

Tuesday, 13th March, 1951



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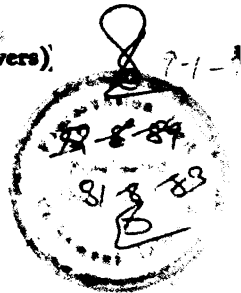
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VI, 1951



(5th February to 31st March, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

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

2187

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 13th March, 1951

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STEAMER FREIGHT

*2148. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how the steamer freight is arranged for the purpose of imports and other cargoes to India?

(b) Is the freight rate settled for particular consignment or for particular period?

(c) What is the lowest rate of freight so far obtained?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Steamer freight is arranged by negotiations with ship owners and/or their Agents through brokers.

(b) Freight rate is, as a rule, settled for each consignment.

(c) As freight rate depends upon several factors such as the type of cargo, quantities in which it is available, distances between the port of consignment and destination, degree of competition among shipping lines, price level for fuel etc., it is not possible to give a precise answer.

Shri Sidhva: Arising out of part (b) where the hon. Minister stated that the freight rate is settled for each consignment, may I know whether any effort has been made to see that the freight is arranged half yearly or yearly with the object of getting a lower freight?

Shri Santhanam: It is the practice of shipping companies to arrange the freight for each consignment. It is done through the brokers whose business it is to arrange such freight. I

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do not think we can alter the customs of world shipping.

Shri Sidhva: I am not suggesting a new type of system. Is it not the practice to give freight at a cheaper rate if it is done on a half yearly or yearly basis?

Shri Santhanam: I am informed that it is not the practice.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the steamer freight is arranged through local people or through India House in London?

Shri Santhanam: For bulk of the shipping required by the Government of India the shipping is arranged through India House, but the High Commissioner also arranges it through a broker.

Shri Sidhva: Will the hon. Minister make enquiries whether a rebate of about 15 per cent. is given under a half yearly system and, if that is so, will the Government of India take advantage of that system?

Shri Santhanam: I take it that our High Commissioner has all the information with him and does what is best in the interests of the country.

Shri Sidhva: My question was different.

Mr. Speaker: I am calling the next question.

LOSS OR SHORTAGE OF GOODS (CLAIMS)

*2149. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of claims preferred by persons against loss or shortage with the E.P. Railway during the year 1950?

(b) What is the total number of claims disposed of and what was the number outstanding at the end of December, 1950?

(c) What is the total value of all the claims?

(d) What is the staff employed in this Department?

(e) How many cases were sent to Courts of Law, in how many cases decrees were obtained and in how many cases compromises were made with the claimants?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The number of claims against E.P. Railway for compensation for loss of or shortage in consignments during the year 1950 was 20818.

(b) The number of claims disposed of during the year was 19314; and the number of outstanding claims on 31st December was 1504.

(c) The total value of all claims received during the year was Rs. 72,41,435.

(d) The number of staff employed in the claims branch including officers and line staff is 153.

(e) Suits were filed in 419 cases. 48 cases were decreed against the E.P. Railway; and in 113 cases a compromise was effected with the claimants out of court.

Shri Sidhva: Arising out of the answer to part (d) of the question where the hon. Minister gave the number of staff employed in the claims branch, may I know whether the number is the same as in the preparation time or, after the work has been reduced, whether the number of the staff has also been reduced proportionately?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, the entire E.P.R. staff is only a fraction of the staff employed by the old N.W.R.

Shri Sidhva: I am asking specifically about the claims Department existing on the E.P. Railway, whether the staff has been proportionately reduced or whether it is the same as in the preparation time.

Shri Santhanam: I am afraid I shall have to ask for notice.

Dr. Deshmukh: Has there been any investigation to find out what are the causes leading to these losses?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, Sir. We are conducting continuous investigations into the matter.

Dr. Deshmukh: Has the existence of any gangs been discovered...

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

LABOUR OFFICERS (TRAINING)

*2150. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any use has been made by the Railway Board of the specializ-

ed Labour training given to the personnel selected by the Railway Board and trained during the past three years as Labour Officers, in the United Kingdom;

(b) whether this training was given on British Railways and if so, on what Railway and in what subjects; and

(c) what is the number of personnel sent for such training and what is the total cost involved?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) During the last three years only one Railway employee was sent in 1948 to the U.K. for specialised labour training as a Labour Officer. Government are having the benefit of the specialised training of this employee in his post of Welfare Inspector on the E.I. Railway.

(b) The training was given on the British Railways, but information is not readily available as to the particular Railway on which he received training. The subjects in which he received training were—

(i) Labour Welfare and Factory Inspection; and

(ii) Industrial Relations and working of Trade Unions.

(c) The number of railway personnel sent for such training so far is five and the total cost (apart from pay and allowances) involved is approximately Rs. 30,000 i.e., Rs. 6,000 per officer for the entire period of training.

Shri Sidhva: What was the number of personnel sent for such training?

Shri Santhanam: I said five. That number is from the beginning and not for the last three years.

Shri Sidhva: In reply to part (a) the hon. Minister stated that one officer has been employed as Welfare Inspector. May I know where he is located and what his name is?

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know his name?

Shri Sidhva: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Why?

Shri Sidhva: I want to know whether the same gentleman who has returned from training in England has been employed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says so in his reply.

Shri Sidhva: My information is that he is somewhere else.

Mr. Speaker: It is not proper to bring in the names of individual officers.

Shri Sidhva: But I want to know whether it is the same officer who has been given the training.

Mr. Speaker: He can put the question whether it is the same officer.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it is the same officer who has returned from U.K. after getting training that has been appointed as the Welfare Inspector?

Shri Santhanam: I have stated that only one officer was sent during the last three years—in 1948 for training and that particular officer is a Welfare Inspector on the E.I. Railway.

Shri Kamath: Is there in the Railway Board or under the authority of the Railway Board an officer like a Labour Relations Officer or a Liaison Officer between the administration and labour, so as to safeguard the interests of labour on the railways?

Shri Santhanam: There is one Member of the Railway Board who is Member (Staff) and there are Directors and Assistant Directors who all take charge of the interests of labour.

Shri Kamath: Has any one of them had actual practical experience of railway labour problems outside India?

Shri Santhanam: All these officers have had continuous experience in dealing with railway staff in India, but as to whether any of them has had foreign experience I would like to have notice.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the labour officers or labour inspectors on the railways recruited last year have any special training in social welfare or labour welfare or problems of that nature, because it was advertised that persons qualified at the Tata Institute of Social Science would be taken, but I understand that they were not taken?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He need not pursue that argument any further. Mr. Sidhva.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any more officers are likely to be sent for training in the course of this year?

Shri Santhanam: No, Sir.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any programme for training more officers in some Institute here with this Labour Officer who has come trained from outside as the head of that Institute?

Shri Santhanam: I do not think we have any kind of programme of that sort.

PURCHASE OF FOOD GRAINS

*2151. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount of money spent on buying foodgrains from abroad in the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The amount of money spent on purchases of foodgrains from abroad during the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51

Year	Amount in lacs of rupees
1947-48	10,875
1948-49	13,103
1949-50	10,789
1950-51	6,638

(Up to December, 1950)

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that the sum of money spent on foreign imports in the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 had progressively increased, may I know how do Government account for these increases?

Shri Thirumala Rao: There was greater demand for imported foodgrains. Therefore we had to import more.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the extra sum of money spent on buying foreign foodgrains is because of devaluation?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It may be partly due to that.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the amount of money which the Government of India propose to spend on buying foodgrains in 1951-52?

Mr. Speaker: I think this is given in the Budget figures.

Shri Thirumala Rao: We have told the House several times that we are importing 3.7 million tons this year.

Shri Krishnanand Rai: May I know if Government are importing foodgrains through its own officials or through private commercial agencies? If through commercial agencies, may I know what is the commission given to them?

Mr. Speaker: This question has been put a number of times.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know what additional money had to be spent by the Government, say, in the years, 1948-49 and 1949-50 as a measure of subsidy to equalize the prices when they were sold here in India?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice of that. It is a big question of calculation.

Dr. Deshmukh: I am afraid my question is to the same effect, but I think it would be easier for the hon. Minister to reply. I would like to know out of the figures which have been given by the hon. Minister, what is the total loss that the Central Government had to bear?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice for that question.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister stated that up to December 1950 the amount was 68 crores and 38 lakhs. May I know what is the likely amount to be spent from January to March? Can he give us any idea?

Shri Thirumala Rao: So far we have got about 11 lakh tons of foodgrains up to the end of March and the hon. Member can calculate the cost.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister that the increased amount was partly because of devaluation, will the hon. Minister say how much of it was due to devaluation and how much was due to purchasing more grains?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have not got the figures. I want notice.

Shri Kamath: In spite of increasing expenditure incurred on the import of foodgrains, may I know whether the target date for achieving self-sufficiency in food, still stands?

Shri Thirumala Rao: More than once that has been made clear that our target is to be striven for.

RAILWAY PORTERS

*2152. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Eastern Punjab Railway has abolished the system of appointing contractors for railway porters?

(b) If so, has the Eastern Punjab Railway made any substitute arrangement for supervising the railway porters?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a)

It has been decided to abolish the system of appointing contractors for railway porters as early as the terms of respective existing contracts permit, on all Indian Railways including the Eastern Punjab Railway.

(b) In pursuance of the policy set out in (a) above, direct licensing of porters has already been introduced on the Eastern Punjab Railway at Delhi and Amritsar stations, where adequate arrangements have been made for supervising the work of the porters.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the reason why the system of appointing cooly contractors has been abolished?

Mr. Speaker: It was a matter of complaint in this House.

Lala Achint Ram: Do the Government propose to provide housing accommodation to railway porters, Sir?

Shri Santhanam: After we have provided for the regular staff, we shall consider this matter.

Mr. Speaker: I think, let us better go to the next question.

RAILWAY LINK BETWEEN AJMER AND KOTAH

*2153. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal before the Government of India for opening new Railway line connecting Kotah with Ajmer;

(b) whether any survey was made of the proposed line and if so, when and what was the report of the surveyors; and

(c) what is the estimated investment on this line and whether the scheme is still in hand or it has been given up and if so, the reasons for the same?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, Traffic and Engineering Surveys were carried out in 1946. The reports revealed that the line whether constructed to broad gauge or metre gauge would be financially unremunerative.

(c) A broad gauge line is estimated to cost Rs. 4.37 crores and a metre gauge line Rs. 2.80 crores. The project was considered by the Central Board of Transport in June, 1948 and they decided to drop it, the main reason being that it was not financially justified.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Is the Government aware that the goods and

passenger traffic on road transport has gone up very much in the last four years?

Shri Santhanam: Possibly. I have not examined that.

TRACTORS

*2154. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors owned by (i) the Central Government (ii) State Government and (iii) individuals; and

(b) whether Government have any overall plan for the rationalisation of the use of tractors?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The number of tractors owned by the Central and State Governments respectively is as follows:

(i) Central Government (Ministry of Food and Agriculture)—646 tractors.

(ii) The total number of tractors owned by various State Governments, according to available reports is 1647.

(iii) Accurate figures regarding the number of tractors owned by private individuals are, however, not available.

(b) The following steps have been taken for rationalising the use of tractors:

(i) Licences for import of tractors are issued only to such firms, as have adequate workshop and servicing facilities.

(ii) In order to obviate the chances of tractors lying idle, for lack of replacement parts, importers are compelled to import spares, covering 15 per cent. of the value of such tractors.

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to confine their purchases of tractors to a few specified types, so that difficulties in regard to procurement of spare parts and servicing are minimised. They have also been asked to operate tractors in units of between 5 and 15, so as to ensure arrangements for proper supervision and repairs.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether Government propose to grant subsidies to reduce capital costs to land owners and co-operative societies?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is for State Governments to consider the proposal and there are certain State Governments who are giving loans for this purpose.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether there is any proposal to

establish a Central organization for service and repairs of tractors?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Central Government runs a Central Tractor Organization where it has started a school for training mechanics and drivers.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether during the Conference that was held in June last, any appeal was made to dealers to reduce the margin of profits on these tractors?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Of course the Government of India have been trying; I have asked the dealers to reduce their profits.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know what was the response of the dealers to this appeal?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Central Government have made proposals to many of the dealers that they should forego a part of their commission to the Central Government and they have agreed to do so.

Shri M. L. Gupta: May I know whether the people who have been trained in the Central Tractor Organization would be available to private individuals who owned tractors?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Of course these trainees are intended to go about first to serve the States and if more are available, they will be given to private individuals.

Shri Bhagat: May I know whether any extension service is provided in the areas which are tractorized by Government?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I do not understand what the hon. Member means by 'extension service'. Extension service is only intended with regard to research stations.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know where the Central Government employ those tractors?

Shri Thirumala Rao: They are employed mostly in Bhopal.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether the dealers are prepared to reduce the cost with regard to private purchase?

Shri Thirumala Rao: With regard to private purchase, licences are granted to those who want to import and it is a matter between the dealers and the purchasers.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

CUT IN FOOD RATION

*2155. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantity of wheat allowed in ration in the rural areas of Delhi has been recently reduced by fifty per cent i.e. from five chattaks to 2½ chattaks;

(b) if so, the monthly saving in wheat and money effected thereby;

(c) whether it is a fact that as result of this, the open market price of wheat in most of the villages went up to Rs. 22 per maund and in some villages no wheat was available; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to make wheat available in such villages?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Yes, with effect from 17-12-1950.

(b) The saving in wheat for a period of 4 weeks was approximately 15,000 maunds the cost of which is about Rs. 1½ lakhs.

(c) Yes

(d) The cut has been withdrawn with effect from 14-1-1951.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what is the price of wheat now ruling in the rural areas in the open market?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I cannot give; it may be varying. The official price is Rs. 14-6-0. Recently it has been raised.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Perhaps the hon. Minister has not followed my question. The question is not about controlled prices. Open market exists in rural areas for wheat. I want to know the fall in the price in that market since the restoration of the ration cut.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice of the question.

Shri Kamath: Is there any truth in the Press reports that the American Food Aid which, according to the Minister, would have helped to restore the ration cut, may be unduly delayed?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise?

Shri Kamath: The question relates to Ration cut.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Lala Achint Ram: May I know whether Government is in a position to announce the date for the restoration of this cut?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Which cut? Perhaps the hon. Member is confusing the two cuts. There is the normal cut of 25 per cent.; this is a 50 per cent. cut which has been restored recently roundabout Delhi.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know whether the price of wheat in the rural areas in the open market roundabout Delhi is nearly double the procurement price?

Shri Thirumala Rao: No; it is not a fact.

Lala Achint Ram: I want to know about the 25 per cent cut.

Shri Thirumala Rao: It all depends on the stock position; I cannot give any assurance now.

TUBE WELLS

*2156. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many wells Government propose to sink during the year 1951 and at what cost;

(b) whether the Rotary Rigs and Percussion Rigs belonging to the Central Government have been worked during the last one year;

(c) if so, how many tube wells have been sunk with their help and at what cost; and

(d) how many of them are actually working today?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The Government of India do not propose to sink any tube wells themselves in 1951. So far as the State Governments are concerned, information has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

(b) Yes; two percussion and one rotary rigs belonging to the Central Government worked during the period in question.

(c) Twenty one; at an average cost of Rs. 12,000/- per well.

(d) Eight are working. Another eight will start as soon as pumps are fitted. Three are under development and two have been abandoned.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know how many Rotary rigs are in all possessed by the Central Government? The hon. Minister has said that only one is working. I want to know how many are lying idle.

Shri Thirumala Rao: One Rotary and one Percussion rig belonging to

the Central Government have been out of order since July and May, 1950 for want of spare parts.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What was the amount spent on these Rotary rigs, how many Rotary rigs were in possession of the Government of India and how many of them have been lying idle?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Central Government has distributed 15 Percussion and one Rotary rigs to the States retaining only two Rotary and three Percussion rigs. I can give the names of the States to which they have been distributed.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have any tube wells been sunk with the help of these Rotary rigs?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I cannot give any idea as to with what particular Rotary rig the wells were sunk.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have they ever been worked and put to use?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes; they worked for some time and some of them went out of order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the number of tube wells.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer to part (a), the hon. Minister said that the Government of India do not propose to sink any tube wells in 1951. What is the reason? Have sufficient tube wells been sunk? Or for some other reason?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The State Governments have undertaken the task themselves and they are put in direct touch with the contractors who are doing this job.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the position of the Centrally administered areas?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In the Centrally Administered areas, roundabout Delhi, there is a Tube Well Division, and I have given the number of wells. Twenty one wells have been sunk.

Mr. Speaker: The question is this. The hon. Minister said that in 1951, they are not going to have any further tube wells. So far as the Centrally Administered Areas are concerned, why have they abandoned the scheme?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is a question of availability of the proper soil and water there.

Mr. Speaker: We go to the next question.

CENTRAL POTATO RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*2157. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditures incurred by Government during each of the years 1949 and 1950 for the Central Potato Research Institute;

(b) whether any report of the activities of the Institute is available; and

(c) the problems of potato cultivation which are at present being dealt with by the Institute?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The expenditure figures are:

	Recurring Ra.	Non-recurring Ra.
1949-50	1,88,133	41,494-
1950-51 (till the end of January.)	2,01,986-11-9	47,292-11-0

(b) The report for 1949-50 has been received and copies thereof will be available as soon it is printed.

(c) The problems dealt with have mainly been those of immediate practical importance such as (i) the production of high-yielding varieties for the various potato-growing regions in India, (ii) the determination of the optimum conditions of manuring and cultural practices for increasing acre yields, (iii) the survey and investigation of the major diseases of the crop, and (iv) the organisation of seed-certification schemes for the multiplication and distribution of disease-free seed.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any research work is carried on for the proper storage of potato?

Shri Thirumala Rao: For the present I have given the main items of research that are being carried on here. The question of proper storage comes with regard to storage facilities of godowns, refrigerators, and all that.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any arrangement has been made by Government to inform potato growers the results of the research work that is carried on in the Central Potato Research Institute?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The State Governments have been circularised about the work that is being done and the Agriculture Departments of the State Governments carry on the extension

work of taking the results of research to the field.

Dr. M. M. Das: Am I to understand that the task of informing the growers about the results of this research work rests with the State Governments?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In the Centre, recently, we have an officer, an American gentleman with experience in extension work, who is organising from the Centre. It is essentially for the State Governments and their Agriculture Departments to see that the results of research are made available to the farmer in the field.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any arrangement is made by the Government for the production and supply to the growers of good seeds? I want to know whether there is any seed multiplication farm under the direct supervision of the Government of India or whether there is any machinery for the collection and distribution of seeds to the growers.

Shri Thirumala Rao: There is no scheme as such under the direction of the Central Government.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the Government have at their disposal statistics to show the quantity of potato lost for want of proper storage facilities and the quantity saved by providing proper facilities?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice of the question. I can gather the information.

Shri B. K. Bhagat: Are Government aware that the Potato Growers Association, Patna, where the Central Research Institute is situated, have announced that up till now no benefit has accrued to the potato growers as a result of the research work made by this Institute, particularly in regard to spraying and weeding, etc?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Institute was started in Patna recently in March, 1949 and they are carrying on their work.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether any experiment has been carried on by this Research Institute for utilising peelings of potato for sowing purposes instead of whole potato?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice of the question.

LOCOMOTIVE TECHNICAL ENGINEERS

*2153. **Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether according to agreement the Locomotive Manufacturing Association of the United Kingdom have

sent some technical engineers to train up men and to make progress in the manufacture of locomotives?

(b) What are the terms of their appointment?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes. Besides the Technical Consultant who visits Chittaranjan twice a year, the Locomotive Manufacturers' Company have sent one Boiler Foreman, one Frameshop Foreman, one Welder and three Rate Fixers.

(b) The Technical Consultant is paid a lump sum fee of £2,500 per annum. The pay of the technicians varies between £90 to £115 per month. They have been granted free passages for themselves and their families subject to certain conditions. They are provided with free furnished accommodation, if available and are given free medical attention. They are also eligible for leave and free passes.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, may I know whether these technical engineers have got any administrative functions also to discharge or are they to function only as technicians?

Shri Santhanam: No, they are merely technicians.

Shri A. C. Guha: Are their emoluments subject to Indian income-tax?

Shri Santhanam: I have no specific information now with me on that point, but I believe that it is subject to Indian income-tax.

Shri A. C. Guha: How many Indian technicians have been trained by them as yet or have been taken up for training?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, this question covered only the technical engineers who have come from the U. K. and so I have not got the details of the people whom we have sent to London to be trained.

Shri T. N. Singh: For the purpose of the manufacture of boilers am I to understand that the one technician brought from abroad is sufficient?

Shri Santhanam: I have not got information on that particular point. A precise question may please be put and I will collect the information and give the reply.

Paadit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether these engineers are imparting instruction in a particular institution or are they moving about from place to place?

Shri Santhanam: These technicians work in the workshops and Indian

technicians are associated with that work. They do their part of the work.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: Will our technicians be sufficiently trained to take independent charge of the workshop?

Shri Santhanam: Already they are quite competent to do the work, but as we have had no regular locomotive workshops and as the foreign technicians have had more experience of this kind of work, we have brought them over to assist us.

QUILON-ERNAKULAM RAILWAY LINE

*2159. **Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the survey of Quilon-Ernakulam Railway line is complete and if so, what is the lie of the line, coastwise or inland?

(b) When is the work expected to begin?

(c) What are the recommendations of the Cochin Port Authorities regarding this?

(d) Have they proposed any subsidiary lines and if so, what are they?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The survey is in progress. The general lie of the line is inland and not coastwise.

(b) A decision on the commencement of this work will be taken only after the survey is completed.

(c) The Cochin Port Authorities have not made any recommendations regarding this line.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

Shri Alexander: Sir, how many miles have been covered by this survey so far?

Shri Santhanam: Out of the total length of 120 miles, 37 miles have been covered.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What is the probable period within which this survey work is expected to be completed?

Shri Santhanam: The work of this survey is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the Travancore-Cochin Government or any other organisation in that State has submitted any proposal regarding the lie of the land for this railway?

Shri Santhanam: This survey was started at the express request of the

Travancore-Cochin Government, and that Government has been kept continuously in touch with the progress of this survey.

Shri R. Velayudhan: Sir, my question was.....

Mr. Speaker: It has been answered.

Shri Alexander: Has the survey to be completed for the whole length first, or will construction work start for the length already surveyed?

Shri Santhanam: This survey will have to be completed first and then the whole matter will be considered by the Central Board of Transport and after the sanction of the Central Board of Transport has been obtained the question of construction will be taken up by the Railway Board.

नील की खेती

*२१६० श्री जांगड़े : क्या साक्ष तथा कृषी मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

[क] भारत में किन किन स्थानों पर नील की खेती की जाती है, तथा कुल कितने एकड़ भूमि में की जाती है ;

[ख] क्या गत बारह वर्षों से नील की खेती में निरन्तर अद्योगति होती आ रही है ; तथा

[ग] यदि ऐसा है तो इस अद्योगति के कारण क्या है ?

INDIGO CULTIVATION

[*2160. **Shri Jaadge:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the places where indigo is grown in India and the total acreage under its cultivation;

(b) whether the indigo plantation has been continuously deteriorating during the last twelve years; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for its deterioration?]

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

(a) The important indigo growing States are Madras, Uttar Pradesh and Hyderabad, but indigo is also cultivated on a small scale in Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Bharat, P.E.P.S.U. and Rajasthan. The area under the crop in 1948-49 was 29,926 acres.

(b) No clear trend is observed, but there has been a decrease in the area under indigo since 1945-46.

(c) It is possible that the restoration of normal imports of synthetic dyes since the end of the last war has discouraged indigo cultivation.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद ने ऐसा अनुसंधान किया है कि जिससे नील की खेती कम खर्च और कम मेहनत से की जा सके और प्रति एकड़ पैदावार पहले से बढ़ सके ?

[Shri Jangde: Has the Indian Council of Agricultural Research undertaken any research to evolve a more economical and less laborious method for the cultivation of indigo as also to increase its yield per acre?]

Shri Thirumala Rao: Our information is that the synthetic foreign products are more competitive in their prices and people have taken to them.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या विदेशों से नील आयात होती है ?

[Shri Jangde: Is indigo dye imported from abroad?]

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is the base for the dyes used in industries. So many dyes are used, for instance in the textile industry. There is no encouragement to the indigenous product.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: May I know whether our indigo plants are being exported to foreign countries for the manufacturing of dyes?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have no such information, Sir.

Dr. M. M. Das: Out of the indigo produced in India, what proportion is exported to foreign countries?

Shri Thirumala Rao: As I have already said, I have no information on this point.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या भारत में रासायनिक क्रियाओं द्वारा नकली नील तैयार की जाती है ?

[Shri Jangde: Is chemical indigo dye manufactured in India by various chemical processes?]

Shri Thirumala Rao: Sir, I want notice.

RAILWAY SIDINGS FOR COLLIERIES

*2161. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of collieries in the coal fields of Bihar and Bengal, which are not connected with Railway sidings;

(b) the estimated mileage of Railway Line which will be necessary to connect the collieries with sidings;

(c) whether any representation has been made by the colliery owners and the labour for the construction of the sidings;

(d) if so, when these representations were made and how many miles of sidings have been completed so far;

(e) whether Government have got any plan for sidings in Bengal and Bihar for the next two years and if so, what it is; and

(f) whether it is a fact that colliery owners were prepared to meet the cost of these sidings and if so, why there is delay in construction?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) There are 379 collieries that are not connected by Railway sidings to serve them direct but are served by grant of loading accommodation on railway sidings or assisted or private sidings owned by other coal companies. In addition, there are 20 collieries that are neither connected with railway sidings nor hold any loading accommodation on other sidings nor hold any loading accommodation on other sidings and have not so far approached the Railway for such facilities.

(b) Without a detailed survey it is not possible to estimate the mileage of Railway lines which will be necessary to connect the above collieries nor is it possible to say whether they can be constructed conveniently without interfering with the working of other collieries.

(c) Yes, representations have been received in some cases.

(d) The E. I. Railway received 90 applications for provision of sidings from 1944 uptodate. In the case of 30 of them, sidings have either been constructed or are under construction. 9.95 miles of sidings have been completed on the E. I. Railway in this period. The B. N. Railway received 7 applications from 1947 uptodate. In the case of 3, sidings totalling 3.7 miles have been sanctioned and are under construction.

(e) There is no overall plan for the construction of sidings. Applications for provision of sidings are dealt with

individually on the merits of each case.

(f) It is not correct that in every case colliery owners were or are prepared to meet the cost of sidings. Each case has to be investigated to see if the required siding can physically be provided and if the cost of operation would be covered by the traffic offering. This naturally takes some time.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Sir, have there been applications from the owners of the collieries offering to meet the cost of the construction of the sidings and if so, how many of them have made such an offer?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, I anticipated such a question and tried to get information, but unfortunately I have not been able to get the information in time.

Shri R. L. Malviya: What is the estimated dispatch of coal from collieries which are not connected with sidings and the estimated income from their freight?

Shri Santhanam: I don't expect that collieries accounts will be kept for each separate consignment of coal separately. We can only give the total coal moved.

Shri R. L. Malviya: I want the total quantity of coal moved thus and not separate figures.

Shri Santhanam: The total is the total of all collieries whether they are connected and have their own sidings or are accommodated in other sidings. All the coal will be pooled together in one account.

Shri Jnan Ram: How many government collieries have no railway sidings?

Shri Santhanam: Presumably all of them must have their sidings.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if Government gives preference to the construction of sidings where the proprietors of the mines are prepared to meet the cost?

Shri Santhanam: Generally that is the case, but in the case of very small collieries the difficulty of constructing the sidings is that they interfere with other collieries. There are generally geographical and other difficulties in the matter of construction of sidings for the collieries.

FOOD BONUS

*2162. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid to each of the States of the Indian Union as bonus on the procurement of foodgrains for the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950; and

(b) how was this bonus utilised by the States?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) A statement showing the amounts paid to the various States on account of procurement and export bonus on foodgrains for the years 1948 to 1950 is placed on the Table. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 11.] No bonus was paid during the year 1947 as the scheme for payment of bonus commenced from 1st January 1948. Further the statement will show the amount paid during each financial year as the accounts for payment of bonus are maintained according to financial years and not calendar years.

(b) The bonus was utilized by the States to cover the expenditure on schemes for increased procurement and increased production of foodgrains.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: From the statement it appears that in 1948-49 Bihar was paid a bonus of Rs. 9,93,161 and in 1949-50 it was paid Rs. 3,52,494. Is it not a fact that because of the less amount of money paid to Bihar there was less procurement?

Shri Thirumala Rao: No, Sir. It is the other way about. Because there was less procurement a lesser bonus was paid to them.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Is this bonus being given in the beginning or at the end?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is calculated at the end.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Under the column 'Export' against Bombay a sum of Rs. 31,207 is shown for 1949-50. What does this export mean?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It means an incentive is given to such of the surplus States as have kept their targets. A target is fixed for each State. For instance, if Orissa is asked to export one lakh tons of rice and if it keeps to the schedule, it will be given some bonus. So also in the case of Bombay some millets or something else must have been exported from Bombay to the neighbouring States. That is why this sum has been paid.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that the Government of Bihar required less bonus in the year 1949-50 may I know whether they are successful in procuring more foodgrains from their own account?

Mr. Speaker: Evidently the hon. Member has not understood the first part of the reply. The bonus is given in proportion to the procurement made.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The Government of Bihar did not demand more bonus.

Shri Thirumala Rao: No, no.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: May I know if there was any particular condition attached to the grant of bonus, so that the money could be spent for particular purposes so as to procure more foodgrains?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes, Sir. 75 per cent. of this bonus, there is a stipulation, should be utilised for increased production and 25 per cent. for increased procurement. Under increased production come items such as subsidising of manures, good seeds etc. Under increased procurement come items such as construction of godowns, award of prizes, etc.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any difference between the surplus and the deficit States in the matter of payment of procurement bonus?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice. There does not seem to be much of difference.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know how the subsidy given as bonus is utilised in correlation to the grow more food grants made? The Minister stated that part of the 25 per cent. is utilised as procurement bonus for grow more food purposes. I want to know whether there is any co-ordination between the grow more food grants and this particular grant.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes. There will not be any overlapping of that money and this money. The grow more food grants are for various items under that.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: May I know if any of this money was to be spent for minor irrigation works? Also may I know if any of the States have put in this money for minor irrigation projects?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is open to them to spend money on minor irrigation projects. That comes under the category of increased production.

CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

*2163. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the dates on which the last conference of the Ministers of Agriculture of all States in India was held?

(b) Did the conference consider the problem of Land Reforms as arising out of the Zamindari abolition and if so, what decisions if any, were taken?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) 30th April, and 1st May, 1949.

(b) No.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know if the last conference of Agricultural Ministers considered among other things how to bring about a uniform policy of land tenure in India?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have not got any information on that subject.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know if the conference considered the question of consolidation of holdings?

Mr. Speaker: Has the Minister got the report of the conference?

Shri Thirumala Rao: No, Sir.

Shri Kamath: Did the Centre issue any instructions or directive to the State Governments as regards the policy or, rather, legislation to be sponsored for the abolition of Zamindari and land reform or was the matter left.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That was why I asked him whether he has got the proceedings of the conference. The best course would be to circulate it. Otherwise any Member may ask on any point which he thinks should have been taken up and there will be no end to supplementary questions.

Shri Kamath: What happened later, after the conference was over?

Mr. Speaker: It is for the State to legislate on that point.

Shri Kamath: That is true, but was there any directive from the Centre...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: In view of the fact that several high courts have held void the Zamindari Abolition Acts as passed by the States, is it

proposed to call a conference of Agricultural Ministers from the different States over this problem.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any proposal in this conference regarding the organisation of development boards in States for increased cultivation.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have already said that he should place the report of the conference on the Table.

Shri Thirumala Rao: The conference was convened to consider the question of the Grow More Food Campaign and it ended there.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

RAILWAY BOOKING OF COAL CONSIGNMENTS

*2164. **Shri Krishnanaad Rai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal consignments from mines are not accepted in Banaras—Asansol branch of the Oudh Tirhut Railway due to lack of wagons; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, since what time this situation on the Oudh Tirhut Railway has been continuing?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The question is not quite clear. Banaras Asansol Section is part of main line of the E. I. Railway and not branch line of the O. T. Railway. No difficulty is experienced in either loading in coalfields or in movement to Banaras of coal traffic for this section.

(b) Does not arise.

PARTITION COUNCIL

*2165. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how many of the decisions of the Partition Council have been implemented up-to-date?

(b) How many times have the Committee met and in what places?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Most of the decisions of the Partition Council have been implemented except a few relating to the allocation of assets and liabilities.

(b) The Partition Council met twenty times in New Delhi.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Council is still living?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is not functioning.

Shri Kamath: What have been the difficulties in the way of the implementation of the decisions regarding assets and liabilities?

Shri Gopaldaswami: So far as assets go the main outstanding problem is about the transfer of assets of the issue department and on that there is difference between the Government of India and Pakistan as regards the amount to be transferred. That is why it is held up.

Shri Kamath: Was this matter discussed at any of the recent Indo-Pakistan conferences?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I think there was some discussion at a recent conference.

Shri Kamath: No decision?

Dr. Deshmukh: What is the exact number of decisions which have been implemented and decisions which have not been implemented? Is there any hope of the implementation hereafter of those decisions which have not been implemented so far?

Shri Gopaldaswami: A host of decisions have been taken about various matters in connection with the Partition. There were about nine or ten expert committees, which sat upon various disputes and each committee arrived at a number of decisions. Most of them have been carried out.

TELEGRAMS IN DEVNAGRI SCRIPT

*2166. **Shri Deogirikar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when the telegrams in Devnagri script will be started in Poona, Sholapur, Belgaum and other places?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): Telegrams in Devnagri script will be accepted at Poona, Sholapur, Belgaum and Bhusaval as soon as the telegraphists from these places, who are now under-going training in Hindi telegraphy, will have qualified in signalling messages in Hindi. It is expected that this will be in May, 1951.

The question of extending the service to other stations will be considered when there is likelihood of sufficient traffic being offered.

Shri Deogirikar: May I know whether there is any proposal to introduce telegrams in Devnagri script in all the telegraph offices?

Shri Kidwai: That is the object in view.

Shri Deogirikar: Is there any plan for it?

Shri Kidwai: We are training telegraphists, and every now and then we extend it to such areas where we think sufficient traffic will be available.

Shri Deogirikar: Does this involve Government any additional expenditure so far as the working of the scheme is concerned?

Shri Kidwai: Except for the fact that the services of telegraphists who have been trained in Hindi are not fully utilised, there is no extra expenditure for training.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the difficulty in introducing telegrams in Devnagri script in other places also and what steps are being taken to remove that difficulty?

Shri Kidwai: I have just explained it.

ATTACK ON VILLAGERS

*2167. **Shri Saprawnga:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in January 1951, certain villagers of Tamenglong Sub-Division in Manipur State barbarously attacked the neighbouring villagers with deadly weapons;

(b) what was the cause of the attack;

(c) how many persons were killed and wounded;

(d) how many persons have been arrested so far in that connection;

(e) how many of them have been prosecuted; and

(f) whether the incident had anything to do with communism or communalism?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):

(a) It is a fact that there was a riot with three murders in village KAIKAO in Tamenglong Sub-Division Lathis and Daos were used. This rioting took place between two parties of Kabui Nagas;

(b) The rioting took place over a land dispute;

(c) Three persons were killed and fifteen injured on one side and eight persons were injured on the other;

(d) Eighteen;

(e) The case is still under investigation;

(f) No. As I have said, the incident took place over a land dispute.

Shri Saprawnga: May I know whether it is a fact that prior to this riot the Officer in charge of this area had been informed of the impending danger but that no proper action was taken?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Action was taken as promptly as possible. The matter is now under investigation.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: May I know whether it is a fact that one of the persons arrested and kept in custody as an under-trial prisoner died suddenly due to the foul play of the jailers?

Mr. Speaker: I would request hon. Members not to make insinuations. The hon. Member may enquire about the fact of death or the cause of death but he need not necessarily say it was due to foul play.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: I have got a report here.....

Mr. Speaker: He may have anything, but he is making an allegation against an officer who is not here to defend himself, and questions which make insinuations are not admissible.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: May I ask then whether it is a fact that one of the persons arrested and kept in custody as an under-trial prisoner has died suddenly, and, if so, what is the reason?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I have no information of any such person dying suddenly. All the information I have received I have given already.

Shri Chahha: Is it a fact that no military or police help was rendered to these villagers for days together and they were left to their own wits?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I have no information which could confirm the hon. Member's statement.

TELEPHONES IN PART B STATES

*2168. **Shri Obaidullah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government contemplate the introduction of Message Rate System and Own Your Phone System in the Part 'B' States as has been done in other places?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (i) Message Rate System has already been introduced in Indore (Madhya Bharat). There is no other place in Part 'B' States under consideration just now, but message rate system will be introduced in any place in Part 'B' States where considered necessary.

(ii) The 'Own Your Telephone' Scheme has already been introduced in some Part 'B' States, namely (1) Hyderabad (2) Indore City (Madhya Bharat) (3) Rajkot (Saurashtra) and (4) Bhatinda (P.E.P.S.U.).

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know to what extent this scheme has been successful?

Shri Kidwai: It has been successful to the extent that it has brought some money for extending the telephone system.

श्री के. के. व्यास : क्या यह सच है कि गवर्नमेंट ने इन्दौर में टेलीफोन एडवाइजरी कमेटी बनाई थी और उसने जिन लोगों को टेलीफोन देने की सिफारिश की थी उन्हें टेलीफोन नहीं दिये गये ? यदि हाँ, तो क्यों ?

[**Shri K. K. Vyas:** Is it a fact that in Indore the Government had set up an Advisory Committee for the grant of telephone connections and that the connections were not granted to the persons recommended by that Committee? If so, the reason for it?]

श्री किदवाई : जो सवाल था उससे यह जवाब नहीं पंदा होता, वरना मैं इसकी इतला भंगवा लेता ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** It does not arise out of this question, otherwise I would have obtained the necessary information.]

श्री के. के. व्यास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट एडवाइजरी कमेटी क्यों बनाती है और वह जो सिफारिश करती है वह सिफारिश मान्य होती है या नहीं ?

[**Shri K. K. Vyas:** May I know the principle governing the appointment of the various Advisory Committees by the Government and whether their recommendations are binding on the Government or not?]

Mr. Speaker: All these questions do not arise from the present question.

श्री बलराम सिंह मेहता : क्या मैं न सकता हूँ कि उदयपुर से बांसवाड़ा

जाने वाली लाइन जिसका बनना शुरू हो गया था, वह पूरी हो गयी है ?

[**Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** May I know whether the Udaipur-Banswara line, the construction of which had actually been taken up has since been completed?]

श्री किदवाई : उसकी मुझे कोई इतला नहीं है ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** I have no information on the point.]

Shri M. V. Rama Rao: Is it a fact that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs has served individual notices on telephone subscribers in the Mysore State stating that from the 16th August telephone rates would be charged on the basis of the distance at which the telephones are situated from the exchange?

Shri Kidwai: I don't think the hon. Member's information is correct.

श्री सरवते : इन्दौर शहर में कौन सी तारीख से यह सिस्टम अमल में आने को है ।

[**Shri Sarwate:** With effect from which date is this system expected to be introduced in Indore?]

श्री किदवाई : कौन स्कीम ?

[**Shri Kidwai:** Which scheme?]

श्री सरवते : ये ओन यूअर टेलीफोन सिस्टम ।

[**Shri Sarwate:** This 'Own Your Telephone' System.]

श्री किदवाई : लोगों ने रुपया दाखिल करना शुरू कर दिया है ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** People have started depositing money.]

श्री किदवाई : यह स्कीम कौन सी तारीख से अमल में आने को है ?

[**Shri Sarwate:** From when is this scheme expected to come in force?]

श्री किदवाई : अमल में आ चुकी है ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** It is already in force.]

ARTESIAN TUBE WELL BELT

*2169. **Shri Sivaprakasam:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact

that an Artesian Tube-Well belt was discovered recently in Yamuna area in Etawah District by the Pilot Development Project?

(b) If so, what are the probable fruits to be derived from the discovery?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

(a) Yes.

(b) It is yet too early to draw conclusions because only two wells capable of irrigating 50 acres each have so far been constructed and the flow of water has to be watched for about a year before one can judge the full likely results of the discovery.

Shri Sivaprakasam: May I know whether there is any scheme before the Government to take full advantage of such discoveries?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes, when it is found by experience that there is sufficient water available, it will be extended.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the total area where these artesian wells are found and whether it is an artificially irrigated area, that is canal irrigated area?

Shri Thirumala Rao: This artesian well belt has been discovered in the Catcher area along the Yamuna River in the Etawah District. I have not got the exact extent of the area.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: Are there any artesian wells in Madras State?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I know there are some in that State—it is such a big State.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, I wanted to know the area of the belt. If the hon. Member has not got that information, I want to know, at least whether the area is artificially irrigated, that is a canal irrigated area?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is in the Indo-Gangetic plain and it is irrigated.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TELEPHONES IN AMRAOTI

*2170. Shri M. A. Hasana: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the total number of telephones in Amraoti District?

(b) Are the postmen who are qualified given facilities and chances for upper services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) 107.

(b) Yes.

JAGIRDARS IN RAJASTHAN

*2171. Shri Baiwant Saha Mukta: (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that instructions were issued from the Ministry of States to the Rajasthan Government to reconfer the powers on the Jagirdars who were totally deprived of them in 1948?

(b) If so, was it done on the recommendations of the Venkatachar Committee?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) and (b). No Sir. What has actually happened is that on a representation of Jagirdars to the Secretary, States Ministry, alleging *inter alia* that certain executive orders passed or action taken were outside the law passed by the late Ministry of the old Rajasthan Union, the whole position was examined last October-November by the then Rajasthan Government. During this examination it transpired that no rules had been framed as required under the law and executive action had been taken by local officials which was not justified by law. In consultation with their legal advisers the Rajasthan Government made certain recommendations to the States Ministry for advice as to the rectification of the whole position. These recommendations were examined here in consultation with the Law Ministry and instructions generally in line with their own suggestions were communicated to the Rajasthan Government. In brief the resultant position is that while the police, magisterial, judicial and revenue powers of the Jagirdars stand resumed and the Government would continue to collect the revenue payable to the Jagirdars, the latter have been allowed to exercise certain rights which had not been resumed under any law. What has been done, therefore, is to make the executive action conform to the terms of the Ordinances which had been issued already and has no reference to the recommendations of the Venkatachar Committee Report.

RECEPTION TOWER AT INDORE AERODROME

*2172. Shri Sarwat: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Reception Tower at the Indore (Madhya Bharat) Aerodrome is not yet opened for the use of the passengers?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) What steps have Government taken or are taking to open it?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It was only in September, 1950, that the aerodrome at Indore was taken over by the Civil Aviation Department from the Government of Madhya Bharat. The building, which is new, was not equipped with furniture, fittings or other amenities for the public. Steps have been duly taken to provide the necessary equipment and facilities and it is expected to bring the building into use in the new financial year.

LALKUA-RAMPUR RAILWAY LINE

***2173. Col. B. H. Zaidi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for the construction of a branch line between Lalkua and Rampur in Uttar Pradesh has been under consideration; and

(b) if so, whether the line is likely to be constructed in the near future?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) The construction of this line, if approved by the Central Board of Transport, may be started during 1953-54, if the necessary funds are then available.

TUBE WELLS IN MADHYA PRADESH

***2174. Shri Kannanwar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the scheme to sink 5,000 new wells and to repair and renovate 2,000 old ones under the Grow More Food plan by the Madhya Pradesh Government is estimated to cost Rs. 1,25,000 and that half of the cost will be contributed by the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): A scheme for the construction of 5,000 new wells and repairs to 2,000 wells is included in the Grow More Food programme for 1951-52, received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. This scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 35,20,000 (Rs. 28,16,000 by way of loan and Rs. 7,04,000 as subsidy). The State Government has asked for a loan of Rs. 28,16,000 and a grant of Rs. 3,52,000 from the Government of India for this scheme.

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

***2175. Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to his answer to my Unstarred Question No. 75 asked on the 20th December, 1950 regarding Postal Life Insurance Policies and state:

(a) whether the question of keeping in force the Postal Life Insurance Poli-

cies for which the Government of Pakistan is responsible and the holders of which have come over to India has been decided; and

(b) if so, what the decision is?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). There has been no change in the position which was explained in answer to hon. Member's Unstarred Question No. 75 asked on the 20th December, 1950. The matter is under reference with the Pakistan Government.

SUPPLY OF FOOD GRAINS

***2176. Shri Sardar Singhji:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what provisions Government have made to ensure an adequate supply of foodgrains for the people in the event of an outbreak of hostilities and our failure to reach self-sufficiency in food by that time in view of the critical international situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): It is not in the public interest to answer the question in detail but I can assure the hon. Member that the point raised by him is very much in the forefront of the problems being considered by Government.

IMPORT OF DATES

***2177. Shri Bhatkar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the countries from which dates are imported?

(b) What quantity, out of this, has been obtained as a gift and what has been paid for?

(c) What is the price at which it has been purchased?

(d) Has any quantity out of this been purchased through an agent?

(e) Had this agent previously undertaken to supply barley and was this barley found mixed with sand?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) and (b). About 18,000 tons of dates have been purchased by the Government of India from Iraq for import during the current year. This is exclusive of fifty tons of dates presented to India as a gift by the Government of Iraq. Up-to-date information regarding import of dates by trade is not available.

(c) £18 per ton C. I. F. Bombay for 10,000 tons and £ 17-5-0 per ton C. I. F. Bombay for the balance.

(d) The purchase has been made from an exporting firm in Basrah acting as a principal, not as an agent.

(e) Yes. Some barley was purchased in 1949 through the agency of the same firm. Government did not receive any complaints about admixture of sand with the barley purchased from the firm.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY FOR CALCUTTA

*2177. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any foreign experts were invited to examine the possibility of constructing an underground railway in Calcutta?

(b) Have they submitted any report to Government and if so, to what effect?

(c) What is the estimated cost of the scheme?

(d) Have Government arrived at any decision to give effect to the scheme?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes; by the Government of West Bengal who propose to sponsor the scheme.

(b) Yes. Preliminary investigations for the construction of an underground railway in Calcutta have been conducted by the French Metro Mission. Their project report has been examined by an expert Consulting Engineer from the United Kingdom (Mr. H. D. Morgan of Messrs. William Haldrow and Partners London) and his report is under examination of the State Government.

(c) Not known.

(d) Not yet.

कांदों पर कर

*2179. **जी वार. एस. तिवारी:** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

[क] क्या विन्ध्य प्रदेश के गाँवों को, जिन्हें कई मास तक निरन्तर खाद्यान्न प्राप्त नहीं होते हैं, कांदों जड़ों पर, जिन्हें बहु जंगलों में अपने प्रयोग के लिए कोद लेने हैं, कर देना पड़ता है ;

[ख] विन्ध्य प्रदेश में इस कांदों पर लगाये गये कर से कितना राजस्व प्राप्त होता है; तथा

[ग] बिजावर तहसील के गाँवों की कृषक खाद्य वस्तु क्या है ?

TAX ON Kando Roots

[*2179. **Shri R. S. Tewari:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gonds of Vindhya Pradesh, who do not get any food for months together, have to pay some tax on the Kando roots which they dig out for their use from the jungles;

(b) what is the amount of revenue received from this Kando tax in Vindhya Pradesh; and

(c) what is the staple food of Gonds in Bijawar Tehsil?]

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) No Sir, there is no such tax.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Barley, Mohwa and Kodo.

PLANTAIN PRODUCTION AND EXPORT

*2180. **Shri Kannamwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the production of plantains in the State of Bombay, and how many acres of land have been utilised for this purpose?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bombay Government has moved the Indian Union to impose restriction on the export of the plantains?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The production of plantains in Bombay State during 1947-48 is estimated at about 5.21 million maunds. The area under the crop during the same year was reported to be 39,365 acres.

(b) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

RAILWAY LINK OF HILI WITH OUDH TIRHUT RAILWAY

*2181. **Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation or deputation urging the construction of a railway line of about thirty miles long connecting Hili, an important trade centre, in the district of West Dinajpur, West Bengal with Oudh Tirhut Railway in the same district?

(b) if so, have Government taken up the work?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) Surveys have been completed of two lines, one between Eklakhi and Hili, and the other between Raiganj and Chhilampur, and the projects are being placed before the Central Board of Transport for consideration.

**RESERVE BANK SURVEY REPORT ON
GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN**

132. **Shri V. K. Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Reserve Bank Survey Report of Grow More Food campaign published in the 'Hindu' dated the 21st February 1951?

(b) What is the amount paid by the Government of India to the Bombay State for the Grow More Food campaign for the last five years?

(c) Have Government received any reports regarding their produce during these years?

(d) Do Government agree with the reasons given in the report for the failure of the Grow More Food Campaign in Bombay?

(e) What are the measures contemplated by the Government of India to rectify the defects shown in the report to step up production of food in Bombay and other States?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 12.]

(c) Yes; a statement showing the targets and achievements is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 13.]

(d) The Grow More Food Campaign has not failed in Bombay and the question therefore does not arise.

(e) The defects shown in the report relate to the year 1948-49 based on

investigations made with figures for 1947-48 and are based on a survey conducted in 5 talukas of the Bombay State. These have been rectified through the various measures taken since then. These measures are set out in the Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is being placed on the Table of the House.

DERAILMENT (ENQUIRY)

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

(a) whether Government have received a report of the inquiry held by the Government regarding the derailment of 4-Up Madras Mail at Haridaspur on 17th November, 1950;

(b) if so, what is the report; and

(c) what action have Government taken on the recommendations made by the Inspector?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The Preliminary Report of the Government Inspector of Railways has been received. His final report is awaited.

(b) His provisional conclusion is that the derailment of 4-Up Madras Mail at Haridaspur station was caused by the Driver of the train taking the turnout from the main line to the second loop at a speed in excess of the permissible limit of 10 miles per hour.

(c) Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the final report of the Government Inspector. The recommendations are, in the meantime, under examination.

Tuesday, 13th March, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME IX, 1951

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

Third Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51



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THE
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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 13th March, 1951

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-45 A.M.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES, PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN DURING SECOND SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, 1950.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the table a statement showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the Second Session of Parliament, 1950. [See Appendix XVI].

TRADE UNIONS BILL AND LABOUR RELATIONS BILL

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): I present two petitions each signed by five petitioners regarding the Trade Unions Bill, 1950, and the Labour Relations Bill, 1950.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Karmarkar: I introduce the Bill.

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GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

FIRST STAGE

Mr. Speaker: We shall now proceed with the General Discussion of the Budget.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब: माननीय स्पीकर साहब । वैसे तो बजट (Budget) हमेशा ही एक देश की आर्थिक अवस्था का नक्शा होता है और साथ ही वह उस जमाने की गवर्नमेंट (Government) के ख्यालात की तर्जुमानी करता है, पर इस मतबा यह कहा जा सकता है कि यह बजट हमारे देश की आर्थिक अवस्था को सही मानों में पेश करता है। हमारे देशमुख साहब का बजट बड़ा चिन्ताजनक है। इस में हमारे फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब (hon. Minister of Finance) ने इस देश के बास्ते जो कुछ सोचा विचारा है, उस का नक्शा है, और देश की आज जो वास्तविक हालत है, उस का भी नक्शा है। इसलिए यह बजट फिलवाक्या सही मानों में श्री चिन्तामणि देशमुख को अच्छी तरह से अपने असली रंग में जाहिर करता है और बजट इत्म ब मुसम्मा है। मैंने शुरु में भी, जिस दिन यह बजट आया उस रोज, अपनी राय का इजहार किया था कि यह बजट एक्विपलेंट (excellent) है और मैं आज भी अपनी उस राय को तबदील करने के बास्ते तैयार नहीं हूँ।

Mr. Speaker: There is noise in the House. Hon. Members will carry on their conversations outside.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : मेरी अब भी राय यह है कि जहां तक इस बजट के आर्थिक उद्देश्यों का सवाल है, यह बजट निह्वयत अच्छा है और हमारे देश में जो इस वक्त मुसीबतें हैं उन का यह पर्दाना वार मुकाबला करता है। इस बजट को आप खोल कर देखें तो उस में क्या मिलता है ? क़रीबन २५ करोड़ रुपया 'मो मोर फूड' (Grow More Food Scheme) के वास्ते इस बजट में मुस्तलिक्र शकलों में दिया गया है। २७ करोड़ रुपया प्राविन्सेज (Provinces) को डेवलपमेंट (development) के काम के वास्ते दिया गया है।

Mr. Speaker: Once again, I request hon. Members in the gangway to disperse and carry on their conversations in the lobbies.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : जिस के यानी यह है कि आज जो देश की हालत है, उस का मुकाबला करने के वास्ते इस बजट में जरूरी प्राविजन (Provision) किया गया है। इस बजट के बारे में कहा गया है कि यह बजट गरीब आदमी का बजट नहीं है लेकिन मैं हरगिज यह बात मानने को तैयार नहीं हूँ। यह कामन (Common) आदमी का बजट है। बजट किसी खास क्लास (Class) के लिए नहीं बनाया जाता, उस का भार और शिम्मा तो सब को लेना पड़ता है। यह कहा जाता है कि पहले तीन बजटों में चूँकि कैपिटलिस्ट्स (Capitalists) को

रियायत दी गई थी इसलिए वह कैपिटलिस्ट बजट थे। मुझे इस से सरज नहीं, कि ऐसा कहना प्रायः दुस्त है या गलत है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि किसी भी मुल्क के टैक्सेशन (Taxation) का जो सिस्टम (System) होता है, वह किसी खास क्लास के वास्ते हरगिज इस्तेमाल नहीं होना चाहिये। दरअसल टैक्स (Tax) के बारे में बहुत सी शिकायतें हाउस (House) में की जा चुकी हैं और की जा रही हैं। बहुत अर्जों से मैं सुनता आ रहा था कि गवर्नमेंट टैक्सेशन इन्क्वायरी कमेटी (Taxation Enquiry Committee) कायम करने जा रही है जिस के सामने वह आलमगीर असूल, जो सब मुल्कों में राज होते हैं और जिस की बुनियाद पर हमारा टैक्सेशन सिस्टम (Taxation System) बनाया जावेगा, पेश होंगे लेकिन अभी तक ऐसी कमेटी मुकर्रर नहीं की गई है। हिन्दू अनडिवाइडेड फ़ैमिलीज (Hindu undivided families) का सवाल हमेशा ही हाउस के रोबरू आता रहता है। हमें हर मौक़े पर बतलाया गया है कि टैक्सेशन इन्क्वायरी कमेटी बैठेगी और वह फ़ैसला करेगी। अभी मेरे एक दोस्त ने इस हाउस में शिकायत की कि टैक्सेशन का असूल ठीक तौर पर देश में लागू नहीं है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अब वक्त आ गया है कि हमारे फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब देश के वास्ते टैक्सेशन इन्क्वायरी कमेटी कायम करें जो इस टैक्सेशन के सवालालत हल करे।

टैक्सेशन इनक्वायरी कमेटी सन् १९२४ में मुकर्रर हुई थी, और आज इस बात की ज़रूरत है कि इस मामले का एक तरह से फ़ैसला कर दिया जाये।

जनाबवाला, मेरे नज़रिये के मुताबिक किसी बजट को जांचने के वास्ते जो यार्ड स्टिक (Yardstick) हमें कन्स्टीट्यूशन (Constitution) में प्रोवाइड (Provide) हुई है और दफ़ा ३९ से ५१ तक में जो चीज़ें इस में दी हुई हैं, उन्हें गवर्नमेंट ने इस देश की भलाई के वास्ते रखा हुआ है। आज वेलफ़ेयर स्टेट (Welfare State) में हमें उन्हीं के मुताबिक फ़ैसला करना है। मैं अब से अज़ब करता हूँ कि यह बजा है कि यह कोई डेमोक्रेटिक (Democratic) बजट नहीं है, और यह एक सोबर (sober) और बैलेन्सड (balanced) आदमी का बजट है। इस वजह से मैं अज़ब करता हूँ कि जहाँ तक यह बजट जाता है, और जहाँ तक बजट के असूलों का ताल्लुक है, यह निहायत तसल्लीबख़्शा है। जाहिर है कि इस गवर्नमेंट से हम जितनी उम्मीद कर सकते थे और जिस तरह के बजट की तवक्को कर सकते थे यह वैसे तो नहीं है, लेकिन ताहम मुल्क जिस हालत से गुज़र रहा है उस के अन्दर मौजूदा बजट जो हमारे श्री देशमुख साहब ने पेश किया है, निहायत एक्सीलेंट बजट है, मुझे यह कहने में ज़रा भी ताम्भुल नहीं है कि यह बजट मौजूदा हालत में सवालात का सही हल पेश करता है। यह भी सही है कि ऐसे बजट की मौजूदगी देश के वास्ते बड़ी भारी चिन्ता का सवाल खड़ा करती है। मुझे मालूम होता है कि इस साल में जब पचास करोड़ रुपया गवर्नमेंट एक तरह से टैक्स लगाती है तो यह जाहिर है

कि जब किन्हीं खास हालत के मातहत, जो अनपैराल्लड (unparalleled) है, इतना टैक्स लगाने की ज़रूरत पड़ती है तो यह बहुत बड़े सोच की गत है। जब मैं बजट को पढ़ता हूँ तो पाता हूँ कि पिछले साढ़े तीन सालों में तक्ररीबन ४०० करोड़ रुपया ख़राक पर और कुछ ज़रूरी चीज़ों पर खर्चा किया गया और जो बजट फ़िगरस (figures) हैं, इस के सिवा और क्या जाहिर होता है कि इस देश के लिए बैंकरप्सी (Bankruptcy) के सिवा कोई और चारा नहीं है। इस मतलब अगर पचास करोड़ रुपया टैक्स की सूरत में लिया गया है, तो अगले साल में अगर यह टैक्स बढ़ जाये, तो कोई ताज़्जुब की बात नहीं है क्योंकि हालात तो वैसे ही हैं और उन में कोई तबदीली नहीं हो रही है। मैं इस भारी टैक्सेशन के लिए अपने मिनिस्टर साहब को कसूरवार नहीं हसता, क्योंकि हालात हमारे सामने ऐसे बने हुए हैं, जिनकी रू से हम इस देश की इकोनामी (economy) को इस के बैलैन्स (balance) को ज्यादा टैक्सेशन की बिना पर ही कायम कर सकते हैं। मैं तो फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने रेवन्यू (Revenue) और कैपिटल एक्सपेन्डीचर (Capital expenditure) के सवाल को नहीं हल करने की कोशिश की और टैक्स लगा करके इस देश के बजट को बैलेन्सड बजट (Balanced budget) करने की कोशिश की, और इस के बिना गुज़ारा नहीं है। लेकिन साथ ही जो हालत और नतीजा निकलता है, उस में हमारे देशवासियों को अपना पूरा हिस्सा लेना चाहिये, अगर वह चाहते हैं कि इन की हालत ठीक हो। मैं पूछ सकता हूँ कि क्या मैं यह शिकायत करने में दुरुस्त

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

नहीं हूँ कि यह बॅलेन्स आफ पेमेंट (Balance of Payment), जो पिछले साल से चला आया है, आयन्दा ऐसा रहने वाला नहीं है और मुल्कों में प्राइस लेवल (Price level) में फर्क आया है, हमारी प्राइस लेवल में भी फर्क आया है, लेकिन उस के बच्चाहूत दूसरे हैं। वह दूसरे दूसरे मुल्क आज लड़ाई की तैयारी में स्टोक पाइल (stock pile) करने में लगे हुए हैं जब कि हम लोग चीजों को अपने घर से दूर भेज रहे हैं। अगर कल को वहाँ पर लड़ाई हुई तो हम उन चीजों से महलूम हो जायेंगे और वह दूसरे मुल्कों में इकट्ठी होंगी; और अगर लड़ाई न हुई, तो वह हमारे देश से उन चीजों का लेना आयन्दा कबूल नहीं करेंगे। इस वास्ते मुझे दिखाई देता है कि बॅलेन्स आफ पेमेंट इस तरह का नहीं रहेगा और हम इतने अच्छे हालात में नहीं होंगे, और बड़ी मुसीबत का सामना होगा। इस देश के सारे बजट को देखें, इस देश के जनरल फ्रस्ट्रेशन (general frustration) को देखें और जो हालत है उस की देखें, तो जाहिर होगा कि इस देश की हालत तब तक दुस्त होने के काबिल नहीं होगी जब तक कि हम फूड प्राबलम (Food Problem) को फौरन से पेक्टर प्रथम कर लें। फूड की प्राबलम नम्बर एक टोप प्रायर्टी (Top priority) की है, और वह हमारी बेसिक और सैडामन्तिक (fundamental) प्राबलम है और जब तक वह दुस्त नहीं होती तब तक हम कभी भी आगे तरक्की नहीं कर सकते। इस वास्ते में अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि बेसिक प्राबलम जो हमारे सामने है वह यह है और जाहिर है उस प्राबलम

को हम अभी तक हल करने में कामयाब नहीं हुए हैं। वैसे गवर्नमेंट ने बहुत सी मुसीबतों पर पार पा लिया है यहाँ तक कि मैं तो ताज्जुब करता हूँ कि कैसे इतनी बाधतों में फंसी रहने पर उस ने कैसे छुटकारा पा लिया। इस के लिए गवर्नमेंट हमारी हर तरह से सपोर्ट (support) की मुस्तहक है। इस फूड प्राबलम को, जो अभी तक हम हल कर नहीं पाये हैं, हल करना होगा, क्योंकि इस तरह हम इस मुल्क की इकोनामी (economy) को दो चार वर्ष में कायम नहीं रख सकेंगे। मुझे यकीन है कि इस देश में इतनी जमीन और इतना पानी और इतने साधन मौजूद हैं कि हम अपने देश में फूड प्राबलम को ठीक तरीके से हल कर सकते हैं। लेकिन मुसीबत तो यह है कि पुरानी लीगेसी (legacy) चली आई है डिवाइडेड रिसपोनसिबिलिटी (Divided responsibility) की, सेन्टर (Centre) स्कीम (Scheme) तो बनाता है लेकिन अपनी स्कीमों को अमल में लाने की, खुद उन तफसीलात पर अमल करने की, सेन्टर को शक्ति नहीं है और प्राविन्सेज (provinces) में, जहाँ उन पर अमल करने की शक्ति है, उन को अमल में लाने की उतनी जिम्मेदारी महसूस नहीं होती है वह तो यह सोचते हैं कि जब गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) हुकम देगी, तो इस पर कुछ करेंगे सिर्फ़ एक साल से प्राविसेज के अन्दर इस बात का अहसास हुआ है कि उन की भी कुछ जिम्मेदारी है और वह भी महसूस करने लगे हैं कि हमारा फर्ज है कि हम कुछ न कुछ पैदा करें। मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि हमारे एथीकलचर मिनिस्टर साहब (hon.

Minister of Agriculture) हर जगह भटकते फिरते हैं तथा प्राविसेज को यह लिखते फिरते हैं कि एक दो लाख एकड़ जमीन दे दो, हम इस पर कल्टीवेशन (Cultivation) करायेगे लेकिन प्राविसेज से हमें कभी कुछ और कभी कुछ ज. व. मिलते हैं। जब हम ने कन्सर्टीट्यूशन बनाया था तो यह मुसीबत हमारे सामने थी। इसी लिए हम ने दफा ३६९ इस कन्सर्टीट्यूशन में क्रायम की, लेकिन ऐसशियल सप्लाइज एक्ट (Essential Supplies Act) के सिवाये कोई लेजिसलेशन (Legislation) नहीं किया गया। आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि या तो सारी जिम्मेदारी सेन्टर खुद अपने हाथ में ले ले या प्राविसेज पर इस की जिम्मेदारी डाले कि हर एक आदमी का पेट भरना उन का फ़र्ज है। सेन्टर सिर्फ़ इतनी जिम्मेदारी ले कि जितना रुपया वह दे, उस के एवज उनको अनाज मंगवा दे। इस के सिवा कोई जिम्मेदारी न ले। डिवाइडेड रिस्प. सिबिलिटि (Divided responsibility) का यह नतीजा है कि कितनी मर्तबा शिकायत की गई थी कि कई करोड़ रुपये का चना हमारे पंजाब के अन्दर पड़ा रहा, देश को सस्त नुकसान हुआ, लेकिन किसी ने उस की परव.ह नहीं की और सस्त नुकसान हुआ। गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया और पंजाब गवर्नमेंट दोनों ने शलत क्रायदों पर अमल कर के इतना नुकसान देश का कर दिया और आखिर चनों का काम सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने अपने हाथ में लिया और वह चना देश के वास्ते काम आया और देश के अन्दर कोई दिक्कत नहीं रही। मैं इस सवाल को छोड़ता हूँ और मैं ज्यादा इस बारे में आप का वक्त नहीं लेना चाहता।

मैं विलेज की स्कीम (Village Key Scheme) जो गावों व बेलों के लिये है

उस की तरफ तवज्जह दिलाता हूँ। इस देश में १९ फी सदी परिवारों को दूध देखना नसीब नहीं होता। यह मेरे फिगर्स नहीं हैं, गवर्नमेंट के हैं। सन् १९३५ में पर कैपिटा (per capita) ६६ आउन्सेज दूध मिलता था, सन् १९४५ के फिगर्स में यह ५.१ हो गया। यह बड़ी शोचनीय बात है। इस देश में बुरस व बेलों की कमी है। ऐसे इलाके हैं जहाँ आदमियों को जोता गया, औरतों को जोता गया। वक्त आ गया है कि गवर्नमेंट इस चीज को महसूस करे। अगर गवर्नमेंट इस की तरफ तवज्जह नहीं देती तो काब नहीं चलेगा। मुझे तो पता नहीं कि कान्स्टिट्यूशन में प्राविजन होते हुए भी गवर्नमेंट क्यों गाय के नाम से दूर भागती है। कोई काम गवर्नमेंट ने आ तक इस के लिए नहीं किया। प्रो मोर फूड की रकम में से पचास लाख की रकम गवर्नमेंट को इस के लिए खर्च करना चाहिये। किसी मुल्क की हेल्थ ही मुल्क का सरमाया होता है। बच्चे और औरतें इस चीजस महरूम हैं, यह बड़े शर्म की बात है। मैं बहुत नम्रता के साथ अर्ज करूंगा कि इस प्रो मोर फूड कॅम्पेन में से एक सबस्टैन्शियल पोर्शन (substantial portion) इस के लिये दिया जाना चाहिये।

इस के बाद मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि साढ़े पांच लाख रुपये की जो एकानमी फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब कर रहे हैं वह फिलवाक्या काफ़ी नहीं है। इस से और ज्यादा होनी चाहिये। इस के अलावा रिऑर्गनाइजेशन आफ मिनिस्ट्रीज (Reorganisation of Ministeries) की रिपोर्ट मेम्बरान के हाथ में अभी तक नहीं पहुंची है। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ और इस हाउस में कई मर्तबे अर्ज कर चुका हूँ कि यहां पर न किसी हेल्थ

[पंडित ठाकुर दास धारंग]

डिपार्टमेंट की ज़रूरत है और न एजुकेशन डिपार्टमेंट की। यह दोनों ही ट्रान्सफर्ड सबजेक्ट्स (Transferred subjects) हैं और दोनों मिनिस्ट्रीज़ पर जो खर्च हो रहा है वह मुनासिब नहीं है। देश के लोगों को इतमीनान नहीं है कि यह दोनों मिनिस्ट्रीज़ ठीक काम कर रही हैं। इन दोनों को मिला कर एक स्टेट मिनिस्टर बनाया जा सकता था। इसी तरह मैं डिफेंस डिपार्टमेंट के बारे में मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि आज दुनिया की हालत दूसरी है, और जो तीनों डिफेंस फोर्स (Defence Forces) हैं, यानी एअर (Air), लैंड (Land) और नेवी (Navy) को उन के लिए एक टेक्नीकल हेड (technical head) नियुक्त होना चाहिये। सिविल मंत्री और डिफेंस डिपार्टमेंट के अफसर इस तरह हमें कानफिडेंस (confidence) नहीं दे सकते। इन तीनों को कोआर्डिनेट (co-ordinate) करने के लिए उन के ऊपर एक टेक्निकल हेड मुकर्रर किया जाये जो सारी यूनियन में कमांडर इन चीफ (Commander-in-Chief) तीनों शाखाओं का एक हो।

इस के अलावा मैं थोड़े वक़्त में दो बातें और अर्ज करूंगा और उस के बाद ख़त्म करूंगा। इस वक़्त हाउस के अन्दर कई तरह की शिकायतें हम सुनते रहे हैं मैं ने अपने बुजुर्ग श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी को सुना और मिस्टर कृपलानी को सुना। मैं इन दोनों की बहुत ज्यादा इज़्जत करता हूँ और किसी किसम का कटाक्ष मैं उन के ऊपर नहीं फेंकना चाहता। मैं उन साहबान की खिदमत में और दूसरे साहबान की खिदमत में जो आइन्दा इस डिस्कशन में भाग लेंगे कहूंगा कि खुदा के वास्ते इस तरह के क्रिटिसिज़्म (Criticism) से देश को बचाइये।

हजार बरस के बाद हमें यह मौका मिला है कि स्वराज्य कायम हुआ है। तीन बरस के अन्दर और क्या तरक्की की जा सकती थी जिस के लिए आप गवर्नमेंट को क्रिटिसाइज़ करते हैं। जितना हँदी क्रिटिसिज़्म होना चाहिये वह कीजिये, लेकिन परमात्मा के लिए यह फ़स्ट्रेशन (frustration) की चीज़ हर वक़्त न सुनाते रहिये। मैं जानता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने जो कुछ किया है उस में भी नक़ायस है लेकिन मैं यह कहने को हरगिज़ तैयार नहीं हूँ कि हम इस गवर्नमेंट से कोई बेहतर गवर्नमेंट ला सकते हैं। जो काम उस ने किये हैं उन को दोहराने की ज़रूरत नहीं है। भूकम्प वगैरह से यहाँ पर जो मुसीबत आई उस को सब जानते हैं फिर भी देश का एक शरूस भी यह नहीं कह सकता कि मुल्क का एक आदमी गवर्नमेंट की वजह से मर गया हो। इन दिनों हम इस मुसीबत से हो कर गुज़रे हैं कि मैं कुछ कह नहीं सकता। तीन बरसों के अन्दर इस ने वह काम करके दिखाया है कि जिस की हमें उम्मीद नहीं थी। आप कितना ही क्रिटिसाइज़ कीजिये लेकिन मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हम महाराणा प्रताप और गुरु गोविन्द की बहुत इज़्जत करते हैं, लेकिन हमें आज उन की ज़रूरत नहीं है। हमें उन लोगों की ज़रूरत है जो लोगों को सही रास्ता दिखलायें। मैं आज हरगिज़ यह मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूँ कि देश की हालत बुरी है। मैं पंजाब की हालत से वाकिफ़ हूँ। मैं कह सकता हूँ कि पंजाब के अन्दर कल्टिवेटर्स (cultivators) जितने सुखी हैं उतने पहले कभी नहीं थे। इसलिये उन के नाम पर इस तरह की कहानियाँ बताना कि देश ख़त्म हो रहा है, और गवर्नमेंट लोगों के ऊपर

बहुत दूर कर रही है, मुनासिब नहीं है।
 बुद्ध के वास्ते हमारी हुकूमत को हीसला
 दिलाइय और सब मिल कर कोशिश कीजिये
 कि हमें जो स्वराज्य आज मिला है उस से
 हम पूरा फायदा उठायें।

मैं बनारस का शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ
 कि आप ने मुझे अपने हक से एक दो मिनट
 बरखादा दत्त दिया।

(English translation of the above
 speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): Normally the Budget of a country is only a reflection of its economic conditions and gives expression to the policy of the existing Government, but as regards the present Budget it can safely be said that it depicts a true picture of our country's economic set-up. The Budget which has been presented by Shri Deshmukh is causing anxiety. It reveals the ideas of the hon. Minister of Finance in regard to this country and also describes the real conditions prevailing at present. In fact this Budget reveals Shri Chintaman Deshmukh in his true colours and is a budget in its true sense. I had expressed my opinion in regard to this Budget on the very day of its presentation by describing it as an excellent one and even today I am not prepared to go back upon my words.

Mr. Speaker: There is noise in the House. Hon. Members will carry on their conversations outside.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am still of the opinion that in as much as this Budget deals with the economic objects, it is an excellent one which faces the present difficulties boldly and bravely. If we analyse it we will find that about Rs. 25 crores have been set aside in various forms for the 'Grow More Food' scheme and another 27 crores of rupees are to be given to States for development schemes.

Mr. Speaker: Once again, I request hon. Members in the gangway to disperse and carry on their conversations in the lobbies.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This means that necessary provisions have been made in this Budget to meet the present situation of the country. It has been said that it is not a common man's budget, but here I differ to such an expression. In my view it is nothing but a common man's budget.

The budget is not meant exclusively for one particular class or another. Its burden and responsibilities are to be borne by all and sundry alike. They say that the last budgets were capitalist budgets inasmuch as concessions were given to the capitalists. It is none of my concerns to say whether or not such an expression of thought is correct. I beg to submit that the system of taxation should not vary in respect of different classes in any of the countries. As a matter of fact, a number of complaints in regard to the taxation have already been made in the House and are also being made. I have been hearing for a long time that the Government are going to set up a Taxation Enquiry Committee to deal with such universal principles that prevail in all countries and on the basis of which our taxation system will be formulated. But no such Committee has so far been set-up. The question of the Hindu undivided families has frequently come up before the House. At every occasion we have been told that this Committee, when formed, would decide the related issues. One of my friends has complained in the House that the system of taxation is not properly enforced in this country. Now the time has come when the hon. Minister of Finance should see to it that the Taxation Enquiry Committee is set-up which may find a solution of the taxation issues. A Taxation Enquiry Committee was formed in 1924. It is urgently required now so that this question may be decided once and for all.

The articles Nos. 39 to 51, as provided in the Constitution in the interest of the country, are to my mind, best yard-sticks to measure the merits of any particular budget. In this welfare state of ours we have to judge the thing in accordance with the provisions of the said articles. There is no getting away from the fact that it is not a democratic budget. It is a sober and balanced man's budget. I therefore submit that so far as this Budget and its principles are concerned, they are quite satisfactory. It is obvious that this budget has not come to our expectations; but still, in view of the critical times through which our country is passing at present, we can say that Shri Deshmukh has presented an excellent budget. I have no hesitation in admitting the fact that under the present circumstances this Budget provides a true solution of the issues and also that the presentation of such a budget is a good cause for creating anxieties to the public. I can well imagine the anxieties of the tax-payers caused by this huge taxation amounting to Rs. 50 crores proposed for this year under influence of some unparalleled and uncommon circumstances. While going through

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

the Budget I find that during the last three and a half years about four hundred crores of rupees have been spent on food and some other necessary items. From the budget figures it seems that bankruptcy is the only inevitable lot of this country. There will be no surprise if the present proposed taxation amounting to Rs. 50 crores is further enhanced next year for the conditions are not going to change and are expected to stand where they are today. I do not blame the hon. Minister of Finance for imposing high taxes, for, under the present circumstances, we can maintain the country's economy and its balance only on the basis of more taxation. On the contrary, I am to congratulate the hon. Minister for making efforts to have a correct approach to the question of revenue and capital expenditures and make the budget of this country a balanced one. There is no way out from doing this. All the same, if our countrymen want the final consequences to be satisfactory, they should bear the responsibility alike. Am I wrong to say that the balance of payment that remains outstanding from the last year is not going to remain the same in the years to come? I admit that the price level has not changed in our country alone; it has changed in other countries as well. But the causes there are quite different. While other countries are at present busy in piling up their stocks in view of any future war, if at all it comes, we are exporting our goods abroad. Supposing that war breaks out, we will be deprived of those things which would be stocked in foreign countries; and even if nothing like war happens, they will not accept any further import from our country. The balance of payment, therefore, will not be so favourable then as it stands today and we will have to face many difficulties and hardships. The budget of this country as also the frustrations and other prevailing conditions go a long way to show that unless we solve the food problem without any delay there is no likelihood of the country's situation improving. The food problem which is a fundamental and basic problem, requires top priority. Until and unless we set it right, our progress would always be hampered. It is obvious that we have not so far succeeded in solving this basic problem of ours. The Government have, of course, turned the corner in respect of many other difficulties. I often wonder how they could manage to get rid of those hardships in spite of many burdens which they have to carry. For this fact the Government deserve all our support. This food problem which we have not been able to solve thus

far has, therefore, got to be solved, for, otherwise, it will not be possible for us to maintain the country's economy after a couple of years. I am confident that the land, water and other necessary resources are found in this country in such a quantity as may enable us to solve this issue in a right manner. But the only difficulty in this respect is that the old legacy of divided responsibility is still continuing. There is no doubt in the fact that the Central Government formulate various schemes; but they have not been given the power to administer them which only lies with the States and States do not feel responsibilities of administering them. They wait for the orders of the Central Government before taking any further steps. Since last year the State Governments have begun to feel their responsibility and duty towards it. I have come to know that the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture goes from one place to another and writes to the States to give one or two lacs acres of land to the Central Government which would get it cultivated. The States give different kinds of answers. While making the Constitution we had this difficulty in view. The article 293 was included in the Constitution for this very purpose but excepting the Essential Supplies Act no legislation has so far come up. What is needed most today is that the responsibility of feeding each and every citizen should be borne wholly by either the Centre or the States. If the States take the entire responsibilities, the Centre may only purchase foodstuffs for them valuing to as much money as they give for that purpose. As a direct consequence of the divided responsibility no attention was paid to the frequent complaints that were made regarding the gram worth several crores of rupees that was lying in Punjab, and as a result of that the Government had to suffer a heavy loss. On account of the Government of India as also the Punjab Government following the wrong way the nation had to suffer a huge loss. After all the Central Government did take this gram matter in their hands and the country utilised the gram. This resulted in the easing of the situation. Now I will no longer take your time on this question, so I leave it here.

I want to draw your attention to the various key schemes for the villages in which the issues of cows and bullocks have been dealt with. In our country 15 per cent. families do not get any milk at all. These figures are not mine but of the Government. In 1935 the consumption of milk per capita was 6.6 ounces and in 1945 this figure came down to 5.1. This is a very sad thing.

There is paucity of bulls and bullocks in our country. There are such regions where men and women have been put to yoke. The time has come when the Government should realize this problem. If the Government does not pay heed to it such matters will not be set right. I do not know why the Government, in spite of the provision in the Constitution, shuns the very word of cow. So far the Government has done nothing in this matter. The Government for this purpose should spend a sum of fifty lakh rupees out of the grant given for 'Grow More Food' scheme. Health is the wealth of a country. It is a matter of shame that the children and the women are deprived of milk. I would humbly submit that a substantial portion out of the grant for 'Grow More Food' Campaign should be given for this purpose.

After this I want to submit that the economy of five and half lacs of rupees, which the Finance Minister is proposing, is in fact not sufficient. This proposed economy should be more than this. Apart from it Members have not so far received the report about the re-organisation of the Ministries. I want to submit, and have already stated several times in this House that there is no need of Health and Education Departments at the Centre. Both of these departments come under the transferred subjects and the expenditure, which is incurred on these Ministries is improper. The people in the country are not satisfied with the work of these Ministries. By amalgamating the two Ministries one Minister of State could have been appointed for the two. Similarly I want to say about the Defence Department, that the present situation in the world is quite different, and a technical head should be appointed for the three Defence Forces, that is for the Air, Land and Navy. Under the existing order, the civil minister and the officers of the Defence department cannot give us confidence. A technical head should be appointed for the co-ordination of the three Defence Forces, and he should be the Commander-in-Chief of the three services of our Union.

12 Noon.

I would also submit briefly two other things and after that I will finish my speech. At this time we are hearing many complaints in this House. I have heard my elders Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Shri Kripalani. I have great regard for them, and do not want to cast any kind of aspersions on them. I will submit to them and to those who will take part in the discussion in future, not to make criticism which is detrimental to the interest of the country. It is after a thousand years that

we have achieved our Independence. What other progress could have been made within the period of three years for which the hon. Members criticise the Government. You should make healthy criticism as far as possible, and for God's sake do not speak about the frustration everytime. I know that there are defects in what the Government has done, but I am not prepared to say that we could have installed any better Government than the present one. There is no necessity of repeating the achievements of the Government. Everyone knows the calamities which the people had to face as a result of the earthquakes, still no one in the country can say that even a single person died due to the lack of efforts on the part of Government. I cannot say anything about the difficulties we are passing through. The Government have achieved so much, within the period of three years which we did not expect. The hon. Members may criticise to any extent but I want to say that though I hold Maharana Pratap and Guru Govind Singh in great reverence but we do not need them today. We need such persons who can give correct lead to the people. In no way I am prepared to admit that the condition of the country is unsatisfactory. I am aware of the conditions prevailing in Punjab. I can say it that the cultivators in Punjab today are more prosperous than ever before. Therefore to relate stories in their name that the country is being ruined and the Government is oppressing the people, is not proper. Please encourage our Government and we should make united efforts to derive full benefits from our newly won Independence.

I thank you, Sir, for having given me some extra minutes.

Shri M. C. Shah (Bombay): I join my hon. friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava in congratulating the hon. the Finance Minister for presenting to this House a balanced Budget. If we look to the last year's Budget we would find that it was a rich man's budget in the sense that the richer classes were given reliefs to the extent of about Rs. 15 crores as stated by my hon. friend Mr. Raj Bahadur the other day. This year's Budget is a common man's budget, in that the poor man is asked to pay an additional taxation to the extent of about Rs. 31-15 crores in the General Budget and about Rs. 19 crores and odd in the Railway Budget—in all Rs. 50 crores. I am sure that the common man will not grudge this additional taxation, as he believes that for the stability and the financial soundness of the Government of India it is absolutely necessary to make sacrifices.

[Shri M. C. Shah]

The Finance Minister has made heroic efforts to resist the temptation to present a surplus budget before the House. He could have very well prepared a surplus budget as there is only a deficit of Rs. 5.54 crores, whereas he has taken to revenue account Rs. 8.31 crores—'grow-more-food' campaign and loans to Provincial Governments for development schemes—which were up till now debited to capital expenditure. At the same time he has taken a big sum from capital expenditure as far as aircraft are concerned. I cannot get at the exact figure, but from the estimates you will find that last year's budget under aircraft was about Rs. 13.77 crores and this time it is more than Rs. 24 crores. The big jump is on purchase of stores and other things. He could have presented a surplus budget if he had succumbed to the temptation of presenting a surplus budget by having these sums in the capital account. The revenue side is rather under-estimated and on the customs side he has placed Rs. four crores less. As a matter of fact we will be in a position to see at the end of the year that there is a huge rise in the customs duties. Last year also I remarked that the revenue side was under-estimated, and we have found that the revenue side has shown a very good rise. This way a surplus budget could have been placed before the House, and he could have taken the attitude of having borrowings from the doubtful capital market. But he has resisted that temptation and for that he deserves congratulations. He has seen that for the economic stability of the country, for the financial stability of the country, the common man must make sacrifices. Last year the Finance Minister expected that big business will play the game. He also thought there would be better production and capital formation. But those expectations have not come true. So, this time, he has made a violent change, and it is for the good of the country that he has tried to see that capital expenditure is met from the revenue side. He could have just gone to the market or tried to borrow funds for the capital expenditure and he could have won the applause of one and all, without any additional taxation, as everybody would have liked avoiding additional taxation. But in order to have a permanent stability in the ways and means position of the Government of India it was absolutely necessary that the funds should be coming from the common man. He has chosen that path and I believe that that is a right path.

I come from the common man's family and I know that nobody likes additional taxation. But the common

man feels that in order to make an infant democracy of ours a stable country, in order to raise the standard of living of the common man and in order that we may come to occupy a very permanent place in the comity of the nations of the world, it is absolutely necessary that, for some years to come, we must undergo certain sacrifices and I am sure that the common man will cheerfully undergo these sacrifices.

There is one objection raised by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce as regards the borrowing position. They have raised the point that instead of raising additional taxation the Finance Minister ought to have financed his capital expenditure from borrowings, and at the same time there is a criticism that the Government of India follows the cheap money policy, that if they leave that cheap money policy and raise the rate of interest which is long overdue there is possibility of getting funds from the capital market. I do not know whether that is the correct position, and I expect the hon. the Finance Minister, when he replies to the general discussion of the Budget, to say whether he wants to raise the rate of interest while raising the loan to the extent of Rs. 100 crores—though, as a matter of fact, he is going to get only Rs. 13 crores, Rs. 87 crores are to be paid off and so there will be a conversion loan. It is a moot point and I think it will be better for the Finance Minister to clear any misunderstanding on that count and to clear the position whether the rate of interest is going to be this or whether there is going to be any rise in the rate of interest. It is reported that in the United States of America certain bonds were to be repaid, they carried an interest of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and for conversion it was $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Whether it is in the interests of the country to raise the rate of interest at this stage, I am not in a position to say, because I am not an economist or a financier. I am a layman and I put this question before the Finance Minister to reply when he replies to the debate.

With regard to his taxation proposals I would like to say that they are quite good. There may be some grumbling here and there, but he has very equitably distributed the burden of taxation all-round. I would, however, like to make one suggestion and that is that as regards the five per cent. surcharge on income-tax I think he should leave off those low income groups, that is, say up to Rs. 6,000, where there should be no surcharge. In order to meet that deficit I would suggest that

on incomes above Rs. 15,000 the surcharge may be raised from five to 7½ per cent., because those who can afford to pay must pay. This is our country and everybody must be prepared to bear the burdens that he can easily afford to bear. I suggest that that might be done so that the middle classes which will have to pay the additional taxation in the form of these various measures of taxation may not also have to pay additional Income-tax. If it is possible to spare the middle class of that, it may be done.

In regard to export duties I must say that the Government is not quick in taking decisions. The export duty on groundnut kernel is a belated action, and as a matter of fact the export duty ought to have been Rs. 150. Even the market was expecting Rs. 200 to come on, and they go off with a duty of Rs. 80 only. The Finance Minister has calculated Rs. 30 lakhs as the likely income from the export duty on groundnut, but I do not know what the policy of the Government is in this respect, whether that export is to be allowed.

The export duty on coarse and medium cloth is also, I think, a belated action. And the export duty on coarse and medium cloth ought to have been more. Unfortunately it comes at a very late stage after 60 to 70 per cent. of coarse and medium cloth was allowed to be exported under a free market and exporters and consumers outside had harvested huge profits. I think the export duty of 20 per cent. ought to have been imposed earlier. Government have taken extra-ordinary powers to impose the export duty but after the whole thing has gone out; they came very late. I say there are many mistakes done by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Coarse and medium cloth was allowed to be exported freely and this cloth was spun and woven from Indian cotton under control prices and the price was about eight or nine annas per square yard. As against this fine and superfine cloth which was spun and woven from imported cotton and which cost Rs. 1-2-0 or Rs. 1-3-0 was allowed for home consumption. This process has now been reversed. It is good for the country. For some months all these benefits went to the exporters and consumers outside India. If this action was taken in time, the country would have benefited greatly and the common man will bear very cheerfully the burden of additional taxation.

If I say that corruption is everywhere and corruption is not controlled, I think, I am correct. I will quote only one example. I have been informed

that in the Textile Commissioner's Office in Bombay about Rs. four lakhs are being distributed every month to get permits for fine and superfine cloth and after getting those permits those persons fly to Ahmedabad and from two o'clock in the early morning they go about getting the best quality of cloth. I suggest that attention should be paid to this matter. This is only one instance and there are hundreds of such instances. There are certain controls which ought to be lifted immediately, but unfortunately they are not lifted.

Take the example of cement. Production has gone up. It was said that there is enough production and the control was to go. I hear that again the Government of India has decided not to abolish the control.

Take the example of sugar. There is enough production of sugar in the country. Nine lakh tons have already been crushed before the end of February and we see that something has been also imported. I think the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture ought to take courage in both hands and lift the controls. I am quite sure that this action of his will not harm the country. On the contrary the common man would welcome it.

Except the control on food there ought to be no controls. I think there ought to be decontrolling and this policy should be adopted slowly and slowly so that within a short time we can be rid of all the controls except the one on food and even this control ought to go by the end of March 1952 when we get self-sufficient. If the controls are removed corruption will be removed.

As regards retrenchment, the hon. Finance Minister has promised a saving of Rs. five crores and odd lakhs. I will quote one instance in that respect. The Bombay Government recently retrenched 19,000 posts and just saved more than Rs. two crores. I think the Home Minister and the Finance Minister ought to take courage in both hands and scrutinize all the establishments here. I know there are superfluous establishments. Instead of 500 assistants there are 2,500, a few of them would be quite enough. The expenditure on civil administration has gone from Rs. 7-5 crores to more than Rs. 50 crores. I think there is much scope for retrenchment. At the same time if you retrench the surplus hands, there will be efficiency. Today there is inefficiency everywhere; there is corruption everywhere and in order to remove these things energetic efforts must be made by the Government of India, so that the common man may bear these burdens cheerfully. The

[Shri M. C. Shah]

Common man wants that the administrative machinery of the Government must be improved, corruption ought to be removed.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras):
From the discussions in this House as well as what appears in the papers, one would think that the position of the Union Government is very precarious and the fact that Rs. 50 crores are to be raised by fresh taxation this year shows, if anything, the bankruptcy of the Government. I am sorry the hon. Finance Minister did not devote some time to show what is the real position of the Government and whether these fears are well-founded.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI *in the Chair*]

Going through the position of the Union, as it is stated on pages 70 and 71 of the Memorandum, anyone will find that our assets and liabilities show that we are anything but in a bad position. The total liabilities which we have got to meet come to about Rs. 2,500 crores and the assets which we have got come to Rs. 1,700 crores and odd, leaving a balance of Rs. 800 crores of which Rs. 350 crores is money raised by Treasury Bills for the ways and means position. So the balance which is not covered by interest bearing assets is only a matter of Rs. 400 odd crores, which comes to about one year's revenue of the Union. That is the position so far as the assets and liabilities condition of the Union is concerned. The unproductive debt of Rs. 400 crores is not a matter about which anybody should be bothered. As I said it only represents about a year's revenue and it is not a thing about which anybody will be anxious. Taking the present Budget, what happens is that about Rs. 50 crores have to be raised by fresh taxation. What is this fresh taxation going to be spent for? It is unfortunate again that the hon. Finance Minister has included in the revenue account a portion of the capital expenditure. Not only that, but he has also under-estimated the revenues, with the result that he has shown a deficit, but really the Budget is a surplus budget, surplus to the extent of over Rs. ten crores. Even in the Railway Budget it was the same. The Railway Budget was a surplus budget but it is on account of the capital expenditure they want to incur that they wanted to raise the rates and get Rs. 20 crores more. Here also the same thing has happened. The Budget itself is surplus and even the capital expenditure which they want to provide for, Rs. 60 crores is capital expenditure to be incurred by the States. The Central Government wants to give a loan of sixty crores to the

States for their capital expenditure. Taking the Union Budget by itself, there is no deficit either in its revenue account or in the capital account about which they have to be anxious.

What happened is this. We have been anxious to come up to the standard of other countries. We wanted to incur a lot of expenditure on capital account for the purpose of raising our standard. For that purpose, we made many grandiose schemes, some well advised and some not so advised. Immediately after the Independence, we went into a lot of expenditure which we may not consider as permanently useful and it is not necessary for me now to go into the way in which certain other things were done which resulted in waste of public money. If there had been a proper planning and proper husbanding of our resources, probably, the position would have been different. As I said, the present position is very awkward.

But, the question that arises is how the money that the States want and the money that we are providing on a restricted scale for capital expenditure which we cannot avoid at present, is going to be raised. I am not one of those who think that the present system of including capital expenditure in revenue and raising revenue for that purpose is a good thing. But, as I said outside, this year, it seems to be inevitable that some money has to be raised by the means which the hon. Finance Minister has adopted because the money market has not been as responsive as it was expected to be. That is the only justification which the hon. Finance Minister can advocate for his policy. But, there are other ways of meeting the expenditure than the way which he has adopted. This Budget has been acclaimed by certain sections and has been decried by other sections, naturally from the view point which each section adopts. For instance, the monied class industrialists and others object to that on the ground that there is a slight increase in the Corporation Tax and in the surcharge on Income-tax which is proposed. For my part, knowing a little of the business that is going on in the country, I would not at all say that direct taxes have been increased wrongly or that they have been raised to an inordinate extent. After all, the increase is very small and it is not going to affect very much the saving aspect of the industrialists or their coming out for the purpose of investing their capital. It is only an excuse which will be advanced by certain sections of the people because they think that they should not agree to any increase in any tax and that if they

agree it will be considered by other people that they have been let off cheaply. So far as direct taxation is concerned, I am not at all sorry.

But, so far as indirect taxation is concerned, I have no idea as to how the Tobacco tax is going to affect the producer and the consumer. That is a matter which will have to be worked out. As regards the tax on liquor, everybody welcomes that. These two by themselves account for 14 crores out of the 31 crores which the hon. Finance Minister wants. Since the hon. Finance Minister has agreed to refer the Finance Bill to a Select Committee, I would suggest that the other matters like the tax on kerosene and other necessities of life may be considered in the Select Committee, and I am sure that he, as a reasonable person, will be willing to make such adjustments as will be necessary for the purpose of giving relief to those who are likely to be affected badly.

I referred to the fact that sixty crores out of the deficit is due to the fact that loans are going to be given to the States and also to the fact that most of the States are requiring money for their own capital and revenue expenditure. I would have preferred the hon. Finance Minister considering the question of passing the Estate Duty Bill, about which so much time and money have already been spent. I do not think there can be any real objection for a democratic Government like ours to the passing of the Estate Duty Bill. It is going to affect only very large incomes and that too not in a bad way, because the local Governments and the Central Government will have to decide from time to time as regards the quantum of tax that would be raised. That would have been a permanent addition to the resources of the States if that Act was passed and to the extent to which it would give relief to the States, the responsibility of the Centre would also be reduced. Therefore, I would ask the hon. Finance Minister to consider whether we may not have that Bill passed as early as possible, if not in this present session itself. I may say that the Bill has been before Parliament for the last two years. It has passed through the Select Committee and every case has been taken to make it as workable a proposition as possible. I do not see why the passing of the Bill ought to have been delayed so long. So far as the States are concerned, I am sure every State will welcome that I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to devote some attention to taking up that Bill and passing it in this House.

I want to say a few words about foreign capital and Indian capital being shy and not coming up.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi (Madhya Pradesh): That is a fact.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar: That is a fact, I know. So far as foreign capital is concerned, we need not be so anxious that we ought to have all the foreign capital that we can have. There is a right way of getting foreign capital and there is also a wrong way. We want foreign capital no doubt for the establishment of basic industries, for those industries for which foreign technical advice and technical guidance will be necessary. But, to go and say, 'we want foreign capital, let foreigners come and establish all sorts of industries here', I do not think is sound policy at all. As a matter of fact, there is one case; one glaring case, I may say. There is the question of the Imperial Chemicals, for instance. They have been competing with our local industries and our local industries have been suffering on account of that competition. The Imperial Chemical industry has been allowed to have a factory in Calcutta. What the result will be, only the future can say. Probably, a very large number of local factories will have to be closed down to make way for this big industry. That is a question which will have to be considered.

It has been said that foreign capital is shy and that Indian capital is shy. Why? Because, we are ourselves borrowing from the International Bank at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Americans think that less than eight per cent. or nine per cent. is not an attractive proposition. Can we seriously think that foreign capital will be coming for our three per cent., $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.? That is a question which will have to be considered. Our local capital also is shy because the return they expect is much more than what may be offered. There is one question which was mentioned namely that the uncertainty about the future of the industries is a matter that deters both foreign and Indian capital coming out. Government ought to make clear what their policy is going to be. They stated their policy as early as April 1948 and a Bill was also brought before the House. It passed through the Select Committee and came back to Parliament. But for the last two years it has been hanging fire. Government has not made up its mind whether the Bill as reported by the Select Committee should be taken up or whether it should make any further changes in it or whether they should introduce another Bill. This is a very serious

[Shri Ramalingam Chettiar]

matter in which Government will have to make up its mind as to what they are going to do. Delay in making up its mind is undesirable. For instance we know that lately the case of the Sholapur mill came up and it was found that Government had no power to deal with the state of things that were existing there. They passed a special legislation and that legislation also is now before the court. Apart from.....

Shri Sidhya (Madhya Pradesh): It has been discharged.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar: Apart from that, to deal with such questions, Government should make up its mind as to what powers it is going to take and how it is going to deal with these cases. I would ask the hon. Finance Minister, if he really wants capital from foreign countries or from India to clearly enunciate the Government's policy and have it embodied in an Act. The Bill, as reported by the Select Committee may, if necessary be amended, and brought again before Parliament and passed as early as possible.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal): Last year when I spoke on the Budget I emphasised the point that the method of presentation and the structure of the Budget were such that it confused one and it was very difficult for a layman to understand it. I am very glad that the new Finance Minister has put a very clear picture of our financial position before the country, both in regard to the capital side and the revenue side of the Budget. There has been no jugglery either of the words or of figures. He has transferred certain items—quite rightly—from the capital budget which should come in the revenue budget and which was placed in the past to capital account merely to show a lower revenue deficit. I can understand the difficulties the Finance Minister has to face and also appreciate them. I told the previous Finance Minister in this House last year that his rosy dreams of greater production and capital formation with more and more concessions to our speculator capitalists would not be realised. This prediction has more than been justified. I think the present hon. Finance Minister realises this and so he has based his budget on taxation proposals and not counted on borrowings too much.

At the same time, I am constrained to say that these taxation proposals are not based on the canons of progressive taxation and affect certain sections of society very adversely. I want to refer first to the marginal income-tax paying group. In the case of those who earn Rs. 5,000 a year or

Rs. 12,000 a year, the Finance Minister stated that they will only pay eight annas per month or 12 annas per month more as the case may be. But he has not taken into account the indirect taxation that he has also brought in and which affects this group most adversely. It is true that he said that it is only luxury or near-luxury goods that he has tried to tax. To some extent he has succeeded in this attempt, but there is a large incidence of taxation, I mean of indirect taxation which will affect the poorer sections of society very gravely. We have to consider whether the disappearance of the poorer middle-classes of our society is a phenomenon which is good for society. Taken with the inflationary spiral which has again risen since January, it is for us to consider whether there is any margin left for this extra imposition. They are going through great hardships, but I do not want to dwell on any harrowing tales of their hardships. Let us be practical realists and apart from any such hardships, let us see if it is good and beneficial in the present context of things that in this country this class of people who try to maintain a minimum decent standard of life, should disappear. This minimum decent standard of life is not being provided by the welfare State as yet. But if this group disappears just now, that would merely mean that the numbers who do not have these benefits, these nation-building services, who do not have education or a minimum health standard would increase. The curtailment of such services and the number of have-nots will be greater than before until such time, of course, as the welfare state steps in and provides for such benefits. Therefore, I would ask the hon. Finance Minister to take this into account even now and try to make it possible for those struggling poorer sections to continue to exist.

The last speaker has mentioned the Estate Duty Bill. I do not understand what happens when such a progressive piece of legislation comes up. Whenever such progressive piece of legislation, whether social or economic, which would bring about changes beneficial to the country, is brought forward, may be the Estate Duty Bill or the Hindu Code Bill, we find invariably they are somehow or other shelved or delayed. This does affect the country very badly.

Shri Sidhya: How does the Hindu Code Bill come in?

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I am referring to Bills of social or economic importance such as the Estate Duty Bill or the Hindu Code Bill.

Well, to come back to the taxation proposals, I am surprised that the Finance Minister who has put such a clear picture of the financial position before the country did not think of enhancing or bringing in a high death duties which would have brought in considerable income and thus enabled us to extend the welfare services. Either the nation-building services could be extended or a reduction of deficits made possible. I would of course prefer the former. There also seems to be some confusion with regard to unearned income which comes from rents and profits. It is an acknowledged fact and even the most conservative man will acknowledge it, that such unearned incomes from rents are unjustifiable. Why should there be a distinction between unearned income from rents and unearned income from profits? I can understand that in the case of income accruing as a result of some skill or ingenuity of the entrepreneur and where the persons concerned help increased production, a distinction should be made. But the unearned incomes from profits utilised for speculation purposes or to increase the inflationary spiral should not be left untapped. I would ask the hon. Finance Minister to consider whether he could not put in death duties in the Finance Bill through which he can mop up a good deal of this un-earned income which could be utilised to much better purpose. We recognise that we have to have a mixed economy and that at present we cannot hope to bring in equal distribution as greater production is of vital importance. It is the yield or the output that counts and we cannot get anything for nothing. But here is a section of society which is getting something for nothing and surely in these days of such tremendous economic stress it is high time that they are tapped properly.

An argument might be advanced that the small investors will in that case not come forward or will do so less than they have done in the past, but I am not talking of all inherited income but incomes over a certain level which should pay death duties and so this argument is not valid.

Turning to general policy we have said in this House time and again that nation-building services have been shelved. We are faced with a vicious circle here. There are many things that cannot be done because our resources are very limited. But I would like to ask from a practical point of view, how does a nation increase its output, if those through whom it has to increase it, are not trained? Yet their training has not been undertaken. One of the major difficulties is that we also have not the

trained personnel through whom to extend these services. But even in regard to this, suggestions have been made more than once in this House and they have not even been examined. We have said that in regard to social services they can be expanded through mobilising the youth of this country. It can be made a condition precedent to the grant of a university degree that the candidate should put in two years social service. Surely this is not something which could not be practically implemented.

Then, the greatest obstacle in the path of our progress is the machinery for implementation. I am not speaking of the personnel of the administrative machinery, though shifts and changes in the personnel are necessary, it is the procedure of administration that matters and I am sure many among the personnel themselves would agree with me in saying that undue delay takes place and there is lack of efficiency due to the machinery which we have inherited from the past regime. Therefore Government should see that they take drastic measures to change the machinery. I will give one small illustration. We talk about controls and decontrols. There are certain people who want licence in the economic domain and they are against controls. They get the support of many others, only because the machinery is so inefficient and irksome and nothing has been really done to any discernible degree to improve that machinery. I have not got the time to go into details but I hope that the suggestions of the Estimates Committee will be taken into consideration and implemented.

Lastly I want to say that this lack of a firm policy in the economic and domestic field has led to many difficulties and has resulted in an amount of disappointment. I do not believe in the counsel of frustration or despair. I do not think that any slogans or enunciation of any 'isms' or a mere change in the colour of a Government will bring about the necessary changes that we want or produce food, cloth and shelter for the people of this country. There are certain practical things which can be done and should be done here and now. I am glad the Prime Minister is in the House and I would make an appeal to him. He had the firmness, determination and courage to pursue the foreign policy of this country irrespective of the doubters and irrespective of those who tried to discourage him and who later have come to recognise its soundness and have upheld that policy. I would tell him that if he puts that same determination, that same courage and that same firmness into the implementation of a purposeful economic policy in this country, I am

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

sure that we shall be able to go ahead, that progress and prosperity will come to this country and that the vast majority of the people will enthusiastically support him.

Prof. S. N. Mishra (Bihar): Although it is as pleasing to have new and beaming faces strutting the stage as Finance Minister every year, as new carnations and pansies coming to our garden every spring, I would like you to consider seriously the effect of these changes on the economy of our country. It is indeed very sad that for the last four years our economy has not had the time to settle down. It has not had the time to take root and blossom forth in due course of time. I think it is because of the frequent change of Finance Ministers that our economy is fluid and amorphous in nature. Every Finance Minister, if I may be permitted to say so, has his own brain waves and the result is that our economy so far remains quite uncrystallised and has absolutely no distinctive character. We may have as a result a gain in aesthetics but the loss in economics more than offsets it.

Recently the appointment of Mr. Tyagi as Minister of State for Finance has been universally hailed and I am one of those who have great admiration for him. I have been till now very much sceptical as to whether a mixed economy could work in this country or anywhere else quite successfully. But when I find Mr. Tyagi and Mr. Deshmukh fitting harmoniously in the same frame, my apprehension on this score is completely ruled out. It seems to me now that after all mixed economy is indeed a probability in this country!

Now so far as the Budget is concerned it does not form an integral part of any long-term plan. Budget in this country has come to connote some sort of an ad hoc effort to prevent financial deterioration from year to year. It has therefore nothing positive but only a negative satisfaction to offer. It has not yet become an instrument of progress, social development or social welfare.

I would next come to what I think as almost conflicting views expressed by our different Finance Ministers. The House will recall how last year the Finance Minister held out the hope of progressive tax reliefs and concessions. Had he remained, the wheel would have come full circle. He had expected many things but later events which transpired gave a direct lie to all his expectations. Now the present

Finance Minister has his policy of increased taxation. I do not know what contrary results or favourable returns are in store for him. But this is sure that this sort of conflicting views from year to year is going to affect our economy rather adversely.

I am not one of those who believe in a particular type of economy, so far as the doctrinaire approach is concerned. But if our Government stands for a mixed economy I would like it to consider what would be the atmosphere or the framework in which this mixed economy is going to work. There is one mixed economy working under capitalism in the United Kingdom and there is another kind of mixed economy working under socialism in China. But what would be the atmosphere in which this mixed economy is going to work in India? This is a very vital thing which our Government would have to decide. It is what I would call a double-think economy or if you would permit me to call it using a somewhat technical psychological expression a 'schizophrenic' economy in which we find ourselves. In terms of capitalism it is giving abundant reliefs to the upper taxpayers and at the same time by a Planning Commission trying to regulate and plan our economy. So it is a double-think economy and I think it is time enough that Government made up its mind about the institutional aspect of planning and social approach and gave a definite form to our economy.

I would like to characterise in my own way the Budget that has been presented by the Finance Minister. I consider this Budget as prudent but at the same time politically purlblind. I consider it financially stabilising, at the same time economically policyless. That is my reaction. However, it is, indeed, a very legitimate child of a creature of circumstances, and as all of us are creatures of circumstances I have absolutely no doubt that we shall bless it and fondle it. We shall try to support it with hope and faith to the utmost extent possible. On one thing I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister. This time the Budget secrets were more closely guarded than generally before in our experience; it is indeed a great tribute to him.

One thing, however, that struck me as very surprising was that the Finance Minister was not proving as cautious in his monetary policy as he should have been. I would like you to consider one of his remarks during Budget Speech. When the Finance Minister said that it would not be over-optimistic to raise a loan of about Rs. 140 crores

by market borrowings, what was he hinting at? Was he not hinting at a higher rate of interest? Did he not in that way let the cat out of the bag? It is a rather surprising revelation and I would like the Finance Minister to clarify this point during his reply to the debate.

Admittedly, the most important and baffling question so far has been that of capital formation. Production has been stagnant and there has been absolutely no significant sign of expansion in any direction. Capital formation has been at a standstill. The figures in my possession show how progressive tax reliefs granted to the capitalists from year to year have brought diminishing returns. In the year 1948-49 reliefs to the tune of Rs. 4.75 crores were granted, and what did they bring about? They did bring about a good thing by way of recovery in the general index of production. In that cheerful year, as 1948 was called, the general index of production stood at 114.1 and investment amounted to Rs. eleven crores. In the year 1949-50 the tax relief granted was Rs. five crores through the abolition of the capital gains tax etc., but the general index of production completely slumped down and came down to 104.8. In 1949 the investment level came down to Rs. seven crores. Similarly in 1950-51, Rs. 14.99 crores was the tax relief granted by way of abolition of the B.P.T., reduction in company tax etc., but the general level of production stood at 100.6. Now, I would like you to consider whether having given serious thought to these figures, are we not slowly driven to the conclusion that this sort of truce, this sort of 'Munich', as I may call it, with the capitalists must now end? We do not want that there should be any step taken which may dislocate our economy, but we do want that there should be a complete change, a radical change, in our approach to capital formation. I do not want to lay myself open to the charge that people simply view things in a sort of a doctrinaire fashion, in a theoretical vacuum, and therefore, I would place before the House and before the Government my own view of what else can be done in the circumstances. My approach to the problem is this. The only course now open to us is more and more direct taxation, and increased mopping up of the savings of the people. These are the only things that we can do in the circumstances. The capitalists have not played fair. That is quite clear. For them there could not have been a better chance for the orgy of money-making. Well, what do we find even then? We find that no new industry has been started. Rather, the capitalists have shown utter

incapacity to utilise even the existing plants and machinery. And so it seems that capitalism in this country has no foresight, no initiative, no creative role to play. Nevertheless if Government feels that reliefs and concessions should still be given to them, I would like it to lay down some basis for such reliefs and concessions. Government must draw up at least a five-year plan according to which only those industries should be given reliefs and concessions which show a certain amount of responsive investment and production. Such a plan should be drawn up by the Government and on the basis of that alone should reliefs and concessions be given.

I had expected that the Finance Minister, having had all the experiences of the last three or four years before him, would have launched upon such a scheme. Alternatively he should have imposed more direct taxation without drying up the sources.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may continue after Lunch.

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

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

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

Prof. S. N. Mishra: I think you will recall how I was suggesting some methods that may be adopted by the Government in view of the attitude taken by the capitalists. In my opinion, the capitalists in this country seem to believe in the doctrine, "I shall be drowned and nobody can save me". If our Government and the country do not feel any pleasure in being drowned with them, we have to adopt some other methods,—not those that we have followed so far. What are the other methods? I suggested a judicious combination of direct taxation and interest-bearing compulsory savings; but the scale must be over-weighted on the side of direct taxation and none except the very poor should be left out of the scheme of compulsory savings. For the mopping of the savings in the lower ranks of the people, I was suggesting interest-bearing compulsory saving in the form of surcharge as taxes. If we can devise machinery for the purpose, it would be easy for us to reduce the expendable income of the community to the real income and thereby the evils of black marketing and the circumvention of rationing and controls could also be rooted out. What is the trouble with our present economy? It is that there is too much redundant purchasing power in the

[Prof. S. N. Mishra]

hands of the people and we can only reduce this by compulsory saving and no other method. But why should people save? You must give them an inspiring object. They shall pay for what they want, but give them what they want.

Let me now proceed to examine whether we have been making any progress towards a welfare State. In this connection it would be interesting to examine some figures. The Defence expenditure in 1948-49 was Rs. 146.06 crores while the social service expenditure was about Rs. 4.54 crores. In 1949-50 Defence expenditure was Rs. 148.86 crores while social service expenditure was only Rs. 5.29 crores. In 1950-51 Defence expenditure was Rs. 179.47 crores while social service expenditure was Rs. 7.98 crores. In 1951-52 Defence expenditure is estimated at Rs. 180.02 crores while social service expenditure is estimated at Rs. 9.40 crores. In working out social service expenditure I have taken into account education, public health, veterinary, co-operation, broadcasting etc. Comparing the figures of 1938-39 and 1950-51 for the whole of India, we find that there is an encouraging increase in the social service expenditure. It was Rs. 1.78 per head in 1938-39 whereas in 1950-51 it was Rs. 8.39 per head. But the question is: does spending more mean more social service? We find that the salary content of our Government has been increasing from year to year. In 1938-39 the salaries amounted to only Rs. 36 crores, but in 1950-51 they amount to Rs. 135 crores. So, a preponderating part of our income is being spent on salaries—not on social services of the real kind which people need. The Education Ministry has a Budget provision of only about Rs. four crores, which comes to not even one per cent. of our whole Budget, which is indeed a great national shame. We have to strengthen this Ministry, and spend more on education, or else we should scrap it and not talk of a welfare State.

In this connection, if you examine the salaries of our civil servants you will find that they have been getting almost the same pay as civil servants in some of the most advanced and prosperous countries. In the U.S.A. whose national income is 21 times that of our national income, the highest paid civil servant gets about 13,500 dollars a year whereas in our civil service a person of the rank of Secretary-General gets about Rs. 4,500 per month, which comes to the same thing. Let us now compare the disparity between the highest paid civil servant and the lowest paid civil servant. In the U.S.A. the ratio is

1:8; in the United Kingdom it is 1:23; in Australia it is 1:12; in India it is 1:72. And if you compare the salary of the lowest paid civil servant with the salary of the Secretary-General the ratio becomes 1:82. This is a thing which I would like the Finance Minister to look into and see whether we are really minded for establishing a welfare State and equalitarian society. We are spending such huge amounts on unproductive elements. This expenditure should be curtailed and hiatus between 'high' and 'low' reduced to the minimum.

I would have liked to mention a few more points, but since my time is up I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister on some of the good points in his Budget before I sit down. I appreciate his having imposed a duty on liquor. This is in consonance with our prohibition policy. I appreciate his having imposed a duty on the export of coarse and medium cloth. This is also very necessary in the present circumstances when the country is experiencing scarcity of such cloth. At the same time, I would like to point out to him very humbly that the impact of taxation on the poor and middle classes is quite unjustifiable. And if we want a social equilibrium in our country I would like him to remember what a facetious Irishman said, namely, "Between England and revolution there will stand an army of bowler hats". Similarly, it is this middle class which, if we can keep contented, will save us ultimately from a shake-up. Let us not forget them and the common man who form the backbone of any country.

श्री द्विवेदी : बजट (Budget)

की बहस के सम्बन्ध में संसद् के अनेक सदस्यों ने भाग लिया, किसी ने फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर (Finance Minister) साहब की स्तुति की और किसी ने निन्दा। कुछ सदस्यों ने हमारे फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर महोदय की कटु आलोचना की और बजट की बहुत सी बातों पर उन्होंने अपना असन्तोष प्रकट किया और उन में से आचार्य कृपलानी और डाक्टर श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी आदि हैं। आज श्री ठाकुर दास भार्गव साहब ने भी अपने विचार प्रकट किये और उन्होंने यह कहा कि मैं उन लोगों को डिक नहीं समझता जो हमारी सरकार के

खिलाफ उल्टी सीधी बातें करते हैं, और विरोधी आवाज़ उठाना चाहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आवश्यकता इस समय इस बात की है कि हम इस देश का संगठन करें, सरकार को मजबूत बनायें। मेरा खुद का विचार यह है कि सरकार को जरूर मजबूत बनाना चाहिये और सरकार की हर एक बात पर निन्दा नहीं करनी चाहिये। हमारे जो वित्त मंत्री हैं वह स्तुति अथवा निन्दा की चिन्ता नहीं करते। हम लोग जो यहां एकत्रित हैं, स्तुति और निन्दा का ह्याल कर के नहीं, बल्कि हम लोगों का कर्तव्य है कि हम बजट के आय व्यय के आंकड़ों पर अथवा किसी भी विषय पर आलोचना करें क्योंकि आलोचना करने का हमें पूरा अधिकार प्राप्त है। लेकिन आलोचना का मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम धाँस बन्द कर के या तो एकांगी निन्दा में अथवा स्तुति में लग जायें और कुछ सोचें विचारें नहीं। आज हमारे भारतवर्ष में शायद ही कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति होगा जो सरकार के खिलाफ हो, लेकिन जो व्यवस्थाएँ खराब हैं, और जिन के सम्बन्ध में कुछ कहना आवश्यक है, वह हम अवश्य कहना पसन्द करेंगे और कहेंगे, क्योंकि यही एक उपाय है जिस के जरिये हम जनता की आवाज़ सरकार तक पहुंचा सकते हैं और उस के लिए हमारे अर्थ सचिव ऐसे उपाय या रास्ते निकाल सकते हैं जिन से वह बुराइयाँ दूर हो सकें। इसलिये मैं, जहां तक बजट का सवाल है, उसका समर्थन करता हूँ, लेकिन जहां तक कुछ ऐसी बातों का सवाल है, जो मुझे अवश्य कहनी चाहियें मैं उन को अवश्य कहूंगा और, इस लिए कहूंगा कि जिस से उन पर सरकार विचार करे, समझे और अगव सम्भव हो सके, तो उन बुराइयों को दूर करे। पारसाल मैंने बजट के मौके पर अपने विचार प्रकट किये थे। उस समय वित्त मंत्र

के स्थान पर श्री जान मथाई थे, और उन के बजट पर मैंने दो बातें मुख्य तौर से कही थीं, पहली बात यह है कि उन्होंने जो बजट बनाया, वह पूंजीवादी बजट था, उस में साधारण श्रेणी के व्यक्ति के या मध्यम श्रेणी के व्यक्ति के शोषण के प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किए गये थे। मैंने यह भी कहा था कि वह बजट गांधीवादी बजट नहीं था और उस में कांग्रेस के जो सिद्धान्त थे उनको अपनाया नहीं गया था, वह ऐसा बजट था जो हमारी आम जनता के प्रतिकूल था और इसलिये मैंने मांग की थी कि अर्थ विभाग में मंत्रिव्यवस्था बदलनी चाहिये। मुझे बड़ी खुशी हुई जब कि भारत सरकार ने मेरी उस प्रार्थना पर ध्यान दिया और उन मंत्री महोदय को बदल कर श्री देशमुख को उनके स्थान पर रखा।

श्री देशमुख से मुझे बड़ी बड़ी आशाएँ थीं परन्तु उन्होंने समस्या की समझा भी या नहीं कहा नहीं जा सकता। मुझे खेद इस बात का है कि उन्होंने जान मथाई के बजट पर जन साधारण के बोझ के संबंध में कुछ बातें जोड़ी हैं, घटाई नहीं हैं। जान मथाई वाले बजट को उन्होंने पूरे रूप से स्वीकार कर लिया, उस में कोई कमी नहीं की। जान मथाई ने जो पूंजीवादी लोगों को कुछ सुविधायें दी थीं, वह उन से भी दो पग आगे बढ़ गये और ३१ करोड़ रुपये का कर हम लोगों पर लाद दिया। मैंने यह देखा है कि सन् ५० से लेकर सन् ५२ के हिसाब किताब में हमारी सरकार का खर्चा करीब ७८ करोड़ के ऊंचा उठ गया है और बजाय घटने के हमारा खर्च दिन पर दिन बढ़ता ही जाता है। बाबजूद इसके कि देश के लिए खर्च घटाने तथा बचत की बड़ी बड़ी योजनायें हमारे सामने आईं लेकिन हमने यह अध्ययन

[श्री द्विवेदी]

क्रिया और यह देखा कि बजट के आंकड़ों में कुछ वृद्धि नहीं हो रहा है, खर्च बढ़ता चला जा रहा है और हमारे देश की समस्याएँ भी जटिल होती चली जा रही हैं, इसका कारण केवल यही है कि हम देश की समस्याओं को जनता के दृष्टिकोण से नहीं देख पाते, जनता क्या चाहती है, उस ओर हमारा ध्यान नहीं जाता सबसे बुरी चीज यह है कि जो रियासतों एकीकरण योजना के अन्तर्गत हमारे अधीन आईं, उन रियासतों की क्या आर्थिक स्थिति है, क्या खर्चा व आमदनी है उनकी तरफ हम गौर नहीं कर पाते। हमारा ध्यान पार्ट (Part) बी और पार्ट (Part) सी स्टेट्स (States) की तरफ नहीं जाता, हम सिर्फ अंग्रेजों के ढांचे के अनुसार अपने बजट को देखते हैं और उन पार्ट सी स्टेट्स की किस तरह अवहेलना की जाती है मैं उसके बारे में आपसे क्या अर्ज करूँ। यह जो एक्सप्लेनेटरी मेमोरेण्डम (Explanatory Memorandum) हमारे अर्थ सचिव ने संसद् के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत किया है उस में केन्द्रीय सब विषयों के हिसाब किताब पर प्रकाश डाला गया है, जो बजट है, उसका विवरण पूर्ण स्पष्टीकरण हुआ है, लेकिन उस मेमोरेण्डम में भाग "ग" राज्यों के बारे में जो आमदनी अथवा व्यय बढ़ाये गये हैं, वह किस प्रकार बढ़ गये, कौन कौन ग्य कर बढ़ाये गये, विन्ध्य प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश और दिल्ली आदि में जो यह खर्चा बढ़ाया गया है वह क्यों बढ़ा है और जो रकम खर्च की गई है उनका क्या हिसाब किताब है इसका कोई विवरण नहीं है।

विन्ध्य प्रदेश, अजमेर, दिल्ली और कुछ सहा अन्य भाग "ग" राज्यों के आय

व्यय के आंकड़ों का स्पष्टीकरण इस मेमोरेण्डम में नहीं किया गया। भारतवर्ष में करीब करीब ग्यारह ऐसे राज्य हैं जिन में करीब एक करोड़ के जनता रहती है, तो हम उस एक करोड़ जनता को आज कोई उचित अवसर नहीं देते। और जो ऐसे राज्यों के प्रतिनिधि यहां इस संसद् में हैं उन्हें इस बजट के मौके पर बोलने का भी मौका ठीक से नहीं दिया जाता। आज बजट पर बहस चलते चलते तीसरा या चौथा दिन है और मैं देखता हूँ कि अभी तक केवल एक सदस्य को यानी मुझ को बोलने का अल्प अवसर मिला है कि मैं इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ कह सकूँ। भाग 'ए' राज्यों के जो यहां पर सदस्य हैं उनको यहां पर केन्द्रीय विषयों पर, बजट पर बोलने का मौका मिलता है और उनके यहां जो धारा सभायें हैं, वह अपने अपने बजटों पर बहस करती हैं, लेकिन पार्ट "सी" स्टेट्स में विधान सभायें न होने से उनको मौका वाद विवाद का नहीं मिलता कि वह अपनी स्थानीय समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डाल सकें। उनको केन्द्रीय संसद् में भी बजट आदि पर बहस करने का पूरा पूरा अवसर नहीं मिलता और सबसे बड़े दुख की बात यह है कि इसके सम्बन्ध में प्रकाश भी नहीं डाला गया है कि आय व्यय के आंकड़े कौन, कहां और क्यों उल्लिखित हैं। कोई स्थिति साफ नहीं की गई है। भाग "ग" स्टेट्स के लिए फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब ऐसी कोई कोशिश करें कि उनके सम्बन्ध में कोई चैप्टर (chapter) मेमोरेण्डम में दे सकें या उनके लिए अलग से कोई मेमोरेण्डम प्रत्येक राज्य के लिए निकालें। मैं पार्लियामेन्टरी मिनिस्टर (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs

साहब और अध्यक्ष महोदय से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि भाग "ग" राज्यों के जो प्रतिनिधि हैं उनको अलग से आय व्यय के आंकड़ों पर वाद विवाद करने के लिए समय मिलना चाहिए, ताकि वह संसद के सामने अपने विचार रख सकें और वहां की परिस्थिति हमें बतला सकें और वह जनरल डिस्कशन (general discussion) में भी भाग ले सकें। वहां की जो धरेलू समस्याएं हैं, वहां पर जो रद्दोबदल होते रहते हैं उन पर बहस करने का उनको कुछ भी समय नहीं मिलता है।

रेलवे बजट पर जब बहस हो रही थी तो मैंने विन्ध्य प्रदेश में सुधारों के लिए बहुत सी बातों पर कटमोशन (cut motions) रखने चाहे थे लेकिन जब कट मोशन आये तो हमसे कहा गया कि बहुत बहस मत कीजिये, समय कम है और जो लोग रेलवे बजट की बहस में भाग लेंगे उनको जनरल बजट में बोलने का मौका नहीं दिया जायगा। इसलिये हमें अपने भाग की बातें कहने का मौका नहीं मिला, केवल हमारे यहां श्री अवधेश प्रताप सिंह जी ने कुछ भाव प्रकट किये थे।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिन्हा : क्या यह काफी नहीं है।

श्री द्विवेदी : जी वह काफी नहीं है, अगर विन्ध्य प्रदेश में धारा सभा होती तो ६० आदमी अपने अपने मत प्रकट करते। लेकिन यहां सिर्फ चार आदमी हैं उनमें से दो को भी अपनी बात कहने का मौका नहीं मिलता है तो आप समझ सकते हैं कि कैसे काम चल सकता है। हमारी समस्याएँ कितनी बड़ी हैं, अगर उन पर भी हमें यहां बात करने का मौका नहीं मिलता तो हम इन मसलों

को कैसे हल कर सकेंगे। जहां पर राजाओं के निरंकुश शासन के बदले चीफ कमिश्नर (Chief Commissioner) का व्यक्तिगत शासन थोपा गया हो वहां क्री शासन व्यवस्था कैसी हो सकती है। आप देखिये कि इन रियासतों के बारे में स्टेट्स मिनिस्ट्री (States Ministry) की तरफ से एक व्हाइट पेपर (white-paper) निकाला गया था इस व्हाइट पेपर में कहा गया था कि :

"It is the undisputed right of the people in these territories to modern amenities of Government which should be the governing consideration in everything that we do for them."

लेकिन इन राज्यों के अन्दर आज तक क कोई विधान सभा बनाई गई है न कोई एडवाइजरी कौंसिल (Advisory Council) है और न सरकार का जनता से कोई सम्पर्क है। चीफ कमिश्नर महोदय जो बजट बना कर भेज देते हैं वही आखरी चीज है। वहां जनता का कोई प्रतिनिधि या व्यक्ति नहीं है जो सरकार को राय देने के लिए हो और बतला सके कि क्या करना चाहिए। यहां के जो पार्लियामेंट के चार मेम्बर हैं उन को उस दिन तक जब तक कि बजट पेश नहीं हो गया पता नहीं चला कि उस में क्या क्या सुझाव रखे गये हैं, क्या टैक्सेशन (Taxation) है और आमदनी के क्या नए स्रोत हैं। मैं आप को विश्वास दिलाता हूं कि पारसाल जब बजट पेश हुआ था तो सिर्फ शम्भू नाथ जी शुक्ल बोल सके थे क्योंकि उन्होंने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि वह बजट के पक्ष में ही बोलेंगे। वह कोई बुरी बात नहीं थी। लेकिन उस पिछले वर्ष के बजट में भी पहले यह पता नहीं लगा कि चरू टैंक्स और स्कूल कालेजों की फीसों इत्यादि बढ़ा दी गई हैं। नतीजा क्या हुआ? वहां पर जो विपक्ष के लोग हैं वह कहते हैं कि तुम्हारे पाा पामेन्ट

[श्री द्विवेदी]

(Parliament) के सदस्यों ने अपने को बेच दिया है जब कि हमें पता भी नहीं है कि क्या किया गया। इस बजट में भी हम को यानी विन्ध्य प्रदेश के सदस्यों को स्टेट मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से जो अंक दिये गये हैं उन में लिखा है कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश की १९५०-५१ की आमदनी दो करोड़ तेइस लाख रुपया थी और इस साल के जो अंक हैं उस में उस की आमदनी दो करोड़ एक्यावन लाख दिखाई गई है। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि दो करोड़ एक्यावन लाख और दो करोड़ तेइस लाख का जो फर्क है उस में वह किस चीज की आमदनी है जो बढ़ गई है। अगर इस को स्पष्टीकरण पत्रिका में समझाया गया होता तो मुझे मौका मिलता कि मैं अपनी बात इस बारे में कहूं। अगर हम कहते कि टैक्स न लगाइये तो सरकार न लगाती और अगर हम समर्थन करते तो आप अवश्य ही लगाते। लेकिन आप टैक्सेशन करते हैं वहां के लोगों की राय के बगैर। वहां के लोगों को नुमायन्दगी का मौका नहीं दिया जाता यद्यपि अमेरिका में सब से पहले आवाज उठी थी कि नो टैक्सेशन विधाउट रिप्रेजेन्टेशन (No taxation without representation) अर्थात् बिना प्रतिनिधित्व के कोई कर न लगाया जाये। फिर भी हम लोगों को मौका नहीं दिया जाता। हमारी सरकार हमारी प्रतिनिधि है, पंडित जवाहर-लाल नेहरू हमारे प्रतिनिधि हैं। परन्तु स्थानीय परिस्थितियों की जानकारी स्थानीय प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा होती है। यहां तो बहुत रिप्रेजेन्टेशन भी नहीं है, जो चार मेम्बर विन्ध्य प्रदेश के यहां हैं भी उन को बोलने का मौका नहीं मिलता। इस बिन्दु में आप से कहना चाहता हूं कि

आप को भाग 'ग' के बारे में कोई निर्णय करते हुए इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिये। आप ने सब के लिए फंडामेन्टल राइट (Fundamental right) मूलभूत अधिकार बनाये, सब को इक्वैलिटी (Equality—समानता) दी लेकिन भाग 'ग' के राज्यों को कोई बराबरी का मौका नहीं मिलता। यह बड़े दुःख की बात है।

वैसे जो आप का बजट है उस बजट के लिए मैं ने कहा कि मैं सहमत हूं और संसद् के बाहर कोई ऐसा शस्त्र नहीं है जो सरकार की निन्दा करता हो। लेकिन जैसा आचार्य कृपलानी ने कहा कि यह शूगर मडल (Sugar Muddle) हुआ, यह सिंदरी मडल (Sindhri Muddle) हुआ, आदि आदि ऐसी चीजों का हमें जवाब देना चाहिए। श्री ठाकुर दास जी भार्गव ने यहां पर भाषण दिया और कहा कि लोगों को चाहिए कि वह ऐसे न बोलें। मैं कहूंगा कि लोगों को भाषण की स्वतंत्रता देना चाहिए। उन को अपने विचार प्रकट करने का हक है। हमारा काम यह है कि जब कोई बात कही जाये तो हम उन के तर्कों को सप्रमाण काटें, हम जो दलील दें उस से लोगों को मालूम हो कि यह बाब गलत कही जा रही है। जैसा कल श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह जी ने किया। गवर्नमेन्ट के सब अच्छे अच्छे काम बतलाए और बतलाया कि गवर्नमेन्ट ने यह किया वह किया आदि। और मैं मानता हूं कि इन तीन सालों में जैसा काम गवर्नमेन्ट ने किया है, अगर दूसरी सरकार होती तो कभी न कर पाती। लेकिन हम में भी कमबोरियां हैं, उन को भी

हमें दूर करना चाहिए। इस का तरीका यह है कि हम उन की बुराइयों को उन के सामने रखें। तमाम दलीलों को काटने का तरीका यह है कि हम अपनी सरकार की अच्छी अच्छी बातों को जनता के सामने रखें और बतायें कि हमारी सरकार ने फलां फलां काम किये हैं। दूसरी ओर सरकार के सम्मुख त्रुटियों और कठिनाइयों को रखें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं संसद् का अधिक समय नहीं लेना चाहता लेकिन वित्त मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि भाग 'ग' के राज्यों के बारे में ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Dwivedi (Vindhya Pradesh):

Many Members of Parliament have participated in the Budget discussions and some of them have praised the Minister of Finance while some of them have criticised him. Some of the Members levelled severe criticism against our Minister of Finance and they expressed their resentment against certain provisions in the Budget, and these included persons like Acharya Kripalani and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Today, Shri Thakur Das Bhargava has also expressed his views and has said that he does not consider those persons good who are accustomed to speak ill of our Government and want to raise voice against her. He said that the cry of the time is that we should organize our country and should strengthen the hands of the Government. I am of the opinion that we must strengthen the hands of the Government and should not criticise them for every measure. Our Minister of Finance is never moved by commendation or condemnation. We have assembled here, not with the intention of commendation or condemnation, but our duty is to comment upon the figures of receipts and expenditure, or on any other subject, because we have perfect liberty of doing so. But comment does not mean that we should blindly either shower praise on it or condemn it outright without thinking over it. I think, there is no person in India who is against the Government but there is maladministration on which we have to say and we must say because it is the only way by which we

can convey the grievances of the public to the Government and our Minister of Finance can find out ways and means of removing these difficulties. Therefore, as far as the Budget is concerned I support it. But regarding certain things about which I feel I must say, something, I will certainly submit, so that the Government may consider them and if possible try to remove the difficulties.

Last year, I had expressed my views on the Budget and at that time Shri John Matthai was working as Minister of Finance. I had specially said two things regarding the Budget which was presented by him. The first was that the budget was a capitalist budget because it contained provisions for the exploitation of the common man or the middle class. The second was that it was not a Gandhite budget because it ignored the ideals of the Congress. The budget was against the interests of the common man and I had asked for a change in the Finance Ministry. I was much pleased to see that the Government of India considered my request and appointed Shri Deshmukh in place of the previous Minister.

I had great expectations from Shri Deshmukh but whether he understood the situation or not, is not clear. But, I am sorry to say that instead of dropping anything from the budget of Shri Matthai he has added certain things to increase the burden on the common man. He has accepted the principles of Shri Matthai's budget *in toto*. The concessions which were offered to the capitalists by Shri John Matthai have been substantially enhanced by him. He has imposed additional taxation of Rs. 31 crores on us. I have observed that the expenditure of the Government has increased by Rs. 78 crores during the years 1950 to 1952 and instead of decreasing, it is increasing daily. In spite of the fact that economic plan and other plans for our country were placed before us we noted that there was no improvement in the figures of the budget. As the expenditure is increasing so the problems before our country are also becoming complicated. The only reason of this is that we do not look towards the problems from the point of view of the public. We do not pay any attention towards the demands of the public.

The most deplorable thing is this that we do not pay any attention towards the financial conditions of those erstwhile States, which have come under our administration due to the enforcement of the integration plan. We never care to look towards the Part 'B' and 'C' States. We have got the

[Shri Dwivedi]

same structure of our budgets as was during the time of the Britishers and I find it difficult to describe the extent to which the Part 'C' States have been ignored. The explanatory memorandum which has been presented before the House by our Minister of Finance throws light on the receipts and expenditure, concerning the Central subjects and detailed explanations have been provided regarding the other provisions in the budget; but there is no statement regarding the Part 'C' States. No reasons have been assigned as to why the revenue receipts and capital expenditures have increased and why new taxes have been imposed. There is no explanation as to why the expenditure of the Vindhya Pradesh, the Himachal Pradesh and Delhi has been increased and what are the heads under which the expenditure has been made. No explanation has been given in that Memorandum regarding the figures of receipts and expenditure concerning the Vindhya Pradesh, Ajmer Merwara, Delhi and Coorg and other Part 'C' States. There are some eleven States like that in India having a population of about a crore. We do not provide any opportunity to them to raise their voice, and even the representatives of such States are not given any opportunity to speak on the Budget in the House. Today is the third or the fourth day of the Budget discussion and upto now only one person i.e. myself, has been allowed short time to speak. The representatives of the Part 'A' States are given opportunity to speak on the Central subjects and the provincial legislatures debate on their own budgets. But as there are no legislatures in the Part 'C' States, they do not get any opportunity of discussing the local matters and even in the House they are not given ample opportunity to express their ideas on the budget. The most distressing thing is that no mention has been made as to which of the items of receipts and expenditure have been stated, where they have been stated and why. The position has not been clearly put forth. It would have been better had the Minister of Finance added a separate chapter in the Memorandum about the Part 'C' States or would have brought out a separate Memorandum regarding each of them. I would appeal to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the hon. Speaker that the representatives of the Part 'C' States should be allowed more time to speak on the Budget, so that they may be able to put their views before the House on the conditions prevailing in those States. They do not get any time for discussing the local matters and the changes which are taking place in those States. During the discussion of the Railway

Budget, I had intended to move several cut motions regarding the development in the Vindhya Pradesh, but when the time came we were asked not to go into lengthy discussions as the time was short. It was also said that those Members who would participate in the discussion of the Railway Budget will not be given any opportunity to speak during the discussion on the General Budget. Therefore, we did not get any opportunity of discussing our local matters, only Shri Awadesh Pratap Singh from our State could express his views

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Is it not sufficient?

Shri Dwivedi: Yes, it is not sufficient. Had there been a legislature in the Vindhya Pradesh, 60 persons would have got an opportunity of expressing their views. But here there are only four representatives and out of them even two are not given an opportunity of expressing their views and you can well understand how is it possible to pull on like this. Our problems are great and even if we are not allowed an opportunity to discuss them here, how would we solve them?

You can well imagine what kind of administration it would be where the personal administration of the Chief Commissioner has been imposed in place that of those totalitarian Princes. A White Paper was published by the States Ministry regarding these States. It was stated in this White Paper:

"It is the undisputed right of the people in these territories to modern amenities of Government which should be the governing consideration in everything that we do for them."

But, so far, neither any legislature has been set up, nor any advisory council has been appointed nor there is any agency which could maintain contact between the public and the Government. The budget sent by the Chief Commissioner is the final thing. There is no representative of the public to point out to the Government as to what should be done. The four Members of the Parliament from those States could not know anything about the budget of those States till the very day on which the Budget was presented. They could not know as to what were the sources of income and what taxes were to be imposed. Believe me, only Shri Shambhu Nath Shukla was allowed to speak on the budget last year and even that when he gave assurance that he would speak in favour of the budget. That was not a

bad thing. But last year even he could not know about the increase in the grazing taxes and the fees of the schools and colleges etc. What was the result? The members of the opposite party accused us by saying that we had sold ourselves because we did not know as to what had been done for our States. Even regarding this Budget, the figures which have been provided to us, i.e. the representatives of the Vindhya Pradesh, by the Ministry of States show that the receipts during the year 1950-51 in the Vindhya Pradesh were Rs. 2 crores and 23 lakhs and for the ensuing year they have been stated as Rs. 2 crores and 51 lakhs. I do not know as to what are the sources of income for the extra amount which forms the difference between Rs. 2 crores and 23 lakhs and Rs. 2 crores and 51 lakhs. Had this been clearly stated in the explanatory memorandum, then I would have had the opportunity of saying something in this connection. If we had protested against certain taxes you might not have imposed them but had we shown our support for them they might have been imposed. Taxes are imposed without taking into consideration the opinion of the public. You do not afford opportunities to the representatives of those States. Though, in America the first cry was 'No Taxation without Representation' yet no opportunity is given to us. Our Government is our representative. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru is our representative but you can know about the local things only through the local representatives. Here there are not too many representatives from the Vindhya Pradesh—they are only four in number and still they are denied an opportunity to speak. It is a matter of great regret that you framed fundamental rights and made provision of equality for all but still the Part 'C' States are denied those rights and equality. Therefore, I appeal that you should always keep them in mind when doing anything regarding these States

But as far as the Budget is concerned, I am in its favour, and there is nobody outside the House who criticises the Government. But, as Acharya Kripalani has referred about the 'sugar muddle', the 'Sindhri muddle', and so on so we should give a reply to such allegations. Shri Thakur Das Bhargava delivered a speech in which he said that Members should not speak like that. I say that there should be freedom of speech. They have a right to express their views. Our duty is to rebut an argument by giving sound reasons for that. We should put forth such arguments as may prove that the thing which is being said is wrong. Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Singh did

the same thing yesterday. He enumerated the achievements of the Government. I admit the fact that had there been any other Government in place of the present one, it could have never been able to do such good work within a period of three years. But, we have our weaknesses, and we must remove them. The way to do it is that we should put before the Government their shortcomings. The best way to counteract all propaganda against the Government is to place before the public all the achievements of the Government and at the same time tell the Government her shortcomings.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House but I would appeal to the Minister of Finance to pay greater attention towards the Part 'C' States.

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): I intervene in the debate at this stage to make a few general observations on the budgetary position with reference to the points made by the hon. Members who have participated in the debate. My hon. colleague the Finance Minister will deal with the various individual points which have been raised in the House. I, as the House knows, have only recently joined the Treasury Benches and consequently my approach to the budget is more non-official than official as yet. I know my limitations. I have not yet had occasion to peep into all the departmental functions of my Ministry. I have been given the work of revenue and expenditure by the hon. the Finance Minister to look into, and the economic side of the Ministry is exclusively his own business. It is therefore not proper or fair for me to dabble into the economic side as I used to do when I was on the other side of the House. There I expressed my own views, but I cannot do so now. I can reflect them only in discussions with my colleagues, and whatever views I express here in this House are the collective wisdom of the whole of the Cabinet. I can only be a mouthpiece to express them, because no Minister speaks individually for himself.

As regards the short stay of mine on these Benches I must confess that I have a good story to tell, because since the time I have come I have had co-operation from all sides. The officials are in a very co-operative mood, and so is my chief. My friend Mr. S. N. Mishra says that my colleague and I, are a good mixture or a queer sort of mixture, to reflect a mixed economy. I do not know how I am mixing, but I must assure the House that if at all I mix, I mix as gram with wheat but not as grit with wheat. Even though I have been mixed with quarters which my friend thinks

[Shri Tyagi]

were not quite according to my kind. I must say that I have mixed with the Government which is a Congress Government, and I have been in the Congress for the last thirty years. I assure the House that by this mixing I am not going to lose even a shred of my Congressmanship. I will stick to all the principles by which the Father of the Nation stood, by which our leaders today are standing. And after looking a little at this Budget and after studying it I have nothing to be ashamed of or to be sorry for.

It is not only a question of your managing the figures in a budget. As I feel, I still have the layman's mind and I think that the layman's is the truer mind. My feeling is that the budget of a nation is only a reflection of the mathematical total of the budgets of all the individual families of a nation. It is only when the individual budgets of the families are properly balanced that a nation's budget can be properly balanced. So, if the House wants to balance this Budget we have to start it at that end, on the ground, on the land where people live. If their own budgets are balanced, then only will this Budget be balanced. Therefore, to have prosperity in the country and to have a welfare State this is the first thing that a Finance Minister or the Government has to look into, namely, to see that the individual families are happy with their budgets. It is from that point of view that the nation's budget has to be framed.

Let us examine this budget in that way. How can we make the individual families happy? The Government is not unaware of the fact that the middle class people and middle class families are really suffering the most today and that it is becoming very difficult for persons who have ordinary incomes of Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 to balance their budget.

Shri Sidhva: I am glad you have realized that.

Shri Tyagi: Of course everybody does realize that the middle class families need some sort of help in the matter of giving them employment or adding to their income. Unless these families are happy there can be no welfare in the country because the country is composed mostly of these families and not of the families having big incomes. From that point of view let us see how our budget stands.

Since the Congress came to power let us examine the position of Income-tax alone. When the Congress came into power the lowest slab of income for Income-tax purposes was Rs. 2,000 and above, probably in 1947. From Rs. 2,000 we raised the slab of exemo-

tion to Rs. 2,500. After that, in 1948, from Rs. 2,500 we raised it to Rs. 3,000. Then again, in 1950, it was raised from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 3,600. Further, in the case of the joint Hindu family we raised the exemption slab to Rs. 7,200. As far as assessment of Income-tax is concerned the House will therefore agree that gradually we have seen to it that the lower slab is being exempted, because the lower slab is one which goes into the middle class of the society.

Shri T. N. Singh (Uttar Pradesh): Continue the good work this year also.

Shri Tyagi: It is being continued. So I say that in the matter of taxation our policy has not been to tax the smaller man. It has been to give relief to the smaller man. In the matter of Income-tax we have given them relief. Taking the numbers also, the total number of persons under Income-tax today is hardly 0.2 per cent. of the whole population. When the House thinks of Income-tax it must always keep in mind that it is only 0.2 per cent. of the whole population that is involved in the matter of Income-tax. But even with reference to that little percentage we have seen to it that gradually we have exempted the lower income man.

3 P.M.

The time at my disposal is 15 minutes, which is too short for me to reply. (*Interruption*). Let us see how we are spending the revenues. The only thing that Government can do is to distribute the revenues back in such a manner that the smaller people can draw the best advantage out of it; and the welfare State can be brought into being only by adding to their income. What are the ways of adding to the income of the smaller man? Give him facilities to earn more and more. This is one way. Another is, of course, to manage the State in such a manner that the peoples' expense ratio may come down, so that they may have to spend less. These are the two ways in which the budget is ordinarily balanced in our own families. We try to earn more and try to spend less. It is only by these two ways a successful household manages its budget. A lot of money which comes into the coffers of the Government has to go back to the people. Let us see how we distribute it amongst the people. If you look into this year's Budget you will see that we are giving subsidy on imported foodgrains to the extent of Rs. 21 crores and 32 lakhs of the taxes we intend to collect this year and the bonus on food procured is Rs. four crores. All this goes to

the persons who deal in food and those who eat. In fact this goes directly to the citizen, to the tax payer immediately because it goes in the shape of giving relief.....

An Hon. Member: This subsidy goes only to the population in the urban areas to the detriment of the rural population.

Shri Tyagi: That is perfectly right. It goes mostly to those areas which are rationed areas. I admit that. There is no denying this fact, but then, those areas are also in India and there are middle-class men in those areas too.

Then there is grow-more-food. Now Rs. five crores and 31 lakhs go directly to the 'grow-more-food' campaign. It goes directly to the rural areas, because food is mostly grown in rural areas and not in the urban areas. Then there are loans to the extent of Rs. eight crores and 69 lakhs given for the same purpose of 'grow-more-food' scheme. Then land reclamation comes to Rs. three crores and 60 lakhs. In this way Rs. 42 crores and 82 lakhs go directly towards food. I am taking together both the revenues and the capital of the Budget. So the figures are mixed. Taking the whole together, my submission is that Rs. 42 crores and 82 lakhs go directly towards either food or agriculture.

Now Rs. 34 crores and 86 lakhs go to those unfortunate friends of curs who have come from the other side, the displaced persons. Their families are the first charge on our freedom. The whole of the country agrees that those persons who have left their homes and hearths and who are in trouble are our first charge and therefore we have seen to it that Rs. 34 crores 86 lakhs go directly to their aid. Rs. 20 crores and 15 lakhs represent the loan given to them.

Then I come to projects. A lot is talked about capital expenditure. Let us see how we are spending that capital expenditure. Whenever a family is in trouble the best thing that the family does is to get a loan, procure money from somewhere and invest it in such avenues by means of which it can have better days. Likewise the Government can do better only when they tap their resources from wherever they can get either by taxation or by loans or other means, have their resources invested in avenues which can bring them more revenue and bring prosperity to the people at large. Now most of the resources the Government intend this year to spend on River Valley Projects as has already been

explained. In Bhakra, Harikey, Hirakud and D. V. C. we are investing Rs. 27 crores and 16 lakhs this year. There are other projects mostly of irrigation where we are investing Rs. seven crores and 50 lakhs. These projects all told come to Rs. 34.66 crores. All these are going directly towards river projects or hydro-electric or other such projects which directly make the people in the rural areas happy. These schemes are still under construction and as soon as irrigation starts, the tiller of the soil will feel that the Government has come to his rescue after centuries. Water will come to his fields and he will grow more food.

Shri Chaliha (Assam): How much of the cost of the River Valley Projects goes for machinery?

Shri Tyagi: This will be very difficult for me to reply off-hand. But if my hon. friend is anxious, I will give him all the details in time.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): It is not a very large part in these River Valley Projects. It is a very small percentage except for the D. V. C., the Bokharo Thermal plant, which is a separate issue. I think there we borrowed a loan of 20 million dollars but for the rest the percentage of expenditure on foreign currency is very much less on these schemes. It is largely earth-work and work done at home.

Shri Sidhva: The Thermal Station alone costs Rs. 16 crores.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I made an exception of the Thermal Station.

Shri Tyagi: In this way Rs. 112 crores and 34 lakhs, as I have just accounted for go to these three items. (An Hon. Member: I want to ask a question). You can ask later on. These three items, namely, food and agriculture, displaced persons and loans to States with regard to River Valley Projects, etc. cost Rs. 112 crores and 34 lakhs. This is the way in which the money is going to be invested and I can be proud of it that the Budget is a constructive budget and therefore there is nothing to criticise. The prosperity will directly come to the rural areas where the lower middle-class people live. There is one difficulty and many of my learned friends have pointed that out. The whole country feels and I am one with the country and with the taxpayer. The grouse is still there, although I am here, yet I have not shed my grouse and this is about the rising cost of living. It is agreed on all sides..... (

Shri Sidhva: That grouse has to be solved by you. You cannot merely say.....

Shri Tyagi: Unless there is a grouse, you cannot solve it. The first thing is that you must have a grouse and dissatisfaction and then alone you can resolve your difficulty. So, if I am dissatisfied, it means, I must strive towards it. As I have said I have been asked to look into revenue and expenditure and in this I can assure the House that I have taken full notes of what hon. Members have suggested or the criticisms they have made. I assure the House that I will not be acting only as the nominee of the Prime Minister, but I will as well be acting as the elected representative of the House from the other side, and I shall always be keen to see that the wishes of the House and the Members are immediately put to action or examined.

More than one hon. Member has referred to the problem of high prices and inflation. While this is a problem of mal-adjustment between the available goods and services and the available supply of purchasing power, too much attention is perhaps concentrated on the money supply part of it and too little on the production part of the problem. While as a short term measure it is necessary to regulate the money supply as much as possible by curtailing expenditure and by mopping up the purchasing power in the hands of the community by taxation and borrowing, I submit these are not permanent cures to tackle the problem. It is a question of balancing the commodities on the one side and the purchasing power of the people, which includes currency and the bank balances, on the other. It is for the Finance Minister of a country to tackle this problem and keep a regular watch on this sensitive balance so that it does not get tilted on one side or the other. It is from that point of view that suggestions are made and actions are taken. On some occasions we withdraw a portion of the currency; on others, we issue some more currency. Currency is one of the factors. But, this, I say, is a temporary cure, as I feel as a layman in my own way. It is for my senior to talk about these matters with authority.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister has already taken 20 minutes. If he wants he may go on. I only wanted to remind him what he himself said that he represented the non-official part of the House also.

Shri Tyagi: I will cut short. It is not always the money in circulation alone which really accounts for the high prices. In fact, the problem has ultimately to be tackled on the other side. I mean the commodity side. I feel that at present our best resources or most of our resources are not with the big business magnates or industrialists or the capitalists of the country. In fact, if every individual Member will think about it as I do, then, he will realise that the big corporations and companies come into being with the help of the money which comes from the ordinary and humble beings in the land. It is they who save some money, and invest that money into shares. Thus, it is by bits that this huge sum of money is collected to form capital and big corporations are thus formed. It is not only the big capitalists who contribute to the formation of capital. It is the savings in small families that go to a large extent in forming the capital. Now, the difficulty is this. On account of war, black-marketing and all this, the production side is not, as I feel, paying so much dividends as the commercial side is doing. Every individual who has, say, Rs. 1,000 or 2,000, the savings of one year, is more inclined to put that money into channels which would bring to him immediately more money as profits, and therefore he goes for quick money making. The quick manner of making money, as I see in this country today, is hoarding, purchasing and selling goods which are controlled or de-controlled, keeping them from the people, and making large profits when there is a greater demand or need for that commodity. In fact, this bazaar business is more paying than production. Therefore, the general tendency of the people is to invest their money into some business or speculation. It is on that account that money is not coming up. My feeling is that we have to see that the huge profits which people are drawing through the market are not available to them. These profits are mostly available by unfair and illegal means. We have to see that respect for law is awakened in the people. It is only then that some money could be saved and diverted towards productive channels.

In fact, in the country at large, on account of the big profits which trade generally brings, or the middlemen are able to make there has been a general tendency among the people to work less. Here, in this House also, hon. Members have been complaining that officers do not work more. The

Industrialists say that the labourers do not work more. Others say that the industrialists do not work at all. In fact, the bane of our whole life has been worklessness. People are idle. What we have to do is to awaken the incentive to work. Goods are produced not from raw material alone. Some human energy has to be injected into the raw material in the form of labour. Some intelligence has also to be introduced into it. All these things together go to make a commodity. Intelligence alone will not help you unless you have also manual labour. Therefore, you need raw material, incentive to work, intelligence and labour. These big industrialists have nothing but intelligence and some capital. That goes a long way; but labour is also necessary. What is needed is that people should employ themselves in productive activities and the nation should be awakened to this need. I submit that this is one point which Mahatma Gandhi always stressed and I as a humble follower of Mahatma Gandhi do admire this point that unless the whole nation, from the young students right up to the old Ministers, takes to some kind of productive work, commodities cannot increase. If we increase the commodities and there are ample commodities in the country, the deflationary conditions will come in. So, it is only a sort of balance between the commodities to be purchased and the purchasing power of the people that inflationary and deflationary conditions occur.

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): Ministers also?

Shri Barman (West Bengal): What has Government done in that direction?

Shri Tyagi: I submit I am hopeful because, I feel, by these constructive schemes on which Government has launched, we shall give to the people energy to work their small machines even in their cottages, and water to the agriculturists so that they can work more and more on the land. It is through work in the field and factories that we can improve the position and the spiral of the cost of living will come down.

I have nothing else to submit except to refer to a point which was raised by some hon. Members that our estimates of receipts from customs have been deliberately shown less and that we would get more. I submit that that is not correct. We must take into account that these customs duties are realised from the sea-borne trade

Sea is there. The ships have to sail in the sea. The sea is not so convenient as air for anybody to build his castles on. Sometimes the sea is turbulent; sometimes it is at peace. Nobody can say what may happen tomorrow. The situation over-seas is not so very happy. If my hon. friends feel that our estimates have been placed very low, I think there is great justification for that. It is no use painting rosy pictures in the beginning and then at the end coming with deficits. I think that as far as our hon. Minister could think, he has placed a most balanced and accurate estimate of what is to come through customs duties.

Shri Dwivedi: What about the saving of 100 crores about which you hinted last year?

Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab): While expressing views regarding the situation in the country and its effects on the future, one has necessarily to see how the Government draws the money that it gets from the public and secondly, and this is more important, how it spends the money that it draws from the public.

As regards the first aspect of the question, I do feel that so far as incidence of taxation is concerned, our country is not overtaxed as compared with other countries. Much has been said about the middle classes and that they have been overtaxed. One journalist has also said that perhaps this further taxation is the last straw on the camel's back. It looks as if this camel has an ultra-delicate back when it comes to a question of sharing the nation's burdens and it breaks being very brittle, perhaps, and when it comes to biting it bites a good lot. So far as the commercial classes or the middle classes or the city folk are concerned, I can say it without fear of contradiction that the villagers and the vast seething mass of humanity are taxed far more than these people of the middle classes and the city folk. It may be argued that their standard of life is not high and so they do not need much money whereas the standard of life in cities is higher and hence they should have more money. This I consider a very fallacious piece of argument. Simply because a man is a pedestrian you give him only a shoe with thick leather and with nails in its sole and to another because he rides in a car you give him Rs. 20,000 or so to purchase a new Buick. This is just an illustration. Should my hon. friend Shri Satya Narayan Sinha have all the lavender imported from abroad for his scented hands and only caustic soda for

[Sardar B. S. Man]

my lifeboy-hands? Well, as far as the taxation is concerned, I feel that it is fairly evenly distributed. It is not confined to the poorer classes or the middle classes. The Finance Minister has given us proposals which affect every person. He has not spared the richer classes also. When we need money, and we do need money for many development purposes and for the various unforeseen catastrophes like the refugee problem and other problems, we have got to get the money from somewhere. A friend here said that he is glad about the prohibition policy of the Government, but I could not understand him. On the one side he has been arguing that more and more money should be spent for social services, and in the same breath he has advised Government to enforce and extend prohibition which is a policy of doubtful utility and doubtful morality. Many schemes of far-reaching importance are standing by and cannot go ahead simply because we need more finance. That being so, why should there be such hurry to enforce prohibition in one State after another which later on feel that they have to come to the Centre for subsidy and help? And all the time the Centre helplessly watches on this fruitless and useless policy being uselessly experimented upon.

Shri Bharati (Madras): It is in the Directive Principles of the Constitution and on that we cannot go back.

Sardar B. S. Man: That is only a permissible thing, only a matter of slogan or a matter of self-righteousness or a mental luxury. But so far as the prohibition policy is concerned, at present it is not desirable nor advisable nor practicable.

For the sake of finance, we have done one of the most disastrous acts, I mean that of reducing the army. When life at the borders is so very uncertain, when the international position is so very uncertain, we are proceeding with demobilisation. I wonder how this can be looked at as being advisable or desirable. We may be saving a little money here and there. But I must raise my little finger in warning and say that this is very suicidal, this decrease in the expenditure on the army. It may be that economy is desirable. But how much can be saved by reducing a few chaprasis here or a few clerks or assistants there? The top is left intact. Even though we have raised this question here over and over again, we have not been able to get anything like a convincing answer. I

put the question again now. So far as the Cabinet is concerned what retrenchment has there been? So far as the Cabinet is concerned it is only expanding every time. Take again the Health Ministry or the Labour Ministry or the Education Ministry. I want to put a categorical question to Government: What work is being done, for instance in the Health Ministry? They have erected only the pre-fabricated housing factory and that has become such a scandal, as we all know. Why not amalgamate all these Ministries into one Ministry and have only one Minister in charge of the whole thing?

Take again the States Ministry. So far as the Part A States are concerned, though they cover such a large part of the country, we need no States Ministry. This Ministry is exclusively for the Part B States. Why should not this Ministry follow the patriotic example of their illustrious wards many of whom have liquidated themselves or merged their areas with the adjoining areas or formed unions? Why should this Ministry not following the example of the Maharajas, liquidate itself? This Ministry is not necessary now-a-days. It has served its useful purpose and now instead of fulfilling any useful purpose it will only be abusing its powers, and instead of bringing about democratic arrangements in some of the States, this Ministry is just throttling such attempts, and the.....

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): It is meant to keep contacts with the princes.

Sardar B. S. Man: I sometimes feel that perhaps the princes have been liquidated and the States Ministry has cleverly substituted itself in the place of these princes.

I come to the question of spending and how the money is being spent. People will not mind giving money and more money, provided they are satisfied that this money will be properly spent. But it has been their sad and bitter experience that the money given to Government has not been spent properly or with diligence or care. We are still having the same callous attitude of the bureaucracy. Whatever the pretensions of the leaders may be, it is the same callous and cruel bureaucracy that rules the country. My friend Mr. Tyagi may feel now convinced that the officers are very responsive today and he may get satisfaction. But this pleasant satisfaction cannot come to everybody and perhaps to

offer this pleasant satisfaction to every other person who criticises may be an unpleasant duty for the Finance Minister to perform. But I do feel that so far as the callous attitude of the bureaucracy is concerned, it is there all the same, if it has not gone worse. Scandal after scandal, mismanagement after mismanagement have come to light and the culprits have escaped scot-free. We have been crying hoarse to stop corruption and bribery, both inside and outside the Government. I can understand that as regards our development plans, we do not have Alladin's wonderful lamp to get the promises fulfilled overnight. But I say this in all seriousness that at least so far as corruption and bribery are concerned if the Government were to go about it with a determined will, the entire corruption can be stopped within 24 days; yes, within a month we can do that, provided we have got the power and the will to do it. At least this is not a monument that we have to build up or create. It is only just rooting out the corruption and bribery from the officials. Various schemes of development cannot be completed, because they are put up initially with one estimate and as a scheme unfolds itself, revised and increased estimates are submitted and thus every scheme tends to become a constant drain on the country's economy. Schemes are promised to be completed within a short period but later on they become colossal monuments of delay and inefficiency.

Let there be an impression that there has been bungling only so far as the home front is concerned, but so far as our international policies are concerned or our foreign policy is concerned, it is a great success. With due apologies to that lovable person who presides over the foreign policy and indeed over the destiny of the nation, I may say that our foreign policy is a myth and the sooner it is exploded the better for our country. I do not mean here for the present purpose the hypothetical neutrality or the potential or dynamic neutrality or call it neutrality of whatever potency you like. But so far as we and our immediate neighbours are concerned I do say that our policy has all along been a policy of weak surrender. I do not refer to old history, because it would be out of date, though I would want to refer to it because the shadows of pre-partition days are still strutting across our land. I do not even want to refer to the reference of the Kashmir issue to the U.N.O. But a reference to the opinion of Sheikh Abdulla who is intimately

concerned with the problem will not be out of place. Having been a representative there he called the U.N.O. the cockpit of international jealousies and intrigues and the cockpit of power politics. We have been landed into such a mess and I wonder how we will be able to extricate ourselves. However I do not refer to that. Let us talk of immediate things.

Last April we had a pact with Pakistan so far as the protection of minorities is concerned. On that our Prime Minister said that it has come out successful, because things have been hushed out and do not appear in the papers. But things are trickling down. Firstly, it was said the refugees will not come, and secondly, when those who have come return to their homes, they will be properly rehabilitated. So far as India is concerned in the Budget we have provided extra money for the Bengal refugees. Why this extra money? Because we have not been able to send back those refugees and Pakistan is not willing to receive them. So we are now burdened with Rs. seven crores more annually. How can we say that that pact has been a success?

Now I will refer to the recent trade pact. Friends who are well versed in trade matters tell me that this pact will be of doubtful value. Cotton in Pakistan is selling at a high price as compared with Indian cotton and conditions in Pakistan are so uncertain that no trader is prepared to risk his advances with Pakistan or vice versa. And the tension still exists and in such a state of affairs it is very doubtful whether the trade pact will serve any useful purpose. What I do feel is that it has come at a very bad psychological moment. I want here to bring to the notice of the House the reaction of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. While addressing an election meeting he has said: "By the Grace of Allah, the Almighty, I have won the first war of currency and may God give us strength enough to win the other wars also." So whatever my friends here might say, they might laud it or applaud it saying that they have won a great point: whereas this is Pakistan's reaction. At the end I will pray "Oh, Allah, the Almighty, if we have lost in the first currency war, let there be courage and wisdom in our friends and leaders so that we may not lose the other wars."

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): In that case do not pray to Allah.

Shri Poonacha (Coorg): Coming as I do after a number of speakers I am afraid I will be constrained to cover a good deal of the points already covered by several other speakers in the course of the Budget discussions. Particularly in respect of certain important issues one cannot help touching on them over and over again at the cost of repetition. Therefore I am afraid that in the course of the few observations I am going to make I will be repeating some of the arguments that have been already developed.

At the time when we heard the Budget speech from the Finance Minister I for one was to a great extent satisfied and I really went home with the idea that the Budget presented to this House and the country was in effect a very reasonable one. But later, on further examination and scrutiny, I found that my first impressions were rather of a hasty character.

Looking at the country's position as a whole with reference to the effects of the Railway Budget and the General Budget that has now been presented, I was reminded of the story which the hon. Home Minister told us the other day in the course of the discussions on the Preventive Detention Bill. He gave the story of an old man who had two wives, a senior one and a junior one. Each one was careful to see that the husband looked cheerful and smart and they tried to make him look very tidy. With that object in view the senior wife started plucking off all the dark hairs, and the junior started pulling out all the gray hairs thereby making the poor husband totally bald. The same thing seems to have happened to the Indian taxpayer today. Both the Ministers, the Railway Minister and the Finance Minister, who want to make the taxpayer more comfortable and look more neat and tidy have started plucking off the little remnants of hair he has. On one side they take 19 crores and on the other side they take 31 crores and thus they have left the taxpayer completely bald. What else can the present taxpayer have with him under the present circumstances of cloth scarcity and food shortage, except a few remnants of hair on his 'scalp'. Even that has been done away with now. In doing so each Minister has been developing his own pet theories to justify the additional tax burden.

Coming to the General Budget, the Finance Minister has actually created an artificial deficit—I shall not use

the word "deliberately" but I should say that he has attempted to create an artificial budget showing a deficit in order to justify the additional taxes he wants to burden this country with. The very unfamiliar principle that he has tried to resort in transferring big sums from the capital account to the revenue account and thereby creating a deficit on the revenue side, is something which seems to me quite understandable. On the one hand, he is satisfied to make very poor estimates so far as receipts are concerned, particularly the customs revenue, which point has already been made by several Members and on the other his estimates of expenditure are rather high. In this fashion there has been an attempt to create a deficit Budget with which come the new taxation proposals.

So far as the capital and revenue budgeting is concerned, I want to know what were those compelling reasons which had operated in transferring capital expenditure to the tune of Rs. 17 odd crores in respect of aid to States for the 'grow-more-food' campaign, and for the purchase of aircraft for the Defence Ministry to revenue account. The fundamental principles governing the preparation of the Budget lay down that current expenditure is generally met out of current revenue, and items falling under the different heads of current expenditure always fall on the revenue account side whereas those which have a utility value more to posterity than to the present generation must necessarily go to the capital account side. Take, for example, this amount of aid to the States for the 'grow-more-food' campaign. Is this item of a current nature? It can never be. And the buying of aircraft for the Defence Ministry? Is it of a current nature? No, those aircraft are an acquisition of a capital nature and should have been shown on the capital account side. That these things should have been transferred to the revenue side is, in my opinion, a serious mistake so far as budgetary principles are concerned and it should be set right. If this mistake had not been committed, there would not have been any need to burden this unfortunate country with taxes, more taxes and yet more taxes. Apart from that, it seems the Finance Minister prepared his Budget Speech much before the Indo-Pakistan trade agreement was concluded and there is absolutely no reference to that agreement in his speech. From authoritative quarters we understand that the

probable customs earnings due to that agreement would be something of the order of Rs. 30 crores. Well, that has not been taken into account anywhere. The Budget seems to have been prepared without taking into reasonable account all the existing facts; and by a kind of jugglery of transferring certain heads to the revenue side, I am constrained to remark that the country has been presented with an artificially deficit Budget, and justifications have been made for the imposition of new taxes.

Coming to these taxes as such, I would in brief refer to one or two. The proposed increase of the excise duty on tobacco is one which would mainly fall on the poorer sections in the country. In proposing this increase I do not think the Finance Minister has taken sufficient care to look into the detailed aspects of it and to examine how it is going to operate. He has proposed that a flat rate of one rupee per pound would be levied on all flue-cured tobacco. He has an idea that flue-cured tobacco is not used for bidi and other purposes. In fact, as much as ten million lbs. of flue-cured scrappings and bits, what are called as remnants, so into the manufacture of bidis, *chilum* smoking and chewing which are generally used by the poor sections of the community. This ten million lbs. of flue-cured tobacco which is used by the poorer section of the community is taxed more now but that portion which goes to the manufacture of cigarettes is going to be exempted and will be paying only a small amount of this duty. This is a serious injustice done to the poor class and I hope the Finance Minister will take due care to look into this question to see that those ten million lbs. of scrap are not taxed at the rate of one rupee per pound. On the other hand these remnants should be completely exempted from the new levy now proposed. As regards the operation of this proposed duty, let me also point out that it is not Rs. 13 crores only that will be taken from the consumer. Because in the process of shifting of these excise duties, ultimately the consumer will be made to pay a much higher percentage, and I am sure, that nothing less than Rs. 20 crores will ultimately be passed on to the consumer on account of this enhanced duty on tobacco.

After attempting to tax the middle-class and the poorer sections of the community the Finance Minister has a very ambitious programme of borrowing: Rs. 100 crores by way of

loans and another Rs. 43 crores by way of small savings. But how can one expect the middle-classes to contribute to the small savings scheme under the pressure of the present tax burden? The Central Government has proposed new taxes and goes ahead, year after year, with additional taxes. The State Governments also are going ahead with additional taxes and all these taxes ultimately fall upon the middle-class people from whom we are expecting quite a big sum by way of small savings. It is quite impossible to achieve this because so far the trend of these borrowing programmes shows that it is always the institutional investor that contributes mostly whereas the individual investor forms a very small percentage of the contributors. And so far as the individual investors are concerned, there are but a few of them who are able to invest today. Now the Government expect that the middle class should come forward and subscribe to the loan programme. It would be completely impossible, under the heavy burden of taxes to expect the middle class people to have sufficient money left with them which could be taken by Government by way of small savings.

In passing I would like to refer to one or two more points. The previous speaker and also a few other hon. Members have spoken about the demobilisation of the Army. I for one am completely shocked at the idea that has entered the head of our Government to demobilise a substantial portion of the standing Army. They may have very good reasons for it. They might say that even countries like the U.S.A. and the U.K. have reduced their Defence expenditure by about 50 per cent. or 100 per cent. in some respects. I am quite aware of that fact, but what our Government perhaps does not know is that those foreign countries have adequate Reserve Forces. They have a Reserve Army, a Reserve Air Force and a Reserve Navy. Our country does not possess such reserves. We have got just what is required for the security of the country at present and if you reduce the strength you cannot be certain that you will be safe so far as security is concerned.

Also there has been the other difficulty. The necessary Defence equipment for the Army is not available. There is great difficulty in obtaining them from foreign countries.

The position being so, we should not go ahead with a programme of reducing the personnel of the Standing Army. If we do, it will be

[Shri Poonacha]

something suicidal and I hope that Government will carefully weigh things before coming to a conclusion in regard to reducing the present strength of the Army.

So far as progress in the Air Force and the Navy is concerned, it has not been according to schedule. It is for Government to enquire and find out why such a halting and slow progress has been made.

In conclusion, coming to the point of economy...

Mr. Chairman: May I remind the hon. Member that he has already taken more than seventeen minutes?

Shri Poonacha: With one point I will conclude.

With respect to economy, I would just make one observation in passing. There have been a good number of conferences, sessions etc. being organised every time in Delhi for various purposes and a good deal of money is squandered on them. Economy could be brought about in this direction and also in the direction of the expenses of the different commodity committees that are functioning today.

Mr. Chairman: I am very sorry to interrupt the hon. Member, but he should not take up new points after the bell has rung for the third time.

Shri Poonacha: With these few remarks, I hope that the hon. Minister will take ample care to scrutinise these matters and do the needful.

Shri Alexander (Travancore-Cochin): The captain of the finances of India in his characteristic slow, steady, affable but able way has tried to stem the rocking ship—rocking by the ever gathering storms of high prices, inflation, high cost of living, shy capital, profiteering and a hundred other hindrances. He has cast his weight of taxation on both sides of the ship in trying to stem the same. I hope that he with his second-in-command who fortunately for us is one who knows the turns of the gale will succeed in his attempt. I must congratulate the hon. Minister for having struck a new and unorthodox note in trying to tack the deficit on the capital and revenue sides together. Whether it is capital or revenue side, the deficit is a deficit and it should not be left uncovered. That conforms

to commonsense. But my complaint is that the grim picture which the Finance Minister has placed before us, is not the whole picture. He has not placed all his cards on the table, so that we may know the magnitude of the problem facing us.

India is not comprised of the Central Government alone; it is comprised of the State Governments as well. In taking an overall picture of the financial stability of the country, we must also consider the budgetary position of the States. If this principle of tacking the revenue and capital deficit together is applied to the budgets of the States, you will have a very big deficit in almost all the States. Take Madras, for example. On the revenue side alone there is a small deficit and they made an allotment of Rs. 22 crores for capital expenditure. At the most, they may be able to raise Rs. six or seven crores by way of loans and yet there would be a deficit of about Rs. 14 to 15 crores. How are they going to meet it? Either they must get a loan from the Centre or they must sell their securities. Selling of the securities means that the securities will be bought by the Reserve Bank of India and Reserve Bank buying means more currency coming into circulation, which again means inflation. On this point, I would like to have elucidation from the Finance Minister. Capital expenditure cannot be stopped. Ours is a new nation and we cannot afford to have our nation stunted. Has the Finance Minister considered this overall picture? I concede that the Central Government is a very big edifice but the State Governments are also big bungalows. Even though they are out-houses, supposing they catch fire, the fire may spread to the central sector and all the fire engines at our disposal may not be able to quench the same. Are we not faced with such a situation? I leave the House to assess the magnitude of the problem.

The Finance Minister wants us to sacrifice, but how much and for how long? Is there any prospect of the situation easing next year, or is he going to come out with fresh proposals of taxation next year also? I tell you, almost all the States people are groaning under taxation. Take Travancore-Cochin, for example. I have just now received a letter from one of my constituents. He says, "Taxes, taxes everywhere but not a piece of cloth to wear nor a morsel of food to eat." That is the position. The Central Government is taxing on one side

and the State Government is taxing on the other. Over and above the two, there are the Municipal and District Boards taxing in their own sphere. So, I ask the Finance Minister to tell us the whole story. Tell us that we shall have to sacrifice this and this and we shall be prepared to do so. Otherwise, the helplessness, frustration and despondency will increase year after year. To be frank with you, our morale is on the verge of a precipice; it should not topple down. The revolution that we began three years ago has not been carried to its logical conclusion. We have compromised ourselves with the capitalists and we have compromised ourselves with the existing machinery of Government. The spirit and enthusiasm created by the revolution are fast vanishing. If there is one man who can revive it, it is our Prime Minister.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair.]

With his dynamic personality and energy he can lead us towards a welfare State. Let him lead us with the torch of revolution and we shall follow him with every kind of sacrifice. But let us know where we are. These temporary make-shifts will not do. The Finance Minister is afraid of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs—I mean the capitalists.

4 P.M. So were all his predecessors. But however much they fed the goose, it did not lay even the ordinary egg. I have heard experienced people say that too much feeding will prevent the goose from laying any egg. So, for their benefit also, I say, they must be bled. But what do we see? As usual more than three-fourths of the burden of taxation has fallen upon the middle and the lower middle class people. If last year it was a slap on his face, now it is a hard hit on his nose. Surely he will bleed and who knows when he will faint and fall down. Last year there was a regular cry on the floor of the House for the man in the street. What has the tax on kerosene and bidi done? I will call it—I may be excused for doing so—picking from the bowl of the beggar. Why should our able Ministers suffer the odium by taxing the poor man's kerosene and bidi. I hope the hon. the Finance Minister will reconsider his decision and give some relief to the poorer section of the society. By cutting the food subsidy the Government has only helped the rising spiral of prices. The already depleted source of income of the middle class man is further depleted by the rising prices. He is being indirectly taxed by the rising prices. He is taxed by

the Centre, by the State and by the municipality. There is a limit to human suffering. In bending a twig, you must see that it does not break; if it breaks it cannot be mended. There is rising dissatisfaction everywhere. We, Members of this House are the liaison between the public and the Government. Do not get nervous by our criticism. Read the signs of the time, read the writing on the wall and be benefited. Be benefited by the experience of our neighbours—I mean Chiang Kai Shek's regime in China. Do not pursue the fad of prohibition. Why should you let the drunkards scot-free? I have seen the actual working of prohibition with all the costly paraphernalia of the preventive machinery, but the drunkard is having his drink all right and also going unpunished. Why do you not tax him and get the benefit for the State? If the States are benefited the Centre will be left free. Nationalise the salt industry. That will bring a fairly good sum. Reintroduce the E.P.T. Introduce death duty. That will give us a good bit.

Mother earth is the ultimate source of all our wealth; we have to tap the same properly. We have to mobilise our muscular power. In any big scheme of development in an area, make it a condition precedent that the people of the area contribute a portion of the investment by way of voluntary labour. That will also have a psychological effect. They will have a feeling that the work is theirs, that is they will have a feeling of ownership. That will spur their enthusiasm. As was suggested by one of our friends, why not put the military in the field. They have all the equipment for construction of irrigation schemes. They may be paid their field allowances while on this work. Divert a portion of the money that is allotted for 'grow-more-food' campaign for paying the same. They can convert any fallow land or forest into gardens, which may be allotted to co-operative societies. On completion of a particular piece of work the military can be moved to another sector. By determined effort we will get out of the mire within a fixed time. Have co-operation from every sector: call for sacrifices. We will be with you in the matter of sacrifice.

Mr. Chairman: May I know whether I have the co-operation of the House to have the time-limit reduced to ten minutes? (Some Hon. Members: No, no.) I may inform the House that a large number of Members want

[Mr. Chairman]

to speak and the time before us is very short. Curtailment of the time will enable many hon. Members to have a chance. May I presume that the House agrees?

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): On a point of order. Just a few days ago I had mentioned that every time the debate goes on for two or three days, in the beginning those who speak are given a very long time. Later it comes down to fifteen minutes and on the third day to ten minutes, and some times even to five minutes. I, therefore, pleaded that if a time-limit has to be fixed it should be fixed from the very beginning and it should apply to everyone. The Speaker had said that that could not be done and there would be no time-limit from the very beginning. Now after giving fifteen minutes and even more to scores of Members, the time of others who remain is sought to be reduced to ten minutes. I should point out that this is unfair.

Mr. Chairman: I do not think there is any point of order in what the hon. Member has raised just now—it is only a complaint about the time. I think that complaint can as well be against the whole House, because the House has agreed to the time-limit.

Shri Chandrika Ram (Bihar): The basic and underlying principle of our national economy was laid by the Father of our Nation, that is economic equality. But I am sorry to point out that our national Government which has been in power for the last three years has not tried to implement it. Our Finance Minister has only attempted to tax the people who will be willing and able to pay.

We can equalise our income in two ways: one by taxation, another by nationalising the means of production. In many countries it is the people who can afford to pay that are taxed. But not so here. Our two successive Finance Ministers—Shri Shanmukham Chetty and Dr. John Matthai—gave adequate relief to the richer classes. But their hopes were falsified. After three years of failure, we have learnt the lesson, and the present Finance Minister does deserve our congratulations.

I have only one objection against the taxation proposals of Government and that relates to the tax on kerosene. Like salt, which was one of the main planks of our platforms in our struggle for independence, kerosene oil is a

universal commodity which is used by the poorer section of the community. The amount derived from it is a paltry sum of Rs. 15 lakhs. We should therefore make a gesture by abolishing it.

Coming to the general policy, we are never tired of proclaiming that ours is a welfare State. But in actual practice we see that while we are expending as much as Rs. 180 crores on our defence, our expenditure on the nation-building programme is about Rs. five crores. Compare this and you will find where we are advancing—towards a welfare state, or a police State. I am afraid that in this direction we have totally failed. Let us see what is our objective. When we fought for freedom, and got it, we promised to the people that “we are going to give you a welfare State” and our declared policy was the policy of a planned economy. The Working Committee of the Congress while declaring the objective said at one place, “The Congress had declared for the establishment of a democratic, classless society in a non-violent and peaceful manner”. While recommending the appointment of a Planning Commission, the Congress Working Committee observed:

“The vision which inspired the people of India through the various phases of non-violent revolution, which made the country free, was a land from which poverty, unemployment, ignorance, inequality and exploitation will be banished and in which everyone will find work suitable to his talents and capacity and wherewithal for a decent life”.

Let us examine and see in the light of this whether we are doing anything or not. I think there have been great difficulties before the country and before the Government. But even in the face of these difficulties we are going on in the old frame and the old state of affairs is perpetuating, and we are not going far in this direction. Therefore I say that we are not going towards a welfare State but a police State.

Coming to the budget proposals. I have to say a few things. There has been criticism in this House that Government did not do anything in order to arrest inflationary tendencies in the country. I think during the period 1945-1949 Government reduced currency expansions in the country and therefore did something. We know that last time Dr. John Matthai in this

very House announced various measures in order to arrest the rise of prices and inflation. But they did not succeed. The whole trouble lies in the fact that we have a crisis, and that is the crisis of capital formation. The money for the execution of the bigger plans and projects that we have at our hands is not forthcoming. It is not forthcoming because of the fact that the people have no confidence in the Government. People who have money—the capitalists, industrialists and richer classes—and who were given concessions did not help the Government. They did not come forward to help the Government in order to form the capital. That class goes out.

The other classes which are most important are the middle class and the lower middle class. I know that these classes have been hard hit in the last four or five years and no relief, so to say, has been given to them. Relief in one way, namely in respect of Income-tax, was given to them as the hon. Minister of State for Finance Mr. Tyagi has just narrated. That was a small concession given to them.

Another very important class is the class of agriculturists. I know that this class has got money. I come from the class of agriculturists. I know their condition, and these people have got money with them. But Government have no machinery or arrangement to take the money from them. Last time, while discussing the Banking Enquiry Committee Report, the Finance Minister assured the House that he would make arrangements for giving banking facilities in the rural areas, but I hope he will explain while replying to the debate as to what he has done in this direction. I know that in Bihar in the rural areas there is money. But these people are not having confidence in the Government and therefore they are not ready to come forward and invest it. One reason for this is that sometimes the Government has a policy of control and sometimes a policy of de-control. While attending conferences, on platforms and in press statements our able Prime Minister, who calls himself that he is the best socialist in this land, says that the resources of the country will be the resources of the community and that the means of production will be nationalised. But in actual practice we see that sometimes we have control, sometimes we have de-control. And our able Finance Minister says that we must go for a mixed economy. Our weakness lies in the manner in which we follow the economic policy of this country. We must have quali-

fications and disqualifications of a mixed economy. Another difficulty is this that our poor Finance Minister is not all in all. In other countries the Finance Minister is the best person to judge the economic condition of the country, to formulate the plan and programme of the country and to look to all such matters. But here in deciding the policy of the country, in deciding the economic future of the country and the basic principles, the poor Finance Minister cannot do anything. He is not the final authority in economic policy or in economic matters. Therefore, while criticising the Finance Minister we must also look to his limitation.

Just one thing more. A friend who belongs to the tribal area has advised me that Rs. one crore have been given to the tribal areas, Rs. 70 lakhs have been given to Assam and other Provinces. I would request the Finance Minister to allot at least Rs. 30 lakhs to the tribal people of the Santal Parganas who are very backward and who require our help and assistance.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (Uttar Pradesh): When I rise to speak today I am very conscious of the fact that in the present financial situation the task before the Finance Minister was not an easy one. He has tried to do his best and he has tried to give a balanced Budget. The first or superficial impression of the Budget is that not many taxes have been imposed and that the distribution is fairly equitable, that it is rather a fair Budget though it has not produced any enthusiasm. But when we ponder over the Budget more carefully we see that in two important directions the Budget is far from satisfactory. We do not see anything in the Budget which gives us any assurance that the inflationary tendencies will be checked. Secondly, no relief has been given to the poor man. During the last three years this difficult portfolio has been held by three eminent financial heads, first, Shri Shanmukham Chetty who was considered a wizard in finance, then Dr. Matthai who disarmed his opponents with his dialectics in budgetary politics, and then Shri Chintaman Deshmukh whose cleverness is well-known and with his arithmetical jugglery he has produced a balanced Budget. But none of this has given us a direction and we do not know what is our economic policy.

In framing this budget he was guided by the same principles which formed the basis of the briefs he gave to the foreign rulers. His object was

[Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani]

somehow to balance the Budget and keep an appearance that the taxation has been equitably distributed. It is a cautious and conservative Budget. But what should be the sheet anchor of our budget policy? Ours is a country which has recently won its freedom. It is in an economic depression. There is complete apathy among the ordinary people for working for the development of the nation. Under such circumstances what should the Budget have aimed at? We should have tried to stir up the imagination of the masses, to spur them on to greater activity and to release a wave of enthusiasm which would have made up for the deficit in the financial position. Nothing of this is seen in this Budget. The cost of living is continuously registering an upward trend. All that the poor man and the middle class man finds is that he is saddled with a number of direct and indirect taxation. There is darkness before him; there is hardly any glimmer of light—there is nothing to enthuse him and hearten him to work for the national good.

The hon. Finance Minister laid emphasis on small savings. He told us that with the small man's saving much can be done for capital development in the future. But what inducement do we hold out to the small man to give his saving to the Government? There is no inducement, there is no incentive to work for the nation. We have been wooing and placating the capitalist for the last three years. I do not know what reason we have to believe that the capitalists will subscribe to the national loan or otherwise invest their money for purposes of national development or for the increase of production. We have been wooing them by giving them tax relief, by giving them concessions and other inducements. Even in the present income-tax proposal I should think that the higher income groups could have been taxed more.

Let us see the achievement of the Income-tax Investigation Commission. The Income-tax Investigation Commission after working all these months has secured only Rs. six crores. We know case after case where the assessment was made at a very high figure but the actual amount realized was very little. I know of a case where a firm expected that perhaps they would have to pay a crore but they thought they would bring down the figure to Rs. 40 lakhs but they actually paid Rs. eight lakhs. So we have been soft-peddling to the capitalists

with the hope that money will come from there. But there is little prospect of that for various reasons. The capitalist in India is not enterprising like the capitalists of the 19th century in England or the 20th century America. The character of the Indian capital is different from them. They are not industrialists. Very few are industrialists. Mainly the Indian capital is a business capital, is a commercial capital. They are not producers; they are speculators; they are buyers and sellers and commission earners. They are interested in carrying on whatever they have and hoard the wealth as much as possible. The threat of Communism makes the capitalist very reluctant to come forward and to launch on any new enterprise. I know of capitalists who have been converting their cash into jewellery and gold, who have been buying up property abroad. They are playing a very safe game. I do not know whether we will really get anything by pandering to them. I think the time has rather come to woo the common man and not the capitalists. We have been doing this because we suffer from a false sense of currency values. Gold and silver in the hands of capitalists are not the only capital available. The vast capital of human energy to which the Minister of State just referred and the spirit of sacrifice of the people, if these could be harnessed, I am sure it would improve the situation. Therefore what we need today is to rationalize the taxation structure, by shifting the burden of taxation to the upper-income groups, impose death duties and afford relief to the lower-income groups. That is the only way to appeal to the common man to rise to the occasion and work for the nation.

Turning to developments we find that we are thinking mainly of heavy industries or huge hydro-electric projects costing crores of rupees and which will take years to complete. In a country like ours with vast unemployment and little capital available, we should not think of these very huge industrial projects. On decentralized cottage industries very little capital is needed and the people are skilled in them. If these industries are developed, much of the absence of consumers goods that is felt in the country can be alleviated. But what do we see? I am very sorry to say that though we have got Departments in the Government for the development of cottage industries, yet in actual fact the industries are increasingly dying out. Let us take hand loom industry alone. It is a well known fact that everywhere thousands of looms are idle because

the yarn is not available. Take another industry—a few days back, I went to Panipat which was a flourishing centre for the blanket industry. I went to Muzaffarnagar which was another flourishing centre for the blanket industry. I saw the weavers sitting idle, absolutely starving because the price of wool is very high. We had been exporting raw wool and importing manufactured woollen goods. These people are out of employment for want of yarn. I can name so many other cottage industries which because of the defective policy of the Government are dying out.

Then, let us take these huge River Valley Projects. There too if we have smaller projects thousands of small generators can be of help. Just as in France, electricity can go to small areas, to villages and cottage industries can be developed to the great advantage of the country. Even for the bigger projects, if we plan the projects in such a way that we plan them by stages and at every stage we get some return, even that would go a long way either to check inflation or bring to the people their requirements quicker.

Then the hon. Finance Minister has referred to the economic measures that have been adopted to cut down the expenditure on the top heavy administration. We are very sorry to say that whatever little has been done has not satisfied us. We would have liked to see more. All that he has held out are very vague assurances that more would be done but we have very great doubt, because last year our experience was that again and again supplementary budgets were placed before us and more and more money demanded.

Another thing which we miss in the Budget—and it is rather time that we thought seriously of it—is development finance. There is absolutely nothing of that in the Budget. As it is, our financial resources are low and even those should not be frittered away on non-essential defective schemes of doubtful soundness, planning and priority. Much has been spoken about these and I therefore do not want to dilate on this point. We have invested Rs. 228 crores but as yet there is hardly any return and these have gone to increase the inflation.

The deficit in the Budget is an artificial deficit. We have however tried to meet this deficit by new taxation. What will be the effect of this taxation? The effect of this taxation will increase inflation. Here I would like to quote you an extract which I have

got from an expert on this matter. He says:

“Take for instance the surcharge on excise duty. For kerosene it can roughly be calculated at 1·6 pies per unit. This surcharge being less than the least currency, namely a pice, naturally the consumer will pay three pies per unit instead of 1·6 pies. This means that the difference of 1·4 pies per every unit goes to the middleman and not the exchequer. If we take into account the surcharge on consumption duties like tobacco, etc. and the withdrawal of the food subsidies, the increase in the cost of living would be near about three per cent. Taking the industrial sector alone, at the rate of three annas per point in the cost of living index, for industrial labour, the Government and private industries would be obliged to pay several crores of rupees by way of increased dearness allowance. Thus while on the one side the Government taxes, on the other hand, it pays much more for labour, etc.”

This is doubtful economy. Attempt should be made to peg down inflation and bring down the cost of living.

Shri Venkataraman (Madras): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to offer a few remarks on the annual stock-taking of our finances.

I find that our per capita national income has been steadily going down. Though in point of rupees, it has increased, in point of real income, it has gone down considerably. The national income in 1939-40 per capita was Rs. 72 while the national income in 1949-50 is 214. If we reduce this Rs. 214 to the cost of living index in 1939-40, you get the figure 61. It is no doubt true that during the last decade our national income has increased considerably. In fact, we stand the fifth in the world among the nations which have total volume of national income. The first is the U.S.A., the second is the U.S.S.R., the third is the U.K., the fourth is France and we are the fifth. Our total national income is about 19572 million dollars. Nevertheless, our per capita income, measured in terms of goods and services has gone down. It is a very serious matter for the Finance Minister to take into account and see whether measures could not be devised to really increase the per capita national income. I do not know of any other method than to plan the population of this country. I see

[Shri Venkataraman]

another country which is having hardly 1600 million dollars, that is New Zealand, with a very much smaller population tops the whole world in per capita national income as measured by international units.

Having said this, let me proceed to analyse some features of this Budget. I am afraid the Budget has been based on two assumptions. The first is that the saving and earning capacity has shifted from the top classes to the so called smaller men. This is a theory which has found very ready acceptance at the hands of the Finance Minister and which was also repeated by a number of hon. Members in this House. But, if we look into the facts, I am afraid, they prove the contrary. Out of our total national income of nearly 5,400 crores, 2,400 crores come from agriculture and other allied occupations, that is about 54 per cent. of our national income. Out of this 54 per cent., 75 per cent. are uneconomic holdings. I wonder whether the hon. Finance Minister says that these people who have uneconomic holdings have got an increased income such as to enable the State to tax or to get any money from. In fact, I have a small story; but because you have cut my time, I shall not take the time of the House by relating that. If you take the other class, namely, the workers, even there, the real income has gone down since 1939-40. The wage in 1939-40 as per Payment of Wages Act Returns is 287.5. In 1948-49, it is 889.7. During the same period, the variation in the cost of living has been from 100 to 334. That is the all India figure. The result is, if the wage is reduced to 1939-40 level, it will work to 266.3. That is to say, Rs. 21/- less than the 1939 level. I wonder if the hon. Finance Minister thinks that this class can bear additional taxation.

There is another theory which has been the basis of this Budget, as I take it; that is, there has not been sufficient response from the capital market, that all the tax reliefs that we have given were really wasted and that there has not been sufficient investment in this country. I want you to look at one or two points to see whether that statement is correct. I find that in the year 1950, insurance premia have increased as much as by 20 crores. I also find that the time-demand liabilities of the Banks show an increase from 854 to 880 crores, that is, an increase of 26 crores. This is in addition to the 30 crores which have been raised by Government loans. I also find that the debentures floated

by some of the fairly important industrial concerns in this country have been well subscribed. If that is so, it would be wrong to say that there has been very little capital formation in this country. My own reading is that sufficient inducement has not been given, and that the securities are not given the due price as would induce them to invest in Government securities. I would suggest for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister the experiment that was made by the Corporation of Madras recently. The loan which was floated at 3½ per cent. has been over-subscribed. I also find that the present market rate of interest would be really 3½ to 3¾ per cent. I am quite sure that if the Government made an honest effort to raise the money by offering sufficient inducement and interest at 3½ to 3¾ per cent., they would find enough capital forthcoming in the securities market.

Even assuming that the capital has been shy, is it right to transfer this burden of taxation on the poorer sections of the people? I remember during the last Budget discussions, the hon. Minister, in reply to the criticisms from this House that in spite of all the concessions he had offered, he is not likely to find enough capital coming in, said, "I know how to deal with that". I take it that if he were here, he would have said, "All the 15 crores and other concessions which were granted last year and in the years before have not proved useful and therefore let me abolish all those concessions which I gave". Very probably I would have urged upon him that the abolition of all distinction between earned and un-earned income in the levy of Super-tax and also the reduction of the super-tax rate which he brought about last year, have all been wasted on this community and therefore they should be restored, and that that would be proper way to look at the question rather than accept defeat and say, let us ask immediately the poorer sections of the community to pay.

Let me examine the effect of the Budget proposals as a whole on the working classes. A lot has been said in this House so far on behalf of the middle classes. I have worked out a few figures in relation to the items, quantities and weightage adopted by the frames of the cost of living index in Madras. I find that kerosene is selling at two annas nine pies. The new tax thereon is 1.6 pies. As there is no 1.6 pies, as the least coin of currency in this country is three pies the price will go to three annas. One

bundle of 25 bidis costs two annas. The tax thereon is 1·8 pies and the selling price would go to two annas three pies. Tobacco, including chewing tobacco and snuff which is selling at Rs. three a viss, will go up to Rs. 3-12-6. Travelling which also must be taken as an additional tax will increase from one anna eleven pies to two annas two pies. In the result, the total increase in the cost of living index for the average industrial worker would be 1·47 points as a result of excise duties alone. If you take into account the customs duties and the food subsidies which have been reduced to the States, you will find that the cost of food will go up. It has already gone up by eight annas a maund. The total effect of all this would be an increase of three points in the cost of living index. The cost of living index which is now 326·vill, I can assure the hon. Finance Minister, go up by three points in Madras, and still higher in Sholapur, Cawnpore, etc., where the cost of living is higher, with the result, that there will be a clamour, and a right clamour, by the working classes as well as by Government servants and other employees including employees in the Railways for increased dearness allowances. Far from really mopping up savings, and far from really absorbing the surplus money in the country, it will set in motion the spiral of inflation.

I would only add one word before I close my remarks, and that is to make one or two suggestions for revision of the taxes which I hope the hon. Finance Minister will take into consideration. Surcharge may be levied over incomes of Rs. 6,000 and it may be made progressive with 7½ per cent. and ten per cent. on higher income groups also. Let the customs and excise on kerosene be dropped as it is a burden on the poor man and this will also go a long way to reduce the cost of living.

प्रो० यशबन्त राय : माननीया सभा नेत्री जी, मैं इस बजट (Budget) का स्वागत करने के लिये नहीं खड़ा हुआ हूँ, बल्कि यह बताने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ कि बहुत सारे मੈम्बर (members) यह शिकायत कर चुके हैं कि देश में अनाज की कमी है, कपड़े की कमी है, लेकिन मैं आप को यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि देश में ला एंड आर्डर (law and order) की भी कमी है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : ठीक, बाह, बाह।

प्रो० यशबन्त राय : यह जो बजट आया तो अपने साथ मर्दूमशुमारी भी लाया और इस मर्दूमशुमारी ने पंजाब और पंजु में जो कुछ कराया और जो कुछ वहाँ हो रहा है उस का वर्णन करना मैं यहाँ पर ज़रूरी समझता हूँ। जो जुल्म और अत्याचार पाकिस्तान में हिन्दुओं और सिक्खों के साथ हुए थे वही आज हरिजनों के साथ पंजाब और पंजु में हो रहे हैं। मैं ने ८ तारीख को हाउस (House) के अन्दर एडजानमेंट मोशन (adjournment motion) रखा था जिस के जवाब में हमारे माननीय गृह कार्य मंत्री (होममिनिस्टर) ने यह विश्वास दिलाया था कि शीघ्र ही ऐक्शन (action) लिया जायेगा। लेकिन उस के बाद मेरे पास तारें आई हैं, चिट्ठियाँ आई हैं और चार पांच टैलिफोन (telephones) रोज आते हैं कि हरिजनों की जो वहाँ पर हालत है वह रोज बरोख खराब होती जाती है। ज़िला गुरदासपुर से मेरे पास एक खत आया है जिस में लिखा है कि गुंडे खुल्लमखुल्ला उन के घरों में घुस जाते हैं, उन की बहू बेटियों की इज़्ज़त वहाँ सुरक्षित नहीं है। साथ में यह भी चीज़ है कि उन के घरों के अन्दर जो खाने पीने का सामान था वह भी लूट लिया गया है, उन के मवेशी भूखे मर रहे हैं। वहाँ पुलिस जाती है तो वह भी उन गुंडों का साथ देती है, उन बेचारे हरिजनों की सुनवाई करने वाला वहाँ कोई नहीं है। पंजाब के ४ हरिजन ऐम० ऐल० ऐज़ का यह तार आया है :

"Life honour property of Harijans of Jullundur Division unsafe. Sikhs creating hell for Harijans over Hindi Gurmukhi question. Punjab Government unable to defend us from Sikh Tyranny.

[प्रो० यशवन्त राय]

Sikhs have totally boycotted Harijans in villages.

SUNDAR SINGH
GURBANTSINGH
SUNDER LAL
MEHARCHAND."

डिस्ट्रिक्ट कांग्रेस कमेटी (District Congress Committee) फतेहगढ़

जो कि पेंसू का एक ज़िला है, वहां से भी एक तार आया है। उस में लिखा है :

"Economic social boycott of scheduled castes upon refusal declaring Sikh religion language Punjabi in villages like Chinarthal Dhamote Ghurani continues. Men and cattle starving as sale of food fodder banned virtual prisoners in homes. PEPSU Government apathetic. Many officials teasing innocent Harijans. Prompt intervention needed declare economic boycott offence detain antisocial communalists under detention. District Congress Fatehgarh."

इसी तरह आज ही मुझे एक खत मिला है जो कि खन्ना से आया है। वहां पर पंजाब केसरी श्री लाला लाजपत राय के पोत्र श्री बलदेव राय रहते हैं, उन का यह लैटर (letter) है। वह लिखते हैं कि पेल जो की पेंसू के अन्दर है, वहां पर हरिजनों की हालत बहुत खराब हो रही है। मैं आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हरिजनों ने हिन्दी लिखवा दी या अपने आप को सिक्ख नहीं लिखवाया तो उन्होंने कौनसा जुल्म कर दिया। यहां पर और पंजाब में उन लोगों ने जो कि पंजाब के अन्दर सिक्ख स्टेट (Sikh State) कायम करना चाहते हैं लैंग्वेज कन्ट्रोवर्सी (language-controversy) शुरू की है। उन से हरिजन डरते हैं क्योंकि वह इस बात को अच्छी तरह जानते हैं कि देश के अन्दर अगर किसी काम्युनल (Communal) संस्था का राज्य हो गया तो यह उन के लिए अच्छा नहीं है। यह उन के लिए बहुत दुःख की बात होगी, इसलिये वह हर हालत में इस को अपोज (oppose) करना चाहते

हैं। बरना पंजाबी हमारी भाषा है, हम तो वेदों के समय से पंजाबी बोलते आये हैं। इस लैंग्वेज कन्ट्रोवर्सी (language-controversy) की तह में उन को कोई कांस्पिरेसी (conspiracy) नज़र आती है, इस लिये वह अपनी ज़बान पंजाबी नहीं दर्ब करवाना चाहते। इसलिए मैं गवर्नमेन्ट से इल्लिजा करूंगा कि जल्दी से जल्दी इस मामले में ऐक्शन (action) लेना चाहिये, क्योंकि वहां पर ला एंड आर्डर फेल (fail) हो रहा है। हम को कोई आशा नहीं है कि पंजाब गवर्नमेन्ट (Government) हमारी इसमें कुछ रक्षा कर सकती है, क्योंकि हमें इस बात का इल्म है कि पंजाब गवर्नमेन्ट के कुछ मिनिस्टर (minister) भी इस कांस्पिरेसी (conspiracy) के अन्दर शामिल हैं।

इस के बाद पेंसू की जो हालत है, मैं ने वहां का अभी दौरा किया है, वह बहुत ही बुरी है। लोगों को घरों के अन्दर ताले में वह बन्द कर देते हैं और उन की बहू बेटियों को ले जाते हैं, उन की बेइज़्जती करते हैं। इस तरह के अत्याचार वहां हो रहे हैं, जिन के सामने हमें शर्म आनी चाहिये। अगर हम ला एंड आर्डर मेन्टेन (Law and order maintain) नहीं कर सकते और इन गरीबों की रक्षा नहीं कर सकते तो यह गवर्नमेन्ट किस काम की है। अब तो लोग यहां तक कहते हैं कि अंग्रेजों के जमाने में राज्य अच्छा था, कोई सुनवाई तो होती थी, कोई पूछने वाला तो होता था, इस वज़ह अगर पुलिस को खबर कर दी जाती है तो वह गांवों में चले जाते हैं और उन गांवों में उन्हीं गुंडों के पास जा कर खाते हैं, पीते हैं, और उल्टे गरीब हरिजनों को मारते हैं और पीटते हैं। यह अत्याचार उन पर हो रहे हैं।

वहाँ पंजाब में जो कानून इंतकाल आराजी है उस के मुताबिक हरिजन ज़मीनों के मालिक नहीं हैं। देहात में जितनी ज़मीनें हैं उन के मालिक हरिजन नहीं हैं। खेतों में उन्हें टट्टी बैठने नहीं दिया जाता। जब हमारी औरतें वहाँ टट्टी बैठने जाती हैं तो उन को वहीं पर पकड़ लिया जाता है और मजबूर किया जाता है कि यहाँ इसी वक्त उस टट्टी को उठाओ और झोली में डाल कर ले जाओ। जालन्धर ज़िले में लादड़ा एक गांव है। वहाँ दो चार आदमी रात को गये और कहा कि अपनी लड़कियों को हमारे सामने पेश करो, हम उन को हिन्दी सिखायेंगे। लड़कियों की मां बाहर आती है, तो नेत्रा मार कर उस को वहीं खत्म कर दिया जाता है। इस तरह के हालात वहाँ पैप्सू में भी हुए हैं और हो रहे हैं और हम यहाँ पर शान्ति से बैठे हुए हैं। तो मैं आप की सेवा में अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्द सरकार इस तरफ़ जल्दी तवज्जह दे क्योंकि पैप्सू सरकार और पंजाब सरकार के मुताबिक तो मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ जैसे कि बिल्ली को दूध की रक्षा के लिए बैठा रखा है। बिल्ली दूध की क्या रक्षा कर सकती है। जब सन्तरी ही चोर हो जाये तो आप कैसे हिफ़ाजत कर सकते हैं और सुरक्षा कर सकते हैं। इस वास्ते मैं आप की सेवा में निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जल्दी से जल्दी आप को इधर कदम उठाना चाहिये और कोई न कोई ऐसा स्टेप (step) लेना चाहिये जिस से वहाँ ला एंड आर्डर (Law and order) कायम हो। वरना पंजाब एक बार्डर प्राविंस (Border-province) भी है। वह किसी दिन खतरा भी साबित हो सकता है। हरिजन वहाँ इतने दिनों

से इन तकलीफ़ों को बरदास्त कर रहे हैं अब वह यह समझने लग गये हैं कि उन की रक्षा करने वाला कोई रक्षक नहीं है। मैं आप की सेवा में अर्ज करूँ कि अब वह इकट्ठे हो गये और उन्होंने अगर अमृतसर से ले कर दिल्ली तक सात दिन Sweeper-strike कर दी तो सब की तबीअत ठीक हो जायेगी। उन के पास भी हथियार हैं, लेकिन वह महात्मा गान्धी के कहने के अनुसार उन का प्रयोग नहीं कर रहे हैं, वह जुलूमों को बरदास्त कर रहे हैं। अगर महात्मा गांधी आज जिन्दा होते तो वह आज इन हरिजनों के लिए ब्रत रख लेते। और अगर वह ब्रत न रखते तो इन हरिजनों के पास उन ज़िलों में चले गये होते और वहाँ पर ला एंड आर्डर कायम करवाते। लेकिन यह एक अप्रसोस की बात है कि हमारे बड़े बड़े लीडर (leader) जो हैं वह स्टेज (stage) पर जा कर महात्मा गांधी का नाम लेते हैं और उस को खूब एक्सप्लॉइट (exploit) करते हैं और जब हरिजनों की सेवा का सवाल आता है तो कोई इन्तज़ाम नहीं करते।

इसलिये मैं आखिर में गवर्नमेंट से विनय करूँगा कि गवर्नमेंट को सीरियस ऐक्शन (Serious Action) इस मामले में लेना चाहिये। और मैं तो यह समझता हूँ कि वहाँ मिलिटरी (Military) भेजी जानी चाहिये। वहाँ ला एंड आर्डर कायम कर सकती है, वरना इस के नतायज बहुत बुरे होंगे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Prof. Yashwant Rai (Punjab): The purpose of my standing here before the House is not to welcome this Budget but to say that while many of the Members complain that there is shortage of food and clothing in the country, I beg to submit that there is shortage of law and order as well in the country.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar):
Good. Well done.

Prof. Yashwant Rai: This Budget has brought census of the country in its turn. What has been done in Punjab and the Pepsu, and what still continues to happen there. I think it necessary to give you a description of all those things. The Harijans of Punjab and Pepsu are being subjected to those very atrocities these days which were perpetrated upon the Hindus and the Sikhs in Pakistan. I had tabled an adjournment motion in the House on the 8th instant and in reply to which the hon. Minister of Home Affairs had assured me that action would be taken very soon in this connection. But after this I have received telegrams and letters and I am still receiving four to five telephone calls daily informing me that the condition of the Harijans is worsening day by day. I have received a letter from the Gurdaspur district informing me that the *goondas* openly enter their houses and the honour of their women is not safe. All the food-stuffs and other edible things have been looted from their houses and their cattle are starving. Police goes there but instead of providing them with any sort of protection it only helps the *goondas*. There is nobody to listen to these poor Harijans. I have received the following telegram from the four Harijan M.L.A.'s of Punjab:

"Life, honour, property of Harijans of Jullundur division unsafe. Sikhs creating hell for Harijans over Hindi Gurmukhi Question. Punjab Government unable to defend us from Sikh tyranny. Sikhs have totally boycotted Harijans in villages.

SUNDAR SINGH,
GURBANT SINGH,
SUNDAR LAL,
MEHARCHAND"

I have received another telegram from the District Congress Committee Fatehgarh which is a district in the Pepsu. It says:

"Economic social boycott of scheduled castes upon refusal declaring sikh religion language Punjabi in villages like Chinartal, Dhamote, Ghurani continues. Men and cattle starving as sale of food fodder banned virtual prisoners in homes. Pepsu Government apathetic. Many officials teasing innocent Harijans. Prompt intervention needed declare economic boycott offence,

detain antisocial communists
under detention. District Cong-
ress Fatehgarh."

In the same way I have received another letter from Khanna. This is from Shri Baldev Rai, grandson of the late Lala Lajpat Rai, the Lion of Punjab, who resides there. He writes that the condition of the Harijans in Pail, which is a town in Pepsu, is becoming very bad. I want to ask you that if the Harijans have given their language as Hindi in the census reports and have not got themselves registered as Sikhs, what catastrophe they have brought? The language controversy has been started here as well as in the Punjab by those very persons who want to establish a Sikh State there. The Harijans are afraid of those persons, because they know it well that if any communal organization came into power in the country, it would not be good for them. It would be a sad State of affairs for them. This is why they want to oppose it in every way; otherwise Punjabi is our language, we have been speaking Punjabi since the vedic age. They see some conspiracy at the bottom of this language controversy; this is why they do not want to have their language registered as Punjabi. So I beg to request the Government to take an immediate action in this matter, because law and order is almost on the verge of failure there. We have no such hopes that the Punjab Government can give us protection, because we understand that some Ministers of the Punjab Government too are involved in this conspiracy.

The condition in the Pepsu, which I visited only recently, is also very bad. They lock the people in their own houses, lift their women and rape them. Such sort of atrocities are being committed there and for which we should feel ashamed. If we fail to maintain law and order and are unable to protect these people, I ask what is the use of having this Government? Now we have heard people saying that the Government was good in the British days because someone or the other at least listened to their grievances. Today if we go and report to the police, they go to the villages and take their meals etc. in the houses of those very *goondas*, and instead of giving protection to the Harijans they beat them. These are the atrocities that are being perpetrated upon them.

The Harijans are not the proprietors of land in Punjab according to Land Transfer Act. The Harijans are not the owners of any land in any village. They are not being allowed to ease themselves in the fields. When our women-folk go there to ease themselves, they are caught and are forced to pick the excrement and take that away with them. There is a village named Laddah in Jullundur District. About four persons went there in the night and asked the villagers to bring their daughters to them, sarcastically adding that they would teach them Hindi. A mother of girls came out and was put to death with a single stroke of a lance. Such are the conditions which were prevalent in Punjab and Pepsu while we are sitting here peacefully. I beg to submit that the Government of India should pay immediate attention to this State of Affairs because with regard to the Pepsu or the Punjab Government I can say this much that they will look after them as a cat would look after milk. How can a cat preserve milk? When the policeman turns a thief, how can you guard and how can you expect protection and safety there. Therefore I would like to request you to please take measures in this connection as soon as possible. Some step should be taken, so that law and order could be restored there. Punjab is a border Province and can prove dangerous at any time. The Harijans have been suffering there since long and they have began to understand that there is none to protect them. I would submit that they have become united now and if they were to begin a seven days' sweepers' strike from Amritsar right up to Delhi, everyone will come to his senses. They too have got arms, but they do not use them because they follow the advice of Mahatma Gandhi. They are bearing every sort of suffering. Had Mahatma Gandhi been alive today he would have kept a fast for these people. Even if he would not have fasted, he would have at least gone to these people in those districts and would have compelled the authorities to restore law and order there. But it is really sad that our top ranking leaders who go on chanting the name of Mahatma Gandhi many a time in their speeches and exploit it, do not put his advice into practice when the question of Harijans comes before them.

So I should close my speech by requesting the Government to take serious action in this matter. I think

that military should be sent there, as only military is in a position to restore law and order, otherwise the results would be very grave.

Shri M. L. Gupta (Hyderabad):
The House has been criticising the Finance Minister for adopting the policy he has adopted in his Budget. But I do not think that following the tradition that has been followed here for the last three years, he could have done anything else. For the last three years we have been giving remissions to capitalists and trying to balance the Budget by indirect taxation. I do not think indirect taxation is unjustified for he has got a safe margin of 51 crores which has to be made up by such taxation. People are saying that capital is shy. But we must find out why it is shy if it is really shy. We cannot borrow more money because our sterling loans have increased. From 949.77 crores in 1939, it has come to as much as 2102.73 crores. We cannot go on increasing our borrowing but must try other resources and so the Finance Minister is justified in meeting capital demands from the revenue side also. Some Members say that capital is shy because the Government has not made its policy clear and people do not trust the position and they feel that our economic policy is not correct. But for this they themselves are responsible. They create such conditions that we are forced to change our policy. It is not that we willingly change our policy but conditions are created in such a manner that we are forced to change our policy in the interest of the people at large but it is unfortunate that they take advantage of it.

I do not favour Mr. Venkataraman's suggestion that we should borrow at the rate of 3½ per cent, because our liability will go on increasing. We should not increase our rate of interest.

As regards frustration much has been said. I remember a Member saying that in the 20th century by pronouncing the word corruption, corruption does not set in. I entirely agree with him. But by saying "frustration" we do not help the country. Frustration will lead to the destruction of the country and nothing less than that. If we want that the country should survive we have to create in people a sense of hope. If there are mistakes they may be criticised but it is no use saying merely frustration. It will not

[Shri M. L. Gupta]

help. It is rightly said that it is our leaders who are responsible for the demoralisation and Acharya Kriplani is one of them. But I do feel that even though the Finance Minister may be following the tradition, I do not think the House should allow itself to follow the tradition by giving remission to the capitalists. We should increase the taxes on them. They are misusing the concessions given to them. The House should ask the Finance Minister to withdraw the concessions. In view of the fact that the Korean war is on and the stockpiling by other nations has raised the prices, the profits have increased and the Finance Minister should consider the proposition of levying an excess profits tax also. Not only have the capitalists taken advantage of these concessions but they have played a dirty trick with the country. I say this because taking advantage of weaknesses of price control and export control they have tried to build up their reserves outside the country. The capital formation which we expected has not materialised. As a matter of fact we find that the country has been put to a loss of capital as well as foreign currency which should have gone to build up our capital. In that our services did not act in time. I feel that something like 30 crores has gone out of the country which ought to have been stopped and the capitalists should not have been allowed to take it out. I am surprised to find that industrialists of this country are trying to find places outside the country for investment. Certain capitalists are going over to other countries to start industries. If they are trying to misuse the concessions given to them in that way it would be better that Parliament does not allow them to enjoy those facilities.

As regards the services, Parliament has been considerate both to the capitalists and the services. The services are the remnants of the past regime and the set-up they have been brought up in taught them to look down upon the people and not mix with them. They still carry those feelings in their minds. I have come into contact with them and they are not satisfied with things as they are. They think that the Ministers are ignorant and are not as educated as they are and so they have a grouse on that account. They have no heart in their work. They should realise that this attitude is not correct. They were working under a machinery before and are working under the same

machinery now but it is in their own interest that they should run the machinery efficiently and in the interest of the country and its people. If they do not do it they will make the Government a failure and will discredit it. But they should know that they are being watched and if Government fails due to their inefficiency their future is not safe. I want them to serve the country in a better way and I hope there will be no more corruption and in future we will not hear such muddles as the fertiliser, jute, sugar and pre-fab factory muddles. I hope they will not put up such a poor show as they have done so far and bring discredit to the country by their actions.

As regards food control, the controls have not been helpful. Not only have we failed but we have demoralised the country. Every one of us knows that every other man is going to the black market to meet his needs. Rather we have converted the whole country into a demoralised country of black-marketeers and their supporters. The sooner we put an end to it and encourage the free market the better it would be. I do not ask that immediately there should be no control. Let us limit our commitments to the minimum and side by side allow the free market to develop. Do not let every other man meet his basic needs in the black-market: it is criminal. Let us at least do that much in this regard.

Turning to my own State I do feel that under article 371 we have received officers from the States Ministry to manage the State better. But I am constrained to say that they have not been able to rise to the occasion. The Economy Committee Report of Gorwalla says that in their interest to please the States Ministry what a damage they have done to the Hyderabad State. In the matter of subvention the report says:

"The income-tax figure is the average of 45 for 1357F. and 160 for 1358F. (The actual figure for 1358F. is 178 and not 160). Income-tax was introduced in Hyderabad in the second six months of 1357F. The machinery for collection had still to gather momentum. The figure of 45 cannot be regarded as representative. It is wrong arithmetically. If the receipts for 18 months are taken and divided the average obtained is for 9 months and not for 2 months."

This is how our subvention was purposely reduced.

As regards the expenditure side we said that our military expenditure was two crores. In actual fact it is not so. This is what Codwalla says:

“The military expenditure on sanctioned I.S.F. units has been taken at 2 crores.....

It is understood that the total strength of the I.S.F. Units being taken over by the Government of India is only about 5,400

men. The expenditure on this, we understand, cannot be more than 80 lakhs.”

On the expenditure they have taken two crores whereas on the income side they have manipulated and reduced the figure. This is one example in what way they are working in Hyderabad. Is it management or mismanagement, I would like to ask?

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 14th March, 1951.