

Thursday
10th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

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CONTENTS

Volume II—18th February to 17th March, 1949

	Pages
FRIDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	806—51
Unstarred Questions and Answers	851—60
MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	861—96
TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	897—022
Unstarred Questions and Answers	933—35
Short Notice Question and Answer	985—36
WEDNESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	937—1060
Unstarred Question	1000
Short Notice Question and Answer	1000—1001
THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1003—27
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1027—29
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1029—30
FRIDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Use of the word "Gentlemen" while announcing the speaker to the House	1031
Starred Questions and Answers	1031—68
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1068
Short Notice Question and Answer	1069
MONDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Declaration by Members	1071
Starred Questions and Answers	1071—1106
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1107—09
Short Notice Questions and Answers	1109—14
TUESDAY, 1st MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1115—47
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1147—64
Short Notice Question and Answer	1154—56
WEDNESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1157—91
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1192—94
Transferred Starred Questions and Answers	1184—1225
Transferred Unstarred Questions and Answers	1225—42
FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1243—80
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1281—85
MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1297—1317
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1317—19
TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1321—69
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1369—76

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Thursday, 10th 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

CENSUS FOR 1951

*1008. **Shri E. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the 1951 Census work has been taken in hand?

(b) Will the fresh census report show particulars of profession, business and service of every adult as also his income?

(c) Will it also give statistics of unemployed persons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) No information will be extracted about income but the other matters will be covered.

(c) No; Sir.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this census will be on the model of 1941 or 1931 census? In the 1941 census certain heads were omitted. May I know whether this census will be a complete census under all the heads as the 1931 census?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We will try to make it as complete as possible. I cannot say at present exactly whether it will be according to the 1931 or the 1941 census.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the general elections have to await the returns of this census?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say that. I am concerned with the census, not with the general elections.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister's attention been drawn to a statement made by the C. P. Government in the Provincial Assembly last week that though the Constituent Assembly has resolved to hold general elections next year, in 1950, it is doubtful if the elections could be held even in 1951?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If it is feasible the elections will be held in 1951; if it is not feasible they will be held later. Nobody can say.

Prof. K. T. Shah: May I point out that there is really an important omission in the 1941 census as compared to the 1931 census, that is to say with regard to the table of occupations.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That will be a subject for making suggestions, which he may make elsewhere. What is the information the honourable member wants?

Prof. K. T. Shah: I thought the question arose out of the previous question.

Mr. Speaker: If he wants to make a suggestion he may do so elsewhere.

Shri Mahvir Tyagi: In view of the discussion this House had about the deletion of the column "Caste" from the census registers have any instructions been issued in this connection?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patal: Well, the suggestion will be considered.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know whether people will be numbered as Indians only or as persons belonging to different communities and castes?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is what I answered just now.

AMALGAMATION OF HINDUSTAN SCOUTS ASSOCIATION AND BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

*1009. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a joint conference of the Hindustan Scouts Association and the Boy Scouts Association for the amalgamation of both the Associations was held under his Chairmanship?

(b) If so, has the scheme for amalgamation been prepared?

(c) When will the new organisation come into being?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) Yes; a meeting of the representatives of the two organisations was held under the Education Minister's chairmanship on the 29th May, 1948.

(b) and (c). A large measure of agreement has been achieved. A Committee has been formed to go into details and settle them. It is hoped that the Committee will complete its work soon.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What steps do Government propose to take to encourage the Girl Guides or similar movements in this country?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this Committee is considering any scheme of amalgamating the Girl Guides also with this Association so that there will be one Association of both boys and girls?

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member is going beyond the scope of the question. This question is specifically about the Hindustan Scouts Association.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: The question is about Hindustan Scouts Association. I want to know whether both the sections are going to be combined under that scheme.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: May I give that information, Sir? It is intended to amalgamate both the Sections in the new Association.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know when the Report of the Committee is likely to be presented to Government?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I said very shortly.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Shortly means when?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: It will be submitted very soon.

FACILITIES FOR PRACTICAL TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

*1010. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what facility Government have provided for practical Technical Education in India besides giving grants to Technical Institutes in India?

(b) Have Government contemplated establishing any Institutions for higher technical education in the country and if so, at what places?

(c) Has any such institution been established and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) Besides giving grants to Engineering and Technological Institutions in India, Government have provided facilities for technical education and training at the Delhi Polytechnic and a large number of Technical and Vocational Centres all over the country. A Central Institute for the Training of Instructors has also been established at Koni, Bilaspur, to improve the standard of instruction at the Technical and Vocational Training Centres.

(b) Government contemplate establishing during the quinquennium 1947-52 two of the four Higher Technical Institutions recommended by the Higher Technological Education Committee (Sarkar Committee). It has been decided that the Eastern Higher Technical Institution shall be located at Hijli in District Kharagpur, West Bengal. The location of the Western Higher Technical Institution is under consideration.

(c) None of these institutions has yet been established. The main causes for the delay have been:

(i) uncertain conditions prevailing in the country for some time after the report of the Higher Technological Education Committee was submitted;

(ii) selection of suitable sites for the location of the institutions.

Government of West Bengal have promised a site measuring about 1,200 acres, free of cost for the location of Eastern Higher Technical Institution. Much of the preliminary work in connection with the setting up of this institution has been done and the institution is expected to start functioning during the course of the year.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Can the Honourable Minister enlighten the House about these Higher Technical Institutes as to what kinds of higher technical education will be provided in them? Could he illustrate some of them?

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable member mean what courses will be taught there?

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Not only the courses, I want to know whether it will be highest technical institute of electricity or any other high power type?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The Eastern Higher Technical Institution will impart the highest form of Engineering and Technological education in Civil, Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical and Aeronautical Engineering, Geology and Geophysics, Architecture and Town and Regional Planning, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and Textile Technology.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: How many Technical Institutes are there in this country?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the papers with regard to the establishment of these institutions are unnecessarily held up in the Finance Department and the delay is due to that?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The Finance Ministry always exercise their check in the prescribed manner, and delay is sometimes caused before the whole procedure is completed.

Srijiit Kuladhar Chaliha: Is the Engineering Institute at Jadavpur going to be combined with the proposed Eastern Regional Institute?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: There is no intention so far with Government, but if the honourable member desires this thing to be done this matter can be considered by Government.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Does the Central Government intend to set up any Technical institutions under its own supervision and control or is it intended to leave these new institutions under the supervision and control of the different Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The four Higher Technical Institutions proposed to be set up will be under the supervision and control of the Government of India and not of the Provincial Governments.

Sri B. N. Munavalli: May I know whether any government aid is being given to the Bhumireddi Technical Institute at Hubli?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice of the question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what will be the approximate cost of these Institutes?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I would require notice.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: With reference to part (a) of the question may I know whether Government have any intention of giving things like machine tools either free or at concessional rates to private technical institutes when they apply for them?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: It has been decided that educational institutions be given serviceable equipment of educational value at ten per cent. of the market rates and unserviceable stores free of cost. Official orders have, however, not been issued so far by the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

FOREIGNERS SERVING UNDER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

*1011. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** Will the Honourable the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreigners who are serving under the Government of India at present; and

(b) the expenditure incurred by Government for them per month?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There are about 1,925 non-Indians serving in a civilian capacity under the Government of India.

(b) About Rs. 12,87,735.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What percentage of this number belong to the Defence Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: This is not about the Defence Forces—Defence Forces are excluded from this; these figures are about the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Supply, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Railways.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What number of this belong to nationalities other than the British?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The number of foreigners who are not British is 25 in the Ministry of Commerce, 191 in the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, 55 in the Ministry of Industry and Supply and 35 in the Ministry of Railways.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many of these were employed after the 15th August 1947?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Most of these people were employed before that.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether any of these are nationals of South Africa, Ceylon or Burma?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Some of them belong to Burma or Ceylon, none to South Africa.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that the Britisher is not counted as a foreigner?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So long as we are not out of the Commonwealth they are not foreigners. But we have separated them as "non-Indians" and therefore my answer was with reference to non-Indians.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Does this total of 1,925 non-Indians include officers out of India also or those only in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Out of India also and therefore I mentioned External Affairs Ministry.

Seth Govind Das: Are the persons who are serving in our Embassies outside India also included in this list?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he answered.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: How many of these are technicians and how many non-technicians?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Mostly those who are employed in the Railway Ministry and Ministry of Industry and Supply are technicians, but in the Ministry of External Affairs where there is a large number of them employed, there will hardly be any technician.

Shri A. V. Thakkar: May I know how many non-Indians are employed in the Education Department?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: None in the Education Department.

Seth Govind Das: May I know how many of these non-Indians are working in India and how many outside India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In the External Affairs Ministry they are mostly working outside India, but those in the Ministries of Commerce, Industry and Supply, and Railways are in India.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the duration of the contract of these people generally? Is it three years or four years or long-term contracts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give the periods of contracts for individuals nor is there any general rule, but they are on contract basis for as short a period as is required.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are these foreigners spread over many countries wherever we have Legations or are they mostly in England alone?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, some of them are in other countries but a large number is in England.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the term "non-Indian" include Pakistanis also?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir, but we can consider that

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether this number of non-Indians also includes the Judges of the various Provincial High Courts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Hardly any Judge is left now in the Provincial High Courts except two or three.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there are any South African Europeans employed by the Government?

Mr. Speaker: That has been replied to.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know whether any citizen of Pakistan is in the Indian Government service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not so far as I know.

RECRUITING *Melas*

*1012. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state in which places in India recruiting *Melas* took place during the last six months?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a strong complaint that people in South India are not given adequate opportunities for enlisting themselves in the fighting services?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) No. There have been no such complaints. A large number of men have been recruited from South India in recent months.

STATEMENT

During the last six months five Recruiting *Melas* were held at the following places:—

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (1) Karad. | (Bombay). |
| (2) Satara. | (Bombay). |
| (3) Rohtak. | (East Punjab). |
| (4) Kolhapur. | |
| (5) Mahilpur. | (East Punjab). |

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these *melas* also held in the South?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir, I have stated that in the statement that I have laid on the Table in answer to the Question asking for information. In the last six months five *melas* were held—two in Bombay, one in Rohtak, one in Kolhapur and one in Mahilpur.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that no *mela* was held at all in the South during the last six months?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: *Melas* have been held all over the country and I have given the list of *melas* held only during the last six months. If the honourable member wants a list of *melas* held all over the country I can give it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which of these *melas* yielded the best response.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know the number of persons recruited in these *melas*?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got the number of recruits recruited in each one of these *melas* but if the honourable member wants to know the percentage of recruits from South India I can give him that. During the last six months out of the total number, thirty-two per cent. were recruited from the South.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Will Government consider the advisability of holding such a *mela* in the Central Provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Certainly. But the initiative rests with the local people; if the local people want to have a recruiting *mela* and if all possible support is coming forward we hold it.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What is the total number of recruits enlisted in these *melas* all over India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that no *mela* has been held at all in the South even before the last six months?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot give this information straightaway but even if my honourable friend's information is correct that no *mela* has been held in the South, the number of recruits from the South is 32 per cent.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: How many such *melas* are held in Bihar throughout the year?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice.

*1013. [POSTPONED TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST MARCH 1949]

PROMOTIONS AND RECRUITMENTS IN ARMED FORCES

*1014. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the present proportion of other ranks promoted to the officers' cadre to the number of direct recruits to the officers' ranks in the Armed Forces?

(b) Is there any proportion fixed as between promotions to officers' ranks and direct recruitment to the same?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The proportion of officers promoted from ranks since August 1947 to those recruited direct, is—Indian Army 7 : 4, R.I.A.F. 1 : 4, R.I.N. 1 : 20.

(b) No such proportion has been fixed for the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force, but in the Royal Indian Navy the ceiling for promotion from ranks is fixed at 12½ per cent. of the annual requirement.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if it is not a fact that disproportionate direct recruitment is detrimental to efficiency and discipline in the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is very difficult for me to say that, but experience gained by other countries shows—and my information is dependent on that—that direct recruitment is far better than promotion from the ranks.

Seth Govind Das: When the direct recruitment takes place, is any proportion fixed for every province or the old policy of martial and non-martial still goes on?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There is no distinction, nor is there any provincial barrier, nor any question of martial or non-martial.

RECRUITMENT TO OFFICERS' RANKS IN ARMED FORCES

*1015. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many candidates have been called for interviews for appointment in officers' ranks in the Armed Forces during the year 1948, and how many of them have been selected?

(b) What is the total amount of money spent for recruitment to officers' ranks during 1948?

(c) Is it a fact that the Army Recruitment Board is calling for interview a number of candidates who have been previously rejected and if so, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 18,345 candidates were interviewed by the various Selection Boards, of whom 2,298 were selected.

(b) Rs. 24,60,000 approximately.

(c) Candidates once rejected are permitted to apply again after the expiry of six months provided they are eligible in all respects.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it intended to associate the Federal Public Service Commission with the recruitment of officers in the future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

*1016. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what is the incidence of Venereal diseases in India?

(b) How many Venereal disease clinics are there in India?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of organising free or cheap Venereal disease clinics in India on the lines of the British system of Venereal Disease clinics?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) No accurate estimate of the incidence of venereal disease is available, but it is estimated that 37 persons per thousand of the population are infected by venereal disease.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The matter will be taken up with the Provincial Governments who are primarily concerned.

STATEMENT

Number of Venereal Disease Clinics in India at the end of 1947

Ajmer	.	.	.	1
Assam (Shillong)	.	.	.	1
Bihar (Patna)	.	.	.	1
Bombay	.	.	.	16
West Bengal	.	.	.	10
Delhi	.	.	.	3
East Punjab	.	.	.	1
Madrass	.	.	.	17
C. P. and Berar	.	.	.	2
U. P.	.	.	.	6
Total				58

FACILITIES FOR STUDY OF PSYCHOTHERAPY

*1017. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state how many Indians are qualified in Psychotherapy at present?

(b) Are there any facilities in medical colleges in India for the study of Psychotherapy?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) It is understood that there are twenty-four Indian Psychotherapists in India at present.

(b) The theory of Psychotherapy is taught by Lecturers in mental diseases in all medical colleges but the Government of India understand that there are no facilities for the practical study of Psychotherapy in any of the medical colleges.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that the Chopra Committee in its report published a few days ago has stressed the importance of meditational and intuitional methods in medical treatment and research, I am quoting from the report itself—, do Government propose to give more importance to this branch of medical treatment and research and start institutes of this kind in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Chopra Committee report is still under the consideration of Government. But Government is fully aware that more emphasis should be laid on the study of psychotherapy along modern scientific lines.

Seth Govind Das: Has this Chopra report been sent now to all the provinces for their opinion?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not know how this question arises from this, but the report has been circulated.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware of an Institute in Lonavla called the Kaivalyadhama where psychotherapy is practised on a fairly large scale?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not aware.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Is there any hospital or hospitals, official or non-official where cases of psychotherapy are admitted and treated?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: If the honourable member is referring to mental hospitals, yes, they exist.

MANUFACTURE OF PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES

*1018. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the setting-up of the factory to manufacture pre-fabricated houses;

(b) how many such houses are expected to be built during this year and at what cost; and

(c) what other plans, if any, Government have in view for relieving the acute shortage of housing in the country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The designs for the houses and plant have been completed. The required machinery has been ordered and is expected in India in the middle of the year. The factory site and the aeroplane hangars which will house the main factory have been secured.

(b) Twelve sample houses which are being imported are expected to be set up in different parts of India in April, 1949 regular production in India is scheduled to begin some time in the second half of 1949. The rate of production is expected to be about 100 houses per week. The cost per house will be about Rs. 2,500 exclusive of the cost of land.

(c) Various housing schemes for refugees are already under execution or are under consideration. The Central Government are building houses for refugees in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, they have granted loans to the Provinces and States and are subsidising a scheme for the housing of colliery workers. Other housing schemes for refugees are also under consideration. As regards housing for the general public, the question of building factories in other parts of India for the mass production of pre-fabricated houses will be considered after experience has been gained of the working of the factory at Delhi. A scheme for the mass manufacture of roofing materials and cheap doors and windows for village houses is also under preparation.

Sbri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister any information as to the total number of people in India who are without a roof over their heads?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have no information.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: May I ask whether my honourable friend has received any application for encouragement being given to co-operative house building societies in Delhi?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: One or two applications have been received and as I have answered on the floor of the House more than once Government will always be prepared to consider starting co-operative societies for building houses.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if the Honourable Minister will consider a suggestion to hand over these sample pre-fabricated houses to members of the Constituent Assembly, because they are hard up for houses?

Shri R. K. Sidha: What is the area of each house?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: 500 sq. ft.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will Government be prepared to subsidise private companies for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That matter will be considered when any private companies apply to Government.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know what is the estimated life of these houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As far as the life of these houses in the U.K. is concerned, they are estimated to last about 75 years, but it remains to be seen how long that life will be in India. It is an experiment, but we certainly hope that it will be 50 years at any rate.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know what is the capital outlay on the factory for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Before spending money on importing material and machinery, did Government explore the possibility of enlisting indigenous talent and material for building something in the nature of pre-fabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government took everything into consideration before starting this factory.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it not a fact that many people are today building houses on a wide scale without the use of either cement or steel all over the country?

Mr. Speaker: It is I think entering into arguments.

Mr. Homi Mody: Does the estimate of cost given by the Honourable Minister include the sanitary fittings?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether Government have ascertained whether these houses will be suited to the climatic conditions of India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know what will be the accommodation in these houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There will be two rooms plus a kitchen and a bath room and a court-yard.

Sbri H. V. Kamath: Were there any Indian housewives on the Committee which recommended and decided upon this scheme?

SEARCH OF A KARACHI-BOUND GREEK SHIP AT KIDDERPORE DOCKS, CALCUTTA.

*1019. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Karachi-bound Greek ship was recently searched at Kidderpore docks, Calcutta, by the Calcutta Port Police and customs authorities;

(b) if so, what articles were seized as a result of the search; and

(c) the subsequent action taken against the Captain and other officers of the ship?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Greek ship "Mount Kyllene" was searched by the Preventive staff of the Calcutta Customs House.

(b) The articles seized from various officers of the ship consisted of gold coins, Indian and foreign currency notes, cotton piece goods and small articles of gold jewellery.

(c) No action has been taken so far because investigations as to what penal action can be taken under the Sea Customs Act are not yet complete.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What has happened to the Captain of this "Mount Kyllene"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Captain has proceeded on his voyage, but we have seized the articles.

**FINANCIAL HELP TO RELATIONS OF CREW OF THE DAKOTA
LOST ON KASHMIR FRONT.**

*1020. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial help has been given to the relations of the crew of a Dakota which was reported missing in October 1947 on the Kashmir front.

(b) whether it is a fact that Flight Sergeant H. K. Singh of the Royal Indian Air Force was one of the victims and that no help has so far been given to his mother in spite of her repeated representations and if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether Government propose to give some help to her now?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Flight Sergeant H. K. Singh was one of the crew. No representation has been received from his mother. An allowance is being paid to her.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the amount of allowance paid?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Rs. 35 a month.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What about the victims of the air-crash which happened to a Dakota last month between Jammu and Srinagar over the Barchal Pass?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information about that. That is the concern of the Civil Aviation Department.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is that amount considered sufficient for the purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say that. But that is the amount allowed under the rules at present.

NAVAL RIVER CRAFTS ON BRAHMAPUTRA.

*1021. **Srijut Baladhar Chakma:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there are any Naval River Crafts on the Brahmaputra?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No.

Shri G. S. Guha: May I ask the Minister for Defence whether it will be possible to have a base for a Gun-boat there?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion which he can make afterwards.

PURCHASE OF SHIPS FOR R. I. N. FROM BRITAIN.

*1022. **Shri K. Hanumanthaiya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many ships were purchased for the Royal Indian Navy by the Government of India during 1948 from Britain?

(b) What was the cost of those ships?

(c) Was the purchase money paid out of our sterling balances and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Vessels acquired from H.M.G. during the year 1948 were:

(i) One Cruiser.

(ii) Two oil Barges.

(b) The cost of the above ships were (i) One Cruiser Rs. 98.20 lakhs, (ii) Two Oil Barges Rs. 16.00 lakhs.

(c) Yes, purchase money in both the cases was found from our Sterling Balances.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Were these vessels bought from the blocked or released sterling balances?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These were bought from Account No. II. We do not admit that the balances are blocked.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the honourable Minister aware that some merchants have been saying that if the ships had been bought through them they would have got them at half the price?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not heard of it.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Are all these ships old models and are of little value in modern naval warfare?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are questions which lie outside my province. But, subject to what the Honourable the Defence Minister may say, I think this cruiser was built in 1933. It is supposed to have a life of 27 years. Therefore our having bought it in 1948, I presume it has still 12 years of life.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether it was in action during the war?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

MANUFACTURE OF CHOLERA VACCINE

*1023. **Shri K. Hanumanthaiya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) how much Cholera Vaccine has been manufactured in India during the year 1948; and

(b) how much of this vaccine has been imported during the year 1948?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) 33½ million ccs of cholera vaccine were manufactured in the Central and Provincial Institutes during 1948. In addition to this a considerable quantity was manufactured by private firms in Calcutta.

(b) No cholera vaccine was imported from abroad during the year 1948.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know the annual number of deaths in this country from cholera, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise from this question. This question referred to cholera vaccine from private as opposed to what is manufactured in Government institutions and not from outside the country.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What is the amount of vaccine we are manufacturing in Government laboratories and what quantity do we get from private laboratories?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is difficult for me to give the proportion. But I may say that the vast bulk of it is manufactured in Government institutions.

Begum Aisaz Rasool: What is the total requirement of vaccine in India annually?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That depends on the prevalence of the disease each year.

Shri G. S. Guha: Out of the total quantity manufactured, how much is produced in Shillong?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether any portion of this was exported to Pakistan and if so, how much?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot give the exact quantity sent. But, during the disturbances, Pakistan did ask for vaccine and we exported a fair amount.

Seth Govind Das: Have the Government received reports from the provinces that they are not getting as much vaccine as required?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We have never had such complaints.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have instances come to the notice of Government where vaccination has failed to confer immunity?

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: What would be the total value of the vaccine manufactured?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not give that information.

CANDIDATES SELECTED FOR U. N. ©. FELLOWSHIP

*1024. **Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who were selected for the United Nations Organisation fellowship recently;

(b) the number of applicants for the same;

(c) on what basis the selection was made; and

(d) who were the selecting authorities for the same?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) In all twenty-five candidates have been recommended to the United Nations for about twelve Social Welfare Fellowships for 1949-50—seventeen (eight principal and nine alternate) jointly by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health for eight fellowships in subjects relating to Education and Health and eight (four principal and four alternate) separately by Ministry of Labour for four Fellowships in subjects related to Labour.

(b) 142 applications were received by the Ministry of Education for subjects relating to Education and Health and 17 by the Ministry of Labour for subjects concerning them.

(c) Selection of candidates to be recommended to U.N.O. was made on the following basis:

- (i) Academic qualifications particularly in the subject of social sciences;
- (ii) Research Experience in social sciences;
- (iii) Practical experience in the relevant field of social welfare.
- (iv) Ability to utilise the training for the good of the country on return.

(d) For the educational and Health subjects applications were invited from all Provincial and State Governments and Universities etc., and recommendations were made by a Selection Committee, jointly set up by the Ministries of Education and Health, consisting of one representative of each of the two Ministries and the acting Director of the United Nations Information Centre, Delhi. For the Labour subjects applications were invited from the Provincial Governments and recommendations were made by the Honourable Minister for Labour.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know how many were selected from Bihar?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot give the information province-wise. But twenty-five have been selected.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: Of the total number, how many were women?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I would like to have notice.

FUNCTIONS OF THE TRANSFER BUREAU.

*1025. **Shrimati Dalbhayani Valayudhan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what are the functions of the Transfer Bureau?

(b) Is there any circular that refugees should be exempted from the Transfer Bureau rules?

(c) Are the scheduled castes exempted from the rules of the Transfer Bureau?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Transfer Bureau assists in the resettlement in suitable posts under the Central Government of Central Government employees displaced on account of constitutional changes, refugee Government servants of the North West Frontier, Sind and Baluchistan Provinces and retrenched Central Government servants for whom a special provision has been made. The facilities of the Bureau have also been extended to certain highly qualified refugees recommended by the Employment Co-ordination Committee.

(b) No. Refugees other than those registered at the Transfer Bureau are not eligible for the posts referred to unless the Transfer Bureau is unable to nominate suitable candidates.

(c) The usual reservation of 16-2/3 per cent. of vacancies in favour of Scheduled Castes candidates applies to appointments made through the Transfer Bureau also. If there is no suitable Scheduled Castes candidate on the list of the Transfer Bureau, the Bureau will nominate a suitable candidate of any other community.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Is it a fact that discrimination is made against the Scheduled Castes in the matter of confirmation, promotion and recruitment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No discrimination.

STEPS TO IMPROVE CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

*1026. **Shri Moturi Satyanarayana:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the steps so far taken for improving our cultural relations with other countries and the results thereof;

(b) whether any separate department exists for the promotion of cultural relations with foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what are the activities of this department?

The Honourable Shri Satyadarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) A statement has been placed on the table of the House.

(b) The Cultural Relations work is at present done in one of the Divisions of this Ministry which has an Arts and Cultural Relations Section attached to it.

(c) The Cultural Relations Section is engaged in activities for the promotion of art in the country and of cultural schemes within and outside the country.

STATEMENT

The Ministry of Education has so far established contacts with about 20 countries in connection with various cultural activities and it is expected that with the development of our new schemes, these contacts will greatly expand within the year 1949-50. The work may generally be placed under the following heads:

- (1) Cultural Missions to foreign countries;
 - (2) Cultural displays and art exhibitions abroad;
 - (3) Exchange of teachers and students;
 - (4) Visits of distinguished educationists and others to India from foreign countries.
 - (5) Deputation of eminent Indian scientists to other countries for study and research;
 - (6) Participation in International cultural and learned conferences and the UNESCO, and invitations to neighbouring countries to send their representatives to attend conferences in India;
 - (7) Supply of information, gifts of books and archaeological specimens to foreign countries, and exchange of publications;
 - (8) Facilities for study in India to persons of Indian origin and other residents of foreign countries;
 - (9) Scholarships and Fellowship awards offered by foreign countries and the UNESCO to Indian students and *ad hoc* scholarships offered by the Government of India to students of some foreign countries;
 - (10) Award of scholarships to Indians and indigenous residents in Asian and foreign countries to study in Indian Educational institutions;
- This scheme is expected to come into force from the academic year 1949-50;
- (11) Organisation of cultural Associations in India to promote cultural relations between India and other countries;

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

- (12) Recruitment of Indian teachers for services in some foreign countries;
 (13) Exchange of correspondence and cultural material between children of this country and abroad; and
 (14) The organisation of cultural centres in foreign countries for the promotion of Indian culture abroad.

COMPENSATION TO JUDGES OF COMMON HIGH COURT OF EASTERN STATES GROUP

*1027. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to refer to the replies given to parts (c) and (d) of my starred question No. 497 asked on the 26th February, 1948, regarding payment of compensation to judges of the Common High Court of the Eastern States Group and state:

- (a) whether Government have since made an enquiry in the matter;
 (b) if so, whether Government propose to compensate the Judges of that court for the unexpired term of their appointment; and
 (c) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) The Judges have already been paid compensation due to them.

(c) Does not arise.

PERCENTAGE OF LITERACY IN INDIA

*1028. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of literacy in each of the Provinces, Centrally Administered Areas and Major Indian States; and

(b) the probable period required to banish illiteracy from the country according to the schemes formulated or approved by Government?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the statement laid on the table.

(b) For children, the programme is to introduce compulsion among the age-group 6—11 within a period of ten years by two Five Year Plans. For adults, the scheme of Social (Adult) Education accepted by the Government of India envisages literacy of 50 per cent. population in a period of 5 years.

STATEMENT

Percentage of literacy in Provinces, Centrally Administered Areas and Indian States

	1941		All persons	At present
	Males	Females		
Assam	21.5	4.4	18.5	No Census after 1911 has so far been taken, so that exact figure is not known. But it can be assumed to be between 10 and 15 per cent. for the whole of India (less States and between 14 and 15 for Indian States).
Bengal	28.7	7.8	19.0	
Bihar	18.7	3.8	10.8	
Bombay	34.4	10.2	22.9	
C. P. & Berar	22.6	6.6	14.1	
Madras	23.9	6.6	15.2	
Orissa	23.15	3.9	12.6	
Punjab	20.6	8.8	15.2	

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

	1941		All persons	At present
	Males	Females		
U. P.	16.2	2.8	9.9	No Census after 1941 has so far been taken, so that exact figure is not known. But it can be assumed to be between 16 and 17 for the whole of India (Less States) and between 14 and 15 for Indian States.
Ajmer-Merwara	24.6	6.0	15.9	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Figures not available.			
Coorg	31.2	15.1	24.0	
Delhi	38.2	18.6	30.1	
India (Less States)	22.9	5.8	14.7	
Assam States	14.8	3.8	9.3	
Baroda	38.0	14.6	26.7	
Bengal States	11.9	1.6	6.9	
Bihar and Orissa States	18.8	2.1	10.5	
Bombay States	Figures not available			
Central India Agency	Separate figures not available.		8.2	
C. P. States	"	"	4.8	
Gwalior	12.9	1.8	7.8	
Hyderabad	14.4	4.3	9.3	
Jammu and Kaebmir	11.1	2.2	7.0	
Cochin	52.0	30.4	41.0	
Travancore	67.9	42.1	56.0	
Madras States	26.5	4.1	15.1	
Mysore	23.4	6.1	15.0	
Punjab States	11.3	2.1	7.2	
Rajputana Agencies	8.9	1.0	5.1	
U. P. States	12.5	1.5	7.3	
Western Indian States Agency	25.7	8.3	17.2	
Indian States	20.2	6.6	13.7	

N.B. 1.—Figures in respect of Assam, West Bengal and East Punjab and Indian States as they stand after partition are not available.

N.B. 2.—Percentages for 1941 are calculated on persons aged over 5 years.

N.B. 3.—Percentage for India is in respect of the whole of India before partition.

PROHIBITION IN DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA

*1029. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what measures have been taken so far to enforce prohibition in the Chief Commissioner's Provinces of Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that smuggling of liquor into Delhi Province from the adjoining States of Alwar, Pataudi and Bawal and the adjoining districts of Moradabad and Ghazipur in the United Provinces has increased on a large scale during the last three months?

(c) If so, what steps have Government taken or intend to take to put an end to this smuggling and to make the policy of prohibition effective?

(d) By what time do Government intend to introduce complete prohibition in these areas? Do Government intend to introduce any legislation for the purpose and if so, by which date and if not, why not?

(e) Have the measures so far taken to enforce the policy of prohibition in any way affected the consumption of liquor in these areas and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Prohibition has not yet been introduced in these areas. Certain steps have been taken to reduce the consumption of liquor.

(b) Some cases of smuggling from these areas have been detected during three months.

(c) A special detective mobile Excise staff has been employed in addition to the permanent Excise staff.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

(e) In Delhi, the consumption of liquor during the last quarter of the year 1948 as compared with the corresponding period of the year 1947 has decreased by about 11 per cent. In Ajmer-Merwara, however, consumption on the whole has recorded a small increase.

Mr. Frank Anthony: What is the present total loss of revenue as a result of the introduction of prohibition in the different parts of the country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should not like to commit myself to a definite figure. If the honourable member wants the figure, I would have it worked out.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the Government's policy at present is to go slow in prohibition and have the Government advised the provinces accordingly?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is so.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Has the Government accepted the policy of introducing prohibition in these areas?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This matter is not really within my province. I would say that it is the intention of the Home Ministry who is in charge of these Centrally Administered areas to introduce complete prohibition within a short limited period.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Is the Honourable Minister aware that his predecessor in the last session of the Assembly announced that the Government stands committed to the policy of introducing prohibition in these areas?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes; that is really what I meant. As far as Ajmer Merwara is concerned, I believe the Home Ministry has laid down a policy under which prohibition would be completed, I believe, within a period of five years.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are there any measures taken in the meantime with regard to temperance propaganda in these areas?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware if there is any temperance propaganda. We expect un-official temperance propaganda to go on. As far as the Government are concerned, what the Government are trying to do is to reduce the consumption of liquor by such measures as curtailing the number of days, and the number of hours on which the shops are open, by cutting down consumption, and various measures of that kind.

Mr. Frank Anthony: In the absence of concerted measures to provide housing facilities, and to educate public opinion, is it not a fact that the sudden introduction of prohibition has led to increase of crimes and to deterioration of health?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Kotal Mody: In view of what the Finance Minister has said about the intention of the Home Ministry, will the Home Ministry consider the advisability of consulting the patrons of hotels, clubs and bars before introducing prohibition?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: And also those who are addicted to drink.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Government have seriously considered the desirability of bringing Delhi into line with at least Bombay, so far as prohibition is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter will be examined.

Shri C. V. Alagesan: What is the total revenue derived from the sale of liquor by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I want notice.

Shri Raj Bahini Kumar Chaudhuri: I want to know whether the representatives of these two provinces ever made a representation in favour of prohibition to the Government.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: So far as I know, they have not.

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION

*1030. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government of India have appointed the Indian Universities Commission and if so, with what object in view?

(b) What are the terms of reference of this Commission and by which date is the said Commission expected to conclude its deliberations and to submit its report?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) and (b) Yes. A copy of the Government Resolution on the subject is laid on the table of the House. The report of the Commission is likely to be submitted to the Government during the middle of 1949-50.

No. F. 55-5/47-D.3.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

New Delhi, the 4th November, 1948

RESOLUTION (As amended subsequently).

The Government of India have considered the recommendation of the Inter-University Board, India, and the Central Advisory Board of Education (1946/47) that a University Commission consisting of eminent educationists from India and abroad should be appointed "to report on Indian University Education and suggest improvements and extensions that may be desirable to suit present and future requirements of the country" and are of the opinion that the vast changes which have taken place since these resolutions were passed have added to their urgency.

2. The importance of primary and secondary education in a democracy is obvious. Their quality, however, depends in the ultimate analysis on the quality of educational leaders, and these can be produced only by a suitable system of higher and University education. Provision of extended facilities for higher education is therefore necessary for the satisfactory functioning of democracy. A vast change has taken place in the country with the

achievement of independence. New vistas have open which necessitate a survey of education at all stages. The interests of the country require vast programmes of expansion in Agriculture, Industry and Commerce which, however, can be carried out only if a sufficient number of highly trained executives and artisans, craftsmen and skilled labour of all grades and types are available. The problems of Defence cannot be satisfactorily solved without the existence, within the country, of all facilities for technological and scientific studies of the highest order. Extension of the boundaries of knowledge and research is also essential if we are to improve the quality of education which is now available to us. There has been no detailed examination of the existing Universities and their work since the report of the Sadler Commission in 1917. All these factors demand a comprehensive enquiry into the question of our University and higher education.

3. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to set up a Commission to enquire into and report on the conditions and prospects of University education and advanced research in India and to recommend a constructive policy in relation to the problems they present and the needs of the country. The Commission will consist of the following members :

- (1) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Spalding Professor of Ethics and Eastern Religion at the University of Oxford—*Chairman*.
- (2) Dr. Tara Chand, M.A., D., Phil. (Oxon.), Secretary and Educational Adviser to the Government of India.
- (3) * Prof. G. D. H. Cole, Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory, Oxford.
- (4) Dr. Zakir Hussain, M.A., Ph.D., Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.
- (5) Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, lately President of Antioch College and Chairman of the Board of Tennessee Valley Authority, U. S. A.
- (6) Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University and Chairman, Inter-University Board, India.
- (7) Dr. Meghnad Saha, D.Sc., F.I.S.S., Dean, Faculty of Science, Calcutta University.
- (8) * Dr. Birbal Sahni, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Dean, Faculty of Science, Lucknow University.
- (9) Dr. John J. Tigert, lately Commissioner of Education, U. S. A., and President, Florida University.

4. The terms of reference of the Commission will be to consider and make recommendations in regard to :

- (i) The aims and objects of University Education and Research in India.
- (ii) The changes considered necessary and desirable in the constitution, control, functions and jurisdiction of Universities in India and their relations with Governments, Central and Provincial.
- (iii) The finance of Universities.
- (iv) The maintenance of the highest standards of teaching and examination in the Universities and Colleges under their control.
- (v) The courses of study in the Universities with special reference to the maintenance of a sound balance between the Humanities and the Sciences and between pure science and technological training and the duration of such courses.
- (vi) The standards of admission to University courses of study, with reference to the desirability of an independent University entrance examination and the avoidance of unfair discriminations which militate against Fundamental Right 23(2).
- (vii) The medium of instruction in the Universities.
- (viii) The provision for advanced study in Indian culture, history, literatures, language, philosophy and fine arts.
- (ix) The need for more Universities on a regional or other basis.
- (x) The organisation of advanced research in all branches of knowledge in the Universities and Institutes of high research in a well co-ordinated fashion avoiding waste of effort and resources.
- (xi) Religious instruction in the Universities.
- (xii) The special problems of the Benares Hindu University, the Aligarh Muslim University, the Delhi University and other institutions of an all India character.

* Professor G. D. H. Cole and Dr. Birbal Sahni having declined membership, Dr. J. F. Duff, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University and Dr. K. N. Bahi, D.Phil. (Oxon.) D.Sc., (Pun.) Professor of Zoology, Lucknow University, have been appointed members of the University Education Commission in their places respectively.

Professor N. K. Sidhanta, M.A. (Cantab.), Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Lucknow University, has been appointed member Secretary of the Commission.

- (xiii) The qualifications, conditions of service, salaries, privileges and functions of teachers and the encouragement of original research by teachers.
- (xiv) The discipline of students, hostels and the organisation of tutorial work and any other matter which is germane and essential to a complete and comprehensive enquiry into all aspects of University education and advanced research in India.

Seth Govind Das: May I know if one of the objects of this Commission has been to decide the question of the medium of instruction in this country and if so what language this Commission has recommended or what language has this Commission thought in connection with medium of instruction?

Mr. Speaker: He may better refer to the terms of reference; it is a matter of record.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: How much money has been spent over this Commission?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether this Universities Commission has already submitted any preliminary report?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the memorandum submitted by the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University states that there should be no representation of the Legislative Assembly in the Court?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is a matter before the Commission for consideration.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I want to know whether it is a fact.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of record.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Government asked this Commission to submit periodical reports, or has the report to come at the end of their work?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Only one final report.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the terms of reference to the Universities Commission include also a reference to review the working of High School and Secondary School Education?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; It is a matter of record.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY

*1031. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government of India intend to establish a National Central Library and a net work of libraries throughout the country in India on the lines suggested by Dr. Ranganathan in his Presidential address at the last session of the All India Library Conference at Nagpur?

(b) Do they intend to introduce any 'Library Legislation' and if not, why not?

(c) Do Government intend to recognise the Imperial Library at Calcutta as the National Central Library on the lines suggested by Dr. Ranganathan?

(d) Do Government intend to establish Indian Libraries in foreign countries for the promotion of cultural contact, true understanding and well-informed friendship?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have already set up an Expert Committee (of 6 members) to work out the details for the establishment of a Central Library in

Delhi with a Copyright Section attached to it. The Committee have not yet concluded their deliberations. The proposals of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, who is also a member of the Expert Committee, will be considered by the Government in the light of the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

(b) This is also one of the terms of reference of the Expert Committee. The question of introducing a 'Library Legislation' will be considered by the Government after the Expert Committee have submitted their report.

(c) The National Library is already working on an All-India basis and proposals are under consideration to increase its utility.

(d) The Government of India are doing their best to promote cultural contacts and true understanding between India and foreign countries. They have already presented large number of books on Indian culture, history, literature and philosophy donated by learned societies and institutions in India to Universities in China and Indonesia. Subject to limitation of funds, they are also purchasing selected collection of books for donation to learned institutions in foreign countries. Besides this, a collection of about 100 books on Indian history, philosophy, culture and on the achievements of India's past and present are being sent to some 25 Information Centres abroad. Although these collections are meant primarily for the use of our Diplomatic Mission abroad, access is also allowed to the local public.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Government propose to obtain the original Sanskrit and Pali texts of ancient Indian History for this library?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: This matter will be considered by the Government.

*1032. [POSTPONED TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST MARCH, 1949.]

ADVANCES TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOR PURCHASE OF MOTOR CARS

*1033. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government give advances to their servants for purchase of motor cars?

(b) If so, what type of officials and of what status or position are entitled to avail themselves of such advances?

(c) What policy has been followed by Government so far in allowing these advances?

(d) What is the number, separately of officers drawing salaries between Rupees 500/- and 1000/- and of those drawing more who have been given such advances during the last sixteen months?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). An officer who is unable to invest a lump sum on the purchase of a car is granted the advance if there is a possibility of his recouping the advance from his savings in the immediate future. Such an advance is granted only to an officer in whose case Government is satisfied that the possession of a car is in the interest of public service and for the efficient discharge of his official duties.

(d) The information required is not readily available. The labour spent on collecting the information will not be commensurate with the real value of the information.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: What is the period allowed for the repayment of these loans?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: Speaking from recollection, 36 months.

Shri Dombandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that quite a large number of Government servants indulged in the purchases and sales of motor

cars during the period when the sales of motor cars was controlled and when there was a big difference between the controlled prices and market prices of cars?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not to my knowledge.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will he enquire into it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I see no point in enquiring.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know, in view of the inadequacy of transport of all kinds whether Government does not consider it advisable that every officer who can afford should purchase a motor car?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that staff cars are permitted to be used by Government servants?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: On official duty.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Do they not go on private business also in staff cars?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I hope not.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware that such illegal use by Government servants brings bad name to the Government?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing.

INCREASED SUBVENTION TO ORISSA GOVERNMENT

*1034. **Shri Lakshminarayana Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government of Orissa has asked for increased subvention from the Government of India?

(b) If so, what have the Government of India done in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under correspondence with the Provincial Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How much did they want?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the House knows under the Government of India Act the Centre gives a subvention of 40 lakhs to Orissa and recently as a result of merger of States and also because of the revised scale of salaries they have asked for a subvention of 125 lakhs.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Besides this, has the Government of Orissa asked for a loan or grant or subsidy for building their new capital at Bhubaneswar?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How much have they asked for?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not know the exact figure.

Shri Lakshminarayana Sahu: Is it a fact that due to inflation the amount of present subvention which is given to Orissa is very small and inadequate?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Is this subvention sanctioned when Orissa was separated from Bihar and if so for how many years this is to be continued?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is part of our existing Constitution.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any proposal to give a subvention to the Government of C.P. and Berar?

Mr. Speaker: Does not arise.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Upto what period it is to be continued under the present Constitution. Is it without any limitation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It depends on when the new Constitution replaces the present Constitution.

Shri B. Das: Is it a fact that 40 lakhs granted as subvention was the cost of separation, for the paraphernalia of the Governor and the Executive Council?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It was really fixed as far as I can remember in connection with Sir Otto Niemeyer's investigations and I think it was fixed on the basis of the actual deficit of 1936-37.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have not the revenues of Orissa gone up corresponding with the merger of all the States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Apparently the whole basis of contention is that while the revenues have increased, the expenses have increased more.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the subvention given to Orissa, is given only to Orissa or to many other provinces also in terms of the Niemeyer Award?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not only for Orissa.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What are the other provinces that receive subvention?

Mr. Speaker: It will be outside the scope of the original question.

ENGINEERING PERSONNEL IN M. E. S.

*1035. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total number of Engineering personnel in the Military Engineering Service in all the three commands (Southern Command, Western Command and Eastern Command)?

(b) How many of them are qualified as engineers or overseers, (Military and Civil)?

(c) What was the amount paid as salaries in the year 1947-48 to personnel of the Military Engineering Service?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 1974.

(b) The number of civilian and military officers qualified as Engineers and Overseers are 810 and 477 respectively.

(c) Rs. 29,81,300.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is it a fact that even unqualified persons are being promoted as Officers in the M.E.S.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I said there are unqualified people but the present rules lay down that they have to pass a qualifying test by 1950. They will be given three chances and those who do not qualify will have to revert.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What are the opportunities given to them to have practical training in engineering and other matters?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Every possible opportunity is given for practical training.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is there a dearth of trained personnel and for that reason untrained people are promoted?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: A few days ago I replied to another question on the subject that there is a shortage of officers.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What is the qualification fixed for such soldiers before training is given to them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot tell what the exact qualifications are but they are all laid down and if the honourable member wants that information, I could send it to him.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what efforts, if any, have been made to ascertain whether trained personnel are available?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The jobs are advertised and those who are qualified apply for it and if we do not get requisite number of applications, then we assume that the requisite number is not available.

Sbri Ajit Prasad Jain: How many times the posts were advertised since 15th August 1947 and what has been the response?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice of that.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Was the Jammu-Pathankot Road built by the M.E.S.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: When there is shortage of trained people, why there is retrenchment?

Mr. Speaker: Retrenchment is of unnecessary people.

DEVELOPMENT OF ANDAMANS AS MILITARY OR NAVAL BASE

*1036. **Sbri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before Government to develop the Andamans as a military or naval base?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It would not be in the public interest to answer this question at present.

Srijut Kuladhar Obaliba: May I know whether there be a first class naval base in the Andamans?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not in a position to disclose this.

GRANT TO BOMBAY BRANCH OF ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

*1037. **Sbri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society receives a grant of Rs. 30,000/- from the Central Government per annum;

(b) whether the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society has applied for an annual grant from the Central Government;

(c) if so, whether a grant has been sanctioned and how much; and

(d) if no grant has been made, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal is receiving a grant of Rs. 25,000 per annum from the Central Government. It is not a branch of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

(b) Yes. This body which is a branch of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland also applied for a grant from the Central Revenue.

(c) and (d). Owing to the prevailing need for economy it has not been possible to make any grant to the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society for the present.

Sbri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to make any grant in the near future to this Library which is in dire need of funds?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: When the economic situation improves, it will be considered.

Sbri Arun Chandra Guba: Will Government consider the desirability of deleting the word 'Royal' from the name of this Institution?

The Honourable Sbri Satyanarayan Sinha: Government will consider the proposal.

Shri. H. V. Kamath: Will Government change the word 'Asiatic' to 'Asian'?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

THEFT OF HANDGRENADES FROM R.I.A.F. HEADQUARTERS AT PALAM

*1038. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 34 handgrenades and 8 tins of detonators of handgrenades have recently been stolen from the Royal Indian Air Force Headquarters at Palam; and

(b) if so, what action has been or is being taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) An R.I.A.F. Court of Inquiry is at present investigating the theft. The matter has also been reported to the Civil Police for investigation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have there been any such losses in other places also?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot say. I think I have stated in reply to a question the other day that there were thefts in one or two other places.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is such information ever been supplied to the Standing Committee attached to this Department?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Whatever information is asked for by the Standing Committee, is supplied.

Shri R. K. Sidha: What was the date when it was notified and the date when it was reported to the Police?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not in a position to give this information but I will enquire this.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any suspicion that there were some political parties behind this?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Investigation is going on. Until the full report is received, it is difficult for me to say anything in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

TRAINING OF TEACHERS FOR BASIC EDUCATION

*1039. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Government of India or Provincial Governments have taken for the training of teachers for basic education;

(b) whether any estimate has been made of the number of teachers necessary for Basic Schools that may be started in different provinces during the current year; and

(c) what portion of this need is expected to be met from among the teachers trained in Wardha or other Basic teacher-training centres and how the rest of the requirement is proposed to be met?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) to (c). The Government of India have already arranged with the authorities of Jinnia Millia, Delhi, and the Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan for the training of teachers for Basic Schools in the Centrally Administered Areas of Delhi and Ajmer. At Visva Bharati, arrangements have been made to train teachers in (a) Arts and Crafts and (b) Music and Dancing as well. Teachers are also sent by the Provincial Governments for training at Sevagram. In addition, two Training

Institutes for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara were started last August one for men at Ajmer and the other for women at Delhi.

The Government have also provided a sum of Rs. 50,00,000 in next year's budget for grants to the Provinces for training of Basic teachers. Further information on the points raised by the honourable member is given in the statement laid on the table.

STATEMENT

Province	(a)	(b)	(c)
Assam	Training Institutions at six different centres will be opened shortly.	100 for 1948-49	All will be trained within the Province.
West Bengal	There are Basic Training Schools.	50 for 1948-49	36 trained at Balarampur.
Bihar	There are Basic Training Schools.	Yes, an estimate has been made, but the papers are not yet available.	Needs will be met from teachers trained in the Province.
Bombay	There are Basic Training Schools.	Bitto	Necessary teachers are trained in the Province.
C.P. and Berar	There are Basic Training Schools.	150 for 1948-49	Teachers will be trained within the Province.
Madras	There are Basic Training Schools.	672 teachers for 1949-50.	Teachers will be trained within the Province.
Orissa	There are Basic Training Schools.	156 for 1948-49	Teachers will be trained within the Province.
U.P.	There are Basic Training Schools.	6700 for 1948-49	Teachers will be trained within the Province.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

*1040. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many houses in Ross Island and other parts of the Andaman Islands including the building known as the Cellular Jail, have been demolished?

(b) How many of them were in good condition and fit for habitation?

(c) What is the reason for their demolition?

(d) Is demolition still going on?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Only thirteen houses have been dismantled on Ross Island after reoccupation. Two out of seven wings of the Cellular Jail were almost destroyed during the Japanese occupation. One other wing which was in bad condition has been recently dismantled. Four other wings are intact but not in good condition.

In the opinion of the P.W.D. authorities, none of these buildings was in good condition and fit for habitation.

(c) It was considered uneconomical to maintain the small island of Ross which is separated from the main island by about one mile of sea, and where only a few Government officers used to live. The buildings had moreover been condemned.

by the C.P.W.D. authorities. Materials salvaged from these buildings are being used for repair work and construction of new buildings on the main island.

(d) Dismantling has recently been stopped in order to make use of some of the buildings as transit accommodation for new settlers.

CONTROL OVER NONCOWRY GROUP OF ISLANDS AND GREAT NICOBAR ISLANDS

*1041. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Nuncowry group of Islands and the Great Nicobar Islands are under the direct control of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes.

PERSONS RETIRED AT THE AGE OF FIFTY-FIVE IN MINISTRY OF STATES

*1042. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state how many persons serving in his Ministry have been retired under the old interpretation of Fundamental Rule 56(b) (i) in consequence of their having reached the age of 55 years after the said rule was interpreted differently by the Auditor General and Advocate General in 1946?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Two in the Secretariat of the Ministry of States. Figures for the Attached and Subordinate offices are being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

ISSUE OF INSTRUCTIONS Re AGE OF RETIREMENT

*1043. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs did not issue any instructions on the basis of the new interpretation of Fundamental Rule 56(b) (i) until the 8th September, 1948?

(b) Have the instructions regarding the new interpretation of 1946 now been sent to all Ministries and the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Instructions were issued on 8th September, 1948. The honourable member's attention is invited to the reply given by the (then) Finance Minister to Starred Question No. 398 on the 23rd August 1948.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE OF RETRENCHED PERSONS ON RE-EMPLOYMENT.

*1044. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is fact that the leave allowed to certain clerks of the Indian Audit and Accounts Offices under the retrenchment orders in 1931 has constituted a break in their service?

(b) Is it a fact that the persons affected were allowed only the 'leave due' under the retrenchment concessions?

(c) If so, why has the benefit of the continuity of service for the purposes of pay scales etc., been denied to those officials who secured re-employment either during the period of leave or immediately after its expiry?

(d) Do Government propose to reconsider these cases and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) They were allowed certain leave and gratuity concessions at the time of their retrenchment which were to wipe out their claims on Government in respect of their past service.

(d) Government do not consider it necessary to revise the orders as the persons concerned were fully compensated for their past service.

PURCHASE OF LAND BY DISTRICT MAGISTRATE IN DELHI

*1045. **Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district officers are authorised to purchase immovable property and land in their own names or that of their families or relatives in the districts in their charge;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the District Magistrates posted at Delhi during the period from March, 1947 to October, 1948, acquired a piece of land near Mehrauli either in his own name or that of any member of his family or brother and if so, the area and the cost thereof?

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative, whether the transaction had the approval of the competent authority and the special circumstances leading to the grant of the sanction; and

(d) whether Government propose to retake the land and take action against the officer if found guilty of infringement of the Government Servants Conduct Rules?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, with the permission of a competent authority.

(b) and (c). The District Magistrate who was a refugee, having lost all his lands in Pakistan, entered into an exchange transaction with the permission of the Chief Commissioner. Subsequently on learning that such private exchanges were not likely to be recognised he applied for the reversion of the lands, measuring about 400 bighas, to the original holder. The property now vests in the Custodian of Evacuee's property.

(d) Does not arise.

REDUCTION OF INDIAN ARMY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORIAL ARMY

*1046. **Dr. Raghuvira:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is intended to reduce the strength of the Indian army?

(b) How far has progress been made in the establishment of the territorial army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I would refer the honourable member to my statement made in the House in the course of the debate on the Defence Services Estimates on the 7th March 1949.

CANTONMENTS ON NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

*1047. **Dr. Raghuvira:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is intended to have more Cantonments on the North West Frontier of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No.

EDITING AND PUBLICATION OF HISTORICAL INSCRIPTIONS

*1048. **Dr. Raghuvira:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) how many inscriptions still lie unedited and unpublished in the office of the Epigraphist of India at Ootacamund as well as with the different Superintendents of the Archaeological Departments;

(b) for how many years past no inscriptions have been published; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of employing more epigraphists for completing the publication of all the known inscriptions within a short time?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) 21,264 inscriptions, mostly belonging to South India, remain unpublished with the Government Epigraphist for India. Of these approximately 10,000 are worth publishing. Though most of these have been deciphered tentatively, they have not properly been edited and only a part is ready for the press. There are no estampages of unpublished inscriptions lying with the Superintendents of Archaeological Department.

(b) The last issue of the Epigraphia Indica was for January, 1942, when a ban was imposed on epigraphical publications. Since the lifting of the ban after the war, a number of parts of the Epigraphia Indica have been sent to the Press for publication. Three parts of the Epigraphia Indica and one volume of the Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica are expected to be published shortly. Besides these several other parts of the Epigraphia Indica, two volumes of the Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica and three volumes of South Indian Inscriptions are in the Press in various stages of printing.

(c) A proposal for strengthening the staff of the Epigraphical Branch of the Department of Archaeology is already under the active consideration of the Government of India. The slow progress is also due to the lack of printing facilities in India.

RATES FOR TEMPORARY INCREASES IN PENSIONS

*1049. **Dr. Baghu Viri:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why rates for temporary increases in pensions to Government pensioners are less than those for dearness allowances enjoyed by present Government servants; and

(b) whether the original reasons still exist; if not, whether Government intend to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The reason for this differentiation is that Government have a direct responsibility to maintain the services so as to enable them to discharge their duties to the best interests of the state. This consideration does not exist in the case of pensioners. Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

FOREIGN TECHNICIANS EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

*1050. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of foreign technicians, who have been employed by the Government of India since August, 1947?

(b) What is the nationality of these technicians mostly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Fifty-one.

(b) Forty-one of them are British, four Germans, four Americans, one Polish and one North Rhodesian.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

LITERATURE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

87. **Shri Moturi Satyanaryana:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any literature prepared for circulation for the purpose of improving the cultural relations with other countries exists;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make a list of such literature available to the members of the House;

(c) what is the amount spent on the preparation of this literature by Government; and

(d) in what languages this literature is available?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Education has not published any particular literature for improving cultural relations with other countries. But as there is already a large amount of literature available in English on History, Philosophy and Culture of India, the existence of such literature has been availed of and complete sets of books on the above subjects have been purchased for the use of our Embassies' libraries abroad. These sets of books are sent to our Embassies whenever they are required by them. A list of such books is maintained in the Ministry.

(c) Nil.

(d) The list is mainly of books in English as it is meant for use in the Indian Embassies abroad.

Thursday
10th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART B—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND
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CONTENTS

Volume II.—24th February, 1949 to 18th March, 1949.]

	PAGES
THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Hindu Code—Discussion on motions to consider as reported by Select Committee to re-circulate and to re-commit to Select Committee—not concluded.	821—71
FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Death of Mian Mohd. Rafi.	878
Papers laid on the Table	878—76
Essential Services (Prevention of Strikes) Bill—Introduced.	876—77
Hindu Code—Discussion on motions to consider, to re-circulate and to re-commit to Select Committee—not concluded	877—936
MONDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1949—	
Statement re Locomotives imported from U.S.A. and Canada	937—40
Papers laid on the Table	940
Hindu Marriage Validity Bill—Extension of time for presentation of Report of Select Committee	940—41
Hindu Code—Discussion on motions to consider, to re-circulate and to re-commit to Select Committee—not concluded.	941—56
Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1948-49—Railways.	956—68
Presentation of General Budget for 1949-50	969—87
TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1949—	
Repealing and Amending Bill—Introduced	989
Capoellation of meeting for 2nd March, 1949	989
Chartered Accountants Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	990
Tea Committee for India Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	990
Indian Judicial Procedure Bill—Extension of time for Presentation of Report of Select Committee	990
Time for Study of Budget Papers.	990
Hindu Code—Discussion on motions to consider, to re-circulate and to re-commit to Select Committee—not concluded.	991—1030
WEDNESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1949—	
Death of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu	1031—35
General Budget—General Discussion	1035—66
FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1949—	
Papers laid on the Table.	1067
Estate Duty Bill—Extension of time for Presentation of Report of Select Committee	1067—68
General Budget—General Discussion	1068—1107
SATURDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1949—	
Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	1109
General Budget—General Discussion	1109—64
Essential Services (Prevention of Strikes) Bill—Withdrawn	1164—67

MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1949—

	PAGES
Paperlaid on the Table	1169
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1169
Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1169
General Budget—List of Demands	1169—1223
Demand No. 28—Ministry of Defence	1170—1223
Demand No. 76—Defence Services, Effective—Army	1170—1223
Demand No. 77—Defence Services, Effective—Royal Indian Navy	1170—1223
Demand No. 78—Defence Services, Effective—Royal Indian Air Force	1170—1223
Demand No. 79—Defence Services, Non-effective charges	1170—1223
Demand No. 103—Defence Capital Outlay	1170—1223

TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1949—

General Budget—List of Demands	1225—64
Demand No. 19—Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	1225—64
Demand No. 39—Tribal Areas	1225—64
Demand No. 40—External Affairs	1225—64

WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1949—

General Budget—List of Demands	1265—1314
Demand No. 24—Ministry of Industry and Supply	1265—1314
Demand No. 55—Industries and Supplies	1265—1314
Demand No. 56—Salt	1265—1314

THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1949—

Criminal Law (Removal of Racial Discriminations) Bill—Introduced	1315
Merchant Shipping Laws (Extension to Acceding States and Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1315
General Budget—List of Demands	1315—61
Demand No. 8—Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue	1316—61
Demand No. 23—Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	1316—61
Demand No. 44—Geological Survey	1316—61
Demand No. 45—Mines	1316—61
Demand No. 69—Civil Works	1316—61
Demand No. 78—Stationery and Printing	1316—61
Demand No. 99—Delhi Capital Outlay	1316—61
Demand No. 100—Capital Outlay on Civil Works	1316—61

FRIDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1949—

General Budget—List of Demands	1363—99
Demand No. 21—Ministry of Commerce	1363—99
Demand No. 36—Ports and Pilotage	1363—99
Demand No. 37—Lighthouses and Light ships	1363—99
Demand No. 62—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	1363—99
Demand No. 64—Joint Stock Companies	1363—99

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1949—

General Budget—List of Demands	1401—47
Demand No. 1—Customs	1401—47
Demand No. 2—Central Excise Duties	1401—47
Demand No. 3—Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax	1401—47
Demand No. 4—Opium	1401—47
Demand No. 5—Provincial Excise	1401—47

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1949—contd.

General Budget—List of Demands—contd.

Demand No. 6—Stamps	1402—47
Demand No. 20—Ministry of Finance	1402—47
Demand No. 31—Payments to other Government Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Territories	1402—47
Demand No. 82—Audit	1402—47
Demand No. 66—Miscellaneous Departments	1402—47
Demand No. 67—Currency	1402—47
Demand No. 68—Mint	1402—47
Demand No. 71—Territorial and Political Pensions	1402—47
Demand No. 72—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	1402—47
Demand No. 74—Miscellaneous	1408—47
Demand No. 80—Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments	1403—47
Demand No. 81—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	1408—47
Demand No. 82—Resettlement and Development	1403—47
Demand No. 84—Pre-Partition Payments	1408—47
Demand No. 91—Capital Outlay on the India Security Press	1403—47
Demand No. 94—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	1403—47
Demand No. 97—Capital Outlay on Currency	1408—47
Demand No. 98—Capital Outlay on Mints	1408—47
Demand No. 101—Commuted Value of Pensions	1404—47
Demand No. 102—Payments to Retrenched Personnel	1404—47
Demand No. 104—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading	1404—47
Demand No. 105—Capital Outlay on Development	1404—47
Demand No. 106—Payments to Government of Pakistan for Unique Institutions	1404—47
Demand No. 107—Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances	1404—47

THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1949—

General Budget—List of Demands	1448—1506
Demand No. 10—Cabinet	1448—87
Policy regarding Subversive Organisations	1465—87
Demand No. 13—Ministry of Home Affairs	1450—87
Policy regarding Military or semi-Military Organisations established by Provincial Governments.	1465—87
Demand No. 84—Jails and Convict Settlements	1450—88
Demand No. 35—Police	1450—88
Demand No. 63—Census	1450—88
Demand No. 83—Civil Defence	1450—88
Demand No. 85—Delhi	1450—88
Demand No. 86—Ajmer-Merwara	1450—88
Demand No. 87—Panth Piploda	1450—88
Demand No. 88—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1450—88
Demand No. 27—Ministry of States.	1488—1608
Demand No. 89—Relations with Indian States	1488—1608

FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1949—

Papers laid on the Table.	1807—09
Protective Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill—Introduced.	18 09

FRIDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1949—Contd.

	PAGES
General Budget—List of Demands	1509—82
Demand No. 18—Ministry of Health	1510—22
Improvement of conditions of Nursing Services	1511—22
Demand No. 51—Medical Services	1510—22
Demand No. 52—Public Health.	1510—23
Demand No. 16—Ministry of Education	1523—56
Demand No. 46—Archaeology.	1523—57
Demand No. 49—Other Scientific Departments	1523—57
Demand No. 50—Education.	1523—57
Transfer of Colleges in Delhi to the University Area	1531—57
Demand No. 22—Ministry of Labour	1557—74
Unity of Trade Union Organisations.	1557—74
Demand No. 26—Ministry of Transport	1573—82
Demand No. 58—Delhi Transport Service	1576—82
Demand No. 70—Central Road Fund	1576—82

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDING OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Thursday, 10th 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)

11-45 A.M.

CRIMINAL LAW (REMOVAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATIONS) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister of Home Affairs and the States): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of certain existing discriminations in favour of Europeans and Americans in the criminal law of the Provinces of India.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of certain existing discriminations in favour of Europeans and Americans in the criminal law of the Provinces of India.”

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MERCHANT SHIPPING LAWS (EXTENSION TO ACCEDING STATES AND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and to provide for the extension of the laws in force in the Provinces of India relating to merchant shipping to Acceding States and for certain other matters.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and to provide for the extension of the laws in force in the Provinces of India relating to merchant shipping to Acceding States and for certain other matters.”

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Demands for Grants in respect of Works, Mines and Power. I shall therefore place those Demands before the House.

DEMAND NO. 8.—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION,
EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

DEMAND NO. 23.—MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,05,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 44.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,65,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 45.—MINES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,35,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Mines'."

DEMAND NO. 69.—CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,95,30,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

DEMAND NO. 73.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,84,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND NO. 99.—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND NO. 100.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,06,18,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power):

Mr. Speaker, I am giving as briefly as possible a review of the activities of the Ministry over which I have the honour to preside. I am also giving very briefly what the Ministry proposes to do in the course of the next financial year.

This Ministry is essentially concerned with development, and as such it has to deal with large numbers of men and a large amount of material. This Ministry has a number of sections, such as, the Central P.W.D., the Geological Survey of India, the Indian Bureau of Mines, the Petroleum Division, the Central Electricity Commission, the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, the Central Board of Irrigation, the Damodar Valley Corporation, and Stationery and Printing. These are some of the main divisions which are under the control of this Ministry. It will be only appropriate if I begin with the Central Public Works Department's activities.

I know, that this Department has somehow or other been associated in the opinions of the public with corruption and occasionally with inefficiency. Having worked in this Department for eighteen months, I can honestly say that to the extent possible for any human being, inefficiency has been largely and substantially curtailed. As regards corruption; I should claim a fair measure of success in putting it down.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Is it so?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: When we hear all round in the House and outside responsible public men criticising not only the officials but citizens it is a matter for deep consideration, not because it particularly affects a section of the community, but as a matter of fact it is the whole community that is being condemned. Therefore, as I said, as much as was possible in this connection had been done, and if some honourable members in the course of the discussion in the afternoon praise any particular issue or emphasize this, I am prepared to detail the steps that have been taken, and I shall also state what success has followed these measures. But at the same time, I would just appeal to honourable members to consider whether it would be in the best interest of progress to continuously hammer at these people who have been working, most of them honestly and loyally; or whether it would not be better to appeal to their better judgment and their patriotism, and at least occasionally to utter a word of cheer and appreciation, so that they may also enlist their energy and effort in the progress of this country.

I do not want to give full details of what this Department has done, but I will take out two instances in which the Central Public Works Department has distinguished itself very well. I will refer to the construction of sixty-five miles of road from Pathankot to Jammu. It was an achievement and as such it has been appreciated all round not only here in India, but those from abroad who know something about road-building and engineering have also appreciated what has been done. Much abused and much maligned Central P.W.D. has done. Out of these sixty-five miles of road, nearly fourteen miles were causeways, bridges and culverts. There were innumerable cuttings; and if I had only to give you some idea, you would be surprised to learn that dozens of special trains were ordered, about 98 bulldozers were working, and at one time 40,000 workmen were employed day and night.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P and Berar: General): Was not this done only by the Defence Department?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Just wait and see! In this particular task, there was another feature, and very welcome too, namely the co-operation of two Departments. Two companies of the Defence co-operated in the matter of assembling three bridges, but the rest of the work was done by the Central P.W.D. If it is the intention of my honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh, to take a little from the credit of this Department, I am prepared to make the whole of it as a present to him, because ultimately we work on the principle of collective responsibility.

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

Now a high military engineering authority, when I visited this work—and I visited it several times in order to put cheer into our officers and men—told me, 'well' your boys are rather too optimistic and will not be able to complete this work by the 30th/June, 1948. I told him that I had ordered them to see that everything was ready and I must get the telegram on the 30th June evening that the car has passed from Pathankot to Jammu and I did get that telegram.

Another example of how things were done fairly, quickly and efficiently was the construction of the Kurukshetra Camp and also the construction of the refugee camp at Jammu. I do not want to give further instances but I am only pleading that if you give the officers a little appreciation they will do much more and in the course of this speech I propose to show that they have done wonderfully well also in other matters.

In the next year's programme the most important matters which this Ministry proposes to undertake are the development of 200 acres of land in the south-west part of New Delhi for allotment to foreign missions in Delhi, laying out of a park and erecting a memorial at Rajghat, a new Telephone Exchange building at Calcutta, Reconstruction work in the Andamans, preliminary work for an alternative road to Kashmir, construction of office and residential accommodation for the new press, the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and the Central Electricity Commission, which are proposed to be transferred from Delhi and Simla to Nasik, the construction of the building for the Federal Court and additional residential accommodation for members of the Parliament at Delhi.

I know how keen are the members of this House to have fairly good accommodation for themselves. I know that the increase in the number of membership has made it somewhat difficult to find accommodation and good accommodation for all the members. I am quite aware of some inconvenience caused in the matter of maintenance and in the matter of adequate supply of furniture. But all I can tell honourable members at this stage is that as soon as the financial position improves all these complaints will be removed. Apart from this to the best of my ability and to the utmost extent of availability in the matter of accommodation I have given as much satisfaction to honourable members of this House as possible and also to those for whom they occasionally asked for accommodation.

The new construction for the members of this honourable House or rather the successor of this honourable House is based on the assumption that the new constitution will be working early in the year 1951 and the total membership of both the Houses of the Central Legislature would be about 750. For this purpose a new design has been approved, probably it may be called a design based on austerity standards on which all Members are very keen in these days of equality and democracy. I have therefore decided to live up to that ideal, anyway, so far as the houses for members of the legislature are concerned.

In connection with housing innumerable complaints have been made to me about the Estate Office but let me make one point clear, viz., that this Government has not accepted the obligation of giving accommodation to every government servant but short of that all efforts are being made by this Ministry to give accommodation to as many people as possible. At present there are just about 1,600 residential quarters and the number of applicants is 70,000. Before the war the position was with respect to office accommodation that the Central Government offices required just 8 lakhs sq. ft. but in 1948

the figure rose to 60 lakhs sq. ft. The total accommodation now available is just 57 lakhs sq. ft. As regards residential accommodation as I have said already there are at present 1,600 residential quarters and the number of applicants is 70,000. The corresponding figures in 1939 were 700 houses and 1,100 applicants.

The problem now that faces this Ministry on account of this acute situation about accommodation is either it must go ahead with building more or in the alternative remove certain unimportant or subsidiary offices outside New Delhi and the decision of the Government is that those offices which can be conveniently removed from New Delhi may be removed to such places as may be found suitable. In this connection certain places have been visited by our engineers. We have not yet finally come to any conclusion except in regard to three offices which it has been decided to shift to Nasik, which has got a very good climate. Another advantage from the point of view of cost in construction is that in Delhi you have to provide for air-conditioning and central heating, whereas in places like Nasik this expenditure can be avoided.

I have been asked several times the question regarding removing the capital from New Delhi to some other place. All I can say is that the race of Mohammed Bin Tughlak is not yet dead and there are some people who still ask for a change in the capital. But so far as the Government of India is concerned Delhi will continue to be the capital of this country.

An Honourable Member: We want an alternative capital.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Another sentimental appeal was that Delhi has been the grave of several empires.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Cradle.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For my own part I believe that those empires which were based on force and not on the consent of the people have vanished. This State is not only morally but legally based on the consent of the people and as far as I can see it will continue to prosper and prosper.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Mysore State): What about the extremities of climate?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The extreme cold of Delhi in the winter is balanced by its extreme heat in the summer: so that gives a fair balance. Occasionally as a result of these two extremes some people lose their temper but on the whole I think if it has done good during the last thirty-six years it is bound to do good in the future also.

I shall now come to the next activity of this Ministry, the Geological Survey of India. In 1939 there were just 26 officers and now there are 160 officers. How important is this activity is fairly indicated by the fact that several questions are asked every session about this particular department. However, after the 15th August 1947 innumerable enquiries are made of this Ministry and requests have been received from the various provinces and states for surveys of particular areas, quantitative or otherwise. So great is this enthusiasm that very recently I received a letter from a Sadhu telling me that there is a hill called Hemagiri which contained quite a lot of gold and asking me to send an officer to investigate it. Probably the Sadhu was carried away by the name of the hill. On enquiry I found that the hill contained no gold but chalk. However, the point remains that here is an activity which must be expanded. In the United States of America there are 6,000 Geologists doing all sorts of work in the matter of exploration and mining. In Soviet Russia I am told the number is more than 10,000. Compared with that we are far far behind. However, new expansion is contemplated, and if

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

the honourable members who are on the Standing Finance Committee take to this kindly and if what has been visualized by my honourable colleague the Finance Minister happens, I have no doubt the expansion will soon be undertaken.

Just to give an idea of what this Department did in the last year, besides attending to the work of geological mapping, the field programme of the Geological Survey of India for the current field season includes 211 special investigations. These relate mainly to prospecting for oil, coal in connection with the synthetic petroleum plant, Gypsum in connection with the Sindri Fertiliser Factory, investigations of dam sites, water supply and underground water, and prospecting for minerals like bauxite, iron ore, copper, graphite, mica etc. In the coming year on account of the increased strength of the Department, the Geological Survey of India will be able to undertake a still larger number of investigations. Although the staff had increased from 26 to 160 in certain branches of this particular Department we have not been able to recruit the right type of men. It is therefore necessary that we must find out foreign experts and some have been recruited on the principle that they will be here for a definite period and on terms which we think are reasonable.

Allied with this, in order to develop further the mineral resources of this country we have constituted very recently the Indian Bureau of Mines. Honourable members of this House know very well that in the matter of minerals the Provinces have got concurrent jurisdiction. In order to have some central policy it was decided a few months ago that central legislation should be undertaken and an Act was passed only last September. The Rules under the Act are being drafted. In fact they are ready, and after consulting the Provincial and State Governments they will be finalised and copies of the same will be laid on the table of the House as required by the provisions of the said Act. This Bureau has several functions from collection of statistics and giving information to laying down policy and giving direction, so that our position with respect to this will improve. I may mention to the House that roughly we can divide minerals into four categories: firstly in which we have a sort of world monopoly, secondly in which our minerals can stand a fair competition in the world market, thirdly in which we are self-sufficient, and fourthly in which we have to depend upon foreign imports. About 58 per cent, I am told, of the imports that we receive in this country are from materials which we send abroad. Here is a proposition worth considering. When we lay down a policy it must be such that instead of sending raw materials abroad and importing finished and processed commodities it would be far better that we should develop corresponding industries in this country so that export trade of manufactured articles will increase. In short this Bureau will supply the necessary information, guidance and direction for other Departments as well as for Provinces and States. In connection with this activity this Ministry has also to look after the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology at Dhanbad. Originally the intake of boys here was just twenty four. We went into this question, appointed a Committee, and the Committee recommended sixtyfour. Immediately we have arranged to take forty-eight and the classes have already started. Here again there has been some difficulty in recruiting the right type of men, and with great difficulty we have succeeded. Our greatest headache is that we cannot offer more than what has been recommended by the Central Pay Commission and the Finance Department very rightly would not allow us to do that, with the result that private concerns and even private colleges and educational institutions compete in this field. As it happens in many of the cinema companies where the stars are abducted from one company to another it has happened

in the case of some of the institutions conducted by the Government also. Here is a proposition worth considering whether there should not be uniformity of pay scales not only in the Governments of Provinces and the Centre but also in private enterprises if we have already accepted the principle of controlling the activities of many of the industries.

In this connection I might state that there is what is known as the Petroleum Division. This division was started during war time and it has continued up till now, and it is necessary that it should continue hereafter also. This division deals with the supply of petrol and petroleum products. We have done our best to secure adequate supply, but there are difficulties such as the non-availability of dollars. But more than that the present position is that we will have enough supply although our demand in this has increased nearly by ninety per cent. in relation to our demand before the war. The only difficulty is about transport. Here again with the co-operation of the Transport Ministry a plan has been drawn by which in the course of the coming eight or ten months about 200 tank wagons from Canada and other countries and about 800 locally manufactured ones will be in commission. When that is done there will be no complaint about inadequacy of supply.

Another small activity of the Ministry is the Explosives Department. I do not think I should take the time of the House with that.

The next of the most important activities is the Central Electricity Commission. Formerly there was the Electricity Commissioner and the Central Technical Power Board. They were combined into one and the present organisation is the Central Electricity Commission. This Commission has to advise the various Governments on the administration of electricity legislation, to assist Provincial and State Governments in the investigation, survey and preparation of schemes, to prepare when required by the Central Government project reports outlining electric power development schemes and to execute them if so directed, to review and lay down for the whole of India standard voltages and practices for generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy, to conduct experiments researches and propaganda, to collect, maintain and publish statistical data.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Would it not save the time of the House if those matters which are detailed in this Report are not repeated by the honourable Minister? I think that will give some more time for the other honourable members to speak.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a good suggestion if the assumption that it has been read by all the members of the House is correct. If the honourable Dr. Punjabrao has been as attentive as he apparently seems to be he would have found that a considerable portion of the matters referred to by me in my speech is not covered by this Report.

This Central Electricity Commission does planning and looks after utilization and also the commercial aspect. Everybody is aware that if India is to industrialise more and more, what is needed most is power, and if power is needed there must be some organisation commissioned with the work of direction and research, and planning and execution, wherever necessary. This is exactly the function the Central Electricity Commission is expected to perform. In the course of the last year, Central Electricity Commission did work for the Damodar Valley Corporation and many other projects but what is more important is that two schemes prepared by the Central Electricity Commission in the matter of rural electrification have received approval all round. One is for the C.P. and Berar, for the progress of which I think Dr. Punjabrao is greatly interested.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I may point out to him that an area of 1,608 sq. miles containing 800 villages with a population of 9 lakhs will be covered by this scheme which has been accepted by the Central Provinces and Berar Government. Another scheme which was prepared for Assam has been now finally revised and accepted. This will cover 57 towns and important villages in an area of 1,200 sq. miles. It will cost Rs. 45 lakhs initially and Rs. 110 lakhs by the end of the construction. This is what has been done so far as rural electrification is concerned.

Load surveys have also been undertaken and the honourable members of this House know very well that unless there is some plan and some co-ordination there is bound to be lopsidedness one way or the other. So, in order to take a review of the whole position, very recently a conference of power engineers was called and this wider question was thoroughly gone into. We visualized what will be available and what will be the kind of material available, and in terms of resources and technical skill a concrete plan has been drawn so that whatever is uneconomic will be avoided and whatever will be most paying and most urgent will be undertaken.

Another activity of this Department is what is carried on by the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The honourable members of the House know very well that this organisation is of very recent growth but in the course of the last two or three years I should say unhesitatingly that it has done very good work. Not only does it carry out preliminary investigations, but in one case—in the case of Mahanadi and the Hirakud Dam—it has undertaken the construction of the whole project on behalf of the Orissa Government. I also understand that the Government of Bombay proposes to engage this organisation for the construction of a barrage near Surat and some other projects. These matters are under consideration.

The main line of activity of this organisation is that we go on investigating several projects. When the investigations are complete and the stage for construction has come, those projects are taken which can be adequately financed and the whole idea is that at no time should the country find that it has money but no plans are ready. Investigations are going on continuously. I may inform the honourable House that at present there are nearly twelve projects which are under investigation and the idea is that no Province should be left without a fairly big project. Fortunately for us, the river system in this country is so well dispersed that there is no area which cannot be reached by some appropriate project near about. How huge our potentialities are may be guessed from the fact that today out of the water resources available, we only use 6 per cent. If some of these schemes which are under construction and which are under investigation are completed in the course of the next 20 or 25 years India will be producing 40 million K. W. of power. Today India produces a little less than 2 million K. W. and out of this nearly 50 per cent. is absorbed by four towns.

Shri B. L. Sondhi (East Punjab: General): In the report you say the total production is half a million K. W.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am talking about both hydro and thermal power. The figure half a million refers to Hydral power.

Nearly half of the present power production is absorbed by industries and people living in the four towns of Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Calcutta and Bombay. Our idea is that in the future development, the needs of the rural areas must

be given their due share. If as I said all the schemes which are now under construction and investigation are completed, they will be generating 40 million K. W. of power and all these schemes are multi-purpose schemes—water will be available for irrigation, and I think we will be in a position not only to supply enough food even for the growing population of this country, but also we will be in a position to export.

As regards some other schemes such as the Rampadaagar, there has been some criticism in this House. I can only say at this stage that it is not the intention to delay any one of them indefinitely but as soon as the financial position improves those schemes which do not give quicker results but which are ultimately beneficial—on that there is no dispute—will be undertaken.

As regards the Damodar Valley Project which is entirely managed by the Damodar Valley Corporation, I will briefly state that considerable progress has been made. An order for 2,00,000 K.W. Thermal plant has been placed. Designs for the construction of 3 dams, Tilaiya, Konar and Maithan are fairly complete. Preliminary engineering work is also going ahead. Some road survey and other matters have also been completed. Geological survey of a considerable portion has also been made and reports submitted. On the whole, I think things are moving as expected and as has been said very often, this scheme will be completed within the scheduled time.

Another activity is about printing and stationery. Government of India has five Presses. The work has increased so much and especially when the Constituent Assembly or this honourable House is sitting, the work is so much that we have to take help of private presses. In fact, last year work to the extent of Rs. 24 lakhs was placed with the private presses. However, in order to cope with the increase in work, new press machinery has been ordered and we are getting delivery of the same part by part. It has been decided to locate this Press at Nasik.

That sums up the activities of this Ministry. This is just a prosaic account. I know that what has been achieved may not be much in relation to what has been aspired. However, I should say the achievement is a fair dividend on effort undertaken. (*Prof. N. G. Ranga: 'Question'*). There is more in promise than in performance. I do not want to overstate the activities, but at the same time, it would leave me sad if what my Ministry has done is not appreciated. This is the Department connected with the development of power for industry, water for irrigation and employment all round. When the Mahanadi project is completed, it will be the incoming of *Mahalakshmi* in that province. When the Damodar Valley Project is completed, it will not be Bihar alone that will be prosperous, but I always believe and I have always believed that prosperity is indivisible. When at last these two schemes and the Nangal and Bhakra schemes in Punjab are completed, I have no doubt the whole economy of this country will change. With the experience that we have gathered in the past, with the efforts that we are making in the present, and the high aspirations for the future—when they are all combined, I have no doubt we will give you the results that you expect of this Ministry. Sir, I have done.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, out of evil cometh good. The Atlantic Charter, though it was drawn up by Roosevelt and Churchill, though it is not a recognised Charter and is dead politically, it gave birth to the policy of Western countries including America and England particularly, how they would exploit Asian countries, how Asia would produce the raw materials and England and America would supply capital goods and luxury goods. That was the conception of 1945, but in 1946 the then bureaucratic government here created two Ministries, one the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power and the

[Shri B. Das]

other the Ministry that we discussed yesterday,—Ministry of Industry and Supply. They will add to the prosperity of this country if both the Ministries properly work in the spirit which my friend the honourable Mr. Gadgil envisaged.

Sir, it has been talked often in the lobbies that the honourable Member's Ministry should be known as Ministry of Fuel and Power and the other one should be known as the Industries Ministry, not Industry and Supply Ministry, because supply has a bad odour during the years from 1948 to 1946. Whether my honourable friend's Ministry is known as the Ministry of Fuel and Power or as Works, Mines and Power, it has the supreme control to co-ordinate all our resources in power—water power, coal power or fuel oil power—it has also the control of the Geological Department and Mining Bureau whereby those resources may be worked not for the benefit of foreign exploiters but for our own benefit. In the past, the name of the Geological Survey stank in our noses, because everything that was discovered was known first in England and decades afterwards Indians had to know it. Today, it will serve one great purpose, namely, how India's resources can be utilised for the prosperity of India.

My honourable friend is in charge of Corporations and multi-purpose schemes. I thank him for mentioning that *Mahalakshmi* will spread in my province of Orissa when the Mahanadi Valley Project is completed. But I have to offer some criticism; some diffidence on the part of the public exists about the rate at which the grand ideas are coming out from his Ministry every now and then and the slow way these are being given effect to.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

All ideas are good. Multi-purpose projects are good. But at the same time I hope that they will be executed properly, economically and efficiently to scheduled time so that some benefit will accrue to the general public to which my honourable friend and I belong. Twenty five years is no attraction to me, or that twenty five years hence India will export food outside has no charm.

I will refer mainly to certain financial aspects of the budget of this Ministry. In the explanatory memorandum of my honourable friend Dr. John Matthai, one line gave me cause for alarm. In reviewing the position of expenditure on Printing and Stationery Department he says that while the Budget estimates on purchase of paper alone was rupees one hundred and eighty five lakhs the revised estimate is Rs. 314 lakhs. I am a little confused. My honourable friend the Finance Minister has provided that rupees one hundred and ninety lakhs will be spent on purchase of paper in the next year (1949-50). This inflated expenditure of paper is no doubt due to the inflated staff in the Secretariat. If you reduce the strength of the staff you will consume less paper and other articles of stationery.

While I am on this subject I would like to refer to page 218 on the Final Estimates where provincial recoveries are not shown under Stationery. Recovery was estimated at 148 lakhs and it grew into 181 lakhs. In the coming year it has been estimated to be 189 lakhs. This figure does not include somehow the provincial withdrawals on the Central Government. This leads one to think that the extra expenditure on paper—the huge sum of one crore and fifteen lakhs—is due to the lack of proper control in all the Departments of Government. While I congratulate my friend the honourable Mr. Gadgil

that he is going to have a Central Printing Press at Nasik, I must say that I see no reason why every Ministry should have a pocket printing press. All printing and publication should be centralised. While the Information and Broadcasting Department has its own printing establishment the Agricultural Ministry is utilising the whole machinery of the Survey of India at Delhi and Dehra Dun for printing in lithographic numerous publications and statistics. If all printing is done under one agency there would be great saving under this head.

The Statistical Department of the Government of India is not centralised and therefore each Ministry brings out its own statistics to suit its own purpose. I will discuss this issue in detail and various other aspects of over-budgeting and multiplication of expenditure when the House will discuss the Ministry of Finance on the 16th instant.

Regarding the Damodar Valley Corporation, I would say it is a bold conception. But I must point out that the way the details of expenditure have been furnished is unhelpful. You have not shown the progress of expenditure in the current year. We have got a Financial Adviser there. But as he came from Burma he does not know the manner in which financial control is being exercised in India. This Damodar Valley Corporation finances should not be compared with that of the Railway Board. Accounts of the Railway Board are properly maintained and audited and we have full financial control over the Railway expenditure. I hope in the next year's Budget details of the progress of expenditure on Damodar Valley will be shown.

I come next to the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Corporation. This history of these corporations is interesting. When the old bureaucrats realised that we were going to get political power, they somehow managed to have corporations of this kind started in order to be outside our financial control. As the report shows, they paid 82 lakhs for taking over dilapidated assets and forming that corporation with a capital of two crores of rupees. The Government issued bonds and stocks over two crores, but the management did not come into the hands of the Government completely and the Parliament exercises no control. I was surprised to find in the Balance Sheet of 1948 that there is a cash balance of seventy lakhs of the Corporation lying with the Imperial Bank. That cash balance does not merge into the General cash balance of the Government.

In this respect I must congratulate the honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power who has provided under Section 29 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act that funds advanced to the Corporation should be deposited in the Reserve Bank. The result is that any cash balance merges into the general balances of the Government. Let me quote, "Incidentally, as provided for in Section 29 of the Act, this whole amount was deposited with the Reserve Bank of India in a personal ledger account operated in accordance with the needs of the Corporation so that, under this arrangement, the benefit of the undrawn balance accrues to the Government". This is not the case with cash balance of Delhi Central Electricity Corporation. Government derive no benefit from this huge cash balance nor our ways and means budget is benefited. The Finance Ministry must examine this anomaly and end it. All cash balances of such Corporations, State Industries must merge into Government cash balance. Referring again to the Delhi Electric Supply Corporation I would suggest to the honourable Minister to appoint a high-power committee to examine the assets thereof. I am certain that the assets have been overvalued purposely to pay huge sums to the European management concerned.

Delhi and New Delhi are the constituency of Shri Deshbandhu Gupta. New connections for the supply of electricity are difficult to get here. The Chief Commissioner does not allow new connections on the ground that

[Shri B. Das]

no power is available. But if you take a stroll into Connaught Place one evening you will find the numerous shops almost flood-lit with hundreds of powerful lights all round. The New Delhi streets are over illuminated. I would suggest that if this wastage of electricity is stopped in an emergency like this, a lot of supply can be made available for household purposes. I hope my honourable friend will consider this suggestion.

Sir, I had hoped that my honourable friends the Minister for Works, Mines and Power, and the Minister for Finance will sit together and devise ways of controlling corporations of the type I have named and also the Hindustan Air Craft Factory at Bangalore and the other State Industries controlled by the Ministry of Industry and Supply, it may be possible to reduce our borrowings.

Sir, I am not satisfied with the progress of expenditure in the Capital Budget of the Central P. W. D. on their multi-purpose projects. I congratulate the Minister for saying that the officers are honest. I cannot understand why the progress of expenditure has not been shown in the Budget. The budget for huge expenditure every year and get financial sanction which they do not utilise. I know that the Central P. W. D. does work for the other Ministries such as External Affairs, Tribal Areas, Industry and Supply and so on. But I wonder why they provide for works in the Budget when they have neither the material nor the requisite staff to execute such works during the budget year. We have no method of carrying forward balances of capital programme in building till next year. Such over-budgetting, whether capital or revenue, must cease and should be in future carefully examined in the Ministry of Finance. The only State Industry, the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power is concerned is the hiring out of certain electrical plants held in stock. I hope that such war time activities and war time ideas should be closed up so that if there is any war in the near future, we may have at least scope of free start.

Shri Kala Venkata Rao (Madras: General): Sir, I rise to support the demands moved by the honourable Minister. In a country like India in which we mainly depend upon agriculture, water is the primary need. It is said that in the world there is a race between food and growth of population and that population is winning and that food is losing. It is particularly more so in India. We have heard in this House many complaints about the need to have more food and grow more food in this country. We cannot achieve that object, unless we husband all our water resources in this country. According to the estimates, there are as many as 51 billion cubic feet of surface water flowing in this country and we are hardly using 6½ billion cubic feet of water out of that source. Therefore, I feel, Sir, that we should concentrate upon this subject if we wish that this country should prosper. Our aim should be two fold: one is that we should conserve all our water resources and put them to the beneficial use of society; the second is that we should repair and maintain the existing irrigation works in a manner that full benefit flows out of them. I am very glad to learn from the honourable the Minister that attempts are being made today to see that both these things are being done.

I must say that we should have a target and a working plan. In order to achieve both these objects. I would suggest that the old idea about irrigation projects must be given the go-by. What I mean by that is this. Till recently, the idea was that no irrigation work should be undertaken unless the return therefrom would be equal to the interest normally earned on Government paper. That is, unless any work yields out of its proceeds the market rate of the Government bonds, such a work should not be undertaken. But, now, Sir, I am very

glad that this policy is being gradually changed in all the provinces, particularly in Madras. I do hope that this is the policy of the Central Government also. Not only should we calculate the return on the investment, but we should also base our future plans on the possible benefit that will accrue out of that irrigation work to the society at large in the locality and to the country. On this basis, I think three criteria should guide our plans. Firstly the work should be able to give a normal supply to the area which it is envisaged to irrigate. Secondly, the soil in the vicinity must be amenable to the cultivation of wet crops; thirdly, the quantity of food raised on account of the construction of this work must be commensurate with the outlay. If these three points are satisfied, we may undertake that particular irrigation work and I hope that the honourable Minister will take this suggestion into consideration.

The honourable Minister has painted a rosy picture about the Damodar Valley Corporation, the Hirakud Dam, and a number of other projects which are being investigated just now. In this connection, I would like to lay stress on one aspect, namely that the "quicker results test" which is being applied by the honourable Minister should not be the only test that ought to be applied in such cases. I would like to illustrate my point by quoting the situation in Madras with which I am very familiar. In Madras, we have got three sets of irrigation schemes. One set is, the small schemes which number 300 of which 100 have already been sanctioned, for which we have to spend six or seven crores of Rupees. The Second set consists of the mid-term schemes which number 23, some of which are in progress, for which we have to spend 40 crores in the next five or ten years. The third set consists of the river valley schemes, the Tungabhadra, the lower Bavani, The Rampadasagar and the Krishna Pennar projects. In spite of the Grow More Food campaign and the crores of Rupees we have invested in the small schemes in order to get quicker results, I may state that we could bring under the plough under these schemes, only four lakhs of acres of land which are yielding only two lakhs of tons of paddy. Therefore, I say, if famine is to disappear from this country, if our population is to have nutritive food, we should also tackle simultaneously not only those quick result schemes, but also the long term river valley schemes. The other day, the honourable Minister said that for the Rampadasagar scheme, it will take 19 years to complete. That is really so; I do not disagree with him. But, when is the first year to begin? Why not begin today? If we begin today, the results will be coming in at the end of 19 years. If we begin in 1955, the results will come only in 1974. Therefore I plead that these small schemes, the mid-term schemes and the long term schemes should be simultaneously undertaken. In this connection I would like to state that we are not going to meet these investments from out of the current revenues. The honourable Dr. John Matthai cannot provide the requisite amount from out of the revenue budget. It is impossible even in 1955 to provide the requisite amount from the revenue budget. Therefore, the amount must come from out of the capital budget. Capital budget means borrowing. I say why should we not borrow more and invest on these schemes. Then comes the other question as to whether we are not adding to the inflation in the country by doing so. This is a vicious circle.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Whether we can borrow at all.

Shri Kala Venkata Rao: That depends on the capacity of the Government if India is so poor as she is not able to borrow at all, then, that is a different matter. We feel there is scope for borrowing. If the honourable Minister feels that there is no scope for borrowing, the whole developmental scheme which the honourable Mr. Gadgil has pictured to us will also fail. If there

[Shri Kala Venkata Rao]

is scope for borrowing, my submission, is, do borrow and do invest because this would be a good sop for inflation itself. More production means less inflation. I think that the 1,200 crores of Rupee notes now in circulation in this country is not real inflation. In a country of this vastness and resources, we must have a circulation of not 1,200 crores, but 12,000 crores. More production means more wealth and not more notes. I know Dr. Matthai can order the printing of 400 crores of notes more and create more projects. But, if along with the printing of the notes, production also increases, it is not at all inflation. It is one of those important things in which we have to take a certain amount of risk, if we have to survive. Therefore, I would like to impress on the honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power to look into this aspect in a broader perspective, have for a target more schemes and try to put them into operation and begin them in the near future so that the results may flow not only quickly, but more quickly and most quickly.

Then Sir, I would like to plead something more for these river valley schemes. The T. V. A. scheme which was the mother of all these conceptions was thought of at a time of repression when coffee seeds were being burnt and when wheat was being burnt in America but now we are in a different position. We have to produce more and more. Therefore all those schemes which integrate flood control, navigation and hydro-electricity must be given priority. I am glad that the Damodar Valley Project is now under way. In this connection I must plead for the Ramapadasagar Scheme about which the honourable Minister just now mentioned. It is a huge project. After all we know our deficit and unless some such big project comes into vogue, there is no scope of preventing famine and want in this country. For the Ramapadasagar Scheme the dam will have 234 ft. depth at bed level and it will rise 192 ft. above the river bed and the lake will be spreading over 337 sq. miles. It will be very useful. Not only will it produce food in about 1½ million new acres of land, but it will also give sufficient water to the existing areas in the Godavari Delta and Krishna Delta. If you give more water to the Godavari Delta then our produce will increase, by more than twenty-five per cent. From any point of view there is no point in postponing this scheme. It will solve the food problem of Madras and therefore I would very much impress upon the honourable Minister to undertake this at an early date.

Now I would like to mention only one more point about irrigation and that is about the Tungabhadra Project. It has been mentioned more than once that it will be finished in 1952. It is not going to be finished because that great engineer of Hyderabad who was in charge of it did not worry about laying bricks but he was busy with manufacture of arms for Hyderabad State till recently. Unless the Minister uses his whip hand from here, it will not be possible to continue the work on this dam. Therefore I would very much request the minister to look to it and realise that unified control alone will result in the early realisation of this scheme.

Regarding development of electricity, I feel that electricity alone will be able to change the whole organisation of technique of industry in this country. It will be useful in a number of ways. I would like to say that out of the 3356 million k.w. of energy that is available about sixty-three per cent. goes to industry and 3.73 per cent. only for irrigation. We have to make power more available for irrigation purposes.

The Electricity Act, of 1948, seeks to create a Provincial Electricity Board. In Madras we have invested ten crores in electrical undertakings and under the existing working schemes we have to invest twenty crores more. We are far

advanced towards nationalisation. That Board should not be made compulsory but Madras should have the option to proceed in its own way because it has already invested crores into the electricity producer concerns. Another thing is, Madras has sent here a bill about purchase of private licenses which number about 42 and whose capital is 2 crores. I know that many of these are rotten concerns and are not able to cater to the requirements of their localities even. Therefore I would request you to give favourable consideration to that bill and give your concurrence. As it is a concurrent subject and they want concurrence, I would again request you to examine this question in detail and see that it is concurred to, so that Madras may proceed further with its developmental schemes.

You want to establish a Heavy-power production Plant. I have to press the case of Avadi in Madras. The essential raw materials, needed for the electric products like mica, rubber, silk etc. are nearby at hand. There is and will be a very good local market for all your products.

One thing more. In former days politicians were getting votes by simply promising a post-office here or there. To-day we have to promise a new world and really we are out to create a new world in India because our Great leader promised Ram Rajya to this country. We have to achieve that ideal and have to create happiness for the crores of people in our country. We will have to work very hard for this purpose and must have a target and plan. I do hope, that the Honourable Mr. Gadgil, who is now practically the dynamo working here, will use a well planned high pressure drive and see that electricity, irrigation and navigation will prosper in this country and thus make this nation a self-sufficient one.

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.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha (West Bengal: General): The demand for this Ministry covers a wide range of activities. It has so many ramifications and branches, that it is something like a labyrinth for a new man like myself. Sir, there is an adage that "Charity begins at home" and in keeping with that I should like my criticism to begin with things at home. That brings me to the housing accommodation with which in addition to the members of the general public, as Members of the House we are also interested. After the war it has become a problem all over the world but in India we see the problem has become so acute that it has become something like a national scandal. In the report of the Ministry it is stated that in the Centrally administered areas, and perhaps in Delhi alone, there are 70,000 applicants on the waiting list, and their accommodation is only for 16,000. If, Sir, this is the position. I think I need not say anything more on this point. This figure itself reveals the whole picture.

As for our own accommodation, apart from the paucity of accommodation, the little amenities that are provided in our accommodation are very niggardly supplied. Even an electric bulb when fused cannot be replaced even in weeks or in a month's time and that after repeated reminders.

The honourable Minister himself has admitted that the Central P.W.D. or the P.W.D. in general has not much of a reputation as regards efficiency, and integrity also. But I am ready to accept the assurance of an honoured colleague like Mr. Gadgil that this department is coming out of that stigma, and I hope he will be able to clean the Augean Stable and put it in good order. But, Sir, I must endorse the statement of the Minister that in spite of its drawbacks and its reputation for slow movement, this department deserves our

[Shri Arun Chandra Guha].

hearty congratulations for the way in which they have completed the Jammu-Pathankot road, and the way in which they have completed the refugee camps. I should say that really this department has shown some quickness and some efficiency which is not generally associated with this department in these two matters. I hope, therefore, that they will maintain this reputation in other matters also.

In this connection, Sir,—perhaps that may not belong to this department—I should also mention another road, the road on the Zo-Jila Pass, over 12,000 ft. high. It was really an engineering and military feat, for which this Government deserves hearty congratulations from the country and from the House. In the Defence Budget debate that item ought to have been mentioned and whether it be the Defence or the Public Works Department that is concerned I give my congratulations to this Government for that piece of work also.

Then, Sir, as regards the general development of the country, much depends on this department. Its sphere of activities starts from supplying some harmless articles like stationery, paper, pens, ink and adhesives to the control of high explosives. It has within its jurisdiction irrigation works, controlling and marshalling of water power as well as furnishing furniture and printing. To start with the most harmless thing, printing, I endorse what my honourable friend Mr. B. Das has mentioned, that all printing of the Government of India should be put under one department. It would save a lot of overhead charges on behalf of the Government of India. It may not be within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Works, Mines and Power, but I hope the honourable Minister for Finance will take note of this so that each Department may not have printing arrangements of its own but there should be one printing department for the whole of the Government of India. The chief activity of this ministry centres round what is called the CWINC of course not the famous ink by that name. It is shorter form of the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission. This department is in charge of a very important section of our national life. In the post war or post-independence reconstruction of this country, this Department is invested with a responsibility which is unparalleled and which no other department of the Government has in its jurisdiction. The natural resources of the country should be utilised and exploited and that depends practically entirely on this Department.

As regards our food supply there has been a debate recently and almost every day the food questions come up in a large number in the House during the question hour. Day before yesterday during question hour there were 22 questions regarding food and agriculture and I was rather sympathetically looking at the honourable the Food Minister when he was answering series of questions and innumerable supplementaries. The food problem cannot be solved unless we can improve our irrigation, unless we can control and marshal our water powers and unless we can electrify the country. For electricity there is another body under this department. It is called the Central Electricity Commission. I do not know what is the utility of having so many separate bodies. I think the Minister might look into it. I do not know if the Economy Committee set up by the Government have considered the question of having so many separate departments, which mean extra overhead charges for every one of these boards and commissions.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: Do you want amalgamation of this? With what department?

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member should address the Chair.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: I am addressing the Chair, Sir.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: After the Russian Revolution there was a famous saying of Lenin, that Soviet *plus* electrification is Communism. That was a slogan given by him simply to stimulate the work of electrification. I should say that similarly for our Government, electrification should be the first charge or responsibility.

I now come to the Damodar Valley Corporation. The budget that has been supplied to us is too vague. That body has been set up as an autonomous body and it should be allowed to work as such but at the same time the Act has provided ample scope for control and supervision by the Central Government. The budget that has been supplied to us should have contained more details. This autonomous body should be allowed to work as quickly as possible, so that the country may derive the benefit of the money that the nation is going to invest in it as quickly as possible.

I must say something about my own province of West Bengal, which is the most industrialised province in India and it is so much over-populated that it has to be industrialised still more, if it is to maintain its population. Its density of population now is 600 per square mile and there are possibilities of its industrial development, which this Department can undertake. The Ganga Barrage should receive better attention of the department. The partition of India has not only partitioned the country but has partitioned our rivers also. Almost all the rivers of India that is in northern India have become international rivers. The fear that Pakistan may intervene and come in should not deter us from exploiting the resources of these rivers. Ninetyfour per cent. of the water flowing down these rivers go to waste and only six per cent. is used for irrigation and other purposes. Then in the Duars side there are immense possibilities for exploitation of mineral resources. I think the Minister should have a geological survey conducted there soon.

In this connection I might mention some of the tribal areas of Assam also.

As regards electrification, rural and urban, from my experience in Calcutta I would draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the suburban railways in Calcutta should be electrified so that the congestion in Calcutta would be relieved. With more electrification there would be proper industrial development of Calcutta and West Bengal also.

With these few remarks I commend the sanction of these Demands.

चौधरी रणवीर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, हमने अपने देश को हमारे माननीय नेता, महात्मा गांधी जी की लीडरशिप में लड़ते हुए आजाद कराया था। इसलिये उनका ध्येय हमें हमेशा अपने सामने रखना चाहिये। वह हमेशा डीसेंट्रलाइजेशन के हक में रहे। वह पावर या इकानामिक पावर के एकीकरण के खिलाफ रहे और कांग्रेस के झंडे के अन्दर जो चर्चा है वह भी डीसेंट्रलाइजेशन का प्रतीक है। सभापति महोदय, हमारे नेता पंडित अबाहर लाल नेहरू और सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल ने हमारे देश के रास्ते में जो बड़े बड़े पहाड़ व रोड़े थे उनको साफ कर दिया है। हमारे देहात में एक मिसाल है कि जब कोई खेत बोया जाता है तो उस खेत के बोनो से पहले उसमें सूड़ करना होता है यानी कूड़ा करकट को साफ करना होता है। हमारे देश के रास्ते में बहुत सारा कूड़ा करकट था। सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल ने उसको साफ कर दिया। लेकिन हमारे देश का भविष्य और

[चौधरी रणवीर सिंह]

हमारे देश की तरक्की हमारे आनरेबिल मंत्री श्री गाडगिल जी के महकमे के हाथ में है। उनका महकमा बेसिक महकमा है, वह हिन्दुस्तान की तरक्की के लिये बुनियादी महकमा है। अगर हमें बापूजी के सबक को कार्य रूप में लाना है, तो हमें इस बात की तरफ ध्यान देना होगा, जिस की तरफ कि आज प्रातः हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने थोड़ा सा इशारा भी किया था, अर्थात् रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन। जिस वक्त उन्होंने रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन के बारे में कहा कि हमें उसको इम्पार्टेंस देना चाहिये ती मैंने उस वक्त अपनी जगह से एक आवाज़ लगाई कि यह टाप-प्रायरेटि की चीज़ होनी चाहिये।

आपने देखा होगा कि हमारे मंत्री जी के कार्य के बारे में जो कागज़ दिये गये हैं उनके अन्दर एस्टेट आफिस का एक महकमा दिया गया है और उसमें बतलाया गया है कि कितनी हजार एण्डीकेशन्स गवर्नमेंट सरवेंट्स की उनके पास अभी तक बाकी हैं जिनके लिये यह कोई मकान का इन्तज़ाम नहीं कर पाये हैं। यह मसला रोज़ दिन ब दिन बढ़ता जाता है। मगर इसका कोई हल है तो यही है कि देहात का इलैक्ट्रिफिकेशन किया जाय और देहात के अन्दर बहुत रेज़ीडेंशियल हाउसेज़ हों। आज लोग देहात में क्यों नहीं जाना चाहते, क्योंकि न तो वहां बिजली है और न पानी का नलका है। अगर दिल्ली के देहात में श्री आनरेबिल गाडगिल साहब बिजली का इन्तज़ाम कर दें तो यहां के गवर्नमेंट सरवेंट्स की जो प्राब्लेम है, मकान की, वह उनके सामने बाकी नहीं रहेगी। वरना गवर्नमेंट को उनके लिये मकान बनाने पड़ेंगे और बड़ा भारी खर्चा उनको इसके लिये उठाना पड़ेगा। अगर रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन हो जाय तो हर एक गवर्नमेंट सरवेंट दिल्ली के देहात में जा कर बसना पसन्द करेगा क्योंकि वहां जीवन इतना क्रीमती नहीं है जितना की शहर के अन्दर क्रीमती है। तो इसलिये मैं रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन के लिये अपनी पुरजोर मांग करते हुए इसके साथ ही साथ आगे जो दूसरी चीज़ें मंत्री महोदय के हाथ में हैं उनकी ओर ध्यान दिलाता हूँ।

यह देश एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और कृषि प्रधान देश के लिये नहरें बहुत जरूरी हैं, खास तौर पर ऐसे प्रदेश में जहां पर कि बारिश बहुत थोड़ी हो, राजपूताना और नारदन इंडिया में इनकी खास तौर पर जरूरत है। मैं ईस्ट पंजाब का रहने वाला हूँ। एक वक्त था कि हमारा प्रान्त तमाम देश में अनाज देता था। लेकिन जब देश में आजादी आई तो बदकिस्मती से हमारे प्रान्त की तकसोम हुई और हमारे प्रान्त का जो गेहूं देने वाला इलाका था वह पाकिस्तान में गया। अब अगर आप चाहते हैं कि देश के १३० करोड़ रुपया सालाना अनाज के लिये दूसरे देशों में

न भेजे जायें तो उसका हल एक यही है कि आप इरीगेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स को ज्यादा से ज्यादा तरक्की दें। पिछले सालों में बड़ा जोर था और बड़ी बड़ी स्कीमें देश के सामने रखी गयी थीं। लेकिन मुझे डर है कि जिस वक्त उन स्कीमों का वक्त आया तो हमारे दूसरे भाई, जिनको दर असल आगे चल कर फायदा होता, उन्होंने उसके खिलाफ आवाज उठाई कि देश के अन्दर इनफ्लेशन के कारण बलबे हो जावेंगे और इस तरह डरा कर इरीगेशन की स्कीम में बहुत हद तक सुस्ती पैदा कर दी। अगर देश को दर असल किसी चीज की जरूरत है तो वह इरीगेशन स्कीम्स की है और देश में सही मानों में फूड प्राडक्ट्स और खुराक ही की कमी दूसरी चीजों की कमी की वजह है। कोई चीज आप ले लीजिये, इंडस्ट्री लीजिये। अगर आप रूरल एरिया को इलैक्ट्रिफाई कर दें और वहां पर नहरें वगैरह चलवा दें तो इंडस्ट्री के समान खपाने का भी कोई मसला नहीं रहेगा। इसलिये मैं इस बात की प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि आप देश की इस जरूरत को ध्यान में रखते हुए जैसे कि अब तक आप इसमें समय व ताकत लगा रहे हैं उसी तरह बल्कि उससे भी ज्यादा दें।

एक और चीज मैं इस मिलसिले में कहना चाहता हूँ और यह यह कि हमारे यहां काम्युनिकेशन्स का महकमा है। उसके लिये एक डिप्टी मिनिस्टर दे दिया गया। लेकिन इस महकमे में जहां कि एक नहीं बल्कि कई मिनिस्ट्रियों की आवश्यकता थी उसके लिये कोई डिप्टी मिनिस्टर नहीं दिया गया। मैं सम्मत्ता हूँ कि अगर हमारे देश के भविष्य को बनाना है तो जो बेसिक चीज है, जिससे कि देश की तरक्की होने वाली है, और जिस महकमे पर सारे देश का भविष्य निर्भर है, उसके लिये एक नहीं बल्कि कई मिनिस्ट्री पृथक पृथक होनी चाहियें। मैं तो यह चाहता हूँ कि इरीगेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिये एक अलहदा मिनिस्ट्री होनी चाहिये और जो दूसरी चीजें हैं उनके लिये अलहदा मिनिस्ट्रीज बनें। लेकिन अगर ज्यादा मिनिस्ट्री आपको नहीं बढ़ानी है तो कम से कम काम्युनिकेशन्स जैसे महकमों के बजाय यहां आप डिप्टी मिनिस्टर बढ़ाइये ताकि गाडगिल साहब को जो भी समय मिले और यह देश को ज्यादा से ज्यादा और जल्दी से जल्दी खुशहाल बनाने वाली स्कीमें तो तय्यार करा सकें।

मुझे कहनी तो बहुत सी बातें हैं और कई एक शिकायतें भी मैं मिनिस्ट्री से करना चाहता हूँ लेकिन समय बहुत थोड़ा मिलता है। मेरी इच्छा तो बड़ी थी कि उन्होंने जो कार्य किये हैं उनके में गीत गाऊं, क्योंकि आप जानते हैं कि मैं तो एक किसान हूँ और जब हमें यह खयाल आता है कि भाकरा डेम तकरीबन जल्दी ही कम्प्लोट होने वाला है जिससे कि सब खुशहाल होंगे तो फिर उनकी कृतज्ञता प्रकट न करना तो मैं सम्मत्ता हूँ कि बहुत ही बुरा है, मैं तो चाहता था कि उनके लिये कृतज्ञता

[चौधरी रणबीर सिंह]

प्रकट करने के लिये बाफ़ी देर बोलता । लेकिन चुंकि समय निश्चित है तो ज्यादा समय उधर न लगा कर मैं कुछ बातें और भी कहना चाहता हूँ जिनको मैं महसूस करता हूँ ।

आपका महकमा इस देश के लिये बड़ी बड़ी चीज़ें बनाता है । जिन लोगों के पास मकान नहीं हैं उनके लिये मकान देता है । लेकिन क्या आपने कभी यह भी सोचा है कि कुछ ऐसे भी आदमी हैं कि जिनके घर और खेत उजाड़ दिये जाते हैं दूसरे लोगों को बसाने के लिये । एक वक़्त था कि आज से कोई बीस पचीस वर्ष पहले जहाँ हम आज बैठे हुए हैं वहाँ कई देहात बसते थे । पचीस बरस हो गये होंगे लेकिन आजतक वे ग़रीब अपने नये घर नहीं बसा पाये । यह कहना कि साहब उरको मुआवज़ा दे दिया गया सब शान्ति कर लेते हैं । लेकिन मैं आपको इस सिलसिले में इतनी बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि खेती करने वाले के लिये कोई मिला नहीं कहा जा सकता जब तक कि आप उसको ज़मीन के बदले में ज़मीन न दें । अभी हाल में यहाँ दिल्ली के करीब विदेशी राजदूतों के लिये कोठियाँ बनाने के लिये कहा गया है । मुझे डर है कि उसमें बहुत सारे बदकिस्मत देहाती घर शायद उजाड़ दिये जायेंगे और उन लोगों को बेघर होना पड़ेगा। (एक आवाज़: नहीं होना पड़ेगा) । अगर ऐसा है तो मुझे खुशी है ।

आज ही दोपहर के वक़्त मेरे पास एक भाई आये थे । उनका गांव है पसौंडा, यहाँ से कोई आठ नौ मील पर है । यहाँ एक हवाई अड्डा बनाया जा रहा है और उसकी वजह से उनका गांव जहाँ कोई चार हजार की आबादी है उजाड़ा जायगा । हालांकि अगर वहाँ से एक फरलांग हटा कर अड्डा बनाया जाय तो इधर से उधर करने में किसी को बेघर नहीं होना पड़ता । यह लोग दूसरी जमीन देना चाहते हैं । लेकिन वह चीफ़ इंजीनियर से मिल कर आये । उन्होंने कहा कि किसी न किसी को तो उठना ही पड़ेगा । उस बेचारे ने बहुत ज्यादा ममझाने की कोशिश की कि अगर आप घेरी बात मानेंगे तो किसी को भी नहीं उठना पड़ेगा । लेकिन उनका कुछ ऐसा माइंड बन जाता है कि वह अपने आफ़िशियलडम के ढंग से ही सोचते हैं । तो मैं आपसे यह नम्र निवेदन करता हूँ कि देश की आप तरफ़की कीजिये, देश के लिये आप नये नये डैम बनाइये और बिजली पैदा कीजिये और जो बेघर गवर्नमेंट सरवेंट्स हैं उनके लिये मकान बनवाइये । लेकिन मैं इसके साथ साथ आपसे यह भी प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि जहाँ आप किसानों को बड़े बड़े हवाई अड्डे बनाने के लिये बेघर करते हैं या और दूसरी स्कीमें बनाने के लिये बेघर करते हैं तो सनकी तरफ़ आप ज्यादा ध्यान दीजिये । और उनको बसाने के लिये भी अवश्य प्रयत्न करें ।

(English translation of the above speech).

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we liberated our country fighting under the leadership of our venerable leader Mahatma Gandhi. So we must always place his ideals before us. He was always in favour of decentralization. He was always opposed to the consolidation of economic power. The charkha in the Congress Flag also symbolises decentralization. Mr. Speaker Sir, our much respected leaders Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel have removed the great obstacles and rubbles that were in the path of our country. There goes a proverb in our villages that when a field is to be sown then before sowing seeds that field has got to be cleared of all the rubbish and waste matter. Much rubbish lay in the path of our country. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has removed the whole of it. But the future of our country and the prosperity of our country lies in the hands of the honourable Shri Gadgil's Department. His is a basic Department and forms the foundation of the future progress of India. If we have to give practical shape to the teachings of Bapuji then we will have to turn our attention to that matter, about which the honourable Minister dropped a small hint today morning, that is rural electrification. When he mentioned about rural electrification and said that we should give it due importance then at that time from my seat I called out in a loud voice that this ought to be a thing of top priority.

You must have seen that in the report describing the work of the honourable Minister, a Department named Estate Office is also mentioned, and it is given out in the report as to how many thousand applications of those Government servants are still lying with them for whom the Estate Office has not been able to make any arrangements for residential accommodation. This problem is getting bigger and bigger every day. If there is any solution to this problem, it is only this that rural areas be electrified and a number of residential houses be constructed in rural areas. Today why people do not want to go back to villages, simply because there is neither electricity nor water pipes. If the honourable Shri Gadgil were to make arrangement for the electrification of the rural areas of Delhi then the housing problem of the Government servants will not remain before him. Otherwise the Government will have to get houses constructed for them and will have to bear a great deal of expenditure on this count. If rural electrification is done then every Government servant would like to go and live in the rural areas of Delhi because there the living is not so costly as it is in the city itself. So besides making a strong demand for rural electrification I wish to draw the attention of the honourable the Minister towards those other things as well that lie in his hands.

This is mainly an agricultural country. For an agricultural country canals are of great importance and specially for those areas where the average rainfall is less. The necessity is specially felt in Rajputana and Northern India. I belong to East Punjab. There was once a time when our province used to supply food-grains to the whole country. But when independence dawned upon India then unfortunately our Province was partitioned, and our wheat producing areas went over to Pakistan. Now if you wish that annually 180 crores of rupees belonging to this country may not be given to foreign countries for the purchase of food grains then the only solution of this problem is that you give maximum advancement to irrigation projects. During the last few years a great stress was laid on this and a number of grand schemes were presented before the country. But I fear that when time came for the implementing of these schemes then our other friends, who really would have been benefited in the long run, raised their voices against these schemes, saying that riots will break out as a result of inflation; and thus frightening the Government caused a great deal of slackness in the irrigation schemes. If our country does in reality require anything it is the irrigation schemes, and in fact the

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

scarcity of food products is directly responsible for the scarcity of other materials. You may select any thing, say industries. If you electrify the rural areas and get canals etc. made there, then there would not arise any problem for finding a market for the industrial products. Therefore, I beg to submit that you, taking into consideration this dire necessity of the country, go on paying more and more attention in future also as you are doing today.

I wish to submit one more thing in this connection. To the Department of Communications a Deputy Minister has been appointed but for this Department, where not one but more than one ministries were needed, no Deputy Minister has been given. I think if we have to keep in view the future of our country then for this basic Department upon which depends the progress and the future prosperity of our country, instead of only one, several separate ministries should be set up. I do wish that a separate ministry be set up for irrigation projects and for other things also separate ministries be set up. But if you do not wish to increase the number of ministries then at least instead of departments like Communications etc. you should appoint a Deputy Minister in this department, so that whatever time Shri Gadgil may get he may utilize the same for devising at the earliest quick prosperity schemes for the good of the country.

I have to submit many things and I also want to make certain complaints to the Ministry, but time at my disposal is very little. I had a strong desire to harp upon the works he has done, because you know that I am an agriculturist and when I think that Bhakra Dam Scheme is to be completed in very near future whereby everybody would become prosperous, then it would be a sacrilege I think not to express gratefulness. I wished to have spoken for a length of time in order to express my gratefulness for him. But as the time is fixed so instead of spending more time in showing gratefulness I wish to submit some more things that I think necessary.

Your Department constructs huge structures for this country. It provides houses to those who have none. But have you ever thought that there are some such persons whose houses and fields are demolished in order to re-habilitate other persons. Some twenty or twenty five years ago there was a time when a number of villages existed at the place where we are sitting today. Twenty five years have lapsed but these unfortunate people have not yet been able to set up their new houses. We feel contented that adequate compensation has been paid to them. But in this connection I wish to submit before you that no compensation can be called adequate to an agriculturist unless you give him land in exchange of the land taken from him. Quite recently it has been given out that here in Delhi a scheme has been drawn up to lay out a diplomatic colony. I fear that for this perhaps a number of houses belonging to unfortunate villagers will be demolished and they will have to become homeless. (An honourable Member: "No, they will not have to become homeless"). If it is so then I am really pleased.

A friend came to see me only at noon today. His village is Pansoda.* It is at a distance of about eight miles from here. There an aerodrome is being made and for this reason his village which has a population of some four thousand will be demolished. The fact is that if the aerodrome is shifted a furlong away no one has to become homeless. The villagers wish to offer an alternate site for the aerodrome. They went to see the Chief Engineer who told them that after all some one will have to become homeless. The poor fellows tried their level best to make him understand that if their scheme is approved nobody will be homeless. But the official mind becomes so set that it always think in manner of officialdom only. So I very humbly beg to submit that you work

for the advancement of the country, construct new dams for the country and generate electric energy and get houses constructed for the homeless Government servants, but besides this I also beg to submit that you should pay more attention and do not render peasants landless and homeless by making aerodromes and by launching new schemes. You should make special efforts for their rehabilitation also.

Brijut Kuladhar Ohaliba (Assam: General): Sir, the Honourable Mr. Gadgil has presented us this budget in such an unobtrusive and quiet manner that you can hardly find any fault with him. But he must hasten slowly. Sometimes some suggestions have been thrown that we should go ahead with the schemes and the money should be provided for the purpose. But I see there is a danger and the Finance Minister should be careful about advancing schemes by printing notes. If you cannot control prices, as we have not been able to control in our country, I think we will be in a dangerous trap. So the suggestion should not be carried out unless you can control—and control is impossible in India with our present psychological background. I therefore suggest that when we launch on any scheme we should hasten slowly. I do not say that we should not advance any schemes but in our present context, in our present economic condition and in our present situation we should be careful about investing money where the return will not come back.

Our economic transport and industrial structures are so built up and are based entirely on oil and coal. Have we been able to produce all the oil that is wanted? The only oilfield is in Digboi and there was one in Kohat in West Punjab which we have lost. I do not know whether in Central Rajasthan we will find any oils. The production in Digboi oilfield used to be 17 million gallons, but the production has gone less and less there and we are getting only 14 million gallons as was revealed the other day in an answer to a question.

We ought to find out the causes that have led to this decrease in production. Certain other areas also which produced oil have dried up and are not being worked. In Iran when they reached a depth of 5,000 feet they stopped production, but the American engineers went to 10,000 feet and found perpetual springs from which they could get a large supply. So, here you have gone up to 5,000 feet; should you not go up to 10,000 feet so that you may
3 P.M. have more oil? But to do this we must have a proper geological survey and I request the honourable Minister to see that we should have a full geological survey throughout the country and we should have more drilling. Near about the Naga hills oil was found and we must explore its further possibilities. If we do not do all these things, the whole industrial structure will fail. Your aeroplanes, your navy and your engines, everything depends on oil and if we cannot produce it I think we will suffer immensely. There will be a time when we may be cut off from Iran. Therefore, we ought to take time by the forelock before it is too late.

We have also got oil fields at Massimpur but we have not done much to explore them. Patharia is another place where there are possibilities, but Patharia is a place for which a Commission has been appointed—on which my honourable friend on the right is represented—to get it back from Pakistan. We made a mistake in giving it to them. We are trying to get it back as if in a court of law, but we may not get it. Areas near about Jorhat and Bandarsulia also need exploration and proper geological survey.

Assam possesses coal in various parts. We have got coal at Mawphing and Cherra near Shillong, and at Pynasulla, it is also found in the Mikir hills where you have not done any geological survey, though I think very long ago there was a party which surveyed it. Mikir Hills produce coal which is supplied to the Assam Railway; the total output is five per cent. of Assam's requirements. But if you tackle the Mikir Hills near about Dimapur, I think this

{Srijut Kuladbar Chaliha}

coalmine can be worked very well. Of course the question is linked up with roads which can be tackled with Defence and with Transport Ministries. In the Garo Hills, as I stated during discussion on the Railway Budget, you have got coal but then you are cut off by Pakistan. Unless a road is run from Garo Hills to Pandu—about 150 miles—I do not think this valuable deposit of coal and other minerals could be tapped. Sir, we want these facilities and I trust the honourable Minister will take note of this.

Further, you will be surprised to hear—possibly it will be news to you—that Assam has gold as well. It is found in the Subansiri River. We find a reference to it as early as the Kautilya's Arthashastra where it is mentioned in Book Two, Chapter XI that gold dust was sold near Kamrup at Suvarman Kndya (Sonkoriha). We have to wash the gold sands and with the present high price we can wash it after getting it from the Subansiri River. It is up the hills and we must go to the source of the hills where from the sands are washed down. I suggest a geological party should explore this.

An Honourable Member: Why do you not form a company?

Srijut Kuladbar Chaliha: Yes, if I had money like you. Then you will be surprised to hear that platinum is found in the sands of this river; this was confirmed by a survey made by a geological party. I don't know what percentage is found and whether it will be possible to extract this valuable metal in a commercially paying way, but I think it should be tried.

Silver also is available in these hills. It is available near about Pataki Hills on the Burma-Assam border. Amber also is available. Of course amber will not be useful to the Works, Mines and Power Ministry, but it will be useful for ornaments for people like my honourable friend Mr. Jhunjhunwals and others of our party. It is very valuable and I think it should be worked.

Will it be still more surprising if I say that iron is also available in some quantity. It is called dojara in our part of the country and is used in metalling roads. With the present high price of iron, we should try and see whether this can be extracted and smelted. I do not say it should be done at once but experiments should be made. It is near about Mekir hills.

Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power for giving us a little gift in the shape of the Assam electrification project. He has given one scheme near Kamrup District costing about Rs. 101 lakhs, but there was another scheme. The Pussigat scheme which is as big as the Tennessee Valley Scheme and it should be worked properly and taken in hand in the near future. It will be as big as Hirakud or Damodar and the whole of the Province can be electrified. We have so many tea estates there that electric power can be supplied to them even and oil and other fuel can be saved. I hope the honourable Minister will look into that as well.

As regards geological scholarships, I think you ought to give more of these. Your requirements are so much that you have not been able to put in the proper number of officers. We want the entire country to be surveyed. We are spending our energy on political matters, but I should request the House through the honourable the Speaker that they should divert their energy to finding out these valuable minerals and bringing them to the notice of the House. The honourable Minister will do well to send out more young men to foreign countries for geological knowledge and bring it back to our country.

Sir, with these words I conclude and in doing so, thank the honourable Minister for presenting an optimistic report.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I succeeded in catching your controlled eye. I request you not to agree to any proposal to curtail the speeches of honourable Members. I do not mind it, if I am not allowed to speak. I think that ten speeches of 20 minutes duration may be preferable to 20 speeches of 10 minutes duration each.

Mr. Speaker: I entirely agree with the honourable Member. But I find that everybody is so anxious to speak and feels a sort of disappointment if not resentment actually if he is not given a chance. The honourable Member himself remarked that he was able to catch my eye, though controlled. There has been nothing of any kind of control. But he can make room for other people by giving up his right to speak on this occasion.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I congratulate my honourable friend Mr. Gadgil for his frank speech. Sir, he was rightly called by Mr. Venkata Rao that he is a dynamo. I agree with him.

Sir, in the beginning of his speech, my honourable friend referred to the old notoreity of the Central P.W.D. for corruption. He assured us that there is some improvement. Sir, if there is improvement I congratulate him and the Department. But I tell him that, so far as my information goes, things have not improved. I assure him and the other Members of the Cabinet that it is no pleasure to talk of corruption among our own countrymen. We hang our heads in shame when we have to talk of these things. So, if at all we refer to such things we do so only with a view to bring about purity in the administration. Everybody knows that unless there is purity in the administration of the country no public good is possible. But there appears to be some misunderstanding. Our friends in the Cabinet want us to thank them for what they have done. We can do that, but at the same time we should be allowed to criticise them for what is wrong with their department. They want us to support anything and everything that is done in every Department. We congressmen have captured the machinery of Government and sent some of our men to control that machinery for the good of the country. They can so control the machinery of Government only when they take our co-operation. But what we find is that our friends appear to have identified themselves with the Departments and with the help of the Departments want to control us. This is misunderstanding the position. This process would not do and this will not help the cabinet or any of us here.

I thank Mr. Gadgil for what he has done with regard to the Damodar Valley scheme. The Corporation has begun the work in the Damodar Valley and we have begun to receive reports to the effect that the people who have been occupying the lands in those regions have been asked to vacate entire villages without notice, without proper acquisition and without compensation and all that. I may remind my friend Mr. Gadgil that when the project was hatched, there was agreement arrived at among all the Governments concerned that the people who will be ejected from lands will get lands for lands and that those people who will be displaced from their homes will get homes elsewhere.

Sir, in the Budget presented to us, there is a reference to model villages. I am very glad to hear that. But here the position is that those people who are to be displaced altogether from the villages that are to be submerged by the dam are to get lands and value of lands in advance in order to enable them to erect new houses. It is only after the erection of model villages and after the occupation thereof by the people that they should be asked to give up their lands and houses for the purpose of the dam. This should be strictly adhered to if you want to do justice to the people.

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh]

Then in connection with this dam construction there is a report that as this is a national concern all people through out the country should get representation—in its services. All the same we have to see that one community does not predominate over others in the construction in the concern. The construction of the dam is a national programme. We welcome it. The people of the locality and all of us are ready to co-operate. But justice has got to be done. My honourable Friend in answer to a question on the subject said that he will enquire into the matter and later said that the enquiry has already begun. I thank him for all these, but I ask him to see that nothing illegal or unlawful is done there.

I have just received a copy of the *Indian Nation* of Patna dated 8th March.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member has two minutes more.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I request you to give me a few more minutes. I have to refer to two or three matters.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection; but the other members will have to be denied the opportunity to speak.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: This paper contains a resolution of the Bihar Provincial Congress Working Committee. They are coming on deputation to the honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. They have to thank the Central Government for what has been done, but they have to regret the hopeless slowness with which the Government is moving in the matter.

Sir, there is flood almost every year in Kosi and it has been ruinous and devastating to crops, to cattle and even to trees. And human suffering is indescribable. Of all the projects which the Government can take up this is the most important from a humanitarian point of view. I wish that the honourable Minister sees to it that this project is also expedited.

Sir, I have one or two points more and I have done. In Delhi, we have got the Rent Control Act. This was meant to give relief to the poor tenants against unscrupulous landlords. I do not think it was meant to discourage people from building houses. I do not think it was meant to extend to areas which are altogether undeveloped till now. There is an area called Sarai Rohilla, which is not yet developed. When want of accommodation was felt keenly in the town, there was an appeal from the leaders to the people to erect houses. In this business, even people of ordinary means also come forward to invest their money to afford people accommodation. I hear that there is an instruction from the Department that rent will be allowed only at six per cent per annum. This is simply ludicrous. It is difficult to build a house in these days which will fetch an income of six per cent only. It is said that there was a conference between landlords and tenants and by way of agreement this has been arrived at. Sir, this may be right and proper for the old investments; but this cannot do well now. I think my honourable friend will see to it.

There is shortage of accommodation in this City. High Government officials, and even members of this House are given accommodation in the Constitution House, Western Court, Putaudi House and some other Government hotels. This is well and good. At the same time, the boarders are forced to take the meals provided there. There is a suspicion that this is by way of help to big contractors. In the hotels, meals are provided in a stereotyped manner. Sometimes, the meals are not good. Why should the boarders be forced to take meals provided by the hotels? Government give the accommodation all right. At the same time, it is only proper that they must not be forced to take the meals provided by the hotels.

I thank you, Sir, you have given me time. I have got much more to say I think the points referred to by me will be considered by my honourable friend Mr. Gaigil and that he will see that the Kosi project is begun at once. I may say this. If the Government is kind, good, just and humanitarian, this project must be taken up at once.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): On occasions like this, when honourable Ministers come before the House presenting their Grant Estimates for expenditure, congratulations are so common that any word of lack of it will not, I trust, be misplaced.

I have, indeed, come here as Mark Antony said long ago, "to bury Caesar and not to praise him". Therefore, it is not for me to raise any old difficulties which may sound a note of lack of harmony in this admirably constituted mutual admiration society, in which congratulations and compliments are the order of the day, and any word of censure is only dismissed as destructive criticism. I am afraid in this case, however, I am not going to make my remarks entirely unsavoury. If an occasional grain of sugar creeps into my observations, I trust the honourable Minister will not suffer from indigestion from taking up the sugary stuff.

For, I confess, when I remember the performances of other days, and see how rapidly, how eloquently, how recklessly, how courteously we pass in a couple of hours estimates running into 12 or 150 crores, with hardly a word of criticism for one minor point here or there. I cannot help commending the modesty of the honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power, in asking us only to pass a budget of 12 crores in two hours,—or it is going to be three hours,—I do not know. After all, this House passing four crores or forty crores an hour does not lend itself to any close scrutiny, of detail, to any suggestion of economy or retrenchment, or even for the matter of that, a close examination of policy which is involved in matters of this kind.

Sir, the honourable Minister has told us that he has been satisfied with the measure of efficiency his department has achieved, and that he is also satisfied that there is a "fair measure" of honesty in his department. I wonder if "fair measure" is an official euphemism for something quite contrary. At any rate, in common parlance, P.W.D. which is now transformed into W.M.P., used to be regarded as a Public Waste Department, and it may now be regarded as Waste, Mistakes and Profusion Department. While I do not agree with this, I do confess that these initials, which have become a perennial plague in the language of public affairs are confusing. One is liable, without ever intending to do so, to be betrayed into a misconception from the very initials in which these things are presented. I wish to point to, however, only two or three important matters, so that I might not only economise in my own time, but also in the patience of the House as well.

In the first place, as I have just stated, the various grand schemes comprised in this Budget are large projects spread over in time and in space to such an extent that men's minds forget, their brain loses sight completely of the details involved in it. The honourable Minister has presented such a fancy picture, in such wonderful rainbow colours, that one looks and marvels at the colours only, though it may be all empty behind. I am not suggesting at all for one moment that the projects that the honourable Minister has presented before us are lacking in any substance. But I would most humbly draw his attention to the fact that these are bound to be spread over ten or fifteen years until they are completed and that in the meanwhile there must be some guarantee of sticking to the original aim and purpose, for which any such project is taken in hand; and that any deviation from that is likely to cause difficulties which we may not be able to correct.

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

Ministers have told us again and again that they are creatures of circumstances. If these circumstances affect in the course of a year or two or three the whole outlook radically, then, I suggest that a period of ten or fifteen years is sufficient for us to take heed; and that from the start we bear in mind and take steps to see or give guarantee that eventually avoidable mistakes may not occur; and if they do occur, their effects are minimised.

To illustrate my point, there is an extremely great need of co-ordination, not only as between the several projects, and the several purposes for which the various projects included in this ministry's Budget are concerned, but also as between the over-all, comprehensive National Plan in which these are integral parts so to say. Yesterday, we had the very wonderful spectacle of being called upon to pass another substantial estimate, in which the illustration of the Sindhri project was mentioned. Ministers are very ready to take credit for projects which have been taken in hand or thought of long before they came to office; and the Sindhri project was one of that. Even granting that this is a human frailty—after all, and that the present Ministers are only the successors of the same form of Government, for the spirit of Government has hardly changed even though the personnel may have changed since August 15, 1947, I would like to say that when one comes to hear that the Fertilisers manufacturing industry is situated, let us say, in Sindhri, that the raw material has to be got from Jodhpur, that it would require about 200 railway wagons to go 800 or 1,000 miles, I wonder what co-ordination is there between the transport system, the raw material system, the wastage of time involved in sending hundreds of empty wagons back from Sindhri to Jodhpur if they have no traffic to carry backwards.

I am told—I do not speak on my own authority—that it would be a marvel of speed and economy if a goods train metre gauge of 200 wagons could accomplish even a 100 mile a day. If even that much, it means you will have 1600 wagons on the road at any given time for carrying this traffic in raw material to the seat of manufacture, and if you consider that these will have to be all coming back in another eight days or ten, you will have something like 3,000 wagons devoted to this matter alone. Would anybody give any attention to the co-ordination of this matter? Has anybody considered that this is to be reconciled mutually?

Shri B. L. Sondhi: Is the honourable Member in order in discussing things that were discussed yesterday? The honourable Minister is not there to reply.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member may continue his speech.

Prof. K. T. Shah: In this particular case, for instance, there are claims of several purposes, there are claims of several provinces, there are claims of various articles which are expected to be produced by these various projects. There is power, there is industrial growth as consequence of easily accessible and cheap power, there is food growth as consequence of better water supply and irrigation, there is navigation or transport facilities. All these would come out of this Ministry's very great projects.

There is also the mines and the untold wealth of minerals in which this Union is very rich. But at the same time if the honourable Minister told us correctly, we are still not absolutely self-sufficient in the matter of mineral requirements either of peace or of war. If all these are to be mutually correlated, if there is to be a co-ordination between these—and I am not suggesting that the honourable Minister has not tried to give it some kind of co-ordination

at least within his own Ministry, then only will you be able to reap the fullest fruits of these very grand projects, which, in their entirety, when they are completed, will cost you several hundreds of crores perhaps.

At each stage you go on creating new problems like, for instance displacement of people whose lands you take up for purposes of building barrages or reservoirs or otherwise, and they are unable to use that land for the time being. How are these people to be resettled or rehabilitated? how are these people to be re-employed? how are these to be compensated? how are these to be given some alternative places of residence and work? These are problems which are insuperably inter connected. I hope the honourable Minister will agree with me that these are integral matters that need to be co-ordinated as carefully as the other illustration I gave about which my friend is so very sensitive. The point, however, is that in the budget as we see it, in the various items—very imposing as they are—we lose sight of the ultimate aim that ought to be a careful integration of all these considerations.

Take again the establishment of industry in all these regions where such ambitious projects are constructed. There has been a cry from almost every corner of this House that if you generate such large quantities of power, how are you going to utilize it, if the rural areas or villages don't benefit. How are the villages going to benefit from abundant energy? If it is the intention that the benefit will be in the form of, let us say, electric traction, or electric agricultural machines for cultivation, then I am afraid, the present agrarian economy of this country is such that it would be very difficult for us economically to employ these means.

Then again take the need for small industries, the so-called cottage Industries. There, again some honourable Member might become sensitive that the Minister is not there and that, therefore, I cannot even mention 'Industry'. I am afraid I cannot help. These industries are possible to be developed by means of decentralized power—somebody used this expression; and decentralisation is a factor which has to be properly appreciated not merely in word, not merely by verbal sympathy, but by actual translation in the economy of the country. There is a great possibility of our scattered small economic cottage producers who only need to be organized, who only need to be equipped, who only need to be financed and advised properly and given every facility in marketing, all the shortages of supply that we see to-day will be wiped out within a very much shorter time than these projects will take time to fruition.

In this connection if you will pardon my saying so,—it is not a bee in my bonnet if I point out that all these arguments tend to one central fact viz., the necessity of having a planned economy, that is to say, not one item but every item, every Department, every activity of the country should be co-related and integrated into a single pattern with definite objective and definite stage and definite norm fixed by which we can judge from year to year the progress we are achieving.

Secondly I repeat that when several Ministries as they come before us we do feel so important and I find that we do lose sight of the ultimate aim. I hope that all the planning commission that is being talked about and the promises that are being made of, some day a national plan will be presented. While planning that I cannot help warning the Ministers that there is a great danger of their being too much absorbed in the very beautiful plans that they create for their own Departments or for single items for which they may be responsible and run the risk of overlapping the over-all picture of the nation's progress which I hope, we are all striving for.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras; General): Sir, in the Government of India there are two Ministries which have got to play a vital role in the progress of the country, in the development of the national wealth. The first is the Ministry of Industries and the second is the Works, Mines and Power. I am not stating this in the order of importance. Looked at from a certain aspect, the Ministry of W.M.P. is more important and has got to play a more important role. For the industrialisation of the country, the development of power is the basic requirement and it is only by the extent of development of power the pace of industrialisation has to be set. Therefore the progress of the country very much depends upon the working of this Ministry. According to the data available now, we find our supply of coal is very much limited and supply of oil is also very much limited in our country. So the only form of power which we should develop is electricity. Perhaps in the distant future or perhaps even in the near future, this energy may be replaced by atomic energy. When that would come we don't know. Therefore our attention should be focussed on the development of electricity and I am glad to find very many schemes have been taken up, hydro-electric schemes, river valley schemes which would produce electricity, necessary for the development of our country. But if we want to utilise the energy so produced in these projects, it is necessary there should be a certain amount of co-ordination—not the general co-ordination which the previous speaker was referring to but co-ordination between the Ministries of W.M.P. and the Industry and Supply.

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

When electricity is produced, it has to be distributed throughout the country to the villages. Now a situation has arisen in Madras. There is electricity available and there are very many villagers who are prepared to take electricity for pumping water from their wells. But we find that there are no materials available, neither transformers, nor the poles, nor the wires, nor the switches, nor any other material. Because of the shortage of these materials, they are finding it impossible to supply electricity to the rural areas. Therefore, alongside with the development of these schemes for the production of electricity, there should be co-ordination with the Ministry of Industry for the manufacture and production of electrical machinery, the machinery which would be required to distribute this energy to the various nooks and corners of the country. That should be the first point that should be taken note of by the Government.

Speaking of electricity, I wish to mention about the position in Madras, to which my honourable friend, Mr. Kala Venkatarao referred to in the morning. He pointed out that in Madras the main producing concerns are State-owned and State-controlled and there are a few small concerns situated in urban areas supplying electricity to certain municipalities. They are private-owned and their machinery has also become almost obsolete. They are unable to replace it. Therefore, there is a proposal by the Provincial Government of Madras that these concerns should be taken over by the Government and the entire system of production and distribution of electricity should be a State concern.

My honourable friend, Mr. Scandhi, when speaking on the Budget at the time of the general discussion, said that in spite of the promises and assurances made by the honourable the Deputy Prime Minister while in Madras, that there would be no nationalization, the Government of Madras is defiant in this matter. He was referring to an answer given by the honourable Minister of Public Works in Madras in connection with the taking over of these few electricity concerns that whatever might have been said by the honourable the Deputy Prime Minister it did not apply to these concerns. That answer

has been misrepresented and a charge was laid on the floor of this House that the Government of Madras was flouting the instructions from the Centre in spite of the fact that the honourable the Deputy Prime Minister himself gave this assurance in Madras. I wish, Sir, Mr. Sondhi, before making this charge against the Madras Government that they were flouting the instructions from the Centre, had taken care to find out what the honourable Minister of Public Works was referring to when he said that the remarks of the honourable the Deputy Prime Minister did not apply to these concerns.

One other matter I wish to refer to and that is with reference to the development of Greater Delhi. We find that one crore of rupees has been asked for, for the development of Delhi and for the construction of quarters there. Before launching upon this project and taking up building activities here, I wish to say that we should come to a decision whether we are going to have the capital of India permanently in Delhi. I know that whenever this matter is mentioned it is brushed aside. It is not that I want that a decision should be taken here and now, but it is a matter which has got to be thoroughly gone into and a decision taken at the proper time. But before that, let us not commit ourselves. Let us not spend too much here in Delhi, so that at a later date it may not be said we have sunk so many crores in this place and how can we leave it. It has been said by the honourable the Prime Minister that this Government is a caretaker Government. So let us not tie the hands of the future Government that they should continue in Delhi as the capital.

Apart from this there is another aspect of the matter. We find that certain departments attached to the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power are to be shifted to Nasik and the honourable Minister has stated in the report submitted to us that he has consulted other Ministries of the possibility of sending some of their departments to other places. It is not only a matter for the decision of the various Ministries, but it should be a decision of the Government itself as far as possible to disperse the various departments in the various parts of the country so that there may not be overcrowding in Delhi. For example, we have been asked to sanction Rs. 5 lakhs for the building of the Federal Court. Where is it to be located? Is it to be located in Delhi or in any other place? As far as I can see for a Supreme Court of Appeal Delhi is not the proper place. There is not even a proper bar here. So we have to come to a decision before we make this grant regarding the place where this building has to be constructed.

I hope the Government will take a decision soon on this point, and if any decision has been taken by Government, they will let us know it.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): They say that "Charity begins at home". I shall therefore first of all touch on the Estate Office. I do not know how the honourable Members of this House have offended the Estate Officer. But it seems to me that we are, on account of faults which we have not committed, or on account of things which we have omitted, *persona non-grata* with him. Take the amount of money which is taken by that department for the Assembly quarters. If the honourable Members of the House, placed in my position, sometimes scan this Bill, they will find that a certain amount is taken as the rent every month. Then about Rs. 25/- per month is taken for the use of the furniture. Then Rs. 2/8/- is deducted for flowers. As a matter of fact the amount of flowers you get from the flower-bed in the whole year will cost only Rs. 2/8/-, but we have to pay Rs. 2/8/- every month. Then there are garden charges of Rs. 7/- per month. I have hunted several times to find that garden in the Assembly quarters but I have not been able to find it and yet Rs. 7/8/- per month is taken from me as garden charges.

[Srijiit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

Then, Sir, we are given some furniture for which we have to pay Rs. 25/- per month. It requires four persons to carry outside one of the chairs from the drawing room. You cannot carry it out alone so that your friends may be able to sit down. That is the position of the furniture.

As regards the bed, after using it for a few months, even after putting a mattress there, and though you may use it as a single bed, the whole thing crumbles down to the ground. The bed simply touches the ground after use for four or five months.

An Honourable Member: After four or five days.

Srijiit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I used it as a single bed and still it did it.

There is another very interesting item which beats every thing else,—viz., Rs. 25/- for other services. We have to pay separately to the municipality for electricity, then we have to pay separately to the municipality for water, we are not given any *darwaa* or any servant. What are the other services for which we have to pay Rs. 25/-? There is no bed tea served, nor breakfast and still they take Rs. 25/- for other services. I do not know what are the other services rendered for which they take Rs. 25. (*Shri H. V. Kamath:* "Charity").

Your rent is deducted every month by the Legislative Assembly Department during the session. Then after four or five months after one has forgotten every thing there is a call for the payment of arrears for four or five months. In 1948 you have to pay the arrears for 1946 and in this month you may have to pay the arrears for last October or November. Why should not the sum be recovered during the same months and why should the arrears be charged after we have forgotten all about it. I am speaking on behalf of all the members in this House and I hope they support me.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: From Rs. 123 it has gone up to 200.

Srijiit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I come now to the C.P.W.D. (Central Public Works Department). It used to be said that C. stands for corruption, P. for partiality, W. for waste and D. for delay. As the honourable Minister has assured us that there is no corruption automatically with the going of corruption partiality also disappears. Then will the honourable Minister be pleased to admit and agree with me that waste and delay still continue.

I would first of all refer to the refugee houses in Delhi. I have seen them. I do not know whether the idea was that a refugee family after all the casualties they had suffered in the Punjab and elsewhere should comprise more than two or three persons, including a baby. If the houses had been built on that idea I could understand it. But as we all know there are families with 7 or 8 members and even then a small house where only two persons can live is allotted to them. If my honourable friend the Minister and I go together we will find it difficult to enter the house. These small houses fit for the accommodation of two or three people only have been built at a considerable cost and they will be of no use later on. So all this waste has taken place in the construction of those refugee houses. These houses have a small open latrine adjacent to the kitchen. They are so near each other. Then there is a drain which drains nothing and the water stagnates round about. Is it fair to compel the refugees to live in that kind of houses. If you build houses for the refugees you should build them in a way so that families can live in common decency and free from danger to their health.

Now I shall speak about electricity. I could not follow my friend Mr. B. Das when he complained that there is too much light in the Connaught Place, that there was too much electrification at the cost of some other areas in the town. Does my honourable friend and his companions who accompany him to the Connaught Place in the evenings mean that they illuminate the whole place so much that no more lighting is necessary? My friend Mr. Das has been here for the last twenty five years and knows the kind of fashionable people who wander about the place and probably from his own experience he would prefer the Connaught Place to be a little more under dark shade and should not have too much of light. So far as the poorer sections of the people are concerned who buy their goods from the pavement shops they would like to have a little more light there. I do not advocate the policy which my friend Mr. Das has advocated that you should cut down the lights in one place to provide more light elsewhere. On the other hand you must improve the supply of electricity so that everyone can get equally. Some months ago we noticed that on the Ferozshah Road the lights on one side, including the place where the Chief Whip resides, went out but the lights on the other side were working. I brought this matter to the notice of the Government by way of a question.

Sir, I wanted to speak about the aerodromes in Assam. Air service has been going on regularly since the last year and still the aerodromes are in an uncared for condition. It was said that the regular aerodrome would be built shortly but so far nothing has been done about it. There is a lot of delay in constructing the aerodromes in Gauhati and other places also.

I have only one more point to make. There is a road in Bengal which connects Darjeeling with Tibet through a place called Gantok. Why not a similar road be constructed to connect Assam with Tibet, so that the traffic will be diverted on to that road.

As regards petrol Nemesi has overtaken the Government. Petrol is drying up in Assam, because Assam has never been given the quota to which she is entitled. The province never got her quota for the year and therefore the oil wells are drying up. Even though the budget has not been passed, the Government has allowed the petrol depots to charge Rs. 2/9/- per gallon even from now on. In anticipation of the budget being passed they are already charging Rs. 2/9/- per gallon.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, as far back as 1869 the project of the Kosi valley was investigated. The ravages wrought by the river on the people living in its catchment area can better be seen rather than described here in a few minutes. The story of the people there is a pathetic tale. When the floods of the Kosi come they take away whole villages together and converts the whole area into a sea and later on into a desert. This project which was first conceived by the old Government was not at all mentioned by my honourable friend Mr. Gadgil this morning. I was looking forward to hear that something might have been done and was being done to remove the calamities of those people. It is an area of about twenty-three thousand square miles where the ravages of this Kosi river spread, and it affects about one-third of the population of the whole of Bihar. As I have said, I do not know what is being done regarding this Kosi project. As has been pointed out by my honourable friend Prof. K. T. Shah, before taking up these big projects there must be some plan thought out as to how the people who will be affected by these projects will be rehabilitated, how the power which will be created by these projects will be utilised, whether it will be utilised in a centralised way in the form of big industries or by distribution in the form of small industries—all these things should not be allowed to be done in a drifting

[Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala]

way, but a clear plan should be thought out from the very beginning before any such project is taken in hand. Lakhs and crores of rupees are spent in making these projects. Preliminary investigation is made, then other investigations are made and then reports are published. Still the reports, when they come out, are defective in the sense that they have no well organised plan as to how all these things will be co-ordinated when the scheme succeeds. So far as Damodar Valley is concerned of course a part of Bihar is affected by that. But if you will consider the question of the ravages caused by the river Kosi with any other dam, the ravages done by the river Kosi are far greater than those done by any other river. If that fact is taken into consideration, namely the ravages caused and the consequent agonies and miseries to which the people are put, it should have been the first concern of this Government to take up this Kosi project and see, apart from getting something which we hope to gain by other projects in the future, that at least the miseries and the agonies to which these people are put every year are removed; this area of 23,000 square miles is first flooded in the form of sea and then it is converted into a desert as stated above. I do not want to take the time of the House. The only point which I wanted to stress upon the honourable Minister was regarding the Kosi project. It was in 1947 that the honourable Minister Mr. Bhaba who was in charge, had gone to the site of dam. He had also gone to the other places where the ravages are done by this river and there was a great public meeting in Nirmati. It was a sight to see how those people were first anxious and then felt relieved when the Minister drew up a picture as to what will happen in the future—when this project will be fulfilled all these areas will be electrified, all these areas will look green with green crops and all the people will have their houses electrified! But when I was hearing the speech of the honourable Minister naturally I felt anxious not finding the mention of Kosi. As I have said, I have to request and impress upon the honourable Minister that if the whole project is not going to be materialised due to any reason, looking to the miseries and agonies and the pathetic tales of these people, funds at least should not be the consideration for this Government. Bihar is a poor Province in its revenue income: though it is rich in everything but it is undeveloped. All the big revenues from income-tax on profits made in Bihar go to other provinces under the present arrangements.

Shri B. Das: How are you poor?

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Because we are not given back what is taken in the form of income-tax and other things: we are given very little share. So it is not possible for us to take up the scheme ourselves.

I shall again invite the attention of the honourable Minister to this aspect that if that big scheme due to any reason is not taken up, I shall beg of and impress upon the honourable Minister at some other means of opening up big canals or putting up small dams here and there should be taken in hand immediately to give relief to the people.

Shri Satish Chandra (U.P.: General): Sir, the honourable Minister has given an overall picture of the work that the Government have done and propose to do in the near future, explaining the nation-building activities of his Ministry. Many people may imagine that the work has not gone with the speed with which it should have gone. But considering the nineteen anxious months that have passed after the attainment of freedom—including tragic days of tumultuous and violence—I think that the schemes are making satisfactory progress.

Prof. K. T. Shah has, a few minutes before, referred to the existence of a 'mutual admiration society' in this House. I am proud of being a member of that society. But I think that the name that he has given to that society is rather incorrect, because we who shower praises and admiration on the Ministers do not receive them in turn. After all what admiration do we get, and how is it 'mutual'—I fail to understand. But if we praise our Leaders and Ministers I am equally prepared to praise my learned honourable friend Prof. Shah for his ability, integrity and great knowledge—theoretical knowledge—of economic affairs.

Sir, reverting to the subject, I only wish to make one or two brief remarks about the work of this Ministry. An influential honourable Member from Madras, Shri Kala Venkata Rao, and my two honourable friends from Bihar Shri Ramnarayan Singh and Shri Jhunjhunwala, have advanced the claims of Rampadsagar project and the Kosi dam. I, on the other hand, think that the main difficulty—why work is not proceeding satisfactorily—is that too many projects have been taken in hand at one and the same time, and cannot be executed speedily with the material and resources that are available to us. Only a few days back I was told by an officer of the U.P. Government with a technical knowledge of these matters, that various schemes in the United Provinces are held up not on account of the lack of finances of the U.P. Government which are available in plenty, but due to lack of material and due to lack of technical skill in the country. He told me that the U. P. Government's plans which are scheduled to be completed in ten years will take 200 years to complete if material is made available to them at the speed with which the U.P. Government obtained them during the last year. I, however, imagine that the pace of the projects will gain momentum as they make progress and that with the disappearance of our present difficulties we shall be able in future to speed up those programmes. After all, most of our leaders and workers in the field have been telling the peasants that India shall be a country of plenty and prosperity in ten or fifteen years time. Let us see that whatever schemes we take up, whatever schemes we announce and publicize are completed within the scheduled time so that there might not be a feeling of frustration if they could not be completed. Let us see that false hopes are not raised which may not materialise within a reasonable time.

Therefore, Sir, I think there should be greater co-ordination between the Centre and the Provincial Governments because after all the Central Government have taken up only a few big schemes like the Hindrad Dam or the Damodar Valley Corporation's multipurpose river-training project. But equally important schemes—though they might be slightly smaller in size—which will generate lakhs of kilowatts of electrical energy and which will be useful for flood control and in other ways, should not suffer simply because the Central Government's attention is diverted to a few projects under their own direct control. There should be an overall planning which not only incorporates the central schemes but also such schemes under the central and the various Provincial Governments.

Sir, there is a huge shortage of petrol in this country. While we are going ahead with schemes for civil aviation and have to depend more and more on motor transport, I really wonder what we have done so far, or how far the Geological Survey has paid its attention to finding out sources of petroleum in this country. After all, petroleum is a product for which we cannot at all times depend on foreign imports only. In this connection, I would say that in U. P. we have got power alcohol plants with an installed capacity of 55 lakh gallons per year, but the actual production is hardly half of this figure. Some research work should be carried on to improve the quality of the power alcohol which may to some extent gradually replace petrol. Moreover, there is a type of coal found in Sangroli in Mirzapur District from which—it has been claimed—petrol can be very easily manufactur-

[Shri Satish Chandra]

ed. I do not know if any steps have been taken so far to manufacture petrol out of that coal, or whether experiments have been carried out in other parts of the country and if so with what results, but it is surely a field for investigation.

In the end, I would only say that the nation-building activity is a long process the foundations of which are being laid now. I am sure, a magnificent superstructure shall be raised and raised quicker than many of us imagine, and that the standard of living of the common man shall be considerably raised.

Shri O. V. Alagesan (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, I do not think this Government suffers from want of opposition as Prof. Shah would have us believed. First of all, there is the opposition by the Party itself as was witnessed during the General Discussion on the Budget. Again, when Professor Shah is there, who can say that there is no opposition to this Government? He constitutes the intellectual opposition to this Government, and coming down, Mr. Naziruddin constitutes, if I may say so, the grammatical opposition to this Government. The role that our Ministers have to play is a difficult one. They have first of all to carry the bureaucratic machinery with them, to make them do the work they want out of it, and they have also to carry the non-official supporters with them. Sir, this, everyone will admit, is a difficult task. It is not dissimilar to that of a man with two wives. But I can say from my experience of the honourable the Minister for Works, Mines and Power that he has done his task with consummate skill and the success of his Department is not a little due to that.

The honourable Minister mentioned the construction of the Jammu-Puthankot Road. We all rejoiced that there has been a happy consummation of the Kashmir fight. There has been a cease fire on the 1st of this year. It is not a little due to the construction of this road, which helped our military in its valorous deeds to a very great extent. This House should appreciate the good work done by the department.

More than one speaker spoke at length on the river valley schemes. These schemes are romantic schemes: they raise before our mind's eye a very prosperous picture of our country in a few years, say in ten or fifteen years. So everybody is dazzled by these schemes. It is but natural that provincial and regional claims are put forward. As one coming from Madras, I would certainly ask that the Kaniapadasagur scheme should be taken up as early as possible. The projects that are on paper have to be translated in terms of materials, plant and machinery, personnel and other equipment. The difficulty of the job will be known only when this is attempted. Many Members advocate the taking up of new schemes. In Madras the Tungabhadra project has been already taken in hand and excavation work has been completed. But masonry work has been held up, I read in the papers yesterday, for want of cement. There will be such maladjustments if you do not prepare an overall plan for the execution of these attractive schemes spread over a number of years.

Whenever a project is taken in hand most of the fruits of it go to the industrialists. As my honourable friend Sri Kala Venkata Rao pointed out this morning, only 8.7 per cent. of the electricity produced goes for irrigation purposes now. This process should not be continued. More electricity should be made available for agriculture and for other irrigation purposes. Thousands of wells were sunk in Madras under the 'Grow-more-food' scheme. If electricity could be made available for pumping water from at least half the number of such wells, the food situation would have very much eased in Madras. So the honourable Minister should see to it that he does not give all the electricity to Mr. Mody, but that a considerable portion of it is given to Professor Banga also. This should be borne in mind when power projects are taken in hand.

This Department is one of the major spending Departments and so I do not think it will be out of place if I now touch on the economy aspect of it. In the Budget papers circulated to us there is an item called 'Other charges'. I am told that this single item covers many a sin. What are these 'other charges'? Nowhere do we find an explanation of them. This morning there was mention of staff cars. I do not deny that some Ministries may require staff cars. But a scrutiny may be made into the use of these cars and the number restricted to bare necessity. If this is done I am confident that the honourable the Finance Minister will be able to save about 15 lakhs. It appears that these 'Other charges' also include touring charges. There are tours and tours. When you can go by train, you may travel by plane and when you can go by a service plane, you may charter a plane and go. All these lead to unnecessary expenditure and extravagance which should be cut down and the amount saved made available for more useful purposes. I believe that the Finance Minister will have a scrutiny made into these items and thus reduce the deficit now found in the Budget.

گہانی گورنمنٹ کے مسافروں: مہیا پتی جی! میں وقت توڑا ہونے کے باعث کسی تہدی بات یا رسی مہارکباد کے بغیر ہی اپنی بات کو جو کہ میں کہتا چاہتا ہوں شروع کرتا ہوں۔ اور میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ہمارے ورکس مائنس اور پارو کے ملٹری مہارکباد کے اتنے محتاج ہی نہیں ہیں۔ جو کچھ انہوں نے اپنے کام کی رپورٹ میں لکھا ہے اور جو کچھ انہوں نے آج صبح اپنے بھاشن میں بتایا ہے اس سے ظاہر ہے کہ انہوں نے اپنے محکمے کو ترقی دینے کے لئے بہت کام کیا ہے۔ جیسا کہ میرے بہت سے ساتھیوں نے کہا ہے۔ یہ تھک ہے کہ ورکس مائنس اور پارو کے تیارمیلٹ (department) کے کام پر بہت سی باتوں کی ترقی کا انحصار ہے۔ میں اس وقت بولنے کی زیادہ ضرورت نہ سمجھتا، اگر جو باتیں میں کہتا چاہتا ہوں ان کو کسی اور ممبر صاحب نے کہہ دیا ہوتا۔

اس وقت پنجاب کی حالت بہت ہی زیادہ توجہ کی محتاج ہے۔ پچھلے دنوں ہمارے قبلی پرائم ملسترو سردار پھیل جی نے اناہانہ میں پنجابوں کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا تھا کہ پنجابوں نے بہت کچھ کھویا ہے اور اب انہیں ایسٹ پنجاب میں اسے بلانا ہے۔ تو ایسٹ پنجاب کو سب سے زیادہ ورکس مائنس پارو کی ملستری کی توجہ اس وقت زرخیز بنا سکتی ہے۔ یہ تھک ہے کہ باکھوا ڈام کی احکام کو صلی شکل دے کر بہت کچھ کام ہو رہا ہے اور گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا سے مدد مل رہی ہے۔ مگر جیسا صبح مائلیہ ملستری نے کہا اس وقت انکی ایک درجن سے زیادہ پروجیکٹس (projects) چل رہی ہیں۔ تو جس رفتار سے کام ہو رہا ہے اس سے پنجاب کی حالت کے متعلق مجھے ایک فارسی کی مثل یاد آتی ہے۔

تا تریاق از عرق آوردہ ہوں

سار کڑیدہ مردہ۔ ہوں

یعنی جب تک عرق سے دوا آئے گی تب تک سانپ کا کاٹا مو جائے گا۔

[گاہائی گورنمنٹ سلگہ مسافر]

توب مرٹے نوکا ملے
کت کام نہ آوے۔

جس قملگ سے کام ہو رہا ہے اُس طرح تو پنجاب کو سات یا آٹھ سال تک ایری گیشن (irrigation) اور بجلی سے کوئی فائدہ حاصل نہیں ہو سکتا۔ اس لئے میں ایک چھوٹی سی تجویز کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ کہ پنجاب میں ایک چھوٹا سا دو آب کا علاقہ ہے اس کی زمین بہت زرخیز ہے اور اس میں بہت اناج پیدا کیا جا سکتا ہے مگر پانی کی کمی ہے۔ وہاں ایک چھوٹی سی ندی ہے جس کا نام ہے دہریلی، اگر اس ندی کا ایک چھوٹا سا پراجیکٹ بنا لیا جائے تو اس سے بہت سا علاقہ زرخیز بن سکتا ہے اور وہاں اگر جلد کام کیا جائے تو اس سے پنجاب کے ایک حصہ کو بہت جلد فائدہ پہنچ سکتا ہے۔ کیوں کہ پنجاب خستہ حالت میں ہے اور وہاں ریست پنجاب کے لوگ اچھی اچھی زمینیں چھوڑ چھوڑ کر آئے ہیں۔ اس سے ان کو بہت شانتی ملے گی۔ اور میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ہندوستان کی بھی بھلائی اسی میں ہے کہ پنجاب خوش حال رہے۔ اور اس میں آبپاشی کے انتظام بہت جلد کئے جائیں۔

دوسری بات جسکی طرف میں خاص طور سے توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں وہ سڑکوں کی بابت ہے۔ جو بات میں نے ریلوے بچت کے وقت کہی تھی وہی بات میں پھر کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس وقت ایسٹ پنجاب کی وہی یوزیشن ہے جو کہ یونائٹڈ پنجاب کے وقت میں ویسٹ پنجاب کی تھی۔ ویسٹ پنجاب میں خاص طور پر اچھی سڑکیں بنائی گئی تھیں۔ لاہور سے ہی یہ اچھی سڑکیں نکلی تھیں۔ اگر آپ لاہور سے پشاور تک اور دہلی سے امرتسر تک سفر کریں تو آپکو پتہ چلے گا کہ دونوں میں کتنا فرق ہے۔ اُس طرف سڑکیں بہت اچھی ہیں اور ادھر بہت خراب ہیں۔ امرتسر۔ فہرور اور گورداس پور جو تین بارقہ کے ضلعے ہیں ان کو ملانے کے لئے کوئی روڈ لک نہیں ہے۔ جس طرح کہ کوئی ریلوے لک نہیں ہے۔ اسلئے اسٹریٹجک (strategic) نقطے خیال سے۔ کمرشل (commercial) نقطے خیال سے اور ایری گیشن کے خیال سے۔ سڑکوں پر توجہ دینا بہت ضروری ہے۔

تیسری بات میں اس مقدمہ کی افی شینسی (efficiency) اور کوالٹی (quality) آف ورک کے متعلق کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ میرے دوست چودھری روہلی کمار جی نے مزاحیہ لہجہ میں اس کا ذکر کیا ہے۔ اس لئے میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اسے کہیں مزاق ہی نہ سمجھ لیا جائے۔ میں چاہتا ہوں کہ ممبر صاحبان ان کو اتروں کو دیکھیں جو کہ پوسا روڈ پر رفریجریز کے لئے بنے ہیں۔ میں عرض کروں گا کہ وہ اگر انکو دیکھیں گے تو اسی نتیجے پر پہنچیں گے کہ نہ وہاں صحتی گیشن (sanitation) ہے۔ نہ ویڈنٹی گیشن (ventilation) ہے اور نہ

اکوموڈیشن (accommodation) ہے۔ اور نہ ڈیوریشن (duration) ہے۔ یعنی ان مکانوں میں کوئی بھی خوبی نہیں ہے۔ ماں اگر کوئی خسارہ حال سوک پر پڑا ہے تو اسکو سر لکانے کے لئے جگہ ہے۔ اور وہ مجبوراً وہاں آگئے ہیں۔ مگر دراصل وہاں روپیہ برباد ہو گیا تھا ہے۔ میں ملحقہ صاحب کی خدمت میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ وہ پانی پت میں جو کوارٹر رفوجیز کے لئے بلے ہیں ان کو دیکھیں کہ وہ کتنے اچھے بلے ہیں۔ اگر وہاں اچھے مکان بن سکتے ہیں تو یہاں بھی بن سکتے ہیں۔ میں یہ ماننا ہوں کہ یہ کام تھکے پر کروایا گیا ہے۔ ہمارے پنجاب میں ایک مثل مشہور ہے کہ جو لڑکا پالوکی خوبصورت ہوتا ہے اس کو کہا جاتا ہے کہ ایشور نے اسکو اپنے ہاتھ سے بلایا ہے اور بد صورت کے متعلق کہا جاتا ہے کہ یہ تھکے پر بلایا گیا ہے۔ تو ان تھکے پر بنائے گئے مکانوں کی حالت اتنی خراب ہے کہ اگر ایک چارپائی بچھا لی جائے تو کوئی باہر نکلنے کی جگہ نہیں رہتی۔ کوئی سہیلٹیشن کا انتظام نہیں ہے۔ پچھلے دنوں جب بارش ہوئی تو میں نے دیکھا کہ بارش کا پانی اندر بھر گیا تھا۔ اور جب لوگ گھروں سے باہر تھے۔ ان کے پاس جو سامان تھا وہ بھی بہت خراب ہو گیا تھا۔ لوگوں میں یہ خیال ہے کہ رفوجیز کو دہلی میں برداشت نہیں کیا جا رہا ہے۔ مہرا کہتا ہے کہ اس طرح کے مکان دیکر اس خیال کو پکا نہ کہا جائے۔

چونہی بات میں لیبر ریڈکشن کے بارے میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ ہارڈنگ اپنی انہو کھپ میں جہاں کہ پہلے ملٹری کے افسر رہتے تھے اب وہاں رفوجیز رہتے ہیں۔ وہ کرایہ بھی اتنا ہی دیتے ہیں۔ وہاں پر پہلے چالمس سوپرز (sweepers) صفائی کا کام کرتے تھے۔ اب آٹھ دس ہیں۔ پہلے وہاں ۲۵ چوکھدار تھے۔ اب ۷-۵ چوکھدار وہ لگتے ہیں۔ اس سے سہیلٹیشن خراب ہو گیا ہے اور چوڑی کا اندیشہ ہے۔ اس تھوڑی سی لیبر کے گھٹانے سے محکمے کو کوئی زیادہ فائدہ نہیں ہو سکتا۔ اگر کسی بڑے افسر کو کم کر دیا جائے جو اس سے ساری کمی پورن ہو سکتی ہے۔ مہرا مطلب یہ ہے کہ لو پھٹ آدمی کے گھٹانے سے بچت کم ہوتی ہے اور نقصان زیادہ۔

آخری بات میں سہا پتی جی کی رساطت سے اپنے ملٹری جی سے یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اکانامکس (economics) کے پلندتوں کی ہندوستان کے متعلق یہ رائے ہے کہ: "India is a rich country with poor people" تو یہ ہمارے ماننےہ ملٹری جی کے ہاتھ میں ہے کہ وہ اس خیال کو بدل سکتے ہیں۔ قدرت نے ہندوستان کو در چھڑیں دی ہیں۔ پانی اور معدنیات۔ ان دونوں چھڑوں کا استعمال ورکس، مائلس پارو کے منسٹر صاحب کے ہاتھ میں ہے۔ پانی سے بجلی بنانے کا کام تیزی سے کیا جائے۔ معدنیات کے استعمال کے بارے میں لمبی باتوں کو چھوڑ کر۔ میں ایک ہی مثال لیتا ہوں۔ ہندوستان میں بہت سے معدنیات ہیں۔ ان میں سے

[گیانچ گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

ایک کو خاص طور پر نظر انداز کیا گیا ہے - وہ ہے مائک یا ایئرک - اس کا استعمال ہم لوگ کسی اور تھاپک سے کرتے ہیں - مگر جو اس کا اصلی استعمال ہے اس پر ہماری توجہ نہیں لگی ہے - اس کا کوئی سہستی ڈیوٹ (substitute) نہیں ہے - جسکی وجہ سے اعلیٰ قیمت بہت زیادہ ہے - جب تک ہمارے بجلی کے پراجیکٹ پورے ہونگے اور یہاں بجلی کا سامان تیار ہوگا تب تک یہ مائک موجودہ رفتار میں ایکسپورٹ کرنا ختم ہو جائے گا - اس لئے میں منسٹر صاحب کی خدمت میں یہ بھی کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس پر کچھ چیک لگانا چاہیئے - ہلدوستان میں دنیا بھر کے آدھے سے زیادہ مائک پیدا ہوتا ہے - اور ہر سال دو کروڑ روپیہ کا یہ ایکسپورٹ (export) ہوتا ہے - ہمیں اس دو کروڑ روپیہ کی خوشبو میں اس کی دیکھی میں ضرورت کو نہ بھول جانا چاہیئے - اور اس کی سنبھال ہونی چاہیئے - ایسا نہ ہو کہ جب ہمارے ملک میں بجلی پروڈیوس (produce) ہونے لگے اور آئیئرک گوتس تیار ہونے لگے تو مائک ختم ہو جائے - اس طرح جو اس قسم کی اور معدنیات ہیں انکے ہمارے میں بھی کہا جا سکتا ہے مگر وقت نہیں ہے - ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں اپنی اسپیچ کو ختم کرتا ہوں -

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, as the time at my disposal is short, so without any introduction or customary thanksgiving, I begin to submit whatever I have to say in my speech. I know that our honourable the Minister for Works, Mines and Power does not stand in need of any thanksgiving. From what he has mentioned in his report and what he has told in his speech this morning it is clear that he has done a lot for the advancement of his Department. As many of my honourable friends have said it is true that on the working of the Works, Mines and Power Department depends, to a great extent, the advancement of many things. I would not have felt the necessity of making a speech at the present, had some other honourable member submitted the things that I want to submit.

The present condition of Punjab deserves a great deal of attention. Some time back while addressing the people of Punjab at Ambala our Deputy Prime Minister the honourable Sardar Patel, had said that the Punjabis have lost much and now they have to re-build the same in East Punjab. So a prior and careful attention of the Works, Mines and Power Ministry can now make the East Punjab prosperous. It is true that a good deal of work is being done by giving practical shape to the Bhakra Dam Scheme, and help is also being received from Government of India. The honourable Minister said this morning that at present more than one dozen projects are being carried on. Keeping the Punjab in view the speed with which the work is progressing reminds me of an old Persian proverb:

تا تریاق از عراق آورده بود

ساز گزیده مرده بود

(By the time the medicine could be had from Iraq the snake-bitten man would die.)

(If one gets a boat after he is drowned it is of no use to him).

By the manner in which work is being carried on then Punjab cannot get any benefit in respect of irrigation and electricity for seven or eight years hence. For this I wish to make a small suggestion. In Punjab there is small *doab* tract, the soil of which is very fertile. Much food grains can be grown there, but the tract is deficient in water supply. There flows a small river called Reni. If a small project is made of that river, then with its help a large area can be made fertile, and if work there is expedited then it can prove beneficial to one part of Punjab at a very early date. Punjab is in tottering condition and there have come those people from West Punjab who have left behind very fertile lands. This would give them a great deal of relief. I think that the welfare of India depends upon the prosperity of Punjab and so speedy measures may be taken for intensifying irrigation projects.

The second thing, which I wish to draw your attention particularly, is about the problem of roads. I wish to repeat all what I said at the time of the Railway Budget, that at present the position of East Punjab is identical with the position that West Punjab had in the time of United Punjab. Good roads were specially made in West Punjab. All these good roads diverged from Lahore only. If you travel from Lahore to Peshawar and from Delhi to Amritsar then you would come to know how much they differ from each other. There the roads are very good and here they are very bad. There is no roadlink connecting the three border districts of Amritsar, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur, in the same way as there is no rail link between them. So from the strategic point of view, from the commercial point of view and from the irrigation point of view, it is very essential to pay more attention towards the roads.

The third thing I wish to submit about the efficiency and the quality of work of the department. My friend Shri Chaudhuri Rohini Kumar has referred to it in a humorous way. I think lest it may be considered a piece of humour only, I wish the honourable Members may see for themselves the quarters that have been built for refugees at Pusa Road, I would submit that if they would see them they would come to this very conclusion that there is neither sanitation, nor ventilation, nor accommodation, meaning thereby that there is no convenience in these houses except that they provide only a roof to those unfortunates who were lying on roads in the open, and have occupied these houses out of sheer helplessness. In fact money has been wasted there. I wish to submit to the Honourable the Minister that he may go and see how nice are the quarters that have been constructed for the refugees at Panipat (East Punjab). If good houses can be constructed there then they can surely be constructed here also. I agree that this work was got done on contract basis. In the Punjab there is a proverb which means that the children who are beautiful that God has made them with his own hands, and about ugly ones that they have been made on contract basis. So the condition of these houses, made on contract basis, is so bad that if a cot is placed therein, then no passage for exit is left. There is no arrangement for sanitation. When it rained a few days back I saw that the rain water had collected inside the houses and all the people came outside their houses, and whatever goods they had were all soaked and spoiled. The people think that the refugees are not being tolerated in Delhi. I wish to submit that these surmises may not be strengthened by giving such houses to them.

The fourth thing I wish to submit about labour reduction. In Harding Avenue Camp, where previously the military officers lived, now live the refugees. They pay the same amount of rent. There previously 40 sweepers used to do the conservancy work but now the number is only 5 or 10. Previously there were 25 *chowkidars*, now only 5 or 7 *chowkidars* are left. For this the

[Giani Gurmukh Singh Mussfir]

sanitation has become bad and there is apprehension of thefts. The department cannot gain much benefit by reducing this small amount of labour. If the services of one high placed official is terminated then by this all the deficit can be made up. I mean to say that by reducing low paid labour the saving is always less but the inconveniences increase.

With your permission Sir, the last thing that I wish to submit to our honourable the Minister is that the expert economists hold this opinion about India that, "India is a rich country with poor people". So it is within the power of our honourable the Minister that he can change this opinion. The Nature has given to India two things—water and minerals. The operation of these two things lies in the hands of the honourable the Minister for Works, Mines and Power. The work of generating hydro-electric power may be speeded up. As regards the utilization of these minerals, leaving aside tall talks, I wish to submit only one example. India has a number of minerals. One of them has been expressly disregarded, and that mineral is Mica. We use Mica in quite a different manner, but about its fundamental utility we have paid no attention. There is no substitute for Mica and for this reason its price is very high. Till the time our electricity generating projects would be completed and electrical goods manufactured here, then, at the present rate of export, our supply of Mica will be exhausted. Therefore, I wish to submit this for the kind consideration of the honourable the Minister, that some check must be placed on this. India produces more than half of the world output of Mica and every year Mica worth 2 crores of rupees is exported. In sheer joy of getting 2 crores of rupees we must not forget the needs of our own country and so care should be taken to retain it. It may not so happen that when electricity begins to be produced in bulk in our country and electric goods are manufactured the supplies of Mica may be exhausted. This can be said about such other minerals, but there is no time at my disposal. With these words Sir, I finish my speech.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mr. Chairman, thirteen honourable members have participated in the discussion this day. I shall deal with the various points raised by the honourable members; but before I do that, I would like to refer to the general observations made by the honourable Member Prof. K. T. Shah.

He described this House as a mutual admiration society. At least I was present in this House on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March and I did not carry that impression and the impression that was carried by the public tallied with mine. I am surprised that the House should be described as a mutual admiration society. When I hear from my socialist friends that there is no party of opposition in this House, it may be true in a formal sense, but substantially, every proposition, every Bill is considered here on merits irrespective of party affiliation. This only shows how eminently we are fit to run a democratic Government.

The honourable Prof. K. T. Shah rightly referred to the absolute necessity of having an over-all plan so far as the industrial development of this country is concerned. I agree with him that in any planned economy, there must be complete integration between the various resources, that there should be target fixed in terms of time and that they should be realised by adequate agencies that may be evolved by the Government of the day. I do not think that the Government is unmindful of this fact. As a matter of fact, when there was some financial difficulty, the Government appointed a Priority Committee and the respective merits of every project were considered, not only the projects

of this Ministry, but projects which were sponsored by the Ministry of Industry also, and a proper integrated plan has been evolved. At the same time, I appreciate his anxiety and I have no doubt the Government will give this particular aspect due consideration in course of time.

Another general observation that was made by my friend Babu Ramnarain was about efficiency and corruption. Efficiency has been described as a process which secures optimum result with minimum resources in terms of time, space and material. Judged by this test, I am hopeful that what this Ministry has done will be considered to have been done with a fair measure of efficiency. The other point which was referred to by my friend Babu Ramnarain was about corruption. I may point out to him that all possible efforts are being made to put down corruption. Every complaint whether it is signed or unsigned, is enquired into. When I feel that there is a *prima facie* case, the matter is referred to Special Police, prosecutions have been launched, disciplinary actions have been taken. With all that I feel after nearly 18 months that after all fear is not a state of mind which would give me the required constructive approach to the solution of my problems. I have therefore made some slight changes in the approach to this problem. I have since sometime been appealing to the finer instincts of the officers and in one of the meetings I said "If you only believe that we are partners in a great co-operative enterprise and none of us is insignificant and at the same time none of us is indispensable, we will have a fair and a balanced view of our own duties" I still feel that by an appeal to the finer instincts of our officials we will get better results. At the same time I do not propose to give up the other approach in proved cases or in cases where there is *prima facie* evidence. That I propose to take all the steps I have mentioned already. I have already placed before them the ideal of industry, integrity and anonymity and my experience is I should say that I have received full co-operation from the Secretary down to the sweeper engaged in the Ministry. Not that they don't generally partake of those movements which are abroad occasionally, they are lethargic sometimes, they don't work sometimes, they threaten to strike but so far as dealing in a manner which is somewhat unorthodox is concerned, it has given me good results. I have introduced what is called the Whitley Council system in our Ministry. Every month the Head of the Section meets the subordinates, then the Heads of Sections meet the Departmental Head and the Departmental Heads meet me every month. It is a sort of informal gathering where no individual complaints but problems which relate to conditions of work and efficiency are discussed and anything said in these meetings is never taken into consideration against him and never prejudices the chances of any particular officer. After all we may describe Government as a machine but it is not the machine—not the mechanics of it, but it is the personality of the worker that is important and unless you give that personality a fair chance to expand and show initiative and show constructiveness, you cannot expect any progress in the country.

Now taking the point made by several honourable Members, my old friend Mr. B. Das made certain remarks about certain items in the budget. I may tell him that so far as the Delhi Electricity Authority is concerned, the amount is deposited with the Reserve Bank and as against that orders are placed. The other precautions which he urged in connection with the framing of the budget of Damodar Valley Corporation are welcome and they will be passed on to the appropriate authorities. So far as the budget estimates that have been presented by me a few days ago, I can only say this is the first time and the year started not exactly on the first of April but somewhat in the middle of the normal financial year. I now go to points raised by my honourable friend Kala Venkata Rao. He made two points, one was with respect to the right

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

approach to such problems as irrigation and power. I entirely agree and he must have noticed not merely from what I have said often but what we are doing and in the way we are doing that we look upon expansion of irrigation facilities not in terms of dividend or profit but we feel that it has an insurance value and it is a matter which must be done. Just as in the matter of defence of a country, financial considerations are irrelevant and invalid, and the country has to be defended I think in the matter of food, equally all considerations of finances or economic considerations must be similarly irrelevant. It is with that definite view we have decided to go with these multi-purpose projects. When I said that I am concentrating attention on those which give me quicker results, it did not mean that I am going to neglect or postpone indefinitely any other project which are under investigation or which are complete so far as the investigation stage is concerned. He is rightly worried over the Ramapadasagar Project and questions that have been asked in this House also show what great interest at least the members from the South take in this particular project. I said in 1942 on Dussehra Day when I was in the Yeravada Jail and when we gathered together to celebrate it in spite of Jail Manual, "I am so confident of ultimate success that although I was born in a slave country, I am going to die in a free country. On the 15th August 1947 not only I found myself in a free country but by a singular stroke of good fortune I found myself included in the first cabinet of this country, I said somehow or other my words are like those of the old Rishi—

ऋषिणाम पुनराधाम् वाचमर्षीर्नुवावति (Meaning follows the words uttered by great sages.)

Let me make another prophecy and that is "I shall die in a prosperous country" and I pledge every moment of my life, every ounce of my energy that I shall spare neither in pushing those schemes which are going to make my country prosperous and full of everything we need. With that determination not only I am proceeding but somehow or other I have been able to inject that enthusiasm in my officers and if anyone of the honourable Members care to visit while they are working in the Secretariat or much more on the projects, we will find how conscientiously, how courageously they are fighting the forces of nature and carrying out plans which it is their duty to do. When I said that I am preferring schemes which will give quicker results, it was with this object. For we have been spending over 100 crores round about on the import of food annually and the sooner I am in a position to produce more food in the country the better. Ramapadasagar is going to be one of the wonderful engineering feats. If the Taj Mahal represents the highest watermark in art, Ramapadasagar, if and when completed will represent the highest watermark in engineering skill. But what my country needs today is not an engineering record, but solid actual facts which will give me quicker results. With that object in view, if I have delayed it, it is not only in the interest of Andhra but also in the interest of the whole country. I repeat my assurance that when financial circumstances improve, I shall certainly do my best to push this scheme also. A friend of mine suggested that this should be taken section-wise. But these schemes are such that they cannot be divided. You cannot take one section after another. Either you take up the whole or you do not take it at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): The engineers have said so!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: You are going to commit the country to an expenditure of Rs. 180 crores for a scheme which will take seven years for the filling up of the foundation, 12 years for the irrigation aspect, 19 years for complete development, absorbing in its wake all the engineering staff of

Madras and all the steel and cement that is made available for Madras. I have now to judge between these two alternatives—whether I shall go in for the Rampadsagar scheme or delay it for some time because the interest of the country requires that I should concentrate more on something else. The House will agree that while on the one hand I am not prejudiced against the Rampadsagar scheme, on the other hand I am doing something which is entirely in the interest of this country. If there is anything that can be attributed to me, it will be an error of judgment but there is no *malafides* on my part.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Kala Venkata Rao suggested certain financial proposals in order to finance big schemes. I am not an indifferent economist but on this particular point I do not want to venture any suggestion, because a greater authority is present in the House, and I am sure at some due moment the honourable Dr. John Matthai will deal with it. But let me state briefly that if we follow these suggestions we will only meet with disaster and nothing else.

Shri B. Das: Specialists will follow it!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Then, Sir, a reference was made by my honourable friend, Babu Ram Narayan Singh and Mr. Jhunjhunwalla about Kosi. As a matter of fact, I am not only not neglecting it, but my officers had to fight several times in order to get some amount sanctioned for the continuance of investigations which are going on and for the ensuing financial year Rs. 20,25,000 have been sanctioned.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: But this is all that you wanted!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Honourable Members who are from Bihar naturally feel very keenly about it. I share their keenness. I know nearly 20,000 square miles are affected as well as 8,00,000 acres of good land. But at the same time how difficult is the problem will be realized if honourable Members know that this whole area is in the earthquake region. Where shall I put the dam? Suppose I make the slightest mistake and spend about Rs. 75 crores over this project, and if by some freak of nature the whole thing topples, not only I lose Rs. 75 crores but the consequential damage will be still greater. Therefore, I am taking the most expert advice available and also seeing things for myself. It may interest my honourable friend from Bihar that I am leaving for Kosi tomorrow afternoon. All that I want them to know (Shri H. V. Kamath: 'Take them with you!') is that the Government is not neglecting this scheme. Government propose to go ahead with investigation and when the investigations are complete the results will be submitted to a high expert committee. As I said I do not want to take a chance, nor any risk with such huge financial commitments.

My honourable friend, Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, in his inimitable way said something about furniture and other matters. As a matter of fact, furniture is designed according to the normal size of a person that would occupy them. If some calamity happens in odd circumstances surely the P.W.D. is not responsible for it! He enumerated several charges. I am just thinking whether to justify the past criticism of my department I should offer, if not free boarding at least free lodging to the Members of the House and in case I do that I am sure to carry my demands unanimously (Honourable Members: 'No, no').

Shri B. L. Sondhi: We are not selfish!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I want to recover fair rent. Those charges which he has mentioned are with respect to the chaukidar, maintenance and the garden. At any rate, when I was staying in one of the Ferozshah Road bungalows there was something like a garden: of course, not like the one in the Governor-General's House!

Shri R. K. Sidhya (C. P. and Berar: General): The Ministers]

The Honourable. Shri N. V. Gadgil: However, if there is any particular grievance, I promise I shall look into it and I am sure the experience of the honourable Member has been that whenever any complaint has been made, at least on my part I have tried to remove it promptly.

A point was made by my honourable friend, Mr. Chaliha about the possibilities of finding further oil in Assam. I have already stated on several occasions that it is the intention of this Government to tap further sources but all that is conditioned by the supply of officers that we have in our Survey of India Department. At present one party is already working in Assam. We hope to succeed in expanding our staff, so far we know that Assam is the place where oil is likely to be found in abundance, and there is one consideration that the province is not combustible like Bengal. ~~Some~~ attention will be paid in future, and all those places which only an Assamese can pronounce have been somehow or other taken down by me—I do not know with what correctness—and they will be just looked into and forwarded to the Geological Survey Department.

A reference was made to rent control and the housing problem. Let me repeat that this Government has not accepted fully the obligation of housing all the officials. So far as housing for the general non-official public is concerned, no definite obligation has yet been accepted by the Government. The only obligation is to accommodate refugees and some houses have been built.

A complaint has been made in this House that those houses are not all that they should be. But they have been designed by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry and my Ministry is only the construction agency. At the same time, I have visited those houses and I feel that they may not be palaces but that they are fairly good and they are meant for the time being to meet the immediate demand and not to be the solution of the long-term housing problem.

About rent control and building of new houses, the complaint seems to come not very much from the bottom of the heart of my friend, Babu Ram Narayan Singh. It seems that somebody has communicated to him something and he has placed that complaint before the House. I want to assure him that this Government is very anxious to encourage building programmes on the part of non-officials because to that extent the trouble will be less for me individually. But I may say that if new houses are built, I am determined that the landlord shall not exploit the tenant.

On that make no mistake and the agency for determining the standard rent is there and it is drawn up according to the provisions of the law.
5 P. M. If any particular landlord satisfied the authority that he has spent so much then in terms of that amount the standard rent will be fixed. If there is any particular grievance of any individual I am quite prepared to go into it and recommend such just action as may be appropriate in that case.

Sir, I have come to the end of my speech. Brick by brick and dam by dam these projects are being completed and I should say that brick by brick we are building up the Temple of Prosperity. It has been given to this generation to put its best efforts, so that when the results come they will be available to the generations that will follow us. I am sure that in this task we shall all cooperate whole heartedly. We shall do something and not remain mere spectators, for I feel that if you want to bring in a classless society, which undoubtedly is the object of the party to which you and I belong, it is only possible to have that classless society if we create conditions in which there will be abundance

and not scarcity. It is only when there is plenty there is prosperity; it is only when there is abundance there is less of those vices which come up before criminal courts. If we are successful in creating those conditions we will be creating a classless society and we would be, I should say, translating the dream of Mahatma Gandhi into actual reality.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,16,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,05,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,55,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,38,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,95,30,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,84,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,06,18,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 11th March, 1949.