

Thursday, 29th March, 1951



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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VOLUME IX, 1951

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

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Third Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51



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**THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

Thursday, 29th March, 1951

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

[No Questions—Part I not published]

10-45 A.M.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** May I request—and I have no doubt my colleagues are with me in this matter—with a view to providing a full day for the two Ministries set down for today's discussion, the question list for today may be postponed to Saturday, for which day no questions have been fixed so far; and I am sure that will give a full day for both the Ministries together.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The questions tabled for today will stand over for Saturday and the short notice questions also will be transferred to that day. I suppose there is general agreement on that.

**Several Hon. Members:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Goenka (Madras):** What about the half an hour discussion this evening?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That will stand over to some other day which will be fixed in consultation with the Ministry concerned. There are two Ministries for discussion today and therefore let the House discuss them *in extenso*.

**STATEMENT RE POST OF JUTE  
CONTROLLER**

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** On the 15th March 1951, Sri Kamath put a question drawing the attention of Govern-

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ment to the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the suit instituted by Sri K. C. Biswas against Mr. J. R. Walker, the Jute Controller. In that connection, Mr. Kamath put a supplementary question enquiring as to what position he (Mr. Walker) held in the Jute set-up now. In reply to this I said that since jute had been decontrolled there was no post of Jute Controller and further there was no proposal to have a Jute Controller.

As the legal position stands, that statement of mine is incorrect. Since the Jute Controller has been appointed by the States of West Bengal, Bihar, U.P. and Madras under Jute Control laws passed by the legislatures of the States, the post exists so long as the Acts of the States stand. The functions attached to the post also continue. The State Governments are aware of the judgment of the Calcutta High Court. The present position is that Mr. Walker is leaving India on the 15th of April 1951 and will cease to be the Jute Controller thereafter.

**An Hon. Member:** Good riddance.

**Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal):** May I know whether after Mr. Walker's departure there will be any other Jute Controller appointed?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member will kindly reserve this question to some other day.

**ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES**

**STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE MINISTRIES OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, LABOUR, LAW AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have to inform the House that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Labour, Law and Natural Resources and Scientific Research, 15 nominations in the case of each of the first, second and the fourth and 10 nominations in the case of the third were received.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following Members to be duly elected:—

**I. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

1. Shri T. Channiah
2. Shri Nemi Saran Jain
3. Shri Manik Lal Gupta
4. Shri Krishnanand Rai
5. Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha
6. Shri M. L. Dwivedi
7. Saikh Mohiuddin
8. Shri Amolakh Chand
9. Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Sinha
10. Shri M. A. Hasan
11. Shri Kanhalya Lal Balmiki
12. Dr. H. C. Mookerjee
13. Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva
14. Shri T. R. Deogirikar
15. Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri

**II. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Labour**

1. Shri Appikattu Joseph
2. Shri Muldas Bhudardas Vuishya
3. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt
4. Khwaja Inait Ullah
5. Babu Gopinath Singh
6. Shri H. V. Tripathi
7. Shri R. L. Jangde
8. Shri R. Subramanian
9. Shri M. R. Masani
10. Shri R. Venkataraman.
11. Shri Bijoy Kumar Pani
12. Shri V. S. Sivaprakasam
13. Shri K. C. Sharma
14. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth
15. Shri Khandubhai K. Desai

**III. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Law**

1. Shri K. C. Sharma
2. Moulvi Faiznur Ali
3. Shri Braja Kishore Prasad Sinha
4. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand
5. Shri Kashinathrao Vaidya
6. Shri Chimanlal Chakubhai Shah
7. Pandit Shiv Charan Lal
8. Chaudhri Hyder Husein
9. Syed Mohammad Ahmad Kazmi
10. Shri J. H. Subbiah

**IV. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research**

1. Shri P. Basi Reddi
2. Shri P. M. Audikesavalu Naicker
3. Shri Vinayak Rao Balashankar Vaidya
4. Shri P. K. Lakshmanan
5. Babu Gopinath Singh
6. Shri Radhelal Vyas
7. Shri Shambhu Nath Shukla
8. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta
9. Shri Basanta Kumar Das
10. Shri T. Husain.
11. Shri V. S. Sarwate
12. Shri Satish Chandra
13. Shri B. Das
14. Shri Kanayalal Nanabhai Desai
15. Shri Jnani Ram.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

**FIRST REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**Shri B. Das** (Orissa): I, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, beg to lay the First Report of Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1947-48 (post-partition), the first accounts of the Sovereign Republic of India. [Placed in Library. See IV O. 1(44)].

The Committee was elected on the 10th April, 1950 and held a preliminary meeting the same evening which was addressed by the hon. the Speaker.

The work of this Committee starts only after the Comptroller and Auditor-General presents his Audit Report on the accounts of the Government. The various accounts under report were circulated to the Members of the Committee immediately on receipt in the Parliament Secretariat in October and November 1950. The Committee held sittings in December 1950 and drew up its programme for the consideration of these accounts.

The meetings of the Committee for the examination of those accounts were held from the 8th to 19th January, 1951. The Committee examined the Accounts of the Defence Services, Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs Department. For want of time the Committee could examine the Civil Accounts relating only to the Ministries of Transport, Communications, Industry and Supply, Commerce and Finance (including Revenue Divisions).

The State Trading and Manufacturing Schemes under the control of the Ministries of Works, Mines and Power, Agriculture and Industry and Supply were also scrutinised by the Committee.

A brief record of the proceedings of each meeting was kept separately and form part of the report. A statement showing the summary of recommendations of the Committee is appended at the end.

Consequent on the coming into force of the Constitution of India, one of the important changes that have occurred in the status of the Committee is that it has become a Parliamentary Committee with its own chairman under the control of the Speaker and assisted by the staff of the Parliament Secretariat. This has enabled the Committee to function in a freer atmosphere and to offer its criticism in an unrestricted manner.

#### GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

##### DEMAND No. 87—MINISTRY OF WORKS, PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,90,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Production and Supply'."

##### DEMAND No. 88—SUPPLIES

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,85,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Supplies'."

##### DEMAND No. 89—SALT

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,55,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Salt'."

##### DEMAND No. 90—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,28,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

##### DEMAND No. 91—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,65,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

##### DEMAND No. 108—NEW DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,52,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'New Delhi Capital Outlay'."

##### DEMAND No. 109—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,86,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** May I take it that this Ministry will be discussed till 4 o'clock and the Minister will begin replying at 4 P.M.?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How long will the Minister require for his reply?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** In view of the fact that notices of 30 cut motions have been given and in view of the fact that, as far as I am able to ascertain, some questions of major policy are likely to be discussed, it would be only fair for the Deputy-Speaker to give me 45 minutes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then the hon. Minister will start his reply at 3-15 P.M. Mere questions being raised will not do any good, unless the Minister has a chance to reply on those points

**Shri Kamath:** Can he not begin to reply so as to finish at 4-15?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is no good eating into the time allotted for the other Ministry. The hon. Minister will reply at 3-15 P.M.

**Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh):** Sir, I would like to discuss Demand No. 89 under the head Salt.

Before doing so I would like to state that this is the first occasion, after the first report of the Estimates Committee was presented to Parliament on the then Ministry of Industry and Supply in the November-December session, when the work of the Estimates Committee will come up for consideration in this House. You will remember, Sir, that when the Estimates Committee was constituted last year the then Finance Minister, Dr. John Matthai, attached very great importance to this Committee and said he would look to this Committee for future guidance. He also said that any suggestions that the Estimates Committee would be making would be considered very sympathetically. And when the Estimates Committee met for the first time to discuss its form of procedure, with the hon. Speaker presiding, Dr. Matthai also was present to help us. He said it would not be of much use if the Committee discussed the past Budget as it was but that the past Budget should be a guide for the Estimates Committee for making their recommendations. And he said that therefore if the Estimates Committee deliberated upon the Budget estimates which we passed last March and gave their recommendations in time for consideration while framing the next Budget, that is to say by November-December, 1950, those recommendations will be sympathetically considered.

Well, Sir, the report of the Estimates Committee was first sent to the Ministry of Finance on the 18th September. Before that it had been forwarded to the Ministry of Industry and Supply asking them whether they had to suggest any modifications to the factual matters stated in the report based on evidence of official witnesses, and that Ministry sent its reply suggesting necessary amendments which were accordingly carried out. Here I want to stress that the Estimates Committee arrived at its conclusions not on mere hearsay but on official evidence. They took evidence of responsible officers of the Industry and Supply Ministry including its administrative head, namely the Secretary. And after full six days of examination of those officers the Committee sat down to

consider the facts placed before them, and after another three weeks' consideration of those facts the Committee came to certain decisions which were incorporated in their report to Parliament. This is the genesis of the report of the Committee which I wanted to tell the House. Sir, the House had elected this Committee and it is up to us Members of the Committee to place our views before the House. The Estimates Committee in Britain is one of the most important Committees of the British Parliament. Here too we have tried to follow the procedure that obtains there.

But I am sorry to observe that despite that promise that was made by the then Finance Minister, not a word regarding the report of the Estimates Committee was mentioned by the Finance Minister in the course of his Budget speech. He has made no reference to the Estimates Committee. He has, it seems to me, simply ignored it. I would like to know the reason from the Finance Minister. I find he is not here at the moment, but his Deputy is here and I would like him to communicate to his Minister my feelings in the matter because I am only voicing the feelings of the other Members of the Committee.

**Shri Sondhi (Punjab):** The Deputy Minister was a Member of that Committee.

11 A.M.

**Shri Sidhva:** Yes, he was also a Member of the Committee until he became a Minister of state and he knows very well what the feelings of the Committee were in this matter. He was also a party to this report which I am referring to. I would like to know what is the policy of the Finance Minister.....

**The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi):** Will the hon. Member permit me just to say a word? As soon as I took over the Revenue and Expenditure side of the Finance Ministry, I issued instructions to my Ministry in this matter and deputed one of the Joint Secretaries to take up this work. I have asked him to take stock of the recommendations made in the report, tabulate them Ministry-wise, negotiate with the Ministry concerned on every item mentioned in the report and submit to me a fortnightly report. I would like to assure this House and the Estimates Committee that my Ministry will take all possible steps to implement the recommendations of the Committee. Of course, the recommendations as a rule have to be examined both by the Ministry concerned and by the Finance Ministry.

**Shri Sidhva:** I am glad at least to hear the views of my hon. friend but I must say I am not satisfied with the results. This report of the Estimates Committee was meant to be of help in the preparation of the Budget. That is the main point. We were told so. We sent this report in time for it to be considered both by the Finance Ministry and by the Ministry of Industry and Supply. Therefore, I want an explanation as to why the Finance Minister did not consider that report at the time of framing his Budget.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Was it submitted before the Minister of State was appointed or after?

**Shri Sidhva:** Before he was appointed. I am not blaming him. I am concerned with the Finance Minister. As far as my hon. friend the Minister of State is concerned, he has told us that he has asked his officers to go into the matter, though I do not know if anything will materialise. My question is this. What did the then Ministry of Industry and Supply do about this report? Did it consider it? Did the Finance Ministry consider it at the time? Those questions must receive definite answers. Why did the Finance Minister overlook the report? He knew very well that the Estimates Committee was existing. He was searching for Rs. 50 crores to make up his deficit and has tried to find it from the lower middle and the poorer classes by way of taxation, direct and indirect, and by enhancing the railway fares, but the Finance Minister had no time to look into the proposals of the Estimates Committee which had made certain definite suggestions for economy. It might be argued by the Finance Minister that this economy of a few crores recommended by the Estimates Committee would not serve the purpose. Sir, I am mentioning this argument because it was referred to by the hon. Minister in one of his speeches. Well, he cannot expect thirty-five or fifty crores from one Ministry! But each Ministry can give him some sort of economy.

**Shri B. Das (Orissa):** Mr. Tyagi has been taken into the Ministry to give effect to the proposals.

**Shri Sidhva:** What I am stating is that the Minister cannot dismiss a proposal saying it brings only a few crores. Small though it may be according to him he should have taken it into consideration, and then if he wanted more money we would have told him that his proposals for additional taxation were perfectly justified. But has that happened? Here is the report of the Estimates

Committee containing definite proposals for economy based on factual evidence and endorsed by the Ministry concerned, but it has not been taken into account. Probably the Ministry concerned will be consulted in the matter by the Finance Ministry, but that Ministry may not take any note of it. We have the experience of what happened to the report of the Economy Committee presided over by Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai which made recommendations for an economy of about five crores. That report was sent to each Ministry and each Ministry replied it was not prepared to accept the proposals for economy. The Ministries did not say they were not prepared to retrench surplus men, they said they were actually understaffed. To that extent each Ministry won and that report was shelved.

**Shri Sondhi:** It was not Rs. 10 crores. It was only Rs. 4.7 crores.

**Shri Sidhva:** Let it be Rs. 4.7 crores. Whatever the figure is, it has not been adhered to. Then there was the 10 per cent. general cut proposed by Dr. Matthai. That also did not fructify. If the Finance Minister depends upon the Ministries concerned, there will be no economy. He must himself apply his mind.

**Shri Sondhi:** But he has given you some economy proposals.

**Shri Sidhva:** I know that he has given some sort of economy proposals for Rs. 5 crores. That too he can bring about only by consultation. I do not deny that he should consult, but if the respective Ministries are adamant he must use his own judgment. As far as Mr. Tyagi is concerned, he has stated that action is being taken in regard to the future, but I want Mr. Deshmukh to explain as to why he ignored the Estimates Committee report while preparing this Budget.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member has already taken ten minutes.

**Shri Sidhva:** This being the first Report of the Estimates Committee, I was obliged to make these preliminary remarks. In my preface, I have stated that the then Finance Minister agreed to some proposals. I want to know why they have not been implemented.

I shall now come to the subject of salt. A Demand of Rs. 1,68,55,000 is being made by the Ministry of Works, Production and Supply under the head "Salt". In the 1949 Budget Session, when the salt question was considered, the then Minister was Dr. S. P. Mookerjee. I told him that there was sufficient salt in the country and although

[Shri Sidhva]

we surrendered Rs. 11 crores of duty yet the prices were high and salt was not available in sufficient quantity. He agreed with me and promised to look into the matter. He said he would appoint a Committee and spontaneously asked me to be a member of the Committee. Not hearing anything about it for eight or nine months, I enquired again. I received a letter from his Ministry stating that the Committee was going to be formed and enquiring whether I would accept the Chairmanship. I said yes. It was good of him to ask me to accept the Chairmanship. When I took up the work, I first went into the question of ascertaining why salt was not available in sufficient quantity. I went and saw the various factories. My impression was that in Saurashtra you could produce any quantity of salt and so also in South India. Immediately, a proposal was placed before the Salt Controller and the Salt Advisory Committee. It was suggested that by 1950 we should have full quota of salt production and not one ounce of salt should be imported from abroad. I am glad to inform the House that the Salt Advisory Committee endorsed my suggestion and the Salt Controller's office co-operated with us fully. In 1949 the production was 556 lakh maunds, but after I took up this matter, we brought it up to 713 lakh maunds—an increase of 157 lakh maunds. I want Mr. Munshi to take note of this. When I say that we should have self-sufficiency, I mean business and I have proved it here. I have been telling our Government that there is sufficient food in India; but nobody is going to listen in this Government and they ignore it. Here is a concrete case. I am not talking from flattery point of view, but within one year we have not only reached self-sufficiency in salt which is one of the items of food, but we have got a 25 per cent. surplus.

**Shri Sondhi:** What about the price?

**Shri Sidhva:** As far as the prices are concerned, we have a legacy of the past called the district nominee system. Excepting Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Himachal Pradesh, the district nominee system prevails elsewhere. It actually means that only certain persons have the right to purchase and sell salt. These people combine together and put up the price for their own benefit.

I shall give you only the most recent example. In February 1951 while we were in session I learnt that salt was not available in Delhi. We knew that there was enough salt stock and the price also was cheap. So we made enquiry and I have it on record that

the Delhi nominees combined together and did not send the order to Sambhar to get the salt, in order that the shortage may become acute and they may reap the benefit of higher prices. On learning this, we immediately rushed a special train to Sambhar and brought the salt and gave it to the people.

Sir, the Estimates Committee also has recommended that the nominee system should do. In the meeting of the Salt Advisory Committee held on 13th November last, Mr. Mahtab the then Minister in charge was present. He definitely promised that he was going to abolish it and that he had taken a decision. In December I went to him. He said he was going to do it. Before we adjourned after the November-December session he showed me a draft communique even and promised that he would issue it very soon. But he did not issue it. Then when I came for the meeting of the Estimates Committee I talked to him. He said that before he relinquished charge on 15th February he would do it. But he did not do it. I want to ask him why he hoodwinked not only me but the Salt Advisory Committee. When a responsible Minister makes a promise in the Committee and does not execute it, it is very unfair. I demand an explanation for this.

Now, Sir, the second point that he made—and it is recommended by the Estimates Committee also—was that the Government salt works should be made self-supporting. The Salt Advisory Committee also recommended this. He stated that he had taken a decision and that if we resolved that these salt works should be given a Company or Corporation to make them self-supporting, he would accept it. When he was in the meeting we discussed all problems and he accepted the proposal. But nothing has been done and I understand no decision had been taken. This is another regretful thing. Today the Advisory Committee members are asking me questions. They say, "Your Minister made a statement and he has not carried it out." I feel ashamed myself, because when a Minister makes a statement I expect he will act according to it. I want to know what is the policy of Government at present. I trust the hon. Shri Gadgil will explain this point.

About salt, I want to make it clear that there is no control in the sense in which there is a control on food. There is only control over movement on account of wagon shortage due to our friend Mr. Santhanam. We cannot get wagons even for metre gauge. The result is a zonal system which controls communication. If wagons were freely

available. I can assure you that salt will move from one place to another and it can be had at the cheapest price everywhere. Salt is something for which our great leader fought. We cannot forget the Dundee March. It is part of our freedom movement.

**An Hon. Member:** Is there no time-limit for the hon. Member, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Salt is the essence of life; so let him proceed.

**Shri Sidhva:** And today salt is not available to that extent which the average man expects.

**Shri Hussain Imaun (Bihar):** What is the price of salt now?

**Shri Sidhva:** The price of salt varies from factory to factory and province to province. Under the Essential Supplies Act various Provincial Governments have fixed ceiling prices. But I may tell the House that the price charged by Government factories is the cheapest and is 10 annas per maund. This is the rate of the Sambhar Factory which produces a very large quantity. The price of Kharagoda, which is also a government factory is 14-8 annas. The price charged by private factories is Rs. 1-8-0 in Bombay, Rs. 1-1-0 in Madras, Rs. 1-2-0 in Orissa, Rs. 2-7-0 in Bengal and Rs. 1-6-0 in Travancore. It will, therefore, be found that the price of 10 annas and 14 annas charged by the government factories is the cheapest.

The Estimates Committee have, therefore, suggested, with a view to giving relief to all, that these government factories should be expanded and run on a model basis. I want an assurance from my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil who has taken charge of this portfolio, that he will give sympathetic and careful consideration to this suggestion. We have Rs. 73 lakhs invested in the Sambhar Lake factory and Rs. 35 lakhs in the Kharagoda factory. These are the two of our biggest factories. From my personal experience I can say that they can be further expanded and not only can we produce enough salt for local consumption, but also for export. This House will perhaps be surprised to hear that last year we exported salt to Japan. If we could, therefore, properly expand these factories, that will lead to an expansion of our salt exports also.

Then, Sir, there is a cess of 2 annas on salt which brings in nearly 73 lakhs of revenue of which Rs. 30 lakhs goes to the exchequer. Here also Mr. Mahtab promised us that these 20 lakhs would be earmarked for the expansion and improvement of research work. But I find that the Finance Ministry does not know anything about it—I am

speaking subject to correction and I hope the hon. Minister will correct me if I am wrong. It was on this understanding that the amount would be earmarked for research that we agreed to the retention of the cess; otherwise we would have recommended its abolition.

Then again there is a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs which is spent on the watch and ward staff. But all the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Estimates Committee remain where they were. I would like to know why these valuable recommendations have not yet been implemented. I also would like to be enlightened as to why, when a responsible Minister makes a statement, it is not implemented. It was not his personal opinion. It was the opinion of his Ministry, which means the Government.

Everything appears to be in suspense today. As far as salt is concerned Government have not made up their mind as to whether there should be control or decontrol. We were told only four months back that Government were anxious to remove all kinds of controls, except the zonal system, for which there is justification on account of paucity of wagons. The Advisory Committee is in suspense. They do not know what Government's policy is. The Salt Controller's office is in suspense.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** The hon. Member has not mentioned one fact which is within his own knowledge that the State Governments protested against it.

**Shri Sidhva:** Why did the hon. Minister not consult the State Governments before he made his statement. It is not for me and the Advisory Committee to know that the State Governments should be consulted. He made a statement in Madras that the price of rubber would be raised to Rs. 122; he comes here and tells us that the matter has now been referred to the Planning Commission.

**Shri Mahtab:** This is absolutely wrong. I never said that it has been referred to the Planning Commission.

**Shri Sidhva:** He said some Commission.

**Shri Mahtab:** That is only the hon. Member's imagination.

**Shri Sidhva:** My point is that it is no use making a statement without knowing all the facts about it.

Here is a committee which wants to do some useful work. I have given my valuable time to this committee in

[Shri Sidhva]

an honorary capacity. But we are not in a position to do anything, because Government are not supporting us. I would therefore like to know what is Government's policy in regard to this matter.

Before I sit down I want to make one point. In the present Budget there is a sum of Rs. 35 lakhs which is given as royalty to the Saurashtra Government for producing salt. The Estimates Committee understood that Government were considering this question of royalty. I would request my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil to consider this matter sympathetically.

**Shri Shiva Rao (Madras):** Sir, the list of speakers is long and I shall try to be as brief as possible.

**Some Hon. Members:** Is there no time-limit today?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members will take not more than fifteen minutes.

**Shri Sidhva:** Sir, it must be remembered that the Estimates Committee Report is coming up before the House for the first time and you must give Mr. Shiva Rao at least twenty minutes.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** There is only one point which I want to raise in the course of the debate and that is the implications of nationalisation of industry and state management of projects. Sir, before I do so, if you will permit me, I would like to correct a wrong impression which has arisen out of my speech the other day on the Defence estimate. Sir, I would like to say that when I referred to the unhelpful attitude of a section of the Defence Ministry, I did not intend that reference to apply to the witnesses who actually appeared on behalf of that Ministry before the Estimates Committee. Sir, as you know and as other Members of the Estimates Committee know, those who actually came on behalf of the Defence Ministry to give evidence were very co-operative and I want to make that statement to prevent any misunderstanding about my remarks on Monday.

As I said, Sir, I have sought this opportunity to speak on the implications of nationalisation of industry and state management of projects. It seems to me that because we have a national Government in this country, many of us have facetiously assumed that a national government can successfully run industry and manage vast state projects.

While on this point I would like to refer to a point which I made in the course of my observations in the

general debate. I had asked the Finance Minister to take the House into confidence and tell us precisely what were the duties assigned to Mr. Gorwala. I am sorry to say that there was no reply from the Finance Minister. Since then I have made enquiries and I have been told that Mr. Gorwala has accepted this task in an honorary capacity. It does not surprise me, having known Mr. Gorwala for many years as an able officer with a reputation for uprightiness and public spirit. Nevertheless I think the House is entitled to know what precisely are the duties assigned to him. I presume that his appointment was made by the Planning Commission. Again I must say I was surprised that that appointment was not made by the Cabinet but only by the Planning Commission. I presume the report will be to the Planning Commission. But at some stage or other. I hope that before Government takes a decision on his recommendations we shall have an opportunity of discussing his recommendations.

Sir, this Government has, since it assumed office, taken up many new and heavy responsibilities in the field of industry and the management of projects. In this session we have had more than one occasion to invite the attention of the Government to the fact that many of these concerns have been run on wasteful lines. Only last week we had a discussion on the management of railway collieries, and I ventured to point out on that occasion that with State management has also come about a very sharp rise in labour costs. Another distressing feature is that while production has gone down to a half or even a third in comparison with pre-war conditions, the wages bill has on the other hand risen up enormously, mainly because of the application of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. Certain weaknesses of State management of industry have come to light. There is, in the first place, a sad lack of co-ordination in matters of policy between the different Ministries. This is not the place for discussing in any detail the part that labour plays in stepping up production. But the fact remains that the part of labour is an important and indeed a vital one. The question, however, is has our Government an integrated industrial policy? How can any Government, which claims to function on the basis of collective responsibility, make the confession that was made here last week when we discussed the management of railway collieries, that one of the chief obstacles in the way of retrenchment of superfluous labour was the attitude of the Labour Ministry which in this matter had backed the demands of the labour



union? Sir, it seems to me that Government's policy in this matter, as in many other matters, is confused and muddled. If there are any differences between the Ministry which is represented by my hon. friend here and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the one side, and the Ministry of Labour on the other, it seems to me that the obvious thing to do, is to thrash out those differences in the Economic Committee of the Cabinet and then to formulate a co-ordinated and consistent policy and carry it out, instead of parading those differences as was done last week on the floor of the House.

Another point that I would like to make is that there is also an equally sad lack of co-ordination in administration. Sir, as you know, when we discussed the manner in which the Sindri Fertiliser scheme had been taken up we discovered in the Estimates Committee that one reason for the enormous rise in costs from Rs. 10.71 crores to about Rs. 24 or perhaps 25 crores is that there were eight different agencies entrusted with eight different sections of the scheme with no one at the top to co-ordinate all the activities of these different agencies and to see to it that these different activities fitted into one complete scheme. In this connection I would like to know from my hon. friend what is precisely going to be done with the Sindri Fertiliser scheme. There were reports some time ago that a Corporation was being formed with our former Commerce Minister Mr. Neogy as Chairman of the Corporation. I would like to know whether those negotiations have been completed and when the Corporation is coming into existence.

Sir, we have also learnt in this House from bitter experience that in regard to large schemes, whether it is the Damodar Valley Corporation which has now been handed on to a new Ministry or the Sindri Fertiliser scheme, Government has embarked upon such schemes involving expenditure of many crores on the basis of what the hon. Minister for Natural Resources told us the other day is little better than guess work. Sir, I am conscious of the fact that the hon. Minister in charge of this subject now is a miracle-worker. He told us a few days ago with charming modesty that he had brought Ganges water to Delhi. But, Sir, I would like to suggest to him that running State-managed projects on guess work is a much tougher proposition than bringing Ganges water to Delhi, and I would like him to be realistic in this matter. When I spoke on the Defence Estimates I referred to a cartoon in

Shankar's Weekly. When I think of the manner in which this Government has undertaken large-scale projects I am reminded of another cartoon, this time, which appeared in *Punch*. That, Sir, was of a man who went into a barber's shop. The proprietor of the shop showed him to a chair and when the man sat in his chair, to his horror he found a small boy sharpening a razor. So he asked the proprietor "Are you not going to shave me?" and the proprietor said, somewhat apologetically "You see, it is his eighth birthday, he wants to enter my profession, and I do not want to displease him on his birthday"! I would suggest to my hon. friend that entrusting large schemes in the name of nationalisation of industries and State management of projects, to well-intentioned and enthusiastic people but men without any experience is a ruinous proposition. And I sometimes feel very apprehensive about the taxpayer's throat when I find instruments like nationalisation being placed in the hands of inexperienced people.

**Shri B. Das:** I am glad to hear that after your nationalisation front for twenty years, I welcome your views.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I suppose the hon. Member is not arguing against nationalisation.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** Sir, I am not arguing against nationalisation. But I want to appeal to my hon. friend the Minister in charge first to make a success of such schemes as have been nationalised rather than extend the field of nationalisation. I would like to know in this connection what he is going to do with the penicillin factory, whether any final decisions have been taken with regard to the penicillin factory. When we talk of nationalisation let us see how the Labour Government in England, professedly socialist as it is, is managing its nationalised concerns.

**Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan):** May I know when he is against the extension of nationalization, does he claim that the industrialists have done better in spite of the fall in the industrial production?

**Shri Shiva Rao:** I am not pleading, as I have pointed out, against nationalization. I am only pleading for the efficient management of nationalized concerns.

**Shri B. Das:** It is better if you say State-owned. Why do you say 'nationalized'? Nothing is nationalized.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** Hon. Members talk glibly about nationalization. I would like them to study for a little while the implications of nationalization in England under the Labour Govern-

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ment, professedly Socialist. There has been a very remarkable change in the attitude of the Labour Government in regard to nationalization of concerns. There have been broadly speaking...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I do not wish to interrupt the hon. Member. The time at the disposal of every hon. Member is short. We are concerned with particular items in the Budget. If methods of improving state-owned industries and the economy that may be arrived at, etc. are placed before the House they will be more useful than a general discussion of policy which may be reserved for a future occasion.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** I thought that this matter is of such a vital importance and especially as statements have been made on the floor of the House, both by the Finance Minister in answer to questions and in his Budget speech. I thought this might be an appropriate opportunity to raise this general point as to the implications of nationalization. I shall only take one more minute.

I was trying to point out that the Labour Government in England has tightened up its administration of nationalized concerns. Since 1945, public corporations in charge of various concerns have placed greater powers of interference in the hands of the Minister concerned. Secondly the statutory powers of the executives of such corporations are much more circumscribed today and in fact since 1945 than they were in the pre-war years, and thirdly their so called financial autonomy is much more limited at the present moment than it was before Labour came into office. Also, Sir, I would like to point out that these public corporations in England are not financed all in the same way. Some like the Gas and Electricity Corporations and the London Transport Board are financed by share capital from the public with a Government guarantee to subscribers and a certain annual rate of interest. Some other concerns are directly financed by Government funds with the condition that such advances will be returned after a period of 5 years in annuities spread over a larger number of years, as many as 20 or even more. Then, Sir, there are public corporations with Government guarantees limited to making good the annual working losses if any. I have raised this general point because in the last few years periodical conferences have been held by the Government to step up production. Ministers frequently refer to it in their utterances and appeal both to the industrialists on the one side and to labour on the other to

step up production. Sir, mere sentimental appeals of this kind without being realistic in this matter are not going to be of any use, as the House has seen to its cost; and unless the root causes are dealt with and the Ministry primarily concerned is realistic in its approach, I suggest that our production is going to continue to go down, with ruinous consequences to the tax-payer as well as to the industries.

**Shri T. Husain (Bihar):** At present the number of Members of this House is exactly 325 and the accommodation meant for Members of Parliament is exactly 325 in number. After the General Election, Sir, the number of Members of Parliament will be increased to 750. That means 500 for the House of the people.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member may speak a little louder.

**Shri T. Husain:** What I was saying was that at present we are 325 in number and the hon. Minister in charge of Works, Production and Supply has given accommodation for 325 Members, i.e., one for each Member. (Interruption). I have the figures from the list of Members of Parliament which says that there are 325 Members on the list. This Hand book too is supplied to us by Government. It says that the accommodation is as follows:—(Interruption). What I am saying is for the benefit of the future Members. I cannot see why hon. Members should interfere. The time at my disposal is very short and at this rate, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you will have to give me more time.

**Sardar Hukam Singh (Punjab):** May I ask, Sir, if this number given by my hon. friend has got any particular significance?

**Shri T. Husain:** I do not give in.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I suggest to the hon. Member that there are certain numbers that are given without names being mentioned. The number would not be 325 but 321.

**Shri T. Husain:** I do not give in. What I was saying, Sir was that from this handbook, I find that accommodation meant for Members of Parliament is distributed in this way:

In the Constitution House:	
double suite ...	12
double rooms ...	20
single room ...	28
Another type of single rooms ...	116
In Western Court:	
double rooms ...	7
single rooms ...	24
M. L. A. Quarters	108

So the total number is 325. What I was going to say was that after the General Election our strength will increase to 750 and therefore...

**Shri Gadgil:** Some of us may not be there.

**Shri T. Husain:** It is true that some Members may not be there. Since you have 325 accommodations for 325 Members, on the same principle I want you to have 750 accommodations for the future 750 Members.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member will kindly address the Chair.

**Shri T. Husain:** I am very sorry, I should have addressed the Chair, but since you wanted me to speak louder, I thought it was intended for the hon. Minister and hence my face was turned in his direction. What the Ministry has done is this. They are going to build flats—I welcome the idea—but the number of flats that are going to be built is only 250. The present accommodation is 325 and adding 250 Flats, the total accommodation will be 575 for 750 Members. 175 Members will be without accommodation. Therefore I suggest through you to the hon. Minister that for 750 Members, there should be 750 accommodations as they have got 325 accommodations for 325 members. I do not know how the remaining 175 Members are going to be accommodated. I say this is going to be a business proposition. The more houses you build, the more money you will get; Government is not going to lose on this account. The only answer that I could anticipate from the Government is that they have not got the building materials. If want of materials is the answer, I want to tell my hon. friend a thing which he already knows that private individuals are building houses in Karol Bagh, Pusa Road, Rothak Road, Subzi Mandi and Jawahar Nagar. If private individuals could get building materials, why cannot Government get them for building houses?

**Babu Ramparayan Singh (Bihar):** They get in the black-market.

**Shri T. Husain:** If private individuals get in the black market, Government can get in the white market easily.

There is another point. This list shows that there are 325 Members. One Member died recently; so there are in fact 324 Members only. Out of these 69 Members have not got the accommodation which is meant for Members of Parliament. I will give you the exact details. One is the Speaker himself; there are 25 Ministers, Min-

isters of State and Deputy Ministers; there are 43 other Members who have not taken any allotment from the Government. There are many instances like Mr. Padampat Singhania, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta and others who have got their own houses. This comes to a total of 69 who do not want Government accommodation for some reason or other. The result is that out of 325, only 256 have got allotments and there are 69 surplus accommodations. I want to know from the Minister what has happened to these 69 surplus accommodations.

Apart from this, as I said just now, there are more accommodations than have actually been allotted. In spite of that, we find that it is the order of the Ministry or the House Committee that two or three Members should live in one House, otherwise we would not get a house. In a majority of cases there are at least two Members.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Bihar):** Only two; not three.

**Shri T. Husain:** My hon. friend does not know about it. My friend to my right knows that he was compelled to bring two more Members in his house.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** There should be no compulsion.

**Shri T. Husain:** I do not understand why the Government or the House Committee, whoever it is, it makes no difference to me, should insist that more than one Member should occupy a House. If the demand is greater because there are only 108 houses, give the houses to the first 108 applicants and let the remaining Members wait, unless of course, the Members themselves want to live together, two, three or four of them.

Sir, there is a greater demand for the bungalow type of houses. The Members do not like the guest house arrangements. For instance, there is the Constitution House and the Western Court, where the Members are accommodated. They do not like the food that is supplied to them. I myself was staying there for some time and I did not like the food. That is the reason why there is a greater demand for these bungalows, where they can make their own arrangements for food. What I suggest is that in the future there should be more flats where the people can cook their own food. Government are building 250 flats. They should build 150 more flats. Single-room flats would be in greater demand than 2 or 3 room flats.

As regards government servants, I find that there are many who have not got any accommodation at all. You know the accommodation position in

[Shri T. Husain]

Delhi. Unless you pay *pugree*, you cannot get any accommodation. I think it is the duty of the Government to see, whenever they appoint a person, whether he is a low grade servant, menial or a clerk or anybody, that he is given a roof to sleep under. Recently I went to Timarpur and I saw the houses meant for clerks. I do not know the exact history of these Timarpur houses. I was told that they were built in 1911 as temporary huts for a period of five years. They are still there. I saw with my own eyes the dilapidated, hopeless condition of those houses. If my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil goes and sees them, he will be horrified. I am sure the hon. Deputy Minister has not seen those houses either. I would ask them to go to Timarpur and see the houses with their own eyes.

**Shri Gadgil:** We have seen.

**Shri T. Husain:** Then, you must have seen their dilapidated and hopeless condition.

I submit, Sir, that the problem of the refugees is a big one; they must be accommodated at any cost. As I said, it is a business concern. Government must go on building as many houses as they can. Government must also encourage private individuals to build houses. The only way to encourage is this. Do not apply the Rent Control Act. Then there will be more houses. You have already rung the bell, Sir; with these words, I resume my seat.

**Shrimati Durgabai (Madras):** I would like to place certain things before the House about the work of the Estimates Committee with regard to the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power. I will deal with the subject of the Estates Office and its working. We the Members of the Estimates Committee worked for 60 days spending about 150 hours and we made our reports particularly on this Estate Office in the month of August and our recommendations were sent to the Ministry; but we do not yet know what action the Ministry proposes to take on this matter. Sir, I will touch upon only three or four broad aspects of the working of the Estate Office, namely, the procedure that is followed at present in the matter of allotment of accommodation to government servants and others connected with quasi-government offices, and then the question of Government hostels and thirdly the methods of dealing with out of turn allotment cases and fourthly the question of shifting of offices outside Delhi.

Sir, let me at the very outset say that this Committee in approaching this problem had a very constructive outlook

and they considered the various factors connected with it with a constructive mind. All the materials placed before it were thoroughly gone into and the members also went round and visited offices both in Delhi and outside Delhi under this Ministry. Our aim was to make such constructive recommendations as would lead to economy consistent with efficiency. This aspect of the matter should be borne in mind by hon. Members, namely, that our recommendations were aimed at economy consistent with efficiency. That was the motto of our work.

Viewed against this background, I have to say that the procedure at present followed by the Ministry in the allotment of houses is very cumbersome and rather, if I may say so, very funny. I have no hesitation to say that. At present there are only 6,000 and odd houses available as accommodation and as against that we receive every year 75,000 applications. These are the applications received from the government servants irrespective of the fact whether they are already in possession of government accommodation or not. So every six months, these applications are called for and collected. Along with these also come the applications of those who have come to Delhi recently. When we asked the officers who came before the Committee to place some materials, as to why all these applications should be called in every six months, and whether that was not leading to a very cumbersome procedure, they stated, that this procedure did not mean any increase of work, but on the other hand it was useful for checking the emoluments and salaries of the officers and others. This was really surprising. Are the emoluments and salaries of government servants increased every six months? Why should all of them keep on applying? Therefore the Committee has suggested that the checking of the emoluments and salaries can be done by the Accounts Officers in the different Departments. Also when an officer gets an increase in pay or emolument, the Estate Officer should be informed so as to enable that officer to prepare the rent bill accordingly. This would reduce the volume of work in the Estate Office and lead to enormous economy and increased efficiency. I would like to refer to many other recommendations of the Committee, but as the time at my disposal is short, I would request hon. Members to go through those recommendations themselves, carefully.

12 Noon

I now come to the subject of the shifting of offices from Delhi to places

outside Delhi. This question had been taken up and considered not only by the Estimates Committee, but also by the Economy Committee appointed some years back and it may not be out of place here to read a few lines from the report of that Committee. They say:

"In our view it would be advantageous to locate as many of the Government offices as may be conveniently located away from Delhi in less congested places.

"The position of office and residential accommodation in Delhi has now become so acute as to affect seriously the efficiency of the Government servants. Many Government servants in Delhi have to reach every morning their offices from their residence 6 to 10 miles away and trudge the same distance back; and the means of communication are very unsatisfactory.

"We understand that Government have accepted in principle the desirability of such transfer, but progress is slow as even in the places to which officers are to be shifted new constructions are necessary and funds are not available for the purpose. We desire to emphasise that additional construction work in Delhi should be restricted to the minimum and that the shifting of offices, whose location in Delhi is not necessary, to other places should be speeded up."

Sir, this is the recommendation and we do not know what action has been taken on it. During the course of our enquiry, we came to know that an officer was appointed to go round places outside Delhi and make a survey of the possibility of accommodation for certain of the offices now in Delhi. We do not know what report was made by that officer after his survey. But the reasons given by the officers who came before the Estimates Committee for not shifting some of the offices outside Delhi were very unconvincing. We were told that it is not possible to shift some of the offices because the Departments concerned whose offices were proposed to be shifted were not agreeable to such a shift. There was also the consideration that although there might be office accommodation in the new place, there was no accommodation for the residences of the staff. And this, we understand, justified them in embarking on new construction programmes in Delhi. Then we put the question whether the money spent on these new constructions could not be spent in other places to provide residential accommodation, but there was practically no answer to that

Therefore it has been recommended that a committee might be appointed to go into this question thoroughly and to see which offices could immediately be shifted from Delhi and to fix a time limit within which they should be so shifted and also that a decision to shift should be binding and no appeal from the offices affected should be allowed.

Then I come to the question of Government hostels. During our enquiry into the working of these hostels, we came to know a few things. First of all we learned that there is considerable disparity in the matter of rent, say for instance in the Constitution House and in the Western Court. When questioned, the officers, who came before us in this connection, said that the matter being taken up, that it was under consideration and that there would be a revision of the scales of rent. Already the report has gone and we do not know what action they propose to take. They have not made any statement nor given any explanation as to what they are doing with regard to this particular recommendation of ours.

We also came to know that many of the Government hostels are running at a loss. There were so many complaints about the quality of food, the quality and standard of service, water supply and other amenities. I myself went into the question when I visited the office and saw how the Estate Office was working. I found numerous complaints with regard to the food, the quality of the service rendered, the water supply, the supply of bedsheets, etc. The Committee went into the matter thoroughly and made recommendations to find out why the Government hostels were running at a loss. It was suggested that the hostels accounts should be audited and they should be maintained on commercial lines. Also we suggested that the question of revision of rent in the hostels should be taken up immediately and uniformity brought about. When we found so many complaints mainly with regard to the quality of food, the quality and standard of service, we suggested that this should be fully attended to and wherever possible the question of messing in a particular hostel should be made optional. They told us that it would not be economical, unless they had an economic unit of say 100 persons always messing in the hostel itself. We suggested that messing may be made optional in the case of those people over the number 100 and they may be permitted to have their own messing arrangements. We are at a loss to know what the Ministry proposes to do with regard to this recommendation.

[Shrimati Durgabai]

Now I come to the question of out of turn allotments. At present these allotments are made completely under the discretionary powers of the Ministry. Perhaps this system was responsible for giving rise to various allegations such as nepotism and favouritism and there was a lot of discontent among the government servants themselves. We understood that 369 out of turn allotments were made to persons. These are figures we have collected firsthand when we went into the question of out of turn allotments. We all know that out of turn allotment is to be made under exceptional circumstances. Therefore in order to avoid such complaints of nepotism and favouritism and to see that these discretionary powers are not exercised liberally but only under particular circumstances, we suggested that there should be even for out of turn allotments certain well defined principles or practice to be followed.

There is also the question of the system of receiving complaints and attending to them. The machinery to deal with them is not satisfactory. We went to the Estate Office to find out the system followed. We found that the system followed is that interviews are granted and complaints are received there. This kind of granting interviews personally and trying to satisfy those who are discontented is wholly unsatisfactory. I know that complaint books are kept in the Estate Office but they were rarely used. We recommended that the system of registering complaints should be followed regularly. Whenever a complainant comes to the office and chooses to complain regarding his allotment he will have to get that complaint registered in the book and this book should be systematically checked by the Estate Officer or the officer in charge. That system we thought would lead to better efficiency and would be a better practice.

There are various other points also mentioned in the report such as the question of unauthorised occupation of government quarters, the method of collection of rent, recoveries of the rent due, etc. Various recommendations have been made. I do not want to deprive the other Members of their opportunity to speak by dealing with these points. Therefore I would only urge the Ministry seriously to consider these recommendations which we have made and also appreciate the labour, the energy and the sincerity that this Committee Members had to put into their work. They ought not to be treated in a lighthearted manner but must be attended to with care.

I would also ask the Finance Minister to take action immediately at least with regard to them. If only our recommendations are accepted and some are implemented the saving to the Government will be Rs. 3,32,000. I am particularly drawing the attention of the Finance Minister to make him bring pressure on this particular Ministry and to closely examine these proposals and see that they are accepted.

**Shri Kamath:** Sir, the two-month old Minister of Works, Production and Supply is not in a very happy position. He has to hold more than one baby which are not his own.

**Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh):** He has handed over some.

**Shri Kamath:** Yes, he should not be entirely sorry, because he has transferred a big blustering baby, the Damodar Valley Corporation, to a colleague of his.

He boasted the other day that he had brought Gangajal to Delhi. Bringing Gangajal is not always a very happy event. Among the Hindus Gangajal is brought when a person is in a particular state of life—I almost said death—and, I hope, his bringing Gangajal to Delhi will not prove that Delhi is affected that way. I hope it is really a happy augury for the future.....

**Dr. Deshmukh:** He is keeping it in readiness!

**Shri Kamath:** The Minister, I know, is actuated by a fine sense of joint responsibility, of which he gave us proof the other day. He came to the succour or the rescue of the Health Minister. And if I raise certain subjects today which till three months ago were not his, I am sure that with the same bellicose spirit, which made him say that he will reciprocate if he is rubbed the wrong way,—I do not wish to rub it in, but only remind him—he will meet and answer the various points that might be raised in today's debate.

I shall first take up the prefab twin, the Swedish stalls story. It has now been transferred to my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil.

**An Hon. Member:** He denies.

**Shri Kamath:** The final settlement has come to him and he was good enough to tell us the other day that Government has purchased wisdom through experience. The cost of that experience or wisdom has been just over two lakhs. I would ask him, Sir, on what basis he calculated the cost of this wisdom. The total cost of the

Swedish huts was nearly Rs. 18 lakhs or over and the cost of super-roofing—I do not remember what it came to exactly—nearly a lakh or so. There was a clause in the agreement that in case the stores were not in accordance with specification, the firm would replace them free of cost. I do not know why this clause in the agreement was not taken advantage of. My information is that the Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Rehabilitation undertook to have the huts plastered so as to make them water-proof, and during the negotiations for settlement the Swedish firm produced the drawing or the design which showed the promise that had been made to the Swedish firm, that this would be done before the huts were erected in Delhi. This was not done and the officer who was responsible for this negligence, for this gross negligence, for this criminal negligence, to fulfil an undertaking has gone scot-free again. This matter is not a light matter and must be taken up by the new Minister to see as to why, if the undertaking was given by the officer concerned, he failed to do it; he must be called upon to explain, and he must be brought to book. Otherwise, Sir, officers who are honest, who are hard-working, who are straight, who attend to their job conscientiously and industriously will be disheartened if officers who are guilty, who are deliberately negligent, and who are criminally guilty of carelessness, negligence and lack of responsibility, go scot-free. So this matter must be taken up by the Minister, and responsibility must be fixed for this negligence.

I would also remind him that out of the amount of four lakhs and odd which had been realised by the Government from the firm, Government owes some compensation to those stallholders who, because the huts were not water-proof, lost a good deal of their belongings during the last showers in June or July. They have asked for compensation, and with this money at their disposal Government can easily set aside part of it for compensation of those who lost their property in those showers last year. If they do not do that I have no hesitation in saying that Government will commit mis-appropriation of this part of the amount at the cost of the poor refugees who were hounded from pillar to post, from Connaught Circus to Queensway, Irwin Road and Panchkuin Road.

I would also ask the Minister to consider why the rents of these ramshackle huts were fixed at as high a rate as Rs. 30 a month. Of course he will say, "I have nothing to do with this matter, it pertains to the

Municipal Committee." But Government can certainly advise the Municipal Committees here as to what equitable rents should be fixed for these huts. If a hut has cost only Rs. 750/- and its life is supposed to be five years, at the rate of Rs. 30 a month they would realise in five years nearly Rs. 2,000/- for a hut which has cost them only Rs. 750/-! This is profiteering, pure and simple, nothing more and nothing less. (An Hon. Member: Blackmarketing.) My friend says blackmarketing. Maybe that too, but there is no doubt that Government is profiteering at the cost of the poor refugees in Delhi. This matter must be looked into. The Prime Minister referred the other day to a refugee racket that is going on in Delhi, but I would humbly point out to him that it is only one of the rackets. The prefab. factory is a bigger racket but the Swedish hut is also a little racket which I hope the Minister of Supply will look into so that the poor refugees who have suffered so much during the last year's rains are given some relief out of the money that Government has got out of this firm.

One more point about this matter and it is this. The Inspector in London, I was told, because he was an *ad hoc* employee for the specific purpose of examining these stores, could not be brought to book. I would like to know whether the High Commissioner's Office in London with its allied offices of India Stores Department etc. had no inspector of their own to inspect these stalls. Why was it that an outsider was employed for this purpose? Who was he? What was his name? What was his previous experience in this line? All these questions must be answered in this House; we demand an answer. As my hon. friend pointed out in his speech yesterday, expenditure on the High Commissioner's establishment runs into several crores; it is the biggest establishment abroad of our Government. And I am really surprised to hear from my hon. friend, Mr. Gadgil, that this big establishment had not an inspector who could inspect this stuff, and for that reason an outsider had to be employed who, in spite of the fact that he issued a wrong certificate, cannot be brought to book today and has gone scot-free, and because of whose mistake the refugees in Delhi had to suffer. I hope these matters would be looked into by the Minister and the experts responsible for giving wrong advice brought to book. The expert who gave advice in this case is the same person who was the Managing Director of the prefab. factory, who has given wrong advice

[Shri Kamath]

there and wrong advice here. I am reminded of the saying that an expert is one who knows more and more about less and less. I think in this matter this expert, this technical adviser knew nothing about the matter but the Government trusted him implicitly and were bamboozled; because they were gullible they have now to suffer the consequences.

Now I come to Sindri. It has been before the House and the Estimates Committee has reported in detail about it. I do not wish to go into details, but would like to confine myself to one or two points only. The Sindri factory has been, more or less, a post-war phenomenon. The costs have been mounting, more and more crores are being spent, but this fertilizer factory has so far remained barren. The period of gestation seems to be getting longer and longer, and the date for fructification seems to recede as the months roll by. Our Minister for Commerce and Industry, the might-have-been silent Minister—but latterly he has been speaking quite a good deal on various matters from prohibition upwards and downwards, we have been regaled with many of his pronouncements in recent months—has in this very House made confusion worse confounded, and the only certainty today about the Sindri factory is, to my mind, its uncertainty. The Minister, in the course of the half-hour discussion raised by Mr. Sidhva in this House the other day, said that Dr. Trone was deputed by the Prime Minister to look into the Sindri factory in 1948 and that soon after he reported. Dr. Mookerjee, the then Minister of Industry and Supply, got an estimate prepared in 1948. So far as I am aware, Dr. Trone was in China in 1948 and he came to India in 1949. And so far as I am aware—Dr. Mookerjee is here either to confirm it or contradict it—Dr. Trone was not anywhere in India till the latter half of 1949. He says that Dr. Mookerjee got an estimate in 1948 and Dr. Trone reported to Government. Even then he says that this estimate was “not a sort of a regular estimate”—these are the words used: “not a sort of a regular estimate”. This word “sort”, Sir, is getting very popular nowadays. The other day Dr. Keskar is reported to have said about the Prime Minister that he is “some sort of a Communist”. That is what the *Times of India* says. I do not know what that means, but here also Mr. Mahtab used the same word “sort” and said that Dr. Mookerjee’s estimate was not a sort of a regular estimate. I suppose he meant that it was “guess work”. The notorious fact about the Sindri

Factory is that throughout we have been working on guesses. From its inception and the one-man technical mission in 1944, up to 1950, there has been merely guess work. Even today, we are told that the figure is Rs. 23 crores. Mr. Mahtab says that as the estimate stands, it does not include the coke oven plant; it does not include the catalyst plant, and the catalyst plant has to be imported. So even this is not a final estimate and the cost of these things has not been included in the Rs. 23 crores estimate. The estimate has risen from Rs. 10 crores to 23 crores.

As against this, we have got the Fertilizer and Chemical Factory of Travancore which with only a total capital of Rs. 5 crores has gone into production in two years’ or two and a half years’ time, manufacturing 135 tons of ammonium sulphate per day, 100 tons superphosphate per day, 100 tons sulphuric acid per day and 20 tons of caustic soda per day. It was started in 1945, and completed and began manufacture in 1947, while our magnificent factory—I am sure it is a magnificent factory; perhaps much more magnificent than the prefab. factory—our magnificent factory here still remains barren. I hope, Sir, that it will shortly deliver itself of its goods, and we will be happy to receive our badly needed fertilizers for the production of food crops in this country.

One more point and I have done. The Sindri Factory, as I have said, has been free from the thrall of estimates till the Estimates Committee came on the scene and took it to task. Now the Ministry has got busy and has supplied a beautiful brochure on this Sindri Project. The brochure contains various things and contains, moreover, the fact that the original estimate of the one-man technical mission did not allow for anything at all. So many heads are given saying that the estimate did not allow for this; the estimate did not allow for that; and so on. We are told that with all the work and with all the labour going into this factory it is expected that the constructional work of the factory would be completed by about the middle of 1951 and the first quantity of usable ammonium sulphate would be produced shortly thereafter. Production up to the full installed capacity—normally 1000 tons per day—will, it is anticipated, be reached by March 1952. Here they are very careful about the words. They say, “it is anticipated”. This is one of the recent brochures supplied by the Ministry. But the Estimates Committee was told only six months ago



that the factory would go into production of usable ammonium sulphate and the first instalment would be produced by the end of December 1950. It was stated that initial production would begin in December 1950 and final production in 1951.

**Shri Sidhva:** This was endorsed by Mr. Mahtab in this year also only recently.

**Shri Kamath:** Yes. But the wonder does not stop there—it is a wonderful thing, this factory: there is no doubt about it—but the recent announcement or pronouncement of the Minister on this subject is this. I think this brochure was got ready after February but within one month, again the schedule has changed. The Minister, answering a question of mine on the 26th of March, said that it is unlikely that initial production will commence before November 1951. In this booklet, it is middle of 1951 and about fifteen days later it recedes by six months and full production is expected to be achieved by the latter half of 1952. That means that every fortnight there is a recession and the time recedes by about six months.

**Shri Sidhva:** And that adds to the cost.

**Shri Kamath:** At this rate, I do not know when the factory will produce its fertilizers and whether it will at all become fertile at any time. Anyway, during the time of the present Government, I do not know whether it will show any sign of fertility at all.

One more word, Sir, and I have done. This Sindri Factory, though it is a nationalised concern from the outset.—I would rather say a Governmentalised concern, because it is not so much nationalised as it is Governmentalised—though it is so, it shows lack of planning, neglect, carelessness, lack of responsibility; and callousness to cost. The officers must be made conscious that they will be held accountable for their actions. That is one thing that is absolutely necessary, so that honest, hard-working and conscientious officers might get some encouragement in their work. Otherwise, the whole Administration is bound to suffer if things are allowed to go on at this rate.

I have heard that as regards the staffing and officering of the Factory, there have been complaints in certain quarters. I do not vouch for the truth of this complaint and allegation, but I have heard from many quarters that undue weightage has been given to officers from certain Provinces. I am free from any provincial bias myself.

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but I am told that when officers with superior qualifications were available from other Provinces, they were passed over in favour of officers from some Province, though the latter were not as well qualified or as competent as some of the former. In a concern like this which is nationalised, the whole nation must feel that it is participating in this venture. Not only that, the officers also must feel all over the country that they too have a hand in it. If that spirit is sedulously fostered, it will mean well for the future of our nationalised industry.

**Shri B. Das:** Better name the Province.

**Shri Kamath:** I am glad that this is going to be a State-owned private limited company with Mr. Neogy as Chairman.

**Shri B. Das:** He has turned it down.

**Shri Kamath:** I hear an hon. Member saying that he has refused. I do not know why he has refused. His refusal also may throw some light on what is wrong with this factory. It may be that the factory has come to such a pass that Mr. Neogy feels that if he takes it up he may himself be blamed for anything going wrong. But whatever may have been the reason, I think the Minister owes it to the House to tell us why a man of the calibre of Mr. Neogy has refused such a well-meant offer. If at all this Factory is going to be put on a new footing, I hope it will be done with due care and circumspection and also after having brought to book and to condign punishment anybody, however high placed he may be, who having had anything to do with the factory, has done wrong or has mismanaged things or mal-administered the factory.

**Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal):** I shall confine my remarks to the Central Public Works Department.

The Estimates Committee have carefully gone into the organisation and methods of work of this Department of the Government. This Department, Sir, from its very tradition has not much reputation to lose. It has, practically speaking, no reputation either for efficiency or for economy or for prompt execution of work; and lastly it has no reputation even for honesty. But, Sir, in the course of our examination we have been assured that since the achievement of independence things have improved; and we only wish that demonstrable evidence of that may be visible to this House and to the public.

Sir, about the cost of construction and works done by this Department, it

[Shri A. C. Guha]

has been found that its rates are higher than even the cost of construction of buildings done by another Department of Government—I mean the Railway Department. It does not add to the credit of this Department which is supposed to be a department composed of specialists and experts for that work, that the Railway Department can do its buildings at a much cheaper rate than the Central Public Works Department. It has been stated that a Rates Revisionary Committee, composed of the Chief Engineer of this Department, the Engineer in Chief of the M.E.S. and representatives of the Railway Department has been appointed to revise the rates of this Department. I do not know what has happened to that Committee—whether they have submitted their report and if so what action Government have taken on it.

Sir, for every work done by this Department 17½ per cent. is charged as over-head. That means the other departments of Government have to pay 17 per cent. to this Department for the work of supervision. This charge, Sir as it would appear to everybody, is too much, and it should be drastically reduced, never going beyond 10 per cent.

It is said that in 1950-51 construction work to the tune of Rs. 14 crores 22 lakhs was undertaken, of which Rs. 4 crores 35 lakhs was for labour charges, Rs. 8.71 crores was for cost of material and Rs. 1,14,22,000 as contractors' profits. That means 10 per cent. is given to the contractors, even though there are tier after tier of officers in this Department. If the contractors are to be given such a huge profit, I cannot understand the necessity of retaining such a huge staff. The contractors' profits should be reduced and I hope when revising the rates, this matter also will be taken into consideration.

In regard to the organisation of this Department, there are too many branches, circles and divisions. There are 252 sub-divisions, 67 divisions and 17 circles with four zones. While examining the work undertaken by this Department and the work load entrusted to each unit of its divisions and branches, we found that the work load could be increased at least by 50 per cent., and by regrouping and amalgamation the number of divisions and circles could be reduced.

Seventeen circles are under Superintending Engineers. We have not been able to satisfy ourselves about the utility of the Superintending Engineers' posts. We were told that the Superintending Engineer was expected

to have a visual look at the work and satisfy himself at the general quality of the work; the actual supervision and execution of the work is done by the Executive Engineer, or the Sub-Divisional Officer, or even officers of lower rank like overseers and sub-overseers. For this purpose we are maintaining 17 Superintending Engineers with a huge staff. There is enough scope for economy in this section. The Estimates Committee have not given any rigid figure, but has left it to the Department as to how far economy can be effected.

Then, Sir, there is an Architectural Section as also a Planning Section. We found that the works entrusted to these sections to a great extent are overlapping. The Architectural Section was created in 1949 and is responsible for designing and estimating of works costing over Rs. 2 lakhs. In the Architectural Section there is a designing branch which prepares all designs for Central Government buildings throughout India. It was difficult for us to find a distinction between the two sections, except that one section designs only for works costing over Rs. 2 lakhs and the other section does designing for all Central Government works throughout India.

On further examination we have been told that the Architectural branch planned projects from "a look point of view and the convenience of occupants" and the planning branch ensure about "the soundness of the project". This is too fine a distinction for which a poor country like India can hardly afford to pay. In this connection, Sir, I would like to refer to a letter which was issued by the Prime Minister to this Department. In that letter he has stated that "there is very little money to go round and it is imperative that whatever money is available should be put to the best possible use; that it has to be borne in mind that as little as possible should be spent on costly buildings." The letter goes on to refer to some of the rules according to which all government buildings are constructed and it says that "these rules are antiquated and would need to be revised in view of modern developments in construction work." The letter further says that overhead expenditure can also presumably be reduced, that it should certainly be possible "to evolve cheaper methods of construction and that in the case of schools, dispensaries, etc. even bamboo and thatched structures might serve the purpose". The letter also refers to two or three types of cheap construction. This letter containing a definite directive from the Prime Minister urges

upon the Department to have cheapness and economy mostly in view and not to go in for costly structures. In such position we can hardly afford to have two Planning Sections, one to see the buildings from the "look point of view" and another to see the buildings from the "soundness point of view." I would urge upon the Department and the Government to see that these two Branches are amalgamated and considerable economy effected.

Then there is a Civil Aviation zone. The other works done by this Department except Aviation work in the current year come to Rs. 9 crores original works and Rs. 3.46 crores maintenance works. The Civil Aviation side has to do only Rs. 1 crore original work and Rs. 70 lakhs maintenance work. For this Rs. 1 crore original work and some maintenance work we have been maintaining a separate zone along with two other zones of this Department. I would very much urge upon the Government and upon the hon. Minister to see if the Eastern zone and the Civil Aviation zone cannot be amalgamated with considerable reduction in their respective staff.

Then, Sir, there is the Central Electrical Circle where we find four Branches, one of which is the Air Conditioning Division. This Division supplies air conditioning-apparatus and refrigerators to government officers' bungalows, etc. On this Division the Government is incurring quite a considerable loss every year. I think the House will be unanimous in advocating the abolition of this Division and the system of supplying air-conditioning apparatus and refrigerators to government officers to be discontinued. Those officers who can afford can have these things either through purchase or on hire from local business firms. It is not the function of the Government to supply these things to the officers and incur a loss in public expenditure.

**Shri Tyagi:** Does my friend know that it is given on rent and that rent is realized from the officers?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I know. But even calculating the rent there is a definite loss. I think the hon. Minister may remember what we found out in the Estimates Committee.

**An Hon. Member:** He has forgotten!

**Shri B. Das:** I hope my hon. friend has not asked for an air-conditioning plant in his house!

**Shri Tyagi:** I only wanted to bring it to his notice that they are not given absolutely free.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I know that rent is charged. But the rent does not cover the entire expenditure. They can get it from any business firm on rent. Why should Government incur a loss on this account?

Then, Sir, minor works in distant places in places far off from C.P.W.D. offices are often undertaken by the Central P.W.D. and for this purpose some officers go from the nearest headquarters of that place and thereby incur some extra expenditure by way of travelling allowance, halting charges and other overhead charges. I would urge that these works should be entrusted to the Public Works Departments of the States and accounts adjusted thereafter. The States have got their own machinery in those places and this work could very easily be undertaken by the States Public Works Departments.

Another Section is the Horticultural Division. Even the Members of this House are charged, I think, Rs. 7 or something like that every month for the supposed privilege of having some *malis* sent to their houses. Apart from the personal grievance of the Members I feel that this Horticultural Division should be done away with. The lawns in Government bungalows may be entrusted to their occupants and public gardens and parks may be given over to the municipality. This Horticultural Division has now started circulating some horticultural pamphlets, I think, twice every month. I feel that it is an unnecessary waste of money. The expenditure may not be very big, but I have seen these pamphlets and they do not serve any purpose, at least to the Members of this House.

We have found in connection with our Estimates Committee enquiry that some costly printing machines were lying in the Delhi press for months—I think for over a year—because some electric connection or some small work could not be undertaken by the Manager of the press. In another connection we have seen that in the Calcutta press the Manager asked for the repair of a lorry belonging to the press, and the sanction could not be had in time. The cost of the repairs was only about Rs. 800, but to procure the sanction he had to wait for three months and in the meanwhile he had to pay at the rate of Rs. 40 every day for another lorry, incurring a loss of about Rs. 3,000. So I would urge that the local departmental heads should be given authority to do all these petty works and not to depend on the formalities of getting the sanction from higher-up which will only entail some more

[Shri A. C. Guha]

expenditure for the Government and delay. That is all, Sir, and I have done.

گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر - ذہنی  
اسپیکر صاحب - ورکس پروڈکشن ایڈ  
سپرنٹنڈنٹ منسٹری کے منسٹر صاحب ایک  
بڑے قابل اور پاپولر منسٹر (Popular  
Minister) ہیں اس میں ذرا بھی  
شک نہیں ہے - مگر معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ  
ان کے سامنے بھی کچھ ایسی مشکلات  
ہیں اور وہ کچھ بے بس ہیں - اس وجہ  
سے کچھ باتیں وہ کر نہیں پائے چلکا  
یہاں ہاؤس میں لانا بڑا ضروری ہے -

سب سے پہلے میں مکانوں کی بات  
لیتا ہوں - یہاں جو رپورٹ ورکس  
مائٹس ایڈیٹ پارر منسٹری کی طرف  
سے پیش کی گئی ہے اس میں انہوں نے  
تسلیم کیا ہے کہ ہاؤسنگ (Housing)  
کا جو پرابلم (Problem) ہے - وہ بڑھتا  
ہی جا رہا ہے اسٹیٹ آفس کا اندازہ ہے  
کہ جہاں سنہ ۱۹۳۹ میں وہ گیارہ ہزار  
میں سے صرف سات ہزار کی ضرورت پوری  
کر سکتے تھے - وہاں اب ۱۹۵۰ میں تقریباً  
۸۰ ہزار مکانوں کی ضرورت ہے جن میں  
سے صرف ۱۷ ہزار کو وہ مکان دے سکتے  
ہیں - اس سے یہ صاف ظاہر ہے  
کہ جہاں تک گورنمنٹ سرویلنس کا  
تعلق ہے ان کو بھی مکان نہیں دئے جا  
سکتے ہیں - مجھے پتہ ہے کہ مکان  
کی کمی کی وجہ سے گورنمنٹ کے  
کئی کام صفر (suffer) کر رہے ہیں -  
دوبہلیٹیشن فائلٹس ایڈمنسٹریٹیشن

(Rehabilitation Finance Ad-

ministration) جو گورنمنٹ کی  
طرف سے ریفریجیٹ (Refugees) کو قرضہ  
دینے کے لئے بلایا گیا تھا - بہت عرصہ  
تک اس کی طرف سے مطالبہ ہوتا رہا  
کہ ہم مکانوں کی کمی کی وجہ سے پورا  
کام نہیں کر سکتے اور خواہ مخواہ خرچہ  
ہو رہا ہے - یہہ ایک میں نے مثال دی  
ہے - میرا صرف مطالبہ یہہ ہے کہ فوڈ  
(Food) کے پرابلم کی بات تو سمجھ  
میں آ سکتی ہے اور کسی دوسری بات  
کے شارٹیج (Shortage) کی بات بھی  
سمجھ میں آ سکتی ہے کہ گورنمنٹ  
آف انڈیا (Government of India)  
کے سامنے کئی باتیں ہیں جو شارٹیج  
کی وجہ سے پوری نہیں ہو سکتیں  
اور وہ سوال بہت کچھ کمپلیکیٹڈ  
(Complicated) ہو گئے ہیں مگر یہہ  
جو مکانوں کا مسئلہ ہے یہہ تو ایسا نہیں  
ہے - اتنی زمیں پڑی ہوئی ہے - اس میں  
اگر تھوڑا سا بھی پلاننگ (Planning)  
کر لیا جاتا اور اگر اس طرف تھوڑا سا  
بھی خیال کر لیا جاتا تو یہہ پرابلم تو  
اب تک حل ہو سکتا تھا - مجھے پتہ  
ہے کہ گورنمنٹ سرویلنس کو بڑی دقت ہو  
گئی ہے - اگر ان کو دلی میں مکان  
نہیں ملتا ہے تو وہ کہاں جائیں - ان  
کو تو روز صبح دفتر جانا اور شام کو آنا  
ہوتا ہے - اگر ان کو رات کو مکان نہیں  
ملتا تو ان کو بڑی تکلیف ہوتی ہے -  
مگر اس کے علاوہ مجھے دلی کے متعلق

بہت سی مثالیں معلوم عین - مثلاً ایک آدمی راولپنڈی ۴ - جموں کا نام میں نہیں بلانا چاہتا - جس کے راولپنڈی میں چھوٹے بڑے قریب ۱۶۰ مکان تھے - اس کو یہاں دلی میں سر چھپانے کو ایک کمرہ حاصل نہیں ہو سکا - اس سے آپ سمجھ سکتے ہیں کہ یہہ مکانوں کا معاملہ اس وقت کتنا تکلیف دہ ہے اور سرکار کے لئے بدنامی کا باعث بنا ہوا ہے - پر میں نہیں سمجھ سکتا کہ یہہ مکانوں کا انتظام کیوں نہیں ہو سکتا - منسٹر صاحب کو یہہ پتہ ہے کہ یہاں بہت سے ان اتھورائزڈ (unauthorized) مکان بنائے گئے ہیں - پچھلے اجلاس میں ان کو ان کے متعلق ایک بل بھی یہاں لانا پڑا تھا - آپ خیال کریں کہ ان لوگوں نے جن کو سرکار کی طرف سے کوئی زمین نہیں مای مگر پھر بھی انہوں نے مکان بنا لئے اور ان پر دس ہزار - پندرہ ہزار بیس ہزار - پچیس ہزار - ہا کہ بعض حالتوں میں ۵۰ ہزار روپیہ تک لگا دیا ہے اور مکان بنا لئے ہیں - تو آپ خیال کریں کہ اگر سرکار ان کو زمین پلاٹس (plots) بنا کر دے دیتی تو وہ سارا (material) اکٹھا کر لیتے اور سب چیزیں مہیا کر لیتے اور مکان بنا لیتے یہہ مثال آپ کے سامنے موجود ہے کہ اتنے مکان تو انہوں نے سرکار کے زمین نہ دینے پر مجبوراً چوری سے بنا لئے ہیں لیکن اگر سرکار ان کے لئے کچھ انتظام کرتی اور ان کو کچھ سہولتیں دیتی

تو آپ دیکھتے کہ یہہ لوگ جو یہاں بے گھر ہو کر آئے ہوں وہ اپنے لئے کتنی اچھی طرح سے مکان بنا لیتے اور یہہ معاملہ بہت حد تک حل ہو جاتا - تو پہلی بات تو میں یہہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ مکانوں کے متعلق تو یہہ منسٹری بالکل قطعی طور پر فیصل ہوئی ہے - یہہ کوئی اتنی بڑی بات نہیں تھی کہ یہاں لوگوں کے لئے مکان مہیا کئے جا سکتے - اور یہہ جو بہانا کیا جاتا ہے کہ میٹریل نہیں ملتا - تو اگر اس طرف سرکار تھوڑی بھی توجہ کرتی تو جن لوگوں نے ان اتھورائزڈ مکان بنوا لئے اور میٹریل مہیا کر لیا ان کے لئے یہہ کوئی مشکل بات نہیں تھی - دوسری بات میں نئی دلی کی سوکوں کے بارے میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں - یہاں تھوڑی سی بارش اگر ہو جاتی ہے تو گیزنا مشکل ہو جاتا ہے - پرسوں شام کو جب بارش ہوئی تو کئی میمبر صاحبان نے دیکھا ہوگا کہ فیروز شاہ روڈ پر چالنا مشکل ہو رہا تھا - کئی فوٹ پانی بھر رہا تھا - مجھے سڈ ۳۸ کا ایک واقعہ یاد ہے کہ نئی دہلی ریلوے اسٹیشن کے سامنے پل کے نیچے پانی جمع ہونے کی وجہ سے دو لوگ اس پانی میں بہ گئے تھے اور ان کا کوئی پتہ نہیں لگ سکا - اس قسم کے شائد اور بھی کئی واقعات ہوئے ہونگے - مگر یہہ کتنی ان ایفیشینسی (Inefficiency) ہے یہہ تکلیف اتنی سالوں سے چلی آ رہی ہے کہ تھوڑی سی بھی بارش ہو جاتی

[ گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر ]  
 سے نئی دلی اور پرانی دلی کا کنکیشن  
 (Connection) توت جاتا ہے - نئی  
 دلی سے کوئی پرانی دلی نہیں جا سکتا  
 اور پرانی دلی سے کوئی نئی دلی نہیں  
 آ سکتا - تو اس طرف بھی توجہ دینا  
 بہت ضروری -

تیسری بات میں پرنٹنگ اور  
 اسٹیبلشمنٹ ڈپارٹمنٹ (Printing and  
 Stationery Department) کے بارے  
 میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں - یہاں بھی ایک  
 بڑا اہم سوال ہے - یہاں پر مجھے پتہ  
 لگا ہے کہ اس محکمہ کا ری آرگنائزیشن  
 (Re-organization) کیا جا رہا ہے  
 بہت اچھی بات ہے کہ موجودہ ڈھنگ  
 کے مطابق اسے ری آرگنائز کیا جائے -  
 ایک پبلیشر (Publisher) ہونے کی  
 وجہ سے مجھے پرنٹنگ کے معاملات  
 میں تھوڑا سا تجربہ ہے - یہاں ایک بڑا  
 ودیسی (tedious) سا کام ہے - اس لئے  
 اسے ری آرگنائز تو ضرور کرنا چاہئے -  
 مگر اس میں یہہ جو خیال کیا جا  
 رہا ہے کہ یو - کے (U.K.) سے کوئی  
 فورن ایکسپٹ (Foreign expert) بلا  
 کر اسے ری آرگنائز کرایا جائے - یہہ بات  
 مجھے پسند نہیں ہے - یہاں کے  
 گورنمنٹ پرنٹنگ - پریسز کے  
 (Managers) کو گورنمنٹ کے خرچے  
 پر یو - کے ٹریڈنگ کے لئے بھیجا گیا تھا  
 اور وہ وہاں سے ٹریڈنگ لے کر آئے ہیں  
 اور وہ اس وقت بھی پرنٹنگ پریسز میں  
 کام کر رہے ہیں - تو اب اگر ان کو نئے

ڈھنگ کے مطابق - نئے طریقوں کے  
 مطابق ری آرگنائز کرنے کی ضرورت  
 ہے تو بجائے اس کے کہ باہر سے کوئی  
 ایکسپٹ ملایا جائے - میری رائے سے جو  
 لوگ پہلے بھی ٹریڈنگ لے چکے ہیں  
 گورنمنٹ انہیں کو اپنے خرچے پر دوبارہ  
 بھیج سکتی ہے اس طرح خرچ بھی  
 کم ہوگا اور انکا پریسوں کے ساتھ سمبندھ  
 ہونے کی وجہ سے جو تجربہ ان کو ہے  
 وہ ری آرگنائزیشن میں زیادہ مدد دینا  
 اور مفید ہوگا - یہ نسبت اس کے کہ  
 باہر سے کسی کو ری آرگنائز کرنے کے  
 لئے بلایا جائے -

اس سمبندھ میں دوسری بات میں  
 یہہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس ڈپارٹمنٹ  
 میں جو شخص کہ پوزیشنس  
 (Position) پر لگائے جاتے ہیں ان کے  
 لئے یہہ ضروری نہیں سمجھا جاتا کہ  
 یہہ ٹیکنیکل میں ہوں - مثلاً چیف  
 کنٹرولر - ڈپٹی کنٹرولر - اسسٹنٹ  
 کنٹرولرز یا انسپیکٹرز کے بارے میں یہہ  
 خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ ٹیکنیکل میں  
 (Technical man) نہ بھی ہوں تو  
 بھی گزارہ ہو سکتا ہے - مگر میری رائے  
 ہے کہ . . . .

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Is  
 the hon'ble member likely to  
 take longer time ?

گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر - میں دو  
 چار منٹ میں ختم کئے دیتا ہوں -  
 کیونکہ لڈج کے بعد میری دوسری  
 مہلتگ ہے -

تو میں یہہ عرض کر رہا تھا کہ کئی یوزیشنس پر بھی تھکنیکل ٹریلڈ آدسی ہونے چاہیئے۔ تب ہی وہ بات کو اچھی طرح سے سمجھ سکتے ہیں۔ اور ری آرگنائزیشن میں بھی بہت مفید ثابت ہو سکتے ہیں۔

اس سلسلہ میں ایک بات اور کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ سنا ہے کہ پریسز کم ہونے کی وجہ سے گورنمنٹ کو کام میں دقت ہوتی ہے اور کبھی کبھی پزلیمنٹ کے پیپر بھی وقت پر نہیں چھپ پاتے اور کام میں روکڑت پیدا ہوتی ہے۔ مگر اس کے باوجود مجھے پتہ لگا ہے کہ گورنمنٹ ناسک میں ایک بڑا پریس لگا رہی ہے میری سمجھ میں نہیں آیا کہ سینٹر (Centre) سے ہزاروں میل دور ناسک میں پریس لگانے سے کیا فائدہ ہو سکتا ہے گر یہہ سینٹر میں ہو تو گورنمنٹ کو بھی فائدہ ہو سکتا ہے اور صوبہ سرکاری بھی اس سے فائدہ اٹھا سکتی ہیں۔ مجھے یہہ عرض کرنا ہے کہ اگر کوئی پریس لگانے کی تجویز ہو تو اس کو کسی سینٹرل جگہ میں لگانا چاہیئے۔

ایک میں یہاں پروڈکشن اور سپلائی (Production and Supply) کے متعلق بھی کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ میں ہاوس کا زیادہ وقت نہیں لیتا چاہتا ایک بیج گیا ہے بلکہ ایک سے اوپر وقت ہو گیا ہے اور میں اپنی وجہ سے ہاوس کو زیادہ

نہیں بٹھانا چاہتا۔ مگر میں اپنے جذبات کو دو لفظوں میں کہہ دیتا ہوں۔ جب کہ غیر معمولی حالات ہوتے ہیں اس وقت گورنمنٹ کنٹرول کرتی ہے یہاں پر اب جو کوئلہ، لوہا، سیمنٹ، گافز اور کپڑے وغیرہ پر کنٹرول ہے اس کی وجہ سے بہت سی خرابیاں ہو رہی ہیں۔ آفیشلس (Officials) کے بھی بلاکس (Blocks) بن رہے ہوں اور ان کی آپس میں انٹریگس (Intrigues) چل رہی ہیں۔ آپ ان کنٹرولوں (Controls) کو بہت جلد ہٹا دیں کیونکہ ان سے اصل میں کوئی مطلب حل نہیں ہو رہا ہے۔ غیر معمولی حالات کی وجہ سے جب چیزوں پر کنٹرول ہوتا ہے تو لگزی کی چیزوں (Luxury goods) کے دام بوجھ جاتے ہیں۔ مگر یہاں اُلٹی بات ہے کہ وجہ یہ ہے کہ جن چیزوں پر کنٹرول ہوتا ہے وہ بلیک مارکیٹ میں برابر ملتی رہتی ہیں۔ اس لئے کنٹرول کا کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہو رہا ہے۔ اب کپڑے پر کنٹرول ہے۔ مگر یہہ کنٹرول کا کپڑا بلیک مارکیٹ میں ملتا ہے۔ اس کنٹرول کی وجہ سے کنٹرول والوں کی ایک نئی جماعت ہمارے ملک میں پیدا ہو گئی ہے جنکا کام یہی ہے کہ پرمٹ (Permit) لو اور خریدو اور بیچو۔ لوگوں نے بلیک مارکیٹ کرنے کا روزگار بنا لیا ہے۔ تو جب تک آپ بلیک مارکیٹ کی ماں کو نہیں ماریں گے تب تک یہہ بلیک مارکیٹ نہیں

[گہانی جی - ایس - مسافر]

جا سکتا اس کے اور بچے پیدا ہوتے رہیں گے۔ اور روز بروز بہہ جماعت بوہتی جائے گی۔ اس لئے مہری بہہ بڑی زبردست رائے ہے چونکہ گورنمنٹ بلیک مارکیٹ کو چیک (Check) کرنے میں بالکل فیمل ہوئی ہے اس لئے اس کنٹرول کو ہٹا دیا جائے۔ چینی پر کنٹرول ہوا۔ پر ہم دیکھتے رہے کہ یہاں چینی بلیک مارکیٹ میں برابر بکتی رہی۔ چلے پر کنٹرول ہوا تو چنا غائب ہو گیا اور جانور بھوکوں مرنے لگے۔ پھر جب چلے پر سے کنٹرول ہٹا لیا گیا تو آخر موسم تک چنا چلتا رہا۔ تو میں نہ یہ ایک مثال دی ہے۔ اس لئے اگر سرکار چیک نہیں کر سکتی تو پھر اس چیز کو بند ہی کر دیا جائے۔ مجھے معلوم ہے کہ سول سیپلائز (Civil Supplies) کا محکمہ ایک ایسا محکمہ ہے جس میں بڑے احتیاط کی ضرورت ہے۔ میں مانلیہ منسٹر صاحب کی بڑی عزت کرتا ہوں اور ان کو بہت بڑا قابل سمجھتا ہوں۔ وہ بڑے پاپولر منسٹر ہیں بات کر سکتے ہیں اور اس کا علاج کرنے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں۔ اسی حوصلے پر میں کہتا ہوں کہ وہ میرو بات کو سلیں گے اور اس پر وچار کریں گے اور ایسے دفتر کا ملاحظہ کریں گے تو انہیں بہت سی باتوں کا پتہ لگے گا۔ اور وہ انکی طرف توجہ دیں گے اور اگر وہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ وہ اسے چھک نہیں کر سکتے تو اسے ختم کیا جائے

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani G. S. Musafir (Punjab): Sir, the Minister of Works, Production and Supply is no doubt a very able and popular Minister. It appears, however, that he is up against certain handicaps and is rather helpless. That is why he has not been able to accomplish certain things which require to be brought to the notice of this House.

First of all, I take the case of houses. In the Report of the Works, Mines and Power Ministry it has been admitted that the housing problem is getting more and more acute. The Estate Office reports that whereas in 1939 they could meet the needs of only seven thousand people out of eleven thousand now, in 1950, about eighty thousand houses are required out of which they can provide only seventeen thousand. From this it is quite obvious that even the Government servants cannot be provided with houses. I know that several plans of the Government are suffering on account of housing shortage. The Rehabilitation Finance Administration that had been formed by the Government for the purpose of advancing loans to the refugees complained for a long time that they could not work properly for want of buildings and that needless expenditure was being incurred. This is just an example. The existence of the food problem can be explained and one can also understand the reasons for any other shortages. The Government of India has many programmes which cannot be implemented because of those shortages. These problems have thus become fairly complicated. The housing problem, however, does not belong to that category. There is plenty of land to be found. Had there been a little bit of planning on this side, had some thought been given to this problem it would have been solved by this time. I know of the difficulties faced by Government servants on account of the refugee problem. If they cannot find a house in Delhi where else should they go? They have to go to office every morning and return home in the evening. They are hard put to it in the absence of a house. There are so many other instances about Delhi known to me. For instance, there is a man from Rawalpindi, whose name I do not wish to disclose, who owned 160 houses, all told, in Rawalpindi but he has not been able to secure even a single room in Delhi which might have served him as a shelter. From this you may realize what hardships are being caused by this housing problem and how it is



bringing a bad name to the Government. I am, however, unable to understand why these houses cannot be provided. The hon. Minister knows that a large number of unauthorised houses have come to be constructed here. He had even to bring forward a Bill with regard to these houses during the last session. Just think how these people who were not allotted any land by the Government were able to build houses at an expense of ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and, in certain cases, even fifty thousand rupees. Now, had the Government allotted plots of land to them they would have collected all the material and built the houses. Here is an example before us. Such a large number of houses have been built surreptitiously, under sheer compulsion, and in spite of the fact that the Government had not allotted any lands to them. Had the Government done something for them and granted them some sort of facilities you would have seen that these people who have come here on having been rendered homeless would have easily built houses for themselves and this problem would have been solved to a large extent. Hence, I must say, in the first instance, that so far as the question of housing goes this Department has failed completely. The provision of houses for the people was not such a difficult job. The excuse that building material is not available is untenable. If the people who have built unauthorised houses were able to procure the material it was not at all an insurmountable difficulty for the Government if they had applied themselves to the job.

Next I would draw your attention to the condition of roads in New Delhi. Even with a little rain the roads become impassable. The hon. Members must have noticed that as a result of the rain that fell day before yesterday in the evening, it had become difficult to walk along Feroze Shah Road which was covered with water several feet deep. I remember an incident that took place in 1948. On account of accumulation of water under the bridge in front of the New Delhi Railway Station two boys were carried away by the current and no trace could be found of them. There might have been other incidents like that. What regrettable inefficiency is this! For the last several years we have had to face the difficulty that even with a little rain the connection between Old Delhi and New Delhi is broken. Nobody can go from New Delhi to Old Delhi nor can come from Old Delhi to New Delhi. This too needs attention,

The third subject on which I wish to speak is the Printing and Stationery Department. I hear this Department is going to be reorganised. It is good to reorganise it on modern lines. Being myself a publisher I have some experience of printing work. It is a rather tedious sort of job and should therefore be reorganised. However, I do not approve of the importation of foreign experts for this reorganisation work. Managers of Government printing presses here had been sent to U.K. for training at Government expense. They have come back after training and are working in the printing presses even now. If, now, it is intended to reorganise them according to the latest methods I am of the opinion that rather than sending for an expert from outside the Government had better send again, at Government expense, those who have already got the training. This would involve less expenditure and, at the same time, the experience which these people have gained by reason of their actual work in the presses would be of great help and use in the reorganisation work.

I also wish to say in this connection that in the case of people who are appointed to some post in this Department it is not regarded essential that they should be technical men. For instance, in the case of the Chief Controller, the Deputy Controller, the Assistant Controller or the Inspectors etc. it is thought that even if they are not technical men they can serve the purpose. I think, however, that.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is the hon. Member likely to take longer time?

**Giani G. S. Musafir:** I am going to finish in two three minutes for I have to attend another meeting after the lunch.

I was submitting that there should also be technically trained men on key positions. Then alone can they understand things properly and be really useful for the work of reorganisation.

There is one thing more which I wish to say in this connection. I am told Government work suffers on account of paucity of Government presses. Sometimes the Parliamentary papers are also not printed in time and hindrance is thus caused in work. In spite of this, however, the Government, I am told, is going to establish a big press at Nasik. I fail to understand what is the fun in having a press at Nasik, thousands of miles away from the Centre. Were it to be established at a Central place it could be useful to the Government of India as also to the

[Giani G. S. Musafir]

States Governments. I would therefore submit that if a press is proposed to be established it should be established at a central place.

I wish to make just one submission with regard to the Department of Production and Supply. I do not wish to take much time of the House. It is already one o'clock, rather past one, and I have no desire to detain the hon. Members much longer. So I would express my feelings in a few words. The Government imposes controls whenever abnormal conditions arise. The controls in respect of coal, iron, cement, paper, cloth etc. have, however, given rise to a number of evils. Even the officers have formed themselves into blocs and there are intrigues going on among them. You should remove these controls at the earliest possible for they are not serving any useful purpose. Ordinarily, when control is imposed on some articles, under abnormal conditions, the prices of luxury goods go up but here the reaction is otherwise, for, the articles that are controlled are as usual available in the black market. The control is therefore not serving any useful purpose. For instance cloth is a controlled commodity but controlled cloth is available in the black market only. This control has brought into being a new class of people in our country whose regular business it is to obtain permits to purchase goods and then to sell them off. People have made a profession of the black market. Not until you kill the mother of black market will there be an end of it. There will be more of its offspring and the tribe will thus go on multiplying. Hence, I am strongly of the opinion that since the Government has utterly failed to check black market this control should be done away with. Control was imposed on sugar but we found that it was freely available here in the black market. When gram was declared to be a controlled commodity it disappeared from the market and the cattle started starving. Later on when control was relaxed it again became available and continued to be so till the end of the season. This is just an example. Hence, if the Government cannot maintain a proper check on the controls they had better abolish them altogether. I am aware the Department of Civil Supplies is a Department which requires to be administered with great care. I have great regard for the hon. Minister who is a person of outstanding ability. He is a very popular Minister who hears the other man's point of view and tries to set

things right. In that confidence I express the hope that he would hear and consider what I have stated. When he makes an inspection of this Department he would discover lots of things and would attend to them. If he finds he cannot check the rot let him scrap the show altogether.

*The House then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty-five minutes Past Two of the Clock.*

*The House re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-five minutes Past Two of the Clock*

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair]

#### VAPOUR CAUSED OVER DELHI BY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT

**Shri Sidhva:** There was some object flying in the air very high this morning. It was giving out smoke. The hon. Deputy Minister of Defence is here. Would he kindly let us know what that was? I understand three aeroplanes went in search of that object.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** Flying Saucers?

**Mr. Chairman:** If the House is quite anxious to know what it is, and if the hon. Minister is willing to reply, I have no objection.

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinhji):** The Indian Air Force authorities have not been able to identify the aircraft vapour caused over Delhi this morning. It is certain, however, that the Aircraft, for such it was, did not belong to the I.A.F. In all probability, the vapour was caused by a foreign aircraft overflying India without its Government having sought prior permission. It is believed that the aircraft at one time was flying over 30,000 feet above ground level, and therefore it was not possible for our aircraft to gain that height—starting from the ground level. There is no other information.

**Shri Sidhva:** Was it.....

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, order. I think hon. Members asked permission only for a statement to be made by the Minister not for any supplementaries.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF  
DEMANDS—contd.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** I will restrict myself to certain observations about the C.P.W.D.

Hard pressed as we are in our finances, the first question would be of economy that could be effected in that department. The Economy Committee had made recommendations that an amount of Rs. 7,90,900 could be saved if these recommendations had been accepted. From the Administration Report that has been supplied to us, we find that certain economies have certainly been effected and as a result of that, there is a saving of Rs. 5,66,000. So far as it goes, it looks to be somewhat satisfactory. But, really what the Estimates Committee found out was that there was further scope for effecting economies in this branch of Government. There were certain useful suggestions. A strong case had been made out that one Chief Engineer and certain other subordinate officials could be dispensed with without affecting the efficiency of the department. I request here, in all humility, that these suggestions should be paid heed to. We can save substantial amounts for our exchequer if we implement the recommendations that have been made by the Estimates Committee.

Then, Sir, my second point, that was also touched by my hon. friend Mr. Guha, is about the rates charged by the C.P.W.D. It is interesting to note that the Committee pointed out to the representatives of the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power that the cost of construction of houses in Sindri charged by the C.P.W.D. was higher than the corresponding cost of similar constructions by the Railway Department. But, they were told that a committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D. Member, Engineer, Railway Board, and Engineer-in-Chief in the Defence Ministry, had been formed and when that report is received, the rates would be revised. My only submission in that question is that, without casting any aspersion on the honesty and integrity and efficiency of the personnel of this Board, it would have created greater enthusiasm and greater confidence if some independent Member also had been associated with it.

Then, my third point is one which is referred to on page 35 of this report of the Estimates Committee: that is lack of co-ordination in the various departments of Government. Though

this was brought to the notice of the House during question-hour on one day, the reply received from the officials is so interesting that I wish that the hon. Members might take cognizance of this. The Estimates Committee says:

“The Committee noted with great concern that there was likelihood of some temporary buildings in Sindri being submerged under water consequent on the erection of a Dam under the Damodar Valley Scheme. When questioned about it, a spokesman of the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power told the Committee that they were asked to construct the Houses which they did. They did not undertake any engineering appreciation of the area as they were not specifically asked to do so. The Committee are constrained to observe that this is a very unsatisfactory method of dealing with matters falling within the purview of the C.P.W.D. and even though they were not asked to survey the area from the Engineering point of view, it was their duty nevertheless to bring to the notice of the authorities the defects inherent in the proposal. This instance also shows abundantly that there has not been any proper planning and close co-ordination between the two departments of the Government.”

That is a sad state of affairs, because, those buildings that were constructed for the Sindri factory would be submerged and the money would have been wasted. If there had been planning and co-ordination between the two departments, this would not have occurred. It is no reply on the part of the Government to say that it was asked to construct the houses which it did and that it was not concerned with the engineering aspect of that question.

Further, I want to submit that so far as this department is concerned, everyone knows that a certain amount of stink and bad odour is felt everywhere. It is common knowledge that there are rates of commission fixed and officials normally charge them as their legitimate share. I am not talking of any particular individual because I have no knowledge about it: I should not make any pretence. But, as the department is corrupt, everybody talks of it even in the street and talks about it as a matter of course. Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this aspect. Even in Government works, frauds have been committed. Very big amounts have been misappropriated. Of course, there is a

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

great temptation to the officers. They have big opportunities to make money. All this is there. But, even then, we have to guard against all these evils if we want to rise as a nation. Particularly I want to draw the attention of the Minister to three or four cases that have come to my notice.

In the Delhi Aviation Division, it was alleged that there was a fraud of about Rs. 29,000, and F.I.R. No. 234/48 was registered with the Special Police Establishment. That department has been carrying on investigations into the case. Further things have come to light and ultimately, what I understand is, though I cannot vouchsafe to its correctness to the Rupee, that in all, the fraud is estimated to be about eleven lakhs. The investigation has been delayed for two years. Witnesses have not been coming forward—not private persons who could be tempted to keep away, but even Government officials from the department have not come forward voluntarily to depose to the facts that they possessed.

That is not all. The S.P.E. wanted certain documents to be produced in order to substantiate the allegations and they summoned them. If it is wanted I might mention what these documents were. One was detailed estimates of job 149 for a landing ground. Another was a completion plan for a well job No. 147. Another was a Site Order Book and then a typical section of a building. These have been summoned again and again but have not been produced by the Department. It is the general complaint that very few cases are brought to book and that persons are not punished. But even if the few that are taken up by the police are not allowed to be fully investigated. If that is the kind of co-operation that the police gets from the Department, there can be no hope of anybody being punished. These documents have been kept away and now I understand that the reply is that they are not traceable! The cases are being delayed and no action is or can be taken against the individuals concerned. Madam, if this had been a solitary and lonely instance, we could have understood that perhaps in this case honestly the papers might have been lost; but we find that this is not the single instance, but there are other instances of a similar nature in the same Department. That being so, one fails to come to any other conclusion but to the irresistible one that it is the intention of the Department that these things should not come to light. Here is another case regarding the construction of the Banas

bridge in Ajmer Central Division which was taken up for investigation by the S.P.E. and the file containing the correspondence which is required has not been produced yet. It is being delayed and so the investigation has been kept hanging and probably the case may have to be dropped for want of this file. Then there is yet another case about the Lodi Road quarters in B Division which is under investigation. It was in connection with the issue of petrol coupons. The Department, it appears wanted the coupons for petrol for cartage of earth by means of motor trucks. Charges were claimed accordingly but what actually happened was that the carting was done by means of animal agency and higher rates were charged and the fraud is to the tune of about Rs. 2 lakhs and that case also is being delayed, as the files are not traceable.

One minute more, Madam and I will finish.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, let him finish in another one minute.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If these frauds are committed and there is complicity between the officers of the lower and higher ranks, what can be expected? The people in the lower rungs generally are made the scape-goats. They are the victims as they fear victimisation and harassment, and the higher officers go scot-free. I only wanted to bring these cases to the hon. Minister's notice. If he gives some attention to this sad state of affairs, there might be some improvement.

Shri Goenka (Madras): I shall confine my remarks to the Department of Stationery and Printing. It is within the knowledge of hon. Members of this House that the hon. Minister in charge of this Ministry appointed a committee with me as its chairman, as early as in March 1949, to go into the existing conditions of the Government Presses in India and to give our report as early as possible. Madam, it is not my purpose now to find fault with this Ministry; but I would like to place before this House certain salient features in regard to the working of the Government presses of this country. Let me at the very outset say that the condition of the government presses in India is far from satisfactory. Madam, we submitted our report as early as 20th February 1950. This report, unfortunately, has not received the attention that it deserves. Within the little time at my disposal I will not go into the history of this Committee or its report. Soon after the Committee was

constituted, it submitted a preliminary report as early as in August, 1949, drawing the attention of the hon. Minister to certain aspects of the question which we thought required immediate attention. What did we find when we went into the matter? We found that the whole system of working in these Presses was unsatisfactory. For instance, we found that machinery, costing lakhs of rupees, was lying idle, though it was all along urgently required to cope up with the printing work. The machinery could not be erected because it is the P.W.D. that must erect the machinery. The foundation may not cost more than Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 but according to the rules of the department, the P.W.D. alone should lay the foundation and erect the machinery. The request has to be made to the P.W.D. and then the file goes from one place to another and all the time the machinery lies idle, and probably deteriorating. In another case though the machinery was already erected, it could not start working because electric connection had not been given and that electric connection could be given only by the P.W.D. Though this work would cost only about Rs. 40 or so, the whole case remains pending for seven or eight months. In the Simla Press the monotype machine could not function because there was no water connection and this was to be given by the P.W.D. The case must go to the P.W.D. and the same red-tapism must go on. This is the state of the Government Presses.

Then again, we find that regulations which were introduced in the last century are still holding good in our Government Presses. Regulations of 1925, we found, were operative in 1950. No change had been made. The supervision was practically negligible. Further, we found that promotions of the staff were not made on merit but on seniority with the result that a proof-reader found himself to be the Assistant Manager of a press. His technical knowledge was practically negligible and his knowledge of English was far from satisfactory. All the same he happened to be the Assistant Manager of the press. The result is that these presses are not working on a business-like footing; they work as any other department of government—the caravan must go on, whatever may happen. This is not peculiar to the Public Works Department; this applies to the various other departments also.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** That is the only consolation.

**Shri Goenka:** What do we find Madam? We find that the officer in

charge of the Printing and Stationery Department is a non-technical man. It is very necessary that the man in charge of this work, in charge of the press and the stationery, should be a man with some technical knowledge of the work—of the work at least in the presses. But unfortunately the men in charge of the Government presses have no technical knowledge of presses. The result is that any story can pass muster with them. We found that orders for composition rollers and ink were placed with firms which supplied them at the cheapest rates irrespective of the quality. The result was that in the long run the composition rollers were more costly than first class ones. The same was the case in regard to ink.

The whole of the Government press was not being run in a business like basis at all, but was ridden with the usual redtapism of the Government. In a commercial venture you have to take into account the commercial aspects and commercial features of the concern. We found none of these features in the Government presses.

Madam, within the short time at my disposal I cannot go into the recommendations of this Committee. What was the fate of the report of this Committee? We were given a Secretary who was temporarily appointed for this Committee. The report was signed by all the members and submitted to the Government. But in the printed report certain paragraphs were introduced by the Secretary. (*Dr. Deshmukh:* Very good.) Though I had signed the report I have heard nothing more about it. Though the Secretary was not a member-secretary of the Committee he had introduced some paragraphs which got printed. It was in January 1951 when for the first time I knew anything about it.

I will now refer to the letter which I got from the Joint Secretary of the W.P.S. Ministry. It says:

“Will you kindly see my letter of 9th January 1951 in which I dealt incidentally with the report of the Expert Committee on Printing? The finalisation of this Committee's Report is now long overdue and we have had questions put to us at recent meetings of the Estimates Committee and the Standing Finance Committee on the reasons for the delay in the issue of this Report. I would be grateful, therefore, if the Report could be finalised and this Ministry put in a position to print and circulate it. On 19th September 1950 we heard from Mr. Raulekar that he was in touch with you and

[Shri Goenka]

hoped to finalise the report by the end of October. He also pleaded personal difficulties since he was touching up the Report single-handed. I would be grateful to know how the matter stands and what should be done at my end to secure the early completion of this work.

In case a delay beyond the end of this month is likely, will you kindly let me know whether you would be agreeable to our issuing a summary of the recommendations alone to Members of the Parliament? This will, of course, need consultation with other members of the Committee and if you approve, I shall write to them in this connection."

On receipt of this letter I immediately got into touch with Mr. Rauledar. I wrote to Mr. Pai on the 13th February:

"Many thanks for your D.O. No. A781 of the 10th February. I was really surprised that the Report was not finalised. Actually, the Report was signed by me but later on, I was told, that certain portions were added in the report by the Secretary without either my knowledge or the knowledge of the Members of the Committee. I had therefore requested Mr. Rauleder to see that those portions were deleted. I have sent a message to Mr. Rauleder and if I am unable to contact him by tomorrow, will you please ask your office to send me the original report which all of us had signed and the subsequent report which was given by the Secretary, under our signatures, so that I may amend it and send it to you immediately? I am very sorry that this should have happened. If I knew that the matter was still pending, I would have attended to it much earlier."

I got into touch with Mr. Rauleder and he informed me that his bills were not paid and therefore he was not going to take up this report at all. Then I wrote on the 15th February, 1951 to Mr. Pai as follows:

"Referring to my previous letter of the 13th February 1951 in regard to the Report of the Expert Committee on printing, I have got in touch with Mr. Rauleder, who informs me that he has not done anything in regard to the report since 'payment of his dues is not yet settled' by the Government of India.

Unfortunately, I have been kept in the dark in regard to all these matters and I was shocked to find that the report has not yet been finalised. Will you please send me the report so that I can do the needful in the matter. In the meantime, could you let me know what the position of Mr. Rauledar's bills is?

As you know, so far as I am concerned, I made it quite clear when I took over the job that I shall not touch even a farthing for my services. In the circumstances, I think it is but wise that we settle the affair of Mr. Rauledar, as early as possible."

I wrote that on the 15th February and I have not received a reply yet, though it was most urgent.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** No reply?

**Shri Goenka:** No reply nor acknowledgement, although it was supposed to be very urgent.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I request hon. Members not to interrupt the speaker. There are some more speakers and I shall have to call the hon. Minister at 3-15 P.M. to make his speech.

**Shri Goenka:** Here is a case where a report has been submitted and in which one or two paragraphs have been introduced by the Secretary without the knowledge of the members of the Committee. The original report was unanimously signed by all the members and submitted to the Government but in the printed report we found these additional paragraphs inserted by the Secretary. If the Government were really serious, could they not put into effect certain matters recommended in the report which were of a very urgent nature?

It was as early as March 1949 that I was asked by Mr. Gadgil to immediately look into the matter and submit a report so that the matter may be dealt with. Here is a case in which all the recommendations have been made: everything is on paper for two years and no action has so far been taken. But in the beginning of February, I got Mr. Pai's letter and then I wrote "Please send me the report and if Rauledar is not prepared to do it, I will do it." I got no reply to it, though it is over a month and ten days. This is the state of affairs. Why?

I will tell you something more about it. The Controller of Printing and Stationery who was a member of the

Committee did not agree with the conclusions of the Committee, because we said that the Government must have a technical man in charge of Printing and Stationery and unfortunately he was not a technical man. Now I know that his department will do everything to delay this matter. They will find some excuse or other and see that the matter is not brought up.

As you know, this matter was discussed in the Estimates Committee and they have given their report and I am grateful to the Minister for drawing my attention to it before I began speaking on this subject. He said that the Estimates Committee has decided that there could be a saving of Rs. 1,20,00,000 in Printing and Stationery. This is rather a complicated matter. Although the demand is only for a crore and odd, the expenses incurred by this Ministry are something like three crores. As regards the expenses incurred by the Stationery and Printing Department they are Rs. 3,89,91,000 but about Rs. 2 crores and odd are recovered from the various Ministries, such as the Communications Ministry. There is no cost-accounting as such. Therefore they just recover as much money as they can out of the Ministries, which really give them their job. They cannot question either the quality or the quantity of the job turned out. They cannot question either the bills presented by this department. They are just passed as a matter of course. The Estimates Committee went into the matter and it felt that these expenses should be debitable to the respective ministries who order certain work to be done. For instance, today all the expenses incurred in stationery and printing except the stationery and printing of the commercial departments of the Government are debitable to this Ministry, so that if, for instance, the Commerce and Industry Ministry wants some printing work to be done or wants a certain quantity of stationery or forms, they are not worried about the cost because the cost is not debitable to that Ministry. Even my hon. friend, so far as the Railway Ministry and other Railway offices situated at the Centre are concerned, does not pay for the printing of his requirements; it is all spent from the pool. What we decided in the Estimates Committee was that the total demand should be cut down by one-third and then the expenses on each Ministry should be debitable to the respective Ministry so that there will be a check and a counter-check on the expenses incurred on stationery and printing. Otherwise, if that is not done nobody cares what money is spent on stationery and printing

for his own Ministry; each Ministry can order whatever it likes because the cost is not debitable to that Ministry and nobody knows what is the amount spent on printing and stationery by each Ministry of the Government. Therefore, we suggested that the demand should be cut down to two-thirds which will result in a saving of Rs. 1.20 crores, and then each Ministry, having to bear its own cost, will take great care in spending because if they exceed the grant they will have to come to this House for a supplementary grant. That is the method which we suggest will have a check upon the expenditure of the Printing and Stationery Department where, rightly or wrongly, we spend as much as Rs. 3.83 crores. It is all right for my hon. friend the Minister to say that the total demand is only a crore and odd and to say that I want him to have a saving of Rs. 1.20 crores out of a crore and odd. It is perfectly all right for him to say so, but so far as the facts are concerned the total amount spent is Rs. 3.89 crores and not Rs. 1.79 crores as my hon. friend will point out to us in due course.

I am not here to find fault with anybody. I will suggest, and will earnestly suggest to my hon. friend that we have spent a year doing this job, let us not stand on technicalities, on a paragraph here or a paragraph there. Let my hon. friend take to this report in right earnest and not stand on technicalities. Let him go into it and put into effect the various recommendations of the Committee. If he finds that certain recommendations are not right, let him discuss them with me, let him discuss them with the Committee, or let him have some technical advisers to advise him. But this business of simply wasting money should stop. Madam, you will be amazed if I tell you that in the Aligarh Press we have machinery one century old. There is no other press in India or in the world where stereotyping is done by hand, but Aligarh is the only place where it is done. I cannot for my life see how stereotyping can be done by hand but it is being done in Aligarh with the result that you do not get results, your production is low and the labour you employ cannot turn out the work you expect of it. With new machinery you can turn out ten times the work that is done there. When other people are installing new machinery unfortunately we still have got antiquated machinery. The officer in charge who suggested the purchase of new machinery also suggested that old type machinery should be purchased. He suggests that if we possess the latest

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type of machinery the workers here are not sufficiently experienced to handle it, and that therefore we should purchase only machinery which is antiquated, which is run by hand, which has no automatic feeders and the like. We have gone into those matters rather thoroughly. Let me suggest to my hon. friend, Mr. Gadgil that he should better go into this matter himself. Let his Deputy go into this matter. Let him not stand on technicalities. If he wants any more assistance my services are always at his disposal, but I would like to see that this wastage of public funds is stopped as early as possible. It was only in that spirit that I agreed to serve on that Committee and produced this report in the course of one year. Again let me earnestly request my hon. friend to give his undivided attention—at least for a day to this report and see that the wastage of public funds is stopped.

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): I very much regret that I was left to the fag end of the debate, but with the ten minutes at my disposal I shall try to dwell on only one aspect of this Ministry and that is that for the purchase of somewhere about Rs. 130 crores worth of goods, mostly capital goods, we have the India Stores Department in London and the India Purchase Mission in Washington. Besides that, of course the Director-General of Supply is there to make purchases in India. It seems to me that whatever the British had done during their regime is being continued, although the purpose for which they established the Stores Department in London, that is for their own interest, should not be our purpose now. Because in those days plant and machinery were being purchased exclusively from England; England was supplying all the plant and machinery that was used in this country. As we know, there are plant and machinery manufactured in the Continent of Europe also—in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Holland and other countries—which are in many cases cheaper than the British manufactures and which contain many features superior to those in the British manufactures. Now, in having the Stores Department in London what happens is this. Most of the orders that go from India from the Ministry go to British firms and whatever little goes to the Continent is routed through British firms in London. Consequently, we deprive ourselves of the opportunity of getting competitive prices, and large sums of money are wasted in this way.

What the Estimates Committee has recommended is that the London Stores Department should be closed and orders that go to the Continent of Europe should be distributed among the various supplying countries direct. Similarly in Washington the Purchase Mission was established during the war for reasons of war necessity. In those days India's requirements were not fully met from England and also certain materials were not available in England. There was also no access to the Continent of Europe and goods had to be purchased in America. So the Mission was established. But, madam, after the war was over and after 1947, I do not understand why a Purchase Mission purchasing about fifty or sixty crores worth of capital goods should remain in the capital of the United States, that is Washington, whereas everyone in this House knows that the commercial capital of the United States is New York. Whatever the British had done we have been carrying it on whether it is for the good of the country or against the interests of the country. Moreover, during the last two years since devaluation purchases in the United States have diminished almost to a vanishing point. Consequently, the Estimates Committee's recommendation is that the Purchase Mission in Washington should be closed down. You may ask what next. My constructive proposal is that the Trade Commissioners in the various countries of the world should be men of such experience in commerce that they can do purchase work and also deal with our exports to those countries. At the present time the Trade Commissioners and the various staffs attached to the Missions outside are such that they do not possess any experience which would persuade us to rely on their work. There are cases and cases which came to the notice of the Estimates Committee in which the machinery ordered was not up to the mark and the people who are to see that it is progressed do not do so properly and there is a great deal of fraud committed by the manufacturers or business firms which is not detected until the goods arrive here.

Madam, I will give you only one instance and that is in regard to the jeeps and the arms and ammunition order which was placed in London with firms that did not have much of an existence. They were mushroom firms. If we have all kinds of people, high-salaried and expert people, in London could we not know where to place these orders; could we not know who would supply the proper materials? Although it may sound strong to you, yet it is true from a business-



man's point of view that the most incompetent people are there in London. In the same way, in Washington, because it is another aspect of it. Although I cannot say whether the D.V.C. is justified in doing so or not, it has ordered its machinery from the General Electric Company in New York and it has appointed a firm of agents to do the progressing for it and see that the goods are being manufactured up to specifications. If we have a Purchased Mission in Washington what is the necessity for the D.V.C. resorting to another agency to get its requirements. I contend that it is because there are not people well enough qualified to do this highly technical job that electric machinery for the D.V.C. is being progressed by a firm of agents.

I have not the time to say anything more, but I would only conclude with this much that the Members of this House should pay particular attention to and make a thorough study of the Reports of the Estimates Committee, because it is your own Committee and you are a Sovereign body and if the Government does not implement the recommendations of that Committee, then you know what to do.

**Shri Gadgil:** I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate and who number nine. It will perhaps be desirable if I take the speech of each hon. Member and try to meet the criticism and the points they have made. Naturally, the innings were opened by my esteemed friend Mr. Sidhva who in his batting is wreckless occasionally although he was not so this time. He wanted to know what the policy of the Government of India was with respect to salt. I want to assure the House that there has been a story of continuous progress so far as production of salt is concerned. In 1946 the production was 479 lakh maunds and in 1950 it has gone up to 713 lakh maunds. In 1951 it is estimated that it will reach 732 lakh maunds. During 1950, the acreage also has increased from 52,029 to 52,300 or so. Steps are being taken to improve the quality and also give technical assistance and bring about co-operative spirit in the industry.

The question of decontrol was raised by my hon. friend. Unless the supply is considerably more—at least 10 to 15 per cent. more—than the estimated demand, it would be a dangerous policy to decontrol. (*Shri Sidhva:* It is today 25 per cent more). Not only this, but along with the quantity aspect we must be assured that there is enough transport both in respect of

metre gauge wagons and broad gauge wagons. (*Shri Sidhva:* That, I admit.) Thirdly, if we want to take a risk in this respect we must be fairly well assured that at any critical time there is a buffer stock to tide over the difficulties. Unless these three fundamental conditions are satisfied, I am not prepared to take the risk and Government will not decontrol. Even if there is a time-lag of a week, the merchants concerned take such undue advantage that it will be risky—in fact, it will be disastrous—to do anything of that kind in the present circumstances.

Now, reference was made to the system of nominees.—there are about 2,000 nominees in the States. Whenever any decision is taken, it is necessary that we should, as far as possible, secure the consent and co-operation of the States. In this particular respect some of the States are not willing to give up this system of nominees for reasons which are obvious.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** What is the obvious reason?

**Shri Gadgil:** It is obvious; therefore, it is not necessary to elucidate.

When the salt duty was abolished, it was expected that at least the consumer would get some relief. But from the trend of prices of 1948, 1949 and 1950, we find that the maximum is always more in every case though the minimum in some cases is slightly less than what it was in the first quarter of 1947. In these circumstances it is a question for us to consider what good the abolition of the salt duty has done. The treasury has lost about Rs. 12 crores and the consumer for whom this was done has not gained. Proceeding on these lines, I thought it would be a good and attractive proposition for the State Governments to consider whether they should not take the burden of the wholesale aspect of distribution; in other words, they should indent directly from the government factories as well as from private factories, have storage facilities, at least for a month's requirements, and then make arrangements for retail distribution, thus annexing the wholesalers' profit which runs into crores. Such a thing is not administratively so impossible as some hon. Members seem to think. There is rationing and in the matter of distribution of kerosene some such system was in vogue till a few months back and is prevalent in some places even now. What we want to assure is that the consumer will get salt at a fair price and that the wholesale dealer will have no more opportunity

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to create artificial scarcity and profit at the cost of the community.

**Shri Sidhva:** Will this mean abolition of the system of nominees?

**Shri Gadgil:** According to me it is included in my scheme. When we hand over the responsibility of wholesale purchase to the State Governments, they may purchase it directly or appoint an agent or two and so far as retail distribution is concerned, make whatever arrangements they like.

As regards production in the salt factories owned by Government, the matter is being considered. There are several suggestions made by expert committees and also by the Salt Advisory Committee. The point that we are very anxious to secure is that production is increased and cost is reduced. With a view to achieving this objective, to begin with, we propose to have some sort of reorganisation which will bring about this result. If we do not succeed in this, we shall certainly try another. But in any case no great expenditure will be involved.

As regards the line of criticism adopted by my hon. friend Mr. Shiva Rao, it is really thought-provoking. Sir, everywhere we are told by interested parties that Government cannot run any industrial undertaking, on account of red-tape and other defects.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

I am very much cut up with this line of argument and hence I have in spite of other handicaps accepted this portfolio only to try to prove that Government can run organisations as good, if not better than, private parties.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** As cheaply?

**Shri Sidhva:** Damodar Valley?

**Shri Gadgil:** Included. In this whatever suggestions hon. Members of this House may make will be taken into consideration and given such effect as is possible in the circumstances. But, Sir, the general principles which will govern our policy may be detailed here and they are what have been laid down in the Report of the Economy Committee presided over by Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai.

**Shri B. Das:** I am glad to find that you have read that document.

**Shri Gadgil:** He said:

"The success of any such body depends largely on the ability,

honesty and sense of public duty of the members constituting the authority. These organisations should prepare a statement of account which would depict a clear picture of their present and past performance and also of their financial obligation. The execution of contracts for periods in excess of five years should be subject to approval of Government. Arrangement should be made to secure independent and expert financial advice to such organisation. The Auditor-General should be responsible for auditing the transactions of these organisations. Each organisation should prepare an annual report giving a full account of its activities in the previous year and place it before the Standing Committee of the Legislature for the purpose of information."

These are the general principles. The exact agency for managing this factory or that factory is a matter of further consideration.

In the course of his speech Mr. Kamath referred to my hon. friend Mr. Neogy and said that he had declined to become the Chairman. I might inform the hon. House that in 1948 when we passed the Damodar Valley Corporation Act we thought that that was a model for running Government undertakings. In order to avoid day to day interference, full autonomy was granted to that Corporation. I should in fairness admit that the experience gained during the last three years has shown that the arrangement has not worked as satisfactorily as was expected.

**Shri Kamath:** A costly experience!

**Shri Gadgil:** In the light of this experience it was decided by Government that there should be some sort of a public company registered under the Indian Companies Act, but in which there would be complete financial control of the Government. In terms of this policy the Articles of Association were drawn up but according to Mr. Neogy they were not such as he thought would be acceptable to him. According to him the position of the Chairman would be merely that of an agent of the Government. He has, however, made another suggestion which we are seriously considering, namely, associating, apart from the actual agency which will be charged with the responsibility of carrying out the project, an advisory committee consisting of public men, technical people, and businessmen with the working of this body.

**Shri B. Das:** That is worse.

**Shri Gadgil:** Any undertaking by Government can be, broadly speaking, justified on three tests. One is it must definitely reduce the cost of production per unit. (An Hon. Member: That is doubtful). Secondly it must increase the output. Thirdly it must secure better labour relations between labour on the one hand and the management on the other. (Shri Sidhva: All good on paper.) To what extent they will be possible I cannot say now, but our endeavour both in the set up of the organisation and in the selection of the personnel will be calculated to achieve these three objectives.

My hon. friend Mr. Shiva Rao referred to the financial aspect of such projects. It is really an interesting and inviting topic, but on account of the meagre time at my disposal, I propose not to deal with it. If any public corporation gets sufficient subscription from the public, by all means it is welcome. But experience in the last two or three years shows that the investing classes or persons are not inclined to do anything in that line. And my own view is that as Government is taking more and more interest and having more and more schemes of industry under their control these people feel that to subscribe to such things is to commit suicide. That is my honest view. They do not want to help the Government to have any schemes which will be under Government's own control and which will be of their ownership.

The third speaker, my hon. friend Mr. Tajamul Husain, referred to the accommodation of Members of Parliament. I want to assure him that out of the 750 people who will be elected to both the Houses of Parliament we are told that the experience of the world is that normally 80 per cent. attend. Some do not like to attend throughout, some occasionally attend, some are ill, some seats remain vacant or their elections are challenged and so on and so forth. Further, some couples are elected also.

**Shri Kamath:** Are you banking on that?

**Shri Gadgil:** Taking all these factors and also the experience of other countries in this matter into consideration the figure of 555 was fixed, and provision has been made in the budget for constructing 250 flats for the M.Ps., eighty of single rooms, another eighty of two rooms and the rest of three rooms. How much the model flats have been appreciated it is not for me to say here. But a party of the

hon. Members visited these flats and with one voice they have praised them. Possibly that is the only praise they have ever bestowed on the poor C.P.W.D.!

My hon. friend also referred to the Timarpur quarters and to their bad state. They were built in 1912 and 1913 and temporarily. They have out-lived their normal life. In fact in 1947-48 decision was taken to pull them down. But owing to the refugee problem, under the direction of the hon. the Prime Minister, the implementation of that decision was delayed. And if we do not now spend more there it is because we want to save, although last year we spent Rs. 20,000 and this year we are spending about the same amount just to carry out these repairs which are absolutely necessary. Therefore it is better for my hon. friend not to shed tears over something which is about to go out of existence.

Then, Sir, my hon. sister was very eloquent about government hotels, about allotments, out-of-turn allotments and government accommodation. She practically paraphrased what has been written in this connection by the Estimates Committee in its report. As regards allotment I may assure her that there are certain rules according to which allotments are made and, as far as possible, those rules are complied with. No doubt there are certain exceptions, but unless there are some exceptions the normal rule is not proved. As regards out-of-turn allotments which result in nepotism, corruption, this, that and the other I want to assure her that at least in this matter neither the Estate Officer, nor the Secretary, nor the Joint Secretary or any one of them is responsible: I am responsible for it. And I will very humbly request her or any other Member to go through these 290 cases in which I have allowed out-of-turn allotment.....

**Shrimati Durgabai:** 360.

**Shri Gadgil:** 360 cases, and if after going through the records and the reasons while sponsoring them by the various Ministries concerned, she comes to the conclusion that there was something wrong, I am prepared to accept the judgment. For example, the Supreme Court Judges under the Constitution have got to be provided with free houses. I must give them out-of-turn allotments. My friend Mr. Deshmukh when he accepted the post of Member of the Planning Commission had to be given out-of-turn allotment. Later on when he became a

Minister he had to be given out-of-turn allotment. That is the case with every Minister and every Deputy Minister. (*Interruption*). You can hear me to the end and say what you want. Apart from this, there are certain officers who would not come to Delhi and whose presence in Delhi was absolutely necessary for the efficient carrying on of the Government. Their cases were recommended by their Ministers or the Secretaries and I had no option but to give them out-of-turn allotments. Otherwise I know that the work of the Government would suffer.

**Shrimati Durgabal:** Sir, I would like to ask one short question. That would clarify the position.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He is not giving way.

**Shri Gadgil:** Then there is a small category of hard cases—very hard cases—occasionally recommended by Members of the Parliament also. They acted very wisely and I do not say they wanted to do it from any other motive, because the cases were really hard. Justice can have significance only if it is allied with equity, and if I had occasionally done something to meet their wishes I have done nothing like an offence, not even an error of judgment or anything that should not have been done. When the Estimates Committee itself agreed that there must be some discretion and if I used that discretion according to my light and judgment, whatever criticism hon. Members have got to make should be directed against me and not against my officers.

Then, Sir, about the hotel charges. This is a somewhat delicate point. Even at the cost of being misunderstood I want to put it before the hon. House, because it is not my nature to conceal anything. In certain hotels accommodation is secured for the Members of Parliament. I can immediately run those hotels on commercial lines, but the result of that will be that the element of concession in the matter of rent and supply of food that is given on principle to Members of Parliament and other officers of the Government on duty will disappear and they will be made to pay as other members of the public are made to pay in other hotels, that is, at the rate of Rs. 25 a day, Rs. 35 a day, and in certain cases Rs. 135 a day. Let me assure my hon. friend Shrimati Durgabal that even this question is under consideration and we want to go as far as possible, but there are

certain things in which a purely commercial attitude would not be justified. If I were to deal with my colleagues on the right and on the left in this manner, would you, Sir, justify that conduct? Surely not. Therefore there must be some brotherly consideration for the Members of Parliament. Same must be shown to officers of the Government on whom the entire structure of the Government depends and this attitude is not wrong, Sir. If we do not give concession in the matter of rent, we will have to give them more by way of pay and by way of allowances. Therefore, we must take both a human and just and equitable view of the whole situation.

As regards accommodation it is a very difficult position. About 25,000 Government officers of all classes are still without Government accommodation. We have given accommodation to about 60 per cent. of those whose pay is more than Rs. 500. About 26 per cent. of the rest are given Government accommodation. Last year, as I said, we built so much. In 1951-52 let me tell this House we are building 100 flats for officers, 500 quarters for clerks, about 600 quarters for Class IV officers and another 500 for the work-charged establishment. My hon. friend charges me for being very lethargic in the matter of recovery of rent. The dues are entirely from the unfortunate refugees. If I come before the House and ask for power to secure the realization by a shorter method, immediately there is a storm. If I interpret the present rule which is suitable to me and if I immediately evict, at least my hon. friends, Lala Achint Ram, Giani G. S. Musafir and the refugee Members rightly protest. I am not blaming them. I would have done much more than what they do. I am not exaggerating or saying this for the purpose of scoring a debating point, but I am sure I would have done much more. Every morning, every evening the first thing I have to do and the last thing I have to do is to consider these cases of the refugees. About 4000 units were occupied unauthorisedly by the refugees and gradually the number has come to about 800. As suggested by the Estimates Committee, if I were to go by their word and issue orders for eviction tomorrow, I have not the slightest doubt that what happened in Calcutta yesterday would happen here. (*An Hon. Member: Give them Gangajal.*) Therefore, I say, trust the Government. This problem cannot be tackled in a spirit of strictness but must be tackled tactfully and humanely. As far as possible we give them alternate accommodation. What are our further

efforts in that direction? I want to inform my hon. friend Giani G. S. Musafir that in 1951-52 the Government is going to spend Rs. 3.5 crores over the building programme of the Rehabilitation Ministry and about 10,000 tenements, 1600 houses and 2,000 shops are to be built in Delhi. It is not as if we are indifferent, reckless or that we move like mere machines with no sentiment. That is not so.

Mr. Kamath for whom I have greater admiration than respect said that I boasted about the Ganges water. It was not a boast. It is a small achievement by the Government and not by Gadgil. Now, I think I was wiser than what I thought I might have been. My hon. friend wanted the inclusion of the right to commit suicide as a fundamental right in the Constitution. If I remember aright he actually introduced or tried to introduce a Bill justifying suicide. If ever some people feel that way, I think I ought to make full provision for them for the holy Ganges water.

With respect to the pre-fab huts, he wanted to know how I arrived at the figure of Rs. 2 lakhs. The material left has been taken into consideration and valued and credit taken. Hence the net loss is Rs. 2 lakhs. Nothing more than that. As regards the rent, he agrees that it is not within my jurisdiction, but to show that I sympathize with him I will forward that portion of his speech to the New Delhi Municipal authorities.

**Shri Kamath:** Hear, hear. What about Compensation?

**Shri Gadgil:** He said something about the person engaged in London in the inspection of these huts. I stated in the reply I gave a few days ago that that man was specially appointed for that job. I do not know whether even under the law as it is or even according to commonsense we can proceed against him and secure damages. If I engage a lawyer—I do not know whether Mr. Kamath is a lawyer—(Shri Kamath: No) and if he gives wrong advice and as a result I lose my case, I do not think I have a right against him to demand compensation. Unless a case of culpable negligence or fraud is brought out the man is absolutely exempt. He will say: according to my expert knowledge I have given you the advice and it is for you to accept it or not.

Then, Sir, my hon. friend referred to Sindri. I want to state frankly before this hon. House and it is the duty of every Minister to frankly state

all facts. That is the hypothesis on which a popular Government works. In going through the files, I found that no estimates of this project were ever put before the Standing Finance Committee since July 1946. I remember, Sir, when this matter came before the Standing Finance Committee your goodself was there, I was there and I find from the records that we insisted that a detailed project should be put up before the Standing Finance Committee. Up till now, it has not been done. Therefore, the first thing we have decided is to put up a properly drawn up estimate before the Standing Finance Committee and then proceed with it. (Interruption). If you are patient, certainly you will learn but if you have none, there is no hope. With a view to give the entire background of this project, the 'History of the Sindri Fertilizer Project' was printed and circulated to the Members of this House and to the Press. On going through it carefully, I am sure, hon. Members will find that much of the criticism made in this House is exaggerated. All the same, here is a project. It may be that there were no accurate estimates in the beginning, but here is a project which will stand to the credit of this country; 98 per cent construction is already complete and it will start giving you the output a few months hence. (An Hon. Member: At what cost?) Wait for it. Is it the wish of this hon. House that the project should be abandoned at this stage (Some Hon. Members: No, no). Therefore we will have to make the best out of what it is. Now, Sir, there are other matters connected with Sindri which if not immediately sanctioned by the hon. House, the whole thing may not give the result visualized. One of them is the manufacturing of coke. For three years arrangements have been made with other coal factories because a particular type of coke is required. Unless we start a factory for manufacturing that on Government account, the ultimate economics will be considerably affected.

**Shri Sidhva:** When did it strike you?

**Shri Gadgil:** As soon as I took charge. Then, Sir, there is another matter. When full production starts about 300 tons of wastage of what is known as slut will be there everyday. What shall we do with it? We are told that this is good for cement and we have to consider whether we should start a factory or ask private persons to start it. Otherwise, the entire economics of the whole project will be affected. I want to assure Mr. Kamath in particular that all the loose ends

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are now being tied up. The Secretary of the Ministry went there. He stayed there for three days, surveyed the whole thing and has submitted a report which, while not minimising the present position, goes to show that things are not so bad, and is definitely of the view that when completed this factory will be a matter of pride for this country.

**Shri Sidhva:** It is a question of cost.

**Shri Gadgil:** Quite true. When that is done, the House will know the particulars of the scheme and the organisation that we want to put there in order to operate this factory.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** Has the Cement factory also been started?

**Shri Gadgil:** In the booklet reasons are detailed to show why cost has increased.

Then, my hon. friend Mr. Guha referred to the C.P.W.D. I want to assure the hon. House that the size and the charge for an Executive Engineer and Superintending Engineer have been fixed in terms of the recommendation made by the Economy Committee over which Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai presided.

**Shri B. Das:** After three years, the hon. Minister seems to have read that report.

**Shri Gadgil:** In that report it is stated that the divisional staff required by the P.W.D. should be sanctioned on the basis that one division can be expected to look after 7.5 lakhs of maintenance work and 12.5 lakhs of construction work per annum, (or 37.5 lakhs of construction work only) such construction work in respect of which detailed plans and estimates have been prepared and approved by the Finance Ministry. I have no quarrel with the appreciation of the position by the hon. Members of the Estimates Committee. They have a perfect right to scrutinise everything. But, I hope they will concede me the right to clarify and bring certain facts to the notice of hon. Members. In the provinces the position is this.

Whereas in the C.P.W.D., it is 37½ lakhs for construction and 12½ lakhs for maintenance, in the provinces, it is 25 lakhs and 10 lakhs. The number of division in the C.P.W.D. is 4 to 5 in a circle whereas in the provinces it is three to four; the number of circles in a Chief Engineer's charge in the C.P.W.D. is six and four in the case of Civil Aviation whereas in the provinces it is 3 to 4. If we accept

the proposals made by the Estimates Committee, I have no doubt that inefficiency will be the result. We have gone ahead of the recommendations made by the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Committee in certain respects and this compares very well with the position in provinces.

A point was made about the percentage we charge. It is merely a book adjustment. Even then in the matter of the Rehabilitation Ministry, it has been reduced to 8 per cent. We are thinking about it. It was said that our rates are higher than in the Railways.

**Some Hon. Members:** It is now four o'clock, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister will have five minutes more because we started five minutes later. At the end of five minutes, the hon. Minister will have to conclude. If anything more remains to answer, I would suggest that he may submit a memorandum to the House.

**Shri Gadgil:** Five minutes will be enough.

That is not correct. The Committee of Expert Engineers appointed to go into the question of cost say that they find no justification for this conclusion that the Railway houses are cheaper.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** What about Mr. Goenka's point?

About the point raised by Mr. Goenka. I want to tell him one thing. When the report was submitted and when it was discovered that there was some discrepancy or irregularity, I did not wait for the report to be re-written or re-signed; but I asked the Ministry to go into and implement such of the recommendations as we immediately can and that has been done.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** Will you permit me to ask one small question, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** At the end.

**Shri Gadgil:** I am grateful to my hon. friend for making some suggestions. In fact, some of them have, as I said, already been adopted. If the Government Presses are not giving more quantity of work today, the reasons have been explained: the machinery is so old. That is the main reason. We are asking for new machinery.

4 P.M.

**Shri Goenka:** So also the human machinery.

**Shri Gadgil:** The last speaker . . .

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam):** On a point of order, Sir, it is the right of every Member to interrupt and ask for information. Of course, the particular hon. Member from whom information is asked may refuse to give an answer. But, when consistently that request is not needed, I consider it is an invasion of the rights of the Members, and should not be allowed. I put it seriously to you, Sir. If you absolutely rule it that no point of information may be asked and no personal explanation may be asked from the Minister, then, I submit that a state of things will be brought about which will be completely an invasion of the rights of Members.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I find some difficulty in allowing interruptions. Hon. Members have had sufficient time to speak and to say whatever they have had to say. The Minister is giving the explanation. In between, it is open to any hon. Member whether a Minister or otherwise, to give way or not to give way. But, being a Minister, he must not refuse to give way.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** May I ask my question, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Afterwards.

**Shri Gadgil:** My hon. friend Mr. S. Das raised the question of purchase. I may tell him that the policy has been to show preference for articles produced or solely manufactured in India, then for articles partially manufactured in India from imported materials, then for articles manufactured abroad and stored in India, and lastly for articles manufactured abroad, which have to be specially imported. As regards currency, the preference is in the following order sterling area, other soft currency areas, medium currency areas, hard currency areas other than dollar, and then dollar areas. It is not true that we put in all our orders through the British firms. Nothing of the kind. Advertisements are made all over the world. As a matter of fact, the imports through the India Supply Mission, Washington show that in 1949-50, we imported goods worth 12½ crores and this year in 1950-51, in nine months, 32 crores. Therefore, it is not as if we are following the same policy which was laid down by the British Government in their own interests.

I have done, Sir; I want to thank the hon. Members for treating me very fairly though it is true that I cannot give them accommodation to their heart's desire today; but tomorrow I shall do that.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** In supplementaries, I am sure, the hon. Minister will be a little bit chivalrous to the lady Member.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** We do not want any chivalry; we want just treatment. One question, Sir, . . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is five minutes past four now. I have to apply the guillotine.

The question is:

"That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the Order Paper, be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952 in respect of Demands Nos. 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 108 and 109 under the control of the Ministry of Works, Production and Supply."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Deputy-Speaker the motions for demands for grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below—Ed. of P.P.]

**DEMAND NO. 87—MINISTRY OF WORKS, PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY.**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,90,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Production and Supply'."

**DEMAND NO. 88—SUPPLIES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,85,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Supplies'."

**DEMAND NO. 89—SALT**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,55,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Salt'."

**DEMAND NO. 90—OTHER CIVIL WORKS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,28,03,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

**DEMAND NO. 91—STATIONERY AND PRINTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,65,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

**DEMAND NO. 108—NEW DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,52,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'New Delhi Capital Outlay'."

**DEMAND NO. 109—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,86,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We may now take up the demands for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research.

**DEMAND NO. 64—MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research'."

**DEMAND NO. 65—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUE).**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,53,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (Met from Revenue)'."

**DEMAND NO. 66—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

**DEMAND NO. 67—MINES**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,83,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Mines'."

**DEMAND NO. 68—SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Scientific Research'."

**Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa):** Before we proceed further, will you allow me to make a submission? You know, Sir that the Estimates Committee have made its recommendations in connection with certain Ministries. It will facilitate discussion if the hon. Minister concerned at the very outset of the discussion would please state what are the recommendations which it has been possible for the Government to accept and which of them could not be accepted and if that is so for what reasons. If we adopt this method, it would facilitate discussion and also reduce the time taken up in discussion. May I request you to convey this suggestion to the treasury benches? And if it is not possible to state this before the commencement of the discussion, they might even circulate a statement showing that such and such recommendations are being accepted and such and such recommendations are not, so that, hon. Members may know the position correctly and this would facilitate further discussion.



**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** For my part, I would have liked references to be made in the reports of the various departments to the recommendations made by the Estimates Committee which had submitted its reports in respect of three of the Ministries. The Estimates Committee is a committee of Parliament working after the previous Budget and before the next Budget to clarify the position regarding expenditure and to reduce the same and so on. The reports were given sufficiently in advance and the Ministries could have included references to them in their reports. But I hope next year they will do so.

**Shri Sidhva:** Sir, I made a reference in the morning to the statement of the Minister that the Estimates Committee would be consulted while framing the Budget. The Finance Minister is here present. Will he state the position in respect of the Ministry of Industry and Supply?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sure the hon. Finance Minister will note the points that have been raised here. But this time today is reserved for another particular Ministry.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** But could not the Ministry concerned circulate a note showing what recommendations of the Estimates Committee can be accepted and which of them cannot be accepted and the reasons thereof? I think the Ministry must co-operate with the House and give this kind of a note.

**Shri Sidhva:** Sir, it is my suggestion that. . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have heard the hon. Member. It has not been done now, but it will be done hereafter.

**The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** Sir, at what time will the guillotine be fixed?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Yes. I said that the House might sit up to 7 o'clock. Of course, I am entirely in the hands of hon. Members. We had suspended the question-hour also today. It all depends on the mood of the House. It may sit up to 7 o'clock or cut short the discussion and rise earlier.

**Several Hon. Members:** Six o'clock, Sir.

**Shri Sidhva:** Seven o'clock.

**Shri Goenka:** Let us have the average of the two—half past six.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** All right. Then that means that the hon. Minister will begin at 6 o'clock and complete his speech at half past six.

**Shri B. Das:** Sir, year 1951 was a red letter day in the Cabinet of Government of India. A baby Ministry was born. It became the *enfant terrible* to the parent Ministry, the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power. My hon. friend Sjt. Sri Prakasa took away the Departments of Mines and Power from the parent Ministry leaving behind for Mr. Gadgil only Works, probably because for production and supply, you want workers. Well, be that as it may, the hon. Minister, Shri Sri Prakasa who is now in charge of the department of splitting the atom, has even before he came into existence as the Minister here has split the parent Ministry of W.M.P. and is probably now studying the working of the set-up.

The Department of Scientific Research has been working for some years and we have seen the past reports. The idea is to have eleven national laboratories of which seven have already been established and when the remaining four also are established, my hon. friend the Minister in charge of this Ministry can be proud of his scientific services to India, in spite of being the Minister in charge of natural resources. But I would like to make one observation and it is in regard to the directors of some of these laboratories. Some of the directors of these national laboratories are foreigners and I am against that practice. By all means, import foreigners, but import them as foreign experts to do certain research work in the laboratories, but not to boss about and play hanky-panky tricks. They are mostly from the U.K. and the U.S.A. and I have no faith in these two nations or their nationals and this House has also expressed no faith in these nationals.

The hon. Minister has also taken over the river valley projects from the old Ministry. Personally speaking, I would have preferred these River valley projects remaining in the Works, Production and Supply Ministry because people dealing with high scientific speculations and lofty ideas in the higher regions, should not be troubled with lower things like work and production and supply and other ordinary things of life. Be that as it may, the hon. Minister is in charge of these three river valley projects on which the credit of India stands or falls. The Finance Minister has stated last year and the Government have stated that these projects have the top priority over the capital expenditure of the Government of India. It was a

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wise decision. I endorsed it then and I endorse it now. The Finance Minister has enhanced the taxes to get more money for capital expenditure. I would go further and say that there can be further enhancement of taxation, if necessary, next year, for on the completion of these river valley projects depends the dream and ideology of the Congress Party. The Congress Govt. came to do multi-purpose services to the people and to bring about *Ram Rajya* and social justice. What have we done? We have heard from wise Mr. Gadgil that Sindri will soon become fertile and fertilizers will be available in November 1952!

These three projects, the Damodar Valley, Hirakud and Bakhra-Nangal, aim at the creation of multi-purpose comforts. They will irrigate lands and produce food-crops in abundance, so that Mr. Munshi may not have to go about with the begging bowl here and there or ask us to eat roots or go for our luncheons to the canteen at Queensway. I hope my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa has had a luncheon there. I have not had one and if he takes me I will go there. (An Hon. Member: It is called *Annappurna*.) When there is no 'anna' how can there be '*Annappurna*'. The name is a misnomer.

The Damodar Valley project is the older and bigger conception. Whether it was modelled by the Congress Government or its predecessors its origin was four years before the Congress came into power. I have visited all the three projects, of which Hirakud is the life-line and life-blood of Orissa. The Congress ideology was being put into action at one place and that was the Damodar Valley project, where the multi-purpose activities such as soil conservation, model villages, etc. are being experimented upon. Nothing is being done at Bakra-Nangal and at Hirakud except for the dams and bridges it did not bring me much immediate hope when I visited those places.

Sir, the party to which I belong and which rules the country today wants *Ramrajya* and social justice. The three multi-purpose projects are aimed at removing hunger and do away with the import of food from foreign countries. Every effort should be made by the House to appreciate the work done so far and encourage the Minister, who, by the way, is not interested in production, to produce water for irrigation, electricity and industrialise the country so that India may enjoy prosperity as a result of these projects. (Shri Kamath: In *Ramrajya* there will be no electricity.)

If we have to level any criticism at the delay in the execution of the works in the three projects, let us make constructive criticisms, so that we might induce the Government to give up their lethargic ways which we found earlier this morning in regard to the Sindri factory. My hon. friend Mr. Gadgil said once that Mahanadi will bring *Maha Lakshmi* to Orissa. Even so let us hope these projects will bring plenty and prosperity to the land.

The Minister for Natural Resources should of course have expert guidance, businessmen's guidance and not officials' guidance and he should see that the projects are completed according to schedule, so that by 1956 India will be the land of plenty. Till then if my hon. friend Mr. Deshmukh continues as Finance Minister—he may not like it—he will get plenty of money and he will not have to worry about loans and debts. I would appeal to the Finance Minister not to be parsimonious in giving funds to these three river valley projects. Nine or ten crores a year are not sufficient to finish these projects according to schedule. There are defects in the Damodar Valley and Hirakud projects but he has got his advisers. It is for them to point out where the shoe pinches or the delay occurs so that those causes might be removed. If my friend Shri Sri Prakasa comes for another ten crores this year the money must be found. That is the advice that I can give in this House.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am not trying to give a direction to the debate but perhaps it would be of greater value to the Government if the House tells them how the projects are being worked, whether they have any suggestions to make and so on. That would be a real contribution to the debate, so that the Minister will take note of them and improve the administration. The House has discussed the general policy at great length already.

**Shri B. Das:** As a member of the Standing Committee of the W.M.P. Ministry (now defunct) along with my colleagues I visited these projects and with my limited knowledge of the subject I reached certain conclusions which I conveyed twice privately to Mr. Deshmukh and I have mentioned them in this House also. If India wants to exist and if the Congress Government wants to exist they must see that these three projects are completed. If they do not do it it is no use going before the people for their votes during the next elections, for they will say that they have seen the

result of four years' working of the Congress Government. You are my old friend, Sir, and you have understood the spirit in which I am saying this. What is the use of criticising the Government of India. It is like a car which runs on mad wheels and it is being driven madly. Out of this mad drive, the three best things which the historians will visualise are the multi-purpose projects which were planned and introduced in 1948. If they are successfully carried out, their objects will be achieved: there will be industrialisation of the country and Mr. Munshi's Grow More Food Campaign will not be necessary. Perhaps then the Food and Agriculture Ministry will have to be abolished.

My friend is in charge of the Irrigation Division. It has an office of Irrigation Board in Simla which has been an eyesore to me always. During the days of the British the Irrigation Board used to be controlled from Simla. Of the many anomalies which the Congress Government have perpetuated this is one. The annual general meeting of the Irrigation Board is held at Simla. This anomaly should be removed.

As regards mines and geological department I need not say much. My hon. friend is in charge of great resources and I hope he will apply his mind for the benefit of the country.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat (Bihar):** Sir, at the very outset I must confess, I am not happy at the way in which our river valley projects are being worked out. Recently an impression has been created in the country that the three river valley projects which are under construction are not being worked out in the way they were expected to be. Particularly so is the feeling about the Damodar Valley project about which it is felt that great hopes and expectations created two years back were fast being belied. The other day I took up this matter first during the question hour and later during a half-hour discussion and raised certain pertinent point, which, was admitted by the hon. Minister in charge of Natural Resources and Scientific Research about the inadequate financial control and inefficient administrative set-up. The position of the Financial Adviser to the Corporation, the hon. Minister admitted, was an anomalous one, but his plea was that he could not help in the matter. Also, if we see the reports on the different river valley projects we will find that there is absolutely no co-ordination as regards pooling of experience gathered in working of these river valley projects. This is a very strange thing.

Another point is that there is not even healthy competition between these river valley projects—there is either complete indifference or ignorance among them which is a very unhappy feature. Sir, sometime ago when a Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Savage of America, to examine the Hirakud project, he gave his definite opinion as follows:

"It is therefore necessary to start work on various branches which would go to make a complete show simultaneously or with such time difference that the completion of such works would synchronise with each other and project the investment from lying idle because of the non-completion of any of the works involved. This also goes a long way in winning the good will of the public by satisfying their psychological reaction."

This is a most important remark which he has made and I think in all our river valley projects, and more especially in the Damodar Valley, this advice is being completely ignored. There is no co-ordination internally, there is no co-ordination in the financial and administrative set-up, and there is no synchronisation of the different works going on. The Damodar Valley Corporation has not been able as yet to set up a first-rate engineering department with all its branches, and the people in charge of the Corporation say that they could not find a suitable chief engineer. Of course, recently they have been able to appoint an American Chief Engineer. But even after 2½ years of starting the project the engineering side of it has not yet been developed. Whatever may be the excuse for that it is indeed very strange that it should be so, and it can very well explain the position of the work under execution. Speaking about the International Engineering Exhibition the other day, the Prime Minister said that wonderful model constructions have come which have enriched our experience of engineering construction and technique, but while going through the stalls we found that whereas very good, efficient and first-rate technical models of dams under construction not only in India but abroad were displayed, in the Damodar Valley Corporation stall we found only some papers, some designs and some paintings—nothing more than that. If according to the Prime Minister the models sent by the various river valley projects—both inside and outside the country are any indication to the progress of work, then we can

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

judge for ourselves the work done by the Damodar Valley Corporation, by the designs, paintings and drawings sent by the Corporation to the Exhibition.

Sir, I am not a pessimist and I do not believe that the Damodar Valley Corporation is going to be an utter failure. What I want to say is this. The first phase of the work of the Corporation has reached its peak level. By 1953 we hope to complete the first phase, which includes the construction of four dams and the Bokharo thermal plant, the transmission system and the irrigation and barrage system. At present we have reached the peak of the first phase, but we have not been able to develop the picture as was envisaged in the Damodar Valley Authority Act, or as was hoped during the consideration of that Bill that this project would serve as a model. But nothing of that sort has happened so far. And therefore my approach is one of constructive criticism. I am not guided by sentiment but by facts and figures which I will presently put before the House and which will show that there is a dire need for establishing not only a financial set-up but also a good administrative and engineering set-up of the Corporation.

I approach the whole question from the two points of need. The first is that there should be economy in the working of the Corporation, at every stage—not only in the construction of the different dams and in each phase of the project, but at every stage there should be economy from the point of view of the whole picture. Our approach to economy should be a comprehensive one and not a partial one. My second way of approach is that there should, as far as possible, be the maximum use of Indian talent in the technical or engineering side. In the Damodar Valley Corporation, I am afraid, both these points of view are lacking. Neither is there economy in the different stages of construction as I shall show when I refer to the project estimates of the different dams, nor is there any appreciation of indigenous talent available in the country. I can see that for such a big and complex project like this foreign equipment and technical plants are needed, but whatever may be available in our own country, in Government disposals or otherwise, should also be used. If we go through the report on the river valley projects, we find that in the case of the Bakhra-Nangal project in 1949-50 they purchased about Rs. 40 lakhs worth of technical equipment from Government stores and disposals whereas very little has been done

in this regard by the Damodar Valley Corporation. In the report of the Damodar Valley Corporation for 1949-50, we find that out of the total purchases of equipment amounting to Rs. 179 lakhs made in foreign countries, only Rs. 72 lakhs worth was purchased through the Government agencies and our supply missions abroad. So they are not only not purchasing from the surplus stores but are also purchasing independently outside. This is very strange. The other day, while talking on foreign affairs, my hon. friend Prof. Mishra said that the organisation of the Indian High Commissioner in England is becoming a republic outside the Indian Republic. I will say that the Damodar Valley Corporation is becoming a republic inside the Republic. Although in the ideals of our co-operative commonwealth, we welcome the decentralisation of both political and economic authorities, through the creation of autonomous bodies, yet the growth of rival and competitive authority challenging the sovereign authority is very serious and we must guard against this. According to the section 48 of the Act, the Government has powers to issue directives as regards the policy to be followed by the Corporation. I do not know why no directive has been issued so far and would like to hear an explanation from the hon. Minister in this regard.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

**Shri B. Das:** You are criticising your own Government.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** My point is that whatever lacuna there is in the Corporation should be filled up and it should be built up on the lines of a real corporation, so that the ideals of the Congress which we hope to achieve through it as the hon. Member mentioned in his speech may fructify. Last year in his speech the hon. Minister said that the poor man has been forgotten in this Corporation, inasmuch as flood control and irrigation part of the Project, which would have benefited the common man in the villages have been set aside and the work of thermal plant and transmission lines have been taken in hand, which will benefit the capitalists and the Private Industrialists. I do not know how the hon. Member has changed his opinion now when the basic facts remain the same. Certainly he is not going to fulfil the Congress ideals by helping the industrialists and the capitalists through providing them with cheap electric power from the Bokaro Thermal plant. ●

Now when we examine the project estimates, we have a very sorry spectacle. The Advisory Committee constituted to check up the work of the D.V.C. consisting of the participating States at its meeting on 9th May 1949 said that there should be a detailed estimate of the first phase of the project, meaning the four Dams and the thermal station. But till the end of 1949 the D.V.C. did not submit any estimate. Only in January 1950 an estimate was submitted and a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee was set up to examine the estimate. That sub-committee came to the conclusion that the material supplied by the D.V.C. was inadequate to come to any decision. The D.V.C. was asked to make another estimate. They delayed it. Only in the third quarter of last year they submitted one. Whether that estimate would prove adequate or satisfactory only the future can show.

If we refer to the audit report, the picture about the estimate is not only unhappy but gloomy. The audit report says that Mr. Voorduin's estimate was based on mere guess work and as a result of devaluation, increase in the prices, cost of materials, labour etc. the estimate is likely to go up. But even to this day, we do not know what will be ultimate financial picture and how much will be our liability when the project is completed. Some time back, it was said that the cost would go up to Rs. 60 or 70 crores; then it became Rs. 90 crores and Rs. 100 crores later. Now it is said that it will go up to Rs. 110 crores. What is needed badly is a detailed and scientific project estimate including the cost. The whole project has been divided into two phases, but while making the estimates the financial justification and estimate should not be calculated from the point of view of one phase only but the comprehensive picture should be kept before us and a financial liability drawn both at the end of the first phase and the second one should be determined, so that there could be a one-whole picture of the entire scheme. Recently, the Auditor-General sent a man to go into the financial set-up of the D.V.C. and he has come out with a report. When I put a question on the 19th February, the hon. Minister replied that the whole financial set-up is under close examination by the Finance Ministry. Since the hon. Finance Minister is present in the House, I would like to impress upon him that the expenditure on the D.V.C. is a very big liability on us. We have already spent Rs. 25 to 30 crores (including the budget estimate for 1951-52) and the repayment of the loan from

the International Monetary Bank will commence in 1954. Therefore, while making estimates we should examine the question fully. Some projects might prove economical; others might prove uneconomical, because the estimates have gone up very much for the very complex reasons. The House should be made aware of the final financial picture that would emerge as a result of this.

Lastly, the D.V.C. through Press statements has created the impression in the country that the progress has been slow not because the work of the administration was ineffective or inadequate but because of lack of funds. This was brought to the notice of the Advisory Committee which at once contradicted this. They stated very categorically that whatever fund was needed, including foreign exchange, was made available to the D.V.C. and hence the excuse of lack of funds as the cause of slow progress is quite lame and inadmissible. For example, Tilaiya dam which costs only Rs. 1½ crores, could have been more quickly completed but although the D.V.C. had ample money at its command, the progress has been slow. Thus, the impression that the slow progress is due to financial stringency is not correct. What is lacking is something different. There should be a reorganisation of the Board of Consulting Engineers. We have there two American Engineers, Messrs. Harza and Harper and one Indian Engineer, Mr. Venkatchari on the board of consultants. There has been a difference of opinion between the Indian and the American members of the Board as regards the construction work. What is most anomalous is that Mr. Harza is not only a Consulting Engineer but he is a Construction Engineer too. He executes the work and also passes remarks on his own work. This is very strange. I think that the Board of Consulting Engineers should consist of only Indians. The Chief Engineer, who is an American, may remain. This Board should co-ordinate the work and re-examine the estimates for the entire project.

Another point is that the Financial Adviser should not be a subordinate to the D.V.C.. If there is any need for amendments in the law, it should be done to achieve this and the other reorganisation I have suggested. I have no grudge against the personnel. They are very experienced and efficient persons. What is needed is the inclusion of expert knowledge also in the D.V.C. board and instead of the Board being composed of three members, it should be composed of five, including a man who is an expert in finance and another who is a high

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

ranking Engineer. I am the last person to support the view that the entire thing should be run on departmental basis. The Corporation should remain with all its autonomy but it should be reorganized in a way that it should function more effectively and efficiently. Govt., should therefore issue a directive for the reorganisation of the whole administration with a view to expediting the construction of the project, so that we may also be proud of a river valley project, as America is of her T.V.A.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal):** After the transfer of power the National Government very rightly and naturally laid great emphasis on river valley projects for irrigation and flood control, through which ultimately the food problem of this country could be solved and prosperity and plenty come to this land. In the very small sector that has been kept for nationalised industrial enterprises the river valley projects that have been undertaken form a major portion.

Now, Sir, at the outset investigation was undertaken and plans and estimates drawn up for a large number of projects without any consideration, unfortunately, of the funds at our disposal. The fact that we had limited resources was known, but for some unaccountable reason at that stage a sum—so far as I know—of Rs. 40 lakhs were spent on schemes that had just to be kept in abeyance. Most of these schemes even at a later stage naturally need to be changed before they are put into execution and so this money is just wasted.

The Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission—known as the CWINC—is in charge of the centrally administered river valley projects, that is Bhakra-Nangal and Hirakud, as well as of the Kakrapar Project of the Bombay Government.

The D.V.C. has come up for consideration before this House more than once. It is a new experiment that we wanted to undertake not only in regard to a river valley project, but a new line by which the State could administer state ventures, by cutting out a great deal of red tape that exists in Government offices. Therefore on the success or failure of the Damodar Valley Project hinges not only the success or failure of this great river valley project, but also a method of administration through state agency without its handicaps. Under the circumstances, it is only natural that the House and the country is extremely interested in this project.

Now, Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Bhagat has placed a number of facts, of which he perhaps knows something before the House. As the House is aware the Estimates Committee is seized of this matter and is making a thorough examination of it. The Estimates Committee has put forward before this House reports of three departments that it has investigated. But it has deliberately not put forward as yet any of its recommendations on the river valley projects, because it feels that these major undertakings need much greater scrutiny. The Members of this Committee feel that they should go down and personally investigate—whether it be Bhakra-Nangal or Damodar Valley—before they make concrete recommendations which Government could enforce. We did feel that it is a matter on which so much depends. Particularly in view of the conflicting opinions expressed both in regard to Damodar Valley and the other two major projects, we thought that unless and until we were perfectly satisfied about the truth of the matter we could not make any very great changes. I think, Sir, that the House will be satisfied if the hon. Minister gives us an assurance that when the Estimates Committee has submitted its recommendations on this matter he will take them into earnest consideration—by earnest and serious consideration I do not mean the words as used in administrative departments.

Now, Sir, before I leave the question of Damodar Valley Project, I would like to say one word. I do not want to enter into details. Mr. B. Das says that it is *Ram Raj* in the Damodar; Mr. Bhagat says that it is an attempt of bringing a republic within a republic. Well, we shall have to find out the fact. But there is one thing that strikes one immediately and that is that the main purpose of these river valley schemes obviously is flood control and irrigation. Now, Sir, in regard to the Damodar Valley Corporation, one finds that whereas the first project that has been finished is the Bokaro Power Station and the transmission centre which is actually giving electricity to some of the neighbouring projects, and the construction of the Tilaiya and Konar dams which are under construction since 1949 and are expected to be completed by 1953. But the two major dams on which depends irrigation, the Maithon and the Panchet Hill dams have not yet been started. I really fail to understand this. If we had started these dams, one million acres of land which will not need reclamation could be irrigated on their completion. I feel, Sir, that there is something very gravely wrong in this

matter. I do not know whether it is a question of want of finance. But whatever it may be, I feel that these important aspects of the project should be implemented immediately. I hope the hon. Minister will give us an assurance that construction on the Maithon and Panchet Hill dams will be started immediately. I cannot understand why the thermal station was given priority. There is a great deal of truth in the fact that the Damodar Valley Scheme was envisaged for irrigation and flood-control, but we have not yet started work on the main project.

I am not trying to apportion blame. I do not know who was actually responsible for this and why high priority was given to a project which was of lesser importance. But whatever be the reason, I hope the hon. Minister who holds the baby now will take a different view. This morning while the discussion on the Works, Production and Supply Ministry was on, Mr. Shiva Rao mentioned something about nationalisation being difficult and I think Mr. Raj Bahadur made a pertinent remark when he said that it may be that nationalised schemes were not being very successful and we did need to remedy the defects but that it does not mean that private industry in this country is being over-successful either. Sir, in any case we are not concerned with private industry. I am one of those who do believe that State enterprise must extend its field of activities in many directions. It is practically impossible to do so until and unless all such major schemes, whether they be river valley schemes or the Sindri Fertiliser project, are run on lines on which we can really achieve success. The sector that the State has kept for its own enterprise is very limited today and surely every attention must be focussed on seeing that every one of these schemes does become a great success. Unless we are able to do that it is useless, it is in fact impossible, even to talk of a welfare State, it is impossible to talk in terms of the essentials for which the Congress has stood all these years. Therefore I say that you must lay particular stress on these schemes. While saying this I also want to say that there is not the slightest desire on the part of anyone in this House to cripple any of these projects. We realize that it is really difficult to assess whether these projects are being a success or a failure until at least a period of five years has passed. But we have had a very bitter experience of this Sindri Fertiliser project and some other projects and therefore we have to be very watchful and alert to see that these

schemes do not fail in any way and that whatever be the faults that are coming to light are remedied before it is too late. If there is any particular emphasis on the Damodar Valley project it is merely because this is a new venture, an experiment into the procedure by which we would like administration to be carried out in the future. It is because of that we lay special emphasis on it and we hope that its success will be ensured.

**Shri Satish Chandra** (Uttar Pradesh): I have listened this evening to three very critical speeches. For the sake of originality, if for nothing else, I propose to take a different line and to speak on a slightly varied theme. None of the speakers has taken cognizance of the birth of the new Ministry whose demands for grants have come up for the first time before the House for discussion.

**Shri B. Das:** I called it an infant.

5 P.M.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The discussion has mainly centred round the subjects which have been transferred to it from the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power. The work of the Department of Scientific Research has not been mentioned. After the advent of independence in 1947 science has rightly come to occupy a very prominent place in our national life. It was natural because our struggle for political liberation was only means to an end. The main objective that inspired the people was the happiness and prosperity of the millions of our countrymen, who lacked sufficient food, cloth, shelter and other necessities of life, and were for a long time victims of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and ignorance. The fact that the Department of Scientific Research was created on 1st June 1948 when we were still passing through a very difficult period of chaos and turmoil proves that the nation at no stage lost sight of the main objective. The far-sighted vision and the statesmanship of our Prime Minister enabled the Government even at a critical period of our history to lay the foundations of true national progress. The Department of Scientific Research was entrusted with the task of carrying on fundamental and applied research which was essential for industrial development of the country. I am glad that this Department is now amalgamated with the department of Natural Resources which has equally important and allied responsibilities to perform.

The task of the exploitation of the nation's vast resources—of mineral wealth, training of the rivers, control of

[Shri Satish Chandra]

floods, generation of power, and development of irrigation facilities and navigation—has been properly combined with the work of scientific research under one Ministry. The Government should be congratulated for taking this step.

**Shri Sondhi (Punjab):** To exploit.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** To exploit the natural resources for the nation and not to allow. . .

**Shri Sondhi:** Exploitation.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Their exploitation for the benefit of any privileged class. We are fortunate that a distinguished minister possessing vast experience and knowledge of human affairs presides over the new ministry. It will not be out of place here to draw attention to a new experiment which is being made in this Ministry. So far, according to the common belief, an I.C.S. was considered to be an expert in everything under the sun. Now for the first time a departure has been made by appointing a well-known scientist as the permanent administrative head. I hope, Sir, that this bold experiment will succeed. I hope that the expectations of this House will not be belied, and the scientists and engineers will play increasingly honourable role in other nation-building Ministries also. Dr. Bhatnagar is an eminent scientist who has earned his reputation in foreign countries too. I hope, Sir, that as an administrator he will prove equally eminent.

My hon. friend, Mr. Kamath referred the other day to an incident in the Standing Committee attached to the Department of Scientific Research. He was of course not present in that meeting. I happen to be a member of the Committee and was present in the meeting. I am sorry, I could not get an opportunity that day to clarify the position. Need I tell Mr. Kamath that when a live wire—as the then Governor-General once called Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar—comes into contact with another wire, there may be a spark. But there is hardly anything to be very much worried about it.

**Shri Sondhi:** You were the spark.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** One need not be amazed at all at such a simple phenomenon.

**Shri Sondhi:** Who was the other live wire?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Sir live wires have no proper names. That can

hardly be called the temper of science. The cause of such minor sparks can be easily removed by an electrician by little application of his skill. I wish to take this opportunity of saying that the Members of that Committee had the happiest of relations with Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar. A heated argument is sometimes likely to occur when intelligent people confer among themselves. Whatever little difference, they had, has been patched up. There was hardly anything so serious as to draw the attention of Mr. Kamath to the extent that it did.

**Shri Sondhi:** Is it an after dinner thought?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Sir, the establishment of a chain of our great national laboratories in a short time is a magnificent achievement. It is my fervent hope that the work that will be carried on inside the beautiful precincts of those laboratories will pay rich dividends to the people in the shape of improved standard of living. Under the guidance of eminent and reputed Scientists who have been appointed as the directors of these national laboratories a team of younger scientists would be trained in advanced scientific research. Before I conclude, I wish to say a word about an observation of my hon. friend, Shri B. Das. He has condemned the appointment of very eminent American or English scientists as directors of some of these laboratories. I beg to differ entirely from his views. We cannot afford to have a restricted national outlook in this respect. If I understood him correctly, he simply dislikes these directors because they belong to the American or English nationality. I believe, Sir, that the intercourse in the fields of science, literature and art cannot and should not be restricted by national boundaries or racial prejudices. With due respects to my friend, Shri B. Das, for whom I have greatest regard, I must emphatically say that his outlook in this matter is out of tune with the scientific age, in which we are living.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (West Bengal):** I would like to say a few words on some of the activities of the Ministry. The Ministry is now responsible for the administration of some of the most important activities under Government. So far as the importance of scientific research and also the need for fully carrying into execution the National Laboratories which have come into existence are concerned, one need not emphasize that. Although we are spending vast sums of money which may be commented upon in some quarters, there is no doubt that



This is an investment of a solid character, which if pursued on right lines will produce results which will not only redound to the credit of those who are responsible for the maintenance and administration of these institutions but will also enhance the reputation and prestige of our country. Sir, I would like to say today within the little time at my disposal something about the river valley projects and particularly about the Damodar Valley Corporation. Sir, I am fully aware of the criticism which is made in many quarters and also which from some point of view is just criticism, that Government is bestowing undue attention on these long term projects which are going to cost the Exchequer several hundred crores of rupees in the next few years, neglecting the importance of short-term projects. That is a controversial matter on which I need not enter today. Of course, it is obvious that if we have got to solve the grave problems of an economic character which confront the country today, we have got to follow a co-ordinated policy of encouraging short-term projects which will produce quick results especially for supplying food in the country. At the same time, we cannot neglect these big projects and especially the river valley projects. They have an importance of their own and in the course of the next few years they are bound to produce results which will lead to the addition of national wealth. Sir, the D.V.C. has come in for a good deal of criticism in recent months and during the last few weeks, I gave a little time in acquainting myself with its activities and also in trying to get the reaction of persons who have spoken against the work of this organization. Now, let us not forget, Sir, that the Government of India backed by Parliament has deliberately launched upon a new experiment. We are having these river valley projects, some controlled departmentally by Government directly and at least one, the D.V.C. by a statutory body. We declared when this Bill was introduced in this House that we would like to proceed more or less on the lines of the famous T.V.A. in America. Now, what are the criticisms which have been levelled against this Corporation? Let us not ignore in the first place that the Corporation has existed for only about 2½ years, which is a very small span of time for judging the work and activities of a body like this. It has taken in hand work in a valley whose importance is not peculiar to that province, but also to the whole of India. All the conditions which have to be fulfilled for the successful operation of a multi-purpose river valley project

are present in that area. The three objects which we had in view from the very beginning were that we would be able to take effective steps for controlling floods which had caused devastation in that area for the last one century, also be able to irrigate huge areas of very fertile land which today cannot be cultivated for want of water, and also be able to release power to be used in an area where such power is in great demand, and simultaneously to raise the standard of living of the people residing in that area, which will also lead to the economic betterment of the people as a whole.

Now, Sir, let us not forget one thing that this is a project in which the Government of India or Parliament alone is not interested. It is a multi-purpose project; it has also multi-participants. There are three participants, namely the Government of India, the Government of Bihar and the Government of West Bengal. So far as the total cost goes, about 50 per cent is to be borne by the Government of West Bengal, about 30 per cent by the Government of Bihar and about 20 per cent by the Government of India. Therefore, when proposals are made even with the best intentions that radical alterations should be made in the working of this Corporation or that changes should be made in the statute, it should not be forgotten that there are other participants also who are expected to pay the bill. It is not the Government of India's responsibility alone. But, I do not wish to make a mere technical approach to this big problem. What exactly are the difficulties that have been pointed out? One criticism is that the Corporation is acting without control over its financial affairs. If we look at the Act which has been passed, an Act which was passed by Parliament, we deliberately decided to give certain wide powers to the Corporation, reserving certain necessary powers in the hands of the Government. It is not true to say that the Government has no power over the working of the Corporation. The entire Corporation is constituted by the Central Government. The Financial Adviser and the Secretary are appointed by the Central Government. Every one of them can be removed by the Central Government if it so chooses. There is a clause in the Act which empowers the Central Government to issue directives on matters of policy, and what will be a matter of policy is also a matter which the Government of India alone can decide. Then, there are wide powers for framing rules. Under those rules, anything can be incorporated which

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

the Government of India considers to be necessary in order to ensure that the Corporation functions effectively and efficiently.

With regard to financial control, there is the Auditor-General, to audit; not only to conduct the *post-mortem* audit, but what is more satisfactory, 100 per cent concurrent audit so that a day to day check of the expenses of the Corporation is going on. It is not therefore correct to say that there is no control over the affairs of the Corporation. Up till now, the Government has not issued any directive. If the occasion arises, Government of India can. But, what is of the utmost importance is once you decide to have a Corporation of this character, which is completely unique in the history of this country, once you select the men whom you have taken the responsibility for selecting with care and after consultation with participating Governments, then, you have got to trust them. You have got to give them sufficient chance so that they can justify themselves. Of course, if, in the meanwhile, anything goes wrong, by all means, issue directives. But, it will be fatal in the working of this Corporation if there is dual responsibility. It will be more fatal if the Government of India merely interferes and does not take the responsibility for carrying on the activities of the Corporation.

We are making two experiments at the same time. We are working certain river valley projects through the Department. A big project is being worked through a Corporation which is under the statutory control of the Central Government. Another thing has happened recently. An Advisory Committee has been set up. I was pleased to find that it meets frequently including representatives of all the three participating Governments. Every information that the three Governments or any one of them desires to have regarding the affairs of the Corporation may be called for, and a full and frank discussion can take place.

One criticism has been that of the three main objects of the Corporation, namely, Irrigation, Flood Control and Power, more attention has been paid to power than to irrigation and flood control. Here, I know how the thing happened, because I was a Member of the Government at that time. Before the Corporation actually came into existence, a decision was taken by the Government of India and not by the Corporation, because the Corporation had not come into

existence then, that the first phase of the work of the Corporation should be carried on in the following manner: namely, the Tillaiya and Konar dams should be taken in hand, the Bokaro thermal station should be established, the transmission system should be worked out, the Konar hydro station should also be established, and that the Mython, Panchet Hill dams, the irrigation barrage and the canal work should also be undertaken, the navigation canal joining the coal area with Hooghly. That was the comprehensive first phase of the Damodar Scheme. The decision that we should proceed with the Konar and Tillaiya dams, and also with the Bokaro thermal station was taken by the Government of India before the Corporation was actually brought into existence. There was nothing wrong in that, because that was part of one comprehensive scheme which the Government of India had at that time accepted. Of course, when actually the order for the Bokaro thermal station was placed, the Corporation had come into existence; but the preliminary orders were issued by the Government of India. Then came the financial difficulties.

**Shri B. Das:** The Congress Government or the previous Government?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** The Congress Government; I was not a Member of any other Government.

So far as the later period was concerned, when the financial difficulties came, the Government decided not to proceed immediately with some parts of the first phase of the project, namely Mython, Panchet Hill dams, the irrigation barrage and the canal. That is the fact. I do not wish to make any comment on this; but it is not fair to charge the Corporation today for having proceeded with the Bokaro thermal station, neglecting the other aspects of the programme. It would have dealt with the Irrigation and Flood control-part of the project...

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** We are charging whoever was responsible.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** There is no question of want of responsibility. The responsibility belonged as much to the Members of this House as to the Government.

In any case, there were financial difficulties. That is the reason why the scheme could not be carried through as speedily as was intended. At present, the question is what is going to be its future. Here, I would very strongly urge on the Government that it will be disastrous if steps are not taken to proceed with the immediate construction of at least the

Mython dam. For that purpose, I think estimates have been placed before Government and the matter has been taken in hand. I would specially appeal to the Minister also and to the Finance Minister that if a coordinated plan has to be executed, it will be fatal to neglect these other vital parts of the first phase, dealing with flood control.

Sir, another charge has been made that the whole scheme has been worked out with insufficient care. Now, I was examining the matter from a rough and ready point of view. As the House is aware, the World Bank has given a loan to the Government of India for the Damodar Project for, I believe, about Rs. 9 crores which comes to about 18.5 million dollars. They sent out experts to India to inspect all the river projects, went into all the details of the Damodar scheme and it was after they had examined the whole thing and satisfied themselves that the scheme has been properly drawn up, that it has great potentialities and that the scheme will be able to repay itself if the loan was given, that the World Bank agreed to give such a big loan. In fact, from information available to us, the Bank is satisfied with the scheme to such an extent that it may be possible for India to secure a further loan for the Damodar Project. When irresponsible criticism is made that the project has been thoughtlessly framed or that there are serious defects in it, I can only call it strange. After foreign experts have come and examined the project and after they have satisfied themselves that it has been properly drawn up and could be satisfactorily executed, it is not desirable that we should prejudicially affect our own credit outside by making such irresponsible criticisms.

Sir, with regard to the installed price of power, by another rough and ready method, according to the plan which has been put into execution, I find that the installed capacity price comes to Rs. 800 per k.w. so far as Damodar Valley project is concerned, as against the installed capacity of Rs. 900 per k.w. in England today. So far as the selling price is concerned, the Damodar price comes to .66 of an anna per k.w. which compares very favourably with the selling price of power in India to-day of companies which were established a considerable time back when the value of capital goods was much lower.

Another question has been raised and that was about the progress which has been made up till now. I have gone through the progress in a rough and ready way and this is what I

find. During the past 2½ years, it appears that 856 buildings have been put up. 66 miles of roads have been opened up. 110 culverts have been erected. 10 bridges have been constructed and water supply and sanitation systems for 8,200 people spread out at four construction camps. The Tillaiya and Konar dams are under construction. For the Mython dam the designs are ready for construction to begin. The designs of the barrage and for irrigation are ready, surveys and other processes have been completed for acquisition of land for the canal system of about 1,550 miles length. Timber workshops have been established for the supply of doors, windows, furniture and other such things. A central workshop for maintenance of heavy machineries and fabrication has been put up. Aerial photography has been ordered and partially completed for 700,000 acres and surveys of the entire area has been taken in hand and also the soil conservation of 30,000 acres of land and minor irrigation projects for the reclaimed lands. Well, this is an achievement of which any organisation can well feel proud.

My attitude towards the problem is this. If defects are apparent in the working of the Act, by all means let us rectify them. If the corporation suffers from any weaknesses let us remove them. If there is a lacuna, let us also remove it. But this a new experiment which India deliberately launched upon and the experiment is, I believe, fraught with tremendous possibilities for the welfare of the people of this country. Under such circumstances, we should not look at this problem from any narrow point of view.

There is another danger with regard to the management of such big institutions departmentally. From my experience as a Minister for two and a half years, I have seen and I have recorded this opinion and stated it publicly, that it will be disastrous for this country to have such state-owned institutions or organisations to be run departmentally. We must run them through corporations or companies.

**Shri Sidhva:** Mr. Gadgil thinks otherwise.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** Yes, and I did not feel happy at all when he said that he proposed to establish a company for the working of the Sindri factory where large powers will remain in the hands of Government and some power will be in the hands of the company. I had a talk with Mr. Neogy

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

and he rightly pointed out that under such circumstances it would be futile for him to come and accept the responsibility of the chairmanship of such a company. We cannot mix up the two things Government's responsibility is there and that responsibility will be with regard to the formulation of the policies, the checking of accounts, auditing and the financial control. But then the fullest possible scope must be given to those organisations which can be run as well-organised and efficient bodies, charged with great commercial responsibility. A distinguished American President, while speaking about the T.V.A. described the position very clearly. If you refer to contemporaneous literature, you will find that there was a lot of criticism in America also that such wide powers were proposed to be transferred to a statutory organisation and Government had practically receded to the background. He described the T.V.A. as an organisation deliberately clothed with the powers of government, but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise. We would also like to bring into our country such organisations. Sir, I know there is some jealousy sometimes in the Secretariat. Wire-pulling goes on. Even with the best of motives, jealousy remains. But here there is no question of any jealousy and I am sure that the Ministry under the charge of Shri Sri Prakasa ably assisted by his Secretaries will be able to look into the affairs of this corporation properly. By all means remove the defects if any which may be found, but do not do anything to reduce the efficiency and the possibility for service of this great organisation, because my own feeling is that whatever may be the criticism that may be levelled, the corporation has acquitted itself very creditably during the last two and a half years.

**Shri S. N. Sinha (Bihar):** Sir, I have listened carefully to the speeches made by the previous speakers. I paid special attention to the speech of my hon. friend Mr. Bhagat who made a constructive approach to the problem. I do not agree with Dr. Mookerjee that the criticisms made against the Damodar Valley Corporation were irresponsible and wide off the mark. Mr. Bhagat has applied his mind to certain aspects of the problem but I feel that he has overlooked certain actual facts connected with it, and so I would, with very great respect to him, say that his suggestions were rather very broad, even though they may have been constructive. I feel that the Damodar Valley Corporation has been doing very well and I hardly

expect that after the speech of my most respected friend Mr. B. Das who spoke so well of the Damodar Valley Corporation this year. . . .

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** What about last year?

**Shri S. N. Sinha:** Last year he was very critical and. . . .

**Shri B. Das:** Sir, on a point of personal explanation, the members of our committee went round the various river valley projects to see with our own eyes the progress made in each of them and what I said I have said after getting that experience.

**Shri S. N. Sinha:** That is what I was saying. Mr. Das had undertaken a tour of the area which is served by the Damodar Valley Corporation and is convinced and satisfied with the progress made by the Corporation. Therefore he has become a convert to the view propounded by the mover of the motion as also Mr. Jaipal Singh, namely that the Damodar Valley Corporation is a big thing and one should not feel jealous of the position conferred upon it by calling it a republic within the Indian Republic. Even this year Mr. Bhagat seems to feel that the Damodar Valley Corporation is functioning as a republic within the Indian Republic. He has really missed the fact that when the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill was before the House it was clearly understood that the Corporation was to be set up on the pattern of the T.V.A. and it had to be an autonomous body, because it was concerned with the problems not only of flood control, irrigation or power but also of the social and economic development of the country and therefore the control of the activities of the Corporation could not be effectively done by the Centre. If you analyse the whole situation you will find that control by the centre ultimately becomes a control by the bureaucracy. Therefore I must submit for your consideration Sir, that one should not feel jealous of the position given to the Damodar Valley Corporation and at no stage should it be intended that the Government should be goaded into interfering with the day to day affairs of the Corporation. I am glad that they have not so far thought fit to issue directives under section 48 of the Act, because obviously it appears that they were satisfied with the working of the Corporation.

But I have a grievance against the Government. Dr. Mookerjee just now said that the entire activities of the Corporation were settled by the Central Government in consultation with the Corporation and then Mython and

Panchet Hill projects were given the last place in the matter of development or construction. I am really surprised that the whole system of working has been reversed and the items which should have received precedence and priority have been relegated to the last place. I entirely agree with Mrs. Ray that this matter should never have been delayed and Government owes us an explanation as to why there has been such a great delay. No question of funds should be raised.

I shall take up the point made by Mr. Bhagat that the estimates are incomplete and therefore as the work progresses the estimates go up. He wants a clearer financial picture of the whole activities of the Damodar Valley Corporation. I would like to tell him that it is not possible in the very nature of things. As has been explained by several press statements on behalf of the Damodar Valley Corporation the project is planned and the construction is started and then the details are filled in. Even if you start with a detailed project and design they are liable to be changed in the course of construction and the cost will never keep to the schedule. Therefore this criticism is not quite valid.

The hon. Member has made two definite suggestions. One is with respect to the Financial Adviser. His status has been described by the Minister himself as anomalous. I do not know whether my friend has looked into the conventions adopted by the Corporation according to which no expenditure can be incurred without the concurrence of the Financial Adviser and in case there is a difference of opinion between him and the members of the Corporation they should sit and discuss the matter together and come to agreed conclusions. So far we have not been told of any case of difference of opinion between the Financial Adviser and the members of the Corporation, nor has there been any case of the Financial Adviser's opinion having been over-ruled by the members of the Corporation. I am not quite clear in my mind as to how the status of the Financial Adviser is going to be raised. I would, however, make a very humble submission to the Minister in charge. Even if there is some idea in his mind to give a better status to the Financial Adviser, he should keep one thing in mind. The position of the Financial Adviser or his powers should not be such as to defeat the very purpose of the Corporation. Why have we given autonomous powers to the Corporation? Because they have to act with expedi-

tion and speed and work on a commercial basis. If the same departmental procedure as followed in the Government of India were followed there, speed and expedition will be lost and the purpose in view may ultimately be defeated. Therefore I would with very great respect request the Minister to keep this in mind before making any change in the status of the Financial Adviser, although I have no intention in my mind that the control with respect to finance should be relaxed in any way.

With respect to the criticism that they were uneconomic projects I suppose the suggestion is that it should be seen that they are paying propositions and that they must be able to pay dividends in terms of money. I would like to remind my hon. friend that the project has many other purposes in view and the dividends should not be counted in terms of money but also in terms of human values. Even though the project may not be in a position to pay for its way in terms of cash, it may pay dividends in terms of human values.

Before I conclude I wish to invite the attention of the hon. Minister in charge of this new department to a very pressing problem, namely the Kosi project which touches our province very deeply. Last year my friend Mr. S. N. Das raised this question and described the miseries and suffering of the people in North Bihar. I need not take up the time of the House by describing the vagaries of the Kosi river and the sufferings of the people. I would only like to know at what stage is the Kosi project at the present moment. I understood that it has been divided into several phases and I would like to know when the first phase is going to be put into operation.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Shri Jaipal Singh (Bihar):** Intimately as I am associated with the area where the Damodar Valley Project is being brought into existence, I have been interested in what has been said today on the floor of the House as also what has been said in the past both inside and outside the House. I have been greatly distressed by all the calumny that has but recently been heaped in some fashion in this House but mostly outside the House against the operations of the Damodar Valley Corporation which we have ourselves created. I remember the tremendous enthusiasm that was shown when the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill was on the anvil of this House. Now I find some of us are

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beginning to lose faith in ourselves. It is for that reason that I am glad you have given me an opportunity to intervene in this debate to bring some cheer to the House if I can, in so far as lies in me.

Sir, one young friend of mine said that his information had been collected from what I may call, in bazar language, "window dressing". Evidently he had been to the Engineering Exhibition here and he was disappointed to find only papers hanging about in the Damodar Valley stall whereas in the case of other projects there had been window dressing. That is exactly the trouble. The Damodar Valley Corporation has not been going in for cheap or common window-dressing. I will give you one instance. A great deal of the misunderstanding that has been caused in this House. . . . .

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Do you mean to say that the whole International Engineering Exhibition was window dressing?

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** I am using bazar language. Sir, I am one of the few Members who have visited all these river projects. I wonder how many hon. Members have visited any of these projects and seen the works with their own eyes and acquainted themselves, either at the instance of Government or on their own initiative. Then they would be in a position to compare the three projects and not just single out one project, the Damodar Valley project, for criticism.

The Damodar Valley Corporation, by an instruction of the Government of India of last April, mind you, is prevented from doing the type of window-dressing that is so necessary for it to be correctly appreciated. Take the first report, for instance. In the first report the Damodar Valley Corporation was in a position to give its own points of view against the audit report remarks. Now the Government of India last April have cancelled that. In their instruction they say that the Damodar Valley Corporation has been told that no explanations and replies of the Corporation should be embodied in future annual reports of the Corporation with reference to audit reports. Hence all the misunderstanding, misinformation and mischief that has been done against the Damodar Valley Corporation. I want my friend, the Minister should rescind that directive so that the House may be fully informed. We want to know both sides of the question. That is the point I would like to stress.

Secondly, it is not right that dissimilar things should be compared. The yard-stick cannot be the same for things that have not the same problems. Take, for example, the Bakhra-Nangal project. Are you going to compare the problems that confront the Bakhra-Nangal scheme with those of Hirakud in Orissa? Is there any sense in it? Similarly, the Damodar Valley operations cover an area of 8,000 sq. miles; even within the area itself the problem is everywhere not the same. From what I have seen and from the eulogy that has been so generously offered to the Damodar Valley Corporation, we have no right to be cynical, and, in fact, we have to congratulate ourselves and the men we have put in charge, that the work is being done so ably.

**Shri Sidhva:** What about the starting of irrigation?

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** That is the type of ignorance that is displayed by an inadequate appreciation of the facts that faced the Damodar Valley Corporation when it came into existence. Most of the West Bengal Members in this Parliament grumble that irrigation has faded into the background, that the Bokaro thermal station has been pushed forward. The blunt truth is that the Bokaro Thermal station is financed by the World Bank—which is responsible for 70 per cent. of the Rs. 13 crores—and money was given straight off with the result that they could go ahead with the work whereas, with the financial stringency and subsequent budget cuts as is known to hon. Members, for they are responsible for it, the Damodar Valley Corporation has been crippled again and again, in regard to other things.

**Shri Sidhva:** That is not correct.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** If the money had been forthcoming, I can assure everybody that even Mython and Panchet Hill would have gone far ahead.

Despite the criticism that has been levelled on the floor of Parliament, may I remind hon. Members that there are some distinguished visitors who have seen the site, who have seen the work, not for just an hour or two but for days—in the case of Spottswood for instance, a member of the World Bank, one whole month—and seen things for themselves. And what is their verdict? (*Interruption*).

I could have replied to every criticism. But I need be brief. My home area is Tharkhand, which I am going to defend, as my friend said some time ago.

Take the case of Voorduin. He was here nearly for four years. He was some rough guess—it was not a scientific estimate—of Rs. 55 crores. Members have been complaining that 55 crores have now become 75 crores. There were reasons for that, reasons very well-known and accepted by Members of this House. I am not going to give his verdict. But take the verdict of Messrs. Riegel and Schlemmer. These two U.S. experts who were invited by the Government of India, mind you, by the Government of India in 1945 to vet the scheme approved the scheme. In other words, they were satisfied that it was not a haphazard project. Then we have Dr. Morgan of the T.V.A.—I hope Members know what T.V.A. means. Dr. Morgan saw the work there and he wondered why there had been so much criticism in Delhi. He felt that most of the criticism was directed against the Damodar Valley Corporation through either lack of knowledge or lack of adequate knowledge. In fact, he congratulated the D.V.C. on the morale of its personnel at that time. Then there have been questions asked on the floor of this House about Dr. Trone. Dr. Trone is the Prime Minister's personal adviser. (*An Hon. Member*: Was). May I remind the House that he also has shown appreciation of the work done by the D.V.C.?

**Shri Sondhi**: Have you seen his report?

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: Yes, I have. He had shown appreciation of it. May I just point out. . . . .

**Shri Sondhi**: Then you do not know the report.

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: Take the case of the World Bank. Have you read its report?

**Shri Sondhi**: Yes, I have.

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: If they had not been satisfied they would not have come forward to finance the project. The World Bank knows what it is doing. It makes a point to see that money is properly spent and spent on the right purpose, before it gives a loan. Then, only recently we had the World Power Conference. There was Lord Citrine, Chairman of the British Electricity Authority. I know most Members laugh at things British or which savour British, but nonetheless may I say what he said after visiting the Damodar Valley? He said that he was amazed at the progress which had been made in such a short time. Sir, it was very unfortunate that Mr. David Lillienthal who was also in

this country was not able to visit the site. I would like to ask my hon. friend as to why Mr. Lillienthal was not enabled to visit it; although in the original programme he was supposed to go and visit the Damodar Valley, he was whisked away from the City of Calcutta after he had been only a few hours at the office of the Damodar Valley Corporation. Sir, the verdict of people who know but who are foreigners may not be appreciated. But our President has visited the site, our Prime Minister has also been round there. And I urge hon. Members, before they make irresponsible criticism, uninformed criticism of a project otherwise doing extremely well, they will take the trouble to go and visit the site. They will be very welcome indeed to see things for themselves as to how our men, our own men, are doing things according to our purpose.

**Shri Sidhva**: What about the auditor's report?

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: Sir, in my introductory remarks I had said that the old methods should again be brought back in order that the D.V.C. would have an opportunity to give its own point of view against the auditor's report. If that had been done I would have been able to satisfy, certainly in some regards, at least some of the objections that have been made in the report itself.

Lastly, there is one point that I would like to stress, that has been forgotten, I think, whenever criticisms are made. The thing that is most outstanding and the thing that impressed my old and revered friend, Mr. B. Das also, in regard to the Damodar Valley Corporation, is the human aspect of this project. Nowhere, neither in Bakhra and Nangal project nor in the Hirakud project do you find the progress that has been made here in regard to colonization, clearance, rehabilitation and all that goes to make life what it should be. The Damodar Valley Corporation is streets ahead of any other project in India.

**Shri Shiva Rao**: Does my hon. friend know the cost at which it has been done? The cost of reclamation is Rs. 52 elsewhere—it is Rs. 360 in Damodar Valley.

**Shri Sidhva**: He does not bother about it.

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: Well, it is as much my money as my hon. friend's money. And all that I want to say, if it is a question of comparison, is that I wish we had another occasion; I could show other comparisons as to what it is costing in other places. The Damodar Valley project should be

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studied as an integrated whole, not in patches here and patches there. The whole scheme as one of my friends on the other side said, should be appraised as one integrated whole and then alone, then only, can you have the correct picture. For example, I can well ask whether the tunnel in Bhakra is absolutely necessary. There are many other questions which I can ask. Even in the D.V.C. which I am venturing to support, there are many wrong things in it which I find, but what I object to is the mischief that has been done. Whereas this Parliament has to give all the moral support it can (*An Hon. Member*: For all the wrongs?) not for all the wrongs, but its moral support to this project, so that it can be seen through and completed in as short a time as possible.

**Shri Sondhi**: We have given all the money. What more do you want?

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: No, you have not given.

**Shri Sidhva**: Your ignorance shows that.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri**: Let us for a moment go out of the Damodar valley and try to peep into the pleasant valley of Assam. My hon. friend the Minister in charge has recently come away from the province of Assam which abounds in unexploited natural resources. It is, I claim, in the fitness of things that my hon. friend Mr. Sri Prakasa should be in charge of this Ministry. (*An Hon. Member*: And have a A.V.C.?) I want to ask him if his attention has at all been drawn to the necessity of training some rivers in Assam. For instance, if he still remembers that the town of Dibrugarh in Assam is on the point of being completely washed away, I would like to ask him whether he has made up his mind to do anything in the matter or whether he is continuing the indifference which in the past the Government of India has displayed towards that town. I would also like to know from him what action has been taken in the matter of training the river Varali. When I had asked the hon. Minister Shri Gadgil a question about it some two years ago, he said that a survey was being made. I should like to know whether the matter is still in the stage of survey or whether anything is going to be done about this river. It is in the district of Daran and has caused great deprecation year after year and people have had to be shifted from place to place. I do not know whether the hon. Minister in charge of Natural

Resources has any Deputy Minister under his control or whether my hon. friend Shri Buragohain is one of his Deputy Ministers. If he is, I can only tell him this, that he is not only making himself unpopular in Assam by not doing anything in this respect but the hon. Minister is going to sully the fair reputation of the Deputy Minister Shri Buragohain if nothing is done within a short space of time with regard to these two important matters.

It has also been stated in this House more than once that Assam presents a splendid opportunity for hydro-electric operation. In fact, the American observers who had come during the war had said that there is no place like that in India where hydro-electric operations can be more successfully carried out than Assam. A project was chalked out. A scheme was drawn up some time ago but nothing has been heard since then, because the Government of India has withdrawn all its development grants for the province of Assam and refused to move an inch in this matter. I should like to know whether the present Minister in charge of Natural Resources is going to do anything for the interests of a province which he was not ashamed to declare as the province which he had liked most. I think I am right in saying this. But I do notice a change already in my hon. friend because after having taken charge of this portfolio, he has become somewhat unnatural.

6 P. M.

**Shri Sondhi**: Do not exploit his personal likings.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri**: He is no longer cheerful. I no longer see his sense of humour. I no longer see his sparkling wit. I think something must have come over his shoulders on account of which he is finding it very uncomfortable to carry on this Department with due justice to the province of Assam. That is what has made his mood so pensive. All his time is now being taken up by bigger projects and mightier institutions like the D.V.C. and Hirakud. This has made him forget Assam, which undoubtedly is after his heart. He has been compelled to forget Assam and give all his attention to these big projects. In the midst of criticism on those projects, probably he has forgotten Assam but I once more request him not only in the interests of the Government of India but also in the interests of the province of Assam and also the fair name of one of the Deputy Ministers, Shri Buragohain, that unless something is done quickly



ne is going to mar the reputation of the Deputy Minister.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): The Ministry whose fortunes have been entrusted to my feeble hands, embraces in its wide sweep all the heavens above and the earth below; and I am not surprised that hon. Members have approached the subject with due awe and reverence. Personally, I am grateful to the House for the kind references that have been made to myself. Sir, the two main Departments of this Ministry are scientific research through the Laboratories that have been established; and the working of irrigation schemes.

In the course of the discussion this afternoon, the first part was only referred to by my hon. friend Shri Satis Chandra; and I am grateful to him for the tribute that he has deservedly paid to the work that is being done in those Laboratories and for the great energy and enthusiasm, besides ability and knowledge, with which the Secretary of the Ministry is functioning. The other part of the working of the Ministry has come under review more extensively and I should like to express my gratitude both to my hon. friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and my hon. friend Shri Jaipal Singh for having stood so valiantly for the Ministry and its work, especially in reference to the Damodar Valley Corporation which has been the target of criticism from many quarters in the House, ever since I took charge of this Department.

I should, however, like to say one thing with reference to what Dr. Mookerjee said, namely, that the Government of India, as such, cannot entirely divest themselves of their responsibility in the matter of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation. It is true, as he said, that the Governments of Bihar and West Bengal are the participating Governments in the joint venture; and that they are also responsible for a large amount of money that is being spent in Damodar Valley. But the fact is that though the Government of India, as such, is only committed to a maximum of Rs. 7 crores in the matter of flood control and to its own share in the capital allocated to power, it is we who really have to find out all the money; and though the money is paid to the Corporation by the Governments of Bihar and West Bengal, all that money is advanced by us to those two Governments. In these circumstances, we have naturally to be very careful and to keep a constant eye on them, so that the money may be spent properly and also that the

respective Governments should be making provision for the ultimate repayment of the money they borrow from us. The question, therefore, of the position of the Financial Adviser is an important one and is naturally coming under review constantly in this House.

Some hon. Members who have taken great interest in the Corporation, and have rightly done so, have gone so far as to suggest that the law itself should be changed so that the Financial Adviser should have a more effective voice in the working of the Corporation. Sir, I value healthy conventions very much more than the letter of the law; and at the Conference that took place here on the 3rd of this month at which representatives of all the participating governments were present, this matter came up for much discussion; and my hon. friend the Finance Minister made it clear that if we are to advance the money to the two State Governments, we must be in the picture constantly. I am glad to be able to inform the House that the representatives of both Governments have agreed to meet the Finance Minister at an early date so that all the details of the position could be examined and some practical decisions taken in order to put the whole working on a more satisfactory basis.

My hon. friend Mr. Das was not happy at the amount of money that is being given by the Finance Minister to these very important schemes. I should like to say that Rs. 30 crores of good money has been budgeted on these schemes for the coming year; and the fact is that the Government of India regard these river valley schemes only next in importance to defence. The position cannot be put more strongly than that. It will be the constant endeavour of Government to see that work is done quickly, efficiently and expeditiously along the lines that have been indicated.

I would like to assure my hon. friend Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat that I am hoping to visit the Damodar Valley very soon. The fact is that within five days of my taking charge of the Ministry, the session of Parliament began; and as every third or fourth day I have to answer some questions and satisfy the curiosity of hon. Members in various directions, I could not possibly go away to visit these various places that are so far away from Delhi that it is not always easy to come back during the few intervening days that are available between one question day and another.

There has been a certain amount of criticism against the employment of

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foreign experts, both in our scientific laboratories and on the river valley projects. Sir, during all the thirty years and more during which we struggled for *Swaraj*, our Master laid it down as a principle that while we were fighting for the freedom of our own country, we had no inimical feelings towards any other people; and while we wanted to be masters in our own house and did not want any foreigner as our ruler, we could not have any objection to inviting foreigners as friends and helpers. For two hundred years or more we have been deprived of those opportunities that freedom alone gives, to fit ourselves to take our part in various departments of the world's work. And thus, if sometimes we feel rather lost in the face of the responsibilities that have suddenly come upon us, it is not to be wondered at that we ask for assistance from outside. But I need hardly assure the House that those whom we invite and who come to help us come in the spirit of service and are in no way our masters. (An Hon. Member: Are you sure?) Yes, Sir, I am quite sure. (An Hon. Member: Our experience is the reverse of it.)

The great difficulty with the Damodar Valley Corporation has been that it had no Chief Engineer. Opinions may differ as to whether they should or should not have invited a particular person; but the fact is that from all reports the present incumbent is a very capable person and is doing his work properly and well. But I recognize the fact that he being an American, may not be so intimately aware of Indian conditions as our own engineers; and one of the conventions that I should like very much to establish is that the Damodar Valley Corporation has the constant assistance and advice of eminent Indian engineers who could discuss all matters round the table with the Members of the Corporation and their Chief Engineer and come to correct conclusions. I am also hoping that a convention may be established by which if there should be any differences of opinion between the Financial Adviser of the Corporation and the Corporation itself, we might be informed of that so that our experts here could also examine the position and give a proper directive. If these conventions are established the House will agree that there would be no necessity to change the law in any direction whatsoever.

My hon. friend Mrs. Renuka Ray was rightly concerned over some things not being done before other things were taken in hand. I quite sympathise with her and I wish it were possible for all things to be done at the

same moment. But she will readily agree that it is not always possible to do everything simultaneously.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** Are they being taken up or not?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** The various matters to which she referred are under our consideration and I might inform her that the Maithon design and estimates are ready and we are hoping to take up the construction work before very long. I am hoping also that the representatives of Bengal would soon be seeing our Finance Minister here so that various details of administration may be decided in this behalf.

My hon. friend Mr. Jaipal Singh to whom I am thankful for the many kind things that he has said, made a grievance of the fact that Mr. Lilienthal was not allowed to visit the Damodar Valley project. But that is not the case. I myself had a talk with this distinguished engineer, and requested him to visit the Damodar Valley; but the time at his disposal was very short and he had to leave. But he did give a few hours at Calcutta to the Corporation itself with the Members of which he held a long discussion. He also assured me that in Mr. Kamora, our Chief Engineer there, we have got a first-rate person. I am sorry that my friend Mr. Jaipal Singh should have, if I may say so with all respect, marred to a certain extent the beauty of his speech, by referring to the various Departments except that of the Damodar Valley Corporation in the International Engineering Exhibition, as window-dressing. I can assure the House that no attempt whatsoever was made by any Department or by any State to do any window-dressing at all.

**Shri Kamath:** No dressing at all.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** The models of the various dams that were put there are of actual works done. . . .

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** On a point of clarification, Sir, I would like to point out that what I did say was that the D.V.C. was prevented from window-dressing itself, that is to say, whereas in the first year's report it was enabled to make its comments against the views of the Audit Report, last April, that is in April 1950, the Government of India issued a directive preventing it from giving any explanations with the result that the House is ignorant of what is happening.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** I was referring to the exhibition, and his own reference to the supposed window-dressing at the exhibition. As regards the Audit

tor's Report I should like to say that it would perhaps not be right to indulge in a lot of discussion in the Annual Reports such as those that the Corporation presents and which under the law I have to place on the Table of the House year after year. If the reply of the Corporation to the remarks of the Auditor had been allowed to come in, then the Auditor would have also liked to make a further rejoinder. As a matter of fact, owing to the delay in the Auditor's Report, the laying on the Table of the House of the Report itself was delayed; and if we carry on that process of reports and counter-reports, then the process will be a very long one, and perhaps the House would not have an opportunity of seeing the Report at all.

Referring further to the Damodar Valley project, I should like to assure the House that the Government of India keep a constant vigil—I am not referring to the magazine of that name—on the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation. We have not only the Corporation and its Members; we have also a Board of Consultants. It has been said that one of the members of the Board of Consultants is himself interested in an engineering firm with whom we have contracts. But that is not the case. Mr. Harza to whom reference was made, is a consultant and belongs to a design engineering firm which is not a construction engineering firm, and that firm holds no contract from us.

**An Hon. Member:** Is it a designing firm?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Designing in the engineering sense and not in the moral sense.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** What is the composition of the Board of Consultants? Is it a fact that out of 4, three are Americans?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** There are three consultants of the Board, Mr. Harza, Mr. Harper and Mr. Venkatachari. Now that we have an American Chief Engineer, I personally think that we need really not go any more to these two Americans who are on the Board of Consultants. I am taking up this matter with the Damodar Valley Corporation; and I am also hoping that I would be able to induce them to have Indian Engineers for their Board of Consultants as also for giving advice to the Corporation itself. The present Board of Consultants can meet but seldom, as two of their members live in America and we have to pay a large fee every time they come here. In fact, this Board has met only once since it was formed. If we have

Indian Engineers then the Board would meet oftener; and I do hope that it would be possible to have a board of that nature. All these matters, I am taking up with the Corporation; and if the House would bear with me and give me a little time, I do hope to make a more satisfactory report when next the subject comes before the House.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** May I request you to speak something about Assam.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Sir, reference was made to Kosi. The scheme is divided into seven stages; and the report on the first stage is ready. It is a very difficult proposition because the estimated expenditure is Rs. 177 crores, and we are in the seismic zone besides which is always susceptible to earthquake. We are contemplating to build the highest dam in the world—it is to be 783 feet high—and therefore, it will take some time before we can embark on the venture. I quite realize the anxiety of my hon. friends from Bihar at the vagaries of the River Kosi. We shall hope to dam it before it is allowed to damn the province.

Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Chaudhuri referred to Assam and my own association with Assam. Any reference to Assam, I must confess, makes me very nostalgic; and if any of my friends think that I can ever forget Assam, I might assure them that that can never be the case. The hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister, the hon. States Minister, the hon. Defence Minister, all know how constantly I am bothering them in the interest of Assam; and though I hesitate to take the House too much in my confidence in this matter, I may tell my hon. friends from Assam that I am not entirely unsuccessful. It is possible that if I had been there, I might have averted the earthquake. (*An Hon. Member:* A brilliant idea). I may assure my hon. friend that I was very greatly alarmed at the eroding action of the Brahmaputra which I myself witnessed; and I know only too well how the town of Dibrugarh is in constant danger. My hon. friend will remember that on behalf of CWINC a party did go to Assam to reconnoitre the area in 1949; and the very first thing that I did on taking charge of this office was to call for the report of that mission. It is before me; and I shall see what it is possible to do.

But one thing, Sir, I may say to my friends of Assam. I think it is time that the men of Assam rather stepped down and gave women a chance. The men of Assam, Sir, I am sorry to say are very lazy. Therefore, they can

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

do nothing; but the women of Assam are wonderful and they do all the work; and if only they were put. . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has it anything to do with the river valley projects?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** If not with the river valley projects, certainly with the natural resources of Assam. If the womenfolk of Assam were allowed to run the various departments of life, then I think Assam will have a brighter future.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I must apply the guillotine now.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** I am sorry, Sir, that you should be so anxious to apply the guillotine (*Interruption*). I am sorry that the Chair is even more anxious for the guillotine than my friends of the French Revolution.

I am hoping, Sir, that all criticisms have been answered and I am also hoping that the working of the Department in my charge, as we survey the skies above and penetrate the earth below, will achieve such results that our children and our children's children in the years to come will have reason to be proud of what we their forefathers of today, have done; and that the amount of knowledge that we shall place at their disposal by our researches and the improvements we will have made in industry and irrigation by the river valley projects that we may have succeeded in implementing, will be such that they would be able to lead happy and healthy lives, free from ignorance, disease and poverty, and will be able to keep the *Swaraj* that we of today have won for them, inviolate for ever.

**Shri Sondhi:** So we have to wait for so long.

**Shri Tyagi:** The children will be born tomorrow.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member is quite innocent of that.

The question is:

"That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the order paper, be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952 in respect of Demands Nos. 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68 under the control of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Deputy-Speaker the motions for demands for grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below—Ed. of P.P.]

**DEMAND No. 64—MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research'."

**DEMAND No. 65—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUE).**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (Met from Revenue)'."

**DEMAND No. 66—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

**DEMAND No. 67—MINES.**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,83,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Mines'."

**DEMAND No. 68—SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Scientific Research'."

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday the 29th March, 1951.