

Friday
25th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

Volume III, 1949
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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)
1949



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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I--QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Friday, 25th 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

CONTROL ON CEREALS IN URBAN AREAS

*1372. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the control of cereals has been reimposed in all cities and towns and if so, what are the names of such cities and towns?

(b) What were the prices of wheat and rice ruling in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Madras, Nellore, Bezwada, Calcutta, Poona, Nagpur, Jubbuipore, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad Banaras, Patna, Gaya, Gauhati, Shillong and Ajmer, during the months of October and November, 1948?

(c) Are wheat and rice available in sufficient quantity in all parts of the country?

(d) What will be the total number of persons who will be affected if full control is imposed in all urban areas?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Donistram: (a) A statement (No. I) showing the names of cities and towns which are now under rationing is laid on the table of the House.

(b) A statement (No. II) is laid on the table of the House

(c) Not in all parts of the country.

(d) Five crores.

STATEMENT I

Urban areas, (Cities and Towns) in Provinces/States which are under rationing (Statutory and Non-Statutory) rationing or Controlled Distribution.

S. No.	Province/States	Names of towns	Whether under Statutory rationing.
1	2	3	4
1	Assam	(1) Shillong, (2) Gauhati, (3) Dibrugarh, (4) Tinsukia, (5) Dhubri, (6) Nowgong, (7) Siblebar, (8) Karimganj, (9) Sibesar, (10) Jorhat, (11) Golaghat and (12) Tezpur.	Yes

1	2	3	4
2	West Bengal	(1) Calcutta Industrial Area (consisting of 36 Municipal towns), (2) Darjeeling, (3) Kalimpong, (4) Kurseong, (5) Kharagpur (including Kharagpur Rly. settlement), (6) Asansol, (7) Burdwan, (8) Hiraipur, (9) Kulti, and (10) Barakar (Partial-matified-rationing through selected shops) 22 towns (Names of which are not available).	Yes.
3	Bihar	(1) Jarnshedpur (2) Patna, (3) Chapra, (4) Darbhanga, (5) Ranchi (6) Muzaffarpur, and (7) Gaya.	Yes. Other Non-statutary and Controlled Distribution.
4	Bombay	(1) Bombay, (2) Ahmedabad, (3) Poona, (4) Solapur, (5) Surat, (6) Hubli, (7) Belgaum, (8) Nasik, (9) Viraragam, (10) Dhule, (11) Dhule, (12) Modasa, (13) Prantij, (14) Broach, (15) Ankleshwar, (16) Jambusar, (17) Nadiad, (18) Kapadwanj, (19) Anand, (20) Borsad, (21) Daker, (22) Umreth, (23) Mahmedabad, (24) Kaira, (25) Godha, (26) Dohad, (27) Bulsar, (28) Thana, and (29) Kalyan.	Yes.
5	C.P.	(1) Betul, (2) Multai, (3) Betul Bazar, (4) Hoshangabad, (5) Itarsi, (6) Hards, (7) Sohagpur, (8) Papariya, (9) Pachmarhi, (10) Gedarwara, (11) Nariaghpur, (12) Jubbulpore, (13) Khmariga, (14) Katni, (15) Sangor, (16) Damoli, (17) Chanda, (18) Bellapur, (19) Warora, (20) Raipur, (21) Bhatapur, (22) Dhamtari, (23) Mahasamund, (24) Valda Bazar, (25) Wardha, (26) Hingnaghat, (27) Hir, (28) Pulgaon, (29) Deoli, (30) Sindi, (31) Balaghat, (32) Warsami, (33) Katangi, (34) Baihar, (35) Akola, (36) Akot, (37) Murtisapur, (38) Karajga, (39) Bsein, (40) Bilaspur, (41) Naila, (42) Champa, (43) Baraduar, (44) Kharais, (45) Bilha, (46) Akaitara, (47) Gondia, (48) Bhandara, (49) Jumsar, (50) Paoni, (51) Birsi, (52) Buldana, (53) Chekhli, (54) Deolgaon Raja, (55) Mehkar, (56) Jalgaon, (57) Khangan, (58) Shegaon, (59) Malkapur, (60) Mandura, (61) Khandwa, (62) Barhanpur, (63) Amraoti, (64) Gendera, (65) Ellichpur, (66) Chhindwara, (67) Sauser, (68) Seoni, (69) Nagpur, (70) Kemptee and (71) Yeotmal.	Distribution through Relief Quot for fair price) Shops.
6	Madras	(1) Anantapur, (2) Hindupur, (3) Todpetri, (4) Guntakkal, (5) Bellary, (6) Andoni, (7) Hospet, (8) Madras Suburban Area, (9) Chingleput, (10) Kancheeram, (11) Tiruvallur, (12) Coimbatore, (13) Tiruppur, (14) Cuddapah, (15) Proddatur, (16) Kurnool, (17) Nandyal, (18) Madras City, (19) Kodai Kanal, (20) Calicut, (21) Cannanore, (22) Tellicherry, (23) Palghat, (24) Fort Cochin, (25) Coimoor, (26) Ootacamund, (27) Salem, (28) Cuddalo Chidamb-	Yes.

1	2	3	4
6	Madras.—contd.	ram, (30) Villupuram, (31) Kesargod, (32) Mangalore, (33) Udipi, (34) Pudukottai, (35) Tiruchirappalli, (36) Srirangam, (37) Karur, (38) Tirunelveli, (39) Palani cottah, (40) Tuticorin, (41) Mathurai, (42) Bodinayakanur, (43) Periyalmalam, (44) Dindigul, (45) Rasulpuram, (46) Chittoor, (47) Tirupathi, and (48) Pabai.	
7	Orissa.	(1) Cuttack, (2) Kendrapara, (3) Jajpur, (4) Sambalpur, (5) Bergarh, (6) Jharsiguda, (7) Khariar Road, (8) Puri, (9) Bhubaneswar, (10) Jatni, (11) Bhubaneswar, (12) Balasore, (13) Bhadrak, (14) Belpur, (15) Chatrapura, (16) Parlekhemidi, (17) Aska, (18) Ruseulkonda, (19) Suruda, (20) Jeypore, (21) Sunupur, (22) Rayagada, (23) Balangir, (24) Titlagarh, (25) Patnagarh, (26) Kantabanji, (27) Bonaigarh, (28) Sundargarh, (29) Raingarh, (30) Birmisagar, (31) Kemjhar, (32) Nayagarh, (33) Sonapur-Raj, (34) Biremitrapur, (35) Boudh, (36) Ranpur, (37) Talcher, (38) Deogarh and (39) Alibagarh.	All Non-Statutory Rationing.
8	East Punjab	(1) Amritsar, (2) Ambala City and Cantt., (3) Ludhiana, (4) Jullundur City and Cantt., (5) Dharamsala, (6) Hoshiarpur, (7) Gurdaspur, (8) Batala, (9) Pathankot, (10) Ferozepur (City and Cantt.), (11) Simla, (12) Jagadhri, (13) Gurgaon, (14) Rewari, (15) Hisar, (16) Bhiwani, (17) Karnal, (18) Panipat, (19) Rohtak and (20) Sonapat.	Statutory Rationing.
		(21) Rupa, (22) Sirsa, (23) Hansi, (24) Kaithal, (25) Khanna, (26) Faisalka, and (27) Kartarpur.	Controlled Distribution.
9	U.P.	(1) Kanpur, (2) Allahabad, (3) Jhansi, (4) Agra, (5) Debra-Dun, (6) Mussorie, (7) Saharanpur, (8) Hardwar, (9) Roorkee, (10) Meerut, (11) Aligarh, (12) Mathura, (13) Banaras, (14) Ghazipur, (15) Ballia, (16) Mirzapur, (17) Jaunpur, (18) Gorakhpur, (19) Deoria, (20) Azamgarh, (21) Mau, (22) Lucknow, (23) Bareilly, (24) Shahjahanpur, (25) Faizabad, (26) Partabgarh, (27) Moradabad, (28) Nainital, (29) Haldwani, (30) Almora, (31) Ranikhet, (32) Pauri and (33) Laxmepur.	Under Partial Rationing. (Through Relief Shops.)
10	Ajmer-Merwara	(1) Ajmer, (2) Beawar and (3) Nairabad. (4) Pushkar, (5) Bijainagar	Statutory Rationing. Non-Statutory Rationing.
11	Delhi	(1) Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi Cantt.	Statutory Rationing
12	Himachal Pradesh	(1) Sarsuli (2) Solan, (3) Chamba, (4) Nahan, (5) Saranhar, (6) Paonta, (7) Mandi, (8) Sundernagar, and (9) Jogindernagar.	Controlled Distribution and Relief Shops
13	Kutch	(1) Bhuj, (2) Mandvi (3) Anjar and (4) Mundra.	Non-Statutory Rationing.

1	2	3	4
14	Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Total: (For Provinces and Administrations).	Whole Area 320 Towns.	Statutory Rationing.
1	Mysore	(1) Bangalore city (including Bangalore civil Station), (2) Mysore city, (3) Kolar Gold fields and (4) Davangere.	Statutory Rationing.
2	Travancore	(1) Trivandrum, (2) Nagercoil, (3) Quilon, (4) Alleppey and (6) Kottayam.	Whole State is under Statutory Rationing
3	Cochin	Whole State	Statutory Rationing.
4	Baroda	(1) Baroda city*, (2) Dabhoi, (3) Waghoria, (4) Savli, (5) Padra, (6) Sankheda (7) Bahadarpur, (8) Karjan, (9) Sinor, (10) Bhadram, (11) Petlad, (12) Vaso, (13) Kalol, (14) Dehgam, (15) Antarsumba, (16) Mehsana, (17) Visnagar, (18) Vadnagar, (19) Kherabi, (20) Vijapur, (21) Sidhpur, (22) Unjha, (23) Patan, (24) Ozansama, (25) Goharia, 26. Dhinaj, (27) Harij, (28) Kadi (29) Valam, (30) Navsari, (31) Billimoria, (32) Gandevis, (33) Kathor, (34) Vyara, (35) Amrahi, (36) Damnagar, (37) Dhari, (38) Kodinar, (39) Khambha, (40) Retanpur.	Statutory Rationing. Others— Distribution through Relief Shops.
5	Rampur	Rampur	Relief Shops.
6	Sirohi	(1) Sirohi, (2) Sheoganj, (3) Abu Road (4) Mt. Abu (5) Kalandari.	Statutory Rationing.
7	Kolhapur	Kolhapur 52 towns	Statutory. 52 towns under Relief Quota Shops.
8	Jaipur	(1) Jaipur city, (2) Sikar, (3) Fetehpor, (4) Lachmengarh, (5) Chirawa, (6) Jhunjhunu, (7) Nawalgarh, (8) Surajgarh (9) Neemka Thana, (10) Reogus and (11) Sambhar.	All non-Statutory Rationing.
9	Jodhpur	(1) Jodhpur city, (2) Balotra, (3) Barmer (4) Didwana, (5) Ladnuni, (6) Kuchaman, (7) Meksana, (8) Nazaur, (9) Pali, (10) Pipar city, (11) Phalodi, (12) Sadari, (13) Sojat city, (14) Bali, (15) Bilara, (16) Desuri, (17) Jetaran, (18) Jalore, (19) Jaswantpura, (20) Merta, (21) Nawa, (22) Pachpadra, (23) Pabreer, (24) Sanchore, (25) Sheo, (26) Shegarh, (27) Sojat and (28) Jeewan	1—Statutory Rationing Other—Controlled Distribution.
10	Bikaner	(1) Bikaner (including Gangashar and Bhinasar), (2) Churu, (3) Retanagarh (4) Sujangarh, (5) Sardarshahar, (6) Rajgarh, (7) Taragarh, (8) Nohar, (9) Bhadra, (10) Suratgarh, (11) Napasar (12) Deshnoke, (13) Nokha (14) Rajal. desar, (15) Bidasar, (16) Retannagar, (17) Dungargarh, (18) Talchhapar, (19) Anupgarh (20) Sri Bujeynagar, (21) Sadulgarh.	1—Statutory. Other—Controlled Distribution.
11	Rajasthan Union.	1) Udaipur, (2) Kotab, (3) Dangarpur, (4) Banawara, (5) Jhalawar, (6) Baran, (7) Kishangarh, (8) Ramgarh Mandi, (9) Bhawan Mandi (10) Sironj, (11) Bhitwara, (12) Nathdwara, (13) Bandi and (14) Salumber.	Non-Statutory and Controlled Distribution.

1	2	3	4
12	Hyderabad (Dn.)	(1) Hyderabad city, (2) Secunderabad, (3) Warangal, (4) Kothagudem, (5) Khammam (6) Bellampally, (7) Sasti and (8) Atrafe Belde.	All Statutory
13	Madhya Bha-at	(1) Indore city, (2) Dewas, (3) Rajgarh, (4) Barwani, (5) Ratlam; (6) Skamoc, (7) Jaora; (8) Khargoni, (9) Burwaha, (10) Samawad, (11) Mehidpur; (12) Tarana (13) Garoth, (14) Bhainpura (15) Rampura, (16) Zirapur (17) Khilchipur (18) Naraingarh, (19) Guna, (20) Sheopuri, (21) Morens (22) Bhind, (23) Sheipur, (24) Bhisra, (25) Basoda, (26) Kurvai (27) Mandleshwar, (28) Maheshwar, (29) Mannod, (30) Khatogoon, (31) Sarlapur, (32) Mandasaur, (33) Khachrod, (34) Baranagar, (35) Neemuch, (36) Shajapur, (37) Bhujalpur, (38) Serangpur, (39) Biora (40) Piploda, and (41) Chanchora.	1-Statutory. Others—Relief Shops.
14	Bhopal	(1) Bhopal and (2) Sehore	Distribution through Relief Shops.
15	Vindhya Pradesh	(1) Satna and (2) Rewa	Controlled Distribution.
16	Matsya Union	(1) Alwar, (2) Bharatpur, (3) Deeg, (4) Bayana, (5) Dholpur, (6) Behror and (7) Barrod.	Controlled Distribution.
17	Patiala and East Punjab States Union.	(1) Patiala, (2) Kapurthala, (3) Phagwara (4) Sultanpur, (5) Narcaul, (6) Mohindergarh, (7) Dedri, (8) Bawal, (9) Kalasia (10) Kandeghat and (11) Dharampur.	Relief Quota Shops.
18	Kashmir	(1) Srinagar and (2) Jammu	Non-Statutory.
19	Tehri Garhwal	(a) Tehri, (2) Narendranagar, (3) Deoprayag, (4) Kirtinagar and (5) Munkirti.	Controlled Distribution.
20	United State of Saurashtra (including Junagadh).	37 towns (Names not available)	Distribution through Relief Shops.
	Total for States	298 towns.	
	Grand Total for Provinces/States.	618 towns.	

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RICE

Centres	Week ended 2-10-48	Week ended 9-10-48	Week ended 16-10-48	Week ended 23-10-48	Week ended 30-10-48	Week ended 6-11-48	Week ended 13-11-48	Week ended 20-11-48	Week ended 27-11-48
Bombay*	11 8 0	11 8 0	11 8 0	11 8 0	11 8 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0
Ahmedabad*	16 11 4	15 11 4	15 11 4	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0
Madras*	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	11 4 0
Nellore	12 15 0	12 2 6	12 15 0	12 15 10	12 15 0	12 15 0	12 15 0	12 15 0	12 15 0
Bezwada	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1	11 14 1
Calcutta*	16 4 0	15 4 0	15 4 0	15 4 0	16 4 0	16 4 0	16 4 0	16 4 0	16 4 0
Poona*	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0	16 12 0
Nagpur	13 8 0	13 0 0	13 8 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	13 8 0	13 0 0	14 0 0	14 8 0
Jubbulpore	14 8 0	14 8 0	13 10 0	13 10 0	13 10 0	13 10 0	13 10 0	13 10 0	14 3 0
Lucknow	26 10 0	..	22 18 9	22 13 9	22 13 9	22 1 1	21 5 4	21 5 4	18 13 2
Kanpur	..	..	24 9 6	23 10 0	26 9 8	26 10 8	..	24 9 6	22 13 9
Allahabad	..	..	19 6 0	20 0 0	21 0 0	20 10 0	..	22 10 0	21 0 0
Bacara	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	..	30 0 0	30 8 0
Patna	24 8 0	24 0 0	23 0 0	23 0 0	22 0 0	20 0 0	..	20 0 0	20 0 0
Guys	21 8 0	23 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	..	20 0 0	18 0 0
Gauhati	25 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	..	24 0 0	24 0 0
Shillong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ajmer	38 0 0	40 0 0	40 0 0	40 0 0	42 8 0	45 0 0	45 0 0	45 0 0	16 0 0

*Rates at which rice is supplied to the retail ration Depots.

..Information not available.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any shipment of rice has arrived this month from Burma?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware; possibly.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the new procurement policy has been fixed by the Government and if so what is it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not quite follow what the Honourable Member means by new procurement policy. Procurement policy is fixed from year to year.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Has it recently been fixed, or the policy of the last year continues?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The new policy is fixed every year. The rates at which local grain is procured is fixed from season to season. At the present moment, procurement prices for whatever crop is to arrive in the course of two or three months, will be fixed now. So also in the case of other grains in other seasons.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: What is the procurement which has been fixed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will be able to give the details to the honourable member later on. But, these are various prices at which procurement could be made, from province to province and from State to State.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know what was the highest price of wheat and rice, under part (b) and in which town?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In the case of wheat, the highest price is about Rs. 28 in Patna. In the case of rice, the highest price I think is in Ajmer about Rs. 45.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: What was the price of wheat in Delhi in January and February?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have not got the figures for January. The figures for October and November are available.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know what was the price?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will be able later on to supply to the honourable member the price for January.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the reports received by the honourable member go to show that wherever control has been reimposed, there, black marketing has reappeared as an inevitable concomitant?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes; it has come to the notice of the Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Everywhere, wherever control is reimposed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In most cases black market has appeared.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know who fixes the price of the grain procured from the peasants?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The provincial Government makes recommendations which the Central Government either accepts or modifies.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What are the considerations on which fixation of price is based?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The consideration is to try to fix a price which is fair both to the consumer and to the producer.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the Central Provinces Government has written to the Central Government that they do not want any rationing and control? What is going to be their attitude as far as that province is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as the Central Provinces is concerned, there is a large number of fair price shops in many towns. The question of statutory control may create difficulties in the C. P. in regard to procurement for the rest of the country. We have allowed the C. P. Government for the time being to go on with the present method. We are considering the effect of that. If we find that it is going on satisfactorily, we may not interfere. If we find that there are defects, we may interfere.

Shri R. K. Sidhya: What was the lowest price of wheat and rice during the period?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: With regard to the towns for which figures were required from October and November, the lowest price for wheat was in Bombay, Ahmedabad, and Madras; but these were rationed. It was Rs. 14 in Calcutta, Rs. 13 in Poona, Rs. 13 in Bombay, Rs. 18 in Ahmedabad and Rs. 17 in Madras.

Shri R. K. Sidhya: For rice?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Rs. 11/9/- in Bombay, Rs. 15 in Ahmedabad, Rs. 11 in Madras, Rs. 11 in Bezwada, Rs. 12 in Nellore, Rs. 13/8/- in Nagpur.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir,.....

Mr. Speaker: I am proceeding to the next question.

RESERVES OF FOOD GRAINS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOOD GRAINS
POLICY COMMITTEE

*1373. **Shri R. K. Sidhya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the total quantity of food grains reserved under the scheme adopted by Government during 1948 and 1949?

(b) Is this reserve maintained throughout or used during any emergency?

(c) Has any quantity of the reserve been utilised in the years 1947 and 1948?

(d) Has the Committee appointed by Government recommended that all hotels, hostels, restaurants and messes catering for non-vegetarian food be stopped supply of rice?

(e) If so, what are the decisions of Government on this recommendation?

(f) What quantity of rice would be saved if such stoppage is put into operation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). Seven lakh tons and 1½ lakh tons, respectively.

The reserve is meant for and used for an emergency.

In 1948 the reserve was mainly used to help Madras and Bombay Provinces.

(d) and (e). No. The Food grains Policy Committee, which met during the later part of 1947, recommended to the Provinces the suggestion that arrangements be instituted for ensuring that some part of cereal ration is surrendered by a consumer who buys meat, in proportion to the quantity of meat purchased by him. The Provinces and States were not in favour of the proposal as they considered the proposition administratively not practicable.

(f) It is not practicable to estimate the quantity which would be saved.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what was the carry over from the year 1948, of food grains?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: What exactly is meant by carry over?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Balance.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as the stocks in the Central Government godowns are concerned, there would be a central balance. Apart from that, there are large quantities which are in transit in the steamers in view of the contracts made and despatches from these countries. In the month of December 1948, we had a balance of 18,000 tons in the Central Government godown.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If a reserve has to be maintained, may I know whether a record is kept? I want to know from the record what was the balance left in the year 1948 in the godowns and the quantity in transit?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give the transit figures. May I explain that the procedure is not that we purchase a certain quantity and keep it as a kind of reserve which we do not touch. We are getting food grains every month from different countries. We are also delivering to the provinces and the States every month. Therefore, there is no particular quantity of food grains which has remained untouched and which we must not touch, which is kept as a kind of reserve, in spite of the demand of the provinces. It is a continuing process of arrival, procurement from the provinces, and distribution to the provinces. Therefore, the reserve that is talked of is a kind of calculation as to what would be the demand for the year and what would be availability for the year. As I said, for instance, in the middle of 1948, we had 161,000 tons in the Central reserve in the Central Government godowns. Out of this, the provinces began to draw and we began to get also from abroad, and from the provinces through procurement.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has not the Government adopted a policy for a particular reserve to be kept to meet any emergency? May I know whether that policy exists and if it does not exist according to the honourable member, am I clear in my understanding that there is no reserve?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That policy is maintained and has to be continued. As I said, the reserve is a balance which is worked out by calculating the need of the year and the supply of the year. You so work out the supplies that there is a balance at the end. By end, I mean, in December. Otherwise there are continuous allocations to the provinces, and continuous procurement and continuous arrivals from abroad. It is a continuous process. A calendar year is a theoretical way of fixing the period.

Mr. Frank Anthony: How is it that in spite of control the best quality of rice is sold openly in every shop in places like Pahargunj at black-market prices?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Government administration is not upto the mark.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RADIO EQUIPMENT FACTORY

*1574. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government intend to establish a Radio Equipment Factory in India and if so, what are the details of the scheme?

(b) Has the scheme materialised?

(c) What kind of radio equipments will be manufactured in the factory and will it be sufficient to meet the requirements of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have decided to enter into agreements with three firms viz., Messrs Campagne General De Telegraphie Sans Fil, Paris; Radio Corporation of America and Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., U.K. for preparing a project report on the establishment in India of a factory for the manufacture of radio, wireless and radar equipment etc., excluding domestic radio receivers. The project report which is likely to take four to six months to prepare will, *inter alia*, deal with the facilities which are necessary for the proper location of the factory, capital cost involved, raw materials required, cost of production etc.

(c) I would refer the honourable member to the reply given by me to part (c) of Starred Question No. 491 on 18th February, 1949. The factory is expected to be self-sufficient.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know what will be the output of this factory when it is established?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: About two crores.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the receiving sets will be manufactured in the factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have said what sets will be excluded.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Why receivers will not be manufactured?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are being manufactured in India by other factories and Government do not wish to compete with them.

Mr. Homi Mody: Will the agreement take care of the interests of Indian manufacturers engaged in manufacturing components?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, we will bear that in mind. We do not want to compete with existing factories.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Honourable Minister for Communications maintains a branch of Radio Technicians who manage the technical side of the A.I.R. under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am fully aware of it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is he aware that they maintain workshop where researches can be carried out?

Mr. Speaker: What is the point the honourable member wants?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: That Department and the Research Section are capable of manufacturing radio receiving sets. I want to know if the Honourable Minister is aware of it and is he availing of that?

Mr. Speaker: These questions come by way of arguments. What is the information that he wants now?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I want to know the information whether the Honourable Minister is aware that there is a Research Workshop maintained by another Ministry which is capable of producing radio receiving sets and if he is aware, whether he is availing of these facilities?

Mr. Speaker: On these obvious questions it should be presumed that he is aware of the various Departments' activities. These questions will be relevant if the honourable member wishes to proceed with cross-examination as a basis for further question to be put to witness by way of argument. But nothing of the kind is permissible in question hour.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I have done my job Sir.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the House wants to know whether the scheme which we have prepared has been prepared after consultation with different Ministries, I should say that the answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. Homi Mody: Apart from the question of competition to which the Honourable Minister has referred, will the agreement make provision for the utilisation of such components as are manufactured in the country and which may be found to be suitable. That was my question really.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall bear that in mind.

Seth Govind Das: How many radio receiving sets are imported in this country and has Government any plan to make this country self-sufficient as far as these sets are concerned?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That also we have in view. We want to make it self-sufficient as far as possible.

Seth Govind Das: How many sets are imported into this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figure.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which are the companies at present manufacturing radio sets in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: About 11 different manufacturers have asked for permission. I believe four of them—Philips Electrical Co., I.R.P. Radio Ltd., Calcutta, Supreme Electrical and Engineering Co., Bombay and Patiala Electronics, Patiala, have now gone into production.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are they manufacturing?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are.

ABSORPTION OF RELEASED INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

*1375. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether he has made any arrangement in his department for the absorption of the released Indian employees of the Government of the Union of Burma?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how many released Indian employees from Burma have been absorbed up till now?

(c) On what basis has the selection been made?

Shri Khurshed Isal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) In accordance with general instructions issued by the Home Ministry, arrangements have been made for employing in the offices under the control of the Ministry of Communications certain categories of Indian staff released by the Government of Burma.

(b) Sixty-six persons have so far been employed in the several offices under the Ministry of Communications.

(c) The selections have been made on the ground of suitability as judged from the qualifications and experience of each individual.

Seth Govind Das: How many applications were received in this respect and out of those applications, how many have been rejected?

Shri Khurshed Lal: We do not receive applications direct. The External Affairs Ministry make a list of such persons and they send it on to us.

Seth Govind Das: Did they send only those applications which had been accepted or more were sent and they were not accepted by this Department?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I should like to have notice.

Shri H. V. Kasmath: As between Indian employees who have opted out of Pakistan for India and the Indian employees released from Burma, who gets the preference, other things being equal?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I should like notice.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Minister if the Honourable Minister for Communications had not received direct representations from representatives of people—about two thousand and odd persons—who were formerly employed by the Union of Burma and if any arrangement is being made to absorb all those 2,000 people?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I am not aware of any such representation having been received but I will enquire into it.

DEMURRAGE RECOVERED BY BOMBAY PORT TRUST

*1376. **Shri R. K. Sidhya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the amount of demurrage recovered by the Bombay Port Trust during the years 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 from consignees?

(b) Have merchants made any representation about such demand of demurrage?

(c) What action have Government taken in the matter?

(d) What is the capacity of all godowns of Bombay Port Trust and do they meet the demands of all goods which come into Bombay docks and if not, what steps have the Port Trust so far taken to build additional godowns?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The amounts of demurrage recovered by the Bombay Port Trust were as follows:

1944-45	..	Rs. 24.00 lakhs.
1945-46	..	Rs. 39.98 lakhs.
1946-47	..	Rs. 45.44 lakhs.
1947-48	..	Rs. 107.26 lakhs.

(b) Yes.

(c) Customs and Import licence formalities have been simplified as far as possible. The Port Trust have also been asked to adopt a liberal policy of remission of such dues in so far as the detention of the import cargo appears to be due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer. Each specific case is carefully examined by the Port Trust and a refund or waiver granted wholly or partially, if the consignee does not take delivery in certain specified circumstances such as the untraceability of packages, detention due to *bona fide* customs requirements, compliance with Trade Control formalities etc.. Claims based on compassionate grounds are also duly considered by the Trustees.

(d) The total capacity of all the godowns is 2,540,980 sq. ft. After the Explosions of 1944 which entailed a loss of about 739,197 sq. ft. the accommodation is not sufficient to meet all demands. Several long and short term projects have been taken in hand by the Bombay Port Trust for the relief of congestion, for example, the construction of an uncleared goods warehouse

with a floor space of 1,92,000 sq. ft., the reconstruction of 3 transit sheds with a total floor space of 2,64,000 sq. ft., the development of the Frere Basin area and the pressing into use, of vacant land away from the Docks for the open air storage of goods awaiting clearance etc. The scheme for the reconstruction of the Prince's and Victoria Docks, damaged during the Explosions, and for the modernisation of the Port, estimated to cost Rs. 6½ crores, is also under the consideration of the Trustees.

For building new sheds and warehouses the Government have made special arrangements for the supply of steel etc.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: May I know when the explosion took place in Bombay and when the Bombay Port Trust authorities started to build the lost floor area?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The explosion occurred somewhere about 1944 and the commencement of construction—only the preliminary work—took place I think about a year or eighteen months ago.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: May I know why the construction of the lost floor area was not immediately started?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The trouble has been due to the difficulty in obtaining materials for building purposes.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: But is it not a fact that imported steel was available in very large quantity, but the Port Trust Authorities were not prepared to spend a large sum? If that is so, may I know whether the Honourable Minister took any steps to see that the Port Trust Authorities were compelled to build the lost site of the godowns?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think on the last occasion I was in Bombay, we did make enquiries into this question. They said they had placed certain orders at Jamshedpur and the steel could not be moved owing to difficulty at Jamshedpur. We sent two officers to set this right and I think since then the steel has been moving more satisfactorily than it did previously.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the cause of this high demurrage of one crore and seven lakhs in 1947-48 as against twenty-four lakhs in 1945 and does the Honourable Minister think it fair that the merchants should be compelled to pay this high demurrage for the mistakes of the Port Trust Authorities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He may put one question at a time and not combine so many and no question as to opinions.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Who is responsible for this high demurrage, which is 125 per cent. more, that the merchants were compelled to pay?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know what the honourable member means by "Who is responsible". Demurrage has been collected according to rule and if merchants did not clear their goods and demurrage had to be charged, that demurrage has been collected.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the merchants made a complaint to the Port Trust.....

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I said already "Yes".

Shri E. K. Sidhva: If the complaints were made that they want to clear the goods, why efforts were not made by the Port Trust in Bombay to have the goods cleared and why they asked the merchants to pay these demurrage charges?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know what steps the honourable member suggests could have been taken by the Port Trust to clear the goods themselves.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question now.

Shri R. K. Sidha: May I know when the attention of the Honourable Minister was drawn about the lack of administration by the Bombay Port Trust?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not think I made any statement that my attention was drawn to any "lack of administration".

PRODUCTION OF SANN HEMP

*1377. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the total out-put of Indian hemp during the year 1948?

(b) Has there been a decline in out-put, and if so, what are the reasons for the same?

(c) What steps are being taken to increase the out-put of this commodity?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doolatram: (a) and (b). The honourable member is presumably referring to Sann hemp.

A statement showing the output of Sann hemp in the Indian Union during 1947-48 and 1946-47 is placed on the table of the House. The decline in 1947-48 as compared to 1946-47 is attributable to unfavourable weather conditions, irregular late rains in some Provinces and States and diversion of land to food crops.

(c) The question of improving the quality and output of Sann hemp in the Indian Union by effecting improvement in (i) the technique of cultivation, (ii) the method of retting and (iii) the existing varieties of crop, has been under the consideration of the Government of India for some time. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research conducted research schemes with regard to Sann hemp in the C.P., Madras, Bihar, Bombay and the U.P. and these provinces have been increasingly using the new methods and varieties.

STATEMENT

Production of Sann hemp in Indian Union during 1947-48 as compared to 1946-47.

Serial No.	Province/State	Production (in tone)	
		1946-47	1947-48
1	2	3	4
1	Ajmer Merwara	Nil	Nil
2	Assam	Negligible	Negligible
3	Bihar	1,877	1,108
4	†Bombay	1,900	1,735
5	C. P. and Berar	8,541	4,317
6	Delhi	50	7
7	East Punjab	3,900	2,600
8	Himachal Pradesh	7	9
9	Madras	28,161	18,690
10	†Orissa	517	529
11	United Provinces	41,613	43,786
12	West Bengal	2,722	2,484

1	2	3	4
13	Garoda	73	31
14	Bikaner	248	273
15	Hyderabad	9,500	9,475
16	Jaipur	271	198
17	Jammu and Kashmir	Negligible	Negligible
18	Rampur	92	64
19	Travancore	Figures not available.	Figures not available.
20	Madhya Bharat Union	8,604	7,465
21	Patiala and East Punjab States Union	Negligible	Negligible
22	†United States of Mysore	22	15
23	United States of Rajasthan.	829	587
24	United States of Vindhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		108,036	93,381

†Figures incomplete.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government investigating some such forest areas in C.P. and other provinces where Sann hemp can be grown without affecting food crops?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will not be able to reply without further enquiry.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have Government been carrying on investigations to see if Sann hemp can substitute jute in regard to making of bags and other things?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These experiments are being carried on at our research institutions, not only about Sann hemp but all other fibres, and we are appointing a Special Committee to study all the fibres and find out the possibility of their being substitutes for jute.

CULTIVATION OF JUTE IN SOUTH INDIA

*1378. **Shri V. O. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the possibilities of cultivating jute in South India have been explored?

(b) Have any areas been selected for the same and if so, what is the extent of such areas?

(c) Are these selected areas places where food cannot be grown?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) In Madras Province the districts of Vizagapatam, Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara have been found *prima facie* suitable for growing jute and it is proposed to grow this crop on an experimental basis in 1949 in these districts. An area of 2,000 acres in Vizagapatam and about 1,000 acres in each of the districts of Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara will be covered by this scheme.

In Travancore it may be possible to grow jute as a second crop in some of the lowland areas of the State covering about 50,000 acres, where at present only one crop is grown. In this tract it is proposed to bring a small area of about 2,000 acres under jute cultivation in 1949 on an experimental basis.

(c) Yes, except in Travancore where it is proposed to grow jute as a second crop during the period when the land remains uncultivated.

Seth Govind Das: Besides South India, is there any other province where jute can be grown and are Government making any investigations in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far these provinces, but I believe C. P. already is growing a certain quantity of jute.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Can jute be grown in Cochin State?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is a scheme for Cochin State also.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total requirement of Indian mills of jute and how do we hope to fulfil that requirement?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give the exact figure, but, I think it is roughly about 70 lakh bales. During the last year, we were able to increase the production in India from 17 lakh bales to 20 lakh bales and we propose to increase it by about 4 lakh bales in the next year. Perhaps, it may be interesting for members to know that as against this, the production in Pakistan has gone down from 68 lakh bales to 54 lakh bales.

Seth Govind Das: Besides the requirements of the jute mills, how much is required in India for consumers and what plan Government have to make Indian Union self-sufficient so far as jute is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have already said our requirements are about 70 lakh bales.

Seth Govind Das: That is about mills. I want to know how much jute is required for the whole country for consumers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I suppose this includes the jute used by consumers. After all, all jute is converted in mills into bags and then used. The total quantity required by mills is about 70 lakhs.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: What is the expected production of jute in these areas?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These are all experiments to be made, so it is difficult to say how much we shall be able to produce. That will be known only after the first experiment has been completed.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it then that after the jute which is required for the mills which are in India there will not be any further need for jute goods to be imported into this country from Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We do not import any jute goods; we only import raw jute from Pakistan.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total quantity of jute produced in U. P.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give the figure now.

MANUFACTURE OF COTTON TEXTILE STORES

*1379. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to stimulate the manufacture of cotton textile stores in India?

(b) What is the total amount being spent in importing these articles?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir. Necessary assistance in the procurement and movement of raw materials is being rendered for the manufacture of cotton textile stores in India. Besides with a view to giving assistance to the indigenous industry certain raw materials-

imported from abroad are exempted from import duty. Similarly protection has been afforded to the indigenous industry in some cases by way of protective duty imposed on the import of foreign goods.

(b) The annual estimated amount being spent on the import of textile stores is rupees six crores.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, what kind of help is being given to the industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We arrange for raw materials. Then we have granted exemptions of import duty in respect of certain materials, and we have also imposed a protective duty in respect of certain cases. There are other details as well, which I could give the honourable member.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that a Corporation formed to manufacture these stores was not given help by the Central Government or the Bombay Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If there is any complaint about it by an individual concern, the best thing for it to do is to write to Government.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that in the markets there is too much of textile goods at present? And in view of the fact that there are textile goods lying in authorised mills, what is Government going to do so that these imports may become less?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am afraid the honourable member is confusing between textile goods and textile stores?

Mr. Speaker: That is the confusion?

Seth Govind Das: Yes.

SERVEMENT OF CLAIMS RE GOODS BOOKED TO PAKISTAN AND *vice versa* BEFORE PARTITION

*1380. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what procedure has been prescribed for the settlement of claims in respect of goods booked from India to Pakistan and *vice versa* before partition?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Claims in respect of consignments booked prior to 15th August 1947 from a station in India to a station in Pakistan and *vice versa* are required to be preferred to the despatching or receiving Indian Railway who will deal with these claims according to the conditions and circumstances of carriage.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know how many claims have been filed so far?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I have not the number as it was not put as part of the question. I thought the question related to the procedure adopted in the settlement of these claims.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: In how many cases have these complaints been filed in the Court?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I want notice of that question.

ASSAM TEA IMPORTED INTO CALCUTA

*1381. **Srijut Kuladhar Ohalha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of tea-chest carried from Assam via Parbatipur to Calcutta in the years 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949?

(b) What is the reason for the decrease if any, in the number of tea-chests so carried in 1947, 1948 and 1949 by the Assam Railways?

(c) What is the number of tea-chests carried by Messrs. India General Steam and Navigation Company Limited and River Steam Navigation Company Limited through Pakistan to Calcutta from the different steamerghats in Assam in 1947, 1948 and 1949?

(d) Are Government aware that the Assam Railways fail to give necessary wagons for carriage of tea from Upper Assam to Calcutta, and if so, what is the loss of freight incurred by the Government of India on account of this?

(e) What is the difference in earning on this head in 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The number of tea-chests is not available, but the total maundage during the calendar years was as follows:

1945	11,68,093 maunds
1946	5,70,844 "
1947	4,80,715 "
1948	3,39,962 "

Figures for 1949 are not available.

(b) The principal reason for the decrease in the maundage carried in 1947 and 1948 compared with 1945 was the re-opening of Chittagong port in September, 1945, which was closed for tea traffic during the war. Another reason was that tea from Assam was given only class III priority up to the end of 1946. After partition, frequent restrictions were imposed by the E. B. Railway (Pakistan), particularly during the months of January to April and September to October, 1946, which adversely affected the movement of tea.

(c) In this case also information regarding the number of tea-chests is not available. According to the figures published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the quantity of Assam Tea imported into Calcutta by the two Steamer Companies amounted to 12,61,237 maunds during 1947 and 14,81,175 maunds during the first 11 months of 1948. Figures for 1949 are not available.

(d) In view of the priority which tea was given and of the frequent restrictions imposed by the E. B. Railway, the Assam Railway could not have provided more wagons for the carriage of tea from Upper Assam to Calcutta. Therefore, the question of loss of freight does not arise.

(e) The figures are available for calendar years. Earnings during 1947 were Rs. 52,418/4/- more than during 1946, and those during 1948 were Rs. 78,259/1/- more than during 1947.

Srijiit Kuladhar Chaliha: I could not follow the answer to (d).

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Minister repeat the answer to part (d) of the question?

(Answer was then repeated)

Srijiit Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know, in view of the fact that from 11 lakhs it has come to 3 lakhs, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to see that more wagons are placed in Upper Assam stations from now onwards?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Every effort will be made to supply as many wagons as may be required for moving tea.

CLERKAGE CHARGES FOR RETURN OF UNUSED RAILWAY TICKETS

*1382. **Srijiit Kuladhar Chaliha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any clerkage is charged for return of unused railway tickets and if so, what percentage is deducted?

(b) Is there any system of granting receipts for deductions made and if not, do Government propose to direct granting of such receipts by railway servants to passengers?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yea. A clerkage charge of two annas per ticket is deducted while refunding fares to passengers who cannot commence their journeys for any cause other than want of room in the train, provided the ticket is given up within two hours after the departure of the train.

(b) No. The question whether it is necessary to introduce a system of receipts is being considered.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know what ordinarily is the period taken for a refund in the case of unused tickets by the railway authorities to the passenger concerned?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Immediately it is surrendered in the booking office, the payment is made.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: No, Sir. After the departure date, within what period are these refunds made?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The tickets have to be presented within two hours, otherwise the railway administration will not know whether it has been used or not. Therefore, as soon as the ticket is surrendered to the booking office, the clerk is authorised to refund the ~~price~~ ^{value} of the fare ~~minus~~ ^{minus} the clerkage.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: In cases where remarks are made by the station master on the tickets that the tickets are unused and when the claim is sent to the office concerned, may I know what period is taken to refund the amount?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am unable to understand the question. I have said that within two hours the ticket has to be surrendered and as soon as that is done the money is refunded. In other cases probably it would take the usual routine time. For instance, if there is no room in the train and the ticket has to be surrendered, then after the departure of the train the usual procedure for refund will be followed.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: But what is the period? Is it a fact that.....

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member knows the period now.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: His attention is drawn to it. Is it a fact that it takes a very long time?

Mr. Speaker: That follows from the trend of the reply.

Srijiit Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know why receipts are not granted? I have personal knowledge of it. A ticket was given up and no receipt was granted.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: As soon as a ticket is issued, it goes into the accounts and so when the tickets are surrendered again they have to make special entries both for the clerkage and the number of tickets surrendered. Therefore, it was not thought necessary to have receipts. I am reconsidering the question of the desirability of introducing a system of receipts.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister also consider that the time taken for the repayment of these refunds is reduced?

Mr. Speaker: All these matters will be included in the reconsideration.

Begum Aijaz Rasul: Have the rules been altered, because after the ticket was surrendered after the departure of the train, the money was not refunded immediately but after a claim was made for it?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The rule is that the booking clerk should give the money as soon as the ticket is surrendered.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Is the Honourable Minister aware that payment is made after six months? I made a claim six months ago and yesterday I received Rs. 6.4 refund. Is the Honourable Minister aware of this system?

Mr. Speaker: He is aware.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: If the honourable member will give me the particular instance I am prepared to investigate.

MEASURES TO INCREASE YIELD FROM LAND

*1383. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the average yield per acre per year for each of the provinces and States in India during the past five years of (i) Rice, (ii) Wheat and (iii) Millet?

(b) What steps are Government taking to increase the yield per acre from the land already under cultivation?

(c) What is the estimated increase in yield per acre by such measures?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The honourable member may kindly refer to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 176 on 7th February, 1949.

(c) From two maunds to one ton according to the measures adopted.

STATEMENT

Yield per acre of rice, wheat and millets in the reporting Provinces and States of the Indian Union during five years ending 1947-48.

(in lb.)

Provinces/States	M.L.A.					Wheat					Millets				
	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
Assam	921	774	894	892	816	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bihar	660	815	565	627	608	747	809	667	659	693	685	689	592	576	612
Bombay	946	806	878	908	853	587	317	346	127	344	350	294	341	306	302
C.P. and Berar	697	641	605	513	617	311	408	365	89	345	559	480	451	389	546
East Punjab	588	642	612	616	584	778	819	697	733	747	210	250	283	255	270
Madras	1,011	1,023	931	1,003	857	..	..	..	..	..	822	476	402	484	461
Orissa	591	680	582	595	653	640	640	640	747	747	458	458	469	487	437
United Provinces	581	481	644	640	671	738	731	641	656	759	485	462	462	411	456
West Bengal	993	797	806	833	823	804	627	449	639	598	590	660	678	672	747
Ajmer-Merwara	..	..	..	..	..	880	720	641	640	623	156	156	..	..	140
Coorg	1,171	1,956	1,107	1,058	878	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Delhi	..	..	..	..	..	589	507	527	601	487	738	468	492	418	385
Baroda	488	503	310	507	492	1,167	1,149	843	311	478	549	221	393	345	406
Bhopal	407	320	359	395	387	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orwalor	..	..	..	..	..	649	663	524	181	390	..	564	513	463	414
Mysore	730	765	575	845	825	..	..	..	..	..	401	306	336	310	283
Bamrup	411	249	422	506	424	630	680	483	305	364	..	..	..	224	169
Bombay States	984	885	895	891	778	553	493	614	580	429	499	349	334	176	208
C. I. States (excluding Bhopal)	..	..	..	..	..	276	314	287	73	394	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Agency States	685	622	592	696	647	869	308	345	65	243	..	..	..	..	..
East Punjab States	..	..	..	..	..	789	745	694	687	610	..	..	..	..	..
Rajputana States	..	..	..	..	..	644	582	651	358	458	..	..	..	..	..
Hyderabad	699	772	768	971	738	248	247	240	26	322	265	268	328	301	288

* 1949 annual Report.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the fertility or productivity of the soil as judged by the yield per acre decreased or increased during the last 20 or 30 years?

The Honourable Shri Jitramdas Doulatram: The opinion of those who have studied this matter is that fertility has decreased.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the reasons, may I know?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need go into that question, because it will involve many things of a scientific nature.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the corresponding figures of yield per acre in the U. K., U.S.A and Japan?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are generally higher.

Seth Govind Das: Has there been any increase in the productivity during the recent three years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think so except in certain areas where special measures have been taken to improve the yield. It all depends upon better methods of cultivation.

DUTY ON PETROL

*1384. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the amount of tax collected by the Central Government on each gallon of petrol and what is the total amount collected for the last 5 years and for what purpose it is collected?

(b) Out of the tax collected on each gallon, what is the amount earmarked and pooled into a non-lapsing fund called the Road Fund?

(c) For what purpose is the road fund collected? Is it for the construction of National Highways or Provincial Highways?

(d) How is the Road Fund distributed to different Provinces and on what basis?

(e) Do Provincial Governments charge any sale tax on petrol when they go to Provinces and if so, what is the tax collected on each gallon?

(f) Are the rates different in different Provinces?

(g) What is the number of times that petrol is taxed in India before it reaches the consumers, viz., motor owners?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) A statement showing the duty realised in the last five years is laid on the table. The duty is levied as part of ordinary taxation and not for any specific purpose, but a part of it is credited to the Road Fund for road development.

(b) Two and a half annas.

(c) For the purposes of road development generally, and specifically for the objects detailed in paragraphs 6-8 of the Resolution on Road Development adopted by this House on the 19th November 1947. For roads classed as "National Highways", separate provision is made in the Central Budget.

(d) The basis of distribution is laid down in para 9 of the Resolution on Road Development of the 19th November 1947.

(e) to (g). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STATEMENT

Duty Collected on Motor Spirit

Rs. (000)

Year	Average rate of taxation (per gallon)	Import duty	Excise duty	Total
1943-44	15 annas	3,27,86	40,00	3,67,86
1944-45	15 annas	3,40,75	18,24	3,58,99
1945-46	15 annas	14,74,80	2,26,64	17,01,44
1946-47	12 annas	6,58,39	1,79,21	8,37,60
1947-48	12 annas	9,09,68	1,22,31	10,32,00

Figures are for undivided India except that in 1947-48 figures upto 15th August, 1947 are for undivided India and for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 for the Indian Dominion.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is there a non-lapsing fund created for the maintenance and construction of national highways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No, Sir. The money for national highways is granted year after year as a separate demand before the House.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: As regards the road fund has the Pakistan share been given by now?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am sorry I have no information. If the honourable member will put down a question I am prepared to get the information.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the number of years according to calculation during which it will be possible to complete the first plan of national highways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We have adopted a plan for the first five years. The present schedule of national highways is expected to be completed within the next five years.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the total length of the national highways proposed to be completed during the next five years?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I would require notice of that question.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Is the entire amount of this tax earmarked strictly for this purpose of highway construction?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: 2½ annas is strictly earmarked for the development of roads and can be spent only for that purpose.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: What is the balance on hand today from this tax?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I have got with me only the total receipts. If the honourable member will put down a question I am prepared to answer.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Minister in a position to assure the House that while he concentrates on the highways he will not neglect the byways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The byways are the responsibility of the provincial governments.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT

*1385. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House regarding the Road Policy adopted by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The honourable member is referred to chapter VII of the Report of the Ministry of Transport 1948-49 supplied to all the honourable members.

PRODUCTION OF PENICILLIN AND ANTI-MALARIAL DRUGS

*1386. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government for the mass production of (i) Penicillin, and (ii) Synthetic anti-malarial drugs?

(b) What expenditure has been incurred by Government for that purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A team of experts was deputed by the Government of India to Europe, U.S.A. and Canada towards the middle of 1946 to explore the possibility of manufacture in India of Penicillin, and anti-malarials. On an examination of their report it has been decided to establish a state concern for the manufacture of these drugs at a cost of Rs. 2 crores. This plant will have an annual productive capacity of 1,200 billion units of Penicillin and 1,00,000 lbs. of a synthetic anti-malarial drug.

An agreement has already been signed with Messrs. Karnbolegat Ab Biochemical Industry Stockholm, Sweden for the establishment of a factory for the production of Penicillin.

The factory is expected to be located near Bombay and is likely to come into production in three years time.

Negotiations are under way with a British firm for use of their patent rights for the manufacture of a suitable synthetic anti-malarial drug.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 50,000 is expected to be incurred upto the end of the current financial year.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What are the anti-malarial drugs it is proposed to manufacture in this factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Paludrine.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Are arrangements going to be made for the manufacture of German products like Plasmoquin and Atebrin which were well known in prewar days?

♦ **The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** It is not part of the scheme. We are only thinking of Paludrine.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: The Honourable Minister has stated that Government have made arrangements with a British firm for the manufacture of anti-malarials. Is the firm the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Discussions are still going on and it is not desirable to disclose the names just now.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the research in these medicines is being made under the Ministry of Industry and Supply or the Ministry of Health?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Research work is under the Health Ministry.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Minister propose to promote the manufacture on a mass scale of certain Ayurvedic drugs and medicines which are far more efficacious than these sulpha drugs and the anti-malarials mentioned in the question?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I would refer the honourable member to the Ministry of Health.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Manufacture of drugs is in the portfolio of the Honourable Minister.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What are the concessions allowed to these foreign companies?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are no concessions. In lieu of a fee which we propose to pay we will get their advice and technical assistance and there will be provision for training such Indian personnel as may be necessary for running the factory.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: In addition to the proposed factory for manufacturing Penicillin by the Central Government, have any proposals been received from provincial governments for the manufacture of Penicillin?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have received a proposal from the Government of West Bengal but they intend to do it, if at all they can, without any assistance from the Government of India.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Minister's Ministry contemplating any factory for producing Ayurvedic medicines?

Mr. Speaker: The question relates to Penicillin and anti-malarials and it has been replied. Mr. Kamath also put a similar question to that of the honourable member and it has been answered.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it that this factory for the manufacture of Penicillin is going to be a purely state-owned factory and the Government will sell its products without profit?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Fifty-one per cent. of the shares will belong to the Government of India and forty-nine per cent. to the Government of Bombay; there is no intention to make any profit out of the products of this factory.

MANUFACTURE OF STREPTOMYCIN

*1367. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have any plan for manufacturing Streptomycin in this country in the near future?

(b) Has any step been taken in that direction by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). The matter will be considered after the State factory for manufacture of Penicillin, Sulpha Drugs and Anti-malarial Drugs has come into existence.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Will it be possible in that factory to manufacture Streptomycin?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have been told that certain basic things will be done at this factory, and we may take up this question later on after the factory has come into existence.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Has Government sent some experts of our country to foreign countries for training in the manufacture of Streptomycin or does it propose to do so in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe the Minister for Health is making experiments in the use of Streptomycin in this country.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the possibility of manufacturing any of these drugs by the Alembic Chemicals or the Bengal Chemicals been examined?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are also encouraged to produce some of these drugs.

MANUFACTURE OF SULPHA DRUGS

*1388. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government for the manufacture of Sulpha Drugs in this country?

(b) If no steps have so far been taken, why not?

(c) What expenditure has so far been incurred for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). It has been decided to set up a state concern for the manufacture of Penicillin, Sulpha Drugs and Anti-malarial Drugs at a cost of Rs. 2 crores. The factory is expected to be located near Bombay and to come into production in three years time. The annual productive capacity of the factory for sulpha drugs will be:

Sulphamerazine	60,000 lbs.
Sulphathiazole	20,000 lbs.
Sulphanilamide	20,000 lbs.

(c) About Rs. 50,000.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: How many foreign experts are going to be employed in our proposed factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As many as will be necessary.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO F. A. O.

*1389. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the annual contribution of India to the F.A.O.?

(b) Is it a fact that India occupies the fourth place in contributions to the F.A.O. and is it also a fact that India paid Pakistan's share also last year?

(c) Has any attempt been made to reduce India's share and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri Jai Ramdas Donjatram: (a) The annual contribution of the Indian Dominion to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has not yet been determined. The contribution of undivided India was, however, 2,12,500 U.S. dollars or Rs. 7,03,000 (approximately). This represents 4.25 per cent. of the organisation's annual budget of 5 million dollars.

(b) No; the position of the Indian Dominion among the list of contributing Governments will be known only after its share of contribution has been determined. The undivided India, however, occupied the fifth place.

Pending the determination of the relative shares of payment of the Indian Dominion and Pakistan, the Indian Dominion paid the entire contribution for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st December, 1948 on the basis of contribution for undivided India on a distinct agreement that Pakistan will reimburse to India the payment made on her behalf when it is determined.

(c) Yes. When the original contribution of the undivided India of 4.25 per cent. of the total budget of the Organisation was raised in 1946 to 4.67 per cent a strong protest was made to the Organisation as a result of which the contribution was reduced to 4.25 per cent. When Partition took place the Organisation was asked to reduce India's contribution and the Indian delegation to the fourth session of the F. A. O. conference held in November, 1948, asked for a further reduction of the share of contribution of the Indian Dominion in terms of directions given by Government. The matter was

discussed at length at the conference which constituted a committee to examine the entire question of contributions and recommend new scales for all member Governments. The report of the committee is awaited.

Seth Govind Das: At what time is it expected that the contribution of the Indian Dominion will be known to us?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: When the Committee appointed by the F. A. O. makes its report. It is not a Committee of our Government; it is a Committee of the F. A. O.

Seth Govind Das: That is why I am asking when it is expected.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I suppose in the course of this year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Minister stated that undivided India occupied the fifth place so far as contribution was concerned. May I know what place did undivided India, proportionately to her population, occupy so far as her representation on the F. A. O. is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This representation is not based on population but a variety of other factors is taken into account as in the U. N. Organisation.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What was the place occupied by India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: India leads of course so far as population is concerned.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was referring to the representation of India on the F. A. O.—the number of our representatives on the F. A. O., its staff etc. What was her place?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give that straightaway.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he is in a position to tell the House how many Indians are employed in responsible positions in the F.A.O. either as experts or as administrators?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think we hold any important post there.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Has any representation been made by the Government of India to the desirability of employing them in view of the large contribution she makes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This matter has been taken up by the Government of India and also by the Delegations, which we sent there, but we have not been able to secure any adequate results.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that India occupies a high place in the F.A.O.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes and I hope in the United Nations Organisation also.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know what advantage we have been able to derive from the organisation known as the F.A.O.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have replied to this question on an earlier occasion. We cannot first of all keep away from these international organisations. Then the advantage is that this is an organisation which assists countries with regard to technical aid. It is an organisation where matters relating to production and distribution and matters dealing with food and agriculture and health are dealt with. It would not therefore be wise to keep away from these organisations.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have we taken any technical aid from them so far or received any help in any other manner?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This matter is under discussion at present with the F. A. O.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: But have we received any help?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We had not so far asked any. The matter has been recently discussed and we expect to receive aid.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What are the different factors governing the quantum of contribution of each country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The same, factors which govern the question of contribution to the U. N. O., that is, the productive capacity, the quantum of trade, the national income and similar considerations.

LICENSED AVIATION COMPANIES

*1390. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of aviation companies that were licensed to operate air services in the Indian Dominion in 1948, the number of aircraft owned and operated by each and also the names and number of companies now in operation;

(b) the names and number of those companies, together with the value of their assets and liabilities, which have ceased to operate or gone into liquidation;

(c) the profit or loss each such Company has made, as shown in the latest available balance sheet of each such Company;

(d) the route mileage in India assigned to each such licensed aviation company, and the volume of traffic carried by each in the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and in 1948-49 and up to the end of January, 1949;

(e) the amount of depreciation provided by each such Company, in its latest available balance sheet, as allowed under the Income Tax Rules; and

(f) the number of aircraft considered sufficient and economic for operating the total route mileage open to aviation in India?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) to (e). I lay on the table two statements giving the required information.

(f) Seventy aircraft of the capacity of Dakotas.

STATEMENT I
 Volume* of Traffic carried in Ton/Miles.

S. No.	Names of Companies or holding licences for the operation of scheduled air services during 1948 and 1949	(a)	Number of aircraft owned and operated by each company	(b)	Profit (+) or Loss (-) made	(c)	Route mileage as on 11.3.1949	1948-49 (up to December 1948)	(e)
1	Air India Ltd.		24	+6,41,161	4,370	7,546,611	6,971,654	32,00,000	
2	Indian National Airways Ltd.		30	-7,30,405	2,416	3,196,125	2,067,605	7,41,651	
3	Air Services of India Ltd.		19	-17,60,144	2,973	1,126,209	1,028,610	5,39,338	
4	Indian Overseas Airlines Ltd. (Or Miersi Airways Ltd.)		38	-4,64,630	2,132	720,487	731,169	2,56,668	
5	Airways India Ltd.		13	-2,68,277	1,196	420,321	640,329	1,44,328	
6	Bharat Airways Ltd.		16	-3,19,729	2,165	433,716	676,123	Nil	
7	Dattaji Jai Airways Ltd.		17	1,17,845	481	350,632	350,632	2,69,015	
8	Deccan Airways Ltd.		11	-3,79,906	2,179	1,098,619	913,269	2,64,340	
9	Air India International Ltd.		3	First sheet and Profit and Loss Account not yet drawn.	5,040	1,493,990	1,493,990	First sheet and Profit and Loss Account not yet drawn.	
10	Jupiter Airways Ltd.		12	Less Account not yet drawn. From commencement to 30.11.1947	2,69,427	392,900	392,900	Nil	
11	Ambios Airlines Ltd.		23	-3,73,998 (From commencement to 31.12.1947)	16,399	331,953	662,764	3,51,320	

* Figures for January 1949 not available.

STATEMENT II.

Names of Companies which have ceased to operate or have gone into liquidation and the value of their assets and liabilities as shown in their latest available balance sheets.

	Liabilities to outsiders	Assets.
	Rs.	Rs.
Jupiter Airways Limited as on 30-11-1947	1,46,638	23,48,586
Ambion Airlines Limited as on 31-12-1947	17,00,902	39,55,051

Prof. K. T. Shah: On what basis is the depreciation calculated by the aviation companies, whether on the basis of the age of the aircraft or the mileage run or any other basis?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The depreciation is calculated on the basis of the number of years by which the aircraft will become unserviceable and the cost of its purchase.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Has the actual work performed in the shape of mileage nothing to do with it?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It is for individual air companies to decide as to how depreciation is to be calculated.

Prof. K. T. Shah: What is the explanation for the failure of some of these companies who have gone into liquidation?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The explanation for the failure of some of the companies is that they had entered into this business after the termination of war and had bought too many aircrafts and were not therefore able to carry on business.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Has the Director General of Civil Aviation taken any steps to prevent the uneconomic operation of companies like that?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The operation of the companies, as my honourable friend knows, is governed by the rules of the Air Transport Licensing Board. The Air Transport Licensing Board while granting licences have to take all these matters into consideration.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any aviation company has applied for a non-stop route from Delhi to Madras?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not that I know of.

Prof. K. T. Shah: My question is not answered. I wanted to know whether the Director General takes any steps to see that companies are not operating uneconomically and come to grief in the manner that a recent case has shown.

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I have already said, the matter of granting licences and the administering of the rules is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Air Transport Licensing Board who take all these matters into consideration while granting licences.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunwar: May I know how many of these companies have failed?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Two companies have recently gone out of business. One is under liquidation. Jupiters have stopped; I do not know whether they are under liquidation.

Prof. K. T. Shah: May I know how many companies are making profits according to the latest balance sheet?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Except Air India all others have been running at a loss.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Is the success of Air India due to the subsidy received by them on account of the overseas service?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is no subsidy given to Air India so far as their internal services are concerned, but they have a contract for mail under which they have to be paid a certain minimum amount.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

AIRCRAFT PURCHASED FROM DISPOSALS

*1391. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number and types of aircraft purchased from Disposals and the price paid for the same;

(b) the total number of aircraft with a carrying capacity of seven or more, specifying their makes, used in the regular Air Services in India; and

(c) the active life of the aircraft bought from Disposals for regular service, the arrangements for their replacement and the approximate total cost of replacing machines now in use when they become unserviceable?

Shri Khurshed Lal: (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). Sir, I lay on the Table two statements giving the required information.

(c) The life of an aircraft purchased from Disposal stocks is between five to seven years, according to the standard of maintenance. Replacement of existing aircraft after their life has expired is the responsibility of the air-line companies, though necessary technical advice will be given by the Civil Aviation Department. As there are several new types to choose from, whose prices vary widely, it is not possible for me to give an estimate of the cost of replacement

STATEMENT—I

Type of aircraft	Number purchased	Price and remarks
1. Dakota (C-47 & C-53)	112	Price of a flyable aircraft ranged from Rs. 35,000 to 1,20,000 and that of an unse-viceable one from Rs. 10,000 to 15,000
2. Norseman (UC-64)	12	Price of a flyable aircraft ranged from Rs. 18,000 to 23,000 and that of a unse-viceable (sold for instructional purposes) one Rs. 1,000.
3. Expeditor (C-45)	8	Price of a flyable aircraft ranged from Rs. 55,000 to 91,666. One was sold for Rs. 20,000 as it was declared scrap.
4. Stinson Sentinel L-5	55	Price of a flyable aircraft ranged from Rs. 2,500 to 6,500 and that of an unse-viceable one from Rs. 1,000 to 1,200.
6. Valiant BT-13A	3	Price ranged from Rs. 2,000 to 3,000.
6. Vigilant L-1	3	All the 3 along with one PT-17 were sold for Rs. 10,000.
7. Stearman P-17	2	Rs. 2,000 each.
8. Grasshopper L-4	1	Rs. 2,500 (scrap).
9. Argus Fairchild	27	Price of a flyable aircraft ranged from Rs. 5,000 to 15,000 and that of an unse-viceable one (for instructional purposes) Rs. 1,000.
10. Fairchild (Pt-19)	1	Rs. 2,000.
11. Procter III	1	Rs. 2,000.
12. Auster Mark III	6	Rs. 4,500 each.
13. Auster Mark V	41	Rs. 7,500 each.
14. Dominie	11	Price of a flyable aircraft ranged from Rs. 14,740 to 40,000 and that of an unse-viceable one from Rs. 7,340 to 7,370.

STATEMENT II

Type of aircraft used in the scheduled air services of India each with a capacity of seven or more.	Number of aircraft in use.
Locketa	35
Vickers Viking	14
Rapide	3
D. H. Dove	2

POLICY RE AVIATION ENTERPRISE BY JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

*1392. Prof. K. T. Shah: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement of Government policy in regard to the future of aviation enterprise by Joint Stock Companies, which are reported to have made heavy and recurring losses, and the steps, if any, they propose to take to provide and maintain regular aviation service for Transport and Communications?

Shri Khurshed Lal: (Deputy Minister of Communications): It is Government's policy to afford all possible facilities to the air line companies for the operation of regular air services on an efficient and economic basis. Scheduled air transport the world over has been recognised to be not so remunerative as other fields of commercial enterprise and India is no exception. It should also be borne in mind that the initial phase of development of any new activity usually involves losses to a greater or lesser extent. Government have constantly under review measures to minimise such losses in the case of air transport operation. As the honourable member is aware, the budget proposals for the year 1949-50 include two measures—

(a) the introduction of all up air mail scheme under which all first class mail will be carried by air to the greatest possible extent, and

(b) Government will grant a rebate of half the duty on aviation petrol.

While proposal (a) will substantially increase the revenue load available to the operating companies, proposal (b) will go some way to reduce their operating costs. Government also propose to set up almost immediately a small Committee to advise them on the fixation of passenger fares and freight rates on air transport services on an economic basis, taking into account the cost of operation of the services and other relevant factors. These measures combined with the progressive development of passenger and freight traffic will, Government are sure, soon lead to a stage where the financial position of the operating companies would be stronger. Government have also noted with pleasure the formation of an Air Line Operators Association, a step which by making it possible for the resources and experience of the operators to be pooled for the common good will conduce to smooth and efficient development of air transport.

REMUNERATION TO AVIATION COMPANIES FOR HELP IN KASHMIR OPERATIONS AND IN RESCUING REFUGEES

*1393. Prof. K. T. Shah: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what remuneration was allowed to the Aviation Companies which assisted Government:

(i) during Kashmir operations, and

(ii) in the rescue of refugees from West Punjab and East Bengal?

(b) Was any discrimination made in the rates allowed to Indian Companies, and those allowed to non-Indian Companies?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). Indian air transport companies which took part in the Kashmir operations and the operations for the evacuation of refugees from West Punjab were paid at the rate of Rs. 5 per mile flown by Dakota aircraft; a detention charge of Rs. 800 per day was paid for those days when Government were unable to make use of the aircraft. For the evacuation of refugees, aircraft were also chartered from the British Overseas Airways Corporation at rates varying from Rs. 5/11/- to 7/11/- per mile according to the type of aircraft. No aircraft were chartered by Government for the evacuation of the refugees from East Bengal.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

*1394. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which licence has been granted to the Indian Overseas Airlines Limited to operate Night Mail Service between Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi via Nagpur, and the remuneration allowed for that service;

(b) the quantity of letters and parcels carried from Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi daily, from the commencement of the Night Air Mail Service to the latest available date;

(c) the calculations, if any, made to establish a standard economic load and route mileage for operating such a service, and the remuneration for such service;

(d) the indication, if any, given to Aviation Companies of the likely load of such mails or parcels available on different routes, and the terms and conditions on which Government would be prepared to consider such service; and

(e) the subsidy, direct or indirect, paid or agreed to be paid by Government for operation of such services, within the country and outside, and the basis for calculating remuneration?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) A licence for the operation of Night Air Mail Services between Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi via Nagpur was granted to the Indian Overseas Airlines Ltd., in the first instance for a period of one month from the 30th January, 1949. This has subsequently been extended upto the 30th June, 1949. Remuneration for these services is allowed at the rate of Rs. 1/8 per lb. for air mails carried by them and for air parcels at the approved freight rate less 25 per cent.

(b) I lay on the Table a statement giving the required information.

(c) No special detailed calculations were made. Nor was it necessary as the company was prepared to carry all air mails and air parcels which were offered by the Department and at the rates proposed by Government.

(d) As this was a new development, there were no data in regard to the likely load available. The terms and conditions on which the services were to be operated were circulated to all the companies by the Air Transport Licensing Board. The Honourable Minister for Communications laid on the table of the House a copy of these terms in reply to Shri R. K. Sidhu's question No. 400 on the 15th February, 1949.

(e) Government have not agreed to pay any subsidy either direct or indirect for the operation of such services.

STATEMENT
Quantity of Air Mailed, Air Parcel, or Air Mail Services from the 31st January to the 15 March, 1949

	Date																															
	Jan. 31	Feb. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15																
Madras																																
Air Mail	98	3	98	7	98	13	06	3	177	11	210	3	61	2	281	2	280	4	287	7	240	0	212	0	185	3	481	8	160	1	239	7
Air Parcel	14	12	49	6	15	0	43	4	27	3	4	16	4	12	29	2	28	6	32	11	7	3	35	0	67	13	22	13	33	13	62	13
Bombay																																
Air Mail	64	1	145	0	152	0	109	7	338	9	990	3	221	3	807	1	227	6	320	5	531	2	364	12	396	11	169	12	327	18	304	4
Air Parcel	12	14	19	10	34	3	61	9	65	14	27	0	8	8	83	2	76	12	69	14	66	12	97	13	68	10	6	0	60	10	136	4
Calcutta																																
Air Mail	188	8	234	4	238	12	238	12	238	13	240	13	239	11	154	11	219	0	419	8	374	6	374	0	374	0	262	6	859	0	638	10
Air Parcel	10	0	12	0	12	0	6	15	13	15	8	2	0	53	10	27	10	194	0	113	4	63	10	135	4	...	...	63	0	59	3
Rangoon																																
Air Mail	109	10	17	0	141	10	113	14	141	16	202	0	167	0	147	2	227	11	178	13	212	2	240	16	277	6	95	5	404	12	230	7
Air Parcel	2	8	36	5	11	13	14	1	23	12	65	4	6	2	10	14	20	9	30	7	2	14	14	6	150	0	2	13	23	2	34	3
16th Feb.	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																	
Madras																																
Air Mail	190	4	197	0	172	14	280	9	661	12	373	7	610	11	727	9	400	4	284	14	485	14	285	...	317	2	...	...	...	...
Air Parcel	45	13	164	10	149	11	41	6	38	2	21	8	57	12	43	9	43	8	38	12	23	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bombay																																
Air Mail	375	10	348	10	491	7	187	12	711	13	369	11	496	15	636	14	607	11	444	12	931	4	156	1	680	15	...	...	...	...
Air Parcel	85	2	189	4	205	2	23	4	65	2	28	0	28	2	45	12	110	2	71	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Calcutta																																
Air Mail	408	9	433	4	328	4	328	7	351	10	226	1	328	5	368	6	328	0	370	6	384	0	602	8	248	8	284	1	...	...	...
Air Parcel	55	12	59	12	97	0	36	2	...	...	...	...	59	4	41	6	46	14	44	14	51	5	39	12	7	4	51	4	...	...
Madras																																
Air Mail	287	6	278	6	389	5	284	4	107	7	202	2	328	9	304	10	340	10	323	5	231	3	184	0	287	2	...	...	...	...
Air Parcel	91	0	49	4	48	5	304	4	10	5	47	0	46	2	27	9	61	14	65	0	25	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16th March	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16																	
Madras																																
Air Mail	371	3	656	7	269	9	268	7	255	6	36	15	229	0	207	14	377	0	348	14	287	4	238	8	108	14	212	14	349	10		
Air Parcel	126	10	66	15	38	13	23	2	94	1	6	14	45	6	17	19	34	4	39	8	167	5	29	2	37	4	17	0	74	1		
Bombay																																
Air Mail	481	10	437	6	396	0	426	13	419	3	100	2	620	12	368	9	610	1	413	8	391	6	513	3	172	8	428	2	266	18		
Air Parcel	136	2	67	14	118	14	193	2	69	25	16	14	67	2	268	4	233	4	312	0	98	10	168	16	6	10	133	12	111	14		
Calcutta																																
Air Mail	518	2	446	12	307	15	400	6	408	18	261	6	327	6	366	18	419	10	428	10	366	6	389	2	231	10	273	16	265	9		
Air Parcel	67	12	69	4	23	12	61	0	36	6	...	...	26	6	34	8	29	6	33	14	78	2	43	12	...	...	...	...	...
Madras																																
Air Mail	349	2	251	1	212	9	365	2	407	7	279	0	239	3	450	16	378	10	580	15	429	4	434	13	239	4	169	7	209	0		
Air Parcel	50	4	23	10	39	13	391	2	184	13	...	...	61	1	36	2	78	0	76	0	123	7	60	2	2	7	6	14	0	0	

REPRESENTATION RE DELAY IN SUPPLY OF WAGONS

*1395. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Clearing and Forwarding Agents of Bombay have made a representation, dated 25th February, 1949 to the Honourable Minister of State in connection with the delay and favouritism shown for the supply of wagons?

(b) Is it a fact that as stated therein, Lorry No. 6381 entered the Carnac Bunder on Sunday, a closing day, and loaded 85 bags of Kopra whereas goods of other dealers were not allowed to be loaded and booked although they were prior for booking?

(c) If so, what steps have Government taken in this matter?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yes.

(b) It is correct that Lorry No. 6381 was admitted into Carnac Bunder Goods Depot with 85 bags of Kopra on a Sunday which is not a closed day at the Depot. These bags were loaded a few days later. Other consignments brought in earlier were awaiting booking, but the owners were not present.

(c) It is difficult to decide whether this was an instance of favouritism or a proper exercise of the discretion vested in the Goods Superintendent. The matter is being further investigated. The Government also propose to direct railway administrations to lighten the procedure with the object of avoiding any thing which may be interpreted as discrimination.

BOOKING OF MAT AND BETEL LEAVES ON B. N. RAILWAY

*1396. **Shri Sais Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount of income from the booking for the transshipment of mat and betel leaves to different parts of the Indian Union, Ceylon, Rangoon, Maldivia, etc., at stations from Kolaghat to Narayangarh on the Bengal Nagpur Railway in the years 1940 and 1948 (station wise)?

(b) Is there unrestricted booking system or restricted quota for booking those goods at those stations?

(c) Is there any corrugated shed with cemented stacking platform at any of those stations for keeping booked and unbooked goods, especially at Machada, Panchkura, Ballichak, Narayangarh, Bakrabad and Contai Road?

(d) Was there any case of corruption amongst the station staff at Machada and Ballichak in the matter of booking those goods?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative has necessary action been taken in such cases?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Presumably the honourable member is referring to the income from traffic in mat and betel leaves booked from stations on the section Kolaghat to Narayangarh to different destinations, station by station. Such statistics are not maintained in the form desired and will have to be specially compiled. The E. N. Railway are doing this and when these figures are available they will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) There is no special quota allotted for booking mat or betel leaves as such, but an inclusive quota is allotted to each station for the movement of goods traffic in 'smalls'. Betel leaves are, however, booked generally in parcels, and the quantity booked daily is limited for convenient loading with in the scheduled halt by passenger trains.

(c) There are cemented stacking platforms at all these stations but corrugated sheds only at Ballichuk and Contai Road.

(d) Yes.

(e) Appropriate action has been taken. This includes discharge of one Assistant Station Master, demotion of one and transfer of eight other staff.

OFFICE OF SALT CONTROLLER

*1397. **Sbri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main office of the Salt Controller is at Simla;

(b) whether in the aforesaid office, there are employees whose headquarters are at Simla, but who are at Delhi more or less permanently on a tour basis and getting halting allowance;

(c) the expenditure incurred in connection with the travelling allowances of employees in this office during the years 1946-47, and 1947-48; and

(d) why it is not feasible to locate the entire office in one place?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No. A part of the office which will be about one-half, have their Headquarters at New Delhi and the remaining staff are at Simla.

(b) No official is more or less permanently on a tour basis at Delhi. But occasionally one or two officials have to come on tour to Delhi, for short periods on official duty.

(c) The office was formed on 1st November, 1947. The expenditure incurred on all tours undertaken in the whole of India in 1946-47 is therefore nil and in 1947-48, Rs. 2288.

(d) The Ministry asked for the transfer of the entire office from Simla to Delhi but transfer of only a portion was possible owing to lack of accommodation.

MANAGEMENT OF ROLLING STOCK SECTIONS IN RAILWAYS

*1398. **Sbri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Rolling Stock Section of the Mechanical Branch on every Railway is managed as an independent branch with a Departmental Head of its own?

The Honourable Sbri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: No.

GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED STAFF IN SURVEY OF INDIA

*1399. **Sbri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers, gazetted and non-gazetted, according to their categories, at present employed in the Survey of India; and

(b) whether it is a fact that almost every inch of India has been surveyed and resurveyed?

The Honourable Sbri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement giving the required information according to each category as on 1st March, 1949 is placed on the table of the House.

(b) No. At the time of partition about 180,000 Sq. miles of the Indian Union had either never been surveyed at all or had only inadequately surveyed prior to 1905.

STATEMENT

*Number of the Gazetted Officers and the Non-Gazetted Staffs on
the 1st March, 1949*

GAZETTED OFFICERS

Class I Service	37
General Central Service, Class I	5
Class II Service	61
General Central Service, Class II	14

NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS

(a) Class III Services (Technical).	-
Surveyors	118
Plantblers, Draftsmen, Computers, etc.	949
Map Reproduction personnel	535
Other technical personnel	103
(b) Class III Service (Ministerial)	332
(c) Class IV Service	4485*

*Of this number about 1000 are retained throughout the year and the remainder are employed only for 6 months in the year during the field season.

STARCH FACTORIES

*1400. **Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- the number of starch factories in India;
- the places where they are situated;
- the number of days and the months in which they work in a year;
- how much raw material each of them is getting;
- the amount of starch produced by them in the years 1947 and 1948;
- the steps Government propose to take to keep them working for most part of the year; and
- whether some new industrialists have approached Government for starting starch factories and if so, how many?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There are twenty four starch factories in India.

(b) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table.

(f) It has been decided to procure maize upto 50,000 tons for starch factories in 1949. For this purpose offers from foreign countries of maize of a quality not suited for human consumption, or available for import at higher prices than could be paid for import for food, will not be rejected but will be accepted for distribution to the starch factories. The Association of starch factories has been asked to pass on to the Ministry of Food any information obtained by the factories about such availabilities. Besides, the Ministry of Food have instructed their own officers and Provinces and States to offer all deteriorated grains to the Association of starch factories (and not to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, as hitherto); the Association will then settle their distribution among the factories.

(g) Only one. Messrs Gagger & Co., Calcutta, applied for permission to start a factory in Bihar for the manufacture of starch from sweet potatoes. No permission was granted in view of the food position in the country.

STATEMENT

(b) The starch factories are situated as follows :—

Bombay Province	9
East Punjab	5
U. P.	5
Central India	1
Delhi	1
Jaipur	1
Gwalior	1
Hyderabad (Deccan)	1

(c) to (e):—

Factory.	(c) No. of weeks they were working		(d) Maize grain Re- ceived (Tons)		(e) Production (Tons)	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
1 Anil Starch Pro- ducts Ltd., Ah- medabad.	14	30	451	11,000	176.41	2396.50
2 Bharat Starch & Chemicals Ltd., Jagadhari.	20	26	1,800	1,500	711.33	795.65
3 Hindustan Colour & Chemical Mfg. Co., Kathwad.	1		30		26.06	
4 Rampur Maize Pro- ducts Ltd., Ram- pur.	1	2	15	140	4.00	52.30
5 Sukhjit Starch & Chemicals Ltd., Phagwara.	5	2	240	180	80.65	62.90
6 Patiala Starch & Chemicals, Raj- pura.	10	6	1,000		345.48	155.45
7 Prater Industries & Finance, Ch- hoharta.	12		240		105.95	(now de- funct.)
8 Gwalior Maize Pro- ducts Ltd., Gwa- lior.		2		200		119.91
9 Jaipur Maize Pro- ducts Ltd., Jai- pur.		6		140		61.15
TOTAL	68	80	3,826	13,240	1349.87	538.82

Notes.—The remaining fifteen factories were idle during 1947 and 1948 for want of raw materials. At present no factory, excepting Anil Starch Products, Ahmedabad, is working for want of raw materials. Unfortunately the only available raw materials are foodgrains and edible tubers.

MANUFACTURE OF SYNTHETIC PETROL FROM STEAM COAL

*1401. **Shri B. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiment has been made on the steam coal of Surguja district for the manufacture of synthetic petrol; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No, Sir, but samples from some other neighbouring areas have been sent for examination.

(b) Does not arise.

RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSING ON KACHA ROAD FROM SATROAD TO DABRA

*1402. **Ch. Banbir Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation of villagers of Satroad and its neighbouring villages in Hissar District duly supported by the Deputy Commissioner regarding the construction of a levelcrossing for carts on the 'kacha' road going from Satroad to Dabra, has been received?

(b) whether Government are aware that due to the absence of the levelcrossing in demand, agriculturists have to travel two and half miles more than the distance they will otherwise have to do to reach their fields from the villages during the rainy season, as the kacha cart roads connected by the existing level crossing generally remain under water; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the demand of the villagers?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) and (b). Yes. Recently in January 1949 the East Punjab Government forwarded to the Railway Administration a representation of the villagers of satroad for the provision of a new level crossing.

(c) There appears to be no objection to the provision of the proposed level crossing from the railway point of view, and the matter is under examination. Investigations are also being made as to the possibility of shifting one of the existing level crossings to the proposed site.

IMPORT AND MANUFACTURE OF MACHINE TOOLS

*1403. **Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Indian Machine Tool Industry are unable to clear their stock on account of competition from imported machine tools?

(b) Is the Machine Tool Comptroller consulted before licences are granted for import of machine tools?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government are aware that certain machine tool manufacturers have not been able to clear their stocks. This is not because of foreign competition but on account of slackness in demand, transport difficulties and prejudice against machine tools made in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. Every application for import of machine tools is scrutinized and import licences are issued only for those types of machine tools which are not manufactured in the country to Grade I standard of accuracy.

CENTRES FOR TEACHING FOOD PRESERVATION

*1404. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Food and Agricultural Organisation expert in Greece is organising Community Canning Centres to teach the people how to can fruit and meat and that another Food and Agricultural Organisation Specialist in Italy has organised Home Canning Programme in Italy for food preservation;

(b) whether Government have obtained necessary information regarding the organisation and the results of such centres; and

(c) whether they propose to organise such centres in the rural areas of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Steps are being taken to obtain information regarding the organisation and results of such centres in foreign countries; and the information when received will be furnished to the Provincial Governments who are primarily concerned with this.

INDIAN JUTE MILL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*1405. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mill Association Research Institute has been recognised by Government as an approved research association;

(b) the nature of the research work that they carry on;

(c) the results which have so far been achieved by their research activities;

(d) whether any of these results have been utilised and if so, to what effect; and

(e) whether the association receives any monetary help from Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes.

(b) The research work carried out by the Institute is concerned essentially with improvements in manufacturing processes and the utilization of jute products including the development of new uses for jute.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table.

(e) No; Funds for the Institute are solely provided by Industry itself.

STATEMENT.

Results achieved by the research activities of the Indian Jute Mill Association Research Institute and the utilisation of such results

(A) Some of the results achieved are:

- (i) development of rot resistant and water-resistant finishes,
- (ii) improvements in the bleaching of jute,
- (iii) good progress towards production of a "Fadeless" Jute,
- (iv) mixing of jute in different forms with shellac and other resins for the manufacture of boards and containers of different types and with bitumen and bitumen products to produce materials for roofing and other purposes.

(B) The results have been utilised in:

- (i) the production of 150 million yards of rot-proof sand bang hessian,
- (ii) the dyeing of hundreds of millions of yards of jute material for camouflage,
- (iii) the production of about 50 million square feet of jute-shellac laminates,
- (iv) the production of over 80 million yards of a bituminised jute material, and
- (v) the use of Tamarind seed flour in several thousand tons annually for sizing purposes in jute mills according to a technique provided by the Research Institute.

DESIGNS OF POSTAL STAMPS

*1406. **Pandit Mukut Bihar Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the Government of India have decided to discontinue the printing of the King's effigy on Indian postage stamps?

(b) If so, from what date, and what is intended to replace the King's effigy?

(c) How many different denominations of stamps are intended to be printed, and what creblems will be printed on each of them?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) The King's effigy ceased to be a feature of postage stamps after the 15th August, 1947. The printing of postage stamps bearing the King's effigy has, however, not been discontinued. This will be done soon when India's first national stamps will be put on sale. The new series will depict subjects of archaeological and historical interest.

(c) Sixteen, ranging from three pies to Rs. 15. A statement showing the designs adopted for the various denominations is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT.

Particulars in respect of each denomination of India's first series of permanent postage stamps

- 3 pies—Ajanta Panel—From famous Ajanta caves.
- 6 pies—Konarak Horse—From the Sun Temple at Konarak.
- 9 pies—Trinurti—From an image at Elephanta.
- 1 anna—Bodhisattva—An image of Bodhisattva now in the Provincial Museum, Lucknow.
- 2 annas—Nataraja or some other representation from South Indian Antiquities.
- 3 annas—Sanchi Stupa—One of the gateways of the great stupa at Sanchi.
- 3½ annas—Bodhi Gaya Temple—From Bihar.
- 4 annas—Bhuvaneshvara Temple—From Orissa.
- 6 annas—Gol Gumbad, Bijapur.
- 8 annas—Kandaria Mahadeva Temple (Khajuraho).
- 12 annas—Golden Temple, Amritsar.
- 1 rupee—Victory Tower, Chitorgarh.
- 2 rupees—Red Fort, Delhi.
- 5 rupees—Taj Mahal, Agra.
- 10 rupees—Qutb Minar, Delhi, and
- 15 rupees—Satrunjaya Temple, Palitana.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS

*1407 **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total mileage of electric railways in India, and what steps Government intend to take to increase the mileage of electrified railway track?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The total electrified route mileage on Railways in India is 235.99 miles. The question of electrifying certain other busy sections under examination.

GURMUKHI SCRIPT ON TICKETS ISSUED ON E. P. RAILWAY

*1403. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Messair:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer to my starred question No. 665, asked on the 10th March, 1948 and state whether the practice of printing the names of destinations in Gurmukhi script on tickets issued from the East Punjab Railway stations, that was abolished at the time of the partition of the country, has now been reintroduced?

(b) If not, how long will it take to re-introduce this practice?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Gurmukhi script on tickets over the Eastern Punjab Railway has not yet been introduced and this has not been possible as most of the E. P. Railway tickets have still to be printed in other railway presses at Lucknow, Ajmer, Gorakhpur and Bombay where Gurmukhi types are not available.

(b) This will be done as soon as the ticket printing press for the Eastern Punjab Railway is set up. Ticket printing machines are already on order from the United Kingdom.

PRODUCTION, IMPORT, PURCHASE AND SALE PRICES OF CEREALS

*1409. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to make a statement on the following points:

(a) the total amount of cereals of all kinds required in the country in the year 1948-49;

(b) the total amount of cereals of all kinds produced in the country in the year 1948-49;

(c) the total amount of cereals of all kinds imported from foreign lands in year 1948-49;

(d) the total amount of money paid as price to foreign countries;

(e) the amount of money paid as freight;

(f) the amount of money realised from the people as the price of foodgrains supplied to them; and

(g) the amount of money considered as loss to or subsidy paid by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) It has been estimated that the requirements for the whole country in 1948-49 would be 45.5 million tons approximately on the basis of 1 lb per adult for farm population and 12 ozs. per adult for non-farm population.

(b) A proper estimate will be available some time after the year is over.

(c) The amount of food-grains of all kinds to be imported during the year 1948-49 is estimated as 2.8 million tons. The quantity received to the end of February, 1949 was 26 million tons.

(d) Figure to end of February 1949 is approximately Rs. 101 crores.

(e) Figure to end of February, 1949 is approximately Rs. 13 crores.

(f) The imported grain is distributed to the people by the provincial/state Governments along with grain procured locally by them. The Central Government has no information of the total sums realised by the various provincial/state Governments.

(g) On the basis of estimated issues to local administrations during the year 1948-49 the amount of subsidy payable by the Central Government on imported grain is estimated at about Rs. 22.5 crores.

STOCK OF CEREALS

*1410. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the entire quantity of cereals produced and imported in the country in the year 1948-49 has been spent by the end of the year, or whether there is any balance of stock and if so, how much and where?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Dowlatram: The year is not yet over. The information will be available some time next month. But so far as the stocks held by the Government of India in the Central Reserve Storage Depots are concerned the position as on 1st March was that besides the quantities held in transit 14,882 tons of foodgrains of all kinds was held at Calcutta Depot and a quantity of 25,164 tons at the Bombay Depot. The figures for stocks held by Provincial and State Governments as on 31st March 1949 have been called for and will be supplied to the honourable member as soon as received.

WASTAGE OF CEREALS IN 1948-49

*1411. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what amount of cereals in the custody of Government in the year 1948-49 has been either wasted or damaged?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Dowlatram: 6687.88 tons.

INTRODUCTION OF SPINNING IN COTTAGE INDUSTRY PLANS

*1412. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether introduction of *charkha* (spinning wheel) and spinning is included in Governments' cottage industry plans and if so, what steps are being taken to give effect to it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The matter was generally discussed at the Cottage Industries Board in December last, but no definite scheme was prepared. It will be further examined by the Committee appointed to deal with the problems of handloom weaving and hand spinning industries. The nature of help to be given by Government will be decided on receipt of the Committee's recommendations.

Friday
25th 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)

Friday, 25th 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)

11.46 A.M.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEFENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that up to the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Commerce, Communications and Defence, ten nominations in the case of each of these Committees were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Commerce.—Shri Arun Chandra Guba, Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo, Mr. Hossain Imam, Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Mr. E. John Philipose, Shri M. C. Veerababu, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Shri V. S. Sarwate, Shri Padampat Singbazia, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Communications.—Master Naud Lal, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri P. Kunhiraman, Shri Sunder Lal, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, Shri Mahavir Tyagi, Shri Mibir Lal Chattopadhyay, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Shri G. S. Guha.

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Defence.—Shri Mahavir Tyagi, Shri H. V. Kamath, Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya, Shri B. Shiva Rao, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Mohanlal Gautam, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung, Shri C. M. Poonacha, Sardar Jogendra Singh.

HINDU MARRIAGES VALIDITY BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid.

CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILLS

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Amendment of sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10), the

(1859)

[Paudit Thakur Das Bhargava]

Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Amendment of sections 2 and 4) and the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Amendment of sections 10, 11 and 13).

INDIAN JUDICIAL PROCEDURE BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to clarify and modify the law in practice hitherto followed in Criminal applications for special leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council for Criminal cases decided by the Indian Courts, be further extended upto the last day of the first week of the next session."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to clarify and modify the law in practice hitherto followed in Criminal applications for special leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council for Criminal cases decided by the Indian Courts, be further extended upto the last day of the first week of the next session."

The motion was adopted.

PROTECTIVE DUTIES (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion:

"That the Bill to extend the date upto which certain duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, to determine or levy protective duties in certain other cases and further to amend the Sugar Industries (Protection) Act 1932, be taken into consideration."

Srijut Rohini Kumar Ohaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I speak with great diffidence this morning because some of my friends whose friendship I cherish—my honourable friend Mr. Kamath or even my honourable friend ~~Mun~~gun Aizaz Rasul—have taken great exception to a remark which I made last evening, namely that sugar is the most-beloved of all sweet things in this world. I confess that I lost myself in ecstasy over the good and durable qualities of sugar yesterday afternoon. But the fault is not entirely mine. Example is contagious and I caught the infection from my honourable friend the Deputy-Speaker. My honourable friend the Deputy-Speaker was very much against protection of sugar for one good reason—that he wants, and all persons agreeing with him want, that sugar should be made immediately available in large quantities and at a cheap price. They want to imitate the example set up by the Pakistan Government where sugar has been imported from outside in large quantities and is being sold cheap.

But I am not concerning myself with the immediate present. I am looking to the future. What will be the effect of the removal of protection? The removal of protection may lead immediately to some gain, but what will be the consequences in the long run? In this matter I do not mind disclosing to the House that I belong to the Thakur Das Bhargava's school of politics in this House. He is my leader in almost everything excepting in the matter of the Hindu Code where he has been coerced into a disagreement with me. The House would do well to remember what happened in the years 1942 and 1948 and so forth when it was very difficult to get a pinch of sugar even for a baby. It is quite good and it sounds very nice when my honourable friend Mr. Ramnarayan Singh advocates the use of *gur* in preference to sugar. But I would ask him, would *gur* have the same effect in building up or in rearing babies as sugar? My honourable friend has perhaps forgotten this when he had grown up his last baby. All the same it will be well to remember what would be the

effect of absolute want of sugar and you must face the danger if you remove the protection now. You cannot say that war will not come in future again and that all import of sugar from outside will not be stopped.....

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras; General): On a word of explanation, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Not necessary, he is not very serious about it.

Srijut Rohini Kumár Chaudhuri: I am prepared to sit down, Sir, if it is hurting anybody.

I am asking, Sir, would you introduce use of *gur* in the hospitals? Would you give *gur* to your patients? Would you give *gur* with barley to your patients?

An Honourable Member: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: Let the honourable Member proceed.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: So, I say the removal of protection for sugar will mean dire consequences for us in future because at times of difficulty if we do not have factories in our own country it will not be possible to get sugar when we need it for our patients and for our children.

The next question raised was whether this protection should be given for a period of one year or whether it should be extended to two years. As regards that, I would submit that if you are committed to the principle of protection it is better that you give the protection for a couple of years. I say this because if you give the protection only for one year, then Government will come forward again and say that within this one year the necessary enquiries could not be conducted, and in order to collect all the necessary materials and conduct a satisfactory enquiry, an extension of another year is necessary. Therefore, my position is this, that if protection is to be given, it is better that you agree with the Government, and give the protection for two years. Let the Government investigate all the points fully, and let them come forward with the results of their enquiry, and then tell the House their decided opinion. It is useless to give protection for one year; because as I said, Government will again come forward for an extension by another year. Therefore, I submit that the protection be granted for two years, so that Government may not have to plead for any further extension.

It was said by some Members that even if the out-put of sugar is reduced in this country, and even if sugar is not made available, and if on account of the removal of protection, the sugar-cane growers are hit hard, even then there is no objection, because, they say, instead of sugar-cane, you might cultivate in those fields other crops. Sir, I do not know the conditions obtaining in other parts of the country, but so far as we in Assam are concerned, I may say that on the land on which sugar cane is grown, no other food crop, I mean no paddy can be grown on that land at all. That land is fit only for the cultivation of sugar-cane, and not fit for the cultivation of paddy, because that land is generally high and quite unfit for the cultivation of paddy. And what is more important, once you grow sugar-cane in that land, that land should not be disturbed for a period of two years at least, because sugar-cane will again grow in that field afterwards. Therefore, if you cannot disturb the land for two years, then you should not also reduce the period of protection to anything less than two years.

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): Sir, I am gratified at the interest which the House has evinced in the proposals embodied in this Bill. There has been some amount of criticism, but I might tell the House that I do not at all mind the criticism, so far as the sugar industry is concerned. I can quite appreciate the attitude of the House with reference to this industry. It has been in the enjoyment of protection for so many years, and the enquiry is naturally made as to when we are to see the end of protection so far as this

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

industry is concerned. But before I go into the details of the sugar industry, I should like to make a few observations regarding some of the general points that were made. I very much regret that it was not possible for me to present this matter earlier during the present session. The fault is not mine. As was already indicated, the Tariff Board has been extremely busy of late. As a matter of fact, due to the circumstances about which we are all aware, namely, the large number of industries that have applied for investigation into their claim for protection, the hands of the Tariff Board are extremely full. I should like to remind the House that the present Tariff Board, apart from being very temporary in its terms of appointment, can make recommendations for protection only up to a maximum period of three years. In several cases, although the Tariff Board has recommended protection for three years, the Government, as a policy, have reduced that period, not because Government were not in agreement with the Tariff Board in that matter, but because Government felt that having regard to the prevailing uncertainties of the economic conditions of this country, and also in foreign countries wherefrom competition is apprehended, it would not be right to go in for any definite policy extending over a period of more than one or two years. The result is, cases of these industries are coming up periodically for re-examination by the Tariff Board, and the other result is that this House also has to be troubled now and again with proposals of this kind seeking continuation of protection to an industry. But as I said, this is inherent in the present uncertain conditions, not only in this country but in the world at large.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Is the Tariff Board asked to make interim recommendations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No, it is asked to make recommendations with regard to claims for protection for an industry. But then the terms of reference of the Board are limited by that one factor, namely, that its recommendations cannot be accepted for more than a period of three years, and that limitation was imposed for the reasons I have indicated. As I said, it is because of the short periods for which the Tariff Board is entitled to make recommendations that we have repeated enquiries before the Board and repeated legislative proposals which I or anybody else has had to place before this House.

Sir, a word about the Tariff Board itself. As the House is aware, this body was instituted as a result of the recommendations of the Indian Fiscal Commission. As a matter of fact, the Indian Fiscal Commission for the first time, laid down the lines for a definite tariff policy for this country, with a view to protecting nascent industries. And in their view, a body like the Tariff Board was an essential feature of any policy of protection, of discriminating protection, as it was described to be, that the Government might adopt. In making that recommendation, the Commission said that the principle of selection should be so regulated that the best men available are to be engaged, the selection depending rather on general qualifications than on specialised or expert knowledge. It is essential, the Fiscal Commission went on to observe, that all members should be men of ability, of integrity, and of impartiality; and the other desirable qualifications are knowledge of economics and a practical acquaintance with business affairs. A demand was made by my friend Mr. Sidhva yesterday, that the Tariff Board should consist of consumers at least to the extent of 50 per cent of the members of the Tariff Board. I claim that as at present constituted, it is cent percent composed of consumers.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Can my friend Mr. Sidhva point out who would be a better representative of the consumer than the President of the Board itself, than the two well-known economists who are members of the Board: and the fourth member who has been added who is an experienced administrator, having nothing to do with any industry or business. Now, Sir,

I should have thought that we could not have made a better selection. Let me tell the House that in the opinion of even impartial observers, the Tariff Board has fully justified its institution, and it has established a high standard of integrity and ability, and it is to-day, an institution, irrespective of the changes in the personnel that have taken place from time to time, it is an institution of which any country could be proud.

Sir, now coming to the case of sugar. I told the House that the Tariff Board recommended protection for fifteen years at one stretch. That report is dated 1931, and while making that recommendation—honourable Members can find the relevant observations in paragraph 81 of the Report—they have indicated that the period of 15 years may not be sufficient for the purpose of giving protection to this industry. They took the period of 15 years as the minimum period for which protection should be guaranteed all at once to that industry. Now, Sir, the question is whether the time has come to reconsider Government's policy in this matter. I should like to remind the House that we are just passing through the 18th year of protection—I suppose it is the 18th, or rather the 17th year—and that minimum period of fifteen years has been extended only by two years so far, and for reasons which I have already stated to the House, the reasons being the extreme uncertainties of the present circumstances both in India and in the outside world, and particularly the high price of sugar-ore that prevails at the present moment accounting for the high price of sugar itself. Is it any wonder that the Tariff Board, taking into account all these factors, felt impelled to say that we had better wait for another two years before we make a comprehensive enquiry? Indeed, they felt that there were not sufficient materials on the basis of which they could make any useful report and in this attitude they were supported by the evidence of all the provincial Governments, all the scientific bodies, and all the interests that were directly concerned. They all said, this is not the time, we are not in a position to produce the necessary materials before you.

What should be the period of protection of any industry, has been dealt with by the Fiscal Commission itself. It is well remembered that if the country commits itself to a policy of protection, may be discriminatory protection, the protection has, in most cases if not all, to be given for a very long period. The Tariff Board quoted Professor Tauszig, a well known economist, who was Chairman of the United States Tariff Commission, as follows:

"The length of time to be allowed for the experiment should not be too brief. Ten years are not enough; twenty years may be reasonably extended; thirty years are not necessarily unreasonable."

On that, the Fiscal Commission observe:

"It is hardly to be expected that an industry would be able to establish itself in India in any shorter period than is required in so highly developed a country as the United States."

As I said, fifteen years was considered to be the minimum period by the Tariff Board that reported in 1931. We are in the 17th year of protection. Is that too long a period? A suggestion was made by my honourable friend Mr. Sidhva that we should immediately notify to the industry thus far and no further, and everything will be settled. That is to say, if they know there will be no protection hereafter, the industry will adjust itself to the circumstances that have been brought to light.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I mentioned a period.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes; you mentioned a period. I am disposed to accept the advice of the Indian Fiscal Commission in preference to that of my honourable friend.

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

I was going to read out what that Commission said specifically with reference to such a suggestion. They said:

"We feel, therefore, that the scheme of a time limit is not really practicable and that the difficulties which it is designed to obviate must be faced in some other way."

"To fix a time limit so remote as to have little practical meaning, or to fix one which might well prove inadequate and would certainly fail to give the industry that feeling of security for the future. These are the two alternatives."

Therefore, they say, the Tariff Board should be asked to enquire from time to time into the prevailing circumstances and to see with reference to the progress made by any industry as to whether or not protection should be discontinued at any particular time. That is exactly the policy of the Government and that is exactly what the Tariff Board has been asked to do.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: What about Mr. Mehta's evidence?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am coming to that. I would again refer to the report of the Tariff Board on sugar industry in 1947, in which they recommended the continuance of protection for a further period of one year. They say:

"Since, in our opinion, the Indian sugar industry is likely to require protection for some time to come, we are of the opinion that the detailed enquiry into the extent of protection necessary should be undertaken when conditions both in India and abroad become more normal".

First of all, they say that this protection has to be continued for some time to come, and as to the enquiry to which I have referred, that is to say, enquiry as to whether it should be continued or not, they thought that the time had not arrived even for the purpose of making that enquiry, and therefore, they recommended an extension by one year. When the matter came up before the present Tariff Board, they found that the price of sugar had reached record heights here whereas the prices abroad are very low. Is this the time to remove protection? Therefore they said until and unless the price of sugar, which of course involves a reduction in the price of cane itself, has been reduced materially; this question of removal of protection cannot be considered. This is what they said:

"Protection of the industry has to be continued until the cost of production in this country has been substantially reduced. The existing protection should be continued for a period of two years ending March 31st, 1951. There should be a detailed enquiry at the beginning of 1950 in order to determine the quantum of protection if any that would be necessary after 31st March 1951."

We know the high prices prevailing in the country. It was stated yesterday by my honourable friend Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena that if we were to drop protection, the industry would be able to stand competition with imported sugar. The landed cost of sugar at Karachi, I am told, is ordinarily Rs. 19-8-0 or Rs. 20/-; occasionally, it is Rs. 17/- even.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Rs. 17/- a maund?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes. What are the prices here? Even if we take into account the reduction that has been recently ordered by the Government, the Indian price would stand at Rs. 28-12-0. The Tariff Board has made calculation on the basis of a landed cost CIF of Rs. 16/- per maund. I am told, as I have already stated, that the prices go down to about Rs. 17/- so far as Karachi is concerned. The whole position comes to this. If the cane price which has now been reduced to Rs. 1-10-0 per maund in the U.P. and to Rs. 1-18-0 in Bihar, can be reduced to Rs. 1-6-0, then only we will be in a position to sell indigenous sugar inside the country in competition with imported sugar, provided the price of imported sugar does not go down meanwhile. We have very little information about the position in Java; we know

the prices in Brazil and Cuba; the tendencies there are indicative of a possibility of a further fall. Now, the question is, is this the time when the protection should be withdrawn. I should be the last person to advocate the continuance of protection for a day longer than is absolutely necessary. But, is this the time when the Government can take the responsibility for removing the protection and exposing the industry which has been built up at so much cost to the consumer. I should say, and throwing it to the wolves just because the circumstances at the present moment do not enable a thorough enquiry being made into the conditions of this industry as pointed out by the Tariff Board.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The price is fixed by the Government?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: Yes. But, to what level can you push the prices down, that is the problem.

Here I come to another aspect of the matter. A good deal of dissatisfaction was expressed as regards the working of the Syndicate. I am not apologetic, I do not hold any brief for the Syndicate. As a matter of fact, the Sugar Syndicate is not a part of the protection. It was not set up as a part of the original scheme. This was brought into being by the joint action of the two provinces most concerned, the United Provinces and Bihar.

They have given this body certain powers under statutory authority of the Provincial Governments. Now the U.P. and Bihar Sugar Factories Control Acts lay down various conditions of control and one of the conditions is no one can undertake any construction of a factory etc. except with a license from the Provincial Government concerned and it has been laid down that membership of the Indian Sugar Syndicate is a condition for the grant of a crushing license to a factory. That is to say, under the law that operates now in U.P. and Bihar under the authority of the Provincial Governments concerned, unless a factory is a member of the Syndicate it is not entitled to crush cane. How am I responsible for anything that may happen in the Syndicate.

Shri Ram Narayan Singh (Bihar: General): Do you support the stand taken by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I am not in a position to judge about the justification of any measure that any responsible Provincial Government may have taken. I don't know all the circumstances which may have influenced this particular measure. If there is so much of dissatisfaction, then I should have thought that Professor Shibbanlal Saxena should be in a position to influence the policy of the U.P. Government. At least there should be some amount of public opinion expressed in that province as also in Bihar from which my honourable friend Mr. Ramnarayan Singh comes. I have nothing to do with the Syndicate. It is not for me to support anything that the Syndicate may be doing but I am prepared to give this assurance that so far as all these comments that have been made about the Syndicate are concerned, the Central Government would certainly bring these to the notice of the Provincial Government for any action that they may like to take.

Shri S. V. Krishna Rao (Mysore State): The annual production of sugar is 11 lakhs. There is a surplus of 2½ lakhs. So the surplus will be 18½ as against the intake of 10 lakh tons. In spite of the fixation of the price of sugar, the protection may not be able to help the industry. May I know what the honourable Minister is going to do for the clearance of the surplus unless the price is reduced?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: My honourable friend has referred to a very important point. As a matter of fact when he describes this as a surplus, I am sorry it is an illusory surplus. Before Partition India was not

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wholly self-supporting in the matter of sugar. It is because we have not succeeded in maintaining our supplies to those parts of the country that now form Pakistan, that this so-called surplus has arisen. As a matter of fact it should be our aim not merely to make India as it stands now, self-supporting, but also to maintain that export to Pakistan. That could not be done unless the prices have been substantially brought down. I am glad my honourable friend brought this particular point to my notice.

Now a suggestion was made by Dr. Deshmukh that the country need not be self-supporting in sugar, and that in so far as the industry in U.P. and Bihar suffer from a serious handicap, we need not do anything very special to bolster up that section of the Industry. May I remind the House that inefficient as some of the factories in U. P. and Bihar may be and if the outturn of sugarcane also is comparatively poor in these two provinces, the fact remains that 80 per cent of the sugar is produced in these two provinces. Government certainly cannot go back upon their declared policy of making India at least self-supporting. What would be the result if my honourable friend's suggestions were to be accepted? Would it not seriously jeopardise the economy of these two provinces?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of personal explanation all that I wanted was the quantum of production may be reduced so that the production of sugarcane might be increased. I did not want complete abolition.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I quite appreciate that and that is what we have in view. The Government have increased the grant to the Indian Sugar-cane Committee four-fold with effect from this year. The amount actually available to that body would be in the neighbourhood of 50 lakhs for the purpose of carrying on research and everything necessary for the purpose of improving the yield of the sugarcane and the yield of sugar from the cane particularly in these two provinces.

By the way I would like to point out to the House that even if we were to withdraw protection, it would not mean very much of a benefit to consumer, for the reason that the protective duty at present works out to about 36 per cent only and not any high figure such as Dr. Deshmukh mentioned yesterday. I have had it verified and it works out to 36 per cent and the removal of the protective duty does not amount to free entry of sugar from abroad. It does not mean that there is no revenue duty to be imposed. Having regard to the general level of our revenue duty it would not be that the revenue duty would be anything less than 30 per cent and in some cases it stands in the neighbourhood of 36 per cent. So even if you remove this protective import duty of 36 per cent the revenue duty that will have to take its place will not be very much less than this amount. Now coming to the question of what difference does it make how you call it if there is no difference in rate. A complaint was made that when for instance we have removed the particular protective duty, a similar rate of duty described as revenue duty has automatically taken its place. The difference is this. In the first place it has a great psychological importance. The moment you say that you are pledged to protect a particular industry, it gives an impetus to that industry; not merely that; it gives Government a right to control the industry in various methods. Secondly and which is more important is, that the moment a protective duty is imposed, under the provisions of Section 4 of the Indian Tariff Act the Executive Government without coming upto Legislature can vary that rate of duty in whatsoever manner it may be necessary, for the purpose of either safeguarding the interest of industry or safeguarding the interest of the consumer so that the Legislature may not have to be troubled every time that

the duty may have to be increased for the purpose of making protection more effective than what it was when it was originally granted. This constitutes the importance of a duty being described as protective duty although the rate may be the same as that of a revenue duty. Now I was rather surprised yesterday to find my friend Mr. B. Das advocating free-trade. Mr. Das of 1932, I find, gave his whole-hearted support to the bill for granting protection to Sugar Industry. He even showered blessings on the British official who was then in charge of the Measure, for having brought forward such an ameliorative measure to give protection to the Sugar Industry and now Mr. Das of 1949 says that sugar is not an essential commodity and the emphasis should be put upon *gur*. My honourable friend makes so many speeches that perhaps he does not remember what he said so long ago as 1932.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I have since learnt the policy of the sugar manufacturers.

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: Now, Sir, I do not think that the House would expect me to agree to abolish protection so far as the sugar industry is concerned here and now, but I am prepared to accept the amendment which my honourable friend Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena proposes to move reducing the period of protection from two years to one year. But then at the same time I should like to warn the House that having regard to the opinion of the Tariff Board and the opinion of the provincial governments and other authorities consulted by the Tariff Board, it would be extremely unlikely that a complete and comprehensive report from the Tariff Board dealing with all the various aspects of this question will be ready by them. But I agree that so far as some ancillary issues are concerned, for instance, issues like that of the Sugar Syndicate and as regards the possibility of further reduction of the prices of sugar and sugar cane, so far as these issues are concerned, perhaps we may be in a position to discuss the matter once again a year hence, but I am very very doubtful if it would be possible for the Tariff Board to make a comprehensive enquiry into all these various issues and make its report sufficiently early to enable this House to consider it during the next Budget session, but then, if it pleases the House, I am perfectly prepared to accept the amendment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of information, may I ask the honourable Minister what according to the industry itself might be the reasonable length of time for which they would like to continue this protection and after that they will stand on their legs? Have they got any idea?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I am not in direct touch with the industry, but what I have got is the report of the Tariff Board which is expected to go into all the various matters and not be guided merely by what the industry says, and they are not in a position to make any recommendation beyond saying that they are convinced that protection will have to be continued for some time to come, but they are not in a position to make any definite recommendations.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does not the industry apply for continuance from time to time?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: No, no. We ask the Tariff Board to enquire into the position of the industry in terms of our undertaking that the condition of this industry will be enquired into with a view to finding out whether protection need be continued, and if so, to what extent.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What is our undertaking, Sir?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: Undertaking given to this House from time to time. The honourable Member should remember that this matter has

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not come up for the first time today. From time to time we came up for extending protection in this way, from year to year, on the understanding that a thorough and comprehensive enquiry would be made into the conditions of this industry, and that enquiry has not been made as yet.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Has the Government got any data as to why the sugar industry has not been able to stand on its own legs up till now, what are the difficulties in its way,—at least the broad outlines? Also what is the Government doing to remove those difficulties?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, I briefly referred to some of the difficulties. The difficulties are, as the honourable Member knows perhaps better than I do, low out-turn of sugar cane per acre as compared with other countries from where we get competition and low sucrose content of the sugar cane that is grown particularly in the U.P. and Bihar. These are the principal difficulties.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: But barring allowing Rs. 50 lakhs, has Government done any tangible work regarding improving the quality of the sugar cane and the quantity of the sugar cane per acre either in Bihar or U.P.? Is the Government aware that U.P. and Bihar can produce the cheapest sugar cane provided some effort is made on behalf of Government and this control is removed.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, a lot of things has been done and is being done. As a matter of fact, it is with a view to increasing the activities of Government in this behalf that the grant has been increased four-fold this year. Some of those points were referred to in questions which were put to my honourable colleague, the Minister for Agriculture, on different dates in this same session and if my honourable friend wants to have further information. I would suggest that he puts further questions to my honourable colleague, because he is in a better position than myself to tell the House about the agricultural aspect of the industry.

Shri O. V. Alagesan rose—

Mr. Speaker: No further questions. I think the position is clear enough. Probably, the work so far as agricultural improvement is concerned, is being done through the provincial governments; and therefore, this Government is concerned with grants only.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not quite that. Our Agriculture Ministry is also in touch with what is happening, because the Indian Sugar Committee is a Centrally constituted Committee.

Shri O. V. Alagesan (Madras: General): I wanted to ask a question. Is the yield per acre in Java much more than that in India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: That has been replied to very often. We are now concerned with the Bill.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Now, Sir, I do not think I should trouble the House any further so far as sugar is concerned, but I must just briefly touch upon two other points to which reference was made. One was to sericulture. As a matter of fact, here we have not been able to decide definitely upon the quantum of protection, because the report of the Tariff Board is still awaited. They have merely asked us to continue the protection on the present basis.

As regards artificial silk fabrics to which reference was perhaps made by my honourable friend Shri Sidhva, I should like to tell the House that this has nothing to do with protection of artificial silk yarn because that is not yet produced in the country. This particular item relates to fabrics made out of artificial silk, wholly or partly out of artificial silk and cotton and as a matter of fact, I am told that 85 per cent of this industry is a cottage industry, and so the House would realize that this particular measure is intended to benefit cottage industry of that great importance.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: I was not opposed to protection.

The Honourable Shri E. C. Neogy: I think, Sir, I have not got anything further to say.

There is just one other point that was mentioned by my honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar and that relates to nickel alloy. We have stated in the papers circulated that the variation has been decided upon in consultation with the Tariff Board. The facts are these. The Industries and Supply Ministry were anxious to limit the scope of this particular item, so that on qualities that were not made here, the revenue duty could be reduced and large imports permitted, and we are now only separating the two kinds of this particular alloy. The Tariff Board was referred to in the matter and the decision was of course the decision of the Government and the Tariff Board had no objection. This is the history of this particular item.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to extend the date unto which certain duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, to determine or levy protective duties in certain other cases and further to amend the Sugar Industries (Protection) Act, 1932, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: There are amendments to clause 2 by Prof. Saksena. I believe both go together.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill—

- (i) in part (i) the figures '17' be omitted; and
- (ii) in part (iii) after the words 'Items Nos.' the figures '17' be inserted."

Mr. Speaker: May I just ask for a point of clarification from him? I understood from his speech yesterday that he was agreeable to have it for one year. Now, what is the effect of this deletion of "17"?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: This is consequential to that.

Mr. Speaker: That I saw.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Altogether will give protection for one year.

Mr. Speaker: What I follow from these amendments is that the honourable Member wishes to delete item 17, 'Sugar,' from sub-section 4 of the First Schedule of the Tariff Act.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: He wishes to introduce Sugar in item 49 as he has stated.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: He also states that in part (iii) after the words "Items Nos." the figures "17" be inserted. That is an addition to item 49. I see now. It was a misapprehension on my part. It is quite alright now.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I am grateful to the honourable Minister for saying that he will accept my amendment. Yesterday I said that although I thought.....

Mr. Speaker: We need not now repeat the whole debate again!

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I will say something about what he has said, I only want to point out that I myself realize the position and therefore I reduced the period from two years to one year. The manner in which we have been going on for the last 17 years, I feel that if we continue to go on in this manner, we will never be able to drop protection. The honourable Member said that in America sometimes 80 years were necessary for protection but those were for industries which have been in difficulties and which did not make profits in the first two or three years. It cannot be for an industry like the sugar industry because in the last 17 years they have invested in it capital to the amount of 77 crores and the profits are 50 crores. That being the case the industry does not come into the category of industries which require protection. Therefore, I would urge upon him again to see that this period is reduced. I would not mind even then provided I could be assured that at the end of this period I would not find them in the same position as they were in 1932. The crux of the problem is the production of cane. The production of that is the same as in 1932. I shall point out what is being done in other countries. In Java the production is 45 tons per acre, which means about 5 times our yield today. In Hawaii they were producing 76 tons per acre. In 1924 they produced 85 tons per acre, whereas we produced only 12 tons per acre: namely, their production was about 7 times ours. That is something extraordinary. The figures for today might be even larger. If you grant protection to them, then I want it to be conditional. Let some conditions be put down, namely, that unless this industry progresses and improves we shall not grant protection. Therefore, let not the protection be permanent. Let it be conditional on circumstances. I have suggested one year after which the Government should see to it that protection is not continued. By this time the industry must be able to put its house in order otherwise Government cannot be responsible for burdening the consumer with this protection from year to year. Government draws a revenue of Rs. 80 crores from sugar cane. The honourable Minister said yesterday that Government has spent Rs. 50 lakhs on the Fund for sugar-cane development. The U. P. Government has this year set apart Rs. 1½ lakhs for the sugar-cane industry. I want that a larger proportion of the revenue taken from sugar cane should be spent on the industry. Unless this is done, when will the time come when sugar will be available at a cheaper rate?

Then I might point out that the recovery in our province is 9 per cent. In Java in 1920 it was 13 per cent. In Formosa it was 14 per cent. It is necessary that we should do something to see that the cane improves. I understand that in Australia they pay for cane according to the sugar content. They taste every piece of cane. If you do that I will be very glad. You may pay for the cane at the rate at which it contains sugar content, so that the sugar content may be improved. Unless, you try to go about the business in a scientific way and try to have new methods to produce more sugar, you will not be able to improve the industry.

Regarding the sugar syndicate, this is a problem in the U.P. I must say that there is no industry in this country which is protected from outside competition as well as inside competition. Sugar is the only industry not subject to foreign and internal competition.

You must make protection contingent upon these two conditions: firstly, there shall be no syndicate and at least if there is any foreign competition, then internal competition should be allowed to take place. Secondly, there should be an enquiry which should be held to determine the profit of this industry and whether such an industry should continue with protection for a long period.

Thirdly, I would suggest that adequate means should be taken to put this industry on a proper foundation. Fourthly, we should be informed in what time—two years, four years or five years—it will be possible to remove this protection altogether. But you come before us without any idea as to when you can remove it altogether.

Therefore I do hope that Government will see to it that the people concerned work in such a way that they make the industry stand on its own legs. Let him fix the price of sugarcane but let the industry compete and let there be internal competition because this will lead to better efficiency. When the yield per acre has increased, then the cultivator will be able to gain more from one acre than at present. These are my suggestions.

There is one point which was raised by Mr. Himmatsingka, which.....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot allow replies to the debate of yesterday. In fact I allowed the whole debate because the Bill contained only two clauses and the principal question was one of protection.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): And the amendments too are agreed upon.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. So there is no use taking further time. Let the honourable Member move the amendments and I shall place them before the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Yesterday I pointed out that in the present year the profit from sugar was Rs. 4.8.0 and last year it was Rs. 9.8.0. If you want to compete with foreign imported sugar you must see that these abnormal profits are reduced. The honourable Minister is going to have an enquiry into this matter and I hope his Ministry will combine with the other Ministries concerned and hold a joint enquiry into the profits earned in this industry so as to see if protection is justified or not.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

That in clause 2 of the Bill,—

(i) in part (i) the figures '17' be omitted; and (ii) in part (iii), after the words 'Items Nos.' the figures '17' be inserted."

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I merely wanted to utter a word of caution. With regard to all that my honourable friend wants to be done, within one year, it is not physically possible to do them. I have already said it and let there be no misapprehensions on that particular point. Whatever is possible will be done.

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya (Madhya Bharat): In view of what the honourable Minister has said is it not better to have it for two years instead of one?

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member has moved his amendment which the honourable Minister is going to accept.

The question is:

“That in clause 2 of the Bill—

(i) In part (i) the figures ‘17’ be omitted : and (ii) in part (iii), after the words ‘Items Nos.’ the figures ‘17’ be inserted.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I move:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, for the figures ‘1951’, the figures ‘1950’ be substituted.”

Mr. Speaker: This is a consequential amendment.

The question is:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, for the figures ‘1951’, the figures ‘1950’, be substituted.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, I move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar)].

TEA COMMITTEE FOR INDIA BILL

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the development of the tea industry under Central control and for that purpose to establish a Tea Committee for India and levy a customs duty on tea produced in, and exported from, India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The Select Committee has presented a unanimous report and I have very little to say in support of this motion except for the purpose of pointing out certain important changes made in the constitution of the Board itself. The

House will see that in pursuance of the recommendation made by certain members in this House labour has been given representation on the Committee or Board as it is now going to be called. Secondly, provision has been made for the representation of the members of this legislature. There is another modification that has been made and that is in regard to the emphasis on the regional character of the representation. In the original Bill certain individual associations representing interests connected with tea were given representation by specific mention following the model of the Tea Cess Act. We thought that the representation to be granted to the tea industry had better be expressed by regions and further that specific representation of certain individual associations be removed from the body of the Act, so that there may be some amount of elasticity in the matter of securing representation of the various interests concerned. It is not the intention of Government to interfere with the representation enjoyed by these representative bodies but there may be changes in the composition of these bodies in the future and we should not therefore like to tie down the hands of Government in the matter of representation of the Indian tea industry interests in the fashion in which it was sought to be done in the original Bill.

We have increased the representation which was contemplated in the case of Assam and also in the case of one or two other areas.

This is about all the changes brought about by us to which I should like to draw the attention of the House as the most important.

Then again coming to the Committees we have made certain changes, though not of a very material character. It would be realised that having regard to the enlarged size of the Board the real work will have to be done by committees. Apart from there being an Executive Committee we have made provision for the setting up of other Standing Committees or *ad hoc* committees as occasion arises.

The rest of the changes are not of any great consequence and in some cases are of a drifting character.

There is a new clause added as clause 20. That provides for temporary continuance and ultimate repeal of Act IX of 1908. Having regard to the changes that we have proposed to bring about in the composition of the Board it is likely that we will take some little time for the purpose of giving full effect to the provisions of this measure. Meanwhile the work hitherto done by the present body must continue, and particularly there should be provision for the collection of the cess or duty. It is with that view that this new clause 20 has been inserted as a transitional measure.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the development of the tea industry under Central control and for that purpose to establish a Tea Committee for India and levy a customs duty on tea produced in, and exported from, India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sri Jut Kuladhar Chahha (Assam: General): Sir, after sugar of course tea comes naturally because it is a cup that cheers but not inebriates. It does not suffer from the handicap of taxation in India: it is only when the tea is exported that it comes within the clutches of the law, and it is paid out entirely by U. K. and other foreign countries. As such we have little or no grievance. Formerly the Tea Cess Act was really confined to propagate the extension of the tea market and it was done in other countries. Now, this Bill, in spite of its being sponsored by men who are absolutely ignorant of

[Srijut Kuladhar Chalaha]

tea, has been done fairly well. They have enlarged the scope to include research, marketing, co-operative efforts among growers and manufacturers and other things, and I think they have done fairly well. I think in future when we refer a Bill we should refer it to people who do not know anything about the industry concerned. That will be the best plan I suppose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Because they come with an open mind.

Srijut Kuladhar Chalaha: Yes, they come with an open mind and they have done very well really.

There is one thing in this Bill which is rather to be admired. In this Bill we find for the first time that tea tasting should be developed. In the last 125 years in the tea industry no Indian has ever been admitted to the secret of tea-tasting except Europeans and I am therefore grateful to the honourable Mr. Neogy for having brought out this aspect of the question. Indeed this requires a little austerity, the man should not chew or smoke and his age should not be more than 18. It is hallowed secret to the commercial people of Calcutta. As such the fact that he has taken into consideration this aspect of the question is rather marvellous. I think if we allow some people to be trained in London and other places we will probably be able to have soon some tea tasters.

We have not had tea brokers in Calcutta. It is rather surprising that they work as sub-brokers and not as *pucca* brokers. There are only four firms which are Messrs Carrit Moran & Co. Ltd., Thomas & Co., Creswell & Co., and A. W. Figgis & Co. These are the ones that have been doing the business and there are no Indian tea brokers. They are only under-dogs and are allowed 50 per cent. less brokerage for their work. So it is necessary for us to develop Indian firms to become tea brokers and we should see that the tea growers are given proper share in the tea broking business.

I shall first take the question where we should carry on our marketing 'propaganda'. Should we carry it on elsewhere or in India? First I shall take India. In India during 1914-15 we consumed only 19 million lbs. But in 1925 we went up to 90 million lbs. and in 1948 we are consuming about 160 million lbs. in India alone. Therefore here is a great market where we should spend more money than elsewhere.

As regards the outside markets of course U. K. is best fitted where we are spending pound 80,000 and we should carry on there. But I am afraid the expenditure of about pounds 20,000 in Africa is a waste because the British firms who had tea estates in India have transferred themselves to Africa and they are growing a large acreage there. Two years back they were growing only 86,000 acres. A year ago they have planted 75,000 acres and they are planting more and more. But I am afraid if we spend the money of this Tea Cess in Africa we will be creating a market for the British growers who are transferring their capital from India to Africa. We should confine it to Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eastern and Western Pakistan. This sum will be well spent and you should close down gradually the propaganda in Africa because that will not be captured by us but by the British owners who are transferring their capital from India to Africa. We should therefore be cautious in this matter. As regards U.S.A. and Canada the more you spend the less they have consumed and therefore I think we should find out

other fields in Russia. Russia used to buy 50 million lbs. before the 1914 war. But somehow or other the British could not agree with them and it was out down and down. Now of course we are entering into an agreement with Russia and 4,000 metric tons from North India and 1,000 metric tons from Southern India are to be exported there. But our friends from South India have not provided the necessary quantity. That means 4,000 tons or 8 million lbs. If we have good relations, and we do not see any reason why we should not, having regard to our neutral position in foreign affairs—we should go and befriend Russia as well to buy our goods. By that I think we can have foreign hard currency and dollars. It is necessary therefore that we should carry on propaganda in U.S.S.R. so that we may come up to the former level of 50 million lbs. Then we will be able to sell one-sixth of the North Indian produce.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member may continue his speech after Lunch.

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.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1949.

TEA COMMITTEE FOR INDIA BILL—contd.

Brijut Kulsdhar Chalhha: Sir, before we rose for Lunch, I was saying that we should follow an independent commercial policy as regards the U.S.S.R. We should try to have friendly commercial agreements with the U.S.S.R. so that we can sell as much as 50 million pounds of tea to that country. We have done a little and I am thankful to the honourable the Commerce Minister for allowing for export about 5,000 metric tons of tea to that country and I trust he will continue his efforts in that direction. The tea industry will be greatly relieved if another 5,000 metric tons of tea can be sold to the U.S.S.R. We are not bound to the policy followed by the Britishers in not allowing tea to that country. As such I trust they will follow the policy which they have now adopted which will be beneficial to the industry.

I am also thankful to the honourable Minister that in the functions of the Board he has provided for assisting and encouraging scientific, technological and economic research. This was unknown before. At Jorahat we have a very good Scientific Research Institute run by the Indian Tea Association. I think it will be best for the industry if it is taken up and all students and all professors are allowed scope for research there. We subsidised it through the Provincial Government to the extent of about Rs. 10,000 a year, now I think it has been raised to Rs. 20,000. The Central Government should subsidise the whole laboratory and other things there. There we have entomologists, Bacteriologists, and other scientists and the results obtained are so good that even the London Scientific Association has approved of them I should therefore like to make a request to the Commerce Minister that he should see whether this Institute can be taken up and Indianised. They have adopted a policy now to recruit a few Indians but if the entire laboratory is taken

[Srijut Kuledhar Obalaha]

over it will be very useful. It is as good as the Agricultural Institute at Pusa, if not better. Therefore this is a matter to which the Commerce Minister would do well to attend to. It is one of the best agricultural laboratories we have in India. I am thankful that he has brought it in in the scope of the functions of the Board.

As regards promoting co-operative efforts among growers and manufacturers, of course the tea industry is such that growers and manufacturers are not different—all growers are manufacturers. It is put rather quite nicely, yet it shows a certain amount of, shall I say, want of knowledge. Yet it is well done. It will be good if through co-operative efforts we are allowed to combine two or more tea estates together for import of machinery. Therefore this provision is really one of the new provisions which has gladdened our hearts.

As regards the fixing of grades of standards of tea, it is said that the U.S.A. is rather disapproving of our standards. I think this report from America is rather one-sided. The growers of tea have followed the same old standard as they used to do, but of course there is the difficulty of labour. There is a certain amount of rough plucking and some faults right have crept in. But I think some prejudicial reports are being received by my honourable friend, because we have not deteriorated in selecting our grades very much.

Then I come to the composition of the Board. I have a little grievance there. In Assam we have about 440,000 acres of tea and our production is about 230 million lbs. In the neighbouring Province they have got about 156,000 acres and they produce only 120 million lbs. Whereas we have got 1,188 tea estates they have got 163. Our proportion is very large, but the composition on the Board is 6 for Assam and 4 for our neighbouring Province. In our proportion we should have got about three times more. For the present I am not going to charge the honourable the Commerce Minister because he has done his best possible and he has also given us a windfall. But I hope he will see that this discrimination on the Board is not made again and that we are given our full share of representation. I am glad, however, that the Central Assembly has been given representation. It is necessary. The old British magnates dominated so much that the Indian businessmen who went there had not the courage to speak up; they go and Kotow before them and are not able to express themselves properly. It is from the Centre that you should give new ideas and a new reorientation of policy. The mere fact that there is not a single Indian tea brokers firm shows that they have not been able to influence them at all. So I congratulate the honourable Minister on giving representation to this House on the Board.

As regards labour, I think there are labourers from Orissa as well as Madras. Representation from these Provinces should also be provided for in order to represent these labourers. We have here representatives from these Provinces, Mr. Sahu is from Orissa. There are labourers from Madras, Berwada, Maschapatam and Vizagapatam. So, representation from the Central Assembly should be given on the Board not because they will understand the labourers well but because we will be able to bring in new ideas. The body of tea magnates do not accept any view except their own. Therefore, it is well that we have been given representation from the Central Assembly.

I fail to understand why the Chambers of Commerce should be so heavily represented. The dice is heavily loaded in their favour. The Chambers of Commerce have nothing to do with the tea industry and I have not been able

to follow the reason for their representation. I hope the next time we deal with the Act, the Chambers of Commerce will have nothing to do with it. These Chambers of Commerce have very little to do with tea. Even if they have, only one would have been enough.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra (West Bengal: General): They are the people who will deal with your tea.

Srijut Kuladhar Chakraborty: No, no. They have nothing to do with tea. Tea has an absolutely different organisation.

They have their brokers, their selling agents, their London agents, in fact they are their everything. Therefore the Chambers of Commerce are rather a burden to us with their suggestions and sometimes they are more a dead-weight than any help; especially because they always side the British magnates.

Sir, having said this, I congratulate the honourable the Commerce Minister whose integrity and honesty are proverbial and beyond doubt. What he has done is the best that could be done and I am glad he has brought forward this Bill.

Now, Sir you have had enough sugar, and now I must give you a little tea. For two days you have had sugar. Have some tea now.

The bitter cup utili-tea

Is followed by austeri-tea.

Next, tasting of futili - tea

We hand it to posteri - tea

Then comes doubtful sani - tea

And, despite proprie - tea

We live as weak humani - tea

In tea-licious sobrie - tea.

श्री० लक्ष्मी नारयण साहू : श्रीमान् वाचस्पति महोदय, इस बिल में मैंने षोडास ऐम्बेडमेन्ट दिया है । मैं नहीं जानता कि वह ऐम्बेडमेन्ट वाणिज्य मंत्री ग्रहण करेंगे या नहीं । इस लिये मैं अभी बतला देना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो टी पालिसी है, वह पालिसी, मैं देखता हूँ कि, हिन्दुस्तान में सी बरस से ज्यादा हो गये, साहेब लोगों ने इस को शुरू की थी । यह चाय यहां तभी शुरू हुई और होते होते आम लोग सब चायखोर बन गये हैं । मैं देखता हूँ कि अभी हम लोग जब पचास करोड़ रूपया तक इससे पाते हैं तो बूक बाहर के आदमी चाय को इतना बुरा नहीं मानते हैं, इस लिये हम लोगों को इस का प्रचार बाहर करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये । लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के बीच में इसका ज्यादा प्रचार न होते हुये भी आज घर घर चाय बहुत फैल गई है । इस लिये यहाँ चाय का प्रचार करने की कोई कोशिश न की जाय तो अच्छा होगा । अगर यहां चाय का प्रचार करने के लिये ज्यादा कोशिश की जायगी (तो यहां के आदमी इतने चायखोर बन जायेंगे कि) शायद इंग्लैण्ड और, और और देशों में जहां चाय की बहुत जरूरत होती है हम लोगों से, हम चाय भेज भी न सकेंगे । और अगर ऐसा हुआ तो हम लोगों को जो पचास करोड़ रूपया अभी फायदा होता है वह वहां से नहीं मिलेगा ।

[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू]

एक बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज चाय आसाम, दार्जिलिंग ऐसी जगहों में बहुत होती है। लेकिन जैसा मेरे मित्र ने कहा है, उसके लिये उड़ीसा से बहुत आदमी चाय के बागों में जाते हैं। हम लोगों के उड़ीसा में यह हालत है कि जो वहाँ गरीब बन जाते हैं, जिन्हें खाने को नहीं मिलता है, वह चाय के बागों में भेज दिये जाते हैं। यह बेचारे इतने दुःख में जाते हैं चाय के बागों में कि वहाँ से निकल कर आना उनके लिये बहुत मुश्किल होता है। इस लिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बिल सेलेक्ट कमेटी से तैयार हो कर आया है, और जिस में एक प्रवन्ध भी दिया गया है कि इसमें तीन रिप्रेजेन्टिव आफ लेबर रहेंगे इसमें मैं इतना ही अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम यह ह्याल रखा जाय कि उड़ीसा से भी एक आदमी लेबर का रिप्रेजेन्टिव ही। क्योंकि कोरापुट जिले में इतने एबॉरिजिनल्स हैं सउरा, कंध, परजा, भादवा, रणा इत्यादि, यह सब अपनी जमीन को बेच कर आसाम के बागों में जाते हैं और वहाँ उन की देखभाल करने की सुविधा किसी की नहीं होती है। मैं उड़ीसा से आसाम गया था। वहाँ चाय के बागों में देखा कि जिस अवस्था में वह श्रमिक लोग रहते हैं उसकी बहुत उन्नति करनी चाहिये। जब तक हम उनकी उन्नति नहीं करेंगे तब तक उन की हालत बहुत खराब रहेगी। क्योंकि चाय जहाँ होती है वह जगह पानी से भर जाती है और जरा खराब जगह होती है इस लिये वहाँ मलेरिया बहुत होता है और मलेरिया में जो तगड़ा या मजबूत आदमी हमारे यहाँ से जाते हैं वह वहाँ जाकर बहुत खराब हालत में हो जाते हैं। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम वाणिज्य मंत्री जो यह बिल लाये हैं, उस में मैं उनसे अनुरोध करता हूँ कि उड़ीसा से भी एक प्रतिनिधि लेबर का ले लें। इसके बारे में मैं और ज्यादा बात नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। सिर्फ इतना ही फिर कहना चाहूँगा कि चाय बेचने के लिये हिन्दुस्तान के बाहर आप जितनी कोशिश कर सकते हैं उतनी कीजिये। लेकिन यहाँ चाय का जितना ज्यादा कन्जमेशन होगा, जितना उसका प्रोपेगैण्डा किया जायगा उतनी ही खराबी हम लोगों की होगी। चाय की आप टैबलेट टी बनाते हैं, केक टी भी बनाते हैं Stiff tea बनाते हैं और यह सब बना कर हिन्दुस्तान को आप सब दे देंगे, उसके बाद आप उसका एडवर्टाइजमेंट करेंगे और प्रोपेगैण्डा करेंगे कि यह बहुत अच्छी चीज है और यह चाय पीनी चाहोगे, तब तो यह देश एक दम खराब हो जायेगा। चाय के अभ्यास से मैं सोचता हूँ कि आदमियों की दृष्टि गाय के दूध के पीने के लिये जो आज है वह भी कम हो जायेगी। चाय एक दम बन्द हो जायेगी तब तो गाय का दूध पीने के लिये सबकी दृष्टि ज्यादा जायेगी। आज इससे फायदा तो है, रुपया ज्यादा

जाता है, और सौ बरस पहले जो बात विलियम बेन्टिन्क ने शुरू की थी, वरिक्त सौ बरस से ज्यादा हो गये हैं, हिन्दुस्तान भर में चाय बहुत बढ़ गई है। वास्तिर मैं चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम वाणिज्य मंत्री को यह देखना चाहिये कि वहाँ के लेबर प्रतिनिधि जहाँ-जहाँ जायें, वहाँ कम से कम एक उड़ीसा का प्रतिनिधि रहना चाहिये और वहाँ का हाल जो है उस को बेहतर करना चाहिये और देश भाल करने के लिये उड़ीसा से एक प्रतिनिधि होना चाहिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Sri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Sir, I have given notice of a small amendment in this Bill. I do not know whether the honourable the Minister for Commerce would accept it or not. I wish to submit here and now that the present tea policy was initiated in India by the Europeans some 100 years ago. Tea was introduced here at that time and gradually the people in general have become tea-drinkers. I see that we get something like 50 crores of rupees from our tea. As the people living in foreign countries do not consider tea to be such a bad thing so we ought to make efforts to give it the widest possible publicity abroad. But in spite of the absence of any widespread propaganda tea has spread its tentacles into every house of India. So it would be better if no efforts are made to popularise tea here. If more efforts would be made to popularise tea in this country then the people of this country would become so chronic tea-consumers that perhaps we would not be able to export our tea to England and other countries where it is badly needed. And if it were to happen so then we would not be able to reap even the profit of 50 crores of rupees that we get today.

The thing I want to say is that tea is mainly produced in Assam, Darjeeling and many other such places. But as my honourable friend has just said a majority of the labour for these tea-plantations is drawn from Orissa. In our Orissa the condition is that those people who become poor, who do not get sufficient to eat, are sent to the tea-plantations. They go to these tea-plantations in such a dire and tattered condition that it becomes difficult for them to return. Therefore I like to submit that in this Bill as emerged from the Select Committee there is a provision that three representatives of the labour class will also be included. I beg to submit only so much in this connection that at least this should be borne in mind that one labour representative from Orissa also should be there. Because a number of aboriginals, like Sanuru, Kandh, Parja, Gadwa, Rana etc. of Koraput District, after selling their lands etc. go to work in the tea-plantations of Assam and there no body has any interest to look after them. From Orissa I had gone to Assam. There in the tea-plantations I saw that the conditions under which these labourers live should be improved a great deal. So long we will not improve their mode of living their condition will remain abject. Because the places where tea is grown remain water-logged and thus become un-inhabitable. Therefore Malaria is quite common there. As a result of Malaria the condition of the healthy and sturdy people, who go there from our province, becomes very bad. Therefore I wish to submit to the honourable the Minister for Commerce, who has introduced this Bill, to include at least one labour representative from Orissa also. I do not wish to submit anything more in this connection. But I would like to say only so much again that you may make whatever efforts you can to popularise and sell your tea in the foreign countries. But whatever propaganda will be made here and whatever quantities of tea would be consumed here will result in as much harm to the people of this country. From tea you prepare tablet-tea, cake-tea and also fluff-tea. You would give all these things to the people of India, afterwards you will advertise

[Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu]

these things far and wide, will do a propaganda that this is a very good thing and so this tea should be taken, then the result will be that the whole country will be spoiled. By adopting this tea-drinking habit the present tendency of the people that we find today, for taking cow's milk will to a great extent also diminish. If tea is totally stopped the people will get more and more in the habit of taking cow's milk. Today tea is a profitable commodity, we get more money, but as a result of the introduction of tea, that was begun by William Bentinck some 100 years back, I think more than 100 years we see that tea has spread her tentacles far and wide in the whole of India. In the end I beg to submit that the honourable the Minister for Commerce should at least see that wherever the labour representatives of that place go at least one representative from Orissa should invariably be included. Efforts should be made to better the living conditions there and in order to look after the condition of the labourers one representative from Orissa should be placed there.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, this Bill is of considerable importance to India from a commercial point of view. At present India tea has a dominating position in the world markets. Before the World War, or rather before the Chinese civil war began, Chinese tea held the dominating position. But on account of the various troubles with which China is afflicted, India has got a long start. China's troubles will be solved very soon, because they have come to a head, and so Chinese tea may again in course of time begin to dominate and be a competitor to India tea. In these circumstances, the committee that we are going to set up will have a very arduous task to perform.

In India, and in Northern India especially, there are three kinds of tea. There is first the Darjeeling tea, there is the Dewars tea and there is the Assam tea. Darjeeling tea is the finest from the point of view of flavour and the price of first-class tea—of the highest kind—will be about Rs. 100 per pound. They are all exported and are bringing in high prices from abroad. As regards the second category, the Dewars tea, it produces the best colour; and the Assam tea, which is produced in my friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhury's Province produces the strongest liquor. It is a happy blending of these three classes of tea that produces the finest tea that you take. The important work of the Committee would be to so arrange matters as to create a very good foreign market for our tea. Upon this, not only the Indian Exchequer will get large taxes, but the Indian producers and labour get large sums of money. The prosperity of India will largely depend upon how we develop and maintain our foreign markets. It is from this point of view that I view the importance of this Committee. It should be the policy of this Committee never to lose touch with foreign businessmen, and not run at once to wholly Indianise the business particularly from the political point of view. In fact, as foreigners would be our best customers, it is only meet and proper that the business, at least outside India should be handled by foreign businessmen those who are intimate with and who can control outside markets. It is from this point of view that the Committee has got to be selected or appointed. I submit that the Department should be careful to bring into the Committee men of business experience, men of business acumen and those who can manage the question of tea in the world market in a more satisfactory and businesslike way. It should be run not on political lines, but on sound business lines. If this Committee can be made to run smoothly on business principles, the future of Indian tea would be brighter and more assured.

With these few words, I support the first reading of the Bill.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I certainly welcome the Bill as a distinct measure of improvement. Tea is a very important industry which earns for us not only dollars, but also helps in assuring us a good balance of trade. Having accepted the necessity of the Bill, I offer my honourable friend a few observations which I feel necessary in this regard.

In the first place, I consider that the body that he has dev'oted will be a miniature legislature with debates, resolutions and I will be sorry if they are not allowed to have interpellations, because the whole thing including the proceedings of these assemblies and councils, have been left to the Government to be prescribed under the rules. The Committee, if it is to serve as an executive body, to help in the furtherance of the trade, I do not think that such a big body is at all necessary. I do realise that the different parts of the country which have actually trade or which could hope to have tea industry should have representation. That does not mean that the representation that is allotted should be unwieldy to an extent which will frustrate the very purpose which the Bill has in view. Added to it, it will also add to the expense out of the cess to be collected from the trade.

Having said so much about the strength of the Committee, I come to its constitution. Clause 10 of the Bill lays down the functions of the Board which is the main legislative body constituted under the Bill. Clause (b) states: "increasing the production of tea in India." I do feel that this Committee will take necessary steps to see that cultivation and manufacture of tea is being introduced in other areas where we have none. If that is the aim which the sponsors of the Bill have in view, I fail to see why the province of Orissa is not included in the schedule of representatives. I had undertaken an experiment of introducing Coffee cultivation in Orissa. Within an altitude of 3,000 to 3,500 feet Coffee is being grown.

Srijut Kuladhar Chalhha: What is the rain fall in your country, Sir. You require about 80 inches.

Shri Biswanath Das: I am coming to that. I had introduced coffee cultivation in the hills of Jeypore in Koraput District. I also experimented this in certain other areas. Now that we have got the Orissa States, it further lends strength to my argument. These Orissa States where you have got further higher altitudes, offer a large scope for extension of this cultivation.

Now, I come to the other aspect of the question. Why should the scope of the Bill be limited only to the expansion of the business. I should think that the purpose of this Bill should have been extended further namely on the lines of the law relating to the levy of coal cess and the protection it affords to labour. I have gone through the whole Bill and I must say that there is nothing for labour. As I said, it should be the duty of the Committee to see that labour is also protected. It is idle to expect to expand the trade or develop its cultivation without affording protection to labour. If any one in India today needs protection, it is the tea estate labour. Very few friends, except my honourable friends who have the honour to represent Assam, probably know the difficulties and distress of the tea estate labour. We have in our province five or six different areas from which labour to tea estates are recruited: two areas from the Koraput district, two from Ganjam and one from Sambalpur district. I do know that there is another the sixth recruiting area from one Sub-division of the district of Ganjam. Added to this, you have got the States which have merged in Orissa which, I believe, have recruiting centres. I for myself feel that the sponsors of this Bill or at least the Select Committee should have extended the scope of the operation of the Bill to the protection of labour, and

[Shri Biswanath Das]

should have brought within the power of the Committee to spend moneys for the protection of labour and for their training also. Here, I must complain that nothing has been done. Let me hope that what is omitted in the Bill would be made good by the powers vested in the Government under the Act in the rule making powers.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That will go beyond the scope of the Act itself.

Shri Biswanath Das: It does not. I do not at all agree with the limited vision of my honourable friend toward this Bill. The main purpose
3 P.M. of the Bill is to expand the tea trade, which is manufacture and trade in tea. I fail to understand how the development of the trade could be possible without protection of labour. One is unthinkable without the other. If my honourable friend has any reason otherwise than what I have stated, I think he will be doing justice to himself and to this House and to the Party to which he has the honour to belong.

I come again to clause 4. Here again I see the tinges of the same old aspect viz., a big share of the representation to businessmen. Why should businessmen get both ways? They get representation as intern' traders and then again come as the Chamber of Commerce. Why should they have twofold representation? I would appeal to my honourable friend to see that this sort of double representation ceases. For myself I would congratulate him for bringing in a new outlook, a new orientation in this regard but I would request him to go further. Times are changing very rapidly than he himself or we in this House consider. Things are changing so very rapidly that if to-day you go to the country with this Bill, the people will come to hail you as they would have done two years back. Let me hope that the limited scope of the Bill will be further expanded so as to make it more effective, useful and economic. Any institution that is set up under a democratic regime and by the National Ministry loses its usefulness and vitiates the purpose if it fails to be economic and effective. Sir, with these words, I support the Bill.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): It is common knowledge that within the last few years tea has penetrated almost every nook and corner of our country. Not even a little village or hamlet to-day is without its little tea stall or booth. So far the development of tea industry in our country has been under the control of a Board called the Indian Tea Marketing-Expansion Board which being dominated by Europeans did not always have an eye to the interest of our tea industry. Inasmuch as this Bill seeks to replace that old body constituted I believe under Lord Curzon's regime sometime in the first decade of this century, this measure, therefore, I have no doubt in my own mind, will do its very best to promote the development of the tea industry to the advantage of our own country. Tea has become common not merely in India but I believe all over the World during the last 50 or 100 years. English language has given currency to its popularity by referring to it as "the Cup that cheers but not inebriates". There is another saying in English advertisements for tea which says 'Any time is tea time'. For people like my friend Sahu who will swear at tea, against tea, they found out a remedy in countries like U.K. and perhaps America by serving milk with a little soupcon of tea and call it 'Tea-dash' and similarly 'Coffee-dash'. To those who cannot stand the full strength of these beverages, they serve this instead of what may be called 'Neat-tea' or 'Neat-coffee'. In our own country a friend of mine who was a wag, once quoted the Gita in support of tea. He said even Sri Krishna has advocated the habit of tea indirectly. I was dump-founded and said this was impossible.

There was no tea at all in the time of Gita and so asked him how could this be. He replied 'After all Sri Krishna was a prophet and he had vision of what was to come.' Then I begged of him to tell me the Sloka and he quoted the following:

Sarvasya chaham hr̥di sannivish̥to.

I said even now I could not follow it. How could it be interpreted as being advocacy of tea? Then he said:

Sarvasya cha aham hr̥di sannivish̥to.

It means "I am seated in the hearts of all in the form of tea." I said this was too far fetched and so could not swallow it.

But Sir, apart from that with one of our foremost leaders who is unfortunately now not in our midst, it was a favourite saying that 'There is no politics without tea.' I refer to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose whose favourite drink was tea. There was a time when he took, he told us, 20 or 22 cups per day. Then he decreased the quantity but he always used to say that 'There is no politics without tea'. I am sure Sir that you too who have presided over the deliberations of this House with so much vigour and energy, I am sure that you too do not shun this drink, as my friend Mr. Sahu would like us all to do and I have no doubt you have not been the worse for it by taking tea now and then.

Now my friend Mr. Biswanath Das referred to the problems of labour and wanted that this Tea Committee which we are going to set up should take an interest in the welfare of labour. I am whole-heartedly in agreement with him in this regard and would commend that suggestion to the honourable Minister with a view to developing the industry on right lines and with a view to developing the industry to its optimum capacity. After all it is a truism to say today that if labour is happy and contented, certainly the industry will prosper. I am sure that if Government promotes the welfare of labour, there is no doubt whatever that our industry will give us more abundant returns. It may be worth while for my honourable friend the Commerce Minister to take up this matter in co-ordination with the Labour Minister and try to accommodate my friend Mr. Das in this regard. There is rule 10 which refers to the application of the fund. It says that the fund shall be applied towards meeting the expenses of the Board and the cost of the measures referred to in section 10. Now Section 10 contains several clauses, beginning from promoting the sale, increasing the production and consumption etc. and the last clause is "such other matters as may be prescribed." Now, Sir, my friend the Commerce Minister is at liberty to say that it goes beyond the scope of this Bill, but if you read the preamble of the Bill, you will see that what is contemplated is the development of the tea industry under Central control. Now, nobody will deny in the year of grace 1949 that the problems of industry and labour, the problems of the producer, the industrialist and the capitalist and the consumer are so inextricably inter-related and inter-connected that it is not possible to divorce the one from the other without damaging the interests of the whole industry. Therefore I would plead with my honourable friend the Commerce Minister to look into this matter favourably and give it his sympathetic consideration and see that labour gets whatever amenities are due to it for the successful development of this tea industry.

Next, Sir, I would like to sound a note of caution as regards this clause (a) of Section 10. Clause (a) relates to the promotion of the sale, and increasing the consumption, in India and elsewhere, of Indian tea or of tea generally, carrying on propaganda for those purposes.

Mr. Speaker: He is referring to clause 10.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am sorry, Sir. I am referring to sub-clause (a) of Clause 10. It is Clause 12 in the old copy I have got.

Now, we do want to promote this tea industry and we do not think that a moderate indulgence of this beverage will do any harm to the human organism but at the same time, I must confess that not merely an immoderate indulgence of this beverage will do harm, but even a moderate indulgence of this beverage prepared or got ready in a wrong manner may be detrimental to the human system. I refer in this connection to the very healthy instructions that are always laid down with regard to the preparation of tea. When we carry on propaganda for the purpose of sale and for the purpose of consumption of tea at home and abroad, our propaganda staff and the allied officers should not neglect the other aspect of it, namely, how tea should be prepared and in what manner and cognate matters. I would also suggest, further, in this connection that our staff, either of the Health Department or of the Industry Department or the Vigilance Department must carry out surprise raids and checks on these multifarious and miscellaneous tea stalls that have sprung up like mushrooms all over the country and see that the tea that is served there is prepared correctly and according to hygienic methods because, Sir, it is well known that there is a drug or chemical called "Thein" in tea which if the tea stands over brew for longer than five minutes, I am not sure of the time (*Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad*: 'Maximum is seven minutes.'). it certainly becomes a slow poison for the human system, and if taken over a long period of time it may have cumulative effect and do damage to the human system to such an extent that it may induce either Dyspepsia or Hyper-acidity. Therefore, when we advertise "Drink more tea and keep fit" or, "Drink Indian Tea and keep fit"—all sorts of slogans there are—but certainly these slogans must also emphasize this aspect of the question, namely, that only good tea should be drunk, but also rightly prepared; otherwise those who are responsible for the preparation of tea, those who are in charge of tea stalls and restaurants must be taken to task and they must be hauled up under the Health Act or even the Adulteration of Food Act. This is a very important measure which I hope my honourable friend the Commerce Minister will bear in mind and I hope he will not propagate the consumption of tea without the propagation of the right method of making tea.

Then, Sir, I have only one more point to make and that is this. We are very happy to note that after nearly 46 years of its existence, this Indian Tea Market Expansion Board is coming to its inglorious close. The history of this Board has been not too complimentary or creditable. It has had a shady past and I would not like to dwell too much upon its past. We are living in the present and building a better future. But Sir I would have liked that one of the clauses here as regards the future of this Board might have been altered. I am referring to.....

Mr. Speaker: He may drop the clause. What is his point?

Shri H. V. Kamath: But I want to read from it, Sir. My copy is defective. It is the old copy. Well, then I will refer to the Bill as it was before it was referred to the Select Committee. I am sure the honourable Minister will have a copy of it with him. Clause 19 of that Bill refers to the transfer to the Committee of all rights and liabilities of the Board.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is clause 20 here.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But that is missing here in my copy. The whole page is missing. Sub-clause (b) of clause 19 states that all officers and servants of the Board holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been appointed officers and servants of the Committee with effect from the commencement of this Act, and shall be entitled etc. etc. 1

should have liked that when the Committee came into existence, it should have had the power to begin with a clean slate. This does not mean that I am against the employment of any or all of these officers that have been connected with this Board. But various complaints have reached the public from time to time about the misdeeds of some of the officers connected with this Board. There have been complaints of not merely anti-Indian favouritism but there have been complaints of corruption. There have been complaints of nepotism; there have been complaints of ill-treatment of Indians on the staff at the hands of the European bosses of this company. One paper went so far as to refer to this Board as the Robbers' Ring. I suppose it was far too exaggerated. But that showed which way the wind was blowing. It showed that all was not well with the Tea Expansion Board. Therefore, instead of making it mandatory that all the officers and servants of the Board shall be deemed to have been appointed officers and servants of the Committee from the commencement of this Act as laid down in the new Clause 20, I should have preferred if this Committee had been given a free hand in the appointment of officers. Either they could have taken them from the old Board or adopted any other method, but to lay down that all of them shall continue and be deemed to be officers appointed by the Committee with effect from the commencement of this Act means that we are tied to it, and certainly I do not think this is a very happy position.

Before I close I would like to say that the measure is welcome because I hope it will serve to encourage and promote the development of the tea industry. I should like to see an increase in the production of the various kinds of tea grown at present. We might also experiment upon new kinds of tea plant that might be growing in other countries. I remember a reference to tea by Mauiana Abul Kalam Azab in his book "Gubbare". He speaks of a Chinese brand of tea. I forget the name—"White Lily" or some such name. He is regarded as a connoisseur of tea, and he says that that is the best tea that he has tasted in his life. I am sure that with this new Tea Committee in India, under the able direction and general guidance of the honourable the Commerce Minister, and due to the initiative he has taken in this matter, the day will not be far distant when our tea will not only excel Chinese tea but any other tea that might be grown in the world today, and that not merely the tea-planter, the tea industrialist, the tea labourer, but also the tea maker and the tea drinker, and even my friends like Sahn...

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): Who is the tea maker? God?

Shri H. V. Kamath:...all those interested in tea, from its sowing to its consumption—will not have any grievance against this very mild beverage, but even friends like Mr. Sahu, who are opposed to it today, will at least be indifferent to its continuance and growth in our country.

I support the Bill.

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I am very grateful to the House for the general support which this measure has received at its hands. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Chaliha for the very kind words he said with reference to me personally. As a matter of fact, he was more than kind when he referred to a particular clause which seemed to indicate want of adequate knowledge on the part of the Committee about the condition of things in the tea trade. He said he would not be more explicit in the matter. He said, well, this is quite all right but it indicates some want of knowledge.

I felt that the composition of the Select Committee was seriously defective in that it did not include my honourable friend, Mr. Chaliha. But the moment I realized that I sent a special invitation to him to come and assist the Committee informally with his advice and he did cheerfully respond to that invitation and gave us the benefit of his knowledge. It is my hope that he will continue to

{Shri K. O. Neogy}

make his knowledge and experience available to this House whenever questions relating to tea come up for consideration, and that he will find a place on the Board which we are proposing to set up under this Bill through whichever constituency it may be. As a matter of fact, we are having two seats given to this House itself to fill by election, though I would expect those two to represent the consumers interests. But so far as I am concerned, I would be prepared to welcome Mr. Chaliha whether as a representative of this House or of any other body. My honourable friend has raised a sort of mild objection to the representation granted to the Chambers of Commerce—two seats—which we have proposed to give to representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. This body is a continuation of the Tea Market Expansion Board and I do claim that although in the main the functions and the composition of that body have been adopted—of course the functions have been very much enlarged—the representation has been made on the whole more comprehensive than the representation of the Tea Market Expansion Board, which was constituted under the Tea Cess Act. Now, my honourable friend, would remember, that not merely were the Associated Chambers of Commerce (which is the British organization) and the Federation of Indian Chambers (which is the Indian organisation) given representation on that Board, but that other Chambers of Commerce, prominent among them being the Bengal Chambers of Commerce, the Bengal National Chambers of Commerce and the South Indian Chambers of Commerce, were also granted representation. What we propose to do is to give only two seats to Chambers of Commerce and Industry for the purpose of representing the general interest of trade and commerce, in place of having, as I have already read out, bodies which enjoyed representation under the Tea Cess Act. It is our intention to grant representation to the Associated Chambers as also to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. Now the necessity of continuing some kind of general representation, so trade and commercial interests arises out of the fact that apart from the questions of the specialized interests in the tea industry and tea trade, the future export market, or even the internal market would be influenced by activities say in the sphere of transport, shipping insurance and so on. Unless we have some persons who have some knowledge about these matters on this particular Board, it would be difficult for the Board to deal with questions of this character if they come up for consideration. That is my justification for continuing two seats at least to representatives of the general interests of trade and commerce apart from the specialized interests of tea.

My honourable friend referred to the excellent institute that Assam possesses and which carries on research in regard to various matters relating to tea and he expressed the hope that the Central Government would pay a subsidy to that institution. I think that once this Board is set up it will be the function of that Board to link itself up with institutions of this kind and help them financially and otherwise. It is my hope to be able to visit this institution in course of time. I will place myself in the hands of my honourable friend Mr. Chaliha, and I hope I will be able to visit a few typical tea gardens in Assam so as to have a first hand knowledge of some of the broad features of this industry.

My honourable friend Mr. Sahu raised the question, particularly, of representation of labour from Orissa. So far as representation of labour is concerned it is my intention to consult my honourable colleague, the Minister for Labour in the Government of India for the purpose of laying down the lines which should be followed so as to secure due representation of labour on this particular board. I am therefore not in a position to give my friend any specific assurance on that subject but I shall certainly convey my honourable friend's suggestion to him and to the Labour Ministry.

In this connection I should also like to deal with the suggestions that have been made, that the activities of this Board should include all measures relating to labour welfare. Honestly speaking, it was rather away from my mind to include such activities within the scope of this Board. There are, for instance, existing laws and existing organisations which look after the welfare of labour, including labour engaged in tea estates. It is the Government's responsibility to look after the interests of labour, particularly engaged on tea estates, and I know that from time to time the Central Government have taken keen interest in this question. So if I say that this particular Board would not normally be expected to concern itself with questions affecting welfare of tea labour it must not be assumed that the Government do not realise the importance of safeguarding the interests of labour in regard to the tea industry. But here again is a matter on which I should like to consult my honourable colleague, the Labour Minister.

My honourable friend Mr. Biswanath Das complained about the size of the body. Actually in the original Bill it was slightly smaller in size but due to the expansion on account of, say, the inclusion of representation of labour, representatives of this House and individual representatives of certain areas, the expansion could not be helped. As a matter of fact I find that there are certain amendments, the effect of which will be further to expand the Board. I must say that I agree with him that it is not right to go on expanding a body of this kind and having realised that, as I said in the morning, we do contemplate that most of the work will have to be done by committees, particularly the executive committee. That is how we propose to get over the difficulty which my honourable friend Mr. Biswanath Das has in mind and with which expression of opinion I also agree partially.

My honourable friend expressed a desire that Orissa's possibilities in regard to the cultivation of tea should be explored. That is perhaps what my honourable friend has in mind. No one would be happier than me if Orissa could possibly prove to be a severe competitor with Assam, for instance. My honourable friend perhaps knows how partial I am to Orissa: I have lived in that region for years. But then I am afraid that the climatic conditions of Orissa, at any rate in places with which I am familiar, may not be quite suitable for the cultivation of tea. However, it is well worth pursuing. As a matter of fact I would depend upon my honourable friend to induce the Orissa Government, to take the initiative in this matter and draw the attention of this Board to the possibilities of tea cultivation in Orissa, once that is established.....

Shri Biswanath Das: I have demonstrated and it has been found successful.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I dare say my honourable friend would bring the results of his demonstration to the notice of the Board, once that is set up. I want to sound a note of warning in this connection. This very morning we were discussing the question of the sugar industry. It is a well known fact that 80 per cent of the present sugar output comes from Bihar and the United Provinces which are admittedly in a worse position than Madras and Bombay, for instance, in regard to natural facilities. So it is somewhat dangerous to try and experiment in such matters and introduce new crops of this kind in areas where they may not ultimately prove to be economical. We should like to avoid while dealing with tea problems of the kind that have arisen in connection with the sugar industry.

My honourable friend Mr. Kamath's intervention was extremely welcome, particularly as it counteracted the somewhat depressing atmosphere which was created on the last occasion by the vigorous speech of my honourable friend to his left. His suggestion will certainly be borne in mind as regards the lines which propaganda should follow.

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

Before I finish I should like to refer to his apprehensions in regard to the existing staff being continued. The staff can easily be dispensed with on a notice of six months. As I said, clause 20 actually is a transitional measure. We want to give the present organisation as a sort of going concern to the new organisation and we should not like to create a disturbance just at the present moment. I can tell my honourable friend that the number of non-Indians in this organisation is comparatively small. It is not more than three in the top posts. What we want to do is to hand over the organisation as a going concern to the new one and not to do anything meanwhile that might create a disturbance in the continuity of the work and then it will be open to the new Board to give notice, under the rules, to anybody who should not continue for reasons that he has stated or for other reasons.

I think my honourable friend Mr. Chaliha gave a quotation to indicate the virtues of tea. May I conclude with a similar quotation from no less a person than the famous British statesman, Mr. Gladstone. This is what is ascribed to him:

"If you are cold it will warm you.
If you are too heated it will cool you.
If you are depressed it will cheer you.
If you are excited it will calm you."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the development of the tea industry under Central control, and for that purpose to establish a Tea Committee for India and levy a customs duty on tea produced in, and exported from, India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: As there are no amendments to clauses 2 and 3 I shall put them together.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: There are two amendments tabled by Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. Does he wish to move them?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The first one is only a formal amendment which need not be moved as we have already agreed to a convention that amendments of this nature need not be moved. I simply wish to explain that the headings before clauses do not require full-stops. The full-stop is to be found not only in this Bill but in others as well.

Mr. Speaker: I am not putting them to vote—much less the punctuations with which they are connected.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).]

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू Sir, I move:

"That in part (ii) (a) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill for the word 'six' the word 'eight' be substituted."

वाचस्पति जी, आसामके लिये चालीहा जी ने अभी कहा कि वहां पर 10 जगह से तिगुनी चाय होती है। इसलिये वहां के लिये ज्यादा रिप्रेजेंटेशन इस कमेटी में होना चाहिये। इसलिये मैं यह प्रस्ताव पेश करता हूँ। दूसरा एमेन्डमेन्ट जो मैं मूव करता हूँ वह यह है:

"That in part (iii) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'for Provinces which have not been mentioned in part (ii)' be added at the end."

इसका मतलब यह है कि उड़ीसा में और जिन 2 प्रदेशों में अभी चाय नहीं होती है जैसा कि अभी माननीय बिस्वनाथ जी ने कहा कि उड़ीसा में इस बात के लिये कोशिश करनी चाहिये। तो इसलिये इन सब प्रदेशों के लिये एक एक रिप्रेजेंटेशन उनको देना चाहिये।

इतना कहकर जो मेरा संशोधन है उसको मैं मूव करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, I move:

"That in part (ii) (a) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word 'six', the word 'eight', be substituted."

Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Chaliha has just stated that Assam produces three times the quantity of tea that is produced in other parts, and for this reason, more representation should be given to that Province on this Committee. Therefore, I move this amendment.

The second amendment which I move is:

"That in part (iii) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'for Provinces which have not been mentioned in clause (ii)' be added at the end."

The object of this amendment is that steps should be taken to introduce cultivation of tea in Orissa and other Provinces where this is not grown at present. My honourable friend Mr. Biswanath Das has just stated that it is not cultivated in the Province of Orissa. Therefore, representation to each one of these Provinces should be given in this Committee.

With these words, I move my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (ii) (a) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word 'six' the word 'eight' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: Sir, the effect of this amendment would be to increase the representation granted to Assam very substantially. I must say that I very much appreciate the spirit of sacrifice on the part of the Assam members on the Select Committee. As a matter of fact, but for that it would not have been possible for us to grant representation to some of the smaller units at all. Now I should give to the House a very rough idea about the nature of the representation that is justified on the grounds of, say, acreage and out-turn. As far as I see, on the basis of acreage Assam would be entitled to 48 per cent of representation of the tea growing interests and on the basis of outturn Assam would be entitled to a representation of 55.8 per cent, whereas we have granted Assam Representation to the extent only of 34 per cent. As I said, I very much appreciate the spirit of sacrifice on the part of the Assam representatives in agreeing to this reduced representation. If now we were to increase it, it would create complications apart from an increase in the size of this Board. I do hope therefore that my honourable friend from Orissa would not press his amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is he pressing his amendment?

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: No, Sir

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: What about my next amendment, that in part (iii) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words "for Provinces which have not been mentioned in part. (ii)" be added at the end? I have moved that also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not placed it before the House.

Amendment moved:

"That in part (iii) of sub-clause 3 of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'for Provinces which have not been mentioned in part (ii)' be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This really goes against the intentions of the Select Committee. The Select Committee wanted to give this House representation by providing for two Members. My honourable friend wants to limit that choice to those members who might be sent to represent Provinces which would not otherwise be represented on this Board. I am afraid such representation could not be called representation of this House at all in any sense of the term.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: And it may be that some Provinces are not interested at all in this.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The representatives of this House would normally be expected to represent the interests of the consumers as a whole

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: I would like to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I shall move my amendment to clause 4. It is a formal amendment. Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (6) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the words 'may make the nomination itself,' the words 'may itself make the nomination' be substituted."

I think this is a better version.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am in the hands of the House in this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (6) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the words 'may make the nomination itself' the words 'may itself make the nomination' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das (West Bengal: General): I move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'in India and elsewhere', the words 'foreign countries' be substituted."

My amendment proposes to take away the right of making propaganda for popularising tea in this country. This Bill has been sponsored for the improvement of the tea industry of our country. The tea industry of our country should be improved to a great extent for various reasons. The industry not only helps to maintain a balance in our export and import trade but it also contributes to a great extent to the financial and economic improvement of our country. It brings a great amount of foreign exchange to our Government, gives employment to about a million labourers and brings considerable amount of profits to the planters as well as to the traders. Formerly India practically monopolised the foreign tea market. But nowadays various other countries like South Africa, Ceylon and a few countries of South America have entered the field as our competitors. I am sorry to say that before these competitors we are gradually losing our ground. We are losing our field because the Indian tea is lower in quality and higher in price.

So, it has become imperative that some means must be adopted, some enactment taken up by this House, for the improvement of our tea industry. This Bill proposes to impose not more than Rs. 2 per cwt. as export duty. This export duty, after deducting all collection charges, will be given in the hands of the Indian Tea Board who will credit it to the Tea Improvement Fund. The Indian Tea Board will take upon itself the responsibility of improving our tea industry. Two things are necessary for the improvement of the tea industry of this country. One is improving the quality of our tea and the other is carrying out an effective propaganda for popularising Indian tea.

So far as this propaganda is concerned, I have no objection to it being done in foreign countries. Actually I have a great desire that such propaganda should be carried out. But so far as this country is concerned, I am vehemently against any propaganda for tea in this country. Tea as a beverage in a full stomach or with a substantial amount of food or at least with a sufficient amount of milk and sugar is not harmful; it takes away our exhaustion and gives us energy and stimulus to work. But in a country like India where people have not sufficient money to pay for food, this attempt to increase the consumption of tea is reprehensible. The lower middle class and the poor people feel hungry and exhausted, go to the nearest tea stall, pay an anna or two, take a cup of tea, their exhaustion is removed, they get invigorated, they find stimulus and energy for work. But what does that tea do in the empty stomach? The tannic acid of the tea forms a coating on the inner wall of the stomach and stops the hunger-contraction. We feel hungry because the stomach contracts when it is empty and due to that contraction we feel hungry. When this tannic acid stops the contraction of the stomach it gives a deceptive and false fullness of the stomach without appeasing the hunger. When this process goes on month after month and year after year it ultimately leads to a total disruption of the digestive system and a nervous breakdown. Peevishness, neurasthenia, loss of weight, all these are the results. So, unless and until the economic condition of our country is improved, especially of the lower middle class and the poor class, no attempt should be made to increase the consumption of tea in this country.

[Dr. Mono Mohan Das]

In this connection I am reminded of one of our great men of Bengal, Sir P. C. Ray, a great scientist and philanthropist. He narrated at length the evil effects of tea upon the human system, especially upon the students of Bengal who are very fond of tea. He asked them, rather he appealed to them, to give up tea as a man shuns poison.

An Honourable Member: But he himself used to take tea.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Sir, I have not the good fortune to know it, perhaps he took it with a good amount of milk and sugar. Coconuts he used to take more and when taken with coconut tea does not produce any harm.

I appeal to our honourable the Commerce Minister to take into consideration all these baneful effects of tea upon the human system if it is not taken according to the proper method. Tea when taken properly by the richer classes, with proper milk and nourishment, does not do any harm, but as it is taken by the middle classes and poor classes of our country it does great harm. So, I do not want that taking advantage of the poverty of our people, taking advantage of the ignorance of the health laws, a propaganda machine should be let loose in our country among the lower middle class and the poor class to popularise tea and thereby bring ruin and degradation upon the health of our country. I appeal to the honourable Minister to take into consideration these facts and make such provision in the Bill so that propaganda for tea in this country will be forbidden.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I ask, before we proceed further, whether the honourable Minister has been persuaded by the Doctor's advice to accept the amendment?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the honourable Member interested in pushing the amendment through. If he withdraws then there will not be any discussion on it.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: I withdraw it.

An Honourable Member: The clause is there for discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are a number of amendments. After all the amendments are disposed of there will be an opportunity to speak on the clause.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, my respectful submission is this. It may be quite all right for the honourable Member to withdraw his amendment. But is he also withdrawing his speech. Either his speech must be allowed to be contradicted or he should withdraw his speech altogether and it should not be published.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We now go to the next amendment. Mr. Sahu.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू Sir, I move :

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'in India and elsewhere', the words 'foreign countries' be substituted."

यह जो संशोधन है वह वैसा ही है जैसा कि मेरे मित्र मनमोहन दास ने किया है। लेकिन मेरा जो आरग्यूमेंट है वह दूसरा है। मैं तो चाहता हूँ कि

जितना पैसा हिन्दुस्तान में प्रीपेगैन्डा के लिये खर्च होगा वह पैसा यहां खर्च न करके उस जगह खर्च किया जाना चाहिये जहां कि यह पैसा इस प्रकार के लिये खर्च करना चाहिये । इस तरह हमारे देश को चाय का पैसा भी ज्यादा मिल जायगा और इस देश के आदिमियों की हृन्थ जो चाय से खराब होती है वह भी खराब नहीं होगी । इस वजह से मैंने यह संशोधन दिया है ।

(English translation of the above speech).

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, I move:

That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words "in India and elsewhere, the words 'foreign countries' be substituted."

This amendment is similar to the one moved by my honourable friend 4 P.M. Dr. Mono Mohon Das. But my argument is quite a different one. What I want is that the money which will be spent in India for propaganda purpose, should not be spent here; and instead of that it should be spent at places where it is considered necessary to conduct such a propaganda. In this manner, our country will get more return on tea, and this will also help in preserving the health of our people which is usually affected by the use of tea.

For this reason, I have moved this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words "in India and elsewhere", the words "in foreign countries" be substituted."

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, I whole heartedly support this amendment. In the beginning I was a bit afraid of my Assamese friends and so I was keeping silent; and I had no mind to take part in this debate, but I was a bit provoked by my friend.

Srijut Bohini Kumar Chaudhuri: On a point of information, Sir, if the other amendment was allowed to be withdrawn, what happens to this amendment? Where will this stand?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not put that to the House even. And apart from that, that this amendment also will be withdrawn is now hypothetical. If one honourable Member has withdrawn his motion, another honourable Member can move his. Moreover, what is the use of complaining about propaganda if tea is going to be sold in this country?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Although my honourable friend Dr. Mono Mohon Das has withdrawn his amendment, his speech is there.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I have withdrawn the next amendment. The amendment on which I spoke has not been withdrawn. I was under the impression that the next amendment was being referred to, and so I withdrew the next amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the previous speaker is concerned, by whatever mistake it may be, there is no meaning in withdrawing some amendment which I had not called up, and which the honourable Member did not move at all. Anyway there has been no loss, because there is another honourable Member here who has moved a very similar amendment.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): Let him take a cup of tea and then come.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I have said, Sir, that I support each and every that fell from the lips of my friend Mono Mohonji. Sir, the thing is Sometimes the temper of the House altogether surprises me. Praises of tea are sung in unlimited quantity. Sir, I also have some experience of tea taking. While I was in the B.A. class.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many years back was that?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: While I was in the B.A. class I had to read a lot at night and when I felt sleepy friends advised me to take tea so that I could keep awake and read on. Sir, I tried, and the result was that in the day time, my head used to remain giddy and I could not read in the day time. My friend Mr. Kamath has said that along with propaganda for tea, the method of correctly preparing the tea also should be propagated, otherwise owing to bad preparation, the tea gets poisonous. So, Sir, it is evident and it has been admitted that there is some poisonous element in tea. If this is admitted, then I may advise my friends here that in the same way a little quantity of opium or a little quantity of wine taken in regulated quantities may be advocated because these also give us vigour and they also help us in certain circumstances. I therefore say, and that too very seriously and I request the honourable Minister to consider it, that this matter ought to be submitted to a properly constituted medical board and that the mandate or verdict of that medical board be obtained and whatever may be that verdict, we ought to follow it. Now, it has been said that tea is not injurious. But the question is, whether it is going to help us in our health, in adding to our vigour. I will not speak much against tea because my friends from Assam will get angry. I will wish them all happiness and prosperity. As the amendment says, let the propaganda be carried on in other countries, and let the money for the committee's work come from abroad.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would not the poor men there suffer?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, I am only saying that the people here are not going to suffer for want of tea, but they will begin to suffer from the supply of tea to them. Mr. Kamath said that tea has already penetrated every nook and corner of our land. But I say tea has not penetrated, but it has been taken there by the Tea Cess Committee. Tea has no nutritive value, it is not so useful that it may penetrate by itself. Of course like anything else, it also can be taken into any part of the country. However, I request the House and I also request the honourable Minister, let them do whatever they like in other matters. I wish them all prosperity to the industry, and through that industry to my friends in Assam. At the same time, as my friends say, it will bring us Dollars, I am not against tea industry let them carry propaganda and sell tea outside, but let them not propagate this evil in this country. Therefore, I support the amendment of my friend Mr. Sahu who was regarded up till now to be alone. Sir, he also has got a companion, in me, and there are people who do not like tea as much as they do not like poison. With these words, I again support this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am only making a suggestion, and it is this. In view of the fact that the honourable Minister is not accepting the amendment, shall I put it to vote straightaway?

Shri H. V. Kamath: But we must counter the arguments which have been advanced.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Those who want to support the amendment must be allowed to support it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

पंडित ठाकुर दस भार्गव : जनाब डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, जब आखिरी मर्तबा यह बिल सिलेक्ट कमेटी के सुपुर्द हुआ उस वक्त भी मैंने बड़े अदब से आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब और हाउस की खिदमत में अर्ज किया था कि जहां तक कि चाय के हिन्दुस्तान में प्रोपैगेंडा का ताल्लुक है इस मामले में बड़े काबान से काम लेना चाहिये। मैंने उस वक्त जो अर्ज किया था उस पर ऐसा मालूम होता है कि सिलेक्ट कमेटी में कतई गौर नहीं हुआ या मेरे दोस्तों की राय इस राय के मुखालिफ थी कि हिन्दुस्तान में इसका प्रोपैगेंडा न किया जाय। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जहां तक चाय के पीने वालों का ताल्लुक है मुझे उन से कतई कोई झगड़ा नहीं है। जो चाय पीना चाहते हैं जरूर पीवें और जो एक दलील पिछली मर्तबा आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब ने दी थी मैं उस दलील की भी कदर करता हूँ। आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाया था कि एक तरह से जो लोग शराब पीते हैं उन के वास्ते चाय सबस्टीट्यूशन के लिये एक बड़ी अच्छी चीज है। हो सकता है कि यह दुस्त हो और मैं उनकी इस राय के मुखालिफ कुछ भी अर्ज नहीं करना चाहता क्योंकि मैं अब तक इस बात का भी कायल नहीं हूँ कि चाय हर सूरत में नुकसान ही देती है। अगर मेरी यह राय होती तो मैं इसकी बड़े जोर से मुखालिफत करता और कहना कि हिन्दुस्तान में ही नहीं बल्कि दुनिया भर में इस को बन्द करने के लिये प्रोपैगेंडा किया जाय। लेकिन इस हालत में जो कि हमारे देश में है यहां पर चाय को जोर देना हरगिज वाजिब नहीं है। यहां चाय बहुत अरसे से हिन्दुस्तान में चली आती है। जैसा कि बाबू राम नारायण सिंह ने कहा मैं उन दिनों पढ़ता था और उन दिनों चाय का ताल्लुक यह था कि चाय वह लड़के इस्तेमाल करते थे जो पढ़ना चाहते थे ताकि नींद ज्यादा न आवे। जो लड़के रात के वक्त ज्यादा पढ़ना चाहते थे वह चाय पिया करते थे इसलिये कि शायद चाय के पीने से नींद कम आती हो या उस से कुछ एक्साइटमेंट पैदा होता हो जिस से कि नींद न आवे। यहां मिस्टर कामय ने एक श्लोक गीता से भी पढ़ा है यह quotation हुंसी के क्राबिल तो है वरना बेअसर है। लेकिन मैं डाक्टर मनमोहन दास की इस राय को क्राबिले कदर समझता हूँ कि चाय उसी हालत में मुफ़ीद होती है जब कि खाने को बहुत काफ़ी मिलता हो। लेकिन ऐसी हालत में जब कि खाने को न मिले यह जरूर नुकसान देती है।

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

पिछली मर्तबा मैंने एक तजुर्बा अपना बतलाया था कि मेरा जो शौफर है उसको चाहे आप दो दिन रोटी न दीजिये तो कुछ नहीं, चाय दिये जाइये और वह बराबर काम करता रहेगा। लेकिन अगर चाय नहीं दी जाये तो वह काम नहीं कर सकेगा। यह उसी तरह है कि जिसको अफीम की आदत पड़ जाती है उसको अगर आप अफीम खाने को न दें तो यह पशोमान होता है। जिस को अफीम की आदत पड़ जाती है वह उसके बिना बेचैन रहता है। इसी तरह चाय की जिनको आदत पड़ जाती है वह उसके बगैर पशोमान होते हैं। यही बात शराब के बारे में है। और इसलिये शायद श्री लोग शराब के असरात के कायल हैं वह शायद शराब को तारीफ में भी कोई श्लोक ढूँढ निकालें। हमें यह देखना है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर चाय उस जगह पर है कि नहीं जहां कि इस को होना चाहिये। पिछली मर्तबा आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब ने चाय को शराब का सबस्टीट्यूट बतलाया था कि यह ज्यादा मुफ़ीद है। मैं करता हूँ कि कहीं यह कभी दूध के मुकाबिले में भी न आ जाय और कहा जाय कि यह दूध के मुकाबिले में अच्छी है। मैं तो यह देखता हूँ कि जो लोग दूध पिया करते थे यह दूध की कीमत ज्यादा होने की वजह से या इस वजह से कि दूध ज्यादा मिलता नहीं अब एक तरह से चाय का डिक्लेशन बना कर पीने लग गये हैं। अगर यह दूध के मुकाबिले में गांव में गई तो मैं बड़े जोर से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि चाय दूध के मुकाबिले में कोई हैसियत नहीं रखनी।

अब सवाल यह उठता है कि जब तक कि दूध काफी न हो चाय को उसकी जगह सबस्टीट्यूट कर दिया जाय। तो इस सिलसिले में मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा कि गांव में आप इसको क्यों ले जाता चाहते हैं। आप रखते हैं तो इसको शहरों में ही रखिये जहां पर कि लोग न तो दूध की कदर जानते हैं और न यह जानते हैं कि इस को किस तरह पीना चाहिये। जो लोग चाय पीते हैं मैं उन की बाबत कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता। लेकिन जिन इलाकों में इसको नहीं पीते हैं उनके लिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। अगर गांव के कुछ इलाकों में लोग चाय पीते हैं तो यह इस तरह से नहीं पीते जिस तरह कि शहर वाले पीते हैं। आप गांव के अन्दर जाकर देखें कि चाय वहां किस तरह पीते हैं। वह लोग चाय के अन्दर घी डाल कर पीते हैं। शायद यहां शहर वालों को यह पता भी नहीं होगा कि जो लोग गांव में पीते हैं और जिनके पास खाने को है वह चाय में घी डाल कर पीते हैं। लेकिन वह लोग कि जिनके पास दूध असल न दूध है और न पूरी छाछ ही है उनको अगर आप यह ले जा कर देंगे तो आप उनका बहुत सख्त नुकसान

करेंगे। इसलिये मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा कि यह कोई हंसी या दिल्ली की बात नहीं है और हाउस को यह नहीं चाहिये कि यह चाय को उस जगह ले जा कर ब्रैडा दें कि जहां उसका हक नहीं है। यह दूध के मुकाबिले में जब आती है तो मैं दूध के मुकाबिले में चाय को कोई जगह नहीं दे सकता। इसलिये आप इसको यहां तक राखिये कि जो लोग चाय पीते हैं उनको हम कुछ नहीं कहते। लेकिन यह नहीं करना चाहिये कि सारे देश में जा कर हम इसका प्रोपगेंडा करें कि सब लोग चाय पिया करें।

क्या इस सिलसिले में मुझे मैडिकल साइन्स की कोई राय मिल सकती है जिस तरह कि ग्लैडस्टोन (Gladstone) साहब का तजुर्वा था। लेकिन ग्लैडस्टोन साहब की महज इस वकह से कि वहां के प्रीमियर थे मैं ज्यादा वक्त नहीं रखता। मुझे आप इस के लिये कोई राय दिखाइये डाक्टर की, मैडिकल मैन की कि जो यह कहता हो कि दर असल यह ऐसी मुफ्रीद चीज है कि जिसे हर आदमी को बतौर दवा के या फूड के दिया जाना चाहिये। अगर ऐसी कोई राय होती तो जरूर वह ठूंडी जाती और इस हाउस में कही जाती जैसे कि श्लोक पढ़े गये और कहा गया कि ग्लैडस्टोन साहब की यह राय थी। अगर वाकई कोई डाक्टर की ऐसी राय होती तो वह जरूर पेश की जाती। जहां तक डाक्टरों का सवाल है, जहां तक कि इसकी कैमिकल प्रोपर्टीज का सवाल है वहां तक वह अशकाम जो इसके हक में हैं एक लफ्ज भी नहीं दिखल सकते कि इस में यह खूबियां हैं। जब इस में कोई खूबियां नहीं हैं तो कैसे असेम्बली की तरफ से, हाउस की तरफ से, यह दुनिया को कहा जाय कि चाय को पीना चाहिये।

वैसे जो चाय पीने वाले हैं उन के लिये मैं कुछ नहीं कहता। मैंने भी कामत साहब और दूसरे दोस्तों की मेहरबानी से चाय बहुत दफे पी है। लेकिन जब हमारे पास इसके प्रोपगेंडा के लिये कोई पाजीटिव चीज नहीं है तो हम कैसे इसका प्रोपगेंडा कर सकते हैं। मैं इस को पाजीटिवली अच्छा नहीं समझता और निगेटिवली मैं यह कहता हूँ कि इस देश के अन्दर इसका प्रोपगेंडा नहीं करना चाहिये। जब पाजीटिवली इसमें कोई मुफ्रीद चीज नहीं है तो हम कैसे इस के लिये प्रोपगेंडा कर सकते हैं और इसलिये मैं इसका मुखालिफ हूँ। मैं अब ज्यादा वक्त नहीं लेना चाहता और चाय के प्रोपगेंडा की मुखालिफत करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, last time, when this Bill was referred to Select Committee, I had very respectfully suggested to both the honourable Minister and the House that we should proceed very cautiously in the matter of carrying on tea-propaganda in India. It appears that either the Select committee have totally ignored the suggestions which I made at that time, or my honourable friends were opposed to my views that propaganda in this respect should not be carried on in India. With all due respects, I would submit that so far as the question of people habituated to tea is concerned, I have nothing to say at all. Those who want to take tea, they can do so. Further I also appreciate the argument advanced by the honourable Minister last time. The honourable Minister had stated that in one way tea is the best substitute for those who are given to drinking. It may be true and I do not want to say anything contrary to such an opinion expressed by him, because even up till now I have not been convinced that tea is always harmful. If I had held this opinion, then I would have vehemently opposed this and urged that propaganda should be carried on to prohibit its use not only in India but throughout the whole world. But under the conditions at present existing in our country, it would be quite improper to emphasize upon the use of tea. Tea is being used in India for very long. Just as my honourable friend Babu Ramnarayan Singh has stated that during the days when he was a student, tea was used by those boys who wanted to study and avoid sleep. Those boys who wanted to study late in the night, used to take tea for the obvious reason that it induces sleeplessness or produces some excitement which culminates into a state of sleeplessness. Mr. Kamath has also cited here a *shloka* from Gita. This quotation undoubtedly provokes laughter, otherwise it is quite inapplicable.

But I quite appreciate the opinion expressed by my honourable friend Dr. Mono Mohan Das that tea is useful in those circumstances only when there is sufficient to eat; otherwise it is bound to prove harmful.

Last time, I had related one of my own experiences, that my chauffeur can afford to go without meals for two days and will stick to his job, provided he is served with tea. This is exactly the same thing that somebody habituated to the use of opium feels embarrassed when he is not supplied with it. Whosoever is addicted to take opium, feels like a fish out of water without it. Similarly, those who are habituated to take tea feel uneasy without it. The same is the case with wine. And it is for that reason that those persons who are convinced about the efficacy of wine may be able to find out some *shloka* in praise thereof. We have got to see this whether or not tea is available at a particular place in India when it is in demand. Last time, the honourable Minister had described tea as the substitute of wine and relatively more useful. I am afraid lest it may not sometime be compared to milk; and even given preference over it. What I find is that those people who used to drink milk have now begun to prepare and take some sort of decoction of tea for either of the reasons, i.e., owing to an abnormal rise in the price of milk or inadequate supply thereof. If it is used in villages in preference to milk, then I would emphatically submit that it is no match for milk.

Now the question arises that so long as milk is not available in abundant quantity, tea should be substituted for it. In this connection, I would respectfully submit as to why do you want to take it to the villages. If you like it, then you should confine its use to the cities alone where the people neither know the worth of milk nor do they know as to how it should be taken. I do not want to say anything in respect of those persons who drink tea.

If in some rural areas, people take tea, they do not take this in the manner in which the people living in the cities do. You may go to a village and see how the people take tea. They put *ghee* in it and take it. Perhaps the people here in the cities do not even know that those who take tea in the villages, and can afford, take it only after diluting *ghee* in it. But if you take this to those people who in fact neither have pure milk nor *chhach* (butter-milk), you will surely be doing them a great harm. Therefore, I would respectfully submit that this is not a question of any amendment or laughter and the House should not give that place to tea, which it does not deserve. When it is compared to milk I cannot give any preference to it. Therefore, you should leave the matter here and need not say anything to those who take tea. But we should not conduct a country-wide propaganda that all the people should take tea.

Can I get any opinion in this connection from the point of view of medical science just like the experiment made by Mr. Gladstone? But I do not attach any much importance to the observations made by Mr. Gladstone for the simple reason that he was the Premier of that country. I would like you to quote any of the opinions expressed by doctors or medical men asserting that this is indeed such a useful thing that should be prescribed for every man either as a medicine or food. Had there been any such opinion, it would have surely been traced out and quoted in this House just as *stokas* have been recited and quotation made from Gladstone. If at all there had been any such opinion expressed by a medical man, it would have been surely quoted. So far as it relates to the opinion of the medical men and the chemical properties comprised in it, those people who advocate its cause cannot show even a single word in support of its usefulness. When it has no qualities, then how can this House urge its use upon other people?

As a matter of fact, I have nothing to say about those who are habituated to take tea. I too have taken tea frequently through the courtesy of Mr. Kamath and other friends. But when we have nothing positive to say in its favour, how can we propagate it? Positively I do not regard it as good; and negatively I say that we should not conduct any propaganda in its favour in this country. When positively it does not contain any useful ingredients, how can we carry on its propaganda; and it is on that account that I am against it. I do not want to take any more time, and oppose the conduct of any propaganda in favour of tea.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I am very reluctant to rise and counter the arguments advanced by my honourable friends Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Babu Ramnarayan Singh. There is an underlying fallacy in the arguments advanced in support of the amendment that was sought to be moved by my honourable friend Dr. Mono Mohan Das, but withdrawn.

An Honourable Member: The amendment stands.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I must say that this amendment as it stands, as it has been moved in the House is not a very happy one. Our friends want to plead that the sale and consumption of this beverage should be discouraged in India, but encouraged outside India.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Because they want it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I say in all humility that if we want to prohibit the consumption of this beverage, prohibit it for all men. Why prohibit it only for Indian mankind. Indian humanity and encourage it outside India, in the spirit of let them go to bell; the devil take the hindmost, and we will

have the best for ourselves. As the saying goes what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander as well. If tea is bad for Indian humanity, it is equally bad for non-Indian humanity. The human organism has been brought into being by the same Creator. Everybody has the same gastric lining of the stomach as Dr. Mono Mohan Das referred to and the gastric lining of the stomach does not differ whatever the outer complexion or colour may be. If tannic acid hurts the gastric walls of an Indian, so as to cause loss of appetite, anorexia, and dyspepsia, certainly, it stands to reason that it will have a similar effect on the organism of an European or an American.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: My honourable friend has forgotten that I said 'an empty stomach'. Indian stomachs are always empty.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am sorry that by honourable friend thinks that the stomachs of Indians only are empty. There are parts of the world where I think poverty is almost as bad as in our country. China, of course, is a notorious example. Even in Europe, I am sure in certain eastern parts, even today there is almost a very low standard of living. In any case, if my honourable friend seeks to say that it is poison for us, one man's poison cannot be another man's food. If we ban it in India, certainly it stands to reason that we should discourage consumption of it abroad as well. Seeing in that light, I could not understand an amendment of this nature: you can promote the production of tea; but do not promote the consumption of tea. Let every man judge for himself whether tea is good or bad for him.

Then, my only friend who could have welcomed this amendment is—I do not find him present now—Mr. Poonacha who is interested in promoting coffee. Mr. Krishnamurthi Rao tells me that he is interested in Coffee. I am sure he is interested in coffee and if this amendment is accepted, he would be very happy; he would come and tell us, coffee is a lesser evil if at all it is an evil. Coffee does not produce dyspepsia, etc. If, Sir, as my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has sought to make out before the House that it is bad for health, then anything bad for health must not be encouraged by propuganda. I make bold to say, with due deference to his wisdom and age—he is a

'Vayo Vriddha, Tapo Vriddha, and Gnana Vriddha'

my friend Ramnarayan Singh is not here—but I hope he will not deem it impertinent on my part if I tell him that there are so many things that we eat and drink to-day that are bad from a strictly hygienic and health point of view. A medical expert—I don't remember from which part of India he hailed—many years ago declared about our civilised life as follows:

"All along civilization man has tampered with Nature's foods:

Your wheat is hulled, your rice milled

Your maize decorticated.

Your oats rolled,

Your Barley Pearled,

Your milk sterilized

Your vegetables boiled,

Your potatoes peeled,

Your sugar refined."

Unfortunately we are taking all these things. Who does not enjoy coffee? Who does not enjoy tea? Who does not take cooked food? Still certainly my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will not get up and say you must discourage the consumption of all these. In life, we must strike a balance and try to encourage those things which long habit and long experience of wisemen or men otherwise has proved that it is not so bad for the human system as it is made out to be by some others. Because after all the human system has been endowed with considerable resistance by the Creator. The stomach is not such a delicate thing as my friend Dr. Das makes it to be. It has been established by Physiologists that the stomach walls are elastic and very resistant to all kinds of chemicals; and the stomach, I may assure you, if you don't know.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member is doing too many functions of the Board.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It has been held by medical experts that the stomach can expand to 4 times its normal size. It can also contract as my friend Dr. Das says. It can expand to 4 times its size—not permanently but temporarily.

I would therefore plead with my friend Pandit Bhargava, Babu Ramnarayan Singh and men of his persuasion that this amendment as it has been brought before the House is rather objectionable and I cannot support it. Had they moved an honest amendment, I would have supported it. Had they said quite plainly and straightforwardly that "no tea anywhere as long as the Sun and Moon and stars endure", I could have appreciated it. But to say to our people 'Don't take tea', and go to Europeans and tell them 'Go on taking tea and go to Hell',—certainly I cannot welcome such an amendment. It is a discrimination between man and man. I think Professor Ranga who looks very pleased just now will agree with me that we stand here and we have stood here since India became free, for the equality of mankind and if tea is said to be bad for us certainly on the ground of equality of men, on the ground of no discrimination between man and man, I cannot agree to this amendment. The sponsors may recommend one rule for all—'No tea for anyone and don't encourage tea.' You may take coffee or tender coconuts or anything else but not tea. As it stands, however, I don't think this amendment will commend itself to the members of this House.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, much has been said in this connection by Mr. Kamath and I don't want to go over the same. I wish however only to point out that this amendment goes against the basis of the Bill itself. The provision of the Bill is that the Board shall promote the sale, and increase the consumption of tea. If we say that we should not do it in India, it is as good as saying to the world at large like this:

"Look here, tea is a very bad thing and therefore we don't propagate the consumption of tea in India but it is offered for your consumption. It is bad for us but good for you." It would be as good as telling them 'Don't drink tea at all.' The very function of the Board will be absolutely lost. I should rather think that the Bill should be dropped entirely and tea should be left to propagate of its own accord. I think tea would have a better market if we don't give it this left-handed compliment. It would be really not sincere for us to ask foreigners to take tea while we take care ourselves not to take it at all. Tea is the cheapest drink and in view of the prohibition of which we see visions to-day, tea should not be discarded and tea is not dangerous nor it is deleterious to the body. It has got to be prepared in a proper form and in that way it is not at all injurious to the body. It rather

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

encourages circulation and it is a cheap kind of drink and probably in these days of scarcity, it is far more economical on the part of a householder to give their guests a cup of tea and one biscuit, instead of giving other delicacies which would be more costly. I think much need not be said in favour of it. I think the amendment is a huge practical joke and I believe the sponsors of the amendment themselves drink tea. Pandit Bhargava himself admitted that he takes tea by the courtesy of Mr. Kamath. So he prohibits tea to himself so long as he has got to pay for it. If anybody else gives him, then he will not mind it. Babu Ramnarayan Singh himself drinks tea and I believe Shri Lakshmi Narayan Sahu himself also drinks tea. I dare say tea is so good that Dr. Das himself drinks it. I am thus inclined to believe that the amendment is a huge practical joke.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Have not we had sufficient discussion, Sir?

चीधरी रनबीर सिंह सभापति महोदय, मैं संशोधन का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। कामत साहिब ने अभी एक बात कही है कि संशोधन का समर्थन करने वाले कामों में डिस्क्रिमिनेशन कर रहे हैं उनका कहना है कि जो चीजें हिन्दुस्तान में फ़ायदेमन्द नहीं हैं, वह खिलायत में भी लोगों के लिये फ़ायदेमन्द नहीं हो सकती। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि यह सही नहीं है। यहां भी सर्दी के मौसम में जो हम खाते हैं वह गरमी के मौसम में हमें अच्छा नहीं लगता। आमतौर पर गरमी के मौसम में देश के अन्दर शरबत पिया जाता है लेकिन सर्दी के मौसम में कोई आदमी शरबत नहीं पीता। इसलिये जो चीज हिन्दुस्तान के लिये अच्छी नहीं है वह यह जरूरी नहीं है कि वह खिलायत के लिये या दूसरे देशों के लिये भी अच्छी न हो।

दूसरा कारण मेरा यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान एक ऐसा देश है जिस के अन्दर तक्ररीबन ८५ फ़ी.सदी आदमी अनपढ़ हैं। वह आप के प्रोपैगैन्डे से सही बात नहीं ले सकेंगे। यह मानी हुई बात है कि चाय के अन्दर एक निकोटीन जैसा जहर होता है, बल्कि उससे भी बुरा जहर उसके अन्दर होता है। मुझे उस जहर का नाम याद नहीं है, लेकिन बहरहाल जहर उसके अन्दर जरूर है। अगर उस को ठीक तरह से न तय्यार किया जाय, तो हिन्दुस्तान जिसके अन्दर ८५ फ़ी.सदी आदमी अनपढ़ हैं, उन से यह तबक्को रखना कि वह डंग जो उन्हें सिखाया जायेगा, उस पर वह ठीक तरह से चलेंगे, मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसा ख्याल करना बिल्कुल शकलत होगा। तीसरे आर्थिक दृष्टि से मैं समझता हूँ कि कई बातें ऐसी होती हैं जो देश के लिये फ़ायदेमन्द होती हैं जो हमें दूसरे देशों से अनाज मंगाना पड़ता है, तो उसके बदले में हमारे पास भेजने के लिये आखिर दूसरी क्या चीज है जो हम अनाज के बदले में दूसरों को दे सकते हैं। वह मैं समझता हूँ कि चाय सब से बड़ी चीज है, जिस को कि दूसरे देश हम से फ़ेवरेबिल टर्म्स पर लेने पर

मजबूर होंगे, वह चीज चाय है और हमारे पास है। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि देश की इकोनोमी को ठीक रखने के लिये यह सही है कि देश के अन्दर चाय के प्रचार में पैसा न खर्चा जाय, बल्कि जितना पैसा उस के प्रचार के लिये खर्चना हो, वह दूसरे देशों में खर्चा जाय और जैसा कामत साहिब ने कहा है, उस से मैं बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं हूँ। इस देश में बुरी है, या इस देश की बुराई किसी दूसरे देश में बुराई भोजना चाहते हैं, सही नहीं है। जैसा कि हमारे अग्नरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब ने बतलाया कि शराब के बदले यह चीज इस्तेमाल हो सकती है। हमारे देश में शराब कितनी है, और खास तौर से देहात में शराब कितनी है। जहाँ आदमी शराबी है, वहाँ प्रोहिबिशन चला हुआ है, वहाँ चाय का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता, और जो है वह पहिले ही चाय पीना शुरू कर देते हैं। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि अब देश के अन्दर इस के लिये प्रोपेगंडा करने और पैसा खर्चना फिजूल है और उसकी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। जितनी आपके यहाँ चाय बेचने की जरूरत थी, वह तो बिकती जा रही है, और टी का वैसे ही मार्केट आप का बढ़ता जा रहा है, देश के अन्दर देश का पैसा खर्चने से पहिले हमें यह देखना चाहिये कि इस से हमारे देश का कितना फायदा है और हमारा खर्चा हुआ पैसा बेकार तो नहीं जा रहा है। इसलिये मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि देश की आर्थिक हालत को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस संशोधन को जरूर मानें।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ob. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Sir, I support the amendment. Shri Kamath has just submitted that the supporters of the amendment are making discrimination in the various matters. He has said that the things that are not beneficial in India cannot be beneficial to the people of other countries also. I think that this view is not correct. Here also whatever we eat in the winter we do not relish the same in summer. Generally in the summer season the people of our country drink *Sharbat*. But nobody drinks *Sharbat* in the winter season. Therefore it is not necessary that anything which is not good for our country may not be good also for other countries of the world.

The second reason is that India is such a country wherein 85 per cent. of the people are illiterate. They would not be able to grasp the correct idea from your propaganda. This is an acknowledged fact that tea contains a poison like Nicotine, but I think even a worse kind of poison. I do not remember the name of that poison but anyhow it certainly contains some poison. Then if tea is not prepared correctly then I think it would be quite wrong to think that Indians, 85 per cent. of whom are illiterate, would adopt the correct method that would be taught to them.

Thirdly from the economic point of view I think there are certain matters that are beneficial to the country. Then for the food-grains that we have to import from the foreign countries what things we have that we can send to foreign countries in exchange of the food-grains imported by us. I think the best thing, which the other countries will be compelled to take on favourable terms, can be tea and we have plenty of it. Therefore in order

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

to stabilize the economic conditions of the country I think money should not be spent on doing propaganda work for tea in this country, but instead the money set apart for this propaganda work should be spent in the foreign countries and so I do not at all agree with the views that have been expressed by Shri Kamath. Such views as tea is bad for this country or we want to export this evil to other countries are not correct. As the honourable the Minister has given out that this thing can be used as a substitute for wine. What quantities of wine are consumed in our country and especially in the rural areas? The places where the people are addicted prohibition has been enforced, so in such conditions the question of tea does not arise, and whatever people live in those areas they already begin taking tea. Therefore I think that now it is useless to do more propaganda in our country or to spend more money over the propaganda, and is not at all necessary. Whatever quantities of tea were to be sold here are being sold and automatically the market for tea is increasing. Before spending our money in our own country we should see how much benefit the country gets from the money and whatever money we are spending is not being wasted. Therefore I submit to the honourable the Minister that taking into consideration the economic condition of the country he should accept this amendment.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think this has been sufficiently discussed. May I call the honourable Minister? Does the honourable Member want to speak?

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Am I to be denied an opportunity to speak because I am sitting in a different seat, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, because the honourable Minister has caught my eye. But I think it is in the interests of this industry that this Bill may be passed as early as possible. Therefore, as there has been enough discussion, I shall call upon the honourable Minister.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: I have got another amendment to the same clause.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will come to that later on.

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: Sir, I have already indicated the attitude of Government on this matter. I am not in a position to accept this amendment. On a previous occasion, I told the House that I am not a tea addict. If I take tea it is to oblige friends like Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. My honourable friend is very hospitable and I had occasion more than once to enjoy his kind hospitality, and on one occasion when I visited his native town, my honourable friend did me the honour of calling a large number of prominent members of the locality to meet me at a "Tea Party". The only liquid stuff that was provided there was tea and in spite of my honourable friend's weakness for milk, the milk that was there was in very small quantities only and was intended to be used only as an adulterant of tea in the usual manner. My honourable friend Babu Ramnarayan Singh has suggested that a Medical Board should be appointed. Now, we have had the advantage of medical opinion here. I have in front of me a pictorial journal in which I find another well known doctor drinking tea in Madras. It is Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Food; Food mind you. This is what the description, below the picture, reads:

"Two Madras Ministers, Shri K. Bhakthavatsalam, Public Works, and Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Food, setting a good example before toddy addicts by drinking tea in front of a closed toddy shop in Trichy district during the Prohibition campaign."

As I said, I am not an expert in this matter, but I have cited the example of one doctor against another, and I do not know whether there has been any Board of medical experts who have expressed their opinion on the merits or demerits of tea drinking, but it must be admitted that tea has been passed as the most excellent and popular beverage by the Board of world opinion and in saying that, I again remind the House that I am not a tea addict and I can be expected to hold the balance even between the two contending sets of opinion.

Now, Sir, I should like to remind the House that the phraseology in this context is bodily copied from the phraseology of the Indian Tea Cess Act which has been in operation ever since 1903. So it is nothing new that we are asking you to do. This thing has been copied from that particular Act. Now, I do not think that I need say anything more and as I stated, I am not in a position to accept this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, shall I put the amendment? What is the reaction of the honourable Member?

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: You may put it to vote, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'in India and elsewhere' the words 'in foreign countries' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then Dr. Mono Mohan Das. I do not suppose the honourable Member wishes to move his amendment.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: No, Sir. I want to move it and say a few words to my friends. I wish to take that opportunity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I rule out of order this amendment for the reason that the House has not accepted the previous amendment, and this is only carrying out the same substance in another shape and form. Therefore, the amendment is ruled out of order.

The question is:

"That clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 11 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Sir., I move:

"That in part (f) of sub-clause (2) of clause 15 of the Bill, for the word 'such' occurring in the last line, the word 'budget' be substituted."

The purpose of my amendment is clear to everybody. But I take this opportunity to say a few things to my honourable friend, Mr. Kamath who has given a not very convincing argument against my own. My honourable friend, Mr. Kamath has advocated one rule for all and if tea is poisonous to the Indian stomach it must also be poisonous to the stomachs of non-Indians. But my friend has contradicted himself.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The amendment my honourable friend is moving is No. 7 in list No. 1. Has that anything to do with tea? It is the "budget" head.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is the case of one budget head to another budget head.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: How does that enable a discussion being raised as regards the merits of tea drinking?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Anyhow it is part of the Bill and he is entitled to speak on the Bill.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: My friend has contradicted himself. The propaganda for tea is harmful to us and some of the Members of the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I do not know what my honourable friend is arguing about.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Should we waste the time of the House without a reference to the subject matter of the amendment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member cannot take advantage of his amendment and bring in something that is not relevant. The honourable Member's speech has no relevance to the amendment. It is only transferring from one budget head to another. So far as the amendment is concerned, the honourable Member appears to have nothing to say.

Shri Biswanath Das: I had given notice of a small amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has sent a notice to the Speaker of an amendment to this effect:

"That in sub-clause 2(i) of Clause 15 of the Bill, the following be added at the end: 'including welfare of labour'."

Is the Honourable the Minister prepared to accept this?

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I rule it out of order.

The question is:

"That Clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 16 and 17 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Instead of the amendment I gave notice of I would like to move amendment in a slightly altered form, which I understand will be acceptable to the honourable Minister. Sir, I move;

"That for Clause 18 of the Bill, the following be substituted:—

'18. No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act unless upon complaint made by or with the consent of the Central Government.' "

The original clause said:

"No prosecution for any offence punishable under this Act shall be instituted etc..."

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: May I intervene and say that I am prepared to accept the amendment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I may put it to the vote.

The question is:

"That for Clause 18 of the Bill, the following be substituted:—

'18. No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act unless upon complaint made by or with the consent of the Central Government.' "

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That Clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19 and 20 were added to the Bill.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaitra: Sir, I move:

"That for sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

(3) Sub-section (1) of Section 20 shall come into force at once, and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint in this behalf."

The object is this. In case there is a dislocation in collection of the cess, since the Act may not come into force on the 1st April 1949, I have provided that the collection of the cess may not be interrupted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

(3) Sub-section (1) of Section 20 shall come into force at once, and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint in this behalf."

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I accept this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

(That for sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following be substituted:—

(3) Sub-section (1) of Section 20 shall come into force at once, and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette appoint in this behalf."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That Clause 1) as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, I move:

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

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

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I rise to congratulate the honourable Minister for having been able to pass this Bill in the shape that he practically brought it. You were pleased to ask my honourable friend, Mr. Kamath to quote from the Bhagvatgita in this connection. My honourable friend did not comply with that request. You will see very few people among the tea drinkers are unhealthy; you will see very few people, even if you look round this House, who take tea, who are weak. You will have to admit that it gives you pleasure and it increases your pleasure. And then when you attend a Select Committee meeting after 5 O'clock you are treated with tea, but for which those unbreakable biscuits would cause us much inconvenience. Otherwise in Select Committees we will be completely helpless. Undoubtedly but for that tea, those biscuits might have dislocated some of our jaws!

[Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

There are two classes of people who object to tea: one of those classes to whom a reference has been made by my honourable friend, the Minister, think tea to be a very light drink. Those who are in favour of having a stronger drink than tea are against it because they have found that tea is replacing liquor. Tea is gradually pushing out liquor from society and people are taking to tea. There was a time when those who read English and were in favour of western civilization used to have beer, whisky and such things, but tea is pushing these things out. There are some people who regret the progress of tea as it has pushed out the stronger drinks. There is also another class of people who belong to the medical profession who consider that due to the activities of both the Central and Provincial Governments the toll of disease is gradually lessening and as a result not as many people die as used to do before. If you go round to places infected with epidemics doctors like my honourable friend would like you to take ordinary water which is not boiled and thus get the disease at once. Despite that if you create a habit of taking tea, you take hot tea and there is no risk of infection. That is what some class of doctors do not want. They think that this tea is a great impediment between themselves and their profession.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Present company of course is excepted.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Yes, I think on the whole the House has given its verdict in favour of tea and there is no questioning the fact that tea is a very efficacious drink and should be encouraged all over the world.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have an announcement to make. I have to remind honourable Members about the meeting that has been fixed at 5-15 P.M. in Room No. 63 in connection with the formation of the Indian Parliamentary Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL.

The Honourable Shri Jajramdas Doulatram (Minister of Food and Agriculture): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

After having been practically drowned in tea for the last 2½ hours I do not know in what mood the House will be to deal with this very serious question involving imprisonment, fines and confiscation. With a view to save the time of the House and realising that there is going to be very heavy work before the House in the next few days, I intend to be exceedingly brief.

This Bill is intended partly to replace the Ordinance which Government had issued six months ago on reimposition of food control. As Members will see Section 2 is intended to impose a punishment of three years imprisonment, which will be practically obligatory, for any breach of the food laws and there can also be in addition a sentence of fine. The responsibility is put on the courts, where there are any special circumstances or for minor technical offences, where the court feels that imprisonment would be too harsh a sentence, to justify the imposition of a fine only.

With regard to part 2 of that section it is merely a repetition of what the House incorporated in the Act when it was being amended by my honourable colleague the Minister for Industry and Supply after the imposition of control on textiles.

The third clause is an addition to the provisions of the ordinance and the intention is not only that the person who breaks the food laws should risk a sentence of imprisonment and also fine but that the vehicle, the animal or the conveyance which was used while breaking the food laws will also be liable to forfeiture.

These three are the main provisions of this Bill and I hope that the House will accept them. We should be able to pass this Bill in the course of the next five or ten minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

Shri Prabhu Dayal Bhattacharya (West Bengal: General): Sir, when the honourable Minister for Industries and Supply introduced his Bill making it obligatory on the court to impose a penalty of imprisonment I drew his attention to the fact that this contravention may be for minor offences also such as not filing returns, not keeping the rates hung up before the business establishment and so on and therefore to make it obligatory on the court to impose a penalty of three years imprisonment or imprisonments which may extend to three years is rather much too severe. Moreover we have not been given any facts as to whether in cases of prosecution or violation of the control order on food the punishments inflicted by the courts have not been sufficient or as to what has been the necessity of introducing this change in the law. If facts and figures are placed by the Minister showing cases where inadequate punishment has been inflicted there will be some justification for coming to this House for amending the Act. You will notice that the law as it stands at present gives power to the court to inflict punishment which the Bill seeks to make obligatory. Any contravention is "punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and the court may, in addition, impose a sentence of fine, etc." The intention is to change the word "or" into "and". I see that there is no justification for this change. If we cannot trust our magistrates who are entrusted with the work of trying offenders, we should say that the courts should inflict punishment which would act as a deterrent. Now the Bill seeks to take away the discretion that was vested in the courts which have occasion to try these offences.

Another thing that I drew the attention of the honourable Minister for Industry and Supply on the last occasion was that in order that the provisions which you are making should act as a deterrent, it should be possible for the persons to know what punishment the law has provided for such offences. It is impossible to get a single copy of the Acts that are passed from time to time even in the library of the Government. You cannot get a copy of the Act that was passed in August 1948. The House will remember that I raised this question on the previous occasion and invited the attention of the honourable Minister to make it possible to have the whole orders printed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member can continue his speech on the next day.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 26th March, 1949.