

Wednesday
23rd March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES:

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS).

Wednesday, 23rd March, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

TRADE WITH TIBET.

*1316. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any trade treaty exists between Tibet and India?

(b) What are the articles mostly exported from India to Tibet and vice versa, and what are the transport and communication facilities between India and Tibet?

(c) Is it a fact that Tibet Government had asked for geological survey of Tibet to explore possibilities of finding gold, copper, sulphur and borax and if so, with what result?

(d) Have any terms been offered by the Tibetan Government to the Government of India for starting transport services and constructing roadways within the Tibetan territory under certain conditions?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. The trade relations between India and Tibet are governed by the Anglo-Tibetan Trade Regulations of 1914.

(b) Two statements showing the principal commodities exported to and imported from Tibet are laid on the table of the House.

As regards transport facilities between India and Tibet, the position is as follows:

There are no through motor transport facilities for the exchange of goods between India and Tibet. The two road connections to Tibet are as follows:

(i) *National Highway No. 22* i.e. *Ambala-Kalka-Simla Shipki Pass*.—This pass is about 203 miles beyond Simla. Upto Narkanda (40 miles beyond Simla) the road is motorable. Beyond Narkanda there is a mule track which continues into Tibet.

(ii) *National Highway No. 31-A* i.e. *Siliguri-Gangtok (Sikkim)*.—This is motorable throughout. From Gangtok there are two mule tracks (used as trade routes into Tibet) which go through the Nathula and Jelepia passes on the boundary to Sikkim and Bhutan.

As regards communication facilities between India and Tibet, the position is as follows:

Postal.—The Indian Post and Telegraph Department maintains three post offices at Yatung, Pharijong and Guangtse. Addressees in other towns of Tibet generally arrange to receive delivery from these post offices through their agents who re-post such articles at the corresponding Tibetan post offices for places in the interior of Tibet, after affixing Tibetan postage stamps on them. There is a mail service between India and China, and Tibet gets some of its mails via China.

Telegraphs.—A telegraph line exists upto Lhasa in Tibet via Darjeeling, Yatung and Gyantse and telegrams are exchanged between India and Tibet over this line, but there is no telephone communication.

(c) and (d). No.

STATEMENT I

Commodities exported from India to Tibet

- (1) Cotton Piecegoods.
- (2) Dyas.
- (3) Gun.
- (4) Iron.
- (5) Salt.
- (6) Tea.
- (7) Provision (Food stuff).
- (8) Metals (other than Iron).
- (9) Sugar.
- (10) Narcotics (tobacco leaf), cigarettes, etc.
- (11) Hides and skins.
- (12) Stationery.

STATEMENT II

Commodities imported into India from Tibet

- (1) Wool raw.
- (2) Yak tail.
- (3) Woollen yarn.
- (4) Woollen carpet.
- (5) Skin furs.
- (6) Minerals (borax, salts, etc.).
- (7) Livestock.
- (8) Food stuffs.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the principal articles which are exported by India to Tibet and imported by India from Tibet?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Exports from India to Tibet mainly consists of cotton piecegoods, iron, salt, tea, sugar etc. and imports from Tibet into India mainly consist of raw wool, yak tails, woollen yarn, skin furs and so on.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the shortest route from the U.P. border to Tibet and how many miles is it?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I am not in a position to give that information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister said that the reply to parts (c) and (d) is in the negative. May I know if any other persons or some experts

have sent a proposal for a geological survey of this area of Tibet stating that there is gold and other metals available there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not aware of any such proposal.

Shri V. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any of these goods are imported from Tibet on border?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Minister said that the trade between Tibet and India is governed by the Pact of 1914. May I know whether there has been any revision of that agreement since then or the same pact still continues?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The same continues.

Shri R. K. Sidhya: May I know whether a well known Lama from Lhasa told one of our Constituent Assembly Members, Mr. Govind Pant, that there is ample field in this area for exploring copper, silver and other metals, if a geological survey is conducted? May I know if the Honourable Minister's attention has been drawn to this?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I know nothing about it.

EXPENDITURE ON ATOMIC RESEARCH

*1317. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what expenditure has so far been incurred by Government for doing atomic research in the country?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The expenditure during the current financial year for research on Atomic Energy will be about rupees three lakhs.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know the names of the scientists in charge of the Atomic Research Department and the location of the Department?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The location of the department is in Delhi, that is it is a part of the department of Scientific Research. The Atomic Energy Commissioners are Dr. H. C. Bhabha, Chairman, Dr. Bhatnagar and Dr. Krishnan.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know whether it is possible to maintain a connecting link or a close relation between the Atomic Research Department of our country and that of other countries of the Commonwealth?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is rather a curious question for me to answer. Naturally we wish to maintain close links with other scientific organisations and other atomic energy commissions as far as possible?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the research in our country directed towards the destructive or constructive aspects of atomic energy?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is directed towards the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that atomic research in perhaps the U. K. and definitely in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. is kept a top secret, how is it proposed by Government to train our scientists in nuclear fission and atomic research in general?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are certain parts of atomic energy research which are considered to be absolutely secret even as between allied countries. There are other parts which are relatively secret, that is to say, several countries are in possession of those facts, nevertheless they are treated

more or less as secret. So there are grades of secrecy: some parts which are absolutely secret, as I said, are not available to any other country and other parts which are relatively secret may be available to those who co-operate together.

Seth Govind Das: Which are the countries that are mainly helping us in our research so far as atomic energy is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is hardly a question which it would be fitting for me to answer. When we are dealing with a number of countries and seek their co-operation one cannot mention the main countries in that way.

Mr. Tajarul Husain: Is there any factory for manufacturing atom bombs in India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. We are not thinking in terms of atom bombs. We are thinking in terms of processing various minerals out of which atomic energy comes. Probably we shall be subjecting these minerals to this processing and use the energy for research work.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoortay Rao: Is there any proposal to start an atomic energy research institute in India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand the question. We are carrying on atomic research and this will grow. Probably the headquarters of the research will be in Bombay.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: To the knowledge of the Prime Minister how many countries are in possession of this atomic energy?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I regret I am not in possession of that information.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mitra: May I know if the Government of India is financing the study and research of nuclear physics in the different universities in India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mitra: Outside the University Science College, Calcutta, are there any other universities financed by the Government to carry on research work in nuclear physics?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not give the list of names but I believe there are some universities where such research is being carried on and they are helped by the Government of India.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mitra: Is there any co-ordination?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the Government is contemplating to invite German scientists to assist in our atomic research?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no present intention of any particular person like that being invited but we are continually thinking in terms—not merely in respect of atomic energy but of scientific work generally—of inviting eminent scientists from abroad.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know whether we have any cyclotron or any such instrument for atomic fission or breaking up the atom?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know there is one cyclotron in Calcutta. I am not quite clear whether there is any such apparatus anywhere else in India.

FORMATION OF OVERSEAS SHIPPING CORPORATION

*1318. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether there is a plan to form an Overseas Shipping Corporation to ply merchant vessels to the Middle-East and the Far-East?

(b) What is the capital of the proposed Corporation and how is it proposed to be issued?

(c) What is the gross tonnage proposed to be acquired for the Corporation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) to (c). Yes, I would refer the honourable member to my answer to Starred Question No. 435 on the 16th February 1949, and its supplementaries.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the necessary technical personnel needed for running this Corporation will be obtained before this Corporation is started?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Everything necessary will be done. As a matter of fact the agreement with the proposed Managing Agents is yet to be finalised and when the time is ripe the question of engaging suitable personnel will certainly be considered.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I ask whether the technical personnel are being trained for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: For which purpose? I cannot quite follow the question.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: For helping the Shipping Corporation.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know what kind of training is contemplated. The scheme contemplates a Board of Directors on which the Government will have a majority. Then the management—the immediate management—would be entrusted to an experienced shipping concern. I think that should suffice for all practical purposes.

COMPENSATION TO INDIANS FOR LOSSES IN BURMA AND THE FAR-EAST
IN WORLD WAR II

*1319. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to get adequate compensation for losses sustained by Indian nationals in Burma, and other countries of the Far-East during the last war?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): Claims for compensation for losses sustained by Indian nationals in Burma, Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Siam and Philippines have been registered by the respective War Damage Claims Commissions of those countries. In respect of damage sustained in China, Indo-China and Netherlands East Indies, the claims of our nationals have been included in the repatriations claims against Japan before the Far Eastern Commission. No compensation has, however, actually been paid by any country. Adequate representations have been made by the Government of India, where necessary, to the authorities concerned to ensure that, in payment of compensation, Indian claimants get their due share.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know the total losses suffered by Indian nationals, in the countries referred to?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: That is extremely difficult to give off-hand. There are different figures for different countries. For example with regard to the Far

Eastern countries it is not possible to get an actual estimate as the Indian nationals there themselves have not yet submitted complete figures. With regard to certain countries figures can be had like Burma and Malaya.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the losses referred to in this question pertain to the period before the British retreat from these countries or after their re-entry into them?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The claims for damages are for damages done during the war, that is before the re-entry of the British.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: Has any assurance been received from any of the countries, Burma, Malaya etc., in regard to the compensation?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: With regard to Burma and Malaya negotiations are pretty far advanced and there will be a decision very soon. With regard to other countries I am sorry to say that the negotiations are not yet so far advanced.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is there any time-limit fixed within which the claims are to be made?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: That depends on the different countries. In regard to certain countries the War Damage Claims Commission of those countries has put a certain time-limit by which the claims could be put in. But it is not possible to say the same with regard to all countries. Every country has made its own rules.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Am I to understand that losses were sustained by our nationals during the period between the British retreat from these countries and their re-entry into them?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes, that is right.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister kindly give the dates for the various countries so that people may make claims by the specified dates?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I think the dates have already expired. The dates were given and the claims have been put in most of the countries, but the figures for all the countries are not available. Figures for some countries like Burma and Malaya are available but for other countries we have not been able to get the figures.

SAFETY OF INDIANS IN MALAYA

*1330. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the life and property of Indians in Malaya have been jeopardised during the recent disturbances there; if so, to what extent; and

(b) whether any help has been requested by or rendered to Britain from our country in quelling the disturbances?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The total loss of life sustained by Indians (civilians and police) in the Federation of Malaya upto 31st December, 1949 was 26 and the total number of injured was 49. 321 Indians were detained under the Emergency Regulations in Malaya upto the end of January 1949, of whom 58 were repatriated to India, at their own option.

There has been no appreciable loss of property of Indians. Indian labour lines and residences on certain estates have been destroyed by terrorists of which details are not available.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the British Colonial Office been moved in the matter of compensation to the relatives or dependants of the victims killed in these disturbances?

Dr. B. V. Keekar: Where compensation is due—with regard to non-Indians also—there is a general rule. There we certainly press the claims of Indians also for compensation.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Government made an approach already?

Dr. B. V. Keekar: It has been made as I said, with regard to those to whom compensation is due. But there might be cases of loss of life in which compensation according to the laws of the land might not be due.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are these disturbances political in nature?

Dr. B. V. Keekar: Yes, they are political in nature, rather terrorist in nature.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that Gurkha soldiers are employed by Britain there for quelling these disturbances?

Dr. B. V. Keekar: I am not aware whether Gurkha soldiers are employed. Might be.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are those types of cases where compensation is not due and cannot be claimed?

Dr. B. V. Keekar: I am sorry I would not be able to reply that off-hand; I would require notice.

ALLOCATION OF REFUGEES TO PROVINCES AND STATES

*1321. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the present position of the allocations of refugees made to various provinces and states?

(b) What steps are being taken to complete such allocations by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Wherever any Region has a larger number of displaced persons than its quota, arrangements are being made to move the excess to other regions.

STATEMENT

Number of displaced persons allocated to various Provinces and States.

S.No.	Name of Province/State	Number of refugees allocated (in lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	(a) East Punjab (b) East Punjab States	13	(Urban) plus Except for Bhi- the entire rural wani Tehsil of population of Hissar District West Punjab and rural population of Pun- jabi extraction from other parts of Wes- tern Pakistan.

1	2	3	4
2	United Provinces		4
3	Bombay		5
4	C. P.		3
5	Bihar		0.5
6	Orissa		0.25
		(to begin with)	
7	Assam		2.5
8	Delhi		2.5
9	Ajmer-Merwara		0.5
10	Himachal Pradesh		
11	Kutch		
12	Madhya Bharat Union	2	
13	Matsya Union	1	
14	Rajasthan Union	1	
15	Saurashtra Union	1	
16	Vindhya Pradesh		0.5
17	Jaipur		1
18	Bikaner		0.5
19	Jodhpur		0.5
20	Baroda State		
21	Jaisalmer		
22	Rampur State		

Seth Govind Das: Is there any uniformity in every Province and state where these refugees are rehabilitated, as far as their allowances are concerned?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not follow the question. So far as their relief is concerned, there is a uniformity. As regards rehabilitation, schemes are submitted by the different Governments and these are considered and money is given by way of loan or grant.

Seth Govind Das: Are these allowances given to the different refugees according to the circumstances and market rates and other things prevailing in those parts of the country or the Provinces where they are rehabilitated?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not yet understand as to what the honourable member means by allowances. We do not give any allowances. Those who are in the camps are given food and clothing of those who are outside camps, are granted loans for their rehabilitation.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Will the Government see that before it sends more refugees to the Provinces those who have already gone there are properly rehabilitated?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Government is certainly taking steps to see that they are properly rehabilitated. But there are occasions when people come from Pakistan and we have to move them to one province or other; it is not possible to keep them at Waga. We have to move them to camps where the Government has full arrangement for their feeding and clothing.

Shri Dashbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is not a fact that these allocations have so far been paper allocations only and nothing has been done in accordance with these allocations so far?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In regard to certain Provinces they are no doubt paper allocations. For instance C. P. was to take three lakhs but up till now they have taken not more than one lakh. But in regard to certain other areas they are not merely paper allocations. They are making arrangements for taking them.

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya: Do Government intend to send some more refugees to the Matsya Union, and if so how many?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes. There is about two lakh acres of land available there and the Central Government is taking charge of that land and sending displaced persons there under the direct control and supervision of the Central Government.

Seth Govind Das: Do Government receive periodical reports from the various Provinces where these refugees have been sent, and will the Government be pleased to state what percentage of those sent to various Provinces have been rehabilitated up till now?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am afraid we have not been receiving regular periodical reports from the different Governments notwithstanding the mandate.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what proportion of the expenditure is borne by the Centre and what proportion, if any, by the Provinces?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As far as relief and providing of technical education is concerned, the Government of India pays the whole amount of expenditure incurred. As regards rehabilitation schemes and loans for housing and rehabilitation, the money is provided by the Centre and the arrangement is that the losses will be shared on a 50-50 basis.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire of the Honourable Minister what is the latest position with regard to the Provinces of Bihar and Assam as regards reception of refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We have allocated a certain number of refugees to Bihar and Assam. So far as Assam is concerned, they have got about 2½ lakhs of refugees but I am sorry to state that they are not taking any steps to rehabilitate them. Their contention is that if they start camps then it will be a permanent responsibility on their hands. Otherwise they will be rehabilitated themselves. We have pressed on Assam to prepare schemes for providing houses wherever necessary.

Shri B. K. Sidhu: May I know what is the allocation of refugees to Madras and whether that allocation has been completed?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There was no allocation for Madras but all the same there are about 10,000 refugees there. We have written to all the Provinces saying that wherever there are refugees they have to be rehabilitated whether we have made allocation or not. Allocations were made with regard to Provinces and States where the displaced persons were likely to go.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether it is a fact that the refugees are refusing to go to the Provinces or States where they are asked to go, and is it also a fact that it is not for want of willingness on the part of some of the Provinces that these allocations are not strictly enforced?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In certain cases, it is true that refugees have refused to go to certain Provinces, but in such cases we can refuse to help them. But there are also Provinces who have refused to make arrangements for them. For instance, in the case of Madras the Provincial Government had offered to rehabilitate about 10,000 persons at the very beginning. 10,000 persons are there in relief camps now but no steps have been taken to rehabilitate them. I have already addressed the Honourable Premier and he has written back stating that he is taking steps to rehabilitate them.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the number of refugees allocated for rehabilitation in Matsya Union is larger or smaller than the number of evacuees who left this area?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I think it is smaller.

VALUATION OF EVACUEE'S PROPERTY

†*1322. **Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state at what stage the valuation of the evacuees' property is?

(b) What is the total value of the properties of the evacuees who left Pakistan for India so far valued?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) As regards urban immovable property the honourable member is referred to my answer to part (a) of Starred Question No. 1181 by Shri B. N. Munavalli on the 3rd February, 1949. As regards agricultural property no agreement has yet been concluded with Pakistan Government, but the question is under the consideration of both the Dominions.

(b) Does not arise.

EXPORT LICENCES

†*1323. **Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total number of export licences that were issued during the last financial year province-wise?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Statistics of the number of export licences issued are not maintained province-wise and the labour and time involved in collecting these statistics will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AMONG INDUSTRIAL LABOURERS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

†*1324. **Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any attempt has been made by the Government of India with respect to the Centrally administered areas to organise co-operative societies among the industrial labourers?

(b) If so, how many such societies have been formed and of what nature?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Attempts to organise co-operative societies among industrial workers have been made in Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) (i) Forty, two and four such co-operative societies have so far been registered in Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and Himachal Pradesh respectively. In Delhi there has been no response from industrial workers.

(ii) The nature of the co-operative societies in Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and Himachal Pradesh is as follows:

<i>Ajmer-Merwara</i>		
Weavers	.	27
Woolworkers	.	1
Wool grading	.	4
Narishalas	.	5
Brimakers	.	1
Tin and iron Fabricators	.	1
Chappal Manufacturers	.	1
TOTAL	.	40

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Coop—		
Plantation (Coffee)	1	
Motor Transport Industry	1	
	TOTAL	2
Special Funds—		
Industrial Societies of Weavers, Oilmen and Shoemakers	3	
Industrial Society of Labourers consisting of Masons and Car-penters	1	
	TOTAL	4

SELECTION AND TRAINING OF INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

*1325. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme to start a school for training Indian Foreign Service personnel?

(b) How many candidates were accepted by the Public Service Commission during the year 1948 for the Foreign Service?

(c) Were all these candidates selected through open competition?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Government have no special scheme for starting a separate school for training Indian Foreign Service personnel. They are, however, given some special training at the Indian Administrative Service Training School in Delhi. After this training, which normally lasts three months, they are sent abroad for further training. On their return, they receive practical training in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce.

(b) and (c). Normally all candidates will be selected through open competition. But in view of the urgent demand for personnel to fill Foreign Service appointments, the Federal Public Service Commission was asked to select candidates suitable for the Foreign Service. They supplied a graded list of 188 candidates for this purpose. All these were candidates between the ages of 26 and 45 and had been graded as a result of interview by the Commission. Out of these 37 have been selected for appointment to the Indian Foreign Service. In addition six candidates were appointed to the Indian Foreign Service in 1948 as a result of the competitive examination held in 1947.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: How many of them were taken from ex-military personnel?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There were some such personnel selected also but I am not able to give the figures off-hand.

Shri B. K. Shiva: For the purpose of selection, may I know if any qualifications are prescribed, and if so what are those qualifications?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There are certain standard qualifications which are laid down for such selections, for example for candidates for the Indian Administrative Service. In the same way certain qualifications are necessary for candidates for the Indian Foreign Service. I am sorry I have not got the details with me here.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: In regard to (a), are there any special experts in foreign affairs attached to the Indian Administrative Training School to give special training on foreign affairs to these boys?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: In the Indian Administrative Service Training School they get experience with regard to general administration. It is when they come to the Ministry of External Affairs that they get their training in foreign affairs, but they have to undergo a pretty long period in the External Affairs Ministry.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that the Defence Ministry is going to start a school in the near future where different languages would be taught, and is there any proposal for teaching different languages to these candidates before they are sent to different countries in order to acquaint them with the language of the country where they are sent?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There is a school which has been actually started—it is not going to be started, it has been started already—in the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of External Affairs is also collaborating with the Ministry of Defence in running the School of Languages and many of the candidates or even officials of the External Affairs Ministry are sent to this School for learning foreign languages.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: To which country are these candidates of the Administrative Service sent for further training, and who foots their bill?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The bill is footed by the Government and the candidates are sent to various countries according to necessity.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Has the External Affairs Ministry got any special experts in foreign affairs to judge whether the students are fully qualified or not, or is their experience only from the time when the Department was started?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The top officials of the External Affairs Ministry are certainly experts in foreign affairs—otherwise they would not be at the top there—and they are to judge whether the students are qualified or not.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I know whether the competition referred to in answer to (c) is open to candidates from Indian States also, and if so is it on the same basis as is applicable to the students from the Provinces?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I think it is now open to students from Indian States also—it was not open formerly.

SUBSIDY TO NEPAL

*1336. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the amount of annual subsidy paid by the Government of India to Nepal?

(b) Is it a fact that this money is also meant for the welfare of the disabled Gurkha soldiers released from the Government of India service?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The annual subsidy paid by the Government of India to Nepal is rupees ten lakhs.

(b) No conditions are attached to the payment which make it obligatory on the Nepalese Government to expend the money on any specific purpose.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: Is it a fact that the Government of India very recently paid a sum of Rs. 57 lakhs to the Government of Nepal?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am not aware.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: What is the object of this annual subsidy of Rs. 10 lakhs?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The Government of Nepal is a friendly government, and we think that will help them.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I add something to the information given by my colleague.

This subsidy was fixed at the end of the first World War, presumably for services rendered during that war. That is continuing. Subsequently, at the end of the second World War, a fresh subsidy of a similar amount, I think was agreed to. Then this was capitalised when a lump-sum payment was made to the Nepalese Government. That was done by the previous government. All this was done by the previous government. I do not know what this sum of Rs. 57 lakhs is. But a lump-sum far exceeding Rs. 57 lakhs was paid to the Nepal Government, may be in 1945-46, probably in 1946. That sum was supposed to be spent in some productive scheme, river valley schemes, etc.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister inform the House after making enquiries? I mean about this Rs. 57 lakhs; may be between Rs. 50 lakhs and Rs. 60 lakhs.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: That sum has been paid. If the honourable member wants to know the exact sum, that can be found out. The decision to pay a certain big lump-sum was taken by the previous Government, and it was capitalised. The exact amount can be found out.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if this subsidy paid by the British Government is now, after partition, shared by Pakistan Government as well?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In spite of the new set-up after the 15th August 1947, and the new relations between India and Nepal, has not this matter been reconsidered by the successor Government of the British regime?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It has been reconsidered, and the subsidy of Rs. 10 lakhs is a re-adjusted subsidy. It was not the same before.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has it been reduced or enhanced?

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: May I know if the Government is aware that near about fifteen per cent. of the Gurkhas serving under the Government of India in the Gurkha Regiment are persons actually born in India. So I am asking if the Government propose to consider this fact, in relation to the subsidy given to the Government of Nepal?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is an agreement arrived at between two Governments—the Government of India and the Government of Nepal. The Government of India then was not the present government, but the previous government. But normally speaking, the successor government honours such agreements, and therefore we decided to honour that agreement.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the fact that the Gurkhas were employed in fighting wars for the U.K.—imperialistic wars; why has not the Government approached the U. K. Government to share this subsidy?

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there any agreement that a certain number of Gurkhas will be supplied to the Indian army every year?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are a number of Gurkha troops in the Indian Army. That has been done by arrangement, or if you like, with the knowledge of the Nepalese Government.

PURCHASE OF MACHINE TOOLS BY GOVERNMENT

*1327. **Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how many machine tools were purchased by Government for (i) railway; (ii) military; (iii) industries; and (iv) agriculture departments in the years 1947 and 1948?

(b) How many of them are of Indian manufacture and how many of foreign manufacture?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: (a) It is not possible to give the information in terms of numbers of machine tools. The value of purchases is as follows:

	1947	1948
	Rs.	Rs.
Railways	63,11,356	2,16,34,730
Defence	20,189	1,33,151
Agriculture	13,688	1,36,152
	<u>63,45,133</u>	<u>2,19,04,033</u>

Information regarding purchases by the Industries Department is not available but the value is not likely to be appreciable.

(b) Such separate figures for each of the three Departments are not available, but taking the purchases made by the Government of India on behalf of all indentors, the position is:

	1947	1948
	Rs.	Rs.
Indian manufacture	3,18,674	12,90,375
Foreign manufacture	1,02,18,386	2,26,33,566
	<u>1,05,37,060</u>	<u>2,39,23,940</u>

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Sir, is the Government satisfied that the machine tools imported from abroad would not have been obtained in India from Indian manufacturers?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: Generally, that is the position.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Does the Controller of Imports scrutinise every import license, for the import of machine tools?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I should think so, but I am not positive about it.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Is it a fact that the Defence and Railway Departments were the largest users of machine tools during the war years?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: May be so.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Has my honourable friend any estimate of the number of machine tools received by India from Germany last year, as part of reparations?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I cannot supply the information straightaway.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Is it a fact that the Committee on the Utilisation of Disposals took strong exception to the purchase of machine tools abroad, when there was a large number of machine tools deteriorating in this country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid my honourable friend would have to address that question to the Honourable Minister for Industry. I am concerned only with the import aspect of machine tools.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Were these transactions effected in India or in foreign countries, and if in foreign countries, may I know whether any Indian commission agents were employed, or did only the foreigners earn the commissions out of these purchases?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know how this question arises. But I may say that there are Government organisations abroad through which these purchases are made, when purchases are not made locally.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I wanted to know whether the agents employed by these organisations are foreign agents or Indians, because agents earn crores of rupees as commission. I want to know whether Indians were employed as the agents.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information.

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya: Were these purchases made through the Department or through purchasing agents?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There are purchasing organisations in the different countries, and I take it that these purchases took place locally and through these agencies. But I may tell the honourable member that this aspect of the question appertains to the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are there no Indian agents of the foreign companies to supply these articles in India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information. Commerce Ministry does not make the purchases.

REFUGEES IN OKHA TRANSIT CAMP

*1928. **Shri B. K. Sridhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any representation from the displaced persons in Okha (Kathiswar) has been received complaining that no arrangement for their removal to a permanent camp has been made?

(b) Since how long have they been in the Okha Refugee Transit Camp?

(c) Have all facilities for food and lodging been provided for them?

(d) Is it a fact that they were kept in cold weather without any sufficient coverings?

(e) Why have they not been removed to a permanent camp?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) For about three months.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) Instructions have already been issued to shift these displaced persons from Okha to relief camp in Udaipur.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: In reply to (d) the Honourable Minister gave an answer in the negative. May I know whether any representation has been made to the Honourable Minister that they have been kept there without any clothes being supplied to withstand the cold weather?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: My information is that they were supplied with blankets.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: When, Sir? After the expiry of the cold season or when?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: I take it that they were supplied when they arrived there and that was in the cold season.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: What was the complaint, Sir, may I know of these refugees? Has the complaint reached the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: The complaint was that they wanted to be removed to some other permanent camp.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Did they not say that they have not had food for a number of days and they had no clothes?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: I do not have the complaint before me. We have been receiving complaints and they were referred to the Provincial or State Governments which were in charge of the camp at that time.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Did I not make a reference and did not the Honourable Minister say that the Government were arranging with the Baroda Government . . .

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has the information in his possession. Next question.

WATER CHARGES FROM OCCUPANTS OF 'C' TYPE CHUMMERIES IN LODI ROAD, NEW DELHI

*1229. { Shri Satis Chandra Samata:
Shri Basanta Kumar Das:

Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of 'C' type chummary quarters in Lodi Road, New Delhi;
- (b) the rate of water charges from each such quarter (i) at present and (ii) in 1948;
- (c) if there be any increase in rate, the reason for the same;
- (d) the rate of water charges in other types of chummeries;
- (e) what class of officers reside in such chummeries; and
- (f) what their highest and lowest salaries are?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 480, of which 280 are in the occupation of married officers and the remaining two hundred are occupied by single officers, two officers occupying one chummary.

(b) The so-called water charges also include charges for electricity used in common places, e.g., verandhas, stair cases, dining rooms, kitchens, lavatories, etc., sweepers' pay and the cost of cleaning materials.

The present rate is Rs. 9/8/- per chummary the rate in 1948 was Rs. 4/8/-.

(c) The increase is due to increase in the quantity of water and electricity actually consumed, and the increased charges for sweepers, etc.

(d) Rs. 3/9/- p.m. in the case of Tibbia College Chummeries. Rs. 8/4/- p.m. in the case of Ibbetson Road Chummeries. Rs. 4/7/- p.m. in the case of Alexandra Place Chummeries.

(e) Officers drawing less than Rs. 600/- p.m.

(f) Ranging between Rs. 50/- and 475/- p.m.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Is it a fact, Sir, that the refugees who live on the top floor of these chummeries consume more water and electricity and for that reason higher charges are levied on the officers living below?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is one of the reasons, Sir.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Do Government consider the desirability of taking the charges of the refugees on the Government's own head?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The fact is that the refugees do not pay.

EXHIBITION OF FILM "INDIA SPEAKS" IN NEW YORK

*1390. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news which appeared in almost all the newspapers dated the 26th February, 1949, that the film "India Speaks" shown in New York was objected to by the Indians there?

(b) Are Government aware that Indian students in New York, protested and made a demonstration outside the cinema house?

(c) What steps have Government taken or propose to take in the matter?

(d) Will Government take steps to see that the exhibition of the film is stopped?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The film has already been withdrawn from circulation.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, who are the producers of this film, foreigners or an Indian firm and whether it passed the Censor Department before it was sent to a foreign country?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It is not a film manufactured by us, but by foreigners.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was it taken in India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It was taken in India, but probably long before. It is not a new thing; it is a thing of some years back.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I have not got the exact date.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did the cultural attache or some educational officer of our embassy in the U.S.A. see this film either on Government's instructions or suo motu and make a report to the Government about it?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Which Government?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Our Government.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: When our attention was drawn to it, there was no need to make a formal representation, but we drew the attention of the authorities concerned, and it is as a result of that that the film has been withdrawn.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that several news reels were shown in the U. K. and U.S.A. last year particularly after the 15th August, 1947 with a definite propagandist bias against India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am not aware.

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Deputy Minister said that the film has since been withdrawn. May I know on what date it was withdrawn? Is it a fact that the production has been made and in reply to exhibitors, they have stated that they are going to be shown in other cinemas also?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Whether it is going to be shown in other cinemas or not, it is a fact that it has been withdrawn.

Shri Deebandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that film producers in Hollywood continue to produce even today films prejudicial to India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What steps do Government propose to take in respect of all films produced in foreign countries which bring a bad name to India and affect adversely our reputation?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am afraid, it is too general to answer.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether Government will take steps to see that these films produced by the foreigners at least in future be passed by the Censor before they are taken? Do Government intend to do that?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: As regards films which are exhibited in foreign lands, it is not possible for the Indian Censor to test and give a certificate.

Shri Deebandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that there is an arrangement in the U.S.A. that films pertaining to a particular country are generally got censored by the cultural department of the embassies? If so, is our embassy functioning in respect of films that are being produced today and are they consulted in the matter?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There is no such arrangement as far as I am aware for any country in the U.S.A. Privately or informally such things might be done.

PROTECTION TO INDIAN BISCUIT INDUSTRY

*1331. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of biscuits from sterling area has been placed in the Open General Licence; if so, since when;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Indian biscuit industry has been adversely affected thereby; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to protect the Indian biscuit industry?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: (a) Yes; since 4th September 1948.

(b) No such representation has been received from the Industry.

(c) Government are at present considering the question as to whether there is a *prima facie* case to refer the claim for protection of the Indian biscuit industry to the Tariff Board for investigation and report.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was the import of foreign biscuits completely stopped during the War?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not in a position to say.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know, Sir, if these Open General Licence policy with regard to foreign biscuits were adopted at the request of the biscuit trade-people in India or at the request of foreign manufacturers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: In the interests of the people of the country.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know Sir, if action has been taken at the request of foreign tradesmen. I mean foreign industries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not at all. I may tell the House that that country's requirements in respect of biscuits have been estimated at 25,000 tons per annum out of which not more than 10,000 to 12,000 tons per annum can be expected to be manufactured by the Indian concerns provided flour is available, which is not the case always.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the *per capita* requirement of biscuit, Sir.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The honourable member might work it out himself.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know if the Britannia Biscuit Factory in Calcutta is partly Indian and partly foreign? If it is a mixed one, what percentage of it is Indian?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not see how it arises.

Seth Govind Das: Are there any applications before the Government for having more biscuit factories in the country and are some of these applications rejected by Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I wanted to know the reason why this Open General Licence system has been permitted. What is the basis on which these orders have been placed with foreign firms?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Because the demand in the country cannot be met from the indigenous manufacture.

VISIT OF INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN TURKEY TO PARIS

*1832. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Ambassador in Turkey recently spent a few days in Paris;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit, and whether permission of Government had been obtained for temporarily leaving his charge; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by him in connection therewith?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No. He did not go to Paris.

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

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is it a fact that he went to London on a private visit without the permission of the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a fact that he went to London, not on a private visit, but there was some question of purchase of barley from Brazil. Our general instructions to all Ambassadors are that they should not move out of their sphere of activity without special permission. Of course, when some sudden emergency arises the Ambassador might do so in the hope of getting permission subsequently as in the present instance. He went rather suddenly to London in connection with this purchase of barley from Brazil and before he could get permission, he reported to us and according to his report his visit there led to the Government of India saving in this deal a sum of over £50,000.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the telephonic communication between Ankara and Delhi so inadequate that he could not get permission before he left Ankara for London or wherever it was?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer for the telephonic communications. It is not easy to get in touch with Ankara on these long distance lines.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know what is the general rule with regard to these Ministers in foreign countries, Sir, because, the other day I read in the papers about our Embassy in Sweden also going and coming to London and other places, Sir?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The rule is that they go out of their charge after obtaining special permission.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was he commissioned to bargain for the purchase of barley from Brazil by India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot go into the details of the matter. He had been connected in Turkey with the Brazilian Embassy. There was a chance of the deal falling through. As a result of his visit I am informed that a saving of £53,000 was made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Apart from the savings which he was instrumental in making—this could have been made somebody else accredited by Government—will the Honourable the Prime Minister be good enough to go into the matter and give the fullest possible information in order to remove misapprehension?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have made enquiries into this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is it then that after enquiries the Prime Minister is not able to say whether this Ambassador who was stationed in Turkey was commissioned to purchase barley from Brazil through London?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of commissioning anybody. Our Ambassador in Turkey has to deal with other Embassies occasionally. Sometimes some negotiations or informal suggestions take place and these are followed up sometime later.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want definite information as to whether the Government of India thought it best to send this Ambassador to London in order to negotiate for barley with Brazil?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have already said that he went there before obtaining the permission of the Government of India. Immediately we heard of it, we asked for further particulars and have now received them.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that we have a full-fledged Ambassador in Brazil why was it so very necessary or urgent for our Ambassador in Ankara to go to London for this deal about Brazil barley?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The deal was effected in London and not in Brazil or in Ankara. Whether it was absolutely necessary or not can be judged from the result. The result was advantageous to us.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYEES IN PRIVATE NEWSPAPER CONCERNS

*1333. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the answer to part (b) of Starred question No. 600 asked by Shri Kailesh Behari Lal in the Central Legislative Assembly on 20th November, 1944 and also to starred question No. 594 asked by Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on 30th August, 1948, regarding the statistics of private newspaper owners and their employees with regard to rules of leave, list of holidays, salary grades, dearness allowance, conditions of appointment etc. and state whether Government propose to take any further action for the betterment of the conditions of employees of private owned newspapers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The defects mentioned in the Labour Investigation Committee's report on labour conditions in printing presses were mostly confined to the private unregulated presses. With the enforcement of the Factories Act, 1948, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, it is hoped that there will be material improvement in the working conditions of the staff of privately-owned newspapers.

Government propose to bring in Central Legislation to regulate the conditions of work in all Shops and Commercial establishments.

Several provincial governments have already passed Shop Assistants or Commercial Undertaking Act with a view to give protection to workers in commercial establishments. Workers in private newspapers can take advantage of these Acts.

Government also intend to set up tripartite committees for the more important industries in which the Labour Investigation Committee's report indicated a *prima facie* case for improvement in working conditions. So far such industrial committees have been set up for Plantations, Coal Mining, Cotton Textiles, Training and Leather Manufactories and Cement industries. The desirability of having such a committee for the newspaper industry will be considered.

VISIT OF AFGHAN TRADE DELEGATION

*1334. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Afghan trade delegation had come to India to finalize a treaty of friendship and commerce with the Indian Government especially to secure mill cloth;

(b) if so, whether the treaty was finalized; and

(c) what are the terms of the said treaty?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) An Afghan Trade Delegation came to Delhi to discuss the terms of a Treaty of Trade and Commerce with the Representatives of the Government of India. The terms of the Treaty do not specifically cover the supply of cloth. The Government of India have however agreed to a quota of cloth for Afghanistan.

(b) and (c). The treaty has not yet been finalised; agreement has however been reached between the Representatives of the Government of India and the Afghan Trade Delegation in regard to the terms of the Treaty, which is being presented to both the Governments for acceptance before formal signature.

Seth Govind Das: What are the chief articles which are going to be sent to Afghanistan from here and what are the chief articles that we are going to receive from Afghanistan according to the agreement?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This particular trade agreement does not specifically refer to any commodity that may be exchanged in that fashion. It is a treaty that seeks to extend to Afghanistan what is known as the Most-Favoured-Nation treatment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Standing Committee attached to the Department being consulted in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I can recollect, I think this matter was placed before the Committee. But then, as I said, the treaty has not yet been finalised.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the exchange rate of the Indian rupee in Afghanistan show whether the Rupee has appreciated or depreciated recently?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I cannot give an answer to that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know what is our trade route to Afghanistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is via Pakistan.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: While passing through Pakistan territory have we to pay any duty to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Afghanistan, being an independent sovereign country is entitled to the benefits of what is known as the Barcelona Convention under which goods in transit of this kind are free from any kind of duty.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the quantity of cloth agreed to be sent to Afghanistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We have agreed to give to Afghanistan 40 million yards for 1949 apart from the quota of 10 million allotted but not yet utilised.

VALUE OF IMPORTED LIQUOR

*1335. **Shri Man Dakshayani Velayudhan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the import of foreign liquor into India in the year 1948;

(b) whether there is any proposal to decrease the import of liquor in the next financial year; and

(c) whether liquor is imported from Dollar countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Rs. 75,08,000 represented the value of foreign liquor imported in 1948.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) No.

Seth Govind Das: In regard to both price and quantity, was the liquor imported in 1947, more or less than in the previous year?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got comparative figures. But it seems to me there was an increase in 1947-48 over the figure for 1946-47. Full figures for the later periods are not yet available.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: May I know why there is no proposal to reduce the import in view of the fact that prohibition has been introduced in several Provinces?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I might invite the honourable member's attention to the fact that the import trade control is exercised only on account of the foreign exchange problems. This control has nothing to do with the policy of prohibition that might be adopted by this Government in future.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: What is the total quantity of liquor imported this year?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got the figures in gallons.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any scheme to produce similar liquors in India?

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

UNEMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER STATISTICS

*1336. **Shri P. Kumbharam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the answer given to my starred question No. 896 asked on 4th March, 1949 regarding unemployment in India and state whether the Government of India have any intention to bring a legislative measure in the immediate future making statistical returns of the unemployed and manpower situation in India by the Provincial and State Governments compulsory?

(b) What is the set up of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) While the desirability of having accurate statistics of the extent of unemployment in India can not be questioned, there are practical difficulties in enforcing legislation of the kind suggested by the honourable member. This is a matter that will require very careful consideration after acquiring further experience of the working of employment exchanges in India.

(b) The Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment consists of a Headquarters Organisation at New Delhi and a Regional Organisation in each Province. The Headquarters Organisation has a Director-General at the head assisted by a Secretariat staff and three Directorates, viz., of Employment, Training and Publicity. The office at each Provincial Headquarters consists of a Regional Director and his staff. In addition, there are a number of Employment Exchanges and Training Centres in each Province which are looked after by the appropriate Regional Director under the control and guidance of the Director-General.

TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

*1337. **Shri Lakshminarayana Sahu:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to reconsider the policy of trade sanctions against South Africa?

Dr. B. V. Keshar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): No.

ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICANS UNDER RECIPROCIITY ACT

*1328. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the action taken under the several clauses of the Reciprocity Act against South Africa, with particular reference to the number of South African Whites who sought admission to India, and how many were admitted and how many were excluded?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): Government made rules under the Reciprocity Act of 1943 (i) declaring all persons of South African domicile, who are not of Indian origin, to be prohibited immigrants and regulating their entry into India by permits; (ii) prohibiting South Africans of non-Indian origin, domiciled in Natal and Transvaal, from acquiring, hiring or occupying any immovable property in India except with the permission of the Central Government and (iii) declaring all South Africans except those domiciled in the Cape Province, ineligible for election to any local authority in India or for voting in the election of any such authority.

Since 1st December, 1944, which was the date of enforcement of the Rules, 139 applications have been received, of which 103 have been allowed and 11 rejected.

SCHEME OF ASSISTED EMIGRATION OF INDIANS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

*1329. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South African Government introduced on or about the 8th March 1949, a new scheme of assisted emigration for South African Indians;

(b) if so, what its terms are;

(c) whether it is a fact that under the Cape Town Agreement the Indian assisted emigrant had the right of re-entry into South Africa;

(d) how many Indians had re-entered South Africa since the Cape Town Agreement; and

(e) whether the right of re-entry has been preserved under the new scheme?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) to (c). The Cape Town Agreement provides that for those Indians in the Union who may desire to avail themselves of it, the Union Government will organize a scheme of assisted emigration to India or other countries where western standards are not required. Union domicile will be lost after three years' continuous absence from the Union. Emigrants under the assisted emigration scheme who desire to return to the Union within three years will be allowed to do so only on refund to the Union Government of the cost of the assistance received by them. No new scheme has been introduced recently by the Union Government. What has happened is that the Union Government have recently doubled the bonus which was admissible to returning emigrants under the old scheme. According to the information available, 462 persons who returned to India under the scheme since 1927 sought permission for re-entry into South Africa.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA

114. **Shri Satish Chandra Gammam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of fishing licences for fishing at Okhla issued during the current year?

(b) Is it a fact that in a number of cases the Executive Engineer (Agra Canal) has returned the licence fees and refused to issue any further licences and if so, why?

(c) Is it also a fact that the practice of issuing daily licences to anglers for angling at Okhla has also been stopped and if so, why?

(d) Are Government aware that by stopping the issue of the daily and annual fishing licences for Okhla, they have deprived a large number of people who used to enjoy and recreate themselves by this hobby of such recreation and if so, why?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the Delhi Administration and the Government of the United Provinces and when received will be placed on the table of the House.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN DELHI AREA UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT

115. Ch. Ranbir Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications presented to the Authority appointed under the Payment of Wages Act, 1939, for Delhi Area during the last six months;

(b) whether those applications were disposed of within the wage periods (one month), and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the dates fixed for hearing each application and the reasons for adjournments;

(d) what steps Government have taken to expedite the disposal of applications and if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide by legislation the period within which an application must be disposed of?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Eight.

(b) No. The applications could not be disposed of within the same wage period as they were submitted to the Authority appointed under the Payment of Wages Act after its expiry.

(c) Date of Institution	Date of bearing	Reasons, if any, for adjournment
1. 20-11-48	2-2-49	Application disposed of on 22-49.
2. 18-12-48	12-3-49	Application disposed of on 12-3-49.
3. 12-1-49	19-3-49	For want of notice to the employer.
4. 13-12-48	24-3-49	Employer (Railway) has taken time for enquiries.
5. 13-12-48	24-3-49	Employer (Railway) has taken time for enquiries.
6. 18-10-48	26-3-49	For want of service of summons on the employer.
7. 18-12-48	30-3-49	For want of notice to the employer.
8. 6-12-48	2-4-49	Case fixed for evidence.

(d) Necessary action to expedite the disposal of applications is invariably taken as far as possible.

(e) The question will be examined in connection with the amendment of the Payment of Wages Act when undertaken.

APPLICATION OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT (STANDING ORDERS) ACT OF 1946

116. **Ch. Ranbir Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act No. XX of 1946 became operative:

(b) the names of the industrial establishments within Delhi Province to which it has been made applicable; and

(c) what standing orders are made by the Association for the control and management of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women and Hospital for Women and Children, Delhi for its establishment?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) From the 23rd April 1946.

(b) A statement containing the information is attached.

(c) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, does not apply to the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, and the question, therefore, does not arise.

STATEMENT

List of Industrial Establishments in Delhi Province to which the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act applies

I. Industrial Establishments in respect of which Standing Orders have been certified:

- (1) Hindustan Times Press, Ltd., New Delhi.
- (2) G. S. Keshavn & Sons Ltd., Patandi House, New Delhi
- (3) Western Hosiery and General Mills, Ltd., Delhi
- (4) Birla Cloth & General Mills, Ltd., Delhi.
- (5) Delhi Iron Works, Chawri Bazar, Delhi.
- (6) Delhi Cloth & General Mills, Ltd., Delhi.
- (7) D. C. E. P. A., Ltd., New Delhi and
D. E. S. & T. Co., Ltd., Delhi.
- (8) Mahabir Cotton Spinning & Weaving Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi.
- (9) Delhi Flour Mills Co., Roshanara Road, Delhi.
- (10) Isarwar Potteries, Ltd., Delhi.
- (11) Gwalior Potteries, (Delhi), Factory Road, New Delhi
- (12) Ganesh Flour Mills (Vegetable Products) Factory, Delhi.
- (13) Indian National Airways, Ltd., Wallingdon Air Station, New Delhi.
- (14) Gwalior & Northern India Transport Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
- (15) Ajudhla Textile Mills, Delhi.
- (16) Krishna Gold & Silver Thread Factory, Turkmat Gate, Delhi.
- (17) Delhi Cloth Mills Chemical Works, and
D. C. M. Vanaspati Manufacturing Works, Delhi.
- (18) Matchwel Electricals (India) Ltd. Subzimandi, Delhi.

II. Industrial Establishments of which Standing Orders are under process of certification:

- (1) Rajn Engineering Works, Delhi.
- (2) Delhi Joint Water & Sewage Board, New Delhi.
- (3) Raj Engineering Works, Delhi
- (4) Sawantara Bharat Mills, Ltd., Delhi.
- (5) National Printing Works, Mori Gate, Delhi.
- (6) New Garage, Ltd., New Delhi.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

TREATMENT OF LAND BELONGING TO NAWAB SADAKAT ALI AND MR. LIAKAT ALI KHAN IN DELHI PROVINCE AS EVACUEE'S PROPERTY

Shri R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the land measuring about 3,000 acres originally belonging to Nawab Sadakat Ali and Liakat Ali in Delhi Province has been declared as evacuee property?

(b) If so, what is the position at present and if not declared as yet, to whom does the land belong now?

(c) How many displaced persons are likely to be rehabilitated on this area?

(d) When was the land declared as evacuee property and when have displaced persons been rehabilitated?

(e) If not yet rehabilitated what are the reasons for the delay which has been caused?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes; but the agricultural land is about 1500 acres and not 3000 acres as stated by the honourable member.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) About 150 families.

(d) The land was declared as Evacuee Property in July, 1948 and it has not been allotted to any displaced person.

(e) The allocation of the land for the *Kharif* season, 1948-49 (October to April) was to be made in the beginning of October, 1948. Before allotting the land it was decided to take possession of it and orders were accordingly passed for taking over possession of the land in September 1948. Sir Datar Singh had been in possession of the land on the strength of the authority given by the owners to manage the property in return for a similar arrangement regarding Sir Datar Singh's property in Pakistan. According to the amendments made in the East Punjab Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act, 1947 as applied to Delhi Province no such transaction could be effective without being confirmed by the Custodian; and Sir Datar Singh had made no application for confirmation. Clarification was needed on certain legal issues and the matter was referred to the Law Ministry. On the basis of their opinion it was decided to take possession of the property. Before possession could be taken however the District Court granted an injunction on the application of Sir Datar Singh restraining the Custodian from disturbing the *status quo*. The injunction was vacated about a fortnight ago. A claim was duly filed by Sir Datar Singh before the Deputy Custodian incharge of Claims and Restoration under Section 7 of the East Punjab Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act, 1947. This is being heard.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I now whether a Government servant can file a suit against the Government? Was any sanction obtained from the Government? May I know what is the reason?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would refer the honourable member to the Honourable the Home Minister on that point.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that all landlords in East Punjab and elsewhere have been allotted ten acres each while Sir Datar Singh got more than a thousand acres?

Mr. Speaker: Order order. That question does not arise. Legal proceedings are taking place in the matter and the matter is in the court.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Did not the Honourable Member state that the injunction has been rejected by the Court?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is not now in the court. He has filed a claim before the Assistant Custodian of Evacuee Property.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Does the suit exist now?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The suit has been dismissed, but he has filed a claim now and I hope that claim will be disposed of in a few days' time.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Will these displaced persons be rehabilitated now?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I hope they will be rehabilitated, for there is yet one month.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: The point is, apart from the question of compensation, if the Government have declared it to be evacuee property, what is the delay in rehabilitating these displaced persons?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already informed the honourable member that although this property was declared evacuee property in July, Sir Datar Singh had put in some tenants and therefore we had to obtain possession of this land from the tenants before any displaced persons could be put in. When we served a notice on him, he filed a suit and brought injunction, and, of course, when injunction was granted, we could not do anything. Now that the injunction has been rejected and the suit has also been dismissed, he has filed a claim and that claim is being heard and I hope it will be disposed of in a few days' time.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister asked me to refer to the Honourable the Home Minister. May I request the Honourable the Home Minister to make enquiries as to whether a Government servant can file a suit without the sanction of Government?

Mr. Speaker: That is something different.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has there been any other Government servant who has exchanged his property in Pakistan with the property here which happens to be evacuee property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am not aware of that. Even in this case, it was not an exchange of property. It was an authority to manage the property on behalf of the landlord. It was not actual exchange.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that the deal which Sir Datar Singh was presented was repudiated by the owners?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, it is so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that Sir Datar Singh's property lost in West Punjab is worth about Rs. 1 crore?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It may be, but it does not affect the question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was Liaqat Ali also consulted with regard to the disposal of his property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: He was not consulted but we were informed that no authority to administer the property had been given.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know if the property referred to is in Delhi province only or also in Muzaffarnagar?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is only in Delhi.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that some agricultural land left by Muslim evacuees in Chhattarpur in Delhi Province was exchanged by a Government servant with his property in Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister has not the information with him.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not got the information; if he gives information, I welcome it.

Wednesday
23rd March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

Volume III, 1949

(19th March, 1949 to 5th April, 1949)

Fourth Session
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

1949



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**CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES**

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Wednesday, 28rd March, 1949

—————

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

—————

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-50 A.M.

NON-INCLUSION OF HINDU CODE IN ORDER PAPER

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam: General): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hindu Code was to have been taken up today, and I do not find it on the Agenda. Has it been taken out by the Secretary himself or by some arrangement?

Mr. Speaker: As I have often said, in case honourable Members want to raise any points, it is better for them just to see me in my chamber and I shall try to explain to them as to how matters stand. The raising of points in the House by taking up its time leads us nowhere.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: But then.....

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to deal with that now

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULES OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURES—RAILWAYS

(i) *Supplementary Expenditure for 1948-49.*

(ii) *Expenditure for 1949-50*

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to lay on the table, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 85 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947—

- (1) an authenticated Schedule of authorised supplementary expenditure for the year 1948-49 in respect of the Indian Government Railways; and
- (2) an authenticated Schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1949-50 in respect of the Indian Government Railways.

—————

In pursuance of the provision of Section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947 read with sub-section (1) of

Section 35 thereof I, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of authorised supplementary expenditure for the year 1948-49, namely:

SCHEDULE

(Amount in thousands of rupees)

Holds of Expenditure	Supplonon- tary sum required to meet the expen- diture charged on the Revenue	Supplemen- tary grant made by the Constitu- ent Assem- bly of India (Legisla- tive)	Total
1. Railway Board	..	2,62	2,62
2. Audit	..	3,25	3,25
3. Miscellaneous Expenditure	..	13,05	13,05
4. Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration	..	33,34	33,34
5. Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance	..	4,42,96	4,42,96
6. Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff	..	24,88	24,88
7. Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)	..	3,25,38	3,25,38
8. Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expen- sures	..	63,22	63,22
9. Payments to Indian States and Companies	..	9,28	9,28
10. Appropriation to Depreciation Fund	..	7,75,24	7,75,24
11. A. Withdrawal from Reserve	..	5,11	5,11
12. Construction of New Lines	..	1,99,78	1,99,78
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C. RAJAGOPALACHARI,
Governor-General of India.

NEW DELHI;

The 4th March, 1949.

In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of Section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India, do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of expenditure from the revenues of the Dominion in respect of the Indian Government Railways for the year 1949-50, namely:

SCHEDULE

(Amount in thousands of rupees)

Holds of expenditure	* Voted	Charged	Total
1. Railway Board—Revenue	32,58	..	32,58
2. Audit—Revenue	21,77	..	21,77
3. Miscellaneous expenditure Revenue	46,70	..	46,70
4. Working expenses—administration—Revenue	22,31,97	..	22,31,97
5. Working expenses—Repairs and Maintenance— Revenue	49,93,08	..	49,93,08

Heads of Expenditure	Voted	Charged	Total
6. Working expenses—Operating Staff—Revenue	33,64,31	..	33,64,31
7. Working expenses—Operation (Fuel)—Revenue	24,28,65	..	24,28,65
8. Working expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel—Revenue.	8,64,55	..	8,64,55
9. Working expenses—Miscellaneous expenses—Revenue.	20,31,34	..	20,31,34
10. Payments to Indian States and Companies—Revenue.	1,67,39	..	1,67,39
11. Working expenses—Appropriations to Depreciation Fund—Revenue.	16,19,33	..	16,19,33
12. Open Line Works—Revenue	7,65,16	..	7,65,16
15. Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund.	4,23,52	..	4,23,52
16. Open Line Works—Additions—Capital and Betterment Fund.	17,65,34	..	17,65,34
17. Open Line Works—Replacements—Capital, Betterment Fund and Depreciation Fund.	40,46,49	..	40,46,49
18. Open Line Works—Betterment Fund (Passenger amenities).	1	..	1
19. Capital Outlay on Vizagapatnam Port	14,65	..	14,65
Interest charges	..	22,88,31	22,88,31

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI,
Governor-General of India.

NEW DELHI;
The 4th March 1949.

MOTION *RE* ELECTIONS TO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker: The honourable the Leader of the House to make the motion for election to the Standing Committees. The motion has already been circulated to the Members.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I move:

“That this Assembly—

(a) do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, members to serve until the end of the next financial year on Standing Committees to advise on subjects concerning the under-mentioned Ministries and Department of the Government of India, the number to be so elected in respect of each Ministry and Department, excluding the Chairman, Vice-Chairman (if any) and the Government Chief Whip, being as follows:

Ministry of Agriculture	10
Ministry of Commerce	10
Ministry of Communications	10
Ministry of Defence	10
Ministry of Education	10
Ministry of External Affairs	10
Ministry of Food	10
Ministry of Health	10
Ministry of Home Affairs	10
Ministry of Industry and Supply	10
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	10
Ministry of Labour	10
Ministry of Law	5
Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	10
Ministry of States	10
Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)	10
Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	10
Department of Scientific Research	5

(b) do adopt the following amendment to the existing Rules for regulating the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees, adopted on the 19th November, 1947:

‘For Rule 1 of the said Rules, the following be substituted:

“1. (1) The Chairman of each Standing Committee shall be the Minister or Minister of State in charge of the Ministry or Department to which the Committee is attached.

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

(2) Where there is a Minister of State or Deputy Minister in such Ministry otherwise than in charge thereof, he shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee, and shall act as Chairman for any meeting at which the Minister is unable to be present.

(3) The Government Chief Whip shall *ex-officio* be a member of each of the Standing Committees.

(4) If at any meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chairman as well as the Vice-Chairman, if any, are unable to be present, the members present may elect one of themselves to act as Chairman for that meeting.

(5) An officer in the Ministry or Department designated by the Minister in charge shall be Secretary to the Standing Committee." "

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That this Assembly—

(a) do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, members to serve until the end of the next financial year on Standing Committees to advise on subjects concerning the under-mentioned Ministries and Department of the Government of India, the number to be so elected in respect of each Ministry and Department, excluding the Chairman, Vice-Chairman (if any) and the Government Chief Whip, being as follows:

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(b) do adopt the following amendment to the existing Rules for regulating the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees, adopted on the 19th November, 1947:

For Rule 1 of the said Rules, the following be substituted:

"1. (1) The Chairman of each Standing Committee shall be the Minister or Minister of State in charge of the Ministry or Department to which the Committee is attached.

(2) Where there is a Minister of State or Deputy Minister in such Ministry otherwise than in charge thereof, he shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee, and shall act as Chairman for any meeting at which the Minister is unable to be present.

(3) The Government Chief Whip shall *ex-officio* be a member of each of the Standing Committees.

(4) If at any meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chairman as well as the Vice-Chairman, if any, are unable to be present, the members present may elect one of themselves to act as Chairman for that meeting.

(5) An officer in the Ministry or Department designated by the Minister in charge shall be Secretary to the Standing Committee." "

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I would like to say a few words on this motion. If I make any observations, it is for the purpose of closer association between the Ministries and the Standing Committees. You will see that the rules relating to the constitution and procedure of Standing Committees for Ministries require that the following subjects shall be laid before the Standing Committee:

- (1) All non-official Bills introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Assembly and legislative proposals which the Ministry concerned intends to undertake.
- (2) Reports of Committees and Commissions (not including unpublished reports of Departmental Committees) on which the Assembly is not adequately represented.
- (3) Major questions of general policy and financial proposals.
- (4) Annual Reports.
- (5) With the approval of the Minister in charge, any topic of public importance within the field of the Committee which a member of the Committee may propose for discussion."

I would suggest to the honourable the Leader of the House that along with a motion of this kind, a statement ought to be circulated to the honourable Members regarding each Standing Committee as to how far, within the previous year, they were able to carry out their duties on all or any of these subjects for which the Standing Committees were intended. As a matter of fact, we would like to know how many such meetings were held. In the case of a certain Standing Committee, a certain number of meetings were held; with respect to certain others only a few were held and so on. It may be that the Minister did not call for certain meetings, or such meetings were called for and some of them fell through for want of quorum etc. We would like to know before we elect particular members of the Assembly to the Advisory Committees whether those gentlemen who were members of the Standing Committee did take a keen interest in the affairs of the Standing Committee and also how far the Bills and other matters that were placed before the House, before they were initiated in the House, had the approval or the advice of the Standing Committee. A statement of that kind should be circulated to members of the House in order to enable them to find out how far these Standing Committees have done their business and how far, in the light of experience, the Standing Committees may be modified, their functions may be added to or some of them taken away. This would enable the House to judge which members may be returned to the Standing Committees, and which not.

We give a number of suggestions in the Standing Finance Committee after the Committee disposes of a particular matter relating to the particular Department concerned. Financial matters, where the sanction of the Finance Standing Committee has to be obtained, are sent to this Committee. In many cases we found in the Standing Finance Committee that the advice of the Standing Committee for the Department had not been obtained. We then had most unwillingly to send back those proposals to the same Ministry for being placed before its Standing Committee. That took some time and quite naturally it might be understood that Members of the Standing Finance Committee unnecessarily stood in the way of these proposals being taken up and finished. I am, therefore, once again placing it before the House and for the consideration of the Leader of the House that no proposals involving any financial commitments, and which need the sanction or approval of the Standing Finance Committee, shall be sent to it without its being previously considered by the Standing Committee of the House relating to that Department. It will

[Sbri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

strengthen the hands of the Standing Finance Committee and if there is a debate much unnecessary criticisms will be avoided.

Next as regards the financial proposals. It is one of the objects set out here that the financial proposals for the year ought to be placed before the Standing Committee of the Department concerned. You know, Sir, we have taken a lot of time during the Budget proposals, individually, referring to departments and four or five departments have also been rolled into one for want of time. It would have been better if the Standing Committees had been taken into confidence with respect to the proposals for the year. I do not want to be misunderstood. I do not want that any taxation proposals should be placed before any Committee or the Standing Committee of the House. That must be within the heart and knowledge of the Finance Minister alone and the only other person who may also know is the Prime Minister, and with his permission, the Cabinet. That is why after all the office hours are over, and all the business is closed, late in the evening, after 5 P.M. the financial proposals are placed before the House.

It is however different in respect of the item of expenditure for Demands for Grants. There is nothing secret about it. As a matter of fact, so far as the Railways are concerned, the budget proposals are placed before the Railway Standing Finance Committee. There, every item is examined. My honourable friend, the honourable Minister for Finance was also a Minister on a previous occasion in charge of Railways. I was a Member of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. All the Demands for Grants were scrutinised item after item, into which ten or fifteen Members of this House had the advantage of looking, and coming to their conclusions. That is the way in which much unnecessary hot air might be avoided, and I suggest that such scrutiny might be brought to bear on such items of expenditure before they come to the House.

As far as I know, none of the Budget proposals were placed before the Standing Committees concerned before they were placed in a consolidated statement before this House. In future, some such steps may be taken and then the matter may come before the Standing Finance Committee.

Yesterday, or the day before yesterday, when I made a suggestion that for the Finance Bill a Committee might be appointed to scrutinise the various Budget proposals, the honourable the Finance Minister suggested from the other side whether it was of the nature of the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. I nodded though I was not in full agreement and then he answered on the assumption that I had in mind only a Committee of that nature. I am not having a Committee of that nature because his predecessor said that such a Committee proved itself useless and the only thing that he was able to touch was the tobacco tax—from the amount that was being spent on tobacco—one of the smallest matters which would concern the individual. But it is not for that purpose. I want a real scrutiny. I shall elaborate it later on to the Standing Finance Committee and to the Finance Minister. For the present it is enough to state what is in my mind.

This matter has been before this Assembly for nearly twelve years. When Sir James Grigg was the Minister in charge of Finance, he himself circulated a proposal. He wanted that the Standing Finance Committee ought to have
12 Noon a Chairman—not the Finance Minister, but a non-official of the House—because it is the Finance Minister who brings forward a proposal and it is a non-official who will bring to bear a different aspect on the

issue. Of course the Finance Minister will also be one of the Members of the Committee. He could then take a dispassionate view of the matter. Apart from the question of who ought to be the Chairman, I have no personal objection to the Finance Minister being the Chairman because he has ultimately to carry out their views or reject them. So far as the functioning of the Committee is concerned, the Standing Finance Committee could divide up the ninety odd demands for grants into three groups. Thirty demands may be taken first and discussed and scrutinised threadbare in detail before they are placed in the list of demands for grants for a particular year. In this way, at least one-third of the demands, we can be sure, will have the approval and detailed scrutiny of the Standing Finance Committee. The next year another thirty demands may be taken up and in the third year another thirty may be taken.

With regard to the reviews that have been laid before us, the Minister in charge of the Department concerned, should also say what measures of economy the Minister concerned tried to initiate, how far he succeeded, what measures of economy are possible; and apart from that in the interests of proper administration, what appointments are necessary and how the administration may be made more efficient. I find a lack of reference in that matter in the reviews sent to us. Primarily the Minister and the Administrative Officers under him are the best persons suited to make such an examination and prepare a statement to be laid before the House. I am trying to see that as far as possible we get full knowledge of the details of administration so that we can bring to bear an intelligent scrutiny on what is taking place.

I have made such a suggestion to the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the Minister of Industry and Supply, in whose Standing Committee I am a member, with regard to Disposals. This has come in for a lot of criticism and right criticism too, from my friend Mr. Shiva Rao. Disposals are to the tune of Rs. 200 and odd crores. Many other things are lying here and there. Criticisms have been made as to the best use that can be made of them and the use that can be made of the reparations from the foreign countries. I know that articles brought from Germany and Japan are lying somewhere in Bombay. They were brought in more than a year ago and yet it has not been decided what is to be done, so far as controls are concerned with respect to iron and steel, etc., in the various departments. My suggestion was accepted but I would like that other Ministers should accept similar suggestions and that they should introduce a reform in their Standing Committees.

If there are seven or eight members of the Standing Committee, distribute the major items under any particular Minister over the various members. Ask one man to specialize in Disposals; ask another to specialize in Controls; ask a third to specialize in steel, cement and essential articles, etc., allow him contact with the officers; let them go into the department and see and know how actually it works—whether it is working properly or not. So also such a distribution could be made in matters relating to the Commerce Ministry.

Therefore, some such arrangements might be able to be made, in which case a number of questions now raised on the floor of the House will be avoided because the Members concerned will get to know directly from the Minister what is happening. Apart from the Minister telling them they will have an intimate knowledge of the administration and this will avoid the asking of unnecessary questions. We will also be able to have first-hand knowledge of the work.

As regards Foreign Delegations—let us assume a delegation has to be sent to Havana—it is the privilege of the Minister in charge to make the ultimate

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

choice, I do not want to stand in his way of choosing but care must be taken to see that the Member in charge of that particular subject in the Standing Committee is chosen in preference to others.

Then the kind of brief that is sent must be placed before the Standing Committee so that they may give their advice and experience and suggest what matters may be considered for the delegation.

That will ease the situation and help us to arrive at proper conclusions. A matter comes before the House and a number of Members who are members of the Standing Committee need not leave the Minister all alone to justify a particular course of action taken. The Minister has all along to stand up and justify and there is no seconder. It is all first in the House and we work like an opposition although we know what has happened. At every stage members of the Standing Committee are to be taken into confidence. Of course in regard to certain matters, certainly in the public interest they ought not to be laid before the Committee. On all other matters the Minister will take the committees into confidence. These committees are of course open for further consideration during the coming year.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I wish to support the observations made by my honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. I welcome the amendments to the rules whereby it has been laid down that a Standing Committee may be presided over by the Minister himself or a Minister of State or a Deputy Minister or in their absence by an elected member of the Standing Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Why bring in an elected member?

Shri B. Das: I received some of the reports of the Standing Committees where I found that departmental secretaries had presided. I do not know how it happened. It is due to lack of alertness on the part of the members of the Standing Committee that they allowed an official to preside over the meetings of the Standing Committees. I hope that will not happen again.

Mr. Ayyangar said that the Budget proposals of each Ministry should be discussed before the Standing Committee. I am a member of the Standing Committee of the W. M. P. Ministry and for the last two sessions had compelled the Ministry to place their Budget proposals for the year for approval of the Standing Committee. This year on the 27th February the W. M. P. Ministry placed their Budget proposals in a consolidated form before the Standing Committee. Howsoever cursory our examination of them were, still I may say that at least one Ministry conformed to the procedure which Mr. Ayyangar advocated just now. That has been the intention of this House. As to whether other Ministries put their proposals before their Standing Committees or not it is for the members of those committees to say.

On one thing I disagree with my honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar, *viz.*, that the Standing Finance Committee should resolve itself into an Estimates Committee and examine the demands for grants that would be discussed under the budget proposals. My view—not of yesterday or today—which is a long standing view is that we will come to that position soon when the whole House will form itself into an Estimates Committee like the House of Commons and the House will then examine in that Committee the various demands for grants and the increases or decreases therein.

I am grateful to the various Ministers for producing their Ministry's report on the year's working and placing them before the House. That is a good thing. If the Speaker retires and the Chairman presides over the Estimates Committee of this House every Minister will have to defend the various

Demands for Grants that have to be sanctioned. That was admirably compiled in the blue index book for the various Demands of Grants under each Ministry. At Committee stage we will not make speeches. We will have to ask questions, ask the Minister or members of the Standing Committee to elucidate points as to why certain increases had occurred.

I agree with Mr. Ayyangar that Ministers were yet reluctant to place their financial proposals or to take the approval of their financial proposals from their Standing Committees. My own experience was that at first the Ministry treated it lightly. They pointed out to us that the Standing Committee would sanction the financial proposals and our views were required only on the policy. However, the Ministry with which I am concerned thought that the financial proposals will also be approved by the Standing Committee.

I do not at all like the idea that the Standing Finance Committee should have a non-official Chairman. It will not work properly and we do not want the Finance Minister to sit under a non-official Chairman and explain the *tas* which his Ministry has applied to the financial proposals and why they included those proposals.....

Prof N. G. Ranga: What is the position in England?

Shri B. Das: I would rather like the very effective practice that is adopted everywhere. The Public Accounts Committee should have a non-official Chairman. We have cried for this on the floor of the House for the last 20 years but it was not the intention of the former British Finance Members to permit too much criticism of their British officials and hence they wanted the Finance Member to preside over the Public Accounts Committee. In the House of Commons the Leader of the Opposition presides over the Public Accounts Committee. Unfortunately we have no party of opposition. However a non-official member should preside over the Public Accounts Committee and we can introduce this salutary practice till the elections under the new Constitution take place.....

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not have it for the Standing Finance Committee also?

Shri B. Das: It is for the Finance Ministry to frame proposals of taxation and expenditure, it is entirely a matter for the Treasury. They will not reveal their taxation proposals to us until the day of the presentation of the Budget. You will then have to make the Finance Minister a member of the Standing Finance Committee whereas in the Public Accounts Committee that question will not arise. The Finance Minister need not be present on the Public Accounts Committee, where the Auditor General and the Accountant Generals will unfold the principles or the degree of financial control exercised by the Finance and other Ministries.

We have had two Budget Sessions. I hope by next year's Budget we would lay down how our Budget proposals are to be properly controlled. It will never be controlled by the Ministry with the assistance of the respective Standing Committees, unless there is an Estimates Committee to examine the overall proposals. Look at the discussion we have had this year. With due respect to my colleagues we discussed not the financial proposals but only policies. We did not look into the adequacy or inadequacy of the financial proposals.....

Mr. Speaker: I might invite the attention of Honourable Members to one aspect of the Discussion. While the matters they are referring to are quite

[Mr. Speaker]

relevant. Our immediate object is to consider the proposal as regards election to the various committees, which the honourable the Leader of the House has placed before the House. Observations can still be made as to the changes desired in the functions or the constitution of the Committee without going into an elaborate debate as to how we should discuss Budget proposals or how we should scrutinise them and so on. Otherwise, the debate will be an endless one; we might take two days for the debate and still come to no conclusion. Members will please see that they do not repeat themselves but make their suggestions shortly. These are in a way motions almost of a formal nature and honourable Members can at any time bring up proposals to change the rules of procedure of these committees.

They may make remarks in short. I think sufficient has been said by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Shri B. Das: I apologize if I overstepped the limits of the Resolution. I support the Resolution and the amendments to the Rules that are being proposed. I do hope the House will take note of what I and my honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar have spoken and that they will suggest to the Government to bring forward a Resolution with regard to the other aspects of our suggestions relating to the financial proposals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I support almost every suggestion that has been made by the two previous speakers but I wish to dissent from two suggestions that they have made. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar suggested that each one of the Members of the Standing Committee may be allotted some particular branch of study in connection with the work of any particular Ministry and then he may be expected to get into touch with the permanent officers and satisfy himself that everything is going on well. I do not know whether we can straightway accept that suggestion and I would like the Prime Minister to examine it a little more carefully and go into detail because there are certain obvious dangers also associated with it and we should go into it with greater care before we can possibly accept it or make certain amendments to it.

Secondly, I cannot agree with my honourable friend Mr. B. Das when he said that the Finance Committee need not be presided over by a non-official but should be presided over by the Minister alone. If there is any justification at all for a non-official Chairman for the Public Accounts Committee—and I had been a Member of that for over ten years, and I am in favour of it—there is equal justification why this Estimates Committee should also be presided over by a non-official Chairman. The Finance Minister can be there to lend his experience and guidance and every possible assistance.

Thirdly, though I cannot say that I am not in favour of it, I am not quite sure about this amendment that is suggested here, that is part (2) of rule 1 which says:

"Where there is a Minister of State or Deputy Minister in such Ministry otherwise than in charge thereof; he shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee, and shall act as Chairman for any meeting at which the Minister is unable to be present."

I can understand if it is said that the Minister should preside and should be the Chairman of every Committee. But I cannot understand why the others should also be brought in there and given precedence over the non-official members of these Committees. I think it will be better and it will be a salutary practice indeed to give an opportunity to the non-officials themselves to elect their own Chairman in case the Minister is not present. In that case the Ministry would try his best to be present, and it is only on very rare

occasions that he will not be able to be present. On the other hand if this rule were passed it might come to pass that the Minister might find some other work more important, therefore might be absent and he might ask his Deputy or the State Minister to go as permanent Vice-Chairman and go and act as temporary Chairman of the Committee. I do not think it is going to be a very salutary thing. Anyhow it has got to be further examined and I hope the Prime Minister will give his best consideration to this apprehension of mine and then decide what best to do.

Then, we get only piecemeal information or rather bits of pictures of how the finances of this country are being administered when these various estimates for new proposals for expenditure are brought up before the Finance Committee. That is why we are all anxious that the whole of the Demands side of our budget proposals should be brought up before the Finance Committee a few days before they are actually finalised by the Finance Minister and that he gives an opportunity to all the members of the Standing Finance Committee to satisfy themselves whether all is well. If they have any suggestions to make it might be possible for him to make certain alterations and thus bring about a certain amount of economy. But before doing this thing there is much to be said for the suggestion made by my honourable friend Mr. Ananthasaynam Ayyangar that every Department should place its own Demands in full before its own Standing Committee and get its approval.

Lastly, I wish to make a suggestion to myself as well as to my colleagues in this House that those of us who happen to be Members of any Standing Committee and who agree to any one of the proposals brought before it ought to deem it their duty to support those Demands in this House and if we cannot do so at least not to oppose them, because it is only fair that the time of the House as well as the time of each one of the Members should be economised, after their going into these things in detail at one stage and agreeing to it, by their continuing to be consistent with the decisions that they themselves have taken in the Standing Committee.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, it was on the 19th of November 1947 that the Leader of the House brought before this House a Resolution for the first time in our parliamentary history for the constitution of the Standing Advisory Committees, including Standing Committees for the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs—that is why I say for the first time. The previous Committee on Defence, to which my honourable friend Pandit Maitra invites my attention, was merely a Consultative Committee whereas now we have a full-fledged Advisory Committee like all the other Committees attached to the various Ministries. I do not seek any change in the Rules. They were adopted and you have rightly suggested that the debate should be confined to the working of the Rules. I only wish to examine whether these Rules work in such a way that all the Committees function efficiently, effectively and earnestly. Therefore with that end in view—I should like to take stock of the situation during the last sixteen and odd months and place before the House certain suggestions with regard to the more efficient and effective working of these Standing Advisory Committees.

By your leave, Sir, I should like to remind the Leader of the House about the statement that he made in the House on that occasion, that is the 19th of November 1947, when he moved the Resolution here. He said that he hoped that the Committees would meet really to survey the whole scene of their activities and not merely confine themselves to the problem before them. He would certainly like to put the whole picture before them and take their help in the matter. There are, however, some exceptions to this like secrecy,

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

State policy and similar matters. I moved an amendment to the Rules suggesting that the Committees should meet at least once a quarter. In reply to that amendment of mine the Honourable the Leader of the House said:

"It is not desirable to fix a number like four in these Rules. What the Rule says is they should meet *at least* twice a year. They may meet many more times. I think, however, that to lay down a statutory rule that every Committee should meet at least four times a year will perhaps be undesirable and might place some difficulty. As a matter of fact (this is the essence of that statement with regard to my amendment) apart from administrative matters, if the Members of the Committee themselves want to meet at any time I am quite sure (that is, the Leader of the House was quite sure) that they can meet. They will have the fullest co-operation of the Ministry."

During the last sixteen months I have had the honour and the privilege to serve on two of these Standing Committees, namely, the Defence and the External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Committees. At the very outset I must freely admit that the Defence Ministry has co-operated with us wholeheartedly and have convened a meeting of the Committee whenever we wanted to have one. But, Sir, I am constrained to say with the deepest regret that the Committee attached to the External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Ministry could have functioned far more effectively, far more efficiently and far more frequently. I have greatly benefited by my association with the External Affairs Committee, it is true, but now and then I did feel that this Committee was not functioning as best as it might have done. The Leader of the House, as I pointed out, stated in November 1947 that the Committees could meet far oftener than twice a year, that as a matter of fact every time the Members of the Committee wanted to meet they could meet. I must regretfully state here that this Committee attached to the External Affairs Ministry, during the ten months after March 1948—leaving aside meetings during this Session—met only once. The Committee met in March 1948 and then it met in September 1948 and then again only in February 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): How many meetings in all?

Shri H. V. Kamath: One meeting after March 1948, excluding the meeting in March 1948 and that in February 1949 which were held during the Session. Only one meeting in September last.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I be permitted to correct my honourable friend, Sir, from the information that the House has been supplied with? In reply to my question it was stated that the External Affairs Committee met four times during the year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: During what period?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: During the calendar year 1948. This information was given by the Deputy Minister. The number of meetings held in 1948 was four, the total number of meetings of the Committee was ten. Four members attended the first meeting and nine attended each of the three other meetings in 1948.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am talking of the off-session period; from the end of the last Budget Session till the beginning of this Budget Session the Committee met only once and that was in September 1948. During the last Session of the Legislature it met once, perhaps early in August. In spite of

the fact that I had requested the Leader of the House, the Chairman of this Committee, in September last, that this Committee might meet oftener during the off-session periods too, to my great regret, and I am sure to the regret of my colleagues on this Committee, the Committee did not meet again till February 1949. From September 1948 to February, 1949 there was no meeting whatsoever.

It might be argued that there was perhaps nothing of importance to place before the Committee, but I am sure my honourable friends do not share that view, because during the six-months from September 1948 to February 1949 many momentous events moved swiftly on the world stage. I may mention only a few among them. There were the developments in Kashmir, there were the developments with regard to the Commonwealth Conference in London which the Prime Minister attended in October last. Then there was subsequently the Asian Conference on Indonesia. Then there was a very important question which agitated many of us here, namely, the execution of Tojo and his colleagues in Japan. With regard to the last named subject, namely the execution of Tojo and his colleagues, some of us members of the Committee had met informally because we found that no meeting of the Committee had been called to discuss that or other matters. Some of us, including the convener of this little group, my friend Seth Govind Das, met and adopted a resolution on the subject and we requested Seth Govind Das to pass it on to the proper quarters. I am sure it was sent to the proper quarters.

Seth Govind Das (C. P. and Berar: General): I received a reply to that also.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Yes. But in spite of the various events that happened during that six months period, I am, very regretfully constrained to say that no meeting of the Committee was ever convened. I may also mention that I casually asked my honourable friend Dr. Keskar—it was at the end of December or early in January—whether there was a proposal to call a meeting. Unless my memory betrays me, he told me that the Session was coming to a close, and so we would meet as soon as the Budget Session opened.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): Was he the Deputy Minister then?

Sri H. V. Kamath: Yes, he took charge on 7th or 8th of December, if I remember aright.

It might be argued that it is convenient and easy to call a meeting of these Committees, when the Assembly is in session either as the Constitution-making body or the law-making body, but I might point out to the House that from early November to the 9th or 10th of January the Constituent Assembly was sitting as the Constitution-making body for two months and I fail to see why it was not thought necessary to call a meeting of the Standing Committee attached to the External Affairs Ministry. Even if the Assembly was not in Session either as the Constitution-making body or the law-making body, I certainly would make a strong plea before the House and before the Leader of the House to see that a meeting is convened when important matters come up for placing before the Committee. It might be argued that the Chairman of the Committee is the best judge of what matters are to be placed before the Committee. But in 1947 we changed the procedure. The original rule before the House was "all major questions of general policy on which the Minister in charge desires advice of the Committee"—that was the rule brought before the House. It was amended at the instance of my friend Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. That part of it which said "on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee" was deleted. I suppose the sense of the House

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

was that all questions of general policy must be placed before the Committee. But during this period when so many events happened in India as well as in the outside world, we were not given an opportunity to place our view before the Chairman of the Committee.

The only argument that might be advanced for not calling a meeting of the Standing Committee during the off-session periods is the question of money. It may be argued that members have to come from all parts of the country and that it may not be worthwhile to spend so much money on a meeting of the Committee during the off-session period. But I am surprised if that plea were to be put forward seriously by the Leader of the House. I do hope, nay, I am sure he would not put forward such a plea that during the off-session period Committee meetings should not be convened, because I know that he is so very indifferent if not contemptuous towards money and money matters that at the Jaipur session of the Congress he even forgot how much salary he was drawing. I am sure he will not put forward this as an argument before the House that money should not be spent like that. When the cause is worthy no money spent thereon is wasted. If that plea is brought forward to sustain not calling the Committee meetings in the off-session periods, I would only say that it is a sort of a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy.

Before I close I would say this much that at least in future we should see that the rules work in such a manner that the Committees will really fulfil the purpose that has been assigned to them, that is to say, to serve as a very effective liaison between the Legislature and the Ministries concerned. I am glad to see that there has been a new change. I hope it will be for the better working of these Committees. That change is that the Government Chief Whip is now an *ex-officio* Member of all the Committees.

He, as the entire House knows, is an indefatigable worker, and tries to smoothen things, and to make the relations more cordial, between the Members of the Legislature and the Ministries concerned. I hope he will act as a heaven so far as some of the committees and the Ministries are concerned. The Government Chief Whip, in future, is *ex-officio*, a member of these committees, and I hope he will devote a bit of his attention to see that meetings of the committees are held oftener, at least once every quarter, if not oftener. I am happy to tell the House here, that the Defence Ministry's committee on which I had the honour to serve for the last sixteen months, I am happy to tell the House that the Defence Minister has agreed to a proposal of ours that that committee should meet at least once in two months, and he has also promised to give us every assistance in that direction, and also that the co-operation of his officials and Secretaries would be forthcoming so far as the work of the Standing Committee is concerned. I hope other committees of this House will follow this very good example set by one of the Members of the Cabinet. I would only request the Leader of the House that when he brings forward this resolution for the second time in our history, he will see to it that under his guidance, and under the guidance of his colleagues, this important work is done more efficiently in future.

Shri B. K. Bidya: Sir, I have only to say just a word about the attendance of members in these meetings.

Mr. Speaker: No further arguments now. Already this has taken 45 minutes.

The honourable the Leader of the House.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I feel somewhat bewildered at the eloquence of Mr. Kamath in this matter over which perhaps thirty seconds spent in mentioning it to me would have been sufficient, but he has devoted thirty minutes in this House. As a matter of fact, I am astonished, because I was under the mistaken impression that the External Affairs Ministry had more meetings of its Standing Committee than almost any other Ministry. (*An honourable Member:* 'No'.) May be, but during the last 12 or may be 13 months we have had eight meetings of the Standing Committee. It is true the real criticism has been not about the number of meetings held, but that the meetings were held at the time of the session of this Assembly or the Constitution making body, and not during periods when the Parliament was not meeting. Now, I certainly accept that criticism. It may be desirable to have held the meetings during the off-period. But normally it is considered obviously convenient to have them when Members are present here for the meetings. As a matter of fact, since the session started, we have been meeting roughly every three weeks. We have had, I think, three meetings during this session, and we propose to have another two at least, before we part. If it is necessary, we can have meetings during the off-period also. But it is not a matter for lengthy arguments. It is for any member of the Standing Committee to express his wish, and the thing will be done. (*Shri H. V. Kamath:* 'I did suggest to Dr. Keskar once, but nothing was done'.) I just cannot understand why Mr. Kamath should fight with something which does not exist. Mr. Kamath's speech might have created his impression about the External Affairs Ministry that that Committee did not have enough meetings. We have had about eight meetings during the last thirteen months. May be that they were concentrated within some period. But generally speaking, I would just like to say that it is obviously our desire, it is the desire of the Government that there should be the closest co-operation between the Standing Committees and the various Ministries, much more than what existed during the previous regime. The only question that arises is how that close co-operation should be brought about—the ways and means. The principle is admitted, and we wish to encourage it as much as possible.

Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar made various suggestions. Some other honourable Members made various suggestions, and I will not take up the time of the House now in considering each one of them in detail, except to say that we shall consider all these suggestions and I am sure my honourable colleague, the Finance Member will also consider the suggestions made, so far as they relate to his Ministry, and other suggestions also, and we shall consider them in detail. We shall, in fact, look into this debate completely again, to see what points have been made and refer them to the various Ministries and see what can be done. But *prima facie*, I may say one thing about what Mr. Ayyangar proposed, to the effect that each Member of the Committee might have a separate department or separate section of the Ministry to be in his charge. If I may say so, *prima facie*, that will involve a great deal of difficulty, and instead of helping people, it may very well produce confusion and conflicts.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I clear up some misunderstanding? I did not want any member to be associated with the executive management, but only to get to know the details of the administration before any communication from a department regarding control is issued, so that he may have a better knowledge than the other members, of the matters.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I said, we will examine these proposals. But this is my first reaction to that proposal.

As far the chairmanship of the committees, personally I have no objection if the House wants to have a non-official Chairman. But I would beg the House to consider this, and there is a great deal of confusion about this matter.

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

We just cannot get over the hang-over from the past. Previously there were two groups; humanity was divided in India into two groups—the officials and the non-officials. But that division does not apply now. My honourable friend the Finance Minister and I may be in office, but we are non-officials. We are not in service. The real division is permanent services and others. That fact is not remembered, and it is apparently thought that any person who accepts office in any capacity suddenly falls from grace and becomes polluted, and a person who does not accept office is necessarily highly pure and undefiled. Well, I do not accept that, I reject that contention completely. But nevertheless, in spite of that, if the House desires that the Chairman of these committees or of any committee should be—I will not use the word non-official—should be an elected Chairman, I do not mind at all. But personally I think it is normally conducive to efficient business for the Chairman to be a person connected with the executive apparatus. He does not exercise any more power by being there. He only gives the facts and places them before the meeting. But as I said, it is entirely for the House to decide. If the House wants the other thing, we shall have it. It does not make a great difference.

Shri B. K. Sridhva: Sir, may I know from the proceedings, what is the attendance of the members? I understand except for the Finance and Industries Ministries, where the attendance at the meetings were fairly good, for the other committees, there was less than fifty per cent attendance? Some members did not attend at all. Should not other members be elected?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the House so desires, I shall put up a statement in the course of the next few days showing how many meetings of each Standing Committee were held, and what the attendance was, so that the House may have the information. But it is rather difficult for me to give the attendance of individual members, their attendance or non-attendance. It is up to the House to elect such members as can come and carry on the business.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That this Assembly—

(a) do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct members to serve until the end of the next financial year on Standing Committees to advise on subjects concerning the under-mentioned Ministries and Department of the Government of India, the number to be so elected in respect of each Ministry and Department, excluding the Chairman, Vice-Chairman (if any) and the Government Chief Whip being as follows

Ministry of Agriculture	10
Ministry of Commerce	10
Ministry of Communications	10
Ministry of Defence	10
Ministry of Education	10
Ministry of External Affairs	10
Ministry of Food	10
Ministry of Health	10
Ministry of Home Affairs	10
Ministry of Industry and Supply	10
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	10
Ministry of Labour	10
Ministry of Law	5
Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	10
Ministry of States	10
Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)	10
Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	10
Department of Scientific Research	5

(b) do adopt the following amendment to the existing Rules for regulating the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees, adopted on the 19th November, 1947.

For Rule 1 of the said Rules, the following be substituted :

"1. (1) The Chairman of each Standing Committee shall be the Minister or Minister of State in charge of the Ministry or Department to which the Committee is attached.

(2) where there is a Minister of State or Deputy Minister in such Ministry otherwise than in charge thereof, he shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee, and shall act as Chairman for any meeting at which the Minister is unable to be present.

(3) The Government Chief Whip shall *ex-officio* be a member of each of the Standing Committees.

(4) If at any meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chairman as well as the Vice-Chairman, if any, are unable to be present, the members present may elect one of themselves to act as Chairman for that meeting.

(5) An officer in the Ministry or Department designated by the Minister in charge shall be Secretary to the Standing Committee."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the financial year 1949-50."

Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a small addition to bring the terms of this motion into conformity with the motion in regard to the other Standing Committee and I would like to add at the end the words:

"along with the Government Chief Whip, who shall be an *ex-officio* member."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the financial year 1949-50 along with the Government Chief Whip who shall be an *ex-officio* member."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 100 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, eleven members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Member of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 100 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, eleven members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

Shri B. Das (Orises: General): Sir, I wish to speak on this motion. Unfortunately owing to the heavy work after the Independence was attained and owing to our dual function whereby members of this House are sitting as members of the Sovereign Constituent Assembly in the other place and lastly owing to Jaipur Congress last December, the Public Accounts Committee has not functioned at all. I admit that it is not the fault of the Public Accounts Committee, but it is a fact that this House had no opportunity to examine the appropriation accounts that are placed by the honourable Finance Minister's Ministry and the House does not know what irregularities in accounts have been committed in 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48.

[Shri B. Das]

The Constituent Assembly will meet again from May till August and I do hope that those members of the House will be elected as members of the Public Accounts Committee who will exercise a certain amount of sacrifice of time and labour and meet in the Public Accounts Committee and examine the appropriation accounts at high pressure. But today members of the House have no knowledge of irregularities of our accounts. We must see how our Finance Ministry has exercised financial control over the various ministries in the past, what are the irregularities and what are the present needs in the Finance Ministry to exercise full financial control over expenditure. This state of things is very alarming and the control of the Public Accounts of India, is at a danger point. I want to warn the members of the House that something should be done to expedite the sitting of the Public Accounts Committee so that the state of Public Accounts are revealed in its true perspective.

Shri R. K. Sridha (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I was a member of this Committee last year and the honourable the Finance Minister last evening in his reply to the debate stated that he had called the meetings of Public Accounts Committee and there was hardly any quorum at one meeting and that at subsequent meetings there was no quorum. My honourable friend, Mr. Das wants to expedite the sitting of the Public Accounts Committee. I know that he attended the meetings, but we were not able to proceed with the business because of various reasons. The reasons were that at no meeting all the members were present, that at several meetings no quorum was there and lastly there owing to some engagements which the honourable the Minister had to attend the meetings were cancelled by him. The point that I want to make is that it is nobody's fault. I might say most of it is our fault, because the officers supplied to us all the information that is required in 1945-46. All these reports, I have received. The point is whether members could make it convenient to attend those meetings, that is my point, Sir. If we are not prepared to sit for a longer period for this Committee, I feel, after going through the papers, it will require a number of days, the members had to sit there and they are not prepared to do so. I think it is not fair that those members should be elected on these bodies. I feel it is no use telling the honourable the Finance Minister that the sitting of the Public Accounts Committee should be expedited. I therefore feel that something should be done in this matter. I wanted to draw the attention of the Prime Minister on this subject, but unfortunately I had no time and you did not permit me. I have experience of these committees and hardly 50 per cent. of the members are present at the meetings excepting the committees attached to the Industry and Supply Ministry and the Defence Ministry. The other committees have a very poor record of attendance and I, therefore, feel that unless this thing is remedied, they are not going to meet nor are they going to expedite. It is really scandalous that the accounts for so many years are pending.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member need not now dilate on that point.

Shri R. K. Sridha: I, therefore, desire to draw the attention of the honourable the Leader of the House to this matter and I hope he will pay proper attention to this.

Maulana Hamid Mohani (U.P.: Muslim): I find in this Supplementary List of Business this thing should be taken up before the commencement of any other item under the heading 'Motions for election to Committees' in this agenda. Now, they are taking up other matters.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member may make sure of his facts and I will hear him on the point of order at 2-30 when we re-assemble.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): I am afraid, I take a rather serious view of the situation of the accounts, pertaining to the Government of India. I hope the House will remember that when a similar motion was made last year, the debate was rather heated, for the reason that the Finance Minister, who occupied the position at that time was not able adequately to explain why no Public Accounts Committee sat in regard to the accounts during the pre-partition period. I think the views expressed on that occasion must be on record and I have no doubt that the successor Finance Minister must have been informed about the views of the House. I have been informed by responsible people that the state of accounts of this Government is in a parlous condition; audit is in a rather bad way; the audit department is under-staffed; the officers are either superannuated or completely incapable of doing their work and such work as is done is unsatisfactory. I think that this scrutiny into expenditure by the Public Accounts Committee is completely useless if the backbone of the entire Finance Department, namely, the Audit Department is left to go to rust and ruin. I think an insinuation was contained in a statement made by the honourable the Finance Minister yesterday that some meetings could not be held, because the members did not co-operate. It was the duty of the Finance Minister to inform the House that the Public Accounts Committee could not meet, because members would not co-operate. I think there the Finance Minister has failed in an elementary duty not merely to himself and to the House, but to this Country. (*An honourable Member*: 'He said so yesterday.')

And he should have come before this House earlier in the session and asked if necessary for a new Committee to be appointed, when the old Committee would not function. What is the position in regard to this Committee that is proposed to be instituted? Is this Committee going to scrutinise the previous years' accounts only or is it going to examine all the sets of accounts that have not been examined all along. I think the honourable the Finance Minister ought to tell us what exactly the Committee is going to do. Is it going to take up the accounts, not hitherto looked into and give a full report? Will the honourable Minister also tell us if he has had any consultation with the Auditor General, who is now functioning? Is the Auditor General able to approach him? I understand, that between the Finance Minister and the Auditor General, the Secretariat is functioning as a barrier and the Secretariat refused to sanction additional expenditure such as is necessary for this very vital work in this Department of the Finance Ministry. I would, therefore, like to ask these questions of the honourable the Finance Minister at the same time adding that I will not for my part absolve him of full responsibility in this matter, namely, that he should have come before this House on the day that this House met and reported to the House that the Public Accounts Committee will not meet and what the House proposed to do in the matter. I think that is an elementary dereliction of duty on the part of the Finance Minister and I would also like to know what he proposes to do with the past years accounts when the new Committee is going to meet.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, as far as the work of the Public Accounts Committee is concerned, the matter was considered in some detail last year. I have seen the record of the proceedings. As soon as my attention was drawn to it, I took steps, as early as I possibly could, to have meetings of the Public Accounts Committee convened in order that the Department may discharge its duty on the lines decided last year. If the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee could not be held, it is a responsibility which must be shared between me and the Committee. I am quite prepared to accept my share of the responsibility. But it is a responsibility which must be shared between me and the honourable Members of this House who are members of that Committee.

Now, I am quite aware of the decision in regard.....

Dr. Bahadur Tek Chand (East Punjab: General): Is it not a fact that a meeting was called on the very last day or last two days of the session when the Constitution-making body was sitting and that when it was stated that the members could not be present then, but that the meetings might be held five days later, were not the members informed that as the honourable Minister for Finance was busy with something else the meetings could not be held later on and that the whole Finance Department was busy with the Budget and would be able to find time only after the adoption of the Budget? I ask the honourable the Finance Minister to verify all these facts and place them before the House before passing on the responsibility to the unfortunate members of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I made it perfectly clear that I was prepared to accept part of the responsibility. I share the responsibility. It is perfectly true that at a certain stage in these happenings, a date that was fixed for a particular meeting I had to give up because of some urgent official business that I had to attend to.

It is essential that our accounts should be properly scrutinised and audited. Reference has been made to the fact that the staff of the Audit Department is not sufficient for the purpose of making an efficient and effective scrutiny. That is a matter of which I am fully aware.

Now with regard to the suggestion that the Auditor-General is not in a position to approach me I may say that it is an entirely unfounded allegation. I accept responsibility for the decisions of the Finance Ministry and I repudiate the allegation as beneath contempt.

As regards the actual work that has been done in the matter of the preparation of these accounts for the year 1945-46, it is complete and the accounts are in the hands of honourable Members. The preparation of the Accounts for 1946-47 have advanced considerably. Appropriation accounts for certain Ministries are ready and also a note on the more important irregularities pointed out by the Auditor-General. I am prepared to have all these matters placed before the Committee as soon as the members are ready to meet. I am entirely in the hands of the members of the Public Accounts Committee in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

“That the members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 100 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, eleven members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts.”

The motion was adopted.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS AND CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.

Mr. Speaker: There are three more motions of this type. We may dispose them of before adjourning for Lunch.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Railways and Transport): Sir, I have got two motions standing in my name. Perhaps with your permission I will move them together. I have slightly amended both the motions in order to bring them into line with the general principle followed in

the main Resolution which was moved by the honourable the Prime Minister. I shall move them in the amended form. I move:

(i) "That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, eleven members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Transport and Railways, on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April 1949. The Minister of State for Transport and Railways and the Government Chief Whip shall in addition be *ex-officio* members of the Committee."

(ii) "That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct eight members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1949, along with the eleven members of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, the Minister for Transport and Railways, the Minister of State for Transport and Railways and the Government Chief Whip all of whom shall be *ex-officio* members."

Mr. Speaker: I will put the motion to the House.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I would like to say a word.

Mr. Speaker: Then the best course would be to take this up after Lunch. In the meantime the motion standing in the name of Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur may be disposed of.

ELECTION TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister of Health): I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, two persons from among their number to serve on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

Mr. Speaker: I will put the motion to the House.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, two persons from among their number to serve on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): On a point of information, Sir.

Beth Govind Das (C.P. and Berar: General): There is so much discussion and also points of order?

Mr. Speaker: Either there is no discussion or there is full discussion.

I have put the motion to the House.

The motion was adopted.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS AND CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS—*concl'd.*

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

(i) "That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, eleven members to serve, under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Transport and Railways on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1949. The Minister of State for Transport and Railways and the Government Chief Whip shall in addition be *ex-officio* members of the Committee."

(ii) "That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, eight members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April 1949, along with the eleven members of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, the Minister for Transport and Railways, the Minister of State for Transport and Railways, and the Government Chief Whip all of whom shall be *ex-officio* members."

The motion was adopted.

RAILWAYS (TRANSPORT OF GOODS) AMENDMENT BILL.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam (Minister of State for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

This is a very simple Bill with a single clause extending the life of the Transport of Goods Act, 1947, to the end of the next financial year. This Bill was debated last year and I would like to move it without any speech whatever.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Are you not going to announce the dates of these elections?

Mr. Speaker: After this motion is moved, I am going to announce. There is also one little motion for introduction of a Bill, which we shall take up.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I do not know if the House would like me to go into details of the justification for this extension. Last year, when the Bill came up for discussion, I was one of those who hoped that there would be no necessity for extending this Bill. But unfortunately the conditions are such that we cannot get along without this Bill.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Unfortunately, you have gone to the Government Benches.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I propose to anticipate my friend by quoting myself. Last year, I said:

"The main effect of this priority organisation is that it delays all proceedings. At the same time, I am convinced that this organisation cannot be scrapped immediately. If there was no famine in Madras and no food scarcity in other provinces, I would have no hesitation in telling the Honourable Minister that it should be scrapped immediately."

Unfortunately this year, famine has occurred in Gujarat and Katbiawar and now we have to divert all the transport available in the B.E.C.I. to the supply of food and fodder to this area. There is also a general scarcity of transport for the transport of goods. Under the Railways Act, no Railway Administration has a right to give any kind of preference to any person or to any commodity. They have to take things as they are offered and carry them without any regard to the necessity of the country. Therefore we are forced to have this power to give priority to one commodity over the other. I shall content myself by saying that during the last year a serious attempt has been made to overcome the defects of the priority organisation. The following steps have been taken.

To every Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, an Advisory Committee has been attached and these Advisory Committees have on the whole been working very well. All restrictions on the booking of "smalls" have been removed, so that they have been removed from the priority system. Today the only restriction on the transport of smalls is actual congestion of traffic in any destination. Otherwise, they are free to move.

Again, on many railways, certain days have been allotted for the movement of low priority and non-priority goods, so that their movement may not be affected continuously for a long time.

Again, the Railway administrations have been arranging to carry as much traffic as possible by train loads even though they are low priority or non-priority traffic.

As a result of all these, the movement of commodities has been considerably eased. In fact, in South India the Railways are able to offer wagons for all goods that are offered. Only they are unable to take goods to Delhi and such other places owing to congestion in North India. Therefore, it has been decided practically to scrap the priority organisation in Madras and hand over this business to the South Indian Railway and the M.S.M. Railway to be used only when there is an emergency; when food and other articles have to be moved in priority to other goods.

Things in South India will now move as before, in a normal manner. We had hoped to do the same in the Bombay area also, but unfortunately the famine in Gujarat and Kathiawar has prevented us from taking this measure. If fortunately there are good rains in the current year and the famine situation alters, we may be able to remove the priority control in Bombay area also. Owing to the difficulty of moving coal and other articles at Calcutta, we may have to retain the priority organisation at Calcutta a little longer, but I have every hope that by the end of the next financial year this organisation will not be needed. No one will be happier than myself if we can scrap this organisation altogether.

So this is an unfortunate necessity. I am one of those who think that free movement of goods is absolutely essential for healthy economy. It is unfortunate that owing to the exigencies of war and the shortage of power and other rolling stock, we have had to resort to this measure. But it is a necessity and so I move that this extension be granted."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Regulation of priorities is a kind of control. Now the Minister must justify the need of such control. He has tried to justify it in a particular manner. I ask how many times was this control exercised and how with respect of food grains? There are sixteen odd items in the priorities. How far has it helped in the transport of food grains? For instance, *chana* it is rotting in East Punjab. I had a talk with the Ministers concerned. We found that large quantities are available there but though so close to Delhi, that *chana* is not allowed to come into Delhi, with the result that prices for *chana* here are high. We are hearing this new word "hottleneck" but I fear it is practically becoming a "throttle-neck"! Persons in charge of the administration may change, but still grease is necessary and all the wheels go on creaking. I would first of all require a report on the working of the administration of this priorities Act before any honourable Minister comes forward for a continuance, however short the period may be, thereof.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: May I inform the Member that in the report of the Transport Department, there is a section dealing with this control.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether wagons are turning round more easily than before and whether the so-called bottlenecks are being removed: whether the man to whom a wagon is supplied still takes unnecessarily long time in loading; whether the man to whom a wagon is despatched takes the minimum time for unloading; whether from the collieries coal is being removed in time, etc. Every department in this country is complaining against this bottleneck and delay. Now what steps have been taken by the Government. What is the difference between the time when a wagon has been received and the time taken

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for unloading it? I say that in the collieries persons are given four or five wagons and so on but only two wagons are used by them but the proper demurrage is not charged. If demurrage were charged in a geometrical progression—for the first hour Rs. 10. for the second hour Rs. 20 for the third hour Rs. 40 and so on, this trouble would disappear.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Then there will not be any business.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But there will be business on right lines and this slackness will be avoided. Therefore, the question is what are the steps that have been taken to cut down the want of wagons? On a former occasion I put a question to the honourable Minister and asked him whether it is necessary to purchase more wagons. I was told that it was not necessary to do so. But he would not take steps to see that the wagons went round and round and that each wagon covered a larger mileage per day than before.

As regards distribution of wagons, every control means that there is placed some power of discretion in the hands of the person exercising it. I would like that wherever a large number of wagons are used at a station, big or small, there must be an Advisory Council of all persons interested in trade for each station. Take the province of Madras. At the centre *i.e.* Madras there is a Priority Authority who distributes wagons. He says so many wagons are available for a particular station. Thereafter it is open to the station master or the goods clerk to allot wagons to individual traders as they like. I was taken to a station, called Pakala, where there is a workshop to address railway employees. There an assistant station master told me that owing to war he was given Rs. 200 per wagon by the merchant. This occurred at a station in my district from where mangoes are sent and jaggery is despatched to Bombay and Calcutta. Oil also is sent to Calcutta from there. If Rs. 200 is placed into the hands of a station master or an assistant station master getting Rs. 85 or Rs. 40, can we expect him to be honest? Then I discussed the remedy with the merchants and I talked to the General Manager. A number of tradesmen engaged in various trades came. I suggested that they should not run up to the station master and offer to grease him. On the contrary, asked them to constitute themselves into a Council and whatever wagons are supplied they should allot away themselves according to the register. If they take the responsibility, the station master will be all right. I suggested to the District Traffic Superintendent to agree to this course, it is yet to be considered by the Railway administration. I am however repeating the suggestion.

Then, Sir, I would also like that some local tribunals must be established to enquire into cases of nepotism. The Honourable Dr. Ambedkar said some time ago in this House that wherever there is control and discretion is vested in the hands of somebody, the person affected must be able to go to an independent body which must be able to get at the records to find out if his case has been passed over because it is not proper, legitimately or illegitimately for anything other than *bona fide* reasons. That alone can insure confidence in the minds of the public. Not only has the administration to be pure, but we must make it appear that it is pure and that is a true safeguard of the interests of the administration. If accusations are levelled against the administration, they may be untrue, but the administration must take care to see that all possible methods are adopted to see that people are satisfied. Therefore I suggest a tribunal. Such tribunals are established in other departments. I understand in the Communications Department they have started a complaints section. Cannot there be a single organized central complaints section? I agree that there should be no harassment. A person must be able to give his report to the complaint section and the information must be confidential until the enquiry is concluded.

These are some of the things which will certainly make this priority system efficient. But so long as there is shortage of wagons and it is not possible to unload all things quickly, there is need for control. I am not against control so long as there is deficiency of supply of wagons but the control must be exercised properly and to the best interests of the community.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): There must be a necessity as the honourable Minister stated for continuing this priority but let me tell him, and he knows, that this priority business for despatch of goods by rail has become a scandal. I will use the mildest word. Priority is on paper. Many times a priority permit is issued for the right purpose but these priorities are often not used for the purpose they are meant. Several times I have brought this matter to the notice of the honourable Minister. In the last railway discussion I quoted him an illustration as to how favouritism is shown for the purpose of priorities and in Carnae Bunder a *mukadam* actually presented his consignment note for booking goods and he was not allowed priority and some other favourites were allowed. He has given names and I hope the authorities have taken a note of it. Despite my suggestion during the discussion on the Railway Budget, I put a question and yesterday for want of time or because I might have exceeded my quota, there was no chance for putting a supplementary question. I asked whether it was a fact that certain contractors had made a report to the General Manager, B.B. and C.I. railway about favouritism in this priority business and the answer was yes. Then I asked what steps were taken and the answer was that a protest, alleged to have come from Carnac Bridge *Dalals* and *Mukadams*, care of one *dalai*, who alone signed the complaint, was received. See the idea in between the lines. One man alone has signed, it as if one man who gives all the information should be discounted. They say that they have received the complaint and the matter is being looked into and the reply to part (c) is encouraging. He says "The matter is still under investigation and a further reply will, in due course, be placed on the table of the House." I mention part (b) of the question for the reason that the complaint was made on behalf of the *Dalals* and *Mukadams*. An advocate sent a notice to the B.B. and C.I. General Manager. The advocate writes on behalf of certain persons and he has mentioned all these persons.

The honourable Minister stated just now that in Madras there is now free booking and all goods are allowed to be booked. But he has not said whether this applies to both the M. and S.M. and S.I. Railways or one of them. The day before yesterday I sent a letter to the honourable Railway Minister, Shri Gopalaaswami Ayyangar, sending him a letter I had received which made a bitter complaint against the M. and S.M., that he offered goods for booking but they were not allowed to be booked. Special trains from other parts of India are run to carry food but here the goods are rotting and no facilities are given for booking. The reply that I received from the Minister is that he is making enquiries into this matter. I do not know to what railway my honourable friend the Minister referred. Did he refer to both the railways in Madras? If that is so I would like to ask him what he has to say about the complaint that I have just now mentioned.

I will give you another illustration. The Administrative Officer of the Financial Rehabilitation Corporation of this Government wanted a Godrej safe from Bombay. I happen to be a member of the Advisory Board of that Corporation. He complained to me that for a number of months he has been waiting to receive the safe but due to transport priority system the safe could not be had. The safe was urgently required because their transactions were in lakhs of rupees. He made a report saying that he had placed orders but had not received the safe. But they said that despite priority the railways were not prepared to accept the safe for delivery. The Administrative Officer referred the matter to the Railway Board, whosoever it may be. Being a Government

[Shri R. K. Sidhva]

concern the Railway Board said that the safe could be sent by passenger train. You can imagine what will be the difference between goods and passenger freight rates. When for passenger booking a telegram was sent it was said that small bookings to Delhi were closed. The matter was represented again and another telegram was sent and again it was said that under instructions from the Railway Board small bookings could not be accepted. For four months the safe was not received and I do not know whether ultimately it came from any other firm or was locally purchased. I wanted to illustrate what is the state of affairs as far as the priority system is concerned.

I would like the honourable Minister to take interest. He knows very well about this matter. I am glad that he personally takes interest in some matters. He said that he himself felt like us when he was an ordinary member of the Assembly and when he has become a Minister I am sure he will take interest. When we talk of corruption they say that we do not give specific instances but when specific instances are mentioned they do not help us. How can you expect us to be responsible members of the Government? We are also responsible and we are also part and parcel of this Government. We want to help you. Kindly see when a member writes letters that you make enquiries. I am yet to see what action he has taken on the complaints I have made.

I would suggest that these priorities whenever they are issued, or wherever bookings are open or closed the announcements should be made in their Railway Gazette and the gazette should be available to the public. Acceptance notices and restriction notices are published in the gazette and kept in a corner of the railway office and are not available to the public, so that much fraud is played on the ignorance of the people. The Bombay Steel Stock-holders Association wrote to the G.I.P. Railway and the B.B. and C.T. to send them one copy of the acceptance notices and the reply was that this could not be sent. Here is the letter from the Goods Supervisor at Wadi Bunder to the Registered Stock-holders Association: "I regret we are unable to send copies of acceptance notices to individual firms." The letter was written on behalf of the association. This matter was referred to me and I wrote a letter and perhaps because I am a member of the Assembly or because I was a member of the C.A.C. they sent me a copy but they said that they were not prepared to send it to individual firms. If you do not want to give them free make them buy it. But I would suggest that this should be available to every man. These notices should be exhibited in all the goods offices, so that people will know that from such and such a date goods booking is closed or open. Now what happens is that the notice is kept secret with a railway official and this leads to favouritism on the ground that booking is closed. Everybody does not represent to Government. 90 per cent of cases go by default. They are businessmen and they do not want to bother about this. Therefore I am making a suggestion. I am in favour of continuing the priorities but for the sake of goodness kindly see that your orders are properly executed. Priority must mean real priority.

The Food Department was given priority on certain articles but they had to report that it is not being followed in the strict sense. I cannot forget what is happening in the name of priorities. There is a good deal of corruption. I have personally seen cases of favouritism under this priority. The sooner it is stopped the better it is in the interest of the community and the commercial people who want to book their goods. Scarcity of wagon is there and I am sure the scarcity will continue for a number of years but for that you cannot go on extending this priority. I have visited a number of stations on the G.I.P. Railway. I asked one station master to show to me how many wagons were booked. He was flabbergasted and he had no answer to give me. I found empty wagons on the siding and asked him what he had to say to that. He said that applications had been received and they were being considered. I

asked him how long they were lying there I got no satisfactory reply. I hope the honourable Minister will take interest. I do not minimise his efforts. I would like him to take some practical steps and see what he can do. I have high regard for Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar and a combination of him with our Minister of State can work wonders. It is only four months since they have taken charge. I hope they will amply prove the justification for two Ministers under this Ministry. This Ministry has a tremendous amount of work. I do not know why the Ministry should bother with Port Trusts. But that is a different matter. They have transport work, railway work, petrol and so on and so forth. I do not know how they have divided their work but I am not concerned with it also. What I am concerned is that this matter should be looked into. While we give him support in this they must understand that next year at least they would not come for any further extension but that the legislation will be repealed.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I am very glad that my honourable friend Mr. Santhanam quoted his own words on the last occasion when he was opposing the Bill and I sympathise with him today when he has brought this Bill. I would not say that we will not give him one year's further lease of life for this Act, but I would like to ask him whether there will ever be an end to these extensions and if there will be, what are the methods. I would like to know what are the methods which he proposes to adopt so that he may not have to come before this House next year for another extension.

Just now my friends have given some examples about this wagon shortage. My friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar made some pointed suggestions. I would like to make some more suggestions for consideration. First of all I want to know what is being done to manufacture more wagons in the country. There is not any workshop which is at present producing any of the essential parts like frames and other such parts. What is being done is to put up plants for the manufacture of such things and I would like to know when we will be able to manufacture wagons.

The second thing which I think is more important from the point of view of immediate use to my honourable friend is this. I want to point out to him that there are thousands of wagons which are lying on the railway sidings and yards like the Panagarh grave yard which could be reclaimed. I happen to be the President of the All India Carriage and Wagon Staff Committee and I have spoken to a number of officers and workers in the railway workshops. They have told me that if the Railways only want to reclaim all the wagons they can reclaim easily about 5,000 wagons. When I went to Sealdah on the E.I. Railway to hold a meeting of the Committee, they told me that there are so many wagons which are lying idle, which can be used but which are not being used because they have been condemned without having been brought to the workshop for repairs. I would like to tell my honourable friend that a large number of wagons are being used as residences. The staff that has come from Pakistan is housed in these wagons. The plight of these men living in the wagons is hopeless. They do not like to live there. It is almost like living in hell. What I wish to point out is that if a wagon which can be used for transport is being used for residential purposes it means that we are spending about Rs. 100 a day or losing that much sum which a wagon in transit will normally bring per day. So when you are using a wagon as residence you are wasting Rs. 100 a day. Again, with that money you can build much better houses. I would like to see that no single wagon is henceforth used for this purpose unless it is condemned. I have myself seen with my own eyes wagons being used for this purpose which can be put on the track and which can help to solve the transport problem.

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

Another point I would like to make is that the division of the staff as loco department and wagon department in the workshop is not proper. There are two departments in the workshop—the loco department and the carriage and wagon department. The men in the loco department are paid better salaries whereas the men in the carriage department who are mis-called train examiners are not paid adequately. They should be properly designated as carriage foremen and given encouragement and incentive to see that carriages which come out of the workshops are kept in proper repairs and that whatever wagons which are lying on the railway sidings can be reclaimed are put into proper use. If the carriage department is separated and made independent and if the people are also given encouragement I am sure that much improvement will follow in the upkeep of carriages and their maintenance and also in reclaiming those wagons which are lying on the lines. I am sure many people must have seen wagons lying on the lines which can be easily reclaimed but which are not being reclaimed.

There is one other point and that is thefts of the wagons. How do these thefts occur? I have seen in Gorakhpur that about fifty wagons loaded with salt were found missing. They were missing for a period of two months and could not be traced. Ultimately they were found lying on a siding somewhere else. What happened was this. The people who were thieves of these commodities tried to throw them on one side so that they may have ample time to steal. What I wish to point out here is that apart from the amount of goods lost and claims paid, the wagons remain there for a month or two and everyday you are losing Rs. 100 on the wagon itself. If you compare the figures of the compensation for the goods stolen you will find that such thefts have greatly increased. Unless you stop these thefts you will not be able to increase wagon turnover very much.

An Honourable Member: What about the Railway employees themselves?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have any wagons been stolen?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: They were, and those have gone to Pakistan. One case came to notice where some goods were sent from Bombay and when they came up to Ghaziabad somebody broke the labels and the wagon was sent to Modinagar. Then in collusion with the staff the wagons were thrown into the siding. Some gentleman took charge of the goods to whom the goods were not booked and the wagons remained lying there. And all the claims have been paid by the Railway. What I wish to point out is that besides loss of money paid as claims for goods lost, the Railways have lost the use of the wagons. The matter I was told was being investigated by the C. I. D. I want to see that proper arrangements are made for watch and ward for finding out who is responsible for this sort of theft. Fifty wagons loaded with salt lying for two months somewhere and the compensation for loss of goods being paid! And the wagons lying without being used. Unless a thorough enquiry is made to find who is responsible for this and to find the gangs who are doing all these thefts, you will not be able to increase the wagon turnover.

About corruption much has been said. Everybody knows that you cannot get a wagon, even for essential commodities, unless you pay—there are various rates—Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 or sometimes Rs. 2,000 per wagon for sending those goods which should get first priority. These are the things which I wanted to mention and unless some radical measure is adopted to see that these evils are removed you will not be able to overcome the present difficulties and get better turnover.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister what is at present the turnover of wagons. Last time the Honourable Dr. Matthai told us about the improvement which has been made in the turnover. I would like to know what further improvement in turnover has been achieved and whether the pre-war figure has been reached. I think it has not been reached. The time taken in loading and unloading wagons is great. I would therefore suggest that this also must be carefully seen that wagons are not allowed to be detained while they are being loaded or unloaded. Corruption is to be found there also. If money is paid they are allowed to load and unload at leisure and when payment is not made they are forced to load and unload quickly. I have also asked the station masters about this. If action is taken against those men who detain the wagons for any length of time and if they are punished I think it will go a long way to improving matters. I approve of the suggestion made by my friend Mr. Ananthmesayanam Ayyangar in this respect. But I would rather say that a tribunal should be appointed. When the Rates Tribunal Bill was presented in this House I suggested that this Tribunal should also examine cases of corruption in the loading and allotment of wagons. But the suggestion was not accepted. I would suggest that the honourable Minister should appoint some tribunal before which men can bring forward cases of corruption in the allotment and loading of wagons. I am sure the mere fear of it will reduce to a great extent this corruption in the allotment of wagons.

These are some of the suggestions I want to make. If they are adopted, if the turnover is increased and if more wagons are reclaimed there is bound to be improvement and I am sure that next year my honourable friend will not need to come before the House for another extension of the life of the Act. With such men in charge of the Railways as at present I am quite sure that they will try to see that this thing is done. I also hope that if the branch of workmen who are in charge of maintenance of wagons are treated properly and on a par with the people who are in charge of engines and given proper encouragement they will get much effort and service which will be helpful in reclaiming wagons.

Sri Prabhu Dayal Himatnagar (West Bengal: General): In discussing this question of extending the period of this Act, I should like to invite the attention of the honourable Ministers to one or two points which to my mind appear to be acting very much against the interests of a large number of persons.

In the case of jute there is a rule that if you want to send it from Assam or Bihar to Calcutta, it can only be consigned in the name of mills or Press houses irrespective of whether there is any contract or sale or not. The result is that those who have to send the jute to Calcutta have to send it in the name of one or the other mills, though there is no contract, and the mill in whose name the goods are consigned either forces the sender to sell it at its own price or the consignor has to remove the goods; when he wants to remove the goods he is not permitted to do so because the railway receipt has got to be signed by the consignee. Therefore, I will request the honourable Minister to look into the matter. This rule is very inconvenient and is acting against the interests of actual owners of these goods. It should be changed to allow goods to be consigned by the owners in whosever's name they want. The same thing applies in the case of timber too. If you want to send timber to Delhi from U.P. you have to send it in the name of a mill or a big consumer, but not in the name of the owner even if he wants to consign it to himself. That also acts against the interests of owners. These are two specific instances that I will invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to. Certain Members have spoken that there is a certain amount of corruption also in the matter of allotment of wagons. Of course that is a general complaint and I am sure the Ministers are looking into the question and taking such steps as they possibly

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can. Only today I have come to learn that the Priority Controller in U. P. has passed an order which in effect has given absolute monopoly to certain mills in Kanpur inasmuch as no jute goods manufactured anywhere else can be consigned to Kanpur. Therefore the result is that mills in Kanpur have got an absolute monopoly of sale and they have been charging a higher price from the consumers than they would otherwise be able to do if goods can be sent from other places to Kanpur. This rule is not in the interests of outside mills or the consumers.

I have given specific instances to the honourable Minister and I hope he will look into the matter and set things right.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, many of the comments refer to the difficulties, inefficiencies and the existing corruption in general Railway administration rather than to the particular Priority organisation. Therefore, I shall content myself with answering some of the specific points made with reference to this organisation.

My friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar said that certain kinds of food stuffs were not being moved from East Punjab or other places. I may inform him that so far as the Priority organisation is concerned, all foodstuffs come under priority class 1—they have to be moved before any other article is moved. But Provincial Governments, in their own interests, have passed many orders restricting the movement of food stuffs in order to conserve food for their own people. It is these Provincial orders that are generally obstructing the movement of food stuffs. So far as the food stuffs are concerned, the Railways are bound to give priority and they do give them priority over all other articles.

Mr. Ananthasayanam also said something about the wagon position. There is no doubt that we would like to have more wagons, but today the difficulty is not the number of wagons but the power position. If we had more locomotives, even with the existing number of wagons we would be able to move much more goods. Therefore the real bottleneck is not in the number of wagons but in the locomotive position which is being rapidly remedied.

Then there is also the congestion on certain lines; owing to the loss of Karachi, Bombay Port has become terribly congested and therefore all the lines leading from Bombay—the B.B. and C.I. and the G.I.P.—have become congested.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: That is not all the reason?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am not saying that that is all the reason. I am only giving you some of the reasons. You must take all the reasons together cumulatives in order to arrive at the result.

Thus, the power position and the congestion in certain tracks contribute to many of our difficulties.

As regards the condemned wagons about which my honourable friend Professor Shibban Lal Saksena has spoken, this has been raised in a question hour more than once. Every time we have referred it, we have got the opinion of our experts that all these wagons are condemned only when they are not worth repairing and when the cost of repairing will not be repaid by their use. In such matters we have to abide by the opinion of our experts. It is only when a wagon is utterly useless that it is used as a house.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Who are these experts?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Our Mechanical Engineers and people in charge of workshops are our experts and we have to trust their opinion than the lay opinion on which my honourable friend relies.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the honourable Minister mean that some of these wagons at least could not be utilised by cannibalization?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, that is our report and every time this question has been raised we have referred it more than once to our experts because we agree that if these wagons can be used they ought to be used. But every time our experts have said that they have been looked into and it was found that they cannot be used. That is the position. If my honourable friends will bring any specific cases to my notice I am prepared to have the cases examined again.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How can I get a wagon and examine it?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Mr. Ananthasayanam also spoke of the appointment of Advisory Committees. I indicated in my opening speech that they are already at work. There is an Advisory Committee of 11 members at Calcutta, one in Bombay, one in Madras, in Gorakhpur and Kanpur and Delhi.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How do they work?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I suggested that at all important stations where there is heavy goods traffic, local Advisory Committees should be appointed to distribute the wagons that are allotted to that particular station.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: These Committees are useful only where there are Priority Controllers. Probably my honourable friend is referring to the actual distribution of wagons. That is the business of the Railway Managements. How far Goods Advisory Committees may be appointed is a matter which is receiving separate consideration. We have recently appointed Goods Advisory Committees at Muttra and Agra and similarly I am prepared to see how far they can be extended.

Shri B. L. Sondhi (East Punjab: General): What about the East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Even in East Punjab, they will be set up if necessary. But that has nothing to do with the Priority organisation. The duty of the Priority organisation is to issue priority certificates to those who apply for them. These are issued only where the Regional Controllers are stationed and therefore the Advisory Committees will be useful only in those stations. We have appointed Advisory Committees in all those stations. I have inquired personally into the working of the Advisory Committees at Kanpur, Calcutta and Bombay and I have come away with the distinct impression that all these Committees are working fairly well.

Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar spoke about a complaint section. I may assure him that there is a complaint section in every Railway and any Member of the Assembly who puts in a complaint in any Railway station will not only receive a reply in a very short time, but they have to report to us what action they have taken. Not only for the Members of the Assembly but in every other case they have been instructed to take notice of every complaint within 24 hours and as soon as possible the complainant should get a reply stating what action has been taken. I suggest the honourable Members to try to utilise this opportunity and wherever they have got genuine complaints record them in the particular station and see whether this organisation is efficient; if not, I am prepared to look into it and see that it works efficiently.

Shri B. Das: Thank you for that suggestion.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): But the complaint book is generally not given to us. That is the trouble.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: My honourable friend Mr. Sahu is not chary of writing letters to me; but he has not yet written to me about the complaint book not being given to him, at any particular station. I am sure the complaint book cannot be given to every passenger. He has to ask for it. If it is refused when asked, I am prepared to take immediate and drastic action.

About the M.S.M. Railway my friend Mr. Sidhva raised a complaint. When it is a matter confined to the M.S.M. there is no difficulty, but the difficulty comes in when goods have to come from South India to North India, where they have to pass through the G.I.P. and other railways. There the lines are congested and they have to be controlled. Particularly in Delhi there has been lot of congestion and consignments to Delhi had to be restricted during the last five or six months.

Mr. Himatsingka referred to some restrictions regarding consignments of jute and timber. I do not know the particulars, and I shall have them enquired into. Meanwhile I may inform him that this facility for the owners to book consignments to "self" has resulted in over-congestion in many stations, like New Delhi and Delhi. I myself found that the whole of Delhi and New Delhi stations were congested with consignments, especially with goods consigned to "self"; so much so we could not even contact the consignees. Many wagons had to be left unloaded for days.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know if his own department did not take delivery after six months?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: All these are rather fabulous stories, of missing wagons and the like. Some of them are correct; they are the aftermath of the great confusion that happened soon after August 1947, and we are not yet fully out of it. But the cases of missing wagons are becoming rarer and rarer and I think they have practically disappeared at present.

There was then the complaint about the futility of getting priority orders. What Mr. Sidhva said that even when a man got the priority order, he did not get the wagon, that has been partly true. We have now evolved a procedure to follow up the issue of priority certificates to see that the persons who got the priority certificate do get the wagons. This arrangement came into force in the beginning of this year and I have got here the figures for the period from the 10th February, 1949 to the 28th February, 1949 and from the 1st March, 1949 to the 10th March, 1949. I will give here only a few figures for the Delhi region. For the period 10th February, 1949 to 28th February, 1949 the number of priority orders issued was 128. The percentage of priority orders followed up to the total issued, 69 per cent. The number of priority orders implemented, 44. The number that lapsed due to assignor's default 58. Number re-validated 14. From these it is clear that while there are genuine cases for complaint, there is also a number of cases of people taking priority orders in the hope of doing business, and making money, and when they find that the market is not favourable, they do not care to utilise the priority order. That is our difficulty. But I can give the assurance that every genuine case will, as far as possible be given the wagons and if necessary, re-validated.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): On a point of information, Sir. Has the fact come to the notice of the honourable Minister that these priority orders are obtained by some people and they are being re-sold at a high price to genuine merchants?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: That is quite true. But we do not know what to do about it. If a man applies for priority order, either he is to be given the certificate or refused. And if it is given to him, then he transfers it to somebody else on the condition that the goods should be booked in his own name, in the name of the man who has got the priority order. We cannot say that he himself must do it, or that he should not have any agents. These are some of the things which are almost inescapable. But we are tightening up the control to see that these malpractices do not happen, and that only genuine people get the orders. The Advisory Committee's opinion is being taken so that no favouritism can happen.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh rose—

Mr. Speaker: I think questioning may be left over.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What about publishing it in the Gazette?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: So far as giving publicity is concerned, it is put on the notice-board of the railway station concerned. I understand that the notices are sent to the Chambers of Commerce also. All these things have to be done in a hurry and so they cannot be printed because that will take a lot of time. Printing will take some three months, and by the time it is ready, the thing will be out of date. In Calcutta, they send it to the Chambers of Commerce wherefrom the people concerned, get the information. That is done in Bombay also. I think that is all that can be done.

Sir, I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: We will now take up the Bill, clause by clause. There are no amendments.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely,

[Mr. Speaker]

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Ministry of Agriculture	24-3-1949	26-3-1949
2. Ministry of Commerce		
3. Ministry of Communications		
4. Ministry of Defence		
5. Ministry of Education	25-3-1949	28-3-1949
6. Ministry of External Affairs		
7. Ministry of Food		
8. Ministry of Health		
9. Ministry of Home Affairs	26-3-1949	29-3-1949
10. Ministry of Industry and Supply		
11. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
12. Ministry of Labour		
13. Ministry of Law	28-3-1949	30-3-1949
14. Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation		
15. Ministry of States		
16. Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)		
17. Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	29-3-1949	31-3-1949
18. Department of Scientific Research		
19. Standing Finance Committee		
20. Committee on Public Accounts		
21. Standing Finance Committee for Railways	30-3-1949	1-4-1949
22. Central Advisory Council for Railways		
23. Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India		

The nominations for these Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's Room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister of Industry and Supply): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the development, regulation and control of certain industries.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the development, regulation and control of certain industries."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE EXTENSION OF PERIOD MENTIONED IN SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF INDIA (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE) ACT, 1946 AS ADAPTED.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister of Industry and Supply): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"In pursuance of the proviso to section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947 this Assembly hereby approves the extension of the period mentioned in sections 2 and 3 of the said Act for a further period of twelve months commencing on the first day of April, 1949."

Sir, this Resolution seeks to extend by another year the Essential Supplies Act of 1946 and also the Requisitioned Land Act of 1947. The House will remember that during the war, certain emergency powers were vested in the Central Government, whereby the Central Government exercised control over certain essential commodities in respect of which ordinarily the power vested in the Provincial Governments. After the proclamation of the termination of emergency was made in 1946, this power continued to be vested in the Central Government according to special legislation which was undertaken by the British Parliament in whom then the residuary power to give additional authority to the Central Government vested.

Now according to the Act passed by the British Parliament, the Essential Supplies Act and the Special Land Requisition Act can be extended for a period not exceeding five years after the proclamation of termination of hostilities is made. In other words, these two acts may continue to operate till 1951 and not beyond that. For the first year, according to the decision made by the British Parliament, these two acts continued to operate. Later on the Governor General by means of an Ordinance extended the operation of these two Acts by another year. Last year, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Act, a resolution was moved and adopted by this House, extending the operation of these two Acts by one year, which is going to expire on the 31st March, 1946. My Resolution today is that these two Acts should continue for a further period of one year. The House knows that most of the powers regarding control of production, regulation of prices and distribution, the Central Government exercises today, are exercised by virtue of the Essential Supplies Act. Whatever powers the Central Government enjoys today in respect of requisitioning of land and property is done by means of the Requisitioned Land, Act of 1947. The commodities which are now controlled, as the House is no doubt aware, include foodstuffs, cotton and woolen textiles, paper, petroleum and petroleum products, coal, iron and steel, mica and spare parts of mechanically propelled vehicles. It is not, Sir, my intention in this debate to raise the question of necessity of control over particular commodities, but my main object is to ask the House to extend the operation of this Act by another year, so that whatever powers are now being exercised by the Central Government today may continue without any interruption.

With regard to the merits of the control policy of Government in respect of the various commodities, the House had ample opportunity to discuss matters in connection with the Budget discussion and also in connection with certain other resolutions, which were moved from time to time. I believe there are no two opinions today that some sort of control over food must continue in this country. This is the Act under which the Central Government can exercise such control. Similarly with regard to the other commodities, the present policy of Government to continue control in respect of some of them will obviously continue during the coming year.

Now, Sir, one important change has been made in the course of last year to which perhaps I might just draw the attention of the House. Hitherto all these matters fell within the provincial sphere and this was the only legislative power which the Central Government had under the existing Constitution Act to exercise authority over these matters, which normally fall within the Provincial sphere, now however the existing Constitution Act has been amended and it is now open to the Central Legislature to pass special legislation in respect of certain industries which are deemed to be of all India importance. Not only can the Central Legislature pass laws with regard to the development of such industries to be specifically mentioned, but also can pass laws for regulating and controlling them. The question arose as to whether the Central Government should have the power to regulate the distribution and also to control

[Dr. Bhanu Prasad Mookerjee]

prices in respect of such commodities. At the last session of the Constituent Assembly, the Constitution Act was amended and this matter was put in the concurrent list. In other words, if in future the Federal Legislature feels that in respect of the Centrally developed industries, not only should the Central Government have power to control, regulate and develop them, but it should have authority in respect of fixation of prices and distribution, they may pass special legislation therefor and those matters, being in the Concurrent List, as soon as such legislation is passed, any authority which any Provincial Government might exercise in respect of them will cease to become operative. Of course, that is a matter which has to be considered with great care in future. So far as the present position is concerned, we must have the power to continue the existing controls, which we are operating now. Whether actually we will exercise control in respect of all the commodities or not is a different matter. All that we are asking for now is that by means of this Resolution, which is the only means which can be constitutionally adopted, the authority which is today vested in the Central Government should continue to function for one year to come.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"In pursuance of the proviso to section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, this Assembly hereby approves the extension of the period mentioned in sections 2 and 3 of the said Act for a further period of twelve months commencing on the first day of April, 1949."

Shri R. K. Sidha (C. P. and Berar: General): The honourable Minister while moving the Resolution stated that he only wants the power to continue control. I agree with that. What I object is the method by which this Resolution is brought before this House. He wants a consolidated list of eight items which he has named, to be controlled and he further said that during the Budget discussion there was a fairly good discussion on controls and therefore, he does not see any necessity now for going into the subject matter of control. While I agree with him that there was a general discussion on controls, I disagree with him when he says that this subject was dealt with thoroughly. Casual references were made by Members to the system of controls and opinions were expressed in a general way. Most people are agreed that controls may continue on food and cloth. That is our policy. But the present proposals include six other items. Last time when this matter came up for consideration the honourable Minister gave information about what happened during the previous year to justify the continuance of controls, this time he merely wants this power for one more year. I fail to understand the logic of this demand. If he had given reasons for having this power over certain articles I could understand him. It is unfair to the House not to give it an opportunity to consider the eight items separately. As I said we are in favour of continuing the controls on food and cloth. (Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharati: "No, no") Personally I feel that these two items should be controlled. As I see that there is difference of opinion even in regard to the control over these items also, it is all the more reason why the honourable Minister should have brought these eight items separately for the consideration of the House.

Now let me take up one of the items included in this proposal, viz., paper. This matter was discussed last time and, during question hour, I asked whether it is not a fact that the Bombay Indian Merchants Association made a representation that there was sufficient imported paper and that it was only waiting to come into the market for the control to be removed. There was no satisfactory answer. Even when we are specifically discussing these items,

if we are not given all the information we want, what are we to do? I thought on the last occasion when this matter was discussed the honourable Minister was inclined to agree that the control on paper might be removed. In fact, he made certain concessions then. I do feel that the time has come for the paper control to go.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I may remind the honourable Member that we have partially removed the control over newsprint and also the control over the distribution of imported paper. So far as Indian Mill made-paper is concerned, I have consulted my Standing Committee and that matter is under examination. I am not prepared to take hasty action.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am glad to hear it. I hope he will see that this control goes. I know of instances where the printers and publishers have been suffering on account of the present quota system although large quantities of paper are available.

Next, I would refer to petroleum and petroleum products. The matter of control on petrol was being discussed even during the regime of our predecessors, we have a special Department for this. Sir, our supply of petrol seems to be sufficient. The storage capacity of the tanks in the various ports is big and generally the tanks are full. It is possible that we have not sufficient number of tank wagons for the purpose of transport or distribution and therefore this stuff is not available at intermediate stations. But are we justified in continuing the control on that account? The supply position is such in Bombay that you can get as much petrol as you want. The storage tanks are full. The other day I put a question to the Minister for Works, Mines and Power in regard to a petrol steamer which went to Bombay and which had to be diverted because the tanks there were full to capacity and he was good enough to tell me that it was on account of a cyclone that the steamer had to be diverted. I was surprised to hear that. As it was a question-hour it was not possible to elicit the correct position. There was no cyclone at the time the steamer reached Bombay. The cyclone lasted only for some ten hours and the steamer touched Bombay only after the cyclone had passed off. I, therefore, contend that in this matter also the honourable Minister must take action, even if the difficulty is with regard to tankers or tank wagons. The Pakistan Government has agreed at the Inter-Dominion Conference at Karachi that they will release the wagons without delay. If they have kept the agreement for moving of petrol from Karachi it would not be difficult. In any case I feel that this control is not justified. You should at least let us know your difficulties in the way of removing these controls. If we had been given some data to go upon we would have understood your difficulties. The present position is that there is plenty of petrol available and people are getting it without coupons. The sufferers are only the honest persons who depend upon coupons for their supply. Bearing this in mind the honourable Minister can remove the control on petrol.

Then there is the question of the control of spare parts of mechanical vehicles.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That has been withdrawn.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am glad about it.

With regard to iron and steel there is decidedly a scarcity. I know that the honourable Minister has devised a scheme of importing steel from foreign countries the rate for which is Rs. 800 per ton against Rs. 900 per ton for indigenous steel. The difference in price is 100 per cent. This steel is required for building purposes and not for eating. I made a suggestion last time that the control should be removed. It was not accepted. But today I learn from the newspapers that he has found a device. He will place

[Shri R. K. Sidhva]

an order with foreign countries for a certain quantity and equalise the rate between the foreign and indigenous steel. (*An Honourable Member*: "Average") Average, yes. That is good in a way. But who is going to benefit? I am making a suggestion to him. Raise the price to Rs. 600; take Rs. 300 to the Government coffer. It is not going to affect any consumer. It is required for building purposes, and those who want to build, when they spend one lakh, let them spend one lakh and ten thousand. The burden will come upon the tenant but that makes very little difference. I request him to consider this suggestion. It will bring much more money.

Shri B. L. Sondhi (East Punjab: General): What about industry?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Industry? Protect it properly. Raise the price to Rs. 600 and take Rs. 300. You are increasing the rate to Rs. 450. After all, you want money, for nation building purposes.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: The industry will be finished.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I have consulted some people in the steel industry. They are not prepared, but I know they would have no objection. I feel that this matter should be given a little serious attention. The control will go and the State will benefit. Then mica.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee: There is no control.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am very glad, Sir.

Then the items that remain are only paper and petroleum. Coal, of course, I do not touch, because I am not very conversant with it.

Now, Sir, I submit that he has brought this legislation and we have no alternative but to accept it, but last time he *himself* stated that it was for one year only, not more. If he wants, I can quote the speech. Dr. Ambedkar, while moving, said that it was for only one year. I desire there should be a time-limit and within that period the control should go. The other day the Food Minister announced that after 1951 they shall not import any food. I was gratified by the announcement. Unless you put some kind of datum line, you are not going to succeed in anything. That is what I am suggesting to every Minister. You fix up a datum line and I am sure your services will help you, but if you go on at random, the purpose you seek will not be achieved.

Now, I shall see how within 1951 food imports will be stopped. It is going to be stopped. I am prepared to prove. I am going to the Food Minister with my figures. I wish to tell him that according to his own figures there is no shortage of food in India. (*An honourable Member*: "Then why not do it now?") It is a big thing. I have to talk to him. I have talked sufficiently in this House. I will now discuss with him privately. However, that apart, I feel that he should fix a datum line for controls and look into the thing very seriously. I shall be very glad if he would remove the control over this petroleum particularly, because the Department is very costly. High officials are on the staff. I do not want to say that, because he will say that I am accusing his employees. They are working and they will have to be paid. But I do want to say that I do not want them to work now, because there is no work if you remove the control. I am not an irresponsible man to say. You remove the control. What I want to tell him is this, you go into this matter very seriously and let us have the figures for the last five years. Now, the Kashmir war is over; the anticipated Hyderabad trouble is over and I know even from officials that there is sufficient petrol. Therefore, while I agree to this extension, I do hope that there will be none next year. If there is going to be, of course, as far as food and cloth are concerned, let him bring them as a separate item.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is a Resolution and the honourable Member will confine himself to it.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: All right. I have practically finished. I have got to remind the honourable Minister—I do not want to quote, because there are many sentences which are encouraging and in my favour and I thank him for being alert about it. I wish he would be alert about petrol and also paper and removed the control on these once and for all.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, having come from a joint family which has withstood the ravages of time, for five generations, I feel the need of control in cases where things available for distribution are less than what is required at home. What is true of a home holds equally good in the case of the entire country which is, after all, a big joint family. From that view of the question, I support control. A call for control therefore brings me to two important questions, namely, in what items do you want me to give my sign of approval for control, and secondly, the success or failure of the agency that you employ for distribution.

As I have already said, which I repeat, control is justified only on grounds of proper and equitable distribution and is also a fillip to production. So far as production goes, my honourable friend has done us the favour of distributing some literature. However much we differ from him and we call on him for more and sturdier courses of action for development of our industries, I would take him for what it is and accept the position. Regarding distribution, however, I must frankly confess that no literature has been placed at our disposal, except the one justification that provincial governments have done, or are doing or will do, something. My honourable friend has given certain items on which he wants us to give him the power to control. Sir, I had been to Tatanagar. I had a discussion with the management and the labour and I found the production has fallen. The note that has been circulated to us also shows that production has fallen and has fallen far below the average and far below the war years of production. I feel that it was the duty of the Industries and Supply Ministry to have seen to it that attempts were made at least to get production equal to the level in which it was when he took office. It may have been more, because I would expect him, with his knowledge and reputation, to give a developing hand to the existing industries and more to iron and steel so as to improve production. Failing which I expect at least the margin or level in which it was in the previous year and the year before to have been maintained. I must frankly confess that I am disappointed. Therefore, one thing is clear that we have fallen in essential productions.

That takes me to another evil, namely, that it throws us into the lap of foreign countries from which we have to purchase iron and steel at far higher prices. Regarding improper distribution, my honourable friend might throw the whole blame on the provinces, but I must frankly say that I am not satisfied with the control that is exercised from the Centre in this regard. The Food Minister would agree with me—I hope he will—that he is not able to supply the necessary requirements of iron and steel for the agriculturist. The poor, unfortunate agriculturist needs no iron to construct new buildings. I am talking of the small and middle sized holders, not of the big holders. My honourable friend, Mr. Sidhva, proposes rightly more taxation on the new construction of houses. The Minister said a few days ago that construction of cinema houses have been prohibited, but have Government required how many new cinema houses have come out,—new palatial cinema houses—despite their prohibition and despite their statement of prohibition? Where is this

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iron coming from? I once told the Secretary, Food Department, that I would give him any quantity of iron here in Delhi on two conditions: that you shall not ask me for the sources from which I purchase iron and that you shall not ask me the amount of purchase money. Given these two conditions, you will get any quantity of iron. I have a right to ask the honourable Minister to explain where does this leakage come from? I was told that a former employee of Tata's has been in charge of these controls on iron. I do not know how far it is true. But I have a right to demand an explanation from him whether it is a fact. If it is so, then is it fair to the country that this should have been so? I make no aspersions against anyone. I would request him to enquire into this aspect of the question, namely, this huge leakage.

Having stated so much, I would take him to another point, namely, that he is not doing justice to agriculture though at the same time he is crying for dollars from hard-currency areas for food purchase. Where could he get it? He is not supplying the essential needs of agriculture; namely iron implements and manure, so badly required for agriculture, and yet he wants the agriculturist to produce more. These are contradictory things. I would appeal to the honourable Ministers for Agriculture and Industry and Supply to collaborate and to co-ordinate mutual activities so that it will result in the greatest good to the greatest number of people, and until that is done all individual efforts are bound to lead to failure. That is what has happened. He should also favour the non-official section of this country with more confidence, setting up non-official provincial advisory councils and the district advisory committees. Let more people be taken into confidence. You have your own selection. But let it be on an accepted basis so that you can fight against leakage, want and corruption.

I was told by a very responsible officer—I do not know how far it is correct—that he apprehends that there are people—tradesmen—between Tatanagar and mofussil stations of farthest south who carry iron and steel even on railways without paying anything for it. I do not know how far these are facts but these need greater caution on the part of the Watch and Ward Staff. Unless these gaps are closed, I think there will always be an eternal scarcity in the country of essential needs.

Having said so much about iron, let me come to food. You are throwing Rs. 180 crores to foreign countries. Why? My honourable friend, the Minister for Food and Agriculture stated that he requires about 25 to 30 lakhs tons of food grains for this country. Why. I fail to understand. The Famine Enquiry Committee have recommended a maximum of about 15 lakhs tons of cereals as necessary for this country. Assuming there has been a certain increase in population, does it call for 20 to 25 lakhs of tons of cereals more for this country? I do not agree with him in this view. Sir, I was accustomed to hear that five per cent. of food deficit for this country. That was the view of the committees and commissions and of enquiries held on this subject. But now I am told that it is ten per cent! Where does this big difference come from? Where is your Grow More Food campaign of all these years? I divide this control into two heads: namely, production and distribution and I hold my friend, the Minister of Industry and Supply responsible for both these items because on him rests also the responsibility for production though.....

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Of food grains also?

Shri Biswanath Das: Production of cereals also. Agricultural production of course, directly and indirectly falls on the Food Minister (*Interruptions*) I am coming, please have patience! Unless and until he places at the disposal of the honourable the Food Minister the necessaries of agriculture, he has no right

to expect any progress. Until that is done, I think he is responsible not only to the Agriculture Ministry but also to this House and through this House to the country. I hold him then directly responsible for the manufacture of goods and supply and indirectly for more production of cereals. I would, therefore, appeal to both my honourable friends to see that necessary co-operation and co-ordination be effected so that it may result in the maximum production.

Then I shall come to another question, namely to the question of cloth. You have got enough cloth lying idle in the country. You have got the cloth output of the handloom industry which has been piled up and they have been crying hoarse for protection. Under these circumstances why should you require control for cloth. I do not know what makes him call for control for cloth. I expect the honourable Minister therefore to give us some detailed account on each of these items as to show why control has been called for and also the new method and the new approach that he proposes to give to these questions, having in view—I would not say absolute failure—failure in the work of distribution machinery of these controlled commodities. If today black-market has shown its ugly face, it is because of partial control. A lot of immorality and a lot of corruption has crept in because of this. While discussing this question, I would beg of him to realize that if he want to control let him select a few items, and in these few things let him control from beginning to end, i.e., from beginning of the operation to its close. Otherwise there will be no end and partial control will offer a loophole to escape for black-marketeters who are out to make every attempt of making Government infructuous. These are powerful influences and though they seem to be friends, they are working against us.

Under these circumstances, I would appeal to him to consider these and give us enough data to justify his call for control. We assure him that anyone placed in the Treasury Benches will have our fullest support. We have pledged our support. Our support has thus to be taken for granted.

[At this stage Mr. Deputy-Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

The fact that they are entitled to this confidence should and does call upon them to think ten times before they come to this House for additional powers and new responsibilities.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I endorse and support very substantially the remarks that were made by my honourable friend Mr. Sidhva. I do not wish to take much time of the House. However, I have certain important suggestions to make and I wish to draw the attention of the honourable Minister to them.

The point made by my friend Mr. Das was not much appreciated by many members in this House as to the connection between the portfolio of the honourable Minister for Industry and Supply and the development of agriculture. But I would like to endorse that there is a very direct connection, although I am not prepared to put the who's blame or say that the Minister of Industry and Supply is directly responsible for it. But if he were to take into account the needs of the agriculturists so far as iron and steel, diesel oil and power kerosene are concerned I am certain he will be in a position to help the production of food stuffs in a very direct manner. With more and more labour-cost and with agricultural labour demanding more wages it is the experience of many agriculturists, including those who confined themselves to raising food stuffs only, that it is becoming very hard for them to keep pace with the prices on the one hand and give labour fullest satisfaction in regard to wages on the

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

other. So many of the agriculturists are inclined to resort to mechanisation and they want to have small tractors or put-up pumps on their wells, so that they will increase irrigation and will be able to dispense with the ordinary labour which is getting more and more costly. I would suggest that there should be a definite quota sufficient to meet all agricultural needs and that should have the highest priority. It is not merely a question of iron and steel but also much more a question of deisel oil. I have as a matter of fact, as a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture proposed this question and brought it to the notice of the Minister, especially because I have seen that good many agriculturists have been put to great hardships. After investing thousands of rupees in raising gardens and cultivating food stuffs, all of a sudden they find that there is black-marketing in deisel oil due to mal-distribution with the result that there is a setback in the efforts of the agriculturists and the nation as a whole suffers. That is the first point I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister for Industry and Supply and I hope that he will as far as lies within his power do his best. So many things are distributed between so many portfolios that I do not know if he is the sole master.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Deisel oil is under Works, Mines and Power.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is our trouble. I hope the W. M. and P. Ministry will kindly look into it.

There is also greater demand for power kerosene and there are many implements which can be driven only with that.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is also under the W. M. and P. Ministry.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So, that again is that. I hope the Minister for W. M. and P. will pay his immediate attention to this.

So far as control as a whole is concerned I have already told the House my view. I am an anti-controlwala. Controls breed corruption and many other evils which are far worse than even the scarcity of goods which we might be prepared to put up with. I was especially surprised to see my friends from Madras not being in favour of controls. Being deficient in food stuffs I thought they were the people who would be for controls but when they do not want it, whom it is intended for, I do not know. It may be meant for people in the urban areas who are clamouring for food. Every one has sympathy for these people and we are prepared to sacrifice for them. A lot of expense is incurred on the continuance of the controls and that itself would be sufficient to subsidise the food for urban areas quite substantially.

So far as cotton is concerned there too I am inclined to believe that the controls have not been worked properly and it is probably time that we lifted the controls there also. In this matter I would like to make one other suggestion which I had made when the honourable Minister for Industry and Supply was not here. So far as the revision of the price of cotton is concerned I hope he will not commit the mistake of raising the prices just when every bit of cotton is in the hands of the merchants. It should be done only after the full stock of the year is exhausted and taken away by the mills and when the agriculturists are at a point when they try to bring it to the market. At that time only it should be done. Otherwise the middleman would reap the whole profit. We will not improve the condition of the agriculturists on the one hand on the other, not provide the necessary incentive to produce more the goods in which we are deficient.

I hope that the honourable Minister will see and minimise the controls and take out as many commodities out of this list as possible, I know that he is in earnest and I wish him all success.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): I am extremely grateful to my honourable friend Mr. Sidhva for giving me an opportunity to speak some thing about the distribution and control of petrol in this country.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Especially in Delhi.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I do not want to refer to the general remarks made by several members about the policy of control. As far as I am able to say this House is already committed to a policy of control, when it reversed its former decision of the policy of decontrol a few months ago. I have often heard in this House vehement speeches about the lack of planning in this country and for that this Government has been castigated in time and out of time. The House has to make up its mind whether we stand for a planned economy or not? In that case I cannot visualise planned economy unless there is a complete system of control. It is no good telling that we can have *laissez faire* in some spheres and others a policy of control. The result will be disastrous in both the spheres.

Coming to the particular referred to by my honourable friend Mr. Sidhva, I just want to give him and the House a fair picture of how the distribution of petrol and petroleum products works in this country and how it worked before the partition. It will be interesting to note that before the Partition the whole of Punjab, North West Frontier Province, substantial portions of Rajputana and a considerable part of the Western portion of the U.P. were supplied, so far as petroleum and its products were concerned *ex-Karachi*. It is well known how great was the supply and what great confusion was caused when it was not possible to have supplies from Karachi immediately after the Partition in August 1947. Right from that time my Ministry has been trying to tackle this problem. In order to see that in no circumstances this country will be without its normal supply of petroleum and its products we decided that additional tankers, tank wagons and box wagons must be commissioned. We have been trying for the last 18 months sometimes with very little success, sometimes with great disappointment but now I should say that the position with regard to this has greatly improved. The Transport Ministry has placed an order for 200 tank wagons in Canada and the delivery has started and I understand that every week some twenty tank wagons are delivered in Calcutta. It takes about three weeks to put them on the line. Similarly an order for 300 tank wagons has been placed with the various manufacturers in India. In fact according to the schedule we should have had supply of all these six months ago. The reasons why they could not be had are well known. It is expected that in the course of the coming six months we will be getting a substantial portion of this order from the Indian manufacturers. So the position as regards distribution will definitely improve in the near future. It is true that recently the supply position has improved, but control comes in not so much, so far as petroleum and its products are concerned, with respect to the production aspect but with respect to the distribution aspect, because we have nothing by way of production (except seven per cent. of our demand in Assam). Therefore the control has relevancy in the distribution aspect of this particular product. In the ports no doubt the storage capacity is considerable. The present policy is that we should have at any time supply that will last for three months and a half either at the ports or in the upcountry petroleum stations. The real difficulty which has been considerably increased as a result of partition is to remove petrol and its products from the ports to the upcountry stations. As I said, till these wagons come into commission and the transport becomes easier the necessity of control is supreme. I do not want to disclose through-

[Shri N. V. Gadgil].

what critical period this country has gone in the course of the last eighteen months. It will not be in the interests of the public to state.

My friend Mr. Sidhva said that there was no cyclone and there was no steamer that was diverted as a result of cyclone. I shall take this House into confidence up to the extent to which I think it prudent. The cyclone destroyed fairly substantially the normal arrangements to unload petrol in the Bombay dockyard. The result was that for a considerable period nothing could be unloaded and consequently certain steamers had to be diverted to other ports.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: That is a different story from what you gave.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I did not specify the whole chain of reasoning. I believed then and I believe now that the honourable Member is so intelligent that he can quickly follow. Now that his apprehensions are completely removed he will agree with me that what I stated was a correct position.

Very recently this country was threatened with a big strike. Suppose there was no control what would have happened? It was necessary for the Government to remove in time sufficient petrol to run essential services, to central places. If there had been no control and no power with the Central Government to do that I shudder to imagine what would have happened. And this had been done before the midnight of the date on which the strike was to have taken place.

So far as the criticism of my friend Mr. Sidhva, that the particular Department wants to be in existence and therefore Government wants to continue control, is concerned I want to assure him that normally human beings are selfish. To the extent to which all other human beings are selfish men in Government also are. But I want to assure him that there is no separate Department for this now. It has been abolished from the 1st of March 1949. The Petroleum Officer's post has been abolished and the whole thing has been reduced to a Division with corresponding retrenchment in the lower staff and it is now under the Director of the Bureau of Mines. I have already done that. I can assure Honourable Mr. Sidhva and all honourable Members of this House that whatever I have preached when I was in the opposition I shall do my humble best to carry out when I am here.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena (U.P.:General): May I interrupt the honourable Member and ask a question?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not giving way. As regards the increase of the supply of petrol and other petroleum products to which reference has been made by my honourable friend Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh I am doing my best. In fact, as I stated, the supply position has considerably improved. There is no price control now. The control is only with respect to distribution and in some matters it is being exercised by the Provincial Governments. As regards kerosene the difficulty about giving sufficient or more supply of kerosene immediately is this that the combine which is responsible for supply of all these articles to this country has to look not only to the position of supply to India but to all other countries. There also their great difficulty is transport. To remove petrol and other products from the Gulf to India is a great difficulty. So every year we give our estimate. They say "This much is possible and this much is shipping space. Now you adjust." Then I have to consider whether I will have additional petrol or additional civil aviation spirit or crude oil or high diesel oil or kerosene. It may be that I may come to one conclusion in view of the situation in this country, political and otherwise. It may be that I may come to different

conclusions. In that you must trust the Minister. If in the particular context of circumstances he thinks that the defence situation requires additional petrol to be imported and to that extent less import of kerosene, you must trust him. After all it is a matter of balancing the various factors and finding out the best that is in the interests of the country. I can assure you that the moment the position improves I shall see that additional kerosene is imported and distributed. That is all I have to say. I am really grateful to honourable Mr. Sidhva for having given me this opportunity to participate in this debate.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay, General): Sir, I have no hesitation in supporting the Resolution moved by the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, giving powers to control essential commodities for a further period. The criticisms which have been levelled in the course of the debate I cannot appreciate; neither can I understand them. I think if a case has been made out for assuming these powers for one year more it has been very amply established during the last two debates which we had, one on the Railway Budget and the other on the General Budget. People are thinking in terms of normalcy. Have we reached normalcy? The debate proved that we have not reached normalcy. We have not got plenty of commodities available so that the control may be removed. We have not got sufficient carrying capacity on the Railways so that control can be removed. The power that we are now giving to the Government is in respect of certain commodities which are by their very nature essential. Do they want to remove control on food, cotton cloth, petrol, iron and steel? We have tried that experiment having been carried away by sentiment a few months back but we had to revert to control with vengeance.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras, General): No, it was very successful.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Of course you may say it was very successful, even though the experiment was a failure.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Go and ask the people in the villages.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Sir, it is stated that a lot of cloth is lying in Madras or some such centre which requires to be cleared. Let us see what that cloth is. That cloth has not been manufactured for indigenous consumption. It has been manufactured for export to Pakistan.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: No, no. You are very much mistaken.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: That is so because I know it and I am putting it before you.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: It is absolutely incorrect.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: That cloth has been manufactured for export trade and it has been manufactured with a view to make profits. Probably the cloth for export may be paying better profits so it has been manufactured. Let all this yarn used in the manufacture of this cloth be given to handloom weavers for the manufacture of cloth for indigenous consumption. I am sure you will see the day when cloth control and yarn control would not be found necessary. When control is imposed we say it is very bad, it breeds corruption, it breeds this and that. I feel that thereby we only reveal the psychology which we as individuals or members of an individual group of people experience in getting commodities for our personal use. I would like to emphasise and say, as I even said last time in November 1947 at the time the food control was removed, that blackmarketing or paying higher prices for a controlled commodity is indulged in by only very

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

very few people. The rank and file, the majority of the common people get their commodities at the controlled price. Regarding food, if we had not got control over food today I do not know what would have been the situation today. There is famine in one part of Gujerat. As it is we are frequented by these famines in various parts of the country almost every year or every third year. Unless our production of food is increased by 20 to 25 per cent, I think the control over food would have to be maintained whether you and I like it or not.

So, personally I feel that entrusting the Government and empowering the Government with all the power stated in the resolution is essential. We must trust them. In this House we all are making speeches and we get these opportunities every now and then to bring to the notice of the Ministry how the control is working, particularly in certain respects. But that is no case against control. As the Honourable Mr. Gadgil stated, people are bad and good everywhere. They may be bad and good in the services, they may be bad and good among us, they may be bad and good among the people of the country. What happens is that the service is more or less the index of the moral and psychological atmosphere that is there in the country. So, it is up to us not always to go on abusing and criticising the services in season and out of season.

Finally, Sir, I think the debate that had taken place in the course of this month has amply proved the justification for the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee to come before this House to assume these powers for at least one year more. I am afraid if the situation continues as it is today he will have again to come next year.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: The speaker who just preceded me said that the cloth that is manufactured in Madras is intended for export trade and therefore all the difficulties have arisen. I am sorry he has talked without verifying the facts. I think he was referring to the handloom cloth. A very microscopic proportion of the cloth manufactured on the handloom was intended for export trade. He knows, I suppose, that when there are restrictions on export trade the handloom weavers would not be so foolish as to manufacture cloth for export trade. It is no doubt true a certain proportion was intended for foreign trade.

He said there is not plenty of cloth available. I want to impress upon this House about the serious situation that is existing around the mills. It was only two days back that some honourable Member put a question and got the answer that some mills were being closed. Today I find the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India has circularized all the mills that they may sell their bales to whomsoever they please. What does it show. It shows there is plenty of cloth available in the mills but locked up. Why is it locked up?—because there is no demand. Throughout the country there is plenty and a plethora of cloth and there is no demand for it with the result that the retail dealer does not want to buy from the wholesaler, the wholesaler tells mills he does not want it and does not want to clear the cloth. It was only yesterday that I mentioned the case about some big co-operation bank in Madras refusing to clear Ahmedabad mill cloth to the extent of a few lakhs. The thing was lying there and they had to pay a heavy demurrage of nearly rupees two thousand. Sir, 50,000 bales are lying in Ahmedabad now with the result that Government is forced to relax control. What does the Textile Commissioner say? He says that you can send the bales to anybody you please throughout India. That is the order of the Textile Commissioner of India sent to the Ahmedabad

mills. So, Mr. Khandubhai Desai was perfectly wrong in saying that there is not enough cloth. I can now prophesy that this is going to happen in the course of the next two or three months, and I will say it on the floor of this House: all the shifts the third shift and the night shift are going to close and the mills are not going to work at as full speed as they are doing now. They will say, "What are we to do? You introduce control and here there is plenty of cloth."

Sr. Jut Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam: General): What is the total production in Ahmedabad.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Well, so much production that they are not able to clear it. I may read this news about the order of the Textile Commissioner—"The Government of India has permitted textile mills holding large stocks of readily saleable cloth to dispose of bales packed in December 1948 or earlier, to buyers of their choice anywhere in the Indian Union". Why does he do that? Because they are not able to clear their stocks.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Defective distribution.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: It is not defective distribution. It is because they write to the Provincial officers who tell them that they do not want the cloth. It is not because of defective distribution, it is just because there is no demand. The Government authorised wholesalers are not willing to take the cloth and the wholesalers are not willing because the retailers are not willing, the retailers are not willing to take it because the retailers are not able to find a market. That is the whole trouble. It has started from the consumer. It is not because of the bottleneck in which case the Railway could have been approached and they could have remedied it. The difficulty is that retailers or against do not want to clear these stocks with the result that Government is forced to relax control. If mills can send their goods to whomsoever they please in any part of India, then control has actually broken down. In six months time this kind of control is bound to break down completely. That is my prophecy, I may be wrong or I may not be wrong. But so far as Madras province is concerned, there is plenty of cloth. Two years back, the position was the other way about. But then there was black-market. Now there is no real need for control. People are selling at lower than the controlled prices. That is the situation so far as cloth is concerned, and so far as Madras is concerned.

With reference to another aspect of control, that is about cotton, I have to say this. Already there is a crisis in the Coimbatore Mills. There is a notice given and the Government have asked the Mill there why they want to close, and they reply, "What are we to do? We have no cotton. Give us cotton and we can go on." That is the evil of control. They begin to look up to the Government, for everything. "Give us cotton, otherwise we will close the mills." That is what they say. And I find that one Mill in Ahmedabad has already closed down and issued notice to 1,000 workers because they have no cotton. It is the Ananda Cotton Mills. I am only stating these to show the evil of control; people want to look up to government for everything.

Then with reference to yarn control. In Madras they have certain rules for this control. But Madras wants super-fine yarn, eighties and hundreds. But they get only twenties and thirties. There is a big mill in Madras producing fine yarn. But the dealers in Madras or the consumers there do not get it. They have got to get it in the round-about manner. That is control! All these are the necessary anomalies of control. Therefore, so far as cloth is concerned, and so far as Madras is concerned,—I do not know about other provinces—there is really no need for control.

[Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi]

And then with reference to food control, even there, I am not satisfied about the need for control in Madras. Madras, no doubt, is a deficit province. But I come from a village and I am closely connected with the village. I am a producer myself and I spend two or three months every year in my village. I have intimate knowledge of the views of the peasants and the cultivators. They have gone through the periods of control and de-control also. I asked them, "What do you want?" and they are asking me, "When are you going to have this control abolished?"

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U.P.: General): The country is much greater than your village.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May be so. But I am talking about my own province and I feel it applies more or less to the whole country. My friend to my right is against control. My friend to the left, Dr. Deshmukh is against control. I speak about my own province, because I know the conditions there rather intimately. That does not mean that I am against the country's interest. I feel that even though it is a deficit province, Madras does not need control, so far as food is concerned. I do not want to dilate upon it, except to say that the people feel that they can get on without this food control, rather than submit themselves to the difficulties of control. I do hope the honourable Minister will look into these matters. So far as food control is concerned, we stand committed to it, and so I am not suggesting that it should be removed now. But I know that is the view of the Premier of the Government of Madras. I am glad the Food Minister is here. I am certain that the members of the Government of Madras have expressed themselves against control so far as food grains are concerned, though it is a deficit province.

चौधरी मनबीरसिंह : सभापति जी, यह कहा जाता है कि लोगों की स्मृति बहुत थोड़ी होती है। लेकिन मैं तो यह देखता हूँ कि जो लेजिस्लेटर हैं उनकी भी स्मृति थोड़ी है। पिछले साल जब कपड़े पर डी-कंट्रोल हुआ तो कपड़े की कीमत तिगुनी और चौगुनी बढ़ गई थी। मैं नहीं मानता कि एक साल के अन्दर इस किस्म की हालत पैदा हो गई जिससे अगर डी-कंट्रोल कर दिया जाय तो कपड़े की कीमत कम ही जायगी। पिछले जून, जुलाई और अगस्त के महीने से मैं समझता हूँ तकरीबन हर एक लेजिस्लेटर या ले-मैन जो थोड़ी बहुत सूझबूझ रखता था वह जरूर यह चाहता है कि जो कपड़े की, जो तीनगुनी और चौगुनी कीमत ली जा रही है उसका कोई न कोई इलाज होना चाहिए।

मैं यह कहने के साथ साथ यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस चीज के ऊपर कंट्रोल जरूरी हैं-कंट्रोल होना चाहिए। बस परकंट्रोल की मैं कोई आवश्यकता नहीं समझता हूँ। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि अगर फूड के ऊपर कंट्रोल नहीं रहेगा तो फूड जो हमको बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है उतनी तादाद में नहीं मंगाना पड़ेगा। इस समस्या का हल दूसरी ढंग से आसानी से किया जा सकता है। शायद कुछ माई यह समझे कि अनाज के पैदा करने वाले फूड प्रोड्यूसर की कीमत ज्यादा लेना चाहते हों। ऐसी बात नहीं है मगर गवर्नमेंट फसल के वक़्त जितनी जरूरत बाहर

वालों को होती है वह एकदम खरीद लें तो वह महंगा भी नहीं पड़ेगा। मैं तो यह समझता हूँ कि पिछले साल में फूड प्रोडक्ट्स में जितनी महंगाई हुई है उसकी जिम्मेवारी किसानों के ऊपर नहीं है बल्कि मिडिल-मैन के ऊपर है। मैं कन्ट्रोल के खिलाफ नहीं हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि जितनी चीजों के ऊपर कन्ट्रोल आवश्यक है उनके ऊपर जरूर होना चाहिए। अभी हमारे आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर मि० गाडगिल ने बतलाया कि मिट्टी के तेल की प्राइस पर कन्ट्रोल नहीं है। मैं आपको यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कन्ट्रोल के बजाय मिट्टी के तेल के एक पीपे की कीमत ६ रुपया थी लेकिन अब २४ और २५ रुपए से कम पीपा नहीं मिलता है। इस हालत में कोई ले-मैन ही यह कह सकता है कि कन्ट्रोल ठीक नहीं है। मैं भी देहात का रहने वाला हूँ। मद्रास के रहने वाले देहाती भाई यह समझते हैं कि कन्ट्रोल से उनको नुकसान होता है। सके कुछ कारण और भी हैं जिनको मैं आगे बतलाऊंगा। लेकिन जहाँ तक कपड़े का, सिमन्ट का और लोहे के कन्ट्रोल का ताल्लूक है अगर उसकी तकसीम ठीक ढंग से हो तो इसमें शक नहीं कि वह कंज्यूमर के लिए, देहात वालों के लिये और किसानों के लिए कन्ट्रोल बहुत अच्छी चीज है।

मैं यह समझता हूँ कि कन्ट्रोल के साथ साथ एक बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए और वह यह है कि कन्ट्रोल से मिडिल-मैन को जो बहुत अधिक प्रीफिट मिलता है उसकी इजाजत नहीं देनी चाहिए। कपड़े का कन्ट्रोल है और उसके अन्दर एक्स-मिल प्राइस और रिटेलस कीमत में २० फीसदी और २५ फीसदी का फर्क है। यह मुनाफा जो मिडिल-मैन को दिया जाता है मेरी समझ में बहुत ज्यादा है। अगर सरकार इस मुनाफे को कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटियों को देगी तो बहुत फायदा होगा परन्तु मिडिल-मैन को यह मुनाफा देने से कोई लाभ नहीं होगा।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा हमारे अभी पंजाब राव साहब ने कहा कि सिमन्ट, लोहा और मिट्टी के तेल के कन्ट्रोल से खेती की बढ़ोतरी में बड़ा वास्ता है। कल ही हमने पूसा इन्स्टीट्यूट में एक हल देखा। यह हल दो बैल से चार बैलों के बराबर काम करता है। यह हल तब ही ज्यादा बनाया जा सकता है अगर एग्रीकलचर डिपार्टमेंट को ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोहा मिले। इसी तरह से हमने एक बौने की मशीन देखी जो दो बैलों से ८ बैलों के बराबर काम कर सकती है। परन्तु जब तक कि काफी तौर पर लोहा एग्रीकलचर डिपार्टमेंट को नहीं मिलेगा तब तक यह समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है।

एक और बात इस सिलसिले में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ और शायद कोई भाई यह समझे कि इससे एग्रीकलचरिस्ट को फायदा होगा और कास्ट-आफ-प्राडेक्शन कम हो जायगी लेकिन अनाज की बढ़ोतरी नहीं होगी इस सिलसिले में मैं एक छोटी सी बात कहना चाहता हूँ। आप हिसार जिले को लीजिए। इसमें कभी कभी

[बीबरी रनवीरसिंह]

बारिश होती है और तीन चार दिन में ही फसल बोई जा सकती है उसके पश्चात् नहीं। अगर उन दिनों में कोई ऐसी चीज़ जो २ बैल से दुगुना और चोगुना ज़मीन काश्त कर सकती है तो वहाँ की सारी ज़मीन बोई जा सकती है। और इस तरह से हमारे देश की उपज भी बढ़ जायेगी।

मैं समझता हूँ कि जिन चीज़ों के ऊपर कन्ट्रोल की ज़रूरत है उन पर रहना चाहिए। एक और चीज़ है जो बहुत आसानी से और बहुत अच्छे बंग से हो सकती है वह यह है कि इस वक्त तक एडवाइज़री बोर्ड में मिडिल-मैन के नुमाइन्दे को रिप्रेजेंटेशन दिया जाता है। जब तक इस किस्म की बात होती रहेगी तो एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट क्लास की कोई तरक्की नहीं हो सकेगी। एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट आज जो कन्ट्रोल के खिलाफ है उसका कारण यह है कि उनका अनाज तो कन्ट्रोल की कीमत पर लिया जा रहा है मगर उनको उनकी ज़रूरत की चीज़ें कन्ट्रोल प्राइस पर उन्हें नहीं मिल रही हैं। पूसा इन्स्टीट्यूट में जब हम लोग गए थे तो दिल्ली के कुछ गांव वालों ने हमारे माननीय मन्त्री जयराम दास जी से यह शिकायत की थी कि उनको देहात के अन्दर कन्ट्रोल पर कपड़ा नहीं मिल रहा है। लेकिन उनसे अनाज कन्ट्रोल के भाव पर ले लिया जाता है। उन्हें यह शिकायत है कि जिन चीज़ों के ऊपर कन्ट्रोल है उनको कन्ट्रोल के भाव पर नहीं मिल रही हैं।

मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर आप इस प्रस्ताव को पास करके यह कर दें कि जिन चीज़ों के ऊपर कन्ट्रोल है वे चीज़ें जनता के पास कन्ट्रोल भाव पर पहुंच जावें तो यह जनता के लिए बहुत फायदामन्द सिद्ध होगा।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): It is generally said that memories are always short. But what I see is that even the legislators have short memories. Last year when cloth was de-controlled the prices had shot up three or four times. I do not believe that in one short year such conditions have come into being whereby if cloth be de-controlled the prices will come down. I think nearly all of the legislators and the lay-men, who have even some intelligence, do wish that some ways and means must be devised to bring down the three fold or four fold price of cloth that is being charged since June, July and August.

Besides this I wish to submit that control must remain on those things on which it is necessary. I do not see any necessity of imposing control on food grains. I presume that if food grains were de-controlled then we will not have to import food grains in such quantities. This problem can easily be solved by other methods, perhaps some of my friends might think that the food grain producers wish to charge higher prices for their food grains. But this is not so. If the Government were to purchase at the time of harvest as much bulk-supplies of food grains as are required by the people living in urban areas then it would not even cost much. I consider that for the high prices of food-

grains during the last year the responsibility does not lie on the shoulders of the peasants but on the middle-men, I am not opposed to controls. I think that control should be imposed on all those things whereupon it is necessary to have control. The honourable the Minister Shri Gudgil has just now told us that there is no price control on kerosene oil. I wish to tell you that during the control days the price of a barrel of kerosene oil was Rs. 6/- but now a barrel cannot be had for less than Rs. 24/- or Rs. 25/-. Under these circumstances only lay-man can say that the imposing of controls is not a proper step. I also belong to the rural areas. The rural population of the Madras Province thinks that by the control they are put to loss. There are other reasons also and I will tell them to you later on. But as far as the control on cloth, cement and iron is concerned, if these things are distributed properly then there is no doubt that control is a very good thing for the consumers, peasants and agriculturists and the people living in rural areas.

I think that along with controls one thing should be borne in mind namely that the middlemen may not be allowed to make exorbitant profits that they reap as a result of control. Cloth is a controlled commodity, but there is a difference of 25 to 30 per cent. in the ex-mill and retail prices. This profit, that is given to the middlemen, is I think too much. If the Government were to give this profit to the co-operative societies then it would be very much beneficial, but no advantage would be had by letting the middlemen have this profit.

I wish to submit one thing more. As my friend Shri Punjab Rao has said the development of agriculture bears a close relation to the control on kerosene oil. Only yesterday we saw a plough in the Pusa Institute. With two oxen this plough does the work equal to that done by four oxen. These ploughs can be produced in large numbers only when the department of agriculture be given more supplies of iron. There we saw a seed sowing machine also with which two oxen can do work equal to that of eight oxen. But so long the agriculture department would not get sufficient quantities of iron this problem can not be solved.

I wish to submit one more thing in this connection. Perhaps some of my friends would think that the agriculturists will be benefited by this, the cost of production will lessen but the production of the food grains will not increase. In this connection I wish to submit a little thing. You just take into consideration the Hissar district. There the rain falls off and on and seeds can be sown within two or three days only and not afterwards. If during those days there be anything that with the help of two oxen could cultivate double or fourfold land then all the arable area available there can be put under plough. In this way the production in our country will also go up.

I think control must continue on those things on which it is necessary. There is no more thing that can be done quite easily and in a far better manner. The thing is that till now the nominees of the middlemen are given representation on the Advisory Board. So long this sort of thing would go on the agriculturist class will not make any progress. The reason why today the agriculturist opposes these controls is that his produce is being taken at the controlled rate but he is not getting the things he require at the control prices. When we had gone to the Pusa Institute then some villagers of Delhi Province laid a complaint before the honourable the Minister Shri Jairamdas that in the rural areas they were not getting cloth at the control rates but they were made to give up their produce of food grains at the control rate. They complained that they were not getting the controlled things at the control prices.

I think that if you were to pass this resolution and see that the things on which there is control be available to the people at the control rates then this would prove very beneficial to the people.

Mr. Chairman: Does the House want to continue the debate?

Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Just before this motion was moved, we passed a legislation continuing certain railway measures for one more year. Sir, my honourable friend, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has brought this motion for the extension of certain measures connected with control for another year. I have been connected with this House for several years. I have watched how the Government has all along been working. When the British Government was here on the treasury benches, I used to make numerous castles in the air. I used to think the British Government will go; we may have swaraj and independence, we shall have this and that; we shall have all the necessary things for our happiness and freedom. The Britishers have gone, the new regime has come, on the treasury benches, I find my own men, our own friends, but the process continues to be the same. Government is Government. It appears, that whatever powers and taxation be once granted to Government, it will continue for all time to come. It is not to be discontinued. They will come for one year and it will continue for an unlimited period of time. My honourable friend the Minister said that the control was introduced as an emergency measure in 1947-48. What are the circumstances which are favouring the continuance of the control now? Yesterday when the Honourable the Finance Minister was replying to the debate, I asked him: "What are the circumstances which can allow the removal of control." He replied in his own way, but it was I remember on a previous occasion that he said: "If you remove control, the result will be the prices will shoot high." Well, this sort of risk has to be encountered some day. The question is whether you are going to remove control or not, if not today at least tomorrow or not. That is the question.

As I said before and everybody knows in this world, in this country and in this House that control has failed and Government has admitted failure in this respect. I take this City of Delhi. If anybody goes to the black market he will have any amount of petrol. My honourable friend, Mr. N. V. Gajgil has just said about the distribution of petrol. There is any amount of petrol in the City of Delhi and everybody knows that in Delhi petrol is not produced. It has to be known how it comes. It comes through the agency of a railway man, there is the railway Department, the railway services and also most likely with the help of the Police. As regards other matters, if you go to the bazaar, you find corn and cloth are selling side by side with controlled things. Where is the control? The control is only to help the Police and to maintain certain departments that the Government have created. It is regrettable that once any power is granted to the Government, it cannot get rid of this power. A friend says that here and there control is necessary. As my honourable Mr. Ranbir Singh said wherever necessary we may have control, but why the control is there where it is not required? Mr. Khandubhai Desai has just said: What would have happened if there had been no control there; there was a famine in Gujerat or somewhere else. Well, what is the use of control? If there is scarcity of grain or anything anywhere else, well, it is the business of the Government to move things to that area. That is all. But what is the use of this control? I just read only two or three days ago in Bihar in a message in the *Indian Nation* or some other paper that there is no food grain in the Mussafarpur Town. The report says that when the control was relaxed the food grains began to creep into the bazaar slowly and as soon as the control was enforced the food grains were disappearing. So it must be admitted that this process of control is altogether unnatural. Nobody can deny this. If the people are honest, if the Department is honest, if the Government can control things in all its spheres of production, and distribution, control may succeed but we know to our shame what the people are and this partial control is no control. It is, therefore, I say on

behalf of the people of this country that this control must be removed just now. The motion just submitted, I hope, should be withdrawn by my honourable friend. Sir, the thing is this: When we go to the villages in our constituencies we hear so many reports against the control officers. As I said the other day, control has created corruption and misery. I do not know why some of my friends are charmed of control. I fail to see how anyone could like controls. This system of control has gone so far as to degrade our national character. So I request the honourable Minister to withdraw this motion and if not, I request the honourable Members to reject it.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not intend to take much time of the House. I will speak only for a few minutes.

There have been two classes of speeches. One class of Members have spoken generally in support of the proposal, but have suggested, quite rightly, that steps should be taken to improve the manner in which control is now exercised in different parts of the country. I entirely share the view point of those Members. I may say that the policy of the Central Government is to delegate as much of the power as possible to the Provincial Governments, particularly with regard to distribution where we work through the machinery of the Provincial Governments. Further, during the period that we have been in office we have set up advisory committees in respect of each of the important commodities.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): There is no advisory committee in the provinces.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is what I was going to say. So far as the Central Advisory committees are concerned, they represent the interests of the producers, the distributors and the consumers. On several of them, Members of the Legislature are there. We have also suggested to the provinces that, with regard to important items, they should set up advisory committees so that there may be a constant check on the way in which the system works in the Centre as well as in the provinces.

I cannot at all share the views of those Members, whose number is limited (*Babu Ramnarayan Singh*: "No.") so far as the volume of voice is concerned it is strong, but so far as numerical strength is concerned it is very weak—who advise Government that control should be withdrawn and withdrawn forthwith. That is an amazing advice which no responsible Government can possibly accept.

Shri L. KrishnaSwami Bharathi: Nobody advised that it should be withdrawn forthwith.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, the last speaker said so. So far as de-control is concerned, Members will realise how serious the situation developed in a few weeks time last year. Those Members who spoke today against control—I can say with reference to the proceedings of the House—were at that time clamouring that the Government should immediately take steps to bring down the prices. My friend Mr. Bharathi said that decontrol was very successful. He reminded me of the story of a doctor who performed an operation which was said to be successful, but the patient unfortunately died. We are not prepared to make an experiment by reintroducing decontrol with regard to essential commodities at this stage. This is the policy of the Government which has been completely approved by the House. But we welcome suggestions from every quarter so that the methods of distribution may be improved and black-marketing may be checked. If there are any

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee]

ways of seeing that all sections of the community get the articles they require at reasonable prices we will do all that we can for it. I do not wish to enter into discussion in greater detail.

So far as agriculture is concerned, it is the policy of the Government to allot as much iron and steel for agricultural uses as possible. In fact our present direction is that 50 per cent. of the provincial allotments must be earmarked for agricultural purposes. In addition to that wherever possible I have allotted to the Agricultural Ministry additional quotas for agricultural use. My last communication to our Agricultural Minister was to the effect that as soon as the import position improved—which I expect in the course of the next few months—I shall be able to satisfy about 90 per cent. of the present requirements of the Agricultural Ministry. I realise the importance of giving adequate supply so that our Grow More Food project may achieve the necessary success.

With regard to textiles, unfortunately Mr. Bharathi, who is usually well-informed, today was somewhat off the rails. The facts which he gave are not capable of corroboration at all. He read out with great flourish some statements supposed to be issued by the Textile Commissioner. That statement was officially issued by the Textile Commissioner under the orders of the Government of India. At present mill-made cloth is removed from the mills by the agents of the provincial Governments. If a particular provincial Government fails to remove the quotas allotted to it by the end of the month for which the allotment is made, then the mills are entitled to sell those stocks through their own buyers subject to the buyers being approved by the Governments of the Centre as well as the Provinces. There is no question of any mill sending any cloth to the black-market, thereby disturbing the entire textile policy of the Government of India. In any case, so far as accumulation in the mills are concerned, we are doing whatever is possible.

Mr. Bharathi pointed out to the impending crisis in some of the mills which may have to close down for want of cotton. If cotton has to be supplied, it must be controlled. Mr. Bharathi cannot have it both ways. He cannot deny control and at the same time demand the supply of cotton by the Government of India.

Shri L. Krishna-swami Bharathi: I am not suggesting both.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If we do not supply cotton to the mills, they will not get the cotton they want and a large number will close down. All these matters have to be considered with the utmost care. In fact cotton is not centrally controlled today; yet we are trying to impose our authority by measures promulgated by the provinces.

Sriman Biswanath Das for whom I have very great respect unfortunately hails from a province the Government of which was 100 per cent. for control. So, he will have to convince his own Provincial Government to advocate de-control before he can expect others to accept his suggestion for de-control.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: All Government are generally in the wrong.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: A prospective Minister or an ex-minister can say that, but Ministers in office cannot say that.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I say.....

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not going to give way. In any case this Resolution has to be accepted. No one suggests that on and from first April the Government of India should be deprived of all authority to exercise control throughout the length and breadth of this country and

create confusion. The power must be given. But I have assured honourable Members that we are examining each item in the list. The Standing policy of the Government is that only in respect of the commodities the prices of which are high and the demand is greater than the supply, control should continue and, until the present economic crisis is over, the Government will be ill-advised to change the present policy.

Babu Ramnayan Singh: Only for one year.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes for the present.

Shri Biswanath Das: Just a word of personal explanation, because reference has been made to it. I know, the honourable Ministers are 100 per cent. for control. I know it. I have not opposed it. I said, where is the justification for control in view of the working of the controls?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The justification is this. Mr. Biswanath Das said that cloth is selling at prices lower than the stamped prices. We have fixed the ceiling prices. We have been able to bring down the prices of cloth because, according to Mr. Biswanath Das cloth is today selling in many parts of India at prices lower than the marked price. That is the justification and that proves the success of the policy.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"In pursuance of the proviso to section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, the Assembly hereby approves the extension of the period mentioned in sections 2 and 3 of the said Act for a further period of twelve months commencing on the first day of April, 1949."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, on Thursday, the 24th March, 1949.