताओं ने भी ऐसे भाषण दिये जिन से हमारे देश को, या पार्लियामेंट (Parliament) को, या हमारी कैबिनेट (Cabinet) को कोई बल मिलने के बजाये केवल डिफीटिस्म (Defeatism) यानी पस्त-हिम्मती ही हो। क्या उन का ऐसा ह्याल है कि कुछ बड़ी बड़ी बातों के कहने से ही बजट अच्छा हो जायेगा, या देश को लाभ हो जायेगा ? उन सज्जनों में, कुछ ऐसे सज्जन भी थे जिन्होंने पिछले साल बजट के जमाने में जब बंगाल में हिन्दू मुसलमानों का सक्कल उठ रहा था, अपने भाषणों में यह मतालवा इस गवर्नमेंट के सामने रखा था कि बंगाल की पापुलेशन (population) में ट्रांसफर (transfer) हो। बंगाल के मुसलमान पाकिस्तान बंगाल में जायं और पूर्वी बंगाल के हिन्दू हमारे भारत के बंगाल में आवें। अगर उन की बात मानी गयी होती, अगर शलती से नेहरू-गवर्नमेंट ने उन की बात को मान लिया होता, और यह बात आचार्य कृपलानी ने भी कही थी, और डाक्टर मुखर्जी ने बहुत जोरों से कही, तो मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता

[श्री अबधेदवर प्रसाद सिनहा]

हूँ कि देशमुख साहब ने इस साल जो ऐसा बजट दिया है उस से भी कहीं खराब बजट हमारे सामने वह रखते। और मुझे तो यहां तक भय है कि हमारे देश के फायनेन्सेज (finances) कोलाप्स (collapse) कर गया होता। लेकिन उन्हीं साहबान के भाषण सुन कर, जिन में से एक साहब तो चन्द सी वोट (votes) से हमारे कांग्रेस (Congress) के सभापति होने से बच गये और एक साहब हमारी गवर्नमेंट के चन्द महीने पहले तक मंत्री थे, मुझे परेशानी होती है। हजारों वर्षों के बाद आज इतने बड़े भूभाग पर हमारी नेहरू-गवर्नमेंट का शासन हो रहा है, इस शासन को महात्मा गान्धो ने आशीर्वाद दिया था और इस को अब कांग्रेस की ओर से नेहरू साहब चला रहे हैं। इस गवर्नमेंट में जितनी भी मिनिस्ट्रीज हैं, चाहे आप एक्सटर्नल मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry of External Affairs) को देखिये, चाहे स्टेट्स मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry of States) को देखिये, चाहे होम मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry of Home Affairs) को देखिये, चाहे रेलवे की मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry of Railways) को या और मिनिस्ट्रीज जो हैं उन को देखिये, तो उन में से किसी के काम ऐसे नहीं हैं जिन पर कि हमें गर्व न हो। यों, इन्सान गलती करता है, गलतियाँ होती हैं, हमारी बजारतों ने भी गलतियाँ की हैं। लेकिन अब सिंदरी को सुन्दरी कह कर और फर्टिलाइजर (fertilizer) को कुछ और कह कर जो हमारी गवर्नमेंट के बड़े बड़े काम हैं उन को छोटे काम बताना उचित नहीं। इस के लिए मैं अपने उन बड़े बड़े नेताओं से पूछता हूँ कि कुछ चन्द महीने के बाद जो वोट (votes) देने हैं, उन के लिये क्या आप सच्चाई

की बात बोल रहे हैं। आप एक एक बात को ले लीजिये। आज एक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री को लीजिये। कोरिया में लड़ाई हुई। कोरिया की लड़ाई के बाद इसी हाउस में बहुत लोग कहने लगे कि मास्को पैकिंग, नयी दिल्ली अलायन्स (alliance) हो। किसी साहब ने कहा कि अमेरिका के साथ तुम हाथ बांध लो, इन दोनों में से एक के साथ रहो, ऐसा काम तुम्हें करना होगा। हमारे नेहरू साहब ने कहा, हमारी नेहरू गवर्नमेंट ने कहा कि नहीं, महात्मा भी ने हमें सिखाया है, भारत स्वतन्त्र रास्ता, इंडिपेंडेंट लाइन (independent line) लेगा, हम किसी का दामन क्यों पकड़ें? हम इतने मजबूत भी नहीं कि हम किसी तरफ लड़ाई में जायें तो उस का कोई नतीजा हो। तो हम सीधे और सच्चे मार्ग से क्यों हटें? इसलिए उन्होंने एक इंडिपेंडेंट लाइन, स्वतन्त्र रास्ता लिया। और अभी कामनवेल्थ कानफ्रेंस (Commonwealth Conference) में, आप ने पढ़ा होगा कि उस मीके पर वहां हमारे नेता प्राइम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) साहब ने जो इंडिपेंडेंट लाइन ली वह अमेरिका से साफ लफ्जों में कहते रहे कि तुम कोरिया की लड़ाई में थर्टीएथ पैरेलल (the 38th Parallel) के बाद आगे जा कर गलती कर रहे हो और चीन से भी कहते रहे कि तिब्बत में जिस तरह तुम आ गये हो और कोरिया की लड़ाई में जो काम कर रहे हो, वह गलती कर रहे हो किन्तु फिर भी यू० एन० ओ० (U.N.O.) में आने का तुम्हारा अधिकार है। इस का क्या नतीजा हुआ? कोरिया की लड़ाई आज बुनिया भर की लड़ाई होती। उस लड़ाई को अपने प्रयत्नों से, हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर

ने रोका। क्या यही एक हमारी कैबिनेट का कार्य ऐसा नहीं है कि जिस के आगे हम सब को सिर झुकाने के लिये कहें कि हमारी कैबिनेट यह काम कर रही है ?

उस के बाद एक्सटरनल अफेयर्स का दूसरा काम लीजिये। नेपाल में क्या चीज हुई ? नेपाल के बादशाह साहब यहां भारत में आये और वहां राज्य में राणा और नेपाली कांग्रेस में लड़ाई चली और उस समय पर हमारे बहुत से लोगों में यह बात भी चलती थी कि भारत सरकार नेपाल में अपनी सेना भेज दे और हम नेपाल की पबलिक को इस तरह क्यों मरने दें। लेकिन नेहरू साहब ने क्या किया ? नेपाल गवर्नमेंट और नेपाल कांग्रेस के बीच जाने वाली लड़ाई में वह बिल्कुल न्यूट्रल (neutral) रहे और अन्त में जब दोनों समझ गये कि आपस में सुलह कर के रियासत में डेमोक्रेटिक (democratic) ढंग पर राज्य चलाना है, तो दोनों नेहरू साहब के पास गये और उन में आपस में, सुलह हो गई। हम ने हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया, लेकिन बगैर हमारे कुछ किये इतने बड़े मुल्क में डेमोक्रेसी (democracy) आ रही है और साथ ही साथ हमारा दोस्ताना ताल्लुक भी उन से बढ़ रहा है। मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूं कि हैदराबाद में जो हम ने काम किया, पुलिस एक्शन (Police Action) वहां भी करना पड़ा था, नेपाल में हम ने उस से भी ज्यादा खूबसूरती के साथ काम किया। इसी तरह हमारी होम मिनिस्ट्री के काम को लीजिये। हमारे स्वर्गीय सरदार पटेल साहब ने जिस तरह से सर्विसेज (Services) को संगठित किया और चलाया, केन्द्रीय सर्विसेज को जिस तरह ठीक किया, वह सब पर जाहिर है और आज उस विभाग की बागडोर

हमारे श्री राजगोपालचार्य के हाथ में है और जिस योग्यता से वह अपना विभाग और उस के कार्य को चला रहे हैं, हां अगर उस पर भी कोई आलोचना करे तो वह दूसरी बात है लेकिन किसी को ऐसा मालूम कराया जाय कि पबलिक (Public) शायद तबाह हो रही है, और गवर्नमेंट परेशान है, तो मुझे तो परेशानी होती है ऐसे लोगों की परेशानी देख कर।

फिर आप पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ़ के डिपार्टमेंट (Posts and Telegraphs Department) को देखिये। आज गांबों में पहले से कहीं ज्यादा पोस्ट ऑफिस (Post Offices) खुले हुए हैं और टेलीग्राम का काम किस सुन्दर ढंग से चल रहा है और कम्युनिकेशनस् मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry of Communications) ने यह रात या दिन को हवाई जहाज के जरिये डाक या यात्रियों की भेजने का प्रबन्ध कितने सुन्दर ढंग से किया है। लेकिन इस विभाग के हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब को अपने विभाग के कर्मचारियों के रहने की जगह और गुल्ले की ब्यवस्था की तरफ़ विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना होगा।

इस के बाद स्टेट मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ़ आप देखें। स्वर्गीय सरदार पटेल ने इस विभाग के जरिये क्या क्या किया यह सभी जानते हैं। राजस्थान में अभी तक कोई मिनिस्ट्री नहीं है, लेकिन यह सुन कर बड़ी खुशी हुई कि हमारे श्री गोपाल-स्वामी आदंगर वहां बहुत जल्दी कोई मिनिस्ट्री बनाने जा रहे हैं। हमारे कैप्टन अवधेश प्रसाद सिंह जो आज सुस्त बैठे हैं, क्योंकि उन के विन्ध्य प्रदेश में कोई वजारत नहीं है, मेरी आशा है और मुझे कोई आश्चर्य न होगा अगर बहुत निकट

[श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिन्हा]

भविष्य में वहां भी वजारत का निर्माण हो जाये ।

उसी तरह डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री (Defence Ministry) के काम को देखिये । वहां किस सुन्दर ढंग से आर्मी (Army), नेवी (Navy), एयर (Air) तीनों प्रकार की फौजों का संगठन किया है और कितनी अच्छी डिसिप्लिन (discipline) वहां पर है, उस का अन्दाजा आप तभी लगा सकते हैं जब पाकिस्तान में हाल ही में जो फौजी अफसरों की गिरफ्तारी हुई, उन के बारे में आप ब्याल करें । लेकिन विष्कृत यह है कि हम जो हमारे अन्दर खूबियां हैं, उस को नहीं देखते । यह हमारी वर्षों की गुलामी में रहने का नतीजा है कि हम अपनी खूबी को तो देखते नहीं, लेकिन जो थोड़ी बहुत कोई कमी या खराबी है, उस को बहुत बढ़ा चढ़ा कर हम देखना चाहते हैं । हमारे साथ यह बड़ी कठिनाई है और मुझे आशा है कि यह रोग हम में से धीरे धीरे दूर हो जायेगा और आप अपनी खूबियों और बल को भी देख सकेंगे । और साथ ही अगर कोई कमजोरी है तो उस को भी देख सकेंगे ।

इसी तरह फूड मिनिस्ट्री (Food Ministry) के काम को आप देखिये । यह जो मोर फूड कम्पेन (Grow More Food) के बारे में हमारे श्री श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने कहा कि यह सब फार्स (farce) है । मैं सूबे बिहार से आया हूँ । पिछले तीन, चार, छे महीनों में हमारी बिहार सरकार ने, हमारे चीफ मिनिस्टर डाक्टर श्री कृष्ण सिंह और हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर डाक्टर अनुग्रह नारायण सिंह ने भरसक कोशिश की कि लोगों के पास

गुल्ला पहुंचे और लोगों की जान बचायें और सेंटर (Centre) ने भी जितना हम चाहते थे, उस हद तक तो नहीं, लेकिन जहां तक केन्द्र से बन सका हमारी मदद की और जहां बिहार में इस बात का डर था कि हजारों की तावाद में लोग गुल्ला न मिलने की वजह से भूखों मर जायेंगे, वहां यह भयानक कांड नहीं हो पाया, हां कुछ जरूर मरे होंगे लेकिन इतने बड़े स्केल (scale) पर मूसीबत नहीं आई । पता नहीं कि श्री श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी को सब होक्स (hoax) ही होक्स क्यों दीखता है ? हमारे सूबे में एक दो महीने बाद फिर बहुत बुरे दिन आने वाले हैं और मेरा विश्वास है कि हमारे सूबे की सरकार और केन्द्र फिर उस पर काबू पा सकेंगे । और सब से बड़ा कारण जो अभी तक यह विपत्ति बची रही, तो उस का श्रेय प्रांतीय या केन्द्रीय सरकारों से भी ज्यादा हमारे सूबे के किसानों को है, उन्होंने बीच में कोई ऐसी फसल निकाली मसलन शकरकन्दी वगैरह की जिस से लोग अपनी जान बचा सके और यह सब उन्होंने बगैर किसी के कहे किया और अपनी जान बचाई और दूसरों की बचाई । इस तरह सब से ज्यादा फूड (food) की सिचुएशन (Situation) अन्न के सवाल को हल करने में हमारे सूबे के किसान ने मदद की है ।

फिर जहां तक इस बजट का सवाल है, मैं ने कहा है कि आज की परिस्थिति में और क्या हो सकता था, यह ठीक है कि यह कांग्रेस का फुल फ्लेज्ड बजट (full-fledged Budget) नहीं है, लेकिन इस के अलावा दूसरा हम कर भी नहीं सकते थे । मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारी सरकार सूबों में

और यहां आई तो हम ने इस की कोशिश की कि जमीन की व्यवस्था को हम बदलें, क्योंकि चाहे जितना आप क्यों न कर सें, जब तक किसान खुद जमीन का मालिक न हो जिस को वह जोतता है, उसमें जो चीज होता है, वह चीज उस की न हो तब तक उस की परचेजिंग पावर (Purchasing Power) बढ़ नहीं सकती। बिहार में, यू०पी० में और मद्रास में हम ने इस बात की कोशिश की कि किसान अपनी जमीन का खुद मालिक बने, लेकिन बिहार में सुना है कि हाईकोर्ट में जो जमींदारों ने सरकार के इस कानून के खिलाफ शिकायत की हुई थी, तो उस में जमींदार जीत गये। तो हमें तो उस जमींदारी एबोलिशन बिल (Zamindari Abolition Bill) में आवश्यक तब-दीली करनी होगी, क्योंकि जब तक यह नहीं होता कि टिलर आफ़ दी लैंड (tiller of the land) जमीन का मालिक हो, तब तक कोई भी प्रो मोर फूड कम्पेन सक्सेसफुल (successful) नहीं हो सकता और न अच्छा बजट ही तैयार हो सकता है दूसरी दिक्कत हमारे कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास (capitalist class) के साथ है उनमें एक तो बीमारी यह है कि आजकल या तो वह ब्लैक मार्केटिंग (black marketing) से रुपया कमा रहे हैं या टैक्स इवेजन् (tax evasion) करते हैं, और मुझे तो बड़ी परेशानी हुई जब इनकम टैक्स इवेजन् (income-tax evasion) के सिलसिले में यहां पर इतनी लम्बी चौड़ी बहस की गई। मैं तो उन लोगों में से हूँ जिन का विश्वास है कि आज की हालत में जब कि यह पूंजीपति सिर्फ अपना स्वार्थ देखते हैं और देश का हित उन के नजदीक नहीं है, तो इनकम टैक्स कमीशन (Income-Tax

Commission) को तो परमानेंटली (permanently) प्लानिंग कमीशन (Planning Commission) या और किसी दूसरे गवर्नमेंट डिपार्टमेंट (Government Department) की तरह क्रायम रहना चाहिये। क्यों कि यह पूंजीपति ब्लैक मार्केटिंग नहीं छोड़ेंगे और टैक्स का इवेजन् करेंगे। आप ने यहां ब्लैक मार्केटिंग को खत्म करने के लिए कानून पास किया और सूबा बिहार में हम ने उस को काबू में लाने की कोशिश की और जहां हम ने १००, २०० ब्लैक मार्केटियर (black marketeers) को जेल भेजा, तो उस से हमें काफ़ी गुल्ला और कपड़ा मिला।

इस कार्यवाही से बिहार सरकार पर इंडियन चेम्बर आफ़ कामर्स (Indian Chamber of Commerce) ने अपने गुस्से का इजहार किया और बिहार गवर्नमेंट को दुनियां भर की सुनाई या बिहार के अखबारों और खास कर के वह अखबार जो पूंजीपतियों के हाथ में हैं उसने भी सरकार को बहुत खरी खोटी सुनाई। यह ठीक है कि इन पूंजीपतियों ने हमारी आजादी की लड़ाई में हमारी काफ़ी मदद की और उस के हम शुकुगुब्ज़ार हैं, लेकिन आजादी मिलने के बाद अब जब हम वेलफेयर स्टेट (Welfare State), बनाने की कोशिश में हैं। तो वह लोग हमारे मददगार नहीं हो रहे हैं और दिल से हमारा साथ नहीं दे रहे हैं, हालांकि मुंह से कहते हैं कि हम तुम्हारे साथ हैं। तो जब तक यह जमीन की ठीक ठीक ठीक व्यवस्था नहीं हो जाती और किसान जो जोतता है, उस का मालिक नहीं हो जाता और पूंजीपति ब्लैक मार्केटिंग करना नहीं छोड़ते और इनकम टैक्स ठीक ठीक अदा नहीं करते, तब तक श्री देशमख

[श्री अबनेवर प्रसाद सिन्हा]

साहब से यह उम्मीद करना कि वह दूसरी तरह का बजट हमारे सामने पेश करेंगे, फिजूल है।

बल्कि मेरा तो कहना है कि आज की हालत में जो यह बजट उन्होंने पेश किया है, ठीक किया है और इसलिए मैं उनको बर्न्यवाद देता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri A. P. Sinha (Bihar): Sir, the Budget presented in the House this year cannot be described to be an ideal one, not because it contains shortcomings to which we have any strong objections, but for the fact that it falls very much short of the principles for which the Congress and the present Nehru Government are committed to the country. Personally speaking, however, I am confronted with the issue as to what different features could an alternate Budget contain in the present context of the situation. I feel much embarrassed, particularly on Saturday last, to hear some of our foremost leaders speaking here in a vein which was very likely to spread defeatism rather than raising the morale of the country or the Parliament or that of our Cabinet in any way. Do they hold that by making mere lofty observations here, the Budget could be turned into a wholesomely sound one or were their speeches intended to do some good to the country? Among these speakers were included some hon. Members who on the occasion of the last Budget, when Hindu-Muslim issue in Bengal was a burning topic of the day, had placed a demand before the Government to undertake a complete exchange or transfer of population requiring thereby the Muslims from West Bengal to go over to the Pakistani part of Bengal while Hindus from that part to come over to West Bengal. Both Acharya Kripalani and Dr. Mookerjee had supported that demand, the latter being much more vehement. Had that demand been conceded then and the Nehru Government by a slip of error agreed to the proposal, I can positively say that the Budget now presented by hon. Shri Deshmukh would have been much more worse. I can rather visualize a greater catastrophe befalling us viz., a total collapse of our finances. Anyway I certainly feel embarrassed to hear such speeches

from gentlemen one of whom has lost the Congress Presidential Election only by a narrow margin of few votes while the other has been a Cabinet Minister only a few months before. It is after many centuries that such a vast region is being administered by Nehru Government as a single unified country. The present Government of the country has the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi and is being run by Shri Nehru on behalf of the Congress. Look to the achievements of any Ministry of this Government you like—be it the Ministry of External Affairs or of States, Home Affairs or that of Railways or any other Ministry, we have reasons to feel truly proud of them. To err is human and so is the case with our Government. Mistakes also have, no doubt, been made by our various Ministries. But it would be unfair to belittle their big achievements just by tactics like styling 'Sindri' as 'Sundri' or by using some jeering phrase for 'fertilizers'. I therefore, put it to these prominent leaders whether they could claim to be truthful and honest in the light of such utterances at the time of going in for the votes a few months hence. Just take any instance say to begin with that of the Ministry of External Affairs. Just after the breakout of war in Korea, many hon. Members in this very House had come forward suggesting a triangular alliance between Moscow, Peking and New Delhi. Someone had pleaded in favour of our joining hands with America and had expressed the view that it was imperative to align ourselves with one bloc or the other. But Nehru and his Government had then said a firm 'No', because they remembered what Mahatma Gandhi had taught us—that Bharat will always adopt an independent line in her dealings and will not think of dependence on others. Neither are we so strong that our alliance with any particular side may be counted for definite results. Why then deter from treading a straight and righteous path? They had, therefore, preferred to adopt that straight and honest course. Also you may have read of the independent line taken by our Prime Minister in the recent Commonwealth Conference. In no mistaken terms he has continuously been telling America that they were committing a mistake by crossing the 38th Parallel and also pointing out to China the mistake in their approach to solve the Tibetan issue and in infringing the borders of that country. For the part the Government have played in the Korean conflict; conceding at the same time their unequal-vocal right of admission into U.N.O.

We ought to be thankful to the Nehru Government. What was the result? But for this policy, the Korean conflict would have been converted into a major World War. Our Prime Minister by exerting his influence has succeeded in localizing that conflict. Is not this single achievement of our Cabinet such as to make everyone of us bow our head in appreciation of the work they are doing? Take thereafter another achievement of this very Ministry. What has happened in Nepal? The king of that country sought asylum here and a regular war took place between the Rana regime and the Nepalese Congress. At that time many people had proposed to the Government to send in their armies and thus save the public there from suffering death and chaos in that manner. What policy did Nehru adopt? He maintained absolute neutrality so far the warfare going on between the Nepai Government's and the Nepalese Congress forces was concerned. And when ultimately both the warring parties had realized the desirability of compromise and of running the administration on democratic principles, they approached Nehru to help in effecting a mutual compromise, which was done. We did not interfere in the least, yet democracy is ushering in that great country and our friendly relations with them are being strengthened further still. I can positively say that in Nepal we have accomplished our task even more gracefully than the police action we were forced to take in the case of Hyderabad. Similarly just turn to the achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The way our late Sardar Patel had organised and administered the Central Services is now a common knowledge and today the reins of that Ministry are in the able hands of hon. Shri Rajagopalachari who is handling the Ministry and its work quite admirably. It is a different thing if, even despite that, one may choose to criticize its work, yet to make public feel as if they are being ruined and thus embarrass the Government unnecessarily does worry me to note this embarrassment of those charged with its task.

Take next the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Now there is a far larger number of post offices working in the rural areas and the work of Telegraph Section is being run in a very commendable and efficient manner. The Ministry of Communications have made excellent arrangements in respect of carrying mails and passenger by running day and night air services. The Ministry will, however, do well to pay particular attention to arrangements in respect of accommodation

and provision of foodgrains for the staff working under them.

Come now to the Ministry of States. The achievements of the late Sardar in this Ministry are sufficiently known to all. In Rajasthan, however, there is no Ministry functioning at present but it is a matter of pleasure to know that hon. Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar is going to set up a Ministry there very shortly. Capt A. P. Singh may feel pessimist today about the non-existence of any Ministry in Vindhya Pradesh, yet I may hope and it will not be a surprise to me if in very near future a Ministry is formed there also.

Turn next to the achievements of the Ministry of Defence. The three Service wings viz., Army, Navy and Air Force have been re-organised in an excellent manner and there is commendable discipline prevailing amongst them. Just think and compare this fact against the recent arrests of high military officers made in Pakistan. But the real difficulty is that, because of many years of slavery we are unable to know our own qualities and on the other hand we display our shortcomings even though very minor very prominently. This is a great difficulty with us and I can only hope that gradually we shall succeed in rooting out this complex from amongst us. Only then we shall be able to see our good qualities and have a true estimate of our strength as also feel our shortcomings, if there be any.

Similarly just take into consideration the achievements of the Ministry of Food. Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee has described the 'Grow More Food' as a mere 'farce'. I come from Bihar and I can say that our Chief Minister Shri Krishna Sinha and the Food Minister Dr. Anugraha Narayan Sinha exerted their utmost to see that people obtain grains and no life is lost on that account, and though the Centre's help to us was not what it should have been, yet they did help us within the means at their disposal. The result is that the original fear that death will take a heavy toll because of starvation and non-availability of grain, has been falsified and a great tragedy has been averted. It is possible that some starvation deaths have taken place, but they have certainly been on a much restricted scale. One fails to see why everything appears to be a mere hoax to hon. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Our State is again likely to be confronted with a grave situation after a month or two and I feel confident that the State Government in co-operation with the Centre will once again overcome it. More than the State Government or that of the

[Shri A. P. Sinha]

Centre, the 'credit for keeping this calamity at bay till now goes to the *kisans* of the State who meanwhile had taken recourse to the growth of other crops such as sweet potatoes whereby people could save themselves from the clutches of death. They did this all on their own and not at anybody's instance and thus saved their own lives as also of innumerable others. In this way the *kisan* of our State contributed most to solve the situation arising out of acute food position.

Now as for the Budget, I have submitted that nothing better could have been done in the present context of situation. It is true that the Budget is not a full fledged Congress Budget, yet we could hardly have done better. I want to point out that at the time our various State Governments and the Central Government had assumed power, we had made efforts to reform the land system. We did so with the belief that till the land is owned by its tiller and he has full access over all its produce, his general purchasing power can never be raised. In Bihar U.P. and Madras we made efforts to restore the ownership of land to its tiller, but it has just been reported that the petition of Bihar Zamindars preferred against the Government in Patna High Court has been granted. It has necessitated to incorporate an amendment to that effect in the Bihar Zamindari Abolition Bill, because till ownership of land is not vested in the tiller of the soil, no 'Grow More Food' can ever be expected to be successful and nor can there be any hope for the presentation of a better Budget. Our capitalist class is presenting us another major difficulties. These days they are busy earning money in the black market or they try to hoard it through tax evasion. I felt embarrassed to hear such lengthy and protracted speeches in connection with the evasion of Income Tax. I am one of those who in the present conditions when our capitalists look to their own selfish ends alone and have no sympathy towards the overall interests of the country, believe that the Income Tax Commission should be converted into a permanent body like the Planning Commission or like any other Government Department. The reason responsible for this belief is that the capitalists can never be expected to desist from black marketing or tax evasion. On your passing the anti black marketing legislation here in the Centre, we had launched a vigorous drive in Bihar to put an end to all black marketing and sent as many as 100, 200 black marketeers to prison. It yielded us

a considerable quantity of grains and cloth.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce had resented this move of the Bihar Government and had hurled all sorts of accusations against it. The Bihar newspapers, particularly those financed and managed by the capitalists, had also showered criticism of all sorts on the Bihar Government. It is true that the capitalists had helped us a good deal during our fight for freedom, but now that we are struggling to make ours a welfare State, their co-operation is not forthcoming and they are not helping us wholeheartedly though outwardly they profess to be with us. So it is futile to expect the hon. Shri Deshmukh to present a better Budget till our land system is not reformed in the right direction so as to restore the ownership of the land to the tiller and the capitalists do not desist from black marketing and continue to evade Income Tax.

I, therefore, keeping in view the present conditions regard the Budget presented by him quite good and I congratulate him for that.

3 P.M.

श्री इन्द्र बिद्यावाचस्पति : सभापति महोदय, दो दिनों से मैं बजट सम्बन्धी वादविवाद सुन रहा हूँ। इस में कुछ सभासदों ने यह कहा है कि श्री चिन्तामणि देशमुख का बजट बहुत ही अच्छा है। कुछ सभासदों ने कहा है कि श्री देशमुख का बजट बिल्कुल रद्दी है। यह सोचने की चीज है कि जब हम एक ही भवन में बैठे हुए हैं तो इस सम्बन्ध में दो तरह की रायें क्यों। इस पर मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह बजट दो दृष्टियों से देखा जा सकता है। एक तो रोकड़िये की दृष्टि से और दूसरे राष्ट्रीय दृष्टि से, नागरिक की दृष्टि से। बजट बनाता है खजान्ची जो कि पूंजी का मालिक है लेकिन इस में जो रुपया आता है वह आता है लोगों की तरफ से, नागरिक की तरफ से। करदाता भी वही है और खर्च करानेवाला भी वही है। तो बजट को बनाने की भी दो दृष्टियाँ होती हैं। श्री चिन्तामणि देशमुख हमारे देश के बहुत बड़े अर्थशास्त्रियों में से श्री र

रूपये पैसे के हिसाब को समझनेवाले महा-विद्वानों में से हैं। इसलिये अगर उन के बजट को रोकड़िये की दृष्टि से देखा जाये तो हम उस की प्रशंसा किये बिना नहीं रह सकते। उन्होंने बड़े यत्न से, और बहुत सुन्दरता से इस बजट को हमारे सामने रखा है जिस में अन्त में हमारे पास थोड़ी में कुछ बच ही जाता है और हम घाटे में नहीं रहते। यह तो रोकड़ियों का काम है, खजान्ची का काम है। इसलिये जिन लोगों ने तारीफ की है श्री चिन्तामणि देशमुख के बजट की उस का कारण यह है कि उन्होंने इस भाव से देखा है कि उन्होंने कैसे रुपया निकाला और उस को कौसी सुन्दरता से खर्च किया कि अन्त में घाटा नहीं रहा। लेकिन मैंने कहा कि हर एक राष्ट्र के बजट के सम्बन्ध में एक दूसरा दृष्टिकोण भी होता है और वह है नागरिक का दृष्टिकोण। अर्थात् नागरिक इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कहते हैं, मतदाता और करदाता इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कहते हैं। मैं आप से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि श्री देशमुख का जो बजट है उस को अगर हम पहली परीक्षा से देखते हैं तो वह बड़ा सुन्दर है। खजान्ची या बैंकर ने बड़ा सुन्दर बजट बनाया है, लेकिन जब हम उसे नागरिक की दृष्टि से देखते हैं तो उस में बहुत से दोष दिखाई देते हैं। उन के बजट के तीन हिस्से हैं। पहले में उन्होंने बताया कि हमारी आय क्या होगी, दूसरे में उन्होंने बताया कि हमारा खर्च क्या होगा और तीसरे में यह बतलाया कि हमारी आय से खर्च ज्यादा होगा और उसे हम कैसे पूरा करेंगे। यह तीन चीजें हैं। उन में से पहली चीज उन्होंने यह बतलाई कि अगले साल में हमारे देश की आय क्या होगी इस सम्बन्ध में जो आंकड़े उन्होंने दिये हैं वह भी ठीक ही

हैं, लेकिन उस में खजान्ची की मनोवृत्ति विद्यमान है। उस में उन्होंने बतलाया है कि आय व्यय से ज्यादा नहीं है, बल्कि कम है। उसी प्रकार जैसे घर का खजान्ची जो कि घर का मालिक भी होता है वह आय हमेशा कम बताता है, इसलिये मैं अधिक न कहते हुए केवल यही कहता हूँ कि उन्होंने आय कम बतलाई है। यह मैं जरूर कह सकता हूँ कि जैसा इम्पोर्ट और एक्सपोर्ट (Import and Export) के आंकड़े बतलाते हैं, उस से मैं समझता हूँ कि जो आमदनी हो सकती है, या अगले साल होगी, उस से कम बतलाई गई है। यह मैं अपनी तरफ से नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि बहुत से हिसाब के जानने वालों ने यह कहा है। उन्होंने बतलाया है कि इस में कम से कम पांच करोड़ की इनकम (Income) बढ़ेगी क्योंकि हमारा आयात और निर्यात बढ़ रहा है और हमारा पाकिस्तान से व्यापार बढ़ रहा है। ऐसी हालत में इम्पोर्ट और एक्सपोर्ट की ड्यूटी (duty) और कस्टम (custom) से जो रुपया आनेवाला है वह अवश्य ज्यादा होगा, यह हमें मानना चाहिये। मैं तो समझता हूँ कि चार पांच करोड़ की बचत नहीं दिखाई गई इसलिये कि कहीं देश वाले यह न समझें कि हमें बहुत सा पैसा मिलने वाला है। दूसरी तरफ कई वर्षों से हम से कहा जा रहा है कि सरकार के खर्च में कटौती होनी चाहिये। इस के बारे में बड़ी कोशिश भी की गई और श्री देशमुख के अर्थ मंत्री बनने पर तो हमें बहुत उम्मीद हुई कि बहुत सी कटौती हो जायेगी। फुछ उन्होंने किया भी और कुछ करने वाले भी हैं। उन्होंने आशा दिलाई है कि अब अर्थ विभाग में आप ने एक और सहयोगी बना दिया है इस से करोड़ों की आमदनी

[श्री इन्द्र विद्यावाचस्पति]

ज्यादा होगी, करोड़ों की बचत भी होना चाहिये। इसलिये जब हम सब बातों को मिलाते हैं तो हमें कोई कारण नहीं मालूम होता है कि हम इस अधिक बचत की आशा न रखें। श्री देशमुख कहते हैं कि पांच करोड़ की बचत हो सकती है। मैं कहता हूँ कि नहीं, आप यह संकल्प कर के चलें कि आप को १५ करोड़ बचाना है क्योंकि आप को घाटा होने वाला है, कमी होने वाली है और किरायायत होनी चाहिये। इस वक्त तो मैं नहीं बतलाऊंगा कि क्या क्या कटौती हो सकती है, वह तो जब बजट विस्तार से आयेगा तब कहने की चीज है, लेकिन इस वक्त को देखते हुए जरूरत है कि आप अधिक बचाने की कोशिश करें। अगर तीनों बातों को मिला कर अर्थ मंत्री यत्न करेंगे तो जरूर १५ करोड़ की बचत हो सकती है। आप ने सिर्फ पांच करोड़ की बचत बतलाई है, इसलिये मैं यह कहता हूँ कि जहां आप ने आय कम कर के दिखालाई है वहां बराबर कुछ बढ़ा दिया है ताकि अगर आप ने बचाव लिया तो अच्छी बात हुआ और न बचा लिया तो कोई बात नहीं। आप ने यह सोचा है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि आप को अपने सामने यह लक्ष्य रखना चाहिये कि आप कम से कम १५ करोड़ की कटौती करें और इस प्रकार अरबों इन्कम भी अब है उस को बढ़ायें। इसलिये मैं कहता हूँ कि आप ने यह सोचने में कि कितनी अर्थ होगी और कितना व्यय होगा खर्चाओ की दृष्टि से काम लिया है।

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

अब मैं आपको बतलाता हूँ कि तीसरे हिस्से में भी आप ने रोकड़िये की दृष्टि से काम लिया है, वह क्या है? प्रश्न यह है कि रुपया कहाँ से लाया जाये। आप ने

हिसाब लगाया है कि हमें पांच करोड़ का घाटा होगा। मैं तो समझता हूँ कि जो पांच करोड़ की एक्सपोट और इम्पोर्ट से ज्यादा आय होगी उस से वह घाटा खत्म हो जायेगा। लेकिन मान लिया जाये कि घाटा ही होगा तो उस को पूरा करने का सवाल है। इस के लिए आप ने वेज (ways) और मीन्स (means) बतलाये हैं। उन को देखते हुए मैं समझता हूँ कि वहां जैसा शुरू में मैं ने कहा आप ने घर के मालिक की दृष्टि से काम लिया है। वह यह कि आप के पास रुपया पैदा करने के जो साधन थे उन में से एक यह था कि आप सर्विसेज (Services) और मिनिस्ट्रों (Ministers) से कह दें कि वह अपना खर्च कम करें। जब आप ने मिनिस्ट्रों से कहा तो मिनिस्ट्रों ने कहा कि हम खर्च कम नहीं कर सकते सिर्फ पांच करोड़ दे देंगे ज्यादा नहीं। यानी आप को मंत्री महोदयों से इनकार मिल गया। फिर आप ने पूंजीपतियों से कहा या आप के पूर्ववर्ती ने कहा कि तुम कुछ कर्जा ही दो। उन्होंने कहा कि हम नहीं देते। या तो हमें और रियायतें दो नहीं तो नहीं देते। मिनिस्ट्रों ने इनकार कर दिया पूंजीपतियों ने इनकार कर दिया, तब तीसरी चीज यह थी कि आप के पास जो रुपया जमा है उस के लिये आप कहें कि उस में से निकालो, स्टर्लिंग बैलन्सेज (Sterling Balances) में से निकालो। तो वहां आप के बैंकर ने कहा कि वहां भी पचास करोड़ से कम नहीं रहना चाहिये इसलिये उस में से भी नहीं निकालना चाहिये। इस तरह आप को तीनों तरफ से इनकार मिल गया। तो आखिर में कौन रह गया। वही गरीब नागरिक। आप ने कहा कि उसी पर कर

लगाया, उसे तो सब आदमियों को देना ही होगा और इस तरह से आप के पास पैसा आ जायेगा। मैं यहां यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि नागरिक के दृष्टिकोण से यह बात गलत है। क्योंकि आप पहले तो यह देखिये कि क्या हमारे देश के नागरिक इस समय ज्यादा कर दे सकते हैं। आप पिछले बीस सालों या पंद्रह सालों के, अपने यहां के ऐसेम्बली (Assembly) थी उस के रेजोल्यूशन (Resolutions) पढिये तो आप देखेंगे कि हम नहीं बल्कि गवर्नमेन्ट के मेम्बर भी कभी कभी मानते रहे हैं कि हम पीक (Peak) पर पहुंच गये हैं, इस से आगे कर लगाने की गुंजाइश नहीं है।

आप किन किन पर यह कर लगाते हैं ? निम्न श्रेणी पर और सर्वसाधारण पर। कौन नहीं जानता कि हमारे यहां औसत इन्कम (income) कितनी कम है। वह २१ रुपये से कुछ आने ऊपर है। इसलिये जहां इतनी कम इन्कम है वहां आप कहां तक कर लगा सकते हैं। आप ने जो कर लगाये हैं वह सब जा कर मध्यम श्रेणी और सर्वसाधारण पर पड़ेंगे। आप ने सब से पहले इन्कम टैक्स (Income tax) पर पांच परसेंट (percent) सरचार्ज (surcharge) लगाया है। यह किस पर लगेगा ? मध्यम श्रेणी पर। ऐक्सेस प्राफिट्स टैक्स (Excess profit tax) जो आप ने लगाया है उस के लिए मैं कुछ नहीं कहता लेकिन आपने जो इन्कम टैक्स पर पांच परसेंट सरचार्ज लगाया है वह मध्यम श्रेणी पर लगेगा जिसकी कि हालत बहुत कमजोर हो चुकी है और जिसकी कमर टूटी हुई है और अगर उस पर अधिक बोझ बढ़ाया गया तो सिवा निगमबोध घाट पहुंचने के छन के लिए और कोई चारा नहीं है। आज कल मिडिल

क्लास (Middle class) को महीना पूरा करना मुश्किल हो जाता है।

दूसरे जो आप ने रेलवे (railway) का किराया बढ़ाया वह वह सर्वसाधारण पर पड़ेगा क्योंकि थर्डक्लास (Third class) का किराया सब से ज्यादा बढ़ाया गया है।

फिर आप ने पेट्रोल (petrol) और किरोसिन (kerosene) पर कर लगाया है। पेट्रोल के बारे में तो कहा जा सकता है कि जो लोग मोटर रखते हैं और अमीर हैं उन पर टैक्स लगेगा पर किरोसिन आयल (Kerosene oil) तो वहां काम में आता है जहां पर बिजली नहीं है और यह कर तो गरीब लोगों पर ही लगेगा।

फिर आप ने तम्बाकू पर टैक्स (tax) लगाया है। तम्बाकू ऐसी चीज है कि इस को प्राइम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) से लेकर एक झल्ली वाला तक काम में लाते हैं। इस लिए यह कर सब पर लगेगा। मैं तो तम्बाकू नहीं पीता लेकिन मैं यह कहूंगा कि यह ऐसा आमोद है जो कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर से लेकर गरीब झल्ली वाले तक के लिए समान है। इसलिये इस पर आप आधा कर लगाइये इतना न लगाइये जितना कि आप लगा रहे हैं।

एक आखिरी चीज यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप ने दिल्ली पर सेल्स टैक्स (Sales tax) लगा दिया है। यह तो दिल्ली वाले जानें कि इस को देगा कौन, पर मैं यह कहता हूँ कि यह सेल्स टैक्स दुकानों पर नहीं बल्कि नागरिकों पर लगा है। आप देखिये कि दिल्ली वाले कितनी मंहगाही में रह रहे हैं। मैं भी यहा का निवासी हूँ। इसलिये कह सकता हूँ कि

[श्री इन्द्र विद्यावाचस्पति]

यहां शहलत बहुत बुरी है। आप ने यहां बालों को आत्म शासन भी नहीं दिया है। दिल्ली वाले आप की ही छत्रछाया में गुजारा कर रहे हैं, और आप ने उन पर और मंहगाही लाद दी है। यह तो उन की कमर तोड़ देने वाली होगी।

क्योंकि इन चीजों को एक नागरिक दृष्टि से नहीं देखा गया है इसलिये बजट (Budget) में मंहगाही को कम करने का भी कोई उपाय नहीं बतलाया गया है।

अन्त में माननीय मंत्री जो से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वह आयात और निर्यात में पांच करोड़ बढ़ा दें, बचत के लिए कटौती में पांच करोड़ न रख कर १५ करोड़ रखें और दूसरी जगह पर कोशिश करके पांच या दस करोड़ आमदनी बढ़ावें और साधारण प्रजा पर लगाये जाने वाले करों में से सब को निकाल दें और तम्बाकू पर आधा कर कर दें। यदि वह ऐसा करेंगे तो उन की साड़ें बारह करोड़ की इन्कम कम हो जायेगी। लेकिन जैसा कि मैं ने बतलाया है अगर वह ऐसा करें तो १५ से ले कर २० करोड़ तक उन की आमदनी बढ़ जायेगी और अगर वह सब-साधारण के करों को निकाल दें तो भी ३ या ४ करोड़ रुपया बचेगा जिसे वह अपनी थैली में डाल सकेंगे।

मैं ने जो सुझाव पेश किये हैं वह कर दाता के दृष्टि कोण से किये हैं आशा है कि इन पर गम्भीरता से विचार किया जायेगा। जहां आप अपनी थैली को देखते हैं वहां आप नागरिक की हालत को भी देखिये और ऐसी कोशिश कीजिये कि दोनों के बीच में समन्वय हो जाये। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपने सुझाव पेश करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Indra Vidyavachaspati (Uttar Pradesh): I have been hearing discussion over the Budget for the last two days. Some of the hon. Members have highly commended the Budget of Shri Chintaman Deshmukh while others have condemned it in an equally high tone. It is indeed a matter for thought as to why should there be two opinions in the same House in this regard. The Budget can be looked upon from two points of view—one from the standpoint of the finance controller and the other from the national standpoint, that of the citizens. The Budget is framed by the controller of finances, but the money comes from the people, the citizens. It is they who pay the taxes and it is for them to see the manner in which money is to be spent. So the Budget has two aspects. Shri Chintaman Deshmukh is one of the foremost economists of our country and is a profound scholar in matters of finances. Hence if the Budget be viewed from the standpoint of the finance controller, we cannot but commend it. With great efforts and ability he has presented a Budget which leaves a surplus and we are not faced with a deficit. So those who have commended the Budget of Shri Deshmukh have viewed from the point of receipt and expenditure of money in such a way that there was no deficit in the end. But as I said there is also another point of view which is that of the citizen, that is to say, what the people, the tax payers, the voters say about it. Hence I submit that viewed from the first standpoint, we find that very good and able Budget has been presented by Shri Deshmukh, but from the citizens standpoint we find in it many defects. There are three parts to his Budget. In the first he has shown the receipts, in the second the expenditure and in the third part it has been shown that the expenditure exceeds receipts and how this deficit will be made up. These are the three things. In the first portion he has told what the income in the coming year would be. The figures he gave in this connection are alright, but they smack of a mentality which is generally present in a controller of finances. He said that the income was not more but less than the expenditure, just like the controller of the finances of the household who is also the master of the household, always describes his income less. However, without dilating I would say that he has

underestimated the amount. I can firmly say that the income from imports and exports has been shown less than what can safely be estimated from the available statistics. I do not say so of my own accord, but it has been said by several experts. They say that this income would increase by at least five crores because our imports and exports are increasing and our trade with Pakistan is also increasing. Therefore we should expect that the money to be realized from import and export duty and customs will certainly be more. This margin of four or five crores of rupees has not been shown, probably because of the fact that our countrymen may not entertain the hope that they were going to have more amenities of life. On the other hand, we have been told for some time that there should be a cut in Government expenditure. With the coming of Shri Deshmukh our hope fattened that there would now be a sufficient cut. He brought about some cut and is going to effect some more. He gave the hope that since he had now been adjoined with a colleague, there would be an income and of several crores more. Hence there should also be a saving of several crores. When we consider over all these things there seems to be no reason why we should not hope for some saving. Shri Deshmukh considers that a saving of Rs. 5 crores can be effected. I would submit that you should proceed with a resolution that you have to save Rs. 15 crores, when you are going to have a deficit and need economising. I would not describe what cuts can be effected, for that is a thing for the time when the Budget comes up for detailed discussion, but the present conditions require an urgent endeavour for economy on your part. If the hon. Minister of Finance should make a concentrated effort, a saving of Rs. 15 crores can certainly be brought about. You have shown a surplus of only 5 crores. My submission is that while you have shown an underestimated income on one hand, you have on the other shown an overestimated expenditure probably for the reason that if a surplus occurs so far so good, but if a deficit falls to our lot then that may not matter. That is perhaps your point. But I assert that you must effect a cut of at least Rs. 15 crores and thus increase your income. This was the reason why I held that in the estimate of income and expenditure your decision was taken from the standpoint of the controller of finance.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Now, I would submit that you have treated the third part too in the

manner of the controller of finance. What is that? The question is wherefrom to raise the money. You estimated a deficit of Rs. 5 crores. I think that this deficit will be neutralized by the excess income of Rs. 5 crores from imports and exports. But even if we assume that there will be a deficit, the question is to make it up. For this, you have mentioned ways and means. While considering that, I am prone to think you have taken the point of view of the master of the household as I said before. That is, that one of the sources of your income would have been to ask various services and Ministers to curtail their expenditure. When you asked the Ministers to do so, they said they could not economise to an extent of more than Rs. 5 crores, meaning thereby that you got a refusal from them. Then you, or your predecessor, asked the capitalists for loan. But they were not prepared unless more concessions were given to them. The third alternative was to draw upon your reserve fund or the sterling balances. There your banker told you that that amount should not go below 50 crores and hence there should be no drawing upon it. So in the last remained the poor citizen. You decided to tax him because all will be required to pay and you will get money. I want to say that from the standpoint of the citizen, this is a wrong approach. First of all you should try to find out whether the people of this country can afford to pay more or not. If you will only go through the resolutions of the last 15 or 20 years of the late Assembly, you will find that not only we but even the Members of Government side have been accepting occasionally that we have reached the peak and there is no scope left for further taxation.

So whom do you tax? You tax the lower class and the common men. Who does not know that our average income is very low. It is only twenty-one rupees and a few annas. Therefore how far can you go on taxing a section of population whose income is so low. Whatever taxes you have levied, their burden will fall on the middle class and the common man. First of all you have levied five per cent. surcharge on income tax. May I ask on whom will its burden fall? It will fall on the middle class. I do not say anything about excess profit tax which you have levied, but the five per cent. surcharge which has been levied on income tax will definitely fall on the middle class people who are already suffering and are on the breaking point. If their burden will be increased, that is a sure way to their death. Middle class people are hardly able

[Shri Indra Vidyavachaspati]

to make both ends meet during the whole month.

You have increased the railway fares. This burden too falls on the public in general, because the highest increase has been in the third class fares.

Then you have levied tax on petrol and kerosene oil. So far petrol is concerned it may be said that the burden of tax will fall on the rich alone who use it in their motor cars. But what about the kerosene oil? It is used where there is no electricity; as such this burden too will fall on the poor people.

You have levied tobacco tax. Tobacco is a commodity which is used by every man rich and poor alike. Down from the Prime Minister to a labourer all of them use it. I do not myself smoke but I would say that this is such an entertainment which is common to all down from the Prime Minister to an ordinary labourer. I would therefore request you to please reduce the tax to its half and not to levy it at the rates proposed by you.

Last thing that I would like to submit is about the sale tax as levied in Delhi. This is a matter for Delhi people to know as to who will pay it, but I say that this has not been levied on the shops but on the people. You see the hardships in which the people of Delhi are living. I too belong to Delhi and as such I can say that the condition is very bad here. You have not given even the right of self-Government to the people of this place. They live under your protection. With all that you have brought upon them the evil of dearness, and this will break their backbone.

As these things have not been seen from a citizen's point of view, therefore no ways have been suggested to lessen this dearness.

In the end I would like to request the hon. Minister to raise five crores of rupees more from the export and import duty, and to cut the expenditure not by five crores only but by fifteen crores by way of economy, try to raise ten or fifteen crores of rupees more by other ways and means, and remove all the taxes that have been levied on the common people. If you would do it the income will come down by twelve and a half crore at the most but at the same time, as I have said, you can raise fifteen to twenty crores of rupees by other ways, and in this manner the net gain would be three or four crore rupees.

I have given my suggestions from the point of view of a tax payer and I hope these suggestions would be taken into consideration. While you see towards your own treasury you should also look towards the condition of people and in this way should try to achieve co-ordination between the two.

Sir, with these words I submit my suggestion.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): It has become a custom in this House to criticise the Budget from beginning to end, and then for all members to dutifully vote *en bloc* for it. I have, however, no such limitation put upon me and I should therefore approach the Budget from an independent point of view. I think the hon. Finance Minister has done the best out of a bad job. If he has done anything wrong it is because he had to take care of the dirty linen of the other Departments which had been accumulating long before he came in. The Finance Minister had a difficult task and I have nothing but praise for the way in which he has presented the Budget.

He has an admirable way of approaching difficult subjects. He has dealt with controversial matters in a most inoffensive-looking manner. I wondered, when I was listening to his speech, whether he had missed his profession—he should have been an advocate. One of the difficult questions which he had to tackle with and in which the whole country will be involved is the problem of the Indo-Pakistan trade agreement. That agreement had been long delayed, but the hon. Finance Minister took courage in both hands and at least solved that problem which should have been solved long ago. This question of Indo-Pakistan relationship with regard to trade affects the three principal commodities—jute, cotton and coal. We require large quantities of raw jute to run our jute mills, which means practically half of India's economy. It is a fact that almost all the jute mills are near about Calcutta on the River Hoogly and the rest outside Bengal and 70 per cent. of raw jute is produced in East Bengal. It is also a fact that Pakistan has no coal, that we have more coal than we can consume. It is also a fact that they have raw cotton and have no cotton mills and we have all the mills in India. It is only because of partition that from a business point of view, we had been looking at the two countries as separate entities, though they are one and essentially one in

point of economy. One cannot live without the other. These two countries are mutually inter-dependent in their economies. It is a fact that the jute mills in India were facing difficulties. Only with a superhuman last minute effort they are still running. They were on the verge of closing down when the trade agreement saved them.

Sir, so far, the raw jute was controlled. On account of this control, raw jute which was in existence in West Bengal was not coming out into the open market. It was going into the blackmarket. But the jute industry itself was voluntarily but effectively controlled and highly centralised and it could not buy raw jute in the blackmarket. So there was an impasse. Fortunately, the Government has recently removed the control as a result of which jute is flowing into the market and the mills will be able to carry on till Pakistan jute is available. Even then, as far as I can see, the entire Pakistan jute which will be available will not be sufficient to keep the mills working throughout the year. We will require more jute. For the time being we cannot avoid buying it from Pakistan, but we must have all the requisite quantity here as we can reasonably produce. In order, however, to encourage the cultivation of jute it is necessary to remove all control on it. The cultivator must have a good market for his commodity in order to encourage him to grow it. It is remarkable that the finished jute product fetches very high prices, and a little extra money to the cultivator should not have been grudged. The cultivator was the most neglected person in the whole transaction. The Central Government also came in recently for a big share of the profit. The action of Government in decontrolling jute is bound to encourage the cultivation of jute. This decontrol should continue to encourage the cultivators. But then again, if the cultivators take to jute cultivation, the result would be that paddy cultivation would to that extent be curtailed in consequence. The Government of India should have an eye on this aspect and compensate the jute growing areas in West Bengal in the matter of supply of food.

The food control policy is highly faulty. As a part of food control policy, the State Government acquires foodgrains at a forced low price. This to a large extent discourages the cultivator from growing enough food. Whatever he grows at prohibitive cost and much privation to his family is taken away by force by Government at a nominal price. The Government keeps a big margin between the price

at which it buys and the price at which it sells. Even with this big margin sometimes it incurs loss and sometimes it makes very small profits. The policy regarding food supply should be revised so as to encourage actual cultivation. It is no good telling the cultivators to grow more food. Government is insistent on the 'grow more food' drive, but the illogicality of the situation lies in the fact that the cultivator does not get his due. The lot of the ordinary cultivator is very miserable and he has to part with his crops with tears in his eyes and starvation and privations staring him in his face.

Then, we have had by force of circumstances to accept the full par value of the Pakistan rupee. If we had not delayed the matter so far, possibly we would have got the ratio in our favour. It is a fact that very powerful business interests in Calcutta had been suggesting to the Government to allow free trade between West Bengal and East Bengal. If this had been done in time, they would have come to a solution of the rupee valuation without Government interference. The Pakistan rupee would have found its own level by the force of demand and supply and it could have been reasonably expected that the par value of the Pakistan rupee would have been brought down much below its present level. I know that Pakistan rupee and Indian rupee were freely exchanged by immigrants from both sides at Dum Dum and Dacca Air Stations, and at Railway terminal stations between the two Bengals. Lakhs if not crores were being exchanged every day. The exchange rate was at the beginning about Rs. 105 Indian money for Rs. 100 Pakistan money. It gradually rose up to Rs. 115 and fluctuated between Rs. 110 and 115. Sometimes one could have got Pakistan money for less. So, I feel that if the tradesmen of these two countries had been allowed to trade freely, Pakistan money would have come down to a lower level, but we delayed the matter too long and we have to pay a heavy price for it. But at the same time I feel that, situated as we were at the time, it was inevitable that we should acknowledge the par value of the Pakistan rupee. There remains now only one logical course and that is to re-value our own rupee. I am not an expert in devaluation and re-valuation and I feel that large questions of principle which are not easily understandable to the ordinary man are involved. But I think that a *prima facie* case has been made out for re-valuation of our rupee. It is for the hon. Minister of

[Shri Naziruddin Ahmad]

Finance to consider the various aspects and relevant factors and re-value the Indian rupee at a proper level. It would, I think, be amply justified by circumstances now prevailing. I know that he is thinking of this, but I wanted to bring to his notice the general feeling in the House and I am sure that he will pay his earnest attention to this subject.

Then, with regard to some of the big tax-dodgers, I think that Government have been unduly lenient. Some of them who are even now committing evasions are trying to defeat the ends of justice by all sorts of questionable means. I suggest that some of these persons should be prosecuted. It is feared that prosecution will disturb them and some money which could have been obtained by means of sweet negotiations would be lost. I submit that no such fear should dominate us. We should fearlessly proceed in the matter purely on grounds of justice and fairplay. If we cannot excuse a small criminal for crimes done for the sake of bread on account of extreme necessity, what earthly reason can there be for showing undue leniency to big criminals who commit crimes not on account of necessity, but on account of sheer greed. I think no one should be above the law, no one should be above the Government. Government should proceed strongly against the big tax-dodgers and one or two sample cases would create a highly desirable atmosphere.

It is impossible for me to deal with all the aspects of the Budget. I shall deal with one or two more small matters before I sit down. Government have launched a large number of schemes and the result is that most of them have gone half way and we are now faced with shortage of money. I think that somehow or other we must find the money. It is no use producing a half-finished Damodar Valley Scheme. These half-finished schemes should be completed and people should get water and electricity so as to make the scheme paying. If we leave the thing at this stage, it would be committing another mistake.

Sir, it was pointed out by a respected Member of this House that this Budget is a Budget of frustration. That in fact is partly true. Acharya Kripalani made much of it, but he forgot to mention that his own criticism of the Budget was due to a frustration on his own part, which is a matter of history. I believe that he should have spared the Government of his own Party of all these bitter remarks. The latter portion of his speech sounded

like the peroration of the Athenian orators and was quite out of place in the discussion on a Budget.

In this connection, I should mention one thing on which I want to congratulate the Government and that is their decision to tax tobacco. Tobacco is an unnecessary thing. People burn their money into smoke and derive some pleasure. It seems to me therefore that tobacco is an article of luxury.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): What about photography?

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad: Photography is to please others. Persons who convert their money in a short time for an ephemeral pleasure must contribute something to improve the lot of the general public. Sir, I congratulate the Government on their proposal to levy a tax on tobacco and I hope it would be welcomed by all non-smokers in the House to which class I have the honour to belong

श्री कन्हैया लाल बाल्मीकी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का हृदय से आभारी हूँ कि आप ने दूसरी बार मुझे इस हाउस के समक्ष अपने विचार रखने का मौका दिया।

पिछले दो दिन से इस बजट पर बहस हो रही है। मैं यह कहूँगा कि यह बजट जो हमारे माननीय वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने पेश किया है बावजूद इस के कि उस की तारीफ़ की जाये या और बहुत सी बातें कही जायें, यह जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बजट में वह वायदे जो कि हमारे नेताओं ने या कांग्रेस ने किये थे कि हम गरीब आदमी को सोलैस (Solace) देंगे वह पूरे नहीं हुए हैं, सोलह आने पूरे नहीं हुए हैं। इस बजट को देखने से यह मालूम होता है कि किस तरह से टैक्सेज (Taxes) को बढ़ाया जाता है। हम यह मानते हैं कि यह घाटे का बजट है मगर और ३१ करोड़ के नये कर लगा कर उसे एक बचत का बजट दिखाया जाता है। तो यह एक ऐसी बात है कि जिस से गरीब आदमी

कों कोई फायदा नहीं पहुंचता है। सीधी बात तो यह है कि कुछ इस घाटे बाजी से तंग आ कर उस जन साधारण रूपी पेड़ के नीचे, चाहे हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय हों, चाहे रेलवे मंत्री महोदय हों, वह बैठ कर यह सोचते हैं कि किस तरह से उस घाटे को पूरा किया जाये। लेकिन उस सारे घाटे को नए करों द्वारा पूरा करने का बोझ तो गरीब आदमी के कंधों पर ही पड़ता है और वह उस से दबता जाता है।

आज चारों ओर की स्थिति को देखा जाये और उस स्थिति को देख कर इस बजट को हम देखें तो इस बजट में यह मालूम होता है कि एक आम आदमी की जिन्दगी एक दिक्कतों की जिन्दगी है, उस की जिन्दगी मजबूरी की जिन्दगी है और टोटे की जिन्दगी है। उस को खाने को अन्न मिलने में दिक्कत है, पहनने को कपड़ा मिलने में दिक्कत है और रहने को मकान मिलने में दिक्कत है। उस के सामने दुनिया भर की दिक्कतें हैं। इस बजट में ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है जिस से गरीब को राहत मिलती हो।

यहां पर इनफ्लेशन (Inflation) को दूर करने के लिये बहुत सी बातें कही जाती हैं और कही जाती रही हैं। और गवर्नमेंट के दिमाग के अन्दर, गवर्नमेंट के कागज के ऊपर और कलम के अन्दर कुछ भी कोई भी स्कीम रही हो, लेकिन इनफ्लेशन को दूर करने के लिये कोई ऐसा खास कदम या कोई ऐसी बचत की योजना नहीं बनी जिस से यह जाहिर हो सकता था कि उस योजना को चलाने से यह जो इनफ्लेशन का भूत हमारे सामने नज़र आता है वह खत्म हो जाता। और

इस इनफ्लेशन के लिये, मैं ही नहीं कहता बल्कि कोई भी मिडिल क्लास (middle class) की पैरवी करने वाले या जन साधारण की बात कहने वाले के सामने यह सीधा सवाल है कि आज भी देश के अन्दर इनफ्लेशन है। हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने भी अपने भाषण में यह महसूस किया है और माना है। उन्होंने ने इन करों को लगाते हुए इनफ्लेशन को माना है। लेकिन इन करों को लाने के बाद भी जाहिर है कि वह इनफ्लेशन बढ़ता ही जा रहा है। तम्बाकू तथा मिट्टी के तेल आदि पर इन नये करों के लगाने से, इस तरह से इनकम टैक्स पर सरचार्ज (Surcharge) लगाने से, इस इनफ्लेशन के अन्दर इजाफा हो रहा है, इस के अन्दर कोई घटोतरी नहीं हो रही है। इस से इनफ्लेशन को एक उकसावा मिलता है। सीधी बात तो यह है कि मुद्रा-स्फीति से जनसाधारण की जिन्दगी दिक्कत तलब होती जा रही है साथ साथ रोजमर्रा की ज़रूरियात की चीजों की कीमतें आसमान को छू रही हैं।

बात यह चाहिए थी कि इन करों को और रूप में भी लगाया जा सकता था। माननीय वित्त मंत्री ने कहा है कि राजस्व और पूंजी घाटे में अन्तर नहीं होना चाहिये। और उस में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से मुत्तफिक राय हूँ। लेकिन इन घाटों को और किसी तरह न ले जा कर आप ने यह कर लगाये हैं इस से तो साधारण आदमी की दिक्कतें बढ़ती जा रही हैं और उन दिक्कतों को आप दूर नहीं किया चाहते हैं।

इस मौके पर मैं यह जाहिर किया चाहता हूँ कि आप कर्ज ले कर भी उस

[श्री कन्हैया लाल बाल्मीकी]

चीज को कर सकते थे, गो कि उस के सम्बन्ध में भी आप पर मजबूरियां हो सकती थीं। हमारी सरकार कर्ज लेने में मजबूर रही है। इसलिये जब किसी और तरफ रास्ता नजर नहीं आया है तो इस तरह के नये कर लगाये हैं। हमारे सामने बहुत सी डेवलपमेंट की स्कीमें (Development Schemes) थी। उन को देखते हुए ज़रूरी था कि उन के लिए रुपया हो। उस रुपये के लिए रेलवे का किराया बढ़ा कर और तम्बाकू तथा मिट्टी के तेल पर कर-वृद्धि करके दूसरे तरीकों से करीब ५० करोड़ रुपया नये करों से आयेगा। लेकिन इन तमाम नये करों से इतना तो सब्र होता है कि वह एक भलाई के लिए है और हमारी डेवलपमेंट स्कीम के लिए है और इन करों के सिवाय और कोई चारा हो भी नहीं सकता था। फिर बाहर की परिस्थिति को देखते हुए और भीतर देश की परिस्थिति को देखते हुए यह ज़रूरी बात है कि यह खर्च किया जाये। जैसे डिफेंस (Defence) के खर्च को ले लीजिये। उस में कोई कटौती किसी तरह नहीं की जा सकती क्योंकि संसार की सामरिक स्थिति ऐसी है। घर के अन्दर भी स्थिति ऐसी है, जैसे कश्मीर की समस्या आदि। तो यह सब देखते हुए हम उस में कोई घटोतरी नहीं कर सकते। जहां तक पुनर्वास रिहैबीलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) का सम्बन्ध है उन स्कीमों के अन्दर भी उन के ज़रूरी होने के कारण कोई घटोतरी नहीं की जा सकती है। लेकिन कुछ ऐसी स्कीम हैं, जैसे कि हमारी ग्रीन मोर फूड स्कीम (Grow More Food Scheme) है। जाहिर

है कि वह कागजी और निकम्मी स्कीम रही है। उस से कोई सीधे सीधे किसान को फायदा नहीं पहुंचा है और उस रूप से तो मैं यह कहूंगा कि इस पर रुपया व्यर्थ ही खर्च किया गया है। इस के साथ साथ आपने देखा कि जब हमारे खाद्य मंत्री महोदय आये तो वनमहोत्सव बड़ी खुशी से मनाया गया और उस के अन्दर एक निराला ढंग दिखाया गया। वैदिक ऋचाओं का उच्चारण कर के और बड़े बड़े जलसे कर के पेड़ लगाने का एक करिश्मा सामने आया था। उस को देखने से मालूम होता है कि उस के अन्दर केवल एक प्रचार छी सी बात थी और उस से जनता के घन का नाश हुआ क्योंकि वह नये पौदे सब नष्ट हो गये। इस प्रकार जो करों के रूप में रुपया आता है उस में फ्रिडूल खर्ची होती है। और यह ही नहीं, जो बड़े हुए खर्चें गवर्नमेंट के दफ्तरों में हैं उन में कटौती होनी चाहिये थी। यह ज़रूरी बात है कि बहुत से निकम्मे खर्च इन दफ्तरों में हैं, उन को कम करने की ज़रूरत है।

इस के अलावा अभी इस हाउस में भी चिन्न हुआ है काफी खुलासा के साथ, जन साधारण की जागृति का। और बाहर के लोगों के दिमाग में भी यह बात है। आज जन साधारण जागा हुआ है और उस की प्रवृत्ति ऐसी नहीं है कि वह महज क्रिटिसाइज (criticise) करे असन्तोष के कारण। वह आज समझता है कि हमारे से जो कर लिया जाता है वह किस तरह खर्च होता है। जनता के अन्दर आज यह भावना है और मैं दावा करता हूं कि यह भावना आज़ादी की वजह से है। वह समझती है कि जो कुछ भी रुपया लिया जाय उस को जन हित की योजनाओं

पर ठीक ढंग पर खर्च किया जाये जिससे कि जनता में असन्तोष पैदा न हो। असन्तोष का एक कारण यह है कि उस रुपये का प्रयोग उस रूप से नहीं होता जिस से कि होना चाहिये। हमारे जो मंत्री गण हैं उन की जो समझदारी है उस के पीछे कुछ भी द्रष्टिकोण रहा हो किन्तु उस के पीछे सदसदात्मक बुद्धि का अभाव अवश्य है। लेकिन उस के साथ साथ एक बात यह भी है कि लाल फीता जिन के हाथ में होता है, फाइलों का एक गट्ठर जिन के सामने रखा हुआ होता है, उन आई सी०एस०अफसरों के अन्दर एक ऐसी पिछली शीथो अंग्रेज़ियत की प्रवृत्ति है जो कि आज भी हमारी मिनिस्ट्रीज (Ministries) को घेरे हुए है। वह मिनिस्ट्रीज आज भी उन लोगों के हाथ में खेल रही हैं और उन के इशारों पर चल रही हैं और वह लोग इन स्कीमों का एक बड़ा खुबसूरत नक़शा हमारे सामने पेश करते हैं किन्तु उन योजनाओं में हमें असफल होना पड़ता है, कुछ हमारी बुद्धि की कमी की वजह से नहीं, बल्कि उन अफसरों की ग़लत चालबाज़ी की वजह से। तो ज़रूरी बात है कि आप उन चालबाज़ियों को समझने की कोशिश करें।

चाहिये तो यह था कि इस तरह के जो फर्टिलाइज़र स्कैंडल (fertilizer scandal) आदि हुए हैं या प्रीफेब्रिकेटेड फेक्ट्री तथा शुगर आदि मडिल (muddle) हुए हैं उन पर एक्शन (action) लिया जाता। उन अफसरों को जो इन के लिये उत्तर दायी है कोर्ट के सामने पेश किया जाता और उन को मज़ायें दी जातीं और इस तरह जनता के सामने एक असधारण उदाहरण पेश किया जाता कि हमारी सरकार ऐसे लोगों को जो इस तरह से उसकी अवहेलना करते हैं, किस तरह सरकार सज़ा

देती है और दंडित करती है और अगर जनता ऐसी हम से आशा करती है, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि उसकी ऐसी आशा करना ग़लत नहीं है। अगर आप उन अपराधी अफसरों को किसी बजह से कोर्ट के सामने नहीं लाना चाहते थे, तो डिपार्टमेंटल कार्यवाही करना तो आप के हाथ में है और वह उन के खिलाफ़ करनी चाहिये थी, लेकिन उसमें भी कमी ज़ाहिर की गई है।

आज जो घनी वर्ग हैं मिल मालिक और जमींदार हैं वह काले कारनामे कर रहे हैं, और इन्कम टैक्स से बचने के कारनामे वही करते हैं और वह अक्सर साफ़ बच भी जाते हैं। मैं और आप सब उन की चालबाज़ियों से काफ़ी परिचित हैं। हमारी सरकार ने कोई भी ऐसा उदाहरण घनी पुरुष का नहीं रखा कि जिस को कोर्ट के सामने लाया जाता और इस प्रकार दंड देकर जनता के टैक्स के रूप में आने वाले धन को बचाया जाता। आज होता क्या है अगर कोई एक मामूली किसान या मजदूर कोई ग़लती कर बैठता है, तो उसी वक्त वह सब के सामने ज़ाहिर कर दिया जाता है और कोर्ट में दंड दिलाया जाता है, लेकिन एक बड़ा आदमी चाहे वह लाखों रुपये की चोरबाज़ारी करे, लाखों रुपये के काले कारनामे करे, उस को कोर्ट के सामने नहीं लाया जाता है। इसलिये जनता का यह ख्याल है कि सरकार धनियों का साथ देती है, हालांकि मैं मानता हूँ कि सरकार धनियों का साथ नहीं देती है। लेकिन यह ठीक है कि आम लोगों में यह एक आम धारणा हो गई है।

मैं तो एक लेमैन (layman) की हैसियत में होने से पैसे के मामले में ज्यादा समझ नहीं रखता हूँ, लेकिन मैं इस बजट के बारे में सिर्फ़ इतना कहना चाहता हूँ

[श्री कन्हया लाल बाल्मीकी]

कि इस बजट के अन्दर देहात को उन्नति की योजना नहीं रखी गई है। अभी पिछले दिनों की बात है, हमारे त्यागी साहब ने यहां देहात के किसानों के लिये काफी जोर शोर से कहा और देहात के लोगों की बुनियादी दिक्कतें बताई और सरकार से उन्हें हल करने पर जोर दिया और जो दिक्कतें उन की हैं, उन्हें मुझ से पहले त्यागी जी जानते हैं गांव की छोटी छोटी कोटेज इन्डस्ट्रीज (Cottage Industries) हैं वे दम तोड़ रही हैं। उन को जिन्दा रखना है, उन को जिन्दा रखने के बारे में आपने कोई प्रोग्राम नहीं रखा है। मैं इस पर कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता।

मैं एक, दो मिनट में जो मेरे बाक़ी हैं अजर्जुनमेंट मोशन (Adjournment motion) के बारे में जिक्र करना चाहता हूं जो पिछले दो तीन दिन हुए यहां पर आया था, और उस मोशन के लाने वाले को तथा माननीय गृह मन्त्री तथा माननीय प्रधान मन्त्री महोदय को उन के स्टेटमेंट पर अपने हरिजन भाइयों की ओर से समस्त हरिजन भाइयों की ओर से धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। इस स्टेटमेंट से हरिजनों को बल मिला है। उन में नव आशा का संचार हुआ है। पंजाब में जो स्थिति है, वह बहुत असंतोषजनक है और हम नहीं चाहते कि वह जारी रहे, हरिजनों की दशा वहां सुधरनी चाहिये। यहां ठीक है कि पहले से उन की स्थिति में सुधार हुआ है, हेरफेर हुआ है, लेकिन आज भी आजादी मलने के बाद भी हरिजनों की दशा करीब करीब सभी स्टेट्स में दयनीय तथा सोचनीय सी है देश में सब जगह पंजाब की सी स्थिति नहीं है, लेकिन कहीं कहीं पर आज भी जरूर है। हमें चाहिये कि सारे देश में बसने वाले हरिजनों की

दशा को ध्यान में रखते हुए, उन के जो प्रीबिलेजेज (privileges) है, राइट्स (Rights) हैं, जो उन के अधिकार हैं उन की रक्षा करें, निगहवानी करें और साथ साथ उन पर जो अलग अलग हमले या अलग अलग अत्याचार कहीं होते हैं, उनको हटा सकें और दूर कर सकें। ऐसा प्रबन्ध किया जाये, और मैं इसी बात पर जोर दूंगा कि एक ऐसी योजना लाई जाये या कोई ऐसा कमीशन विठाय जाये, या न्यायाधीश नियुक्त किया जाये जो संविधान बनने के पश्चात् हरिजनों की स्थिति को समझ कर उस में सुधार सुझा सके। साथ साथ मेरा सुझाव है कि केन्द्र में हरिजनों के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिये एक मजबूत हरिजन विभाग हो।

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. He has already finished his time.

श्री कन्हयालाल बाल्मीकी: बस मैं अपने आखिरी अल्फाज मैं माननीय वित्त मन्त्री को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Balmiki (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to express my views in the House for the second time. The debate on this Budget is continuing for the last two days. I would only submit that instead of praising and paying tributes to the Budget which our hon. Minister has presented, I must say that the assurances given by our leaders or the Congress of giving solace to the poor people, have not been fulfilled at all. If we see this Budget we find how taxes have been increased. I admit that it is a deficit Budget, but it has been shown as a surplus one by imposing new taxes to the tune of 31 crores. The imposing of new taxes is such a matter by which the poor people are in no way benefited. The long and short of it is this that be it the Finance Minister or be it the Railway-

Minister, finding no way out, they have tried to find means to make up the deficits by turning to the common man ultimately. But the burden of making up of the whole deficit through the newly imposed taxes is thrown upon the poor only and he is hard pressed because of these taxes. If we see the Budget considering the condition obtaining throughout the country we find that the life of common man is full of hardships, helplessness and insufficiency. It is difficult for him to obtain foodgrains to feed himself, to obtain cloth to clothe himself or to get a house to accommodate himself. He has to face all sorts of difficulties. There is no such provision in this Budget which may give relief to the poor. In this House many steps are being suggested or have been suggested to check inflation, whatever scheme the Government might have contemplated or might have made have till now remained paper scheme, and the Government have not taken any special steps or have made no such scheme, which would have indicated that by undertaking that scheme the serious problem of inflation, which is before us, would have ended. It is not only I who talk of this inflation, but this question also confronts those advocates supporting the cause of middle classes or masses that even today inflation is there in the country. Our hon. Minister of Finance in his speech has realized and admitted this fact. While imposing new taxes he has admitted that inflation does exist in the country. Even after imposition of these taxes it is obvious that inflation is increasing more and more. By imposing these new taxes on tobacco and kerosene oil, inflation is on the increase and in no way it is decreasing. By these steps inflation gets incentive. The fact is this that the life of the masses is becoming full of hardships. Along with this, the prices of the commodities of daily necessity are rising high unproportionately. These taxes could have also been imposed in other forms. The hon. Minister of Finance has stated that there should be no difference in revenue and capital expenditure. In this matter I agree with the hon. Minister. But without trying to find out any other solution, he has imposed these taxes on account of which the difficulties of common man have increased and it does not appear that the Government intend to alleviate those difficulties.

On this occasion I want to state that the Government could have done that by even getting loans, although in that case too there might have been certain limitations. Our Government have failed in raising loans. Thus when there was no way out these new taxes

have been imposed. We had various development schemes, they require funds for carrying out those schemes. To provide funds for that purpose, 50 crore rupees will be realised by increasing the Railway fares and taxes on tobacco and kerosene oil and by other ways. But one derives satisfaction from the fact that these taxes are intended for our betterment and development schemes and there is no way out other than these taxes. Considering the conditions obtaining throughout the world and the condition in our own country, it is necessary to incur some expenditure. For example, take the case of the expenditure on Defence of the country. No cut can be affected in the defence expenditure due to the war-like conditions prevailing in the world. Also on the Home front we are facing such problems like that of Kashmir. Keeping in view all these facts, we cannot effect any cut in the Defence expenditure. So far as the rehabilitation is concerned, this scheme being necessary, expenditure cannot be cut down. But there are certain schemes, such as "Grow More Food" scheme. It is evident that it has been a paper scheme and has been a failure. The poor cultivator has not been benefited by this scheme and I submit that in this way money has been wasted on that scheme. You have also seen that when our hon. Minister of Food took charge the *Vanmahotsava* was celebrated with great rejoicings and unique touch was given to it by enchanting hymns from *Veds* and under pompous celebrations trees were planted. When we see it we find that *Vanmahotsava* has been nothing more than a propaganda, and public money has been wasted as the plants that were planted have dried up. Thus a part of the money, which is realized as taxes, is spent wastefully. The matter should not end here, we should cut down the Government expenditure in its offices. No doubt it is true that there are many items on which money is spent uselessly, which need be eliminated.

Besides this, the awakening of the masses has been vividly described in this House just now. People outside India also realize it. Masses are awakened today and it is not their tendency only to criticize the Government due to their dissatisfaction. Now the people are conscious about the way the taxes are realised from them and how they are spent. This is the feeling of the masses and I claim that this feeling is due to our Independence only. The masses think that whatever money is realised should be properly spent on the schemes for public welfare so that there may not be dissatisfaction among the people. One of the

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Reasons of dissatisfaction is that the money is not used the way it should have been used. Whatever viewpoints might have been behind the mentality of our Ministers but there is a positive lack of approach. The I.C.S. officers, who still retain the tendency which was prevalent during the British regime, and who are known for the red-tapism, are handling bulky files, and influencing our Ministries. The Ministries are playing in their hands. These officers present before us an attractive picture of these schemes but we meet failure in those schemes not because of the lack of our foresightedness but because of the attitude of these officers. It is, therefore necessary that you should try to know their attitude.

It was proper in the fitness of the things that action should have been taken against those officers responsible for such scandals like the fertilizers scandal or pre-fabricated factory scandal and sugar muddle etc. The officers held responsible for these scandals should have been brought before the court and punished and thus an unprecedented example would have been put before the people that those who defy the Government are punished in this way. If the people have such expectations from us, I think it is not unjust if they so expect. If, for any reasons, you did not like to bring them before the court, yet it was within your authority to take departmental action against them and action should have been taken against them. But no departmental action too has been taken.

The rich class, the mill owners and landlords are doing misdeeds. This is the class which is evading income tax and generally they go scot free. All of us are well aware of their tactics. Our Government have not quoted any example of any rich man against whom legal action was taken. It would have resulted in the fact that money which is realised from the people in the form of taxes could have been saved. But if a petty peasant or a labourer commits any wrong he is at once exposed and legal action is taken against him, but no legal action is taken against a rich person who may even be indulging in blackmarketing and may have grabbed lacs of rupees. This is why people think that the Government sides with the rich, although I do not believe that the Government sides with the rich persons. But it is correct that it is the common feeling of the people in general.

I as a layman have no special knowledge of money matters, still I want to say only this much that no scheme for rural development has been included in this Budget. Only a few days back Shri Tyagi had pleaded strongly for the peasantry and had stated the real difficulties of the villagers urging the Government to solve them. Shri Tyagi knows the difficulties of the villagers more than I. The small scale cottage industries in the villages are at the verge of collapse, they have got to be revived, and for their revival no scheme or programme has been included in the Budget. I do not want to speak more on this subject. In my remaining time, I want to speak about the adjournment motion which was moved in this House two days ago. I want to convey thanks to the mover of the motion. I also want to thank the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the Harijan Community for the statement they made thereupon. The Harijans got great inspirations from that statement and it has created new hopes in them. The condition of Harijans in Punjab is very unsatisfactory. We do not want it to continue and so their condition should improve there. It is right that there has been some improvement and change in their condition, but even today after our Independence, the condition of Harijans is pitiable practically in all the States. The condition of Harijans in other parts of the country is not like that in Punjab, but even today their condition is the same at most places. Keeping in view the condition of Harijans living throughout the country we should safeguard the rights and privileges of Harijans and we should see to it that no individual attack is made on them and that they are not harassed in anyway. I would emphasize that such a scheme should be prepared according to which a commission should be set up or some Judge be appointed who could suggest suitable amendments in the Constitution after studying the condition prevailing among the Harijans. I also suggest that there should be a regular department in the Centre, to look after and safeguard the rights of Harijans.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has already finished his time.

Shri Balmiki: With these words Sir, I want to thank the hon. Minister of Finance.

Shri Madhava Rau (Orissa): Reading the budget speeches made by successive Finance Ministers since partition one cannot help feeling that

our economic position is fast deteriorating. Our food ration is down to 9 oz., less than half the quantity that prisoners in jail and people employed on famine relief works used to get before. The cost of living is mounting up and no one can predict where the upward movement will stop or feel assured that it will be reversed some day. Our national expenditure is rising from year to year, in all directions. Our cash balances are dwindling and, with this, the gap between revenue-bearing national obligations and interest-yielding assets is steadily widening. The improvement in our balance of payments position—which may or may not last for a long period—is the one hopeful feature of the situation.

Mr. Deshmukh has observed that "the problem of holding the prices of commodities in check has been one of the major preoccupations of Government in the years following the end of the war". But patently the measures adopted to this end, though varied and experimental, have been totally inadequate. It affords little consolation to be told with reference to the latest spurt of prices that the Korean war has given an impetus to the rise of prices all over the world and that we are only feeling the impact of an inescapable world factor. I believe that in all countries with a stable monetary economy prices have been held under greater control than in our country.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): In making this statement that in other countries the rise in prices has been much better held, does the hon. Member refer to the last twelve months since the emergence of the Korean situation?

Shri Madhava Ran: I was not speaking of the Korean situation. I was really speaking of the rise in prices which has taken place long before devaluation, long before the Korean situation, in other words from 1943 onwards to 1947. The index number was about 290 at the beginning of 1947 and reached 314 by the end of December 1947. There are short periods which looked as if prices had become stabilized, though at a high level. It was during one of those periods that Dr. Matthai told this House that there was considerable cause for negative satisfaction but as prices had shown no downward tendency, he had frankly confessed that there was no cause for positive satisfaction.

We have been often told that the remedy for this is production and more production and saving and more saving. Some American friends have varied

this formula. They believe that our salvation lies in more production and less reproduction. We are making no progress on any of these lines. The Finance Minister says that the level of industrial production in 1950 in a number of industries has been encouraging but when he adds that the three major industries, cotton textiles, sugar and jute have been affected by difficulties in regard to supplies of raw material, his statement becomes devoid of significance. Let us hope that these difficulties will be alleviated by the recent Trade Agreement with Pakistan which promise to provide for us the necessary quantities of jute and cotton, besides a certain amount of foodgrains. But what prevented, one may ask the Government from concluding this or a similar agreement very much earlier, thereby avoiding considerable loss of production of cotton textiles and jute manufactures? Was it because we stood on our false prestige and refused to recognize the Pakistan rupee at its par value? What would have happened if private trade had been allowed within a certain quantitatively or monetary limits, leaving the Rupee of Pakistan and India to find their own levels? But apart from raw materials, there have been labour troubles. There have also been transport difficulties which are luckily no longer a bottle-neck today. The real trouble now is about capital. The familiar remedy in part for inflation is to mop up surplus money in the hands of the consuming public. This has been done with a vengeance, so that there is no surplus left for investment. Dr. Matthai once said "a balanced national budget may, and often does, cover a multitude of ill balanced family budgets". If we have not yet realized the truth of this statement, the Finance Minister is now determined to drive it home, to us.

With regard to the food situation, natural calamities are being urged year after year as the cause of growing deterioration. But these calamities occur every year in some part or other of this vast sub-continent; and yet when things go wrong, perhaps through our own default, we speak as if we were surprised and exonerated by nature's fickleness. The fact of the matter is probably after the separation of Burma and the partition of India, this country has become deficit in point of food-stuffs to the extent of 3-4 million tons. To make up this deficit, which amounts to only 10 per cent. of the total requirements, might sound simple. But it is a matter of time; it is a matter of proper organization and sometimes the result achieved might be nullified by reasons beyond our control. Such being the position, the declaration that there shall be no imports of foodgrains

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after 1951 even if there should be floods and earthquakes shows courage and optimism, but ignores well known facts. That the country should achieve self-sufficiency in food as quickly as possible is an ideal which none will dispute, but an ideal is one thing and a fool's paradise is another. If we had imported foodgrains in time this year, as we could well have done, we would not have been leading this so called ship-to-mouth existence and taking the begging bowl round not only to America which is a land of plenty but also to China, which has its own starving population and asking for small loans of grain from Ceylon of all countries which raises only a third of its own food requirements.

The Grow More Food Campaign is conceived in the main on right lines, but one would like to know whether the results both in the aggregate and in respect of individual items of the programme are commensurate with the effort and the expenditure involved. For instance, an official report for 1948-49 says that it was estimated that the total area benefited by this Campaign was 89 lakh acres and the additional production at 8 lakh tons. One suspects that these figures have been arrived at on the basis of certain conventional hypotheses. Their verification by an independent agency seems to be eminently desirable. Further it is not sufficient to augment supplies of foodgrains but if the battle against inflation should at all be successful, the price of foodgrains must be kept down, if necessary by subsidising. I therefore, do not feel very happy about the new scheme of procurement bonuses, and confining rationing at controlled prices only to certain industrial and other centres.

There is one thing, Sir, so far, in the present position in which we are now placed. I do not believe that there was much choice for the Government with regard to the financing of public expenditure. The attempts of Government with regard to public borrowing have resulted during the last 3 or 4 years in a net outgoing of more than Rs. 100 crores. In the private sector too there has been very little industrial activity due mostly for want of capital. It is not a matter of surprise and certainly a matter even for undue criticism that the Government are now trying to finance capital works by increasing tax revenues. In the circumstances in which they are now placed with a capital market which they see no hope of wooing any longer with any prospect of success and with cash balances running down to a point of

danger, I do not see how this would be helped, and I do not suppose that there would be any serious objection to this policy if there was any assurance that the vast sums raised by taxation would be wisely and economically applied in the public interest. Unfortunately the Government's record of performance holds out no such assurance. One has only to read the Estimate Committee's report and I take this occasion to pay my tribute to the authors of the report to appreciate the colossal waste of money that is taking place on establishments, secretariats, directorates, Directorates General etc. I could myself give a catalogue of some of the extravagant things which one can easily pick out. The Finance Minister has pleaded that the Defence expenditure and the greater part of civil expenditure are of an obligatory character and afford no room for retrenchment. This may or may not be so. But, what the public feel is that while they are being asked to tighten their belts and live a life of austerity, these exhortations are so little backed by any example set by the Government.

4 P.M.

Perhaps, the gravity of the present situation disclosed in the Budget may serve to awaken their financial conscience and bring back sanity and realism to the administration of public affairs. If so, we need not despair of the country's economic recovery. How long that will take, the Finance Minister has not ventured to predict. He is apparently not one of those who believe that the worst is over and that prosperity is just round the corner. He modestly turns over the role of prophecy to the National Planning Commission with an elaborate caution, however, that we are not to expect too much even from that august body. We too can get no further than that.

Shri D. D. Pant (Uttar Pradesh): It must have been very boring to the hon. Finance Minister to hear anything and everything that is being said about the Budget in this House. I wholeheartedly sympathise with him in that he has to reckon with all these things.

It is a convention that in a General Discussion on the Budget, everything relating to administration is discussed. Within the short time of 15 minutes, I should have thought that hon. Members would suggest things which might bring some light to him.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair.]

Circumstances being what they are, I do not think that any Finance Minister in the world could have produced a better Budget than what Mr. Deshmukh has done. After all, the Budget of a Government is an expression of the basic economic policies of that Government. Unless the Government is prepared to change its basic economic policies, the Budget cannot be different from what it is. The hon. Finance Minister has taxed bidis; he has raised the tax on liquor, on incomes and other things. Even if the hon. Finance Minister had put a tax of Rs. 10 on every person who gets grey hair, I would not have been surprised. For, after all, the money has to be produced to run the Government. Other things being equal it is the economic policy of the Government that is reflected in the Budget. The Government is not prepared to change the basic economic policy. That is the root of all evil. In fact, the Budget is what it is today on account of the fact that there exists something like article 31 in our Constitution. We have accepted that Constitution. As long as it stands, I do not know what the Finance Minister could do to produce more money for the country. When I told Dr. Matthai last year that his theory of capital formation was an illusion, and that he would very soon be disillusioned about it, he told me that I was talking like a Professor of Economics. I am glad that this year, the Finance Minister has recognised that fact and he has tried to put the burden of national economic development on the poor. After all, there is a certain limit to the capacity of the poor to pay. Unless the production of wealth in the country is increased, I do not know how the poor will be able to pay these taxes.

There are two great contradictions in the economic life of the country that I have not been able to understand. One of them was also referred to by my hon. friend Mr. Bhagat. While it is admitted that there is inflation and prices are high why are not industries expanding? Another thing is this. When I started studying Economics, probably, one of the first lessons that my professor gave me was about population. Population increases as the wheat crop increases; it decreases as the wheat declines. He used to illustrate this by means of graphs which he had taken from America. While production of food in the country is decreasing, and we are compelled to go to other countries to beg food, our population is going on

increasing. That is another contradiction which our Government will have to reconcile and solve. It is admitted today that production in every field has decreased. If any industry is running full speed it is the industry of producing children, and nothing else.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): What is it that you suggest?

Shri D. D. Pant: I will come to that. Mr. Munshi has been, for a long time, trying to grow more food. But, I am surprised how he is expecting to grow more food. He has already spent 40 crores on it.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That is not correct; he has spent about 40 crores.

Shri D. D. Pant: Even if it is twenty-five crores that is more than enough. But, the great mistake that he is making is that he hopes to grow more food by ploughing papers with his fountain pen. Food cannot be grown in this way. Food can be produced by actually inducing the cultivator to raise more crops. How could you induce him to grow more unless you make his life worth living for him, and make him feel that he is doing something creative? Therefore, my submission is this. What the country wants is a radical change in its basic economic policy. It is not anything new that we have to do. We have got the examples of other countries in the world. Take the example of Russia. Where from do they find all this money for their development? What is the meaning of money? We think that money is something, the idea about which has been given to us only by the Britishers or by other capitalist countries. The other day, Professor Morris Dobbs was delivering a lecture about Soviet Planning in the Constitution Club. One of the Press representatives asked the question, how Russia was producing all the money for these Master Plans like the Stalin Master Plan for controlling nature. He said, once you have fixed the target, it will be automatically financed. You can print notes and ask the people to cover these notes by the goods that they produce. Once you do that, I do not know how this money problem arises at all.

About inflation, my hon. friends have got a wrong idea. The inflation in the country today has been created not by over-issue of money, but by scarcity of goods. If you think that your producers—the money grabbers whom you mis-call industrialists or capitalists—are producing things and doing justice to the money that they

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are getting from the public, you are wrong. They are not producing, but trying to create scarcity to get as high a price as they could for their products. Even if you import articles, say foodgrains and the like and give them for distribution to them, they will hoard and destroy them and keep up the prices to make more money. The only thing that they produce is really more money for themselves and nothing else. Therefore, I will say, do not stick to this article 31 of the Constitution. The first thing that the Finance Minister should do is to advise the Government to revise the Constitution and knock off this article and take over the industries. Then, he can print as much money as he likes and give it to Trusts, to industrial concerns and other co-operative societies and ask them to produce and cover that money with goods. He will find within a short time that this inflation has vanished. It is because we are still sticking to these orthodox systems of economics and orthodox ideas of capital that all these things are happening.

After all, even the greatest Finance Minister of the world—you may call him a Finance Minister—is only a glorified accountant of the nation. He puts all the income on one side and all the expenditure on the other. If he cannot raise the incomes, he is not at fault. Because, he can only put that income on the income side which can be produced in the country. If the production in the country is not rising, how can he raise the income. Therefore, the main question is of raising the production. My hon. friend Mr. Goenka said that we can get so much money from the Tea cess and this and that. That is all a false idea of economics which was well suited to the 19th Century. You cannot solve your problems unless you raise the levels of production in the country, because, after all, capital is nothing but a surplus of subsistence, and unless you raise those actual goods or commodities, you cannot have any capital formation. The capitalist may have crores in the banks, but if there is no production, if there are no goods to cover that money, how can you call that capital? I may raise a lot of tomatoes, but can I keep them? I may have tomatoes worth a lakh of rupees but will they last one year? They will perish. I can't save wealth; but only money. The actual production in the country and the actual consumption of goods in the country are the real income and expenditure of the country. Our expenditure may be great, but that is

no fault of the hon. Finance Minister. He reminds me of a friend of mine who inherited a Chandeller car from his father. That car would go only a mile or a mile and half per gallon and the only virtue of it, my friend said was that it gave him a fluid drive and he was keeping it because he could not afford to purchase another car. Similarly, just because we do not have another administrative machinery we stick to the present one which goes only a mile and a half per gallon. Sir, unless a new administrative machinery is put in with a new inspiration as in China or in Russia you cannot have anything better than a car doing a mile and a half per gallon. This is the machinery which the British had created for a police State and if we try to pull and stretch it here and there to make it suit a welfare State, what else can you have but leakages and trouble all over? An ordinary man cannot get anything done even with the orders of an hon. Minister. He has to oil a particular nut somewhere, otherwise the machinery will not work. He has to oil a particular screw. Of course that is the fault of the machinery, not that of the hon. the Finance Minister. Take again the defence expenditure. China which but recently had a capitalist policy has an army of 5 millions and we with a comparatively small army have to spend such a huge sum on it. Why? The reason is this. The real fighting army of China is not so big, the bigger part is the militia which meets its own cost by doing constructive work and produce wealth, and so the nation can have such a large army.

Therefore I say that mere tinkering here and there is not going to do anything and as I said, it is not the fault of the hon. Finance Minister. Under the circumstances, he has produced the best Budget he could and he deserves the congratulations of the whole House.

Shri J. P. Srivastava (Uttar Pradesh): It was not my intention to take part in this discussion, but I have been tempted to speak because I wish to make one or two observations. We have had a plethora of praise and abuse showered on the Finance Minister. We have had appreciation and criticism. We have had bouquets and brick-bats. Sir, I do not wish to take part in this game of praise or criticism. All the same, I wish to make one or two observations which I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will take in the light in which they are offered.

Sir, the Budget has been called an unorthodox one. Well I do not know

what that means. One criticism is that the Finance Minister has tried to meet recurring expenditure by taxation. This is held to be wrong. I entirely agree with that view. I think it is wrong for us to penalise the present for the sake of posterity. After all the amount of taxation raised in this country does not exceed more than Rs. 50 crores. What we want for our development programme is about ten times that sum, and unless we can borrow money and raise capital freely, we cannot tackle the vast work of the development of this country. The Finance Minister said that his borrowing programme is limited to Rs. 140 crores or something like that—I hope I am right. And he confesses that he cannot raise more than that this year. Then this seems to be an alarming state of affairs. If a country like India cannot lend more than Rs. 140 crores for the productive work of the Government, then something must be wrong somewhere. We say that capital is shy. But has the Finance Minister found out why it is so? Has he found out the causes for this shyness? Where is this capital lying? Why is it that this capital is shying? Does he realise that there has been a movement of wealth from the large income groups to the small income groups? They seem to think that a certain detested class of people called the capitalists—I do not know who they are—have got all the money. Well, I would like the Finance Minister to give an estimate which he must have made, of the money which he thinks is lying with the capitalists and which can be invested.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : आप के पास कितने हैं ?

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: How much do you possess?]

Shri J. P. Srivastava: Nothing, only bank over-draft.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am not in a position to make an estimate as much of it is hidden from me.

Shri J. P. Srivastava: Well, that is a confession again. But he is a shrewd enough man and I think, Sir, that he can make a shrewd enough guess of the amount of money that is lying hidden in the vaults of the banks and in the vaults of the people.

Sir, the Budget is, therefore, wrong from that point of view. I would call it a prefabricated budget and it may be subject to the same difficulties as other such structures.

Let us look at the economic condition of the country. The Industries which should be the backbone of every country are in a bad way. That is not denied. Production has fallen and is steadily falling. In U.P. alone during the last year I believe 2 million man-hours were lost because of want of raw material and labour troubles. That is a very serious state indeed. Unless you raise production you can never make both ends meet in this country.

One cause which is hampering production and worrying the manufacturers and industrialists is that the policy of the Government is variable and is varying. You have controls but you do not stick to them. You change them every second day. You take the case of cotton cloth control. You released a large quota of cloth for export. You permitted some mills to export the whole of their production and other mills were not allowed any quota at all. You suddenly come down and say no mill can export more than 40 per cent. of their production. But some of the mills were exporting their entire out-turn and had secured orders against it. Indian cloth was taking on very well in foreign markets. It has earned a name for itself and it would be a great pity if through our Government's vacillating policy this market is lost to India.

Then take the jute muddle. We heard something about it. Jute was allowed to be exported at a price which landed India in a huge loss. I do not know who was responsible for that.

I read only yesterday in a paper that the British Trade Commissioner has stated that foreign capital is shy in this country and why? Because of the level of taxation and restrictions imposed by Government. If you admit that your own capital is not forthcoming and foreign capital will not come to this country either, what are you going to do to increase production and to start new industries? This is a very serious problem. During the whole of last year I think I am right in saying that virtually no new industries have been started in this country. Yet there is complete stagnation and frustration. What is the reason? The Finance Minister must answer that.

Turning to food, the situation in the country is going from bad to worse. I think this is generally recognised and so I need not labour the point. We aimed at self-sufficiency in 1951 and we have failed miserably. What is the cause? The blame is laid at the door of a few calamities. I admit that there

[Shri J. P. Srivastava]

were calamities during the last year but would you name a single year during the last twenty years in which there have been no calamities? I do not say that last year's calamity was not of a big magnitude but even so the overall deficiency should not have been so much. Are you sure as to what the deficiency is? It has been stated that the deficiency is 6 million tons. I want to know who has calculated it and how. (Shri Sidhva: From papers.) I maintain that it is not possible to arrive at an accurate figure of deficiency. I know something of it and that is why I am saying it. (An Hon. Member: It is only approximate.) It cannot be approximate even. Unless you know what each cultivator has produced, unless you know what each cultivator has eaten, unless you know what each cultivator brought out to the market, you cannot estimate the deficiency. The Government is going on a formula which the late Government adopted in order to satisfy the opposition and the formula is being continued.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): Was it concocted in your time?

Shri J. P. Srivastava: We were being asked to state something which it was not possible to state and that seems to be continued now.

Shri Hussain Imam: Thank you for the information.

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): In which year did you concoct that formula?

Shri J. P. Srivastava: I said that we concocted a formula and I want you to confess that you are continuing it. The same formula has gone on to this day.

The Reserve Bank has recently stated that the Grow More Food Campaign is a fiasco and a failure.

An Hon. Member: Who began it?

Shri J. P. Srivastava: I will not say what I think of it. The Grow More Food Campaign has failed to achieve the results which were claimed for it.

An Hon. Member: How?

J. P. Srivastava: It is for the Government to find out the reasons. Joking apart this is a very serious matter. Starvation stalks the land. I do not know what you would call starvation. A nine ounce ration is starvation.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह, आप तो भोटे

हैं।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: At least you are not starving.]

Shri J. P. Srivastava: On 9 oz. a man may not die in six weeks or two months but he may die in six months or one year. Still it is starvation: that is what it is.

I am very concerned to see that there is growing opposition to the grant of food by U.S.A. Will the hon. Finance Minister say what he is going to do if that amount of foodgrains is not given? What is going to happen to this country? If the U.S.A. wants us to pay for that food where is the money to come from, because food we must have. I am sure, Sir, these are matters which merit the serious attention of the Government.

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan): In speaking immediately after one of the elderly gentlemen here and one of the oldest Members of this House, I am tempted to say a few things by way of reply to what has fallen from him. About the transfer of capital expenditure to revenue account, he has said that it is not any principle to penalise the present generation for the sake of posterity. May I remind him that the bulk of the Members of this House come from a party and have staked their lives and all that was dear and near in their lives for the sake of posterity. In the freedom struggle we never cared whether we were going to live or die. We cared for the honour of the country and for the posterity that is to come. So, to say these things to us now is too late in the day. He was also reminding us about food and saying that a nine-ounce ration meant slow starvation. But slow starvation is much better than abrupt starvation and death. Thirty-five lakhs of our countrymen died during his time. It is to the credit of this Government that not a single person has died of starvation. He again asked the Finance Minister what we would do if the U.S.A. would not give us the two million tons of food grains. I would say that we would manage with whatever we have and stand on our own legs. We would not sell our souls. Let them be reminded, who are so touchy.....

Shri J. P. Srivastava: On a point of explanation. I believe my friend was referring to the Bengal famine when he referred to thirty-five lakhs dead. May I tell him that I was not in charge of Food at that time.....

An Hon. Member: He was a Member of that Government?

Shri J. P. Srivastava:and when I took over I put things right.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): Mr. Chairman, may I make a submission? The House may as well leave out the references to the American food supply or food gift, because we are relying on reports which are not entirely true and which may be from interested quarters. Therefore, as the situation is still delicate and Government do not know fully as to what is happening as yet, I would suggest that the House may not discuss that question.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I will not expatiate upon it.

Our friend then said that it is false to say that capital is shy. Who can forget the speech made last year by the then Finance Minister when he gave so many reliefs and concessions in the hope and eager expectation that capital would come forward and stand by the country? If we scan the budgetary figures for the last three years we will find that in 1948-49 relief to the tune of Rs. 4.57 crores was given by way of reduction in the business profits tax. Again in 1949-50 there was additional relief of Rs. 5 crores when the capital gains tax and the business profits tax were dropped. Last year also there was relief given to the tune of Rs. 15 crores. So, in the last three years Rs. 25 crores have been given by way of relief and concession in the cherished hope that the nation would benefit from the hands of these capitalists. It is a pity and a sad story that they have not been able to stand by the country. Therefore, I say that the Budget which has now been presented to this House is a direct result and a direct acceptance of that challenge thrown by the capitalists. They have not stood by the country. They have falsified all the hopes we cherished in them. Now the Finance Minister, in a bold step, has asked the common man to stand on his own legs, and a time will come when the country and the common man can, without any qualm of conscience, say to the capitalists, "Friends, when the country was in need, you did not stand by it. When we are able to take control of industry, of all that you have got, we shall do it without any qualms."

Shri Hussain Imam: Why not take away the concessions?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am one with my friend there. I know we are labouring under certain limitations. There cannot be a vacuum. If I had the confidence I would take over those things without the slightest hesitation.

Sir, when I say that it is a bold step, I fully realise that it is a challenge to us and to our patriotism. Of course, it would have been an ideal thing if the Budget had given some relief to the common man. I am really pained to see that even the tobacco of the poor man has been taxed. When we go to the villages, the cultivators who produce the tobacco say with deep regret that when calculated the burden on tobacco comes to Rs. 165 per *bagha*, which is a colossal burden. The poor cultivator can hardly afford to bear it. Again, I have not been able to understand why such a thing as kerosene which lights up the huts in the hamlets and villages of India, which is used by the poor people, has been taxed to get a paltry sum of Rs. 15 lakhs. In paragraph 64 of Part B of the Finance Minister's speech, he says that this has been done to equalize the duties of customs and excise, and that this change is consequential. Even granting that it is consequential, I would request, I would beg of him, to drop this part of the Budget proposals. It is going to yield us only Rs. 15 lakhs. The amount of charge and discontent which it will engender in the common man is colossal. And so far as the taxation of tobacco is concerned, at least the grower should be assured that his needs would be met without any extra burden upon him.

Sir, during these days of general discussion, as has been customary with us for the last three or four years, a volley of encomiums as well as opprobriums have been showered on the Finance Minister. We have been told stories of frustration, of failures, of blackmarketing, corruption, and all sorts of complaints. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee reminded us that the Budget was a cheerless one, a colourless one, and a spineless one. I happened to read Acharya Kripalani's speech during the last Budget session. In that speech, describing the picture emerging out of the Budget he said it was a very colourful one, as colourful as the rose, as colourful as the rainbow. Perhaps it was ironical. And Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, because he was on the Government side, thought that the Budget was colourful. I am inclined to think that he called it colourful because it gave concessions to one of his own kind at the expense of the common man. And perhaps because the concessions did not come forward this year in added numbers, he finds it colourless and cheerless. Last year, the present Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Tyagi was here on these benches and he said that Rs. 100 crores could be saved if economies could be effected. On the

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other hand, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was last year there on Government Benches and found the Budget colourful, now he finds it colourless. I do not know if there is any difference between the colour view obtained from these benches and that obtained from those benches.

Shri Tyagi: This bench is colourful.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am happy you have gained this experience so early.

Now, I would not for a moment suppose or say that conditions are quite happy for our country. We know that the price indices have gone up very high. Just to quote three items, the difference between the prices of food grains was 395.7 points on 18th February 1950 and 425 points on 17th February 1951, for industrial raw material it was 495.7 points last year and it is 555.2 points this year—a rise of 60 points. The general index was 393.6 last year and is 424.6 this year—a difference of 31 points. We know that currency notes in circulation have increased by Rs. 49.47 crores while those issued have increased by Rs. 38.8 crores. This is the position so far as the inflationary spiral is concerned. So far as production is concerned, the industrial production index shows that it has dropped from 109.9 to 98.9 points—a drop of 11 points. Again, so far as food is concerned, we are living from hand to mouth.

But, Sir, is this position such that we should feel frustrated? I have got one grievance with the Government and with the leaders. They try to minimise the difficulties before the country. Why should they not tell the country openly and frankly what are the difficulties? The country and the masses and the nation would then be better prepared to face them. We are always fed on hopes. Let there be nothing hidden. Let the leaders tell the nation openly and straightforwardly that, in addition to the generation that has gone which bore the brunt of the freedom struggle, the generation that is now in power and now constitutes this House is destined to enjoy nothing but tears, toil and sweat. We shall do so if we know the difficulties we have to face for the sake of posterity. With firmness in our heart and boldness and courage we must face the oddities of the situation. It is no use counselling despair. In the speeches delivered for the last three years by leaders like Acharya Kripalani there is nothing but a note of pessimism. By this note

of pessimism I think he wants to find out an escape for himself. Why should he not help the country with some constructive suggestions? With the exception of Shri Goenka, in none of the so many speeches delivered here has one single suggestion been made, which may be said to be constructive.

An Hon. Member: Say not yet: there are others.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not trying to flatter Shri Goenka, but after having read his speech I was really struck by the realism contained in it. (Interruption.) Just now my hon. friend Shri Pant reminds me—yes, he came out with his suggestions about the Morris car, which he took from Mr. Morris Dodd and he must rest content now.

To conclude my remarks, Sir I would simply say....

An Hon. Member: What is your suggestion?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have given my suggestion: it is to face the trials and tribulations. War clouds are hovering round our horizons. As Mr. Pant pointed out just now, the type of modern car that we have got goes actually at the rate of 1½ miles per gallon. I can testify to that from some bitter experience myself.

Sir, in some Part B States, without casting reflection on any gentleman here, I want to mention that officers are sent from the Centre under Article 371 in the hope and expectation that they will manage our affairs better. Some of them have really helped us. I do not deny that. But things are not what they should be. I would in all humility appeal to the officers to shed their old habits and their way of thinking. I shall tell you a conversation which I once had with an officer. He told me, "You politicians have come to power by the backdoor. You have not come by the straight way. We appeared at examinations and came out with bright colours. Therefore we are in our high places. You came by the backdoor." His hint was specially about the journalist Members. I said to him, "Perhaps you forget that you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. If boys in the villages were given the same opportunities and the same sort of training, facilities and education, they may have outdone you and gone ahead of you in many matters." Sir, they must shake off this superiority

complex. They must remember that they have got to be in real and close contact with the masses.

Let us all pull together in order to tide over the crisis that the country is faced with.

Shri P. Y. Deshpande (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the Budget discussions. I shall confine myself to only one or two aspects. As I listened to the speech of the hon. the Finance Minister and as I also read his speech later, I found that while reviewing the economic condition he omitted to mention many of the major facts. He told us that it has been the major preoccupation of the Government since after the war to arrest the rising price level. He also told us that on account of many major calamities the accumulated cash balances of the Government have been depleted to such an extent and the process of capital formation has turned out to be so unfavourable that he had to resort to taxation and taxation on a scale which puts the burden on the poorer sections of the community to a very alarming extent. All this, he said, was necessary to do in order to improve the state finances. But as some hon. Members asked him, I would also like to ask him how long he can go on with the policy of taxing the poor and the middle classes to replenish the dwindling financial position of the Government of India. After all, there has to be some grip over the economic situation of the country.

Now, Sir, I want to ask him what exactly is the policy of the Government of India so far as the economic reconstruction of the country is concerned. Economists know that there are in the world only three possible economic reconstruction ideologies after the experience of nearly 200 years of the modern machine age. One is the 19th century free enterprise economy. Another is the Communist totalitarianism. The third is what is represented by England: a kind of mixture of democracy and socialism. Our economy has been said to be a mixed economy. I want to ask: what kind of mixture is this? Is it a mixture of free enterprise and Communist totalitarianism, or is it a mixture as in England of democracy and socialism? I have failed to make any sense of the economic policy of the Government. I must say that with all humility. It seems to me, Sir, that this Government has not yet made up its mind as to where it wants to go. It has lost—or perhaps it never had—any sense of direction.

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so far as economic reconstruction is concerned. We have been congressmen and it is the leading congressmen who man this Government. On thousands of platforms in villages all over the country, congressmen have told people that we believe in the Gandhian economy. Where is this Gandhian economy as adumbrated in the Budget—may I know? If you do not believe in the Gandhian economy, why do you not tell the people that you do not believe in it? Yours is a directionless, rudderless policy, which aims at muddling through the situation and somehow manage the State finance and the Government of the country. That seems to be the position so far as the economic policies of the Government are concerned.

I can well understand the limitations of the hon. Finance Minister. He has to function within the limitations of policy framed by the Government. He may have sound ideas about economic reconstruction and economic policy for this nation. Perhaps, he comes into the picture of Government more as an expert than as a policy maker. Whatever that may be, so long as he occupies the position he does, we have a right—this House has a right—to expect from him a clear enunciation of the economic policy of the State.

The tax burden, he himself admits, is very heavy. It is said that the poorer classes are taxed because the richer classes, the capitalists, the industrialists and the commercial community have failed this infant State. Therefore, this Government has ultimately gone to the poorer people with the words: "We depend upon your patriotism we depend upon your loyalty to come to the aid of this National Government." It is very well to say that, Sir, I wish the Finance Minister goes into some of the towns and villages and advances this argument to the people. I wonder whether he can come back to this House again.

Dr. Deshmukh: If you send Mr. Tyagi, he will come back!

Shri P. Y. Deshpande: We appear to be living in a very unrealistic world. The cost of living indices is still going up; the production levels are going down; the population is rising. These enormous factors in the economic life of the nation, do they not call for a determined new policy? If you convince the people of the soundness of that policy, they will be prepared to bear all the sacrifices which you impose on them. We have never taken the people into our

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confidence in framing our policy. We have been telling them one thing and we have been doing another thing in this House and in the Government. People have been told that we believe in the Gandhian economy of decentralisation; and in the political sphere as ours would be a decentralised State. These have been the declarations of congressmen for a number of years past. We occasionally hear from our political leaders that it is not possible for us to go over to a centralised economy all at once and that it will take some time. Some time ago when a policy statement was made about the industrialisation of the country, hope was held out to the people that although certain key industries would be nationalised there would be on a major scale a village uplift programme and a village reconstruction programme of small scale industries which would certainly go to evolve a decentralised economy for this country. I want to know, Sir, from the hon. the Finance Minister if he can enlighten us upon that point. How much of your resources have been directed to the decentralised economy in the sense of establishing small scale industries in the villages? How much of your resources go in that direction, and how much of them go in the other direction. Unless, Sir, we know exactly where we stand in regard to our economic policy, all these policy statements make no sense to me.

Our Finance Minister is a very capable man; he is a very intelligent

man; he is a very honest man—I have no doubt about that. He has done a fine piece of work in taking away from a muddled situation the finances of this country and putting them on some kind of basis. But that is not enough. We have to tell the people in what direction we are going and on that point, I am afraid, the Finance Minister has thrown no light at all. Saying that it is a mixed economy, does not throw any light at all. 'Mixed economy' is a contradiction in terms. Unless we definitely know the allocations made in the different directions from our resources, unless the Budget reflects that policy, we cannot say that we have any economic policy at all. To-day we are just muddling through—just trying to get out of a bad situation and making the best of a bad job. That may help us for some time—but that is not enough. I would, therefore, humbly request the hon. the Finance Minister—he may consult his colleagues, if need be—to give this House before the General Discussion ends, a clear-cut enunciation of the economic policy of the Government. I do not want to say this from the point of view of general elections. I want the people to understand where this Government wants to take them. Unless that is made clear, I do not see any hope for this Government or any hope for this nation.

The House adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 13th March, 1951.