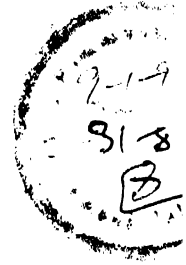
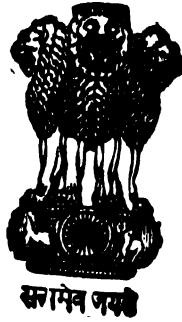


Thursday, 3rd May, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VII, 1951

(2nd April to 16th May, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

CONTENTS

Volume VII—From 2nd April to 16th May, 1951

	<i>Columns</i>
Monday, 2nd April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	2751—2795
Written Answers to Questions	2795—2814
Tuesday, 3rd April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	2815—2842
Written Answers to Questions	2842—2848
Wednesday, 4th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	2849—2878
Written Answers to Questions	2878—2894
Friday, 6th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	2895—2928
Written Answers to Questions	2928—2944
Saturday, 7th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	2945—2971
Written Answers to Questions	2971—2986
Monday, 9th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	2987—3012
Written Answers to Questions	3013—3030
Tuesday, 10th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3031—3061
Written Answers to Questions	3061—3072
Wednesday, 11th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3079—3108
Written Answers to Questions	3109—3132
Thursday, 12th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3133—3162
Written Answers to Questions	3162—3172
Saturday, 14th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3173—3204
Written Answers to Questions	3204—3212
Monday, 16th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3213—3242
Written Answers to Questions	3242—3254
Tuesday, 17th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3255—3286
Written Answers to Questions	3287—3300
Wednesday, 18th April, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	3301—3330
Written Answers to Questions	3330—3344

Thursday, 19th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3345—3372
Written Answers to Questions		3372—3380
Friday, 20th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3381—3408
Written Answers to Questions		3408—3412
Saturday, 21st April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3413—3446
Written Answers to Questions		3447—3452
Monday, 23rd April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3453—3481
Written Answers to Questions		3481—3502
Tuesday, 24th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3503—3532
Written Answers to Questions		3532—3546
Thursday, 26th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3587—3615
Written Answers to Questions		3615—3636
Friday, 27th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3637—3666
Written Answers to Questions		3666—3670
Saturday, 28th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3671—3702
Written Answers to Questions		3702—3704
Monday, 30th April, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3705—3733
Written Answers to Questions		3733—3750
Tuesday, 1st May, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3751—3782
Written Answers to Questions		3782—3794
Wednesday, 2nd May, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3795—3826
Written Answers to Questions		3826—3840
Friday, 4th May, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3895—3926
Written Answers to Questions		3926—3930
Saturday, 5th May, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3931—3964
Written Answers to Questions		3965—3970
Monday, 7th May, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		3971—4007
Written Answers to Questions		4007—4020
Wednesday, 9th May, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		4061—4093
Written Answers to Questions		4093—4102

Thursday, 10th May, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	4103—4132
Written Answers to Questions	4132—4140
Friday, 11th May, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	4141—4170
Written Answers to Questions	4170—4180
Saturday, 12th May, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	4181—4212
Written Answers to Questions	4212—4216
Monday, 14th May, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	4217—4248
Written Answers to Questions	4245—4254
Tuesday, 15th May, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	4255—4285
Written Answers to Questions	4285—4292
Wednesday, 16th May, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	4293—4320
Written Answers to Questions	4320—4328

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

31841

3842

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 3rd May, 1951

*The House met at Half-past Eight of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STORES PURCHASE COMMITTEE

***3751. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Stores Purchase Committee has been recently appointed;

(b) if so, what is the composition and its terms of reference; and

(c) whether it will have power to enquire into the working of the present system of purchases in our foreign Embassies?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) No.

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

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it is contemplated to have a Stores Purchase Committee at an early stage? If not, may I know the reasons for it?

Shri Gadgil: It is very difficult to say what is under contemplation. But I may inform my hon. friend that since the Estimates Committee made certain recommendations in this respect the whole question is under the consideration of Works, Production and Supply Ministry with a view to securing better efficiency and speedier purchase. The matter has not yet, however, been finally settled. Therefore, I have replied in regard to (a) that the Committee has not yet been appointed.

Shri Sidhva: When is it likely to be appointed, may I know?

67 P.S.D

Shri Gadgil: As soon as we finalise our conclusions both as regards the terms of reference and as regards the personnel, it will be announced.

Shri Sidhva: Is there any difficulty in...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Sondhi: In view of the urgency of the matter will the hon. Minister give an assurance that it will be finalised before the end of the session?

Shri Gadgil: In view of the urgency, I can assure the House that it will be done as quickly as possible.

Shri Shiva Rao: May I know whether, in the event of the terms of a contract being varied from the normal form of contract, the previous concurrence of the Ministry concerned is obtained before the contract is placed abroad by any of our foreign representatives?

Shri Gadgil: The usual procedure is that very rarely the normal procedure is departed from and in all cases in which the normal procedure is departed from a statement is laid on the Table of the House, which was done only two days ago. Sometimes previous consultation takes place, but if the matter is very urgent previous consultation obviously becomes very difficult.

Shri Shiva Rao rose—

Mr. Speaker: I think it is going beyond the scope of the question. All these questions arise on the merits of the matters for enquiry.

RUBBER GOODS

***3752. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total amount of finished rubber goods consumed in India and produced in India?

(b) Do we have sufficient raw material for the industry?

(c) From what countries do we import raw rubber?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Value of goods consumed per annum Rs. 18 crores (approximately).

Value of goods produced per annum Rs. 20 crores (approximately).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Malaya and Ceylon.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is there any increase in the production of raw material for our industry?

Shri Karmarkar: According to our plans they will increase gradually.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the deficiency in the raw material required for the rubber industry?

Shri Karmarkar: In respect of the principal raw material for tyres, that is raw rubber, our total annual requirement is 20,000 tons; the quantity available in India is 15,500 tons. So the quantity we import is 4,500 tons. In respect of tyre cord, our annual requirement is 5,020 tons; the quantity available in India is 4,500 tons.

In respect of other raw materials like carbon black, sulphur, wire, etc., our requirements vary, but our production is nil.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether any steps are being taken to make up the deficiency in the production of raw rubber?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said we have a plan of increasing the acreage under rubber and we hope to make gradual increase in the near future.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: What is the quantity that we import from Malaya and what is the price we have to pay for them?

Shri Karmarkar: I have no separate figures of import from Malaya and Ceylon. But I shall try to get them.

DIRECTIONING OF JUTE

*3753. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any directional allocation of jute goods to purchasers in the U. S. A.;

(b) if so, since when it has been introduced; and

(c) what is the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a)

There has been no directional allocation of jute goods to individual consignees in U.S.A. since the decontrol of jute goods' prices.

(b) The directional control referred to by the hon. Member was introduced with effect from 1st December, 1950.

(c) Its purpose was to ensure, as far as possible, supply of jute goods to genuine consumers in U.S.A. at controlled prices, and to prevent black-market transactions.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have the Government received any report that even in directionally-controlled jute manufacturing goods there was some undeclared profit made by the shippers?

Shri Karmarkar: Directional control ordinarily minimises such unexplained profits, but it is possible that some little undeclared profits might have been made.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what was the percentage of directionally-controlled jute goods to the total production?

Shri Karmarkar: If I remember aright, excepting 10 per cent. the whole of the goods exported to U.S.A. was under directional control; but I should like to verify.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the total monthly export?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri A. C. Guha: As regards (a), am I to understand that since jute prices have been decontrolled, there is no directional control?

Shri Karmarkar: That is how I understand it.

Shri T. N. Singh: The hon. Minister stated that the directional control has been introduced to prevent black-marketing in U.S.A. May I know whether it is a fact that there is no black-marketing of goods in the U.S.A.?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri Karmarkar: I shall benefit by it.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that the U.S.A. have stayed out of the market—that they are not buying jute goods?

Shri Karmarkar: At the moment I understand that one of the high prices prevailing in the market has been dull these

Saikh Mohiuddin: Is it a fact that due to control and subsequent decontrol, the business people have gained at the cost of the agriculturist?

Shri Karmarkar: If there had been stocks with the middlemen at the time of decontrol, it is likely that the middlemen may have made profits which otherwise they would not have.

SCHEDULED CASTES IN PAKISTAN

*3756. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many cases of loot, arson and forcible conversions of Scheduled Castes in Pakistan have been taken up with the Government of Pakistan from 8th April, 1950 to this day?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): No separate statistics regarding incidents affecting Scheduled Castes are available. About 6,716 cases of loot, arson and other acts of violence against members of the minority communities in East Pakistan have been referred to the Pakistan Government so far.

About 46 cases involving forcible conversions of about 120 persons have also been taken up with the East Pakistan Government.

Shri Chandrika Ram: How many people have left Pakistan during this period on this account?

Dr. Keskar: It is very difficult for me to give the number of people who left Pakistan on this account only. No statistics in this direction have been compiled.

Shri Chandrika Ram: What is the estimated loss of life and property belonging to the Scheduled Castes due to all these incidents?

Dr. Keskar: It is not possible for us to make any survey of the loss either of life or property as a whole in East Pakistan. It is not our territory. Whatever cases have been brought to the notice of our Deputy High Commissioner and the Central Minister, it is only those which we can take cognizance of.

Prof. S. L. Saksena: Is there any truth in the report that recently there has been a new exodus from there?

Dr. Keskar: I do not think so, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how many cases of forcible conversions the Government have received reports of?

Shri Keskar: 120 persons were appointed, the cases of forcible conversions referred to us.

Shri A. C. Guha: During what period?

Dr. Keskar: From April, 1950 up-to-date.

SURVEY OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*3757. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last survey of cottage industries in India made; and

(b) if so, in how many places and if not, whether Government propose to undertake one in selected places in India for a comprehensive plan to develop cottage industries in States?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No general survey of cottage industries has so far been made by the Government of India. A sample survey of cottage and small-scale industries was, however, conducted in 1950.

(b) The survey was conducted in the Aligarh-Harduanj area, covering about 200 sq. miles. It is proposed to ask the State Governments to carry out surveys on similar lines in selected areas.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Have Government any information regarding the articles of cottage industry which are in demand in U.K. and U.S.A.?

Shri Karmarkar: I may repeat the information already given that brocades, articles made of ivory, curios and similar articles are in demand, but as I have informed the House earlier articles of the value of not more than 10 dollars are popular in the United States.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What was the total amount of sales of these cottage industry articles in foreign countries?

Shri Karmarkar: That information is not readily available with me.

Shri Shiva Rao: Is it a fact that the Cottage Industries Board passed a resolution two years ago and again this year, asking for a State-wise survey of cottage industries and, if so, what action has been taken by the Ministry on the same?

Shri Karmarkar: As my hon. friend knows very well, cottage industries are principally a subject within the jurisdiction of the States administrations, and after the meeting referred to by my hon. friend we circularised the recommendations. I understand that the States of Bombay, West Bengal and Travancore-Cochin have taken action on the Board's suggestion. In respect of the others we shall remind them.

Shri Shiva Rao: Is it a fact that the Under Secretary in charge of cottage industries has twenty-five other sections in his charge and therefore is unable to devote any time to cottage industries?

Shri Karmarkar: Well, Sir, in addition to cottage industries the Under Secretary in charge has some other work—not as much as twenty-five sections I hope—but I do not think on account of that reason there has been a deficiency in the work of the Cottage Industries Board or looking after the interest of cottage industries.

Shri Rudrappa: May I know whether the Government have prepared any scheme for the development of cottage industries based on the lines of the Report submitted by the Committee set up by the All India Congress Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: At the moment I have not got before me the scheme as is said to have been prepared by the A.I.C.C., but we have ourselves an adequate organisation and our Committee are preparing schemes and they are under execution.

Shri T. N. Singh: As the hon. Minister has stated that surveys are being made or are to be made in selected areas, may I know what are the selected cottage industries in which surveys will be made?

Shri Karmarkar: I understand that different Governments have different methods of doing the thing. The Government of Bombay for instance have made a survey in respect of 22 industries, and the Government of West Bengal in respect of four industries. In the Aligarh-Harduanj area which was investigated under the direct supervision of the Government of India the survey covered an area of 200 sq. miles and in all the survey was conducted in respect of 73 industries—rather exhaustive.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Cottage Industries Board have ever sought the co-operation of the All India Village Industries Association?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir, we have a representative of the All India Village Industries Association on the Cottage Industries Board, and we also seek the co-operation of every relevant body.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any scheme for the development of cottage industries is under the consideration of the Planning Commission?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir, so far as I know, the Planning Commission are considering in detail the proposals which they are to make to the Government of India in this matter as part of their work.

INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*3758. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Cotton Advisory Committee has decided to create a World Cotton Fund;

(b) if so, what will be the contribution of India;

(c) the total amount proposed to be collected for the fund; and

(d) whether any amount is to be obtained from the World Monetary Fund?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (d). Government is not aware of any decision having been taken by the International Cotton Advisory Committee to create a World Cotton Fund.

NEWSPRINT

*3759. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any experiment to produce newsprint has been made in Travancore-Cochin?

(b) If so, what is the result of such an experiment?

(c) Is there sufficient raw material for producing newsprint on commercial basis?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Establishment of mills for the production of newsprint is left to private enterprise. All possible assistance will be rendered by the Government to the promoters.

Shri Sidhva: Arising out of the answer to part (c) of the question, if there is sufficient raw material for producing newsprint, may I know why there is generally a shortage of newsprint in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Has the hon. Minister any reply to give to that question?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I think the hon. Member knows obviously that

raw material is not the only thing required; there has to be the enterprise, capital, somebody doing it and so on.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is the Government aware that from bagasse newsprint has been manufactured in India also by way of experiment?

Shri Karmarkar: I think my senior colleague the hon. Commerce Minister might like to answer that.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): I told the House the other day that Italy has been experimenting on this, and even in Italy the production of newsprint from that raw material has not been started on a large scale. Here in India also the Lotus Company are experimenting on that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Has Government explored the possibility of producing newsprint in India out of bagasse?

Shri Mahtab: It is a private firm which has taken up that work.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that 'all possible assistance' in this case means no assistance?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Sohan Lal: May I know what is the cost of this experiment and whether it is cheaper or dearer as compared to other such experiments?

Shri Karmarkar: I said in reply to (a) and (b) that Government have no information. It therefore follows that Government have no further information on the point asked by the hon. Member.

CLOTH EXPORT TO PAKISTAN

*3760. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the yardage of cloth which has been fixed for export to Pakistan during the current year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): The amount of mill made cloth fixed for export to Pakistan during the year 1951 is 44 million yards. It has also been agreed in the Trade Agreement to supply 15,000 bales of handloom cloth during July, 1951 to June, 1952. Export of certain varieties of handloom cloth to East Pakistan is however allowed without quantitative restrictions under the Trade Agreement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the cloth yardage to Pakistan

mentioned in the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement has been outstripped?

Shri Mahtab: Actually the export will begin from July. It has not yet been made.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether our supply of cloth to Pakistan is linked to the supply of cotton from Pakistan?

Shri Mahtab: There is no bargaining from that point of view, but we expect some quantity of cotton from Pakistan.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the price level of Pakistan cotton which we import is reconciled with the price level of the cloth exported which is based on the prices of Indian cotton?

Shri Mahtab: There is no control over the prices of exported cloth. Similarly there is no control over the prices of the imported cotton. So there has been no bargain on that point.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that the Indian cotton grower is prepared to sell at a less price than what we are going to pay to Pakistan cotton?

Shri Mahtab: At present the controlled price of Indian cotton is lower than the price of cotton elsewhere.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What has been the effect of the new exchange ratio on the price of cloth that is exported to Pakistan?

Shri Mahtab: That I cannot say because the export has not yet started. When it starts, we will know exactly the price.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the tariff policy will be revised?

Mr. Speaker: That is a hypothetical question at this stage.

Shrimati Benka Ray: In view of the extreme shortage of cloth in the country, will Government revise its policy of exporting cloth to foreign countries?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It has been replied to so many times.

TOWNSHIPS AROUND DELHI

*3761. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Co-ordination Committee for the Development of Greater Delhi has advised Government

that the townships for the rehabilitation of displaced persons awaiting resettlement should, in future, be located outside the mile-long green-belt round Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of displaced persons in Delhi still awaiting rehabilitation?

Shri Buragohain: According to the Chief Commissioner, the number of people who are still in the streets of Delhi are about 1½ lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How long would it take for the Government to resettle them?

Shri Buragohain: The Central Co-ordination Committee for the development of Greater Delhi has decided that all surplus refugees and new refugees should be rehabilitated beyond the green-belt.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: My question is how long it would take to get them resettled—the time limit?

Shri Buragohain: It is very difficult to say at the moment.

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): It will happen sooner if the House accepts the proposals embodied in the Bill which is under consideration.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know what is the radius of the green-belt round Greater Delhi?

Shri Buragohain: It will be about 4 and 5 miles around the city.

COTTON EXPORT

*3762. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of raw cotton exported in the year 1950;

(b) whether there has been any increase of export in 1950 over the quantity exported in 1949;

(c) whether there was any export over and above the quantity to be exported according to trade pacts with different countries; and

(d) if so, what is the reason therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 1,89,196 bales.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) The varieties exported in 1950 were mostly Bengal Deshi, Assam and

Comilla. The production of these varieties could not be fully consumed in India and the exportable surplus was in excess of the total quantity covered by Trade Agreement.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know with which countries we have a trade pact for the export of cotton?

Shri Mahtab: In this connection, with your permission I may correct one thing. With regard to our exports to U.S.A. the other day a supplementary question was asked by Kaka Bhagwant Roy and there seems to be some misunderstanding of what I said then. This statement will make the position clear. Exports of cotton during the years 1948-50 were to the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hongkong, Italy, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, U.K., U.S.A. and others. I lay this statement on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 1.]

Shri A. C. Guha: Are we to understand that our export excesses have been in the case of all these countries? How far do our exports exceed our trade pacts in all these countries?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member presumed that the export quota is fixed for each country separately?

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that our export has really exceeded the quota fixed by our trade pacts and I want to know in respect of which countries we have exceeded our quota?

Mr. Speaker: Therefore his assumption seems to be that the export quota is fixed for each country separately. Is that so?

Shri Mahtab: That is not correct. I have said that we have exported to these countries. With some countries we have a Trade Agreement but with some we have no Trade Agreement.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: Is there any control on the purchase and sale of cotton which is meant for exports?

Shri Mahtab: There is no control.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: May I know what is the total production of Bengal Desi short staple cotton and what is our home consumption and what is the carry-over annually?

Shri Mahtab: I cannot say off-hand. Our total production is estimated at about 3 lakh bales and our local consumption is 1½ lakhs and we export 1½ lakhs.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that the margin of profits of export of Desi cotton is as much as 40 per cent. of the controlled price of raw cotton?

Shri Mahtab: The export price is much higher than the controlled price and that created some trouble last time and we are looking into the question of how we can adjust these prices.

Thakur Krishna Singh: May I know what is the total Dollar earnings on account of export of cotton in 1949 and 1950 respectively?

Shri Mahtab: I have not got the exact figures of the Dollar available, but we have exported to hard currency countries about 1,33,750 bales. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall give him the information.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

IRON AND STEEL ALLOTMENT

*3763. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of iron and steel that was allotted for agriculture and rehabilitation works during the last three years viz., 1948, 1949 and 1950;

(b) how the priority in allotment to different heads as regards iron and steel is fixed; and

(c) what are the agencies of distribution of iron and steel allotted for agriculture and rehabilitation purposes?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Statement I).

(b) Allotments are made once in three months on *ad hoc* considerations of urgency and importance of the demands submitted under different heads; demands of the Defence Services, Railways, Agricultural and Rehabilitation works are accorded special treatment.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Statement II).

STATEMENT I

Allotment of iron and steel (in tons)

Quota	1948	1949	1950
Agriculture		70,607	195,197
Rehabilitation	8,127	27,221	37,211

N.B.—Separate agricultural quota was introduced only from Period II/1949.

Separate quota for Rehabilitation Ministry was introduced from Period II/1948.

STATEMENT II

Purpose for which iron and steel is required.	Authority responsible for distribution.
Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture and State Governments.
Rehabilitation	Ministry of Rehabilitation and State Governments.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how is the allotment distributed State-wise?

Shri Mahtab: If the hon. Member wants figures, I can supply to him later on, because I have not got the figures State-wise. We take into consideration the priority as has been mentioned in my reply. It starts from Defence Services, Railways and then comes Agricultural and Rehabilitation works. After the Agricultural and Rehabilitation works, we invite the representatives of the State Governments and we discuss with them their requirements and then the quotas are fixed.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have Government got any special agency for distributing steel and iron to the agriculturists in the rural areas?

Shri Mahtab: I have already laid on the Table of the House a statement from the Agriculture Ministry showing how the distribution takes place.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the bulk of the allotment made to the Madras State has not reached them and were any representations made to the Centre in regard to the relaxation of restrictions?

Shri Mahtab: It must have reached the Madras State. We have received no complaint from the State Government.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the allotment made to the State of Madras has not reached its destination because of certain shortage of wagons, etc.?

Shri Mahtab: It must have reached them; otherwise, the Madras State Government would have complained to us.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister stated that the allotment is made every quarter. In view of the change of policy for other articles by the

Commerce and Industry Ministry, for every half year, will he not apply the same period for iron and steel also?

Shri Mahtab: The hon. Member knows very well that our allotment will depend on the availability of iron and steel, which really means the availability from other sources; apart from our production here the availability from abroad is also a problem. So the quarterly arrangement is better than a six-monthly arrangement.

Pandit Maltra: May I know if the hon. Minister is in a position to tell the House if special quotas of iron and steel have been ear-marked in the different provinces for the use of refugees in the work of rehabilitation?

Shri Mahtab: I am sure about that because special allotment is made for rehabilitation work, and the Rehabilitation Ministry distributes them to the State Governments on the express understanding that the quota will go to the use of refugees. That being the case, I have no reason to think that the State Governments do not distribute to the refugees.

Shri Sidhva: May I know...

Mr. Speaker: I think we have had enough questions on this.

Pandit Maltra: One question, Sir. Is the hon. Minister aware that so far as U.P. is concerned, where loans have been granted to the refugees for rehabilitation in industries, the Government has definitely told us that no steel quota is available for the refugees?

Shri Mahtab: I shall make enquiries about that. What I am inclined to think is that probably their demand has not been met in full and therefore they are not in a position to supply.

Pandit Maltra: They say, no quota.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

CLOTH (PRODUCTION)

*3764. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the production of cloth in the months of January, February, March and April, 1951;

(b) the exports of cloth in the respective months; and

(c) the allotment of quotas made to different States in these months?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (c). Statements are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix KXIV, annexure No. 2.]

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As regards the production of cloth, the statement shows that whereas in January the production of cloth was 338 million yards, in February and March, it has gone down to 312 and 316 million. May I know the reasons for this fall in production?

Shri Sondhi: February has 28 days.

Shri Mahtab: There is difference in the working days. The working days in January are more than the working days in February. So far as production is concerned, it is steadily on the increase. I have promised the other day that I shall place all these materials on the Table of the House as soon as possible. I am collecting figures.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know the average monthly target for production of cloth?

Shri Mahtab: There is no target fixed for this purpose. But, we are trying our utmost to see that 4,300 million yards are produced in this year.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether our textile exports to Pakistan are co-ordinated with our over-all textile export policy?

Shri Mahtab: Our export to Pakistan is included in the target of export which we have fixed for ourselves. It is not beyond that.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether there is any difference in the policy which we are adopting in regard to exporting cloth to different countries other than Pakistan?

Shri Mahtab: No; it is on the same basis.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know the target for cloth export in 1951, and for how much export licences have so far been issued?

Shri Mahtab: I have answered that question some time back. The target, so far as I remember, on the whole, is about 800 million yards for this year. Therefore, about 400 million yards will be exported in this half year. Licences have, of course, been issued on a much larger scale; but the export has been staggered in this way.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Out of the yarn supplied to the various mills,

what percentage is converted into dhoties and saris?

Shri Mahtab: I have not got the figures here. We have passed orders on the mills to produce dhoties and saris to a certain extent.

INTER-STATE MOVEMENT OF COMMODITIES

*3765. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the restrictions in force in various States on inter-State movement of commodities other than food grains and the restrictions that have already been lifted?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I lay on the Table of the House a statement containing the information asked for. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 3.]

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the State Governments were asked by the Central Government to remove the restrictions on the inter-State movement of commodities except food-grains, by the end of February, 1951?

Shri Karmarkar: It is not the State Governments that made the request; I think it is we that asked the Governments to remove the restrictions and they have done so to the extent that they have thought possible.

Shri S. N. Das: What I asked was whether the State Governments were asked by the Government of India?

Shri Karmarkar: That is a fact, because we do believe in the free inter-State movement of commodities and therefore we have asked the State Governments to lift the restrictions.

Shri S. N. Das: Which of the State Governments have complied with the request made by the Central Government?

Shri Karmarkar: All the State Governments have complied to the extent which they have thought possible.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether in view of the restrictions placed by the various State Governments on the inter-State movement of commodities, production of some articles have suffered to a great extent?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not aware of production having suffered because most of the articles on which restrictions are placed are ordinary consumption articles like vegetable ghee, and some other necessaries like iron and cement which are in short supply.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: May I know why, of all the Part A States, there is restriction on the movement of cloth in the case of Assam only?

Shri Karmarkar: I think the hon. Member should address that question to the Assam Government.

STATE TRADING COMMITTEE REPORT

*3766. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consideration of the recommendations of the State Trading Committee has been completed; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the decisions taken and steps taken to implement them so far?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The report of Committee on State Trading is still under consideration.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if the Planning Commission has gone through the report and have they submitted their views on it?

Shri Karmarkar: I understand that they have examined the report; but I am not sure whether we have received their views.

Dr. Deshmukh: What is the present stage of consideration? Is it advanced or nebulous?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: How long will it be under consideration and when may we expect some decision?

Shri Karmarkar: I think a short time will be necessary for us to consider.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What is the meaning of 'short time'?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; let us go to the next question.

MANGANESE AND IRON ORES

*3767. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any export duty imposed on manganese and iron ores?

(b) What is the quantity of (i) manganese, and (ii) iron ores exported monthly since 1st April, 1950 to 31st March, 1951?

(c) What were the prices prevailing in India during those months of each

commodity and what were the international prices?

(d) What were the prices at which these ores were sold in foreign countries?

(e) What is the margin of profit derived by the trade?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Export duty is leviable on manganese ore but not on iron ore.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 4 (Statement I).]

(c) A statement showing the prices prevailing in India during those months is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 4 (Statement II).] As regards the international prices, the information is not available at present but will be placed on the Table of the House, when it is available.

(d) and (e). Information is not available.

Dr. Deshmukh: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell me the reason why the export which was 1,05,000 tons in September has gone down to 18,000 and 14,000 in November and December? Are there any particular causes?

Shri Karmarkar: Because those who wanted it before did not want it later.

Dr. Deshmukh: The prices shown as prevailing in India are: January—Rs. 97; February—Rs. 94; and in March it has been Rs. 127. Is it merely due to market fluctuations or are there any reasons why the prices have shot up in March?

Shri Karmarkar: I think, market fluctuations as my hon. friend rightly observed.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know the total quantity of manganese exported to America during the period 1st April, 1950 to 31st March, 1951, and whether the Governments of China and Russia have approached the Government of India for their share in this strategic raw material?

Shri Karmarkar: With regard to the United States, in 1948, we exported.....

Mr. Speaker: He has asked for the figure for the period 1st April, 1950 to 31st March, 1951.

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: What about the second part of the question?

Shri Karmarkar: For the second part also, unfortunately, I want notice.

Dr. Deshmukh: Does not the Government know what is the difference at any particular time between the international price and the price prevailing in India?

Shri Karmarkar: I think in respect of some, we know; for instance, in the case of jute goods, we happened to know. But we do not know in respect of all commodities at any particular moment.

Dr. Deshmukh: Am I to understand that the Commerce Ministry is not in a position to give any advice.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. Deshmukh: That follows.

Mr. Speaker: What follows?

Dr. Deshmukh: The hon. Minister stated in his reply that he is going to collect figures of international prices. That can only mean that at a particular time, the Commerce Ministry does not know what the international prices are....

Mr. Speaker: Of all articles: all and sundry?

Dr. Deshmukh: I am only referring to manganese.

Mr. Speaker: Manganese may be one of them. Let us not argue that way.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: May I know from which part of India, or which province manganese and iron ore is largely produced?

Shri Karmarkar: I think to give a correct answer, I should like to have notice.

Dr. Deshmukh: Does the Commerce Ministry give any advice to trade whether it is profitable for India at any particular time to export or not?

Shri Karmarkar: We have our representatives abroad who give information. We do not advise.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: May I know if the Trade Commissioners from time to time report the prices prevailing in the foreign markets?

Shri Karmarkar: They do so, but not in respect of all the commodities and not for all periods in detail.

PRICE OF UGANDA COTTON

*3768. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the price

per bale of 400 lbs. of Uganda cotton has now been fixed and if so, what is it?

(b) What is the staple length of this cotton and what is the quantity purchased?

(c) How much of it has so far arrived?

(d) What subsidy per bale will Government give on this cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). The prices of different varieties of Uganda cotton (1950-51 crop) purchased under Agreement with the Uganda Government have been fixed in pence per lb. f.o.b. East African port. A statement showing the prices, staple lengths of the different varieties, and the quantity involved under each variety is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 5.]

(c) 37,777 bales, upto the 14th April, 1951.

(d) No subsidy is given on this cotton.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know how the price of Uganda cotton compares with those of Pakistan and Egypt?

Shri Mahtab: These are different varieties of cotton and their prices are different. They have got different names also.

Dr. Deshmukh: I only want an approximate idea of the prices.

Mr. Speaker: Is any comparison possible?

Shri Mahtab: Comparison may be possible, but I am not sure of that.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: Has the Government taken any steps to grow this type of cotton in India and if so what has been the result?

Shri Mahtab: The Cotton Committee I understand are taking some steps to produce the varieties of cotton which are now being imported.

Dr. Deshmukh: What other varieties are given subsidies besides this Uganda cotton?

Shri Mahtab: Last year we gave subsidies for the variety imported from the United States.

SALT MANUFACTURING AGENCIES

*3769. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the area under and the capital invested by the Government and private salt manufacturing agencies; and

(b) the quantity produced by Government melting units and the private melting units?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) A statement showing the respective areas and capital investment is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) In 1950, Government factories produced 188 lakh maunds and private factories produced 525 lakh maunds.

STATEMENT

	Total area (in acres)	Total capital invested (in rupees)
Government factories (excluding Mandi Mines)	7,702	About Rs. 1 crore
private factories.	47,911	About Rs. 5 crores.

Figures relating to Mandi Mines are not available.

Shri Jnani Ram: From the statement given by the hon. Minister I find that the figures relating to the Mandi Mines have been excluded. May I know why these have not been included in this statement?

Shri Gadgil: The reason is the Mandi Mines were worked by the Mandi State and the Himachal Pradesh Government. We got possession of the same only a few months ago and valuation item by item, is being made. When completed and if the House so desires, I will lay the information on the Table of the House.

Shri Jnani Ram: May I know whether the Planning Commission has made any recommendations regarding the development of the salt industry?

Shri Gadgil: Several suggestions have been made.

Shri Jnani Ram: May I know whether any scheme has been drawn up for the manufacture of the by-products of salt?

Shri Gadgil: Among the various recommendations, some are in relation to the by-products of this industry.

PENCIL MANUFACTURE

*3770. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lead pencil factories in India;

(b) the quantity of pencils manufactured in India in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(c) the materials available in the country for the industry; and

(d) the materials and the quantity thereof imported?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 15.

(b) 1949-50—44,595 gross, 1950-51—1,42,000 gross (approx.)

(c) Wood, clay and varnishes.

(d) Graphite—the quantity imported during eleven months, April, 1950 to February, 1951, is 14,193 cwts.

Shri Jnani Ram: May I know the quantity of pencils imported during this period?

Shri Mahtab: I am sorry that figure is not with me.

Shri Jnani Ram: Is it a protected industry?

Shri Mahtab: Yes; only the other day we discussed the provisions relating to this industry.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have any pencil factories been closed down since 1946 and if so, how many?

Shri Mahtab: I have no information on that.

IMPORT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

*3771. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what was the total sum allocated by Government for importing motor vehicles in the last year?

(b) What was the sum allocated for the import of motor vehicles from the Dollar areas and the non-Dollar areas separately?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A total sum of Rs. 2050 lakhs was allocated by Government for importing motor vehicles in completely knocked down condition in the year 1950.

(b) A sum of Rs. 750 lakhs was allocated for the import of motor vehicles from Dollar Areas and a sum of Rs. 1,300 lakhs was allocated for import from non-Dollar areas.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know what are the countries in the Dollar areas and what are those in the non-Dollar areas?

Shri Karmarkar: Dollar areas largely mean the United States of America.

Shri Rathnaswamy: And the non-Dollar areas?

Shri Karmarkar: The other countries—largely the United Kingdom.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What are the different varieties of motor vehicles to be imported?

Shri Karmarkar: Mostly cars, cycles, omnibuses and lorries.

Shri Dwivedi: What is the sum allocated for the import of motor-car parts?

Shri Karmarkar: Regarding parts, I have no information.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, the name of the firm which has the license for the largest import?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the information at the moment, I can find it out.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Deputy Minister can give a break-up of the figures between cars and public utility vehicles?

Shri Karmarkar: I think I had better have notice.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, may I know whether these figures represent the amounts actually spent or do they represent only the allocations and if so what portion of these amounts is being utilised?

Shri Karmarkar: I think this information is regarding the allocation of licenses to be issued. It will be some time before the licences fructify—between four to five months. Therefore we have no ready information regarding the fructification of the licences.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know whether licences for the total value, covering both parts of the question have been issued?

Shri Karmarkar: I would not like to be positive, but I think the bulk of them have been issued.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know the countries in non-Dollar area other than the United Kingdom from which imports are allowed?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the names of the countries.

**IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES FOR
NEW COMERS**

*3772. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been made by Government to increase the quota of licences for import and export for the new comers and if so, what;

(b) how many new comers' applications were received from Madras in the last year and how many were given licences; and

(c) whether there were any Scheduled Castes among these applicants and if so, how many were given licences and if so, for what commodities?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The matter is under active consideration and the decision of the Government of India will be announced as soon as possible.

(b) and (c). The information asked for is not available as no record is maintained of applicants according to their place of residence or according to their castes.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the Estimates Committee has recommended to the Government that more concessions should be given in regard to the new comers?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, that is the fact.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What steps have the Government taken so far to implement that recommendation of the Estimates Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: As I have said, the question is under the active consideration of Government. The difficulty principally arises from the fact that we have to decide the extent to which the import and export trade is to be opened to new comers. Secondly we have to decide the proportion of allocations as between established importers and new comers and as both the established importers and new comers are pulling equally, we have not yet been able to arrive at a suitable conclusion.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What is the difference between established shippers and new comers? What is the basis on which this distinction is being drawn?

Shri Karmarkar: On the basis that a new comer has newly come and the established shipper has already been established.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Minister answered a similar question last Session in exactly the same way. May I know how soon we can expect a decision by the Government in this behalf?

Shri Karmarkar: I think by the next licensing period, which means next year. In the meantime we hope to arrive at a tentative decision.

Shri Sondhi: What is the difference between a new comer and an absolute new comer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are, I am afraid, entering into arguments.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I would like to answer that question because it is relevant. An absolute new comer is absolutely new to the trade. A new comer is new to the import trade, but not to the trading line as such.

STAPLE FIBRE

*3773. **Shri Lakshmanan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether staple fibre is imported into this country;

(b) the countries from which staple fibre is imported; and

(c) what is the quantity and price of staple fibre imported during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Kingdom, Western Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, France, Norway, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Japan.

(c) The quantity and value of past import of staple fibre are as follows:

	Quantity	Value
1948-49	52,694 lbs.	Rs. 65,619
1949-50	448,097 lbs.	Rs. 6,48,428
April, 1950 to February, 1951	11,380,806 lbs.	Rs. 1,66,36,667

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know how the price and durability of the staple fibre goods compare with those of cotton piecegoods?

Shri Karmarkar: It depends upon the variety of cloth and the quality of manufacture.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know whether staple fibre is included in the monthly quota of yarn allotted to handloom weavers?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not sure about the position.

TEXTILES EXPORT TO INDONESIA

*3774. **Shri Lakshmanan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of textile piece-goods so far exported to Indonesia under the recent bilateral Trade Agreement with that country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): A quantity of 5.9 million yards has been exported to Indonesia since 1st November, 1950, the date from which the Trade Agreement with that country is effective.

Shri Lakshmanan: What is the term of the bilateral Agreement and when is it due to expire?

Shri Mahtab: There was a question on that point and a copy of the Agreement was laid on the Table.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may refer to the statement which was laid on the Table of the House.

GROUND-NUT (EXPORT)

*3776. **Shri Rudrappa:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total quantity of ground-nuts to be exported during the period from 1st April, 1951 to 31st June, 1951?

(b) What are the countries to which they are to be exported?

(c) Have the Government of India fixed any price for the quantity to be exported?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House a statement containing the information asked for.

(c) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

(in tons.)

Countries	Quantity of ground-nuts to be exported
Austria ..	6,000
Canada ..	2,040*
Japan ..	150*
U.K. ..	750*
Other destinations ..	250*
	Total 9,100

*The figures relate to exports of hand-picked selected groundnuts.

Shri Rudrappa: May I know whether these exports to various countries are allowed to meet the requirements of the Trade Agreements entered into between the Government of India and these countries?

Shri Karmarkar: Partly, Yes.

Shri Rudrappa: Are these quantities exported to meet the payments to be made to those countries for the goods imported?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes.

Shri Rudrappa: Have the Government any definite idea of the quantity of groundnuts left over for home consumption?

Shri Karmarkar: We have a definite idea. Hardly 10 per cent. is allowed to be exported and 90 per cent. remain for home consumption.

Shri Rudrappa: Are Government aware that groundnuts are used as foodstuff in various parts of India and in view of the scarcity of foodstuffs prevailing in India, will Government consider the desirability of banning all further export of groundnut?

Mr. Speaker: That would be making a suggestion for action.

Dr. Deshmukh: Could the hon. Minister tell us for how many months this export was banned and is it not a fact that it is banned from time to time?

Shri Karmarkar: I gave a very full answer to the question some time back. I should not like to take the time of the House by repeating it. The hon. Member may refer to that answer which was given earlier.

GROUP AREAS ACT

*3777. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any information as to the number of zones into which the Union of South Africa has been divided according to Group Areas Act enforced on the 1st April, 1951?

(b) What zone has the largest Indian population?

(c) What is the entire population of Indians in South Africa State-wise and what is the national valuation of the property they possess?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Group Areas for exclusive ownership and occupation by different racial

groups have not yet been demarcated under the Group Areas Act.

(c) According to the last (1946) Census the Asian population of South Africa in the four Provinces of the Union is as follows:

Cape Province	16,901
Natal	228,119
Transvaal	37,505
Orange Free State	14
Total	2,82,539

Separate figures for Indians are not available but 98 per cent. of Asians are Indians.

We have no precise information about the nature and valuation of Indian property. It is known that Indian property is mainly situated in the urban areas which will be directly affected by the Group Areas Act.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the basis for this division into zones in South Africa?

Dr. Keskar: It is not possible for me to give the various clauses of the Group Areas Act. The zones have been made according to different racial groups. Three groups have already been proclaimed—Indian, Chinese and Malay.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is to happen to the property of Indians, though Government seem to have no details about it?

Dr. Keskar: The main idea appears to be to transfer the Indian and other Asian properties to a certain specified zone. It probably means for the properties they have in the European zone they will be given the same area in the specified zone. But, of course, that does not mean that that area will have the same value as the property in the European zone.

Shri Kamath: Before he undertook his fast recently, did Mr. Manilal Gandhi communicate to the Government the grounds on which or the methods by which he and his fellow Indians in South Africa were going to oppose the Group Areas Act? Any communication between him and the Government of India either before or after the fast?

Dr. Keskar: I am not able to say definitely whether any communication was received before he undertook the fast.

Shri Kamath: Was there any subsequent communication?

Dr. Keskar: There was no formal communication from him.

Shri Kamath: Formal or informal, was there any?

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: Which countries are interested in the welfare of the poor Indians in South Africa?

Mr. Speaker: I could hardly follow the question.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have any application or applications been received from Indians residing in these areas saying that they would like to come over to India and, if so, will they be given any facilities?

Dr. Keskar: Certain Indians residing in South Africa have been approaching the Government of India from time to time that they would like to come to India but their number has been extremely small, in fact, infinitesimal.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: What neutral countries are interested in the welfare of the Indians in South Africa?

Dr. Keskar: May I know what is 'neutral'?

GROUP AREAS ACT

*3778. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what action the South African Indian Congress are taking in regard to the Group Areas Act and with what results?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): The Government of India have no official intimation of the intentions of the South African Indian Congress but according to a press report they are contemplating a sort of mass resistance to the Union Government's racial laws including the Group Areas Act.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Has the South African Indian Congress approached the Indian Government also in that respect and has that question been taken up by our Government?

Dr. Keskar: There is no question of taking up this question. No information has formally come to us with regard to this mass resistance which is being contemplated. I would like to draw the attention of my hon. friend to the fact that the South African Indian Congress is not probably the only organisation of Indians in South Africa. There are one or more other organisations which claim to represent the Indians in South Africa. It is therefore not easy to decide whether any decision taken by a particular body represents the mass of opinions of the Indians in South Africa.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the recent fast of Mr. Manilal Gandhi against this Act has created widespread sympathy even among the coloured people and they support the position taken up by the Indians in South Africa?

Dr. Keskar: It is not possible for us to gauge from here the reactions of Indians and Africans with regard to the fast of Mr. Manilal Gandhi. First of all I might draw attention to the fact that the fast had only recently been undertaken. The newspapers and other means of communication are defining the views of the different communities but these means are not so quick that we will be able to know in a short space of time their reactions. There is no doubt that it has aroused considerable interest in the African community also.

Short Notice Question and Answer INDIANS IN IRAN

Dr. Deshmukh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Iran;
(b) how many of them are engaged on petrol mines and other manufacturing concerns;

(c) what portions of Iran are affected by the present disturbances and what is the number of Indians residing in these areas; and

(d) whether Government propose to make or lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding India's relationship with Iran and the conditions of Indians in the affected areas?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The number of Indians in Iran is about 1786.

(b) About 933 Indian nationals are employed by the Anglo Iranian Oil Company.

(c) Abadan, Bandar Mashoor, Looli, Masjid Sulaiman, Neft Safid, Hefrigil and Agha Jari in Southern Iran were affected by the recent disturbances. The number of Indians residing in these areas is about 1300.

(d) India's relations with Iran continue to be friendly. Indian nationals in the affected areas are safe.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if the Government of India had any occasion to express their views on the policy of nationalisation that is being pursued by Iran?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. The Government of India does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if there was any correspondence on this important issue between the Government of India and the Government of Great Britain?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I repeat that we do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and there is no correspondence.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if the Prime Minister thinks that this policy of nationalisation will benefit Persia and, if so, will it be possible for him to pursue a policy of nationalisation of our natural resources?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He need not put obviously inadmissible questions.

Shri Kamath: Are Indians in Iran subject to any disability as regards movement within Iran, from one part of Iran to another, or even as regards their return to India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid my answer would necessarily be from memory. I can think of no disability which affects Indians there. Sometimes what happens, I believe, is that there may be delay in obtaining visas etc. for Indians going to Iran and back, but apart from that there is no disability.

Shri Kamath: Has the matter of disabilities of Indians in Iran been taken up by Government with the Iranian Government since the conclusion of the Indo-Iranian Friendship Treaty last year?

Mr. Speaker: He said there are no disabilities.

Shri Kamath: There are some disabilities. The Deputy Minister answered in the August Session.....

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): I might answer my hon. friend that there are two or three minor disabilities with regard to Indians and they have been taken up.

Mr. Speaker: If I remember the answer aright, it was that there were no special disabilities which do not apply to other foreigners.

Shri Kamath: No, Sir, there are a few others, and the Deputy Minister agrees with me.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: I don't think this is the proper occasion now to go into the other question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CLAIMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS

*3754. **Shri Balmiki:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the total amount of claims fled by displaced persons from West Punjab, North West Frontier Province and Sind separately, in Delhi?

(b) What is the amount of claims which have been verified upto March, 1951 in Delhi?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Claims registered by displaced persons have not been indexed according to the centres of registration in India, but according to localities to which they pertain in Pakistan. Further, the distribution of work amongst Claims Officers is also not on the basis of claims registered at a particular registering centre in India, but according to localities to which they pertain in Pakistan. It is not, therefore, possible to furnish the information asked for in respect of Delhi without involving labour and expenditure which will not be commensurate with the results obtained.

CANNING MANUFACTURES

*3755. **Shri Alexander:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any statistics are available as to the number of small scale canning manufacturers in India, and the number of big scale factories;

(b) the places where they are mostly situated;

(c) whether any research is being conducted in this industry and if so, where; and

(d) the total annual imports of canned fruits and the countries from which imports are made and the annual exports, if any, and the countries to which they are exported?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (d). Information is not readily available. It is considered that the time and labour involved in the collection of information will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

COFFEE CESS

*3779. **Shri M. V. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to increase the rate of levy of Coffee Cess from Rupee One per hundredweight to One Rupee and Eight annas per hundredweight; and
67 P.S.D.

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, is there any proposal under consideration of Government to enable the Indian Coffee Board to pay dearness allowance to their employees drawing less than Rs. 250/- per month?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). This matter is now under Government's consideration, in consultation with the Indian Coffee Board. Government have made certain proposals to cut down the expenditure of the Board, which, if given effect to, will obviate the enhancement of the existing duties on coffee. The Board will also be able to pay dearness allowance to its staff from its existing income.

CARPETS

*3780. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of carpets produced in India during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950; and

(b) the quantities exported during these years?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(1) Quantity of carpets produced.

1948	11.3 million lbs.
1949	9.0 million lbs.
1950	Not available.

(2) Quantities of carpets exported.

1948	8,954,300 lbs.
1949	9,715,300 lbs.
1950	13,321,500 lbs.

MRS. ILA MITTER'S CASE

*3781. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the official, authentic copy of the full proceedings in the case of Mrs. Ila Mitter has now been obtained; and

(b) if so, whether the Indian Minister for these purposes has considered the case, and taken any steps, or made any representations in respect of Mrs. Ila Mitter's case?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keekar): (a) No.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to part (c) of his Starred Question No. 2498 on the 26th March, 1951. I have nothing to add at this stage.

PRICE OF COTTON TEXTILES

*3782. **Shri Krishnanand Rai:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have further increased the price of cotton textiles in the month of April, 1951;

(b) if so, to what extent the prices have been increased and of what sorts of cotton textiles the price has been increased;

(c) the reasons for this increase; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the price of coarse cotton textiles also in the near future and if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes.

(b) The prices have been increased 3 to 4 per cent. in the case of coarse and medium cloth, 7 to 8 per cent. in the case of fine cloth and 33 to 35 per cent. in the case of superfine cloth.

(c) Because of the increase in the prices of foreign and Indian cottons.

(d) The prices of cotton textiles are fixed quarterly on the basis of the formula recommended by the Tariff Board which takes into account the various factors in the cost of production viz., prices of cotton, millstores etc. The Government do not propose to increase the price unless the cost of any of the component elements of price fixation in the Tariff Board formula is found to have gone up when the next quarterly review is made.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

*3783. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what is the total amount given by Government to the various States by way of loan towards the Industrial Housing Scheme for 1949-50 and 1950-51?

(b) How many houses have so far been completed and how many are expected to be completed by the close of the year 1951?

(c) What are the terms under which the loans were given to the States and is a check maintained as to how these amounts are spent?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No funds were allotted in 1949-50 as the scheme had

not by then been finalised. In 1950-51, a sum of Rs. one crore was advanced to various State Governments.

(b) 1268 houses have so far been completed while 1177 houses are expected to be completed by the close of the calendar year 1951.

(c) The conditions of the advance of the loans are:

(1) 1/3 of the cost of the houses will be advanced by the States themselves or the employers sponsored by them;

(2) the houses will be constructed according to the plans and specifications approved by the Government of India.

Progress Reports are obtained from the States concerned in order to watch the progress of the work and the expenditure of loans advanced to them by the Centre.

SUPPLY OF COAL ETC. TO PAKISTAN

*3784. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantity of coal, iron and steel, cement and jute goods have been supplied to Pakistan under the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement of February, 1951?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): The quantity of coal actually despatched to Pakistan under the Trade Agreement upto the 7th April, 1951 was 1,38,528 tons. Iron and steel, cement and jute goods are also to be supplied but no quantities are reported to have actually moved so far, though arrangements for their supply have been made in most cases.

ROAD ROLLERS

*3785. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of firms in India that are manufacturing road-rollers;

(b) how many road-rollers and of which quality were manufactured in the years 1949 and 1950; and

(c) how many road-rollers of all types were imported in those years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) (1) Messrs. Tata Locomotive and Engg. Co., Ltd., Tatanagar.

(2) Messrs. Jessop and Co. Ltd., Calcutta.

(3) Messrs. Cooper Engg. Co. Ltd., Satara, in association with Messrs. Burn and Co., Ltd., Howrah.

	1949	1950
Steam rollers	244	277
Diesel rollers	101	173

(c) Information is not available, as separate statistics for this item are not maintained.

MADRAS EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

*3786. Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:

(a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of ex-service men registered for employment in the Madras State employment exchange during the years 1948-49, and 1949-50?

(b) How many of them have been provided with jobs?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) 84,610 during 1948-49 and 40,406 during 1949-50.

(b) 23,132 during 1948-49 and 5,470 during 1949-50.

YARN FOR HANDLOOMS IN MADRAS STATE

*3787. Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:

(a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many working handlooms there are in Madras State and what is the quantity of yarn required to keep them working to their capacity?

(b) What percentage of this are Government now supplying and what steps are being taken to supply adequate quantities?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) According to the report of the Fact Finding Committee there were 3,40,000 handlooms in Madras consuming about 17,000 bales of yarn monthly. The Government of Madras have reported in March, 1950, that there are 6,45,000 handlooms in the State. On an average of 20 lbs. per loom per month 32,500 bales of yarn would be required for the present reported number of handlooms in Madras.

(b) The distribution of yarn to all States, however, is based on quotas fixed in December, 1948. In spite of the acute shortage of yarn, the Madras State is getting between 70 to 84 per cent. of this yarn quota as against 52 per cent. to 60 per cent. which the other States are getting.

The following steps have been taken to increase yarn supplies to handlooms and other industries:

(i) Export of yarn has been totally prohibited.

(ii) Incentive for increasing production of yarn has been given to the mills by restoration of 4 per cent. voluntary cut and by increase in prices.

(iii) 60,000 bales of American cotton have been imported

and given to the spinning mills at subsidised rates for the production of yarn for the handloom industry.

INDUSTRIAL TRUCE

*3788. Shri S. N. Sinha: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government intend to extend the life of the Industrial Truce Resolution?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, have Government consulted the representatives of employers and workers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No special step for that purpose is under contemplation but it is hoped that the parties will continue to maintain industrial truce.

(b) Does not arise.

कपड़े का मूल्य

*३७८९. श्री जांगड़े : (ए) क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मोटे, महीन तथा अत्यन्त महीन कपड़ों के मूल्यों में पिछले अक्टूबर से ४ अप्रैल, १९५१ तक कितनी बार वृद्धि हो चुकी है ?

(बी) पिछले अक्टूबर में कपड़ों के प्रचलित मूल्यों को आधार मूल्य मान कर, इन कपड़ों के मूल्य में अब तक कितने प्रति शत की वृद्धि हुई है ?

(सी) उक्त आधार मूल्य को ध्यान में रखते हुये साड़ियों तथा धोतियों के मूल्यों में कितने प्रति शत की वृद्धि हुई है ?

CLOTH PRICES

[*3789. Shri Jangde: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many times have the prices of coarse, fine and superfine cloth been increased since October last upto 4th April, 1951?

(b) Considering the prices of such cloth prevalent in October last to be the base price, how many per cent. increase in prices has so far been effected in respect of such cloth?

(c) Taking into account the above base price, what has been the percentage of increase in prices in respect of *Saris* and *Dhotis*?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Prices were revised 4 times since October, 1950. The revision, however, affected the various categories of cloth as under:

Coarse three times.
Medium two times.
Fine two times.
Superfine three times.

(b) The difference in the prices between October, 1950 and April, 1951 is as under:

Coarse—Increase of 20.4 per cent.
Medium—Increase of 9.22 per cent.
Fine—Increase of 25.3 per cent.
Superfine—Increase of 70.63 per cent.

(c) The increase in prices of *Dhotis* and *Saris* is on the same basis as at (b) above depending upon the quality of cloth.

नकली वस्तुओं का विषय

* ३७९०. श्री जांगड़े : (ए) क्या बाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्र: यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह तथ्य है कि गत कुछ महीनों से असली 'सनलाइट' तथा 'लाइफबोय' साबुनों के नाम पर नकली तथा घटिया किस्म के साबुनों को जिन पर कि 'सनलाइट' तथा 'लाइफबोय' शब्द अंकित होते हैं बेचा जा रहा है?

(बी) क्या यह एक तथ्य है कि हाल ही में कानपुर में कुछ ऐसे जाली कारखानों का पता लगा या तथा इस सम्बन्ध में १२ व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया या?

(सी) क्या सरकार को कुछ अन्य नकली वस्तुओं के सम्बन्ध में भी ज्ञात है किन्हें असली वस्तुओं के नाम पर बेचा जा रहा है?

(डी) अब तक कितने ऐसे अपराधियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है?

SALE OF SPURIOUS ARTICLES

[*3790. Shri Jangde: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that for the last few months, spurious and inferior soaps with the markings of 'Sunlight' and 'Lifebuoy' stamped on them are being sold in the name of genuine 'Sunlight' and 'Lifebuoy' soaps?

(b) Is it a fact that such bogus factories were recently traced at Kanpur and twelve persons were taken into custody in this connection?

(c) Have Government information regarding any other spurious commodities which are also being sold in the name of genuine ones?

(d) How many such offenders have so far been arrested?]

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

CLOTH QUOTA FOR VINDHYA PRADESH

*3791. Shri Dwivedi: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the allotment of cloth quota to Vindhya Pradesh for the month of February, 1951?

(b) How much of this quota was actually supplied and received for local distribution?

(c) What was the cause of short supply, if any?

(d) What was the allotment of cloth quota for the similar month in the last five years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). Vindhya Pradesh was allotted 1,093 bales of mill-cloth in February, 1951. Against the above allotment Vindhya Pradesh received 863½ bales for local distribution.

(c) The actual packings by mills in January out of which February allotments were made fell short of expectations.

(d) The State of Vindhya Pradesh was formed on the 2nd April, 1948 and control over distribution of cloth was brought into force from August, 1948. The State was allotted 2,600 bales of cloth in February, 1949. No allotment of cloth was made in February, 1950 to the various States.

LANDS ACQUIRED FOR SINDRI FACTORY

*3792. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families evicted on acquisition of lands for Sindri Fertilizer factory;

(b) whether compensation has been paid to all these families;

(c) whether there are any arrears of compensation still to be paid; and

(d) if so, the number of families and the amount involved?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) 536 families.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The only amount still outstanding is for certain omissions with regard to tanks, houses, etc., and for interest under Section 34 of the Land Acquisition Act. The matter is under correspondence with the Government of Bihar.

(d) The amount of arrear compensation is Rs. 65,160/6/3 and it concerns almost all the families in varying extent. This is in addition to the interest due under Section 34 of the Land Acquisition Act which is estimated to be Rs. 1,84,839.

EVICTED FAMILIES FROM LANDS ACQUIRED FOR SINDRI FACTORY

*3793. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families evicted from lands acquired for Sindri Fertilizer Factory who have been rehabilitated so far and the number still to be rehabilitated; and

(b) the interim arrangements made for the families still to be rehabilitated?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) 105 families have been rehabilitated permanently so far. The number still to be rehabilitated permanently is 431.

(b) The families still to be rehabilitated permanently have been temporarily permitted to continue in their old habitations and have been allowed to cultivate their lands on nominal rents except such lands which have been already built on or are about to be built on.

PROMISE TO PERSONS EVICTED FROM LANDS ACQUIRED FOR SINDRI FACTORY

*3794. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any promise was given by Government to the families evicted from lands acquired for the Sindri Fertilizer Factory that they would be given priority in services and allotment of shops there;

(b) if so, the number of appointments given so far to such evicted persons; and

(c) the number of shops allotted to the evicted families and the number to outsiders?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) No promise was given to the evicted families, at any rate by the Government of India or the Fertilizer Project authorities, of preference in regard to appointments or allotment of shops.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. But the number of evicted persons so far appointed in the Project as regular and contingent staff is 39 and that appointed as daily paid staff is about 70. Out of 94 temporary shops one has been allotted to an evicted family and the balance to outsiders including displaced persons from Pakistan.

SODA-ASH INDUSTRY

*3795. **Shri V. K. Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the protection given to the Soda-ash industry in the country?

(b) Is there any proposal to cancel this protection?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for the cancellation?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Protection to the Soda-ash Industry has been granted upto the 31st December, 1952 by means partly of an import duty on Soda-ash and partly by a subsidy. The duty inclusive of the surcharge under the Finance Act, 1951 is 42 per cent. *ad valorem*, if the Soda-ash is manufactured in a British Colony and 52½ per cent. *ad valorem* if manufactured elsewhere. A subsidy of Re. 1 per cwt. is granted to producers namely, the Dharangadhra Chemical Works Ltd., Dharangadhra State and the Tata's Chemical Works Ltd., Mithapur, and sold at the fair selling price recommended by the Tariff Board namely Rs. 16.83 per cwt.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

GROUND-NUT (EXPORT)

*3796. **Shri V. K. Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the total quantity of groundnut oil and groundnut kernel exported from India during the last three years?

(b) What is the amount earned on account of the export?

(c) What are the reasons for the decline in the export of this commodity?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 6.]

(c) There is no decline in the value of exports of groundnut oil and groundnut kernel if exports of both these items are considered together.

CIGAR MANUFACTURE

*3797. **Shri Balmiki:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of cigars manufactured in India during the years 1950-51 and 1949-50?

(b) What are the quantities, imported and indigenous separately, of wrapper tobacco used in their manufacture during the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The quantity of cigars manufactured in India is:

1949-50	1950-51
578 million pieces.	588 million pieces.

(b) Figures are not available.

HARIJANS IN PAKISTAN

*3798. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Government has issued a Notification to the effect that the Harijans who have been left in West Pakistan are not Hindus and so the question of their evacuation does not arise; and

(b) whether the Government of India have taken steps to contradict the said statement of Pakistan Government and arrange for the migration of Harijans to India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Government are not aware of any formal notification issued by Pakistan Government declaring that Harijans are not Hindus but it is however known that since July, 1949 Punjab (Pakistan) Police do not allow the evacuation of

Harijans to India on the ground that 'Achhuts' do not come under the term 'Hindu'.

(b) As there is no formal notification, the question of contradiction does not arise.

कोनी प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र

* ३७९९ श्री जांगड़े : क्या अम मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) इस समय कोनी प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र की विभिन्न शिल्प कलाओं, धंधों, मशीन कार्यों एवं कुटीर उद्योगों में कितने व्यक्ति प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर रहे हैं ;

(बी) इस प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र पर वर्ष १९४९-५० तथा १९५०-५१ में कितना धन व्यय किया गया तथा वर्ष १९५१-५२ में कितना धन व्यय किया जावेगा ; तथा

(सी) अब तक कितने व्यक्ति उक्त प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर चुके हैं तथा उन में से कितने राज्य अथवा केन्द्रीय सरकारों द्वारा सेवायुक्त किये जा चुके हैं ?

KONI TRAINING CENTRE

[*3799. **Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are at present receiving training in various arts and crafts, occupations, machine work and cottage industries etc., at the Koni Training Centre;

(b) the amount of money that was spent on this Training Centre during 1949-50 and 1950-51 and also the amount that will be spent during 1951-52; and

(c) the number of those who have so far completed their training in the above Training Centre and how many of them have been employed by the State or Central Governments?]

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) 516.

(b) Year	Expenditure (in lakhs of rupees)
1949-50	1.20
1950-51	1.72
1951-52 (estimated)	1.07

(c) 1,047 persons, including 474 supervisors and instructors, have so far successfully completed training at the training centre. Most of the supervisors and instructors were deputed for training by the Central and State Governments and by private employers and have gone back to their employment with their respective employers after successful completion of training. As regards artisan trainees, definite information as to how many of them have been actually employed by the Central or State Governments is not available, but most of them are reported to have secured jobs in private establishments or started small businesses of their own.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

*3800. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the main objectives of the recently announced regional self-sufficiency programme for industrial production?

(b) Has any definite plan been worked out, and if so, will the plan be made available to the House?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the answer given to Starred Question No. 3519 on the 26th April, 1951.

CHANDNI CHOWK CLOCK TOWER

*3801. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build a new clock tower in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, in place of the clock tower recently demolished;

(b) if so, when the work of construction is likely to commence; and

(c) how it is otherwise proposed to utilise the space rendered vacant by the demolition of the previous clock tower?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Delhi Municipal Committee proposes to construct a tower-like structure at the site of the demolished clock tower.

(b) It is too early to say when the work is likely to commence.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIANS IN PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA

*3802. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians living in Portuguese colonies in East Africa?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): The number of Indians and Pakistanis living in Portuguese East Africa is 3,396.

Separate figures for Indian and Pakistani nationals are not available.

TRADE WITH FORMOSA

*3803. **Shri R. C. Upadhyaya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade relation exists between the Island of Formosa and India; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the value of imports from and exports to the Island of Formosa along with such commodities?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BRITISH CAPITAL FOR STEEL INDUSTRY

*3804. **Shri Biyani:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the reports in British papers that British steel and iron interests are negotiating with Indian industrialists for establishing a joint concern with substantial British capital are correct?

(b) If so, are these negotiations purely on a private level?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). Government have no information.

EXPORT OF STRATEGIC EARTHS

*3805. **Shri Biyani:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether India has agreed to export to the United States of America any of India's strategic earths?

(b) If so, what is the quantity?

(c) Has any other country made similar requests and been granted such facilities?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) There is no such material as 'Strategic earths'.

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

FERRO-MANGANESE FACTORY

*3806. **Shri Biyani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations have been completed with an American firm for the purpose of

establishing a ferro-manganese factory in India; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the Agreement?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 7.]

COTTON YARN TO CEYLON

*3807. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ceylon Government have asked the Government of India for cotton yarn for their handloom industry;

(b) whether they have offered to the Government of India raw cotton in exchange; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The Government propose to allow export of 3,250 bales of cotton yarn to that country in the months of July, August and September, 1951.

INDORE TEXTILE MILLS

*3808. **Sri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all the six textile mills in Indore are to be closed down according to a decision taken by the managements?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to avert it in view of the scarcity of yarn and cloth in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). Government have not received any notice of closure from the mills so far. Their attention has, however, been drawn to the press reports about the decision of the mills to close down. The question was taken up with the Chairman of Madhya Bharat Mill-owners' Association and the matter has been satisfactorily settled.

RUBBER TYRES (IMPORT)

*3809. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rubber tyres imported during 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) what percentage it forms of the total quantity required for our consumption;

(c) whether Government intend starting some factories to manufacture rubber tyres; and

(d) if so, where, when and at what cost?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Name of Item	Quantity imported during 1949-50	Percentage of imports to total estimated consumption.
Bicycle tyres	26,357	0.7
Other pneumatic tyres.	7,752	1.4

Name of Item	Quantity imported during 1950-51 (April '50 to Jan. '51)	Percentage of imports to total estimated consumption.
Bicycle tyres	7,039	0.3
Other pneumatic tyres	11,306	2.8

ASBESTOS-CEMENT SHEETS

*3810. **Col. B. H. Zaidi:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many factories are engaged in India in the production of asbestos-cement sheets?

(b) What was their total annual production during the last three years?

(c) Where are the sources of raw asbestos located?

(d) Is the supply of raw material equal to the demand and if not, what steps have been taken to bring about an improvement?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Four.

(b)	1948	1949	1950
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)
	77,305	84,727	87,706

(c) Rhodesia, Swaziland and Canada and Cuddapah mines in India.

(d) No. Raw asbestos fibre has been placed on O.G.L. for purposes of import. Manufacturers are being assisted in procuring supplies.

INDIAN MINING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

***3811. Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of partnership between the Government and Sir Lindsay Parkinson in the Indian Mining Construction Company, engaged in the removal of overburden at the Korgull colliery;

(b) the total capital investment and the share of each of the parties;

(c) the amount of profit, year by year, and the share of each of the partners;

(d) the cost of administration, its percentage to the gross expenditure and also to income; and

(e) the number of Europeans employed there?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) A statement giving the principal terms of the partnership is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, Annexure No. 8.]

(b) Rs. 45 lacs: Rs. 23 lacs by Sir Lindsay Parkinson and Rs. 22 lacs by Government.

(c) For the period 1st April, 1948 to 30th April, 1949, the profit was Rs. 6,06,531-13-0 divisible as under:

Government of India—

Rs. 2,96,551-13-0

Sir Lindsay Parkinson—

Rs. 3,10,030-0-0

For the eight months ending 31st December, 1949 the profit was Rs. 1,89,511-5-0 which has been carried forward.

The profit and loss account for 1950 is not yet ready.

(d) The cost of administration including all expenses during 1950 was Rs. 8,47,000. This was nine per cent. of the gross expenditure and 10 per cent. of total income. Similar figures for the period 1st April, 1948 till 31st December, 1949 are not readily available.

(e) Eighteen.

"D" CLASS ACCOMMODATION IN OLD DELHI

385. Shri D. S. Seth: Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the limits of pay for the allotment of D Class of accommodation in Old Delhi;

(b) whether any of the quarters in D Class in Old Delhi have been allotted by the offices of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, or Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, to officers drawing pay much below the limits referred to in part (a) above;

(c) if so, the resultant loss and the action Government propose to take to set the matters right;

(d) whether the special class of accommodation in Old Delhi has been allotted to officers employed in New Delhi;

(e) whether officers employed in Old Delhi are debarred from getting special accommodation in New Delhi;

(f) whether any of the officers are occupying quarters higher than the class which they are entitled to have in Old Delhi; and

(g) if so, what action Government propose to take to shift them?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Less than Rs. 1,000 but not less than Rs. 500 p.m.

(b) A few out of the 12 quarters which were placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, are understood to have been allotted purely temporarily by the Chief Commissioner to officers drawing less than Rs. 500 p.m.

(c) The loss is unlikely to be anything material but I have not been able to get the actual figures. The Chief Commissioner has been instructed to allot these houses to officers of the appropriate class, as soon as possible.

(d) The hon. Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (c) of the Starred Question No. 3523 put by Shri Kshudiram Mahata on 26th April, 1951.

(e) Yes.

(f) There may be some instances of the kind but I have not been able to get the particulars.

(g) They will be shifted to their appropriate class of accommodation in accordance with the Allotment Rules.

CANNING INDUSTRIES

266. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of canning industries in India; and

(b) the quantity and value of goods manufactured by them?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). Information is not readily available. It is considered that the time and labour involved in the collection of information will not perhaps be commensurate with the results achieved.

MACHINES FROM JAPAN

267. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have procured garbo machines from Japan which convert waste cloth and rags into new cloth again?

(b) How many such machines are there in U. P.?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two.

PROPERTIES OF NON-MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

268. Dr. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many non-Muslims have been able to dispose of their properties in West Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that the Pakistan Government and Press dissuade Muslims from purchasing properties of non-Muslims?

(c) Have Government any record of Muslim property sold in India and if so, how much has been sold and what is the amount realized from such sales?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Government of India have information only about sales and exchanges effected during the period the Agreement of January, 1949, worked. So far as the Government of India is aware, only one sale was permitted in Pakistan during this period.

(b) When the Agreement was being worked, Pakistan people and Press indulged in propaganda dissuading Muslims from purchasing property of non-Muslims.

(c) Every Muslim in India is free to dispose of his property as he likes and it is not possible for Government to keep a record of these transactions. During the period of the currency of the January, 1949 Agreement, however, 30 sales and exchanges took place in India.

ABDUCTED HINDU GIRLS IN EAST BENGAL

269. Shri A. C. Guha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangement for the recovery of abducted Hindu girls in East Bengal;

(b) whether it is a fact that after recovery they are domiciled in an institution known as the Dacca Home; and

(c) if so, what are the arrangements in the Dacca Home?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) The recovery of abducted Hindu girls, in East Bengal is the responsibility of the Pakistan Government. They have a Search Service Bureau at Dacca who, with the help of the local police, recover such women. An Advisory Board, with members from the minority community also on it, is attached to the Bureau. This Board scrutinizes all cases of recovered women with a view to restoring them to their original families.

(b) Yes, pending scrutiny and decision, they are placed in a Home set up for the purpose.

(c) The Home is controlled by the East Bengal Government. It is in charge of a Hindu lady Superintendent, with an Advisory Committee, with a majority of non-official lady members of the minority community, on it.

PETROLEUM REFINERY

270. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to refer to the answer given to my Starred Question No. 2900 on the 6th April 1951 and state whether the site of the petroleum refinery in India has been decided upon?

(b) When will the proposal to instal the refinery be finalised?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) It is not possible to give any definite date.

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

271. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of aged, infirm and unattached women from amongst the displaced people, who have been given maintenance allowances; and

(b) the amount given to them as monthly allowance between 1949-50 and 1950-51?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). As the Maintenance Allowance Scheme caters for displaced persons

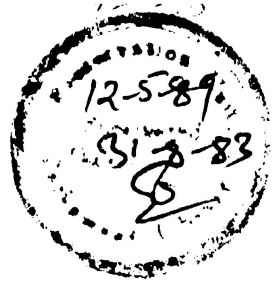
who are aged, infirm, widows, unattached women and minors, no separate figures for "Aged", "Infirm" and "Unattached Women" are available.

A State-wise statement showing the number of eligible displaced persons sanctioned Maintenance Allowance

during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 together with the amounts sanctioned is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure No. 9.]

Information about the amounts actually disbursed is not readily available.

Thursday, 3rd May, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

Third Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51

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

8002

8003

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 3rd May, 1951

The House met at Half Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-34 A.M.

VISVA-BHARATI BILL—concl'd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Visva-Bharati Bill.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I would like to invite the attention of the House to the third reading motion and the speeches thereon. I see so many are anxious and eager to catch the Speaker's eye to have an opportunity to speak. I have no objection to give an opportunity to the largest number possible, but I may say, this House has discussed the motion for consideration for two days—that means a general discussion on the Bill—and then the clauses were taken up and it took three days to complete the clause by clause reading. So five days have been taken up over this Bill. Presumably everything that could be said has been said. . . .

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): We have had three days.

Mr. Speaker: I am speaking with reference to the records. On the 28th April we started at about 12-15—it may not be one day—then on the 30th we took the whole day—of course the question hour is always excluded—then we considered it on the 1st and 2nd May. . . .

☞ PSD.

An Hon. Member: Four days.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, whether it is four days or five days practically every clause has been discussed threadbare. . . .

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Not threadbare.

Mr. Speaker: It may not be to the satisfaction of individual Members but it is to my mind. Therefore, I would request Members to be short in speeches. It is no use repeating again the arguments or the aspects advanced during the earlier stages. Otherwise the alternative will be for the Chair to close its eyes. I would request hon. Members to be short over this, because they are also very anxious to see the session coming to an end. They are enquiring how long they are going to sit and I have said it is entirely in the hands of Members to bring the session to a close. Hon. Members will bear in mind the whole picture of the business before the House; they have to adjust accordingly. I might also invite attention to rule 95 which says:

"The discussion on a motion that the Bill be passed shall be confined to the submission of arguments either in support of the Bill or for the rejection of the Bill. In making his speech a member shall not refer to the details of the Bill further than is necessary for the purpose of his arguments which shall be of a general character".

Dr. Deshmukh: We will obey that.

Mr. Speaker: I know, if Members are not prepared to co-operate, I shall have to give them time to argue as to whether they are in order or not. It is not my purpose to prevent them from arguing anything, but the purpose is to see that we take a reasonable overall view of the business of the House and finish the arguments briefly. Lengthy arguments are not necessarily convincing arguments.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras): I do not wish that this Bill should be concluded without a glowing tribute to the wisdom of the hon. Prime Minister and also the hon. Minister who is in charge of this portfolio, for having given statutory recognition to a unique experiment that was started by the late Rabindra Nath Tagore. He was rightly called a *Maharishi*. India had a unique kind of life, knowledge of which, according to the intentions of the *Maharishi*, must be spread out to the rest of the world, a world where conflicts are arising almost every day; he wanted from that Visva-Bharati to spread that knowledge which will avoid all conflicts in future. As the name implies, Visva-Bharati was established in Santiniketan in the district of Birbhum. I understand Birbhum to mean *Veera Bhumi* where in the midst of conflict Rabindra Nath Tagore chose Santiniketan which is the embodiment or abode of *shanti* or peace. That is exactly what is needed in the world of today where conflict is ruling everywhere, where conflict has entered the soul of man. In the midst of conflict the spirit must be so evolved that the inner nature is conquered. It is for this that the *Maharishi* in the midst of fight established Shantiniketan or the Abode of Peace. The knowledge that will be disseminated from this institution will be not only for a particular place like Bengal nor even for the whole of India but for the whole universe. Therefore, the Poet rightly called the institution "Visva-Bharati". He has given it the name: Where the whole universe becomes one abode. That is a true interpretation of our ancient culture and philosophy. India may not be as progressive economically as the rest of the world, but it has got an indestructible soul. This University is a grand experiment and this message will go forth to the rest of the world. A man who says that another person is a friend of his and yet another is an enemy of his—such a man has a very small mind. To a man with a large heart, the whole world is his family. This Visva-Bharati is intended, to create messengers of peace, who will take their proper places among the nations of the world and see to it that the law of the jungle no longer prevails in human relations. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, the whole of mankind is divided into two categories, the *Asuraprakriti* and the *Devaprakriti*. We have evolved from the *Asuraprakriti* and we must become *Devaprakritis*. We must become angelic. For that purpose, non-violence—*Ahimsa*—must be placed in the forefront of all human relations and that is why the Poet said: *Shantam*; that is,

Ahimsa. Whether the words *Shantam*, *Shivam* and *Advaitam* are incorporated in the text of the statute or not, I am sure that this spirit will be disseminated from here. We are trying in this University to evolve a harmonious religion. Researches will be made here into the unity of all religions. He who has got a large heart and has studied all religions will certainly find that there is an essential unity in all religions. The differences are more apparent than real. Persons are wanting who emphasise this aspect of essential unity. Unfortunately, they are exploiting religion for various political purposes. I am sure this University will preach the essential unity among all nations and bring about that peace for which Mahavir laid his life, for which the great Buddha also strived from end to end, and for which the Mahatmaji also laid his life. I am sure this experiment will thrive and this spirit will prevail in it. The western materialistic world has conquered outer nature. It has developed instruments to fly to the top of the skies; to dive deep into the deepest waters; to run faster than sound and mind. But it has not conquered inner nature. If we attempt to teach anything at all to the world, it is the conquest of the inner nature. If the true spirit of *Ahimsa* prevails and there is peace in our hearts, then the rest of the outer nature is conquered by itself.

So far as *Shantam* is concerned, we always desire peace. It is bad that we should eschew the word *Shantam*. That proposal does not appeal to me. But whether we use it or not, the name of this place is itself Shantiniketan—the Abode of Peace. You cannot erase it, just as you cannot erase the lustre from the sun or the moon. Just as the sun and the lustre and the moon and the lustre are indivisible and one, so also, whether you call it lustre or not, the glow will be there.

So far as *Shivam* is concerned, it ought not to be identified with Shiva.

Dr. Deshmukh: Does this exposition come under the rule you have read out, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Member proceed. I am giving him a little more time to conclude.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: I am finishing, Sir. I am only anxious that this University should be that kind of Gurukul which we all desire to establish. We did not conquer outer nature. We did not conquer the Asian continent by mere conquest in the accepted sense of the term. We

brought our culture to bear upon people. We have and had no territorial ambitions. We have always wanted more to give than to take. If a man delights in giving, there would be no quarrel in this world. This is what our savants have preached. I expect that this spirit will breathe in this University. I agree with the wisdom of this Government in giving it a statutory basis.

So far as *Shantam* is concerned, Mahatmaji often said that he did not want the peace of the Corpse; he wanted the peace of the living. In *Raghu Vamsa* it is said. . . .

Mr. Speaker: He is now going into an irrelevant discussion.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: I am trying to anticipate those who might say that this whole Bill should be dropped because this particular line "*Shantam, Shivam and Advaitam*" is not included. I want to submit that even without it, this Bill goes a long way. We are creating a new era. Our children will be taught more to respect others' wishes and sacrifice for them than for their own comforts and conveniences. If such people are manufactured in this University, there will be an end to all wars.

So far as *Advaitam* is concerned, it says that God alone is the Supreme Being. That is what exactly is conveyed by *Allah-o-Akbar*.

Mr. Speaker: We are entering into something which is irrelevant at this stage of the discussion. The hon. Member may support the Bill generally, and even there I think he has sufficiently supported it by now. He may close by saying that he supports the Bill.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: I do support the Bill. I do want this Visva-Bharati to spread a message in the world and what is that message? It is the message of *Ahimsa*, prosperity, universal love and affection and universal brotherhood. That message is the essential unity of all religions; the fact that God is one and indivisible; that humanity is one and indivisible. That is the message we want this University to spread to the four corners of the world.

Yesterday, it was said that there might be interference with this University. I am sure that with the assurance of the hon. Education Minister there would be no pin-pricks. Like the *Maharishis*, those in charge of this institution should be allowed to evolve a religion, a new mode of life, an Aryan mode of life of which everyone must be proud. I have

great pleasure, even at the sacrifice of some time of the House, to support the third reading wholeheartedly. I am sure that this institution will be worked in the spirit in which it was founded and in which it is sought to be continued.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar): I rise to oppose this motion. That is not because I do not wish the Visva-Bharati to be recognised as an institution of national importance. That is because the Bill as it stands, even with the few amendments that have been grudgingly accepted, fails to embody the spirit that ought to breathe through it. The hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker has reconciled himself to the mutilation of the objectives as defined by the founder, perhaps in his enthusiasm to support the motion and perhaps as he loyally must. But for my part, I think it is one of the biggest reasons why this motion should not be passed and the Bill should be reconsidered. The Bill is hedged round and restricted in such a manner that it cannot fulfil the objectives which you profess that it is going to fulfil.

My second reason is a little more personal, though it is not associated with myself. By a reference to a recent practice, my amendment for the association of the name of Tagore was not admitted yesterday. I feel that if for no other reason, at least for the reason that we are not associating the name of Tagore in the very title of the University, we ought not to pass the Bill in the form in which it is now before the House.

An English poet spoke of the then politician or writer, Bacon: "See how Bacon shines the greatest, wisest minister of mankind". I trust that this Parliament should not be exposed to a criticism of this character that we failed, that we grumbled to associate the name of the greatest founder who gave all his property—endowed it with the Nobel prize, endowed it also with all the income from his copy-right and also devoted the best years of his life to enthuse the spirit, to make it the living organism. We hope that it would be continued in the same spirit perhaps, but not under this constitution. I trust that even now, even at this late hour, wisdom will prevail and that the Bill will be amended still further. After rejecting this motion in such manner that at least these two points will be included, I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

Dr. Deshmukh: While speaking on the motion for consideration, I had voiced my disagreement with the proposal embodied in the Bill, more

[Dr. Deshmukh]

or less for the same reasons which have been expressed by my hon. friend Prof. K. T. Shah and some other hon. Members of this House. One of the things which I pointed out was that this organisation of a University was unsuited to the ideals and objects which Rabindra Nath Tagore had placed before himself and for which essentially this institution was meant. I had also pointed out that the University Commission had repeatedly said that the pattern of Universities hereafter should be something new, something original and should not follow the patterns which have been followed so far.

I would like to read only a few sentences from a book written by Mr. Arthur E. Morgan, one of the Members of the University Commission. That will show how utterly unsuited the present pattern of the Universities is for the needs of India and especially in a place like Shantiniketan. Besides what has been stated in the course of the Report, these are very pertinent observations: "In some respects the Universities of India are not in the main current of the national life". Secondly, he observed after having gone round India and having seen so many experts and heard their evidence: "A stranger might never have learnt from those hearings that a village exists in India". He came into contact with University people and the evidence that was placed before him gave the impression that if one was a complete stranger, from the learned expositions and submissions of these people, one can think that there was nothing like a village in India. This is also a very important quotation: "The pattern and culture of the Universities are from a foreign land and are not rooted in the native soil". I know the respect with which Mr. Morgan is held and that was the reason why we called him all the way from America to give us his advice so far as the structure and the future organisation of our University education was concerned. This is what he has said.

So, I submit that the hon. Minister was not well advised in keeping the scheme which is identically the same as of other Universities that exist in India and my complaint is that it is not in this atmosphere that the spirit of Poet Tagore can survive, much less progress and thrive.

I would have very much liked that this place was kept free from these rules and regulations. As I said in my second speech, I would have liked

this place to be created into a spiritual U.N.O. where all those who are learned and cultured in the world may assemble and guide the destinies of the world and promote peace more effectively than the American U.N.O. which has unfortunately already become a battle-ground of wits for outwitting the other side. Even now there is an opportunity before us to make this sacred place in India into a sanctuary for the learned of the world, of every religion, of every inclination, so that the world may be guided better.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (West Bengal): Although there may be room for difference of opinion as regards some of the provisions of the Bill, I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the measure as has been amended by the House and which is now going to be passed. There could be no legislative enactment which is not capable of improvement. But what are the essential features of this Bill which we are about to pass?

First of all, the great objective for which the founder stood has found a place in the Bill. No doubt a few expressions have been omitted which many of us would have liked to have found a place in the Bill. Their omission has been most unfortunate. But I do not think it is going to make much practical difference, because both the Government as also every section of the House have declared that it is the intention of all that this University should develop not on the ordinary pattern, but on the basis which the founder had made his own.

Secondly, so far as the constitution is concerned, we have merely laid down the bare outline of the constitution. Now, here a note of warning has been sounded and I would like to emphasise that point of view. When the statutes are framed we have to take good care to see that we do not build up this University on the pattern of the existing Universities. Sir, as you will recall, the Bill as originally drafted laid down that the first statutes shall be framed by the Central Government. On my amendment this clause has been altered and the responsibility for framing the first statutes has been placed on the first Chancellor who is no other than Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. He is the present Chancellor and I believe it is the intention that he will continue to be the first Chancellor of the University. I would, therefore, especially appeal to him that while the first statutes are drafted he will see to it that they are not modelled or copied *verbatim* from

the statutes which are now in existence in relation to ordinary Universities in India. That is a very important point. If we fail to draw up these statutes properly we will not be able to implement the provisions of this Bill. It is not for me to suggest what procedure he should adopt, but if I may make a general suggestion, I would propose that he should appoint as Chancellor a small committee which should include representatives of Visva-Bharati and within a month or so the statutes can be properly drafted which he can examine and then place before the Visitor for formal approval. We have just given a bare outline in this Bill as to how the constitution should be drawn up, but much more remains to be done and that will depend on the manner in which the statutes are drafted.

The next point is about the possibility of Government interference. Now we have been able to amend the original provisions to a considerable extent. I do not mind what exactly the provisions of the law are; it all depends on the spirit in which a particular enactment is actually worked. Now the intention of all, whether belonging to Government or outside, is that the fullest possible freedom should be given to those who are in charge of the affairs of this University to carry on their activities, consistent with the objectives of the founder. I would, therefore, specially request the Education Minister not to interfere with the detailed working of this institution. That also is a very important consideration. Freedom is the essential condition on which such an institution can grow. Let us not make mistake about one point. This was a new experiment which Rabindra Nath Tagore made in the field of education. His efforts were greatly doubted by his contemporaries within the country. But when recognition came from savants and people who knew about new experiments in education outside India, then many people in India started being attracted to this institution. Now let us not try to develop education on one and a single pattern. We have some Universities also which are being modelled on different lines. Here is a new experiment, consistent with our genius and aspirations, which can be very fruitfully pursued and which, luckily today, has found the seal of approval from the hands of the Government of the day. I think if we proceed on sound lines we will be able to show results which will not only do credit to this country but which will help in solving many intricate problems which face human civilization today.

I would make an appeal to the Finance Minister. Powers have been taken over by Government in this Bill in respect of many matters, but there is no provision in the law as to whether Government is going to make any financial assistance or not, although an assurance has been given by the Education Minister and the Finance Minister that funds will be forthcoming. That is a consideration which I hope will be constantly kept in view by the Finance Minister.

One other thing I would like to mention before I conclude. While framing the statutes one has to take care to see that all those rigid conditions which are attached to the appointment of Professors and others and also to erection of buildings and other formalities should not be included in the working of Visva-Bharati. It is not necessary that every Professor should draw a salary of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,200. People who are drawn to Visva-Bharati are very eminent men who have practically devoted their life to that institution and are satisfied with a subsistence allowance. If any attempt is made by the Central Government to have standardised scales of pay for the staff because members of the staff of other Universities are not satisfied with less, that I think will be a mistaken idea. I am not suggesting that they should be starved. Everyone who works there must be given conditions of service which will enable them to live properly. But it is not necessary that we should standardize their salaries. Similarly with regard to buildings we do not want large buildings there. We have spent lakhs and lakhs on palatial buildings elsewhere. Those who have visited Visva-Bharati know how many classes are held in the open garden. When I was delivering my address at the time of the last convocation, in the absence of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, it was held in the mango garden and it was a delightful and inspiring atmosphere. It was one of the many innovations of the Poet, under the inspiration of his great father. Let us not try to interfere with such liberties that such an institution has been enjoying. These are the special features of Visva-Bharati. Although they may be external features and characteristics, yet they are very valuable and they are indicative of its peculiar attitude towards many problems which face that University. We must be able to preserve them intact and develop them in the future.

With these words I give my support to the Bill as amended.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): In view of what my hon. friend just said I should like to make clear, if there is any doubt about it, the attitude of Government in this matter. Also, I possess, without being worthy of it, another capacity and that is the Chancellorship of Visva-Bharati. We have looked upon this not only as a very great institution but as a very special and unique institution, and we are particularly anxious that it should not fall into the rut of other Universities. We are anxious, if I may say so, that our Education Department should not try to bring about any regimentation of it in line with others. The chief business of the Government of India or the Education Ministry will be to help it to develop on its own lines naturally to see that any falling off in standards, according to its own standards, does not take place, or any deterioration so far as we can help it—but generally to allow it to develop according to its own genius or according, as far as possible, to the vision that the great Poet had. And I entirely agree with Dr. Mookerjee when he laid stress on certain factors which may be called external if you like, but, nevertheless, which must have a very powerful influence in moulding the student there and creating a new environment, whether it is teaching in the mango grove or doing anything like that. I do attach great importance to it and I entirely agree with him that we should not spend our money on a large number of brick structures as we unfortunately still do in making our buildings, whether it is educational buildings or other buildings, and have little left to carry on the work in those buildings. I might mention that some time ago instructions were issued by the Govt. on this very subject, that we should try to forget brick and mortar as far as possible in buildings and have our schools, colleges and institutes in sheds, in thatched huts if necessary so as to utilise the money to greater advantage for the present.

One thing else. As I said, I feel a little embarrassed at having to occupy a position like that of the Chancellor of Visva-Bharati. Because whatever virtues I might possess, I am painfully conscious of a lack of virtue in so far as the qualities for a Chancellorship of such an institution are concerned, apart also from the fact that I am rather fully occupied otherwise, and can give very little time to it. But whether I give much time to it or not, I have all along felt not only a very deep interest but a very special obligation to the memory of the Poet and, if I may say so, it was

due to a promise I made to him—or rather to my acceptance of his direction in this matter—that I feel that I ought to do my utmost for the growth of this magnificent idea to which he gave birth.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): I accord my humble and whole-hearted support to the Bill. But in doing so I have to express my regret as to the manner in which a large number of substantial amendments were accepted on the floor of the House. I am not much in conflict with amendments themselves, but what I do wish is that when such important amendments have to be accepted they should rather be done in a Select Committee and outside the House. It is often very difficult for individual Members of the House to follow the course of the debates when amendments of a serious nature are accepted off-hand in the House.

Then again I am not very much in favour of loading a Bill, much less an educational Bill, with pious sentiments and idealism. To a certain extent they detract from the attention that should be paid to the working of the University rather than to the ideals incorporated in the Bill.

The last matter which I should mention would be about the amendment to introduce the Almighty God into a Schedule. The House by a large majority voted it down. I should submit that the reason of the majority should be more apparent to the minority than it apparently is. I believe that the view of the majority was that God is everywhere. He is omnipresent and is all pervading; and by the very nature of things, it must be assumed that he is also already in the Schedule; and I thought the majority should therefore protest against the attempt of the minority to confine the Almighty within the confines of a narrow Schedule. That is, I believe, the logic of the opposition by the majority.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That the question be now put".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put".

The motion was adopted.

موانا آزاد : محدہ اس موقع پر
کوئی نئی بات نہیں عرض کرنی ہے۔
جو ضروری باتیں تھیں وہ میں کہہ

چکا ہوں۔ میں صرف اس موقع پر آپ کو یاد دلانے کا یہ بل پیش کرتے ہوئے گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی جانب سے میں نے آپ کو یقین دلایا تھا کہ یہ بل اسلئے پیش نہیں کیا جا رہا کہ وہ شہہ بھارتی کو ایک معمولی یونیورسٹی کا روپ دیا جائے بلکہ اسلئے پیش کیا جا رہا ہے کہ جس مقصد کیلئے یہ قائم کی گئی تھی اس مقصد کی حفاظت کی جائے اور اس مقصد کو سامنے رکھتے ہوئے اس کو اور ترقی دی جائے۔ میں نے آپ کو یہ بھی یاد دلایا تھا کہ جنوری سنہ ۱۹۴۴ء میں مہاتما جی نے مجھ سے کہا تھا۔ جب میں نے ایجوکیشن منسٹری (Education Ministry) کا چارج لیا تو انہوں نے مجھ سے کہا تھا کہ گورنمنٹ کی ایک بہت بڑی امانت ہے کہ جو انہوں نے میری حفاظت میں دی ہے۔ آج اب یہ امانت تمہارے سپرد کرتا ہوں۔ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے یہ بل پیش کر کے کوشش کی ہے کہ اس امانت کی حفاظت کرے۔ اس بل کے پاس کرنے کا مقصد یہ نہیں ہے کہ حفاظت کی جگہ اس کے ساتھ بددیانتی کی جائے گی اور یہ کوشش کی جائے گی کہ جس مقصد کیلئے یہ عظیم الشان انسٹی ٹیوشن قائم کیا گیا ہے اس کو بدل دیا جائے۔ وہ تو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ دراصل اس کی حفاظت نہیں ہو گی۔ اس میں خیانت ہو گی اور بددیانتی ہو گی۔

بس، اس کے سوا مجھے آپ سے اور کچھ نہیں کہنا ہے۔ میں ان تمام دوستوں کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں کہ جن سے میں نے ایپل کی تھی کہ وہ فیر ضروری ترمیموں پر زور نہ دیں اور جن کو انہوں نے واپس لے لیا اور زور نہیں دیا۔

(English translation of the above speech.)

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): I have nothing new to state at this stage. All necessary points have been stated by me earlier. While introducing the Bill I had assured the House on behalf of the Government of India that it was not being introduced to give Visva-Bharati the status of an ordinary university. I had then said that the objects of the Bill is to preserve and promote the ideals for which that great Institution was established. Further I had then referred to what had transpired between me and Mahatma Gandhi in January 1947 at the time I took charge of this Ministry. He had told me that Gurudev had left a great trust with him which he was going to entrust me thereafter. The Government of India, by introducing this Bill, had tried to preserve that trust and the passage of this Bill, does not mean at all that any dishonesty will be practised instead of making efforts for its preservation or that any attempt will be made to change the very ideals for which this University had stood all along. Doing that, I feel, will instead of preserving it mean sheer dishonesty and a betrayal of the trust.

That is all. I have to add nothing further. I feel thankful to hon. friends whom I had appealed not to press unnecessary amendments which they have withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Before I put the motion to the House, I will put a small formal amendment to vote.

The question is:

"That the clauses of the Bill be re-numbered consequential upon the insertion of new clauses in the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

PRESIDENT'S PENSION BILL

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the payment of pensions to retiring Presidents, be taken into consideration".

The House will agree that in order to enable the President to maintain after retirement a reasonable standard of living befitting the high office held by him, it is necessary that a suitable financial provision in the shape of a life pension should be made. The House might recall that in reply to a question by Shri Pidathala Ranga Reddy in March this year, the Government indicated their intention to initiate legislation in this matter. Government attach great importance to the principle of making an adequate statutory provision for a retiring President to enable him to maintain the dignity of the high office held by him. This Bill has been introduced accordingly. The House will, I hope, agree that having regard to the dignity of the high office of the President and taking all relevant considerations into account, the amount of pension as proposed, which is subject to income-tax, is reasonable. The House will notice that we have brought within the scope of this Bill the case of the last Governor-General, the hon. Shri C. Rajagopalachari. A pension has already been sanctioned, although it is not being drawn and by virtue of clause 3, if enacted, it will be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the payment of pensions to retiring Presidents, be taken into consideration".

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): Under the Constitution the highest honour of office is that of the President and the country is really proud that we have in our President today a person of great sacrifice and service to the country, of high integrity and sterling character. Similarly has been the selection of the ex-Governor-General. I do hope in future whenever the selection of the President is made, it should be made from public men who have behind them service and sacrifice. Next to the high office of the President are those of the Governors of the States and we have also in them persons from the public who have rendered great service to the country. I personally feel that the office of the Governor should be filled from the public men who have service and sacrifice behind them.

I do not want to bring down the dignity of these high offices of President and Governors by giving them to persons who come from services. I do not want that standard which was kept by the British Government should be followed, namely that after a man has served for 35 years, he should be given the prize post of Governorship. I hope that our Government will bear in mind that these posts must necessarily go to persons who have a high record of service behind them. They will be available in any number if it is our desire to see that these high offices are filled by the category of persons I have narrated and from that point of view, I do not want to bring them down to the category of service men. I do not want to bring them to a standard of persons, who after retirement earn some kind of pension. Servicemen after 55 years of age are legitimately entitled to a pension. I want to keep the standard of sacrifice on the high level to which our great leader has taught us and the Congress had come into prominence for that great service and sacrifice. I do not want to measure a term of service in terms of money. I want to measure that service in terms of sacrifice and while I do appreciate that our Presidents will be hereafter coming from that category, it would not be possible for them to lead a life which they had enjoyed during the period of their high office. I do expect that their standards after retirement should be kept above and quite distinct from the servicemen; that is my main point. I do not want to harp upon any other point. The only point is that the office of the President should be of a higher standard and should not be mixed up with the standard of servicemen.

I was trying to find out whether in any foreign country, the President after retirement enjoys a pension. I took advantage of the new department that our Parliament, through the good offices of our Speaker and the efficient Secretary, has opened, the Research and Reference section, and made an enquiry. Within a very short time, they have been able to give me some points which are interesting. I should really take this opportunity of congratulating our Parliament Secretariat for establishing this section which is of a very useful nature to the Members. The Research and Reference section has been able to supply me the following information:

"The Constitutions of almost all the countries of the world have been

consulted by the Research section. For an Elected Head of the State, no provision has been made as regards pensions, though provision is made to give them certain 'remuneration', 'compensation' or 'honarium' while they are in office. That is but natural. In most cases, it is to be prescribed by law: that is, while they are in office. The law of very few countries is available. The U.S.A. Code (1940) does not provide for any pension to the President. Further enquiries made from U.S. Embassies confirm that no pension is provided for any one occupying Federal Elective Office.

Czechoslovakia also has no provision to provide pension to retiring Presidents. U.S.S.R. and Italy also do not provide for any pension to their Presidents. Their Embassies were also contacted on the subject, and they have confirmed it.

The Governor-General of the Dominions do not get any pension for holding that office. If they are members of the services, they draw their requisite salary or pension, as the case may be. That is natural.

The case of Hereditary Heads of State have not been taken into consideration. The Monarch holds office till his death. In case of abdication, as in case of Edward VIII, no pension is provided.

In the case of France, it is stated that it is the only country which has a law prescribing a proportionate pension for all retiring Presidents even if they have been in office for a few days. The amount of the pension, however, could not be ascertained.

The case of the Prime Minister in the United Kingdom is a different matter.

The status of the Heads of the States other than reigning monarchs has been investigated. The information is not available in any book with us and various foreign Embassies have been contacted. There is no special status attached to the retired Heads of the States. They revert back, usually, to their old profession. They, as a matter of prestige and dignity act the role of elder statesmen, and keep themselves away from active party politics and intrigues. Whatever status and position they command after retirement is more a matter of personal bearing than of statutory definition and the statutes

nowhere, as far as could be ascertained, provide for status of retired Heads of the States".

What I was driving at is that even if we come to the conclusion that we should pay pension, despite what I have said, I submit the word 'pension' should be changed. Instead of calling it a pension, you may call it honorarium. I do not want to mix up our high-ranking President with the category of servicemen. Whatever that may be, I make this humble suggestion for the consideration of the hon. Minister. I want the high rank of the President to be kept distinct. That is the point that I am driving at and I had to make these observations to convince him. If I merely said: Change the word 'pension', that would not appeal. The word honorarium or remuneration would be better. If he coins any other word, I will accept it.

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): You do not mind the payment?

Shri Sidhva: I do not mind the payment. The Presidentship is the highest office that our Constitution has provided. We have to select a man for his great sacrifices. I hope the hon. Minister will kindly bear my suggestion in mind.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): The point which has been raised by my hon. friend Shri Sidhva is a point to be seriously considered. I think, neither the author of the Bill nor the whole Cabinet could give an assurance to this country that in future in the selection of our President, we shall confine our selection to those persons who have made sacrifices in their political career. No such assurance could be given by the Government of the day. As a matter of fact, it may so turn out on account of political pressure, on account of circumstances, that it may be necessary to put in the position of the President a man who had perhaps never made any sacrifice in the cause of the country. Therefore, the excellence and patriotism of the present President or the out-going Governor-General should not influence us in giving support to this Bill. Let us for a moment consider what has happened recently. You have given the position of the Governor of Orissa to a person who had not distinguished himself in public life by sacrifice and patriotism. Ten years ago, when a similar question arose, the Congress vetoed against the appointment of a Governor from the Secretariat. The Congress Ministry even threatened to resign on the issue. Circumstances have now so changed

[Shri R. K. Chaudhuri]

that the Congress Government has selected one of their Secretaries as Governor of a province.

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): This Bill has nothing to do.....

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I would ask my hon. friend. . . .

Shri Santhanam: On a point of order, Sir. This Bill has nothing to do with a Governor. We are dealing with the case of the President, who has to be elected by Members of Parliament and Assemblies.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is that a point of order?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree. There is no point in raising the case of the Governor here. The Bill does not relate to a Governor. Hon. Members may kindly confine. . . .

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I was only going to finish my argument.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. We have heard sufficiently. Reference to a provincial Governor is absolutely unnecessary. Hon. Members need not anticipate that there will be Pension Bills for Governors also.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: You have not heard me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will confine themselves to Presidents and the ex-Governor-General.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: What I am saying is this. Is there anything in our Constitution laying down that this office of President will not in the future be given to persons who have not distinguished themselves by their personal sacrifice in public service? That is the point. There is nothing. On analogy, just as there is nothing to prevent a Secretary from becoming a Governor, there is nothing to prevent another Secretary or the Secretary-General from becoming the President in the next vacancy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Under the Constitution, the President is elected. If the whole country chooses to elect one, he is an honoured person.

Shri Kamathi (Madhya Pradesh): That is indirect election.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I hope you will certainly agree with me that the person of the present President should

not be a consideration in influencing us to support this Bill or to go against this Bill. That is what I am saying. From that point of view also I get support from the speech of my hon. friend Shri Sidhva. Practically in no country do we have any provision for the grant of a pension for its President. Even the British Government that was here and which was anxious and eager to give what they could to their British employees from the Indian exchequer did not care to give any pension to the outgoing Governors-General from the Indian exchequer. Therefore what I say is we have got to justify before the public this Bill and its provisions, especially as in most of the countries, as I have said, there is no provision for the payment of pension to the elected President. Therefore we should be able to produce very strong justification if we decide to give a pension to our outgoing President. And what is the strong justification that we have here? So far as the present President is concerned, I can say that there is every justification to give a pension. I would say that there is every justification for that. I would even go a step further and say that in view of the public service rendered by Shri Rajagopalachari, there is every justification to give him some pension. That I can concede. But should we only for that reason have a Bill of this nature which will be there for all times in the future generations? I would like the hon. Finance Minister, who has asked us to agree to this Bill, to give us very strong grounds why, when we have not yet given any pension, when even the British Government did not give pensions to its Governors-General, when practically in no other country there is this system of giving a pension, we in India, when we are always complaining of poor finances, should agree to a Bill of this kind. I hope the hon. Finance Minister has got such strong justifications in his mind and will be able to tell us what they are.

The other question I would like to ask is whether this pension is revocable or not, at the will either of the Legislature or of the Government. We have in the past seen, especially in the days of the non-co-operation movement, that Government servants who had been accused of indirectly helping the movement or Government servants whose sons had joined what was called the non-co-operation or subversive movement, had their pensions withheld or withdrawn. I would like to know whether this pension that is being granted by this Bill is revocable at the pleasure either of the Government or of the Legislature.

I would also like to know whether the drawing of this pension will be subject to the ordinary pension rules, that is to say, whether the pensioner will have to appear in person and show that he is still alive, or whether he will have to produce a certificate from the nearest village officer, or some other officer that he is still alive on that day. I would like to know whether these rules that govern the payment of ordinary pensions will also apply to the President. If they do, then of course, we cut away the dignity with which we wish to invest the President by means of this law that we are making. The difficulty is that in this law there is no provision to say that Government will be able to make some rules to carry out the objective of this Bill. There is nothing here to say that rules will be framed to this end, laying down the procedure for the drawing of the pension of the President.

I would like to invite the attention of the House to the proviso to clause 2 which says:

"Provided that, where any such person is re-elected to that office, no pension shall be payable for the period during which he again holds office as President".

Suppose the President again joins politics. Is there any bar to his joining politics in the future? Is there any bar to his becoming the Leader of Opposition in the future? Supposing—God forbid—but supposing the Congress does not come in power, and the present President is approached by his countrymen to come and take up the position of Leader of Opposition, will he be entitled to draw this pension? He does not get any salary—we have not provided for salary even for the Leader of Opposition, and so if he likes, can the present President, when he happens to be the Leader of Opposition on some future date, draw this pension? Or conversely, suppose the Congress does come in power and suppose the present President becomes Leader of Opposition, shall that Congress Government be bound to give this pension to him in order to help him to carry on the opposition against the Government? That point also has to be considered. It is true as has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, that the Governor-General will not draw any pension so long as he holds office of a Minister; but that is his personal generosity. Is it the intention of the Legislature or of this Bill that he would not be entitled to draw any pension or is it to be left to the discretion of the individual either to take the pension or not to take it? That point has to be cleared.

I am not speaking in any spirit of carping criticism; but whether any amendments are moved or not, I very much wish that these points should be made clear by the hon. Finance Minister in his speech.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar): I rise to welcome the principle of this Bill, though I have to make some suggestions for its improvement which will come up for consideration in due time.

At the outset, I would like to remind those Members, at any rate, who were present also in the Constituent Assembly when the Constitution was going through, that I had proposed certain amendments at that time, which, as usual, were rejected, but which nevertheless had foreseen the necessity of some such provision as we are now bringing forward. We are, therefore, faced with arguments of the kind that my learned friend Mr. Chaudhuri has just put forward before the House. The point, however, that we have to remember is that we do not wish to make the Presidency of India a prize or a perquisite only of the rich who can afford to live without any recognition of their services on superannuation from the public that they have served. In fact, I had ventured so far as to suggest that before an individual takes oath of his office as President and enters upon his functions, he must divest himself of all his own earned property acquired or inherited. They should be either sold, or he should make them into a trust and hand it over to the Reserve Bank to be restored to him when he quits office after the completion of his term.

That, of course, was not acceptable. Nor was my suggestion to incorporate in the Constitution a provision, that a pension provision should be included in some general terms, not mentioning a specific figure, so that we should not have the danger, which Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri pointed out, that the pension may be liable to be withdrawn under certain contingencies, if not by Government, at least by the legislature. There is no doubt that this legislature is under the Constitution supreme in such matters. Therefore either by way of an amendment of this Act, or repeal of this Act, or even perhaps by refusing that particular item in the Budget, in a given year, which relates to the pension unless charged to the Consolidated Fund—Parliament would be free to withdraw the pension. Now, at any rate, unless and until the Constitution is amended in that light, as suggested by Mr. Chaudhuri, it would not be possible either for this Parliament or its successor to bind them not to pass any

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

such legislation. In the face of this danger—danger as such Mr. Chaudhuri considers it—he has been brave enough in rising against the ukase in making that proposal. I hope he will have equal courage to move an amendment

.....

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: When I spoke I had no intention (*Interruption*).

Prof. K. T. Shah: This is a danger which ought to be guarded against but now I am afraid it is too late. Short of the amendment of the Constitution it is not possible to guard against that particular danger.

The danger also remains that, if we make no provision of some sort, the person who has become the head of the Union of India, by our own choice, may be reduced to destitution; and it would not be in comport with the dignity of the country or its people to allow its head—its former head—to fall into such a predicament. If you do not wish—I hope the House will agree with me—that office to become a prize only for the rich and the mighty, if we do not wish also that the President, when he leaves office, should be exposed to penury and the risk of destitution, it is but right and proper that we should make this provision.

In this connection, I would associate myself with my friend Mr. Sidhva in congratulating the Secretariat of this House in instituting a Research section, which has provided this information. But I would like Mr. Sidhva also to remember, and I hope the Research Section will find out, that even though the Prime Minister of England is not of the level of the President, there is a provision in an Act of the Baldwin Government in 1936 or 37—I do not remember the exact date—whereby the retiring Prime Minister is entitled to a pension from the Consolidated Fund.

Shri Sidhva: That is correct.

Prof. K. T. Shah: I am now concerned with the principle, that the provision is made obviously realising the fact.....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): It is the case in France also.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Mr. Sidhva mentioned it, though he did not mention the figure. Perhaps the figure is there. But the principle is accepted. There is, I think, not only no shame in accepting the principle, when we do not want the Presidency to be

in the hands of the rich only; but there is equally a call of duty for us to make some provision of this character. It is not the individual we are concerned with. We are concerned with the person who had occupied the exalted office of head of the State, which is completely sovereign, and who in his person symbolises the dignity, the sovereignty, and greatness of the people such as they are.

I have another consideration to urge on this provision. The President must be available always as an elder statesman for consultation, counsel, and guidance, free of charge in my opinion, and free of any need to carry favour with the majority. He can do so only if you enable him to have some means of livelihood, if he is to conform to the ideal I have in view. He should have no other trade or profession; for it is not in consonance in my opinion with the dignity of a person who had been the head of the Union, that he should be reduced to go about begging, or canvassing for contract, or seeking service. He should be kept out of all these.

May I in this connection say, subject to correction by the hon. Finance Minister, that even the hon. Finance Minister does not accept his salary, but is content with his pension as one who has rendered 30 years service. . .

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: On a point of personal information, I do not think that is correct.

Prof. K. T. Shah: I am sorry that was the idea I carried. Once upon a time I thought he mentioned in the House that we would be surprised to know. . . .

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That does not mean that I am not accepting a salary.

Prof. K. T. Shah: I correct myself. That was the information I got. I was about to compliment him for his sense of generosity. If I am under an error I shall withhold my compliment, for the present only, so that when I get accurate information I may be in a position more strongly to offer my compliments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such compliments are sometimes embarrassing.

Prof. K. T. Shah: It may be embarrassing but if it is true let us face it in a straight and square way.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there any provision in the Constitution prohibiting an erstwhile President from engaging himself in any trade or profession?

Prof. K. T. Shah: None. The Constitution does not lay down any bar upon an ex-President engaging in any trade, profession, or business. I see a danger, in this world of temptations in which we live, that a person of that eminence, distinction and record of public service, might be subject to all the temptations that I mentioned a while ago. The country must have at least one man who is not only above want, but also outside temptation. We must make this provision in such a manner that there should be no fear of penury or destitution for such a person, so that his advice and counsel will always be available to us in a national emergency whenever we require it.

Mr. Chaudhuri was pleased to mention about the possibility of his coming into Parliament, and becoming a Leader of Opposition. I hope he would. The point I would urge even in that connection is that he should be given a pension, not because he was always agreeable to the Government; he is given a pension in recognition of his service during his term of office, not because he happened to say ditto to the Government that was.

In this connection I might say that the same British legislation to which I referred a moment ago, which provides a pension for the Prime Minister of England also provides some sort of allowance to the Leader of Opposition. It is not at all in consonance with the idea of making a provision for the head of the State that he should join the Opposition, and be engaged in criticising the Government of the day, or be a mere dittograph. His value would really be in the independent position secured to him, so that, without fear or favour, he may be in a position to advise the Government, the country and its people to the best of his light, irrespective of the fact whether the Government, the country or the people agree with his advice or not. That is the excellence of a provision of this character and therefore we should support it.

Coming next to the specific amount of the pension mentioned, I would say that the figure actually given here is, in my opinion, not adequate to the dignity of a person so exalted, who has occupied such a post, and rendered such service. I know an amendment is on the order paper; I do not know whether it will be moved, but if it is moved I certainly feel it necessary that some increase should be made because I ask you to consider the level of prices.....

Shri Kamath: They will come down.

Prof. K. T. Shah: They will come down perhaps, but I do not see any immediate future when they will come down. The price level today, even as compared to pre-war days, is somewhere about four or five times.

An Hon. Member: This amount will be equal to Rs. 300 or 400 prewar.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Yes, Rs. 300 or 400 prewar. Is it a figure that you should give your former President, a figure which is really not at all, in my opinion, adequate to the dignity of the office, or the need of the person? It would then rather be better not to recognise it, but if you recognise it in this manner do so adequately. In these days, when even a man with a very small family finds it difficult to make both ends meet, would you want the former President of India to be reduced to a position where he is not able to meet even half his rent out of the pension if he wants also to provide for the other needs like food, transport, education of his children, or his grandchildren as the case may be?

I feel, therefore, that some means should be found whereby the figure should be increased. I do not know whether the rules of procedure would allow, at this stage, the figure to be raised by way of an amendment of this Bill; but I do think something should be done so that the figure is not kept as low as, in my opinion, it is in this Bill. It is well-known, I hope, that I am not ordinarily in favour of increasing salaries or allowances to public servants beyond a certain standard. But here is a case, here is a figure in which I feel we are not acting generously, we are not acting even reasonably, if we bear in mind the price level, and if we bear in mind the requirements of a modest home of ease and comfort that the President must maintain in his retirement.

Remember, also that this is the total amount of his pension. You provide no other concessions to him, you do not give him free transport, free housing, or any other concessions which might be sufficiently valuable to compensate for this rather small allowance by way of Rs. 15,000. Not being free from income-tax this will be reduced still further by the burden of taxation, say over Rs. 1,000 or more per annum at the existing rates I feel that the case requires consideration and consideration sympathetically. I confess that for my part I find it difficult, under the rules of procedure and the constitutional conventions we have established over amendments, to suggest an improvement in that way. But let me mention one point of prece-

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

dent or analogy, namely, the provision of pensions by the British Government to their Governors-General or Governors, or other distinguished public servants. The Governor-General or the Viceroy was certainly not given any pension. He was, however, paid over Rs. 2½ lakhs a year. But there are cases, I think mostly under the East India Company, wherein pensions have been provided, not only for the rest of the life of the individual, but hereditarily or in perpetuity. Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General, was given a pension, after his impeachment and after the plea that he was entirely reduced to poverty, a pension of £4,000 a year, which, in terms of today's purchasing power, would be more than perhaps Rs. 10,000 a month. The Marquis of Hastings, some twenty or thirty years later, was given a hereditary pension of £5,000 a year, which, unless in the latest arrangements made in the sterling balances settlements has been dispensed with, is continuing. It was continuing to my knowledge up to 1930. I do not quite remember whether the Duke of Wellington, as Colonel Arthur Wellesley, was not given a similar pension, as also whether Colonel Ochterloney was not given a similar pension. But of the above two instances I am perfectly certain. If, therefore, you really needed precedents, they are there—not that those precedents are worth following. I repeat those precedents were created by an exploiting Power which we need not follow at all. But in England, in France I have just shown you there are precedents. If you want precedents they will be available.

Shri B. K. Chandhuri: On a point of information. May I ask whether those countries give the pension even though the person resigns from office?

Prof. K. T. Shah: Oh, yes. They may not accept it; but the pension is given, to the Prime Minister of England for instance after he resigns—he resigns when he is defeated. There is no term because the term of the Prime Minister depends on the majority in Parliament.

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): Why is it that, later, the British Government changed the system of giving pensions to the heads of States?

Prof. K. T. Shah: They did not change it. The answer is that they simply used to pay such lavish salaries and used to select individuals from such a class, that they did not think it necessary to provide them with

pensions. Besides, the Governor-Generalship or Viceroyalty was sometimes only a stage in a career. Here you do not want to select your Presidents from that class of titled aristocrats or large landed proprietors. President Hoover of America, who does not get any pension, returned, on the day he left the White House, all the salary he had received during the four years of office. There are people who realise that public service is not an obligation but a privilege; and taking that privilege they are willing not only not to take any compensation for that service, but actually give their labour free of charge.

These instances are already there; and where a sense of public duty is growing, these cases may happen. But we must only provide for the ordinary, average, citizen derived from the class of working men, who may, by his service, by his talents, by his any other qualities that commend themselves to the nation or the nation's representatives, be elected to this high office, and be in a position to serve the country. Let us not ignore his services in the past; or none would arrive at that office without a brilliant record of past services. Let us not deny him that his old age, his period of retirement and superannuation should be passed in peace, in comfort, in ease, in dignity. For that this provision, as I said before, is not too generous or too lavish; and I hope some way would be found to remedy this.

The provision, therefore, should, I suggest, somehow be increased, if it is possible to do so. My next point deals with the terms and conditions of the pension being allowed. The President's pension should be allowed only when he has completed his term of office; or if he is suffering from any physical disability which incapacitates him from duty. In that case the service actually rendered, however short or long it may be, should be recognised. If he is impeached and found guilty or found unworthy of his office, I realise that such a person need not be rewarded, either by the pension or even by any other allowance or consideration. That is a case apart. But I do not easily imagine that a person who has been elected to the high office of the President of the Union will, even if he happens to be an active politician, be guilty of such acts as would justify, necessitate an impeachment, which would, therefore, compel Parliament to withdraw his pension by an Act of the legislature, or deny it by a cut in the grant. For that reason alone I would refuse the pension. For mere physical disability,

illness or incapacity you should not deny the pension to a person who has served the country so well. After President Wilson of America ceased to be in office, he lived a semi-dead man, a helpless paralytic, for two or three years. Though there was no provision of that kind there, I hope in a situation like that in this country, the pension, if we provide for it, should not be refused merely because of circumstances over which the individual has no control, and which incapacitate him from work. The one and only case in which I would deny the pension is in the case of a person who is found guilty—not merely suspected, but found guilty—after impeachment or in the ordinary course of law, for acts or offences committed against the country which are of such a high moral turpitude that we cannot possibly reconcile them.

With these few words, I support the motion.

Shri Kamath: The Bill before the House is a very brief one. It contains only four clauses, but in one respect it is an extraordinary Bill in that it seeks to provide a pension to the elected head of the Indian Union. While the principle underlying the Bill may be quite salutary, it may not be very easy to accept the present measure which seeks to provide an unconditional pension to the retiring head of our Union. The Finance Minister did well in clarifying the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Statement as it appears along with this Bill is very bald. It merely says: "Whereas it is desirable that some suitable financial provision should be made etc. etc." In his speech, the Finance Minister amplified it and said that it is desirable to provide a pension "in the interests of . . ."—may I have the words again please?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not know which words the hon. Member wants, but I said that:

"Government attach great importance to the principle of making an adequate statutory provision for a retiring President to enable him to maintain the dignity of the high office held by him".

Shri Kamath: What is the opening sentence?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is more or less the same. . . . "to enable the President after retirement to maintain a reasonable standard of living befitting the high office held by him".

Shri Kamath: Both these ideas have been incorporated in the speech of the Finance Minister—the dignity of the office which the retiring President has held as well as the standard of living which he is expected to conform to.

At the outset, let me make it clear that neither I nor my colleagues in this House wish to associate even remotely the personality of the present incumbent of the office which is the subject matter of this Bill. We must keep that strictly outside the purview of the discussion in the House today. We are legislating to provide the retiring President with a pension, whatever the President may be. The idea of the dignity of the office and the standard of living has had a curious history in this House. My mind goes as far back as August 1948 when the question of the then Governor-General's salary was first raised on the floor of the Legislature and the Prime Minister replying to a question over which my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi and I collaborated. . . .

Shri Joachim Alva (Bombay): But he has now deserted your ranks!

Shri Kamath: He may come back.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: No fears.

An Hon. Member: Or you may go over there.

Shri Kamath: That is not possible.

The Prime Minister in replying to the question that I have put stated that the dignity of the high office of the Governor-General of India demanded a salary as high as Rs. 20,000. That statement of the Prime Minister was not accepted wholeheartedly within the House or without, and owing to a spate of comments and criticisms of the statement, a Bill was introduced in the House subsequently which reduced the Governor-General's salary to Rs. 5,500 nett. That showed that the dignity of the office did not dictate the size of the salary. The salary was reduced and still the dignity of the office did not suffer in the estimation of the people or of this Parliament. When the Bill which thus reduced the salary to Rs. 5,500 was under discussion, the then Home Minister Sardar Patel made certain profound observations which would bear repetition in the House today. In replying to the debate on the consideration motion, he said:

"I agree entirely that in this country sacrifice is respected more than riches. But in this country there never have been Sanyasis

[Shri Kamath]

as Heads of the State. Heads of the State have bowed their heads before a Sanyasi and therefore Sanyasis have got away from the glamour of office or responsibility".

Proceeding further, he observed:

"The dignity of the State in the present set-up is a different thing from the dignity which the sacrifice in the country carries with it".

It is not quite clear what he meant by that. He went on:

"If I could succeed in persuading my colleagues and the House, I would certainly like to leave this House and go somewhere else, because the whole set-up is such that in spite of our efforts to come to the level of our conditions, we find it impossible to do so".

These were the observations he made in March 1949. Later on in October 1949 the subject came up again in connection with the salary of the President. That was in the Constituent Assembly.

Dr. Ambedkar remarked in that connection as follows:

"The reason why we fixed the salary at Rs. 10,000 is to be found in the salary of the existing Chief Justice of the Supreme Court which is Rs. 7,000. It was the feeling of the Drafting Committee that since the President is the highest functionary in the State there ought to be no individual who would be drawing a higher salary than the President and if the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was drawing a salary of Rs. 7,000, it was absolutely essential from that point of view that the salary of the President should be somewhat above the salary of the Chief Justice. Taking all these facts into consideration, we thought that the proper salary would be Rs. 10,000".

The consideration here when the salary of the President was fixed under the Constitution was that it should be higher than anybody else's in the land. Therefore, the first thing I would like to ask the Finance Minister is this: What have been the guiding considerations in fixing the pension for a retiring President of the Indian Union? I cannot accept the dictum that mere dignity of office demands it. That may be necessary; but that is not a sufficient cause. As Prof. Shah remarked, perhaps, dignity may demand even a higher pension.

If you go into this idea of dignity, which I hope is divested of any pomp and show.—dignity as it is commonly understood,—he may deserve a higher pension than merely Rs. 1,250 per month. If you take the standard of living as the criterion and if the cost of living goes up and up as it is doing these days, then also he may require a higher pension. But is it the consideration that his pension should be higher than anybody else's in the land, because the salary was fixed on that consideration only—that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was getting Rs. 7,000, so it should be Rs. 10,000, though not the next round figure of Rs. 8,000 or Rs. 9,000?

Who are the highest pensioners in the State today? I believe the Indian civil servants used to get £1,000 when they retired. I do not know how much it comes to under the new set-up. The Finance Minister may be in the best position to throw some light on that point.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There has been no change in the annuity.

Shri Kamath: I suppose, so far as Government officers are concerned, the annuity which a member of the I.C.S. gets is perhaps the highest annuity paid to a Government officer.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think some military pensions may be a bit higher. Some Judges also get slightly more.

Prof. K. T. Shah: And retired Governors too.

Shri Kamath: So that rules out the possibility that the President's pension has been fixed on the basis that it should be higher than anybody else's in the land. So, that is not the consideration—the factor which influenced the Constituent Assembly in fixing the salary at Rs. 10,000, because it should be the highest salary, as he is the highest functionary in the State. Apparently the pension that will accrue to the retiring highest dignitary or functionary in the State has been fixed on some other basis than this one. The Finance Minister would therefore do well to tell us on what particular basis this figure of Rs. 1,250 per month has been arrived at.

In this connection it is pertinent to bring to the notice of the House what one of the foremost,—I may say the first disciple—of Mahatma Gandhi had to say on this subject in one of the recent numbers of the issues of the *Harizan*.

Shrimati Durgabai (Madras): He wanted a Harijan girl to be the President.

Shri Kamath: That he suggested earlier. I have not forgotten the matter of girls becoming President, but it does not relate to this subject. Whether the President is a girl or boy, a man or a woman, he or she will get the pension, whatever is fixed by the House. So Shrimati Durgabai need have no anxiety on that score.

Mr. Mashruwala wrote in his article:

"A poor country like India cannot afford princely salaries or handsome pensions. They become a burden when deflation sets in. They are out of all proportion to the average income of an ordinary citizen. A convention must, therefore, be set up that he who is wedded to non-possession of property should be elected as President of the Republic. He will, therefore, receive only what is actually necessary for his human needs and will not condescend to take more than that minimum."

Alternatively, he suggested—not in the name of *Sarvodaya* or any other idea, but as a practical course, not as a convention, but as a definite rule that a retiring President might be provided with a supplementary allowance. Here comes Mr. Sidhva's point. He suggested an honorarium, but I think it is applicable only to people in office. Mr. Mashruwala suggested that a retiring President might be provided with a supplementary allowance if his other sources are insufficient to enable him to provide himself with an income adequate for such a standard of living as the nation considers proper for an ex-President. The amount should vary for each ex-President and might be varied from time to time according as such ex-Presidents obtain or cease to obtain other income.

While opinions may be divided as to the possibility of drafting a Bill on these lines, there is a wholesome principle underlying the suggestion made by Mr. Mashruwala. Another point made by my friend Prof. Shah was whether this pension should be given to the President or whether the President should be entitled to the pension in all circumstances and conditions. I for one feel that if the ex-President holds any other office of profit either in the Government of India or in the Government of any State or engages in any other paid employment anywhere else he should not be entitled to get this pension. We must lay down in this Bill and we

must provide a statutory limitation to the grant of this pension. Otherwise, the Bill, wholesome as it is in principle, will be vitiated by that lacuna, a lacuna which I feel must be filled before it is finally passed. It is wholly wrong, in my judgment, to confer an unconditional pension upon the elected head of the Indian Union—not only on the ground that it is derogatory to his dignity, in case he takes up any other office or job but also from the point of view of establishing sound traditions in our country, in our infant democracy.

One of my hon. colleagues referred to the Prime Minister's pension in Great Britain. But there certain conditions are definitely and explicitly attached to the grant of the £2,000 a year. Those are: firstly, that he is not in receipt of any pension under the Political Officers Pension Act, 1869; secondly, or any salary payable out of money provided by Parliament; thirdly, or out of revenues of the Duchy of Lancaster; and fourthly, or any salary payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom. Here we have completely shut our eyes to such an important provision as regards this measure. This House has already been told how in all other countries no elected head of the State draws a pension, and in the case of France it is doubtful. There, so far as I understand, only a proportionate pension is prescribed in certain cases. But by and large, in almost all the countries that we know, and from whom we have borrowed so much—and so well too, perhaps—in the framing of the Constitution, such a provision for the elected head of the State does not exist. Therefore it becomes more incumbent upon this House to see to it that such a provision is not made lightheartedly or without any conditions being attached to it.

The Financial Memorandum on this Bill refers to the fact that "the last retired Governor-General has intimated that he would not draw any pension in addition to his salary as Minister" and that "no expenditure will thus be involved under clause 3 of the Bill, so long as the last Governor-General continues to be a Minister". It is all right. It is voluntarily foregone, and it is well that he has acted very wisely and the House would give its approbation to his act of self-abnegation in this regard. But is it not all the more necessary therefore that such a contingency must be foreseen by Government and adequate provision made to meet that contingency, or emergency, when the ex-President may become a Minister just

[Shri Kamath]

as the ex-Governor-General has become a Minister just now? He may become a Minister or, as my hon. friend Mr. Chaudhuri said, he may become the Leader of Opposition in Parliament or even take up any paid employment outside Government. What then do we propose to do? Do we propose to leave him in enjoyment of the pension? Suppose he draws a salary of Rs. 5,000 in any paid employment outside—and there is no constitutional bar to his being employed outside on whatever salary it might carry. Is it not therefore necessary explicitly and definitely to provide statutorily that when he is engaged in a paid employment or when he takes up any office of profit this pension would not be admissible? I fail to see how or why the Finance Minister cannot see his way to recognising this objection and amending the Bill accordingly.

The Bill has got only two operative clauses, one about the salary of the ex-President and another about a concession made to the last Governor-General, that he too will be similarly entitled to this pension just as any other ex-President. I think the point made by my friend Prof. Shah about impeachment, that in the case of impeachment he should not get his pension, is already provided for in the Bill, because it definitely says that only when he ceases to hold office either by the expiration of his term of office or by resignation of his office he will be eligible to this pension. There is provision in the Constitution for impeachment. Therefore it follows logically that in case he has been impeached and removed from office this pension will not be admissible to him. That is my reading of the Bill. (*An Hon. Member: You are right.*) And I hope the Finance Minister will tell the House whether my interpretation of this particular clause of the Bill is correct.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What happens if he resigns on the eve of impeachment?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: And takes service in Texas. Will he get pension?

Shri Kamath: Therefore I am foreseeing that possibility and I am saying that it would be very salutary and very desirable, and even essential, to lay down explicitly and unambiguously that it would not be available or admissible to the President under all conditions and in all circumstances, but only when he has no other source of income. Otherwise I for one feel

that we will be bringing the office of the President, the highest functionary in the State, into ridicule and contempt in that the retiring President, while being engaged in some other office of profit or paid job, also draws a pension of Rs. 1,250 a month. We will make the office of the President, the laughing stock not merely of our own country but of the whole world. Therefore, with a view to promoting the highest traditions, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary, in our land, I would beg of the Finance Minister and of this House to amend the Bill in such a manner that the pension would be admissible to the ex-President only when he has no other source of income or means of livelihood.

Sardar Patel observed in March 1949 in connection with the Governor-General's salary Bill that in this country sacrifice is respected more than riches. It is true that he will have to have a very decent salary so as to enable him to meet all the expenses that he has to incur as the head of the State. The retiring President is as good as a Sanyasi; he may be a *Vanaprastha* perhaps, if not a sanyasi, and we must see to it in the first place that a convention or tradition grows up in our land that the ex-President will not accept any office; his advice may be available to the Government at all times; he may be more or less a non-official adviser to the Government, if they need his services, but we must try to build up this tradition that an ex-President will not accept an office of profit under Government or be engaged in any other paid job. It is only in this circumstance that this allowance of Rs. 1,250 per month may be given to this retired functionary who is virtually a *Vanaprastha* or a Sanyasi. Otherwise, there is no reason why he should get this pension at all. While therefore I welcome the principle underlying the Bill, I want to make my position clear as regards to the unconditional grant of this pension. Pension may be of three kinds: An ordinary pension which all Government servants and officers draw; a token pension which is a sort of an expression of our gratitude or respect or regard for the services rendered by a person; a subsistence pension. Judging from the language used by the Finance Minister in his speech, what is contemplated is that a pension is to be paid in consonance with the dignity of the office and a decent standard of living. I suppose what is meant by him is not a mere subsistence pension, not just subsistence; and it is difficult to call it a token pension also. So one can only regard it as any

other ordinary pension, and therefore, it becomes all the more necessary in the case of the elected head of the Indian Union, who is in a class apart from Government officers and Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court, it is necessary to provide in this very Bill statutory restrictions and conditions as regards payment of the pension to the retiring President. I hope that even now it is not too late to incorporate certain suitable amendments to this Bill in the light of the suggestions that I have offered, and I do hope that the Finance Minister will see his way to amending the Bill suitably, so as to maintain and promote the dignity of the high office of the President of the Indian Union.

Shri Hanumanthaiya (Mysore) : Sir, you will kindly excuse me if I make a few observations in regard to the provisions of this Bill. I wholeheartedly agree that an arrangement for the payment of a kind of pension must be made to the President, because a man who manages to get elected as a President will have spent quite a number of years in public life and public life means poverty all round. So if the President has to lead a decent and dignified life after retirement, it is but right that the State should make provision for his comfortable and dignified living.

Having conceded that principle, I would like to bring it to the notice of this House that that principle has to be adhered to strictly. We grant a pension so that the retiring President may not engage himself in other activities and thus bring down the prestige of his name and office he held. Otherwise, there is no meaning in granting a pension. The very fact that the state takes upon itself the responsibility and the burden of maintaining him shows that he is not going to engage himself in other occupations either in Government service or in any other occupation. Provided he does so, the pension ought to be given, in justice, to him. If he engages himself in, say, industry or commerce or comes back to Government service in some capacity or another, it is not right that we should pay him any pension. Apart from monetary considerations, it would be very undignified on the part of the person to come back to Government service. If that principle is conceded, I fail to see how the last Governor-General can be paid any pension at all. You would kindly excuse me, Sir, as the last Governor-General happens to be here, it would be very delicate on my part to speak about it. But having seen the provision for the last Governor-General in the Bill, I am compelled to state what

according to me is a principle. When a principle is concerned, we should not hesitate to apply it to persons who-soever they may be. It looks as if this provision of payment of pension to the last Governor-General is based more on personal considerations than on principle. If the last Governor-General had kept himself out of office of any kind, I for one, having regard to the past services he has done to the country, would unhesitatingly agree to the payment of pension. When he has come back to Government service in one capacity or another, I would appeal to him personally and tell him that he has forfeited any claim to the payment of pension on that ground. He has now become the Minister in the Central Government and he draws a salary. It is said that he does not draw the pension due to him as ex-Governor-General but he will draw salary due to the Minister. This drawing of what is convenient to oneself and not drawing what is not convenient does not partake the nature of the dignity of the office one held. When I was in London last year, I happened to meet several Members of Parliament and some Ministers. Very many people expressed to me that it would not be very dignified on the part of an ex-Governor-General to come back to the Cabinet. Of course, they were not interested either this way or that. We are following the great traditions and conventions of English Parliamentary life. They gave a disinterested opinion. Not only myself, but one or two very prominent Indians, whose names are very familiar to us, heard this.

Shri Joachim Alva: We mind our business. They can mind their own. They have too much interest in us.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: If I may interrupt, Sir, is this all very relevant, because, the position is that a pension has been sanctioned to the last Governor-General under executive orders, which vest in the Government and it is not being drawn. The point of providing for it here is that it will be brought in as a charged expenditure later on if and when it is drawn. Reference to his acting as a Minister now and so on, does not seem very relevant for the restricted purpose of this Bill.

Shri Joachim Alva: May we appeal to the hon. Member not to make these undignified references to the hon. Home Minister and ex-Governor-General. We forget the fact that fat pensions are being drawn by many people, retired, in England, who still plot against India. In England, even the Leader of Opposition is paid a pension: I

[Shri Joachim Alva]

am not quite sure about this. In other countries, the Leader of Opposition is getting a salary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the point raised by the hon. Finance Minister is concerned, in view of the statement that the ex-Governor-General, who is now a Minister, is not drawing his pension and taking advantage of this pension clause which will come into operation only after he retires and after he ceases to be a Minister, I do not think it is necessary to dilate upon that any further.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: That is exactly my point. Not that I question the legality of the provision. My point is that a person who has occupied the position of Governor-General or President, should not come back to Government service in any capacity. That is the point I am making out. If there is a contingency for him to come back. . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to provide here a prohibition against the President or the Governor-General taking up any other office including even that of a Minister.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: I would go so far as that.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There is no point in his argument by reference to a particular case. If that is his case, he may express that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In general terms, it is open to an hon. Member to say that as in the case of the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission or any other Member of the Public Service Commission, there is provision that they should not accept any other office of profit under the Government or outside, a similar provision should be made in the case of the President.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: I am very thankful to you, Sir, for summarising the suggestion that I am making.

To state my case, again, I maintain, the dignity of the office of the President should be safeguarded. Once a President, he must not come back to Government service, or earn money in any other office. Otherwise, there is no meaning in passing a separate piece of legislation granting him this pension. If that principle is conceded, as I have been arguing, the person who was the last Governor-General should not come under the provisions

of this Bill. I would very much wish that the clause which refers to the last Governor-General be completely deleted. Now, why do we grant a pension? Because, he has held the office of President for the last time. The last Governor-General does not come under that category. The last office he holds is that of a Minister. He cannot retrospectively go back. . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Apart from any individual references, if the hon. Member's suggestion is that a President or ex-Governor-General, once he holds that office for even half a day or a month, if he holds any other office, during that period, he shall not have any pension, that is another matter. He can put it forward. It is open to hon. Members to say that once he holds any other office, he loses his pension even for all time. That is another matter.

Shri Santhanam: Is it also suggested that a President should not be re-elected as President?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Re-election is provided here. The hon. Member's argument will preclude a President being re-elected as a President.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: He forfeits his pension altogether.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: You will kindly see, Sir, that I am compelled to make personal references because clause 3 of the Bill makes mention of a particular individual.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Because. . . .

Shri Hanumanthaiya: We know. . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order; because, during the transition period, the previous incumbent could not be referred to as ex-President. He was not a President, he was only the Governor-General. There is already an order granting pension to the last Governor-General. Therefore, there is no need to make any particular reference to the erstwhile incumbent. There is no objection to stating a general principle without referring to any particular individual.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: My appeal to this House is that we should not take an instance and make a law on it. I would therefore respectfully urge that clause 3 of the Bill be deleted altogether. Because, as I said, the last office held should be taken into consideration, and not any office held previously, whichever is convenient to the individual. If the last office that a person holds is that of a Minister in the Central Government, whatever

privileges and emoluments are attached to that office, let them by all means be given to him; I am one with that and I wholeheartedly support that view. But, as I said, to take advantage of whatever position one held previously to the last position and carve out a principle out of it is bad in principle. I agree with my hon. friend Mr. Kamath that in paying a pension, the amount must be the highest in keeping with the dignity of that great office for which you are making a provision.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (West Bengal): I think there is general agreement that there should be some provision for pension for an ex-President; but the main question is whether. . . .

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): I do not think there is a general agreement.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The question is whether it should be conditional or unconditional. That also is an important matter which concerns not only the dignity of the person who may occupy the post of the President, but also the dignity of the entire country. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the different criticisms which have been made on this Bill and try to evolve a formula which will meet the Government's case as also the point of view of the critics of the Bill.

I am not quite familiar with the history of the pensions system in the East India Company. I believe somewhere Lord Macaulay wrote that the pension system came into existence when ex-servants of the East India Company, after retirement, started to sweep the streets in order to attract attention to their claims. They were in such a helpless condition that they could not maintain themselves. That is how the proposal to adopt a pension system came to be seriously considered by the East India Company. Obviously, it is nobody's intention that we should have any ex-servant of the Government who, after retirement, should be thrown into such a predicament. Here, only one condition has been imposed. That is, if the President is re-elected to that office, then, no pension shall be payable to him for the period during which he may again hold the office of President. The Finance Minister in his speech indicated the main object of his proposal. It was not a reward for the service which the President might have rendered to the country before his election to the great office; it is not even as a reward for work done as President either for a full term or

for a shorter period. But, it is to enable him to maintain on retirement a proper standard of living which will be appropriate to the dignity of the office which he had held.

These are the words which the Finance Minister rightly used. If that is so, then he could include in this very Bill certain conditions regarding the future behaviour of an ex-President which may protect the dignity of the high office which he has held. Suppose an ex-President accepts service under the State or under some private employer—that also is possible. Or suppose he starts doing some trade or business. Is it the intention of the House or the Government that such a practice should be allowed? Let us examine this matter irrespective of any individual at all. We are not thinking in terms of the last Governor-General or of the present distinguished President. But if the State decides to give a pension, then automatically it follows that the gentleman who will draw the pension will not resort to certain practices which might have been open to him had he been an ordinary private individual. There is no harm at all in making a suitable amendment now and making the position quite clear that the pension will be payable only under certain circumstances, namely, where the person does not hold any office under the Government to which a salary is attached or any salaried employment elsewhere or he does not carry on any trade or business. I am not actually suggesting what the wording should be; but this is the general object which we have in view. There are two ways of looking at it. Either you may say if any of these contingencies happens, then the pension shall not be paid. Or you may debar the ex-President from doing any of these things. There are thus two ways of looking at it. Of course, so far as the second alternative is concerned, namely, that of debarring the person from doing certain things, that will bring you within the purview of the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution and the Supreme Court may come down upon the Government. But there may also be other approaches to the problem. If an ex-President decides to stand for election and if he becomes the Prime Minister, or even a Minister, if he decides to follow such a course of action, then obviously the pension does not become payable. Pension is paid only to enable the ex-President who goes into retirement after he has ceased to be President to lead a decent life so that the great dignity of the office which he held may not be impaired. That is a vital question of principle on which there should not

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

be any difference between the Government and ourselves. We may be able to find some formula which is acceptable to all.

There is another danger. If we from Parliament provide for this procedure, the State Legislatures may make similar provisions for their Governors. I do not know if under the Constitution they will be debarred from doing so. Suppose the demand is made that all the ex-Governors also should get some sort of pension so as to enable them to live a dignified life in their own States, then, what happens? We do not want the ex-Governors to be going about with begging bowls in their hands asking for charity or jobs from people who can give them such jobs.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh) : What about ex-Ministers?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I would rather not say anything with regard to ex-Ministers. But as I said, there may be such possibility in regard to Governors. I do not wish to say anything with regard to the ex-Governor-General and I do not quite appreciate the remarks of the previous speaker. Although the law permitted him to draw pension, he has observed the spirit of the provisions of the Bill and has very generously not drawn the pension. Rather than criticising his conduct, we should congratulate him, in as much as he has acted in a manner which was quite worthy of him and of the office which he has been called upon to hold. It is not his responsibility that he has become a Minister. The Prime Minister asked him to take up the responsibility and he has accepted it. Let us leave alone all personalities and let us look at the principle. I do not think the public will appreciate this sort of unconditional provision of pension to an ex-President, although he may accept employment under the Government or some private employer or carry on private business, trade or industry. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will look into this matter and in his usual way be able to find some formula which will be generally acceptable to all.

Shri Mallayya (Madras): Sir, the question be now put.

Shri Kamath rose —

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. When the motion is made that the question be now put, I am bound to put the question.

The questions is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I must confess some disappointment that the Bill in the form in which it has been presented has not commended itself to all parts of the House without any exception. I realise the difficulties which some Members have felt in considering the matter; but it all depends on one's basic assumptions. One can imagine all kinds of contingencies and try to provide against them in a law. And that is obviously the soundest practice with regard to ordinary pieces of legislation. One has to foresee all kinds of snags and pitfalls and to provide against them. But I should have thought that in a matter like this where the question is what provision should be made to enable the ex-head of the State, such a unique individual, to live in a style appropriate to his dignity, when such a question is concerned, I should have thought that there was hardly any scope for any kind of unfavourable assumptions. The very fact that one tries to make a provision shows that one thinks that it is possible in the case of the head of the State to follow a certain course of action. I would like hon. Members to consider what effect that would have on the public. I think it is much better to hold on to the assumption that any head of the State that we have elected or we may elect in the future would be such that he would not attempt to do the kind of things which appear undignified and not consistent with the honour and dignity of the country.

I shall now come to the individual points raised by various Members.

Shri Lakshmanan (Travancore-Cochin): If that is so, there would be no provision in the Constitution for any impeachment.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Well, exceptional cases will have to be provided for and then they are provided for explicitly. But we are here considering a case where there will be no impeachment. We are considering the case of the head of the State who is other than a person who has exposed himself to impeachment.

Mr. Sidhva referred to the wording of the Bill and he disliked the word "pension" and wanted to know if any other word could be used instead. I have referred to dictionaries in the meanwhile and have also given some thought to it while listening to other

Members. I have come to the conclusion that we cannot improve on the word "pension" because pension refers to past services. It is some kind of provision against a past service, that is, after retirement. That is essentially the meaning. There are a few other words like gratuity and so on, which are obviously inappropriate. Honorarium is the particular word which he has suggested. But that is something paid voluntarily for services rendered and generally speaking, not a recurring payment and neither is it intended to be an adequate remuneration for services rendered. It is more often a token of appreciation. Therefore, we shall get away from the main idea of this payment. The only other word that was suggested, or rather form of words was "supplementary allowance" in connection with which, apart from its sound, there are various other difficulties which I shall try to point out when I come to Mr. Kamath's speech. There is an idea in that word "supplementary" which I will have to discuss when I come to the hon. Member's speech.

12 NOON

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): It would be like supplementary food.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: A certain amount of restraint is required in discussing this subject. That is why I do not wish to indulge in anything but a serious reference to the matter.

Mr. Sidhva, although he agreed with the purpose of the Bill, referred to the fact that there was no provision for pension in other countries and that is a point to which other Members have also referred. That point has been, I think, effectively answered by Prof. Shah and one or two other speakers. The essential point is that conditions are not comparable here to the conditions in other countries.

Shri Sidhva: I wanted to make a distinction between service pension and the pension of a person of high status.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I shall again come to that while dealing with amendments. My point is that this is not a pension which is comparable to service pensions because the Government are not agreeable to imposing the sort of conditions which we do impose on ordinary pensions. The fact that I express myself as being unable to accept most of the amendments of which notice has been given would show that the Government regard this as totally not comparable with service pensions. In regard to other

pensions, conditions such as the pension shall not be drawn when the recipient holds an office of profit, etc., are usually attached to service pensions. Indeed it is a part of the Civil Service Regulations that the total remuneration of a pensioner has to include his pension which he is entitled to draw. He comes on the scale of pay for the new post but that scale of pay has to include the amount of his pension. Many of the suggestions made are very suspiciously like those conditions and that is the very reason why I intend to oppose those amendments when they are moved.

I am one with Mr. Sidhva in holding that this pension should not be regarded as comparable to ordinary service pensions. Indeed we must not construe the word 'pension' in that sense. But, as I said, I am not sure that there is any other word which will be preferable to this.

Coming back to the point which I was developing (*Interruption*). I am losing the thread of my speech because of the interruptions.

As I said, conditions in this country are not comparable to those which exist in other countries. We are a country of poor people and we hope that many of the Presidents, whom we shall choose, will be men whose only wealth will be the wealth of a disinterested service to the country. It is in that context that we have to consider the present Bill.

Now I come to the few difficulties felt by Mr. Chaudhuri. He again referred to the same point that there was no need for pension and, as I say, this is a country where the motto "simple living and high thinking" originated and therefore there is a chance of our being able to obtain as President men who have distinguished themselves singularly in the service of the nation.

He asked whether pensions were revocable. So far as the legislature is concerned, the legislature which grants a pension may amend the law if the circumstances demand and revoke the pension. In other circumstances if you do make a law, it is not open to the executive Government to revoke the pension. There again it all depends on how imaginative we are in conceiving of unpleasant or fearsome possibilities which should induce Government to think of revoking a pension. My basic assumption is that until the contrary is proved such possibilities will not arise.

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

He asked whether the ordinary rules will apply for drawing this pension. Where high-placed personages or officers draw their pensions they usually sign a pension Bill. There is no detailed proof or a life certificate involved. The very fact that the drawer of the pension signs the pension bill is enough and I cannot imagine any kind of indignity being involved in the procedure for drawing a pension. I can assure the hon. Member from personal experience that there is no difficulty in drawing pensions.

Shri Tyagi: Why do you not draw it then?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Or you can authorise, as my hon. colleague Shri Gopaldaswami points out, the banker to draw it. It is all as simple as that.

The point about his being a Leader of Opposition has been well answered by Prof. Shah. I entirely agree with him. It is as much as saying that if he sides with us we will pay him a pension but if he does not we shall not pay him a pension. I think that would be most unfair.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Both the hon. Finance Minister and Prof. Shah should be congratulated upon their agreement. . . .

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Once in their lifetime.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am always prepared to agree with any rational argument brought forward. I take no side except with reason.

Prof. Shah raised the point about the pension not being adequate, whereas some other Members, specially Mr. Kamath, complained that it was larger than might be necessary in certain circumstances. It is very difficult to find the golden mean in matters of this kind. And that brings me to the next question as to what are the criteria which influence us in determining this particular figure.

All I can say is that we found it lay in the range of pensions that are drawn by others who have held high offices, not necessarily political. That was in a vague sort of way at the back of our mind. I am sure none of us indulged in any arithmetical exercise in trying to find out whether this particular figure was in excess of any pension drawn by anybody. There are complicated rules about special additional pensions for special services, both on the civil side as well as military side. The judges have their special rules. It looked to us, considering all possible figures that

Rs. 15,000 per annum subject to tax was a very reasonable figure. I rather anticipate the discussion, and that might perhaps save time, and I would say that we have a basic objection to making salaries or offices free of income-tax. Therefore we have preferred to put the figure as a gross figure subject to income-tax and that has reference to the amendment which Mr. Kamath has given notice of, namely, that the figure should be Rs. 12,000 subject to tax. Actually there is not very much difference in it. The net pension after deduction of income-tax will be Rs. 13,860 which gives a rate of about Rs. 1,140 per month net, while on Mr. Kamath's formula it will be Rs. 1,000. I should imagine that the difference is not so great as not to be bridged, given goodwill and so on. I do not think there need be a quarrel on this particular figure.

Now, I come to the other point raised by Mr. Kamath and that was really a difficult point. He thought that we should make some provision for payment of a supplementary allowance in the light of such means of sustenance as are available to the President from time to time. I do not know whether he has tried to work out the implications of this formula.

Shri Kamath: It was Mr. Mashruwala's suggestion, not mine.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not give the hon. Member original credit for it. I know that it belongs to Mr. Mashruwala.

Shri Kamath: Nor do I claim any credit.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Anyhow, since the hon. Member has adopted it, I thought that he might have given some thought to it. I am myself frightened of the possibilities if we follow this suggestion. Imagine the occasions on which one would have to review this matter, if he were to review from time to time whether the means of sustenance available to a particular individual, or may be two or three individuals, are sufficient to enable Government to give the pension. Then, there may be people who might send wrong reports that they hear that X, Y or Z is carrying on kind of business in which the profit made is so much and then there might be investigations. Obviously, if there is a provision to assess the means of sustenance then there would necessarily have to be investigations. But it seems to me that far from our provision being derogatory to the dignity of the high office, it is a provision like the one that the hon. Member has

suggested that would be derogatory to the dignity of the office. On practical grounds, therefore, I have no hesitation in rejecting my hon. friend's amendment altogether.

Shri Kamath: I am also not pressing it.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I would suggest to hon. Members that they should remind themselves that there will be such few cases of this kind that we can afford to take risks, as I said, on our basic assumptions in this matter till we prove ourselves unworthy—so to speak—or till the contrary is proved. I myself feel a great deal of confidence that we shall be fortunate in finding individuals whose subsequent behaviour will not compel any reconsideration of the measure—very simple in form—which I am commending to the House.

Then, Sir, there was some reference to Mr. Kamath's speech about the ex-President becoming a laughing stock if pension is drawn and if he follows some other vocation. That argument I find it very difficult to follow, because if there is anything open to objection, according to me at any rate, it is the following of the other vocation and not the drawing of the pension. The drawing of the pension by itself cannot make for an incident which would cause derision in the minds of the people. To what extent the ex-President should follow vocations; what kinds of vocations he should follow; what posts he should accept; what posts he should not accept—these are matters which I feel it is impossible to define in a Bill of this kind, especially as one has to make a distinction between the private sector and the public sector, and so far as the essence of the matter is concerned I cannot say that you can make any distinction. We might, if one's worst fears were to be realised, envisage that the ex-President might engage himself in an unworthy pursuit or some private business. I think the whole matter is so complex that the House would be well advised to leave that alone at this stage. In any case, the withholding of pension will not be a remedy against that kind of contingency.

That brings me to the speech of Shri Hanumanthaiya, which almost pained me. I have explained the position in the course of my interjection during his speech and that is that the object of this clause 3 is merely to enable the last Governor-General's pension to be brought within the purview of clauses 2 and 4, that is to say, the amount is fixed by clause 2 and it is

charged to the Consolidated Fund of India under clause 4. So, whenever that pension is drawn it will be of that amount and will be charged to the Consolidated Fund of India. I do not propose to make any observations as to whether an ex-President should or should not accept even the post of a Minister. I should imagine that circumstances would arise—without particular reference to any individual case—in the future where the true interests of the country may require that the high personage who has been President should be called upon to shoulder the burden of participating in the governance of the country. He may be Prime Minister. I do not know. It is very difficult to imagine, but I would not at this stage rule out such a possibility if the interests of the country demand such a course of action.

Then, Dr. Mookerjee made a plea that I should try and import the thoughts that have been expressed to the contrary. I have, I hope, convinced at least most of the hon. Members in this House on the merits that it is really unnecessary to encumber the Bill with provisions intended to forestall unpleasant contingencies. I think that this was the only point he made. I have already pointed out that whether you withhold a pension or you grant it, it cannot prevent these contingencies occurring, if you assume that they are going to occur.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the payment of pensions to retiring Presidents, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.— (*Pension to retiring Presidents.*)

Prof. K. T. Shah: I beg to move:

(i) In clause 2, after "Office occurring in line three, insert "or by physical disability, or incapacity."

(ii) After the existing proviso to clause 2, add new proviso:

"Provided further that when any such President accepts any paid post, office or appointment under the Government of India, or under any State in India, or in any foreign country under any foreign Government, or if he is engaged in any trade, business or profession, no such pension shall be payable or paid, to any such person who has, for any reason, ceased to hold office, during the period that he

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

has accepted and is engaged in any appointment, post or office mentioned in this proviso, or is engaged in any trade, business or profession."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think the hon. Member has already spoken on it; I shall put it to the House.

Prof. K. T. Shah: I have spoken on the general discussion, not on this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that an elaborate discussion has taken place and the hon. Minister has replied *in extenso*. Is it necessary once again to dilate upon it?

Prof. K. T. Shah: So far as my first amendment is concerned, I have spoken on it. But second contains many things which need to be explained, unless you take it that the House need not hear my arguments. I am quite willing not to speak on the first, whatever its fate may be by votes. But second, I think, requires some explanation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has this not been fully covered during the discussion? Am I to allow a repetition of what has already been said? I do not think it is necessary to go into this matter unless any fresh points arise for consideration.

Shrimati Durgabai: The hon. the Finance Minister has already stated that he is unable to accept this amendment.

Prof. K. T. Shah: As I said, I have not explained the purport of my second amendment. The points I made in my speech were: that a pension is desirable and necessary; second, that it should be adequate, which this amount is not; third that the pension should be paid, in the event of his not merely resigning his office, but also of his suffering from physical and other disabilities. The fourth point I made was that there are precedents, though not too many, and that the amount is not enough in view of the level of prices and also the dignity of the office. But all those points which are in this amendment, with all respect I submit, were not dealt with by me in my speech on that occasion; and I deliberately reserved them for a subsequent occasion. On the point about professional business I referred only to the amendment I moved during the Constitution debate. And it is a very strange doctrine, Sir, that because the Finance Minister has declined to accept an amendment, therefore

the House should not have the benefit of the mover's views in respect thereof.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not proceeding on that at all. Let me make myself clear. I have not disallowed the making of this motion, either with respect to his first amendment or with respect to his second one. They are quite in order. It is only at this stage that these amendments can be moved. But so far as speeches in respect of these amendments are concerned, are the very same matters which have already been discussed at the earlier stage to be placed before the House once again? Is it not open to me to say that the same matter has already been covered and set out on the one side and answered on the other and therefore it is unnecessary to take up the time of the House once again into a discussion of those matters?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: On a point of procedure, Sir. So far we have been considering the principles of the Bill, and the practice has been that when the amendments are moved the Members who move the amendments give their reasons also. At the same time the ruling is quite salutary that when the Member has already given some reasons then he ought to be brief, or if he has given brief reasons then this is the occasion when he can dilate on them. But to shut out a Member from speaking on his amendment will not, I humbly beg to submit, be correct, because all the reasons in respect of the amendment may not have been debated fully on the motion for consideration; and this is the occasion when all the reasons may be given.

Shri Kamath: It is only after hearing him that you can know whether he has fresh arguments to advance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have heard. And I have been allowing so much overlapping only for this reason. Otherwise I would have pulled up Members even at the earlier stage. I thought once for all they have referred to the various matters they had in mind, and about the manner in which they want the Bill to be modified. Otherwise we are unnecessarily taking away the time of the House by entering into the same arguments once again. If there are new arguments I have no objection.

Prof. K. T. Shah: With all respect may I submit that when, for instance, a Bill is referred to Select Committee the Members recommended for the Select Committee are not given the

first preference to speak on the ground that they would have an opportunity there? If you now wish to say that that convention should be further elaborated, or a new one established that all those who have given notice of amendments should not participate in the general discussion, I would abide by that convention.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not my point. My point is if hon. Members have referred to the subject matter of the amendments they have tabled on individual clauses, and thought it necessary to refer to them, I do not want to allow them to repeat once again the arguments already advanced at the earlier stage.

Prof. K. T. Shah: I deliberately refrained from dealing with the points mentioned here in my general speech. The first speech only dealt with the general principle of the Bill; and these particular items which are particularised here were not dealt with by me and no arguments were advanced by me with respect to them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me wait and hear what the hon. Member has to say.

Prof. K. T. Shah: If I repeat myself you can certainly call me to order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, he may go on.

Prof. K. T. Shah: I shall only deal with my second amendment. And that provides that the pension should not be payable, and should not be paid, if the President or the person who has been President accepts any office under the Union or in any State or in any foreign country—whatever the salaries and other things may be. I think, in principle at any rate, this is accepted generally, that a person cannot combine, along with his salary or whatever emoluments he may be getting in the new office that he accepts, also his pension. And if you want to make this Pension as something unique in the case of an ex-President, then it is of the utmost importance that this amendment should be considered, at least in that portion that he should accept no other profession or office of profit. If he does, then, during the period he holds the office, no pension should be payable to him. This is also accepted under the Civil Service Rules. You may regard this as outside Civil Service Regulations. Then it does not matter. Take the case of the Lord High Chancellor of England. He gets pay as one of the highest judges in England at the rate of £6,000 per annum and he

gets an additional sum, namely £4,000 for being the President of the Upper Chamber in England. If he ceases to be that, he does not get that salary which he has as President of the House of Lords. But he does continue to receive an allowance of £4,000 per annum as a Judge of the High Court. Even though he may be actually receiving it either as pension on having presided over the House of Lords, or as a judge, he may assist the House of Lords during the judicial proceedings of that tribunal. So I want to make it clear that a person who has been the President should not accept any office under Government in India; and if he does, the pension should not be paid.

That disqualifying office may be not only under the Union, but it may be in a State Government, or a State-aided corporation, or in a foreign country, or even under a foreign Government, because the moment he accepts an office under a foreign Government, we should not be obliged to pay his pension. There used to be a practice by which the retired civil servants of the Government of India, or any State Government, used to accept directorships and other offices of high profit in England which the Government was unable to stop. When I put a question in this House on this subject in this session, the Home Minister was pleased to say that we cannot prevent a retired public servant from accepting any private employment. I suggest that, in the case at least of a person who has been the President of this country, it would be the desired thing if no office is accepted; but if he does accept an office, our only sanction is we withhold the pension.

That is so far as a salaried office is concerned in India, or in any State in India or outside India. I next come to a larger question, namely, engaging in trade or profession or business in this country, or anywhere else. This is not exactly on a par with the point I made earlier, as regards accepting a paid office under Government or under a State. This is a larger issue, and unique in my opinion with regard to the President's pension. A person who has been a President, should not be compelled to go seeking a new source of income. That is why I agree to the pension; otherwise, I really do not see why we should give a pension. He should not be obliged by sheer necessity to be engaged in any trade, business, or profession. Even engaging in a profession would, in my opinion, not be in consonance with the dignity of the office he has held. Take an analogy.

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

The Constitution itself says, I think, that, in the case of High Court Judges or Supreme Court Judges, on retirement they shall not practise in their own court. The ex-President having been the head of the whole Union, in his case, in my opinion, at any rate, such restriction should not be confined only to holding Government service or post under Government; it should extend everywhere and anywhere where there may be the least chance of some loss of dignity by his accepting office or employment, or engaging in business, or be open to temptations to undesirable courses of action, which I at least would desire the person who has been the President should be spared.

It is for that reason that I enjoin only one sanction, and that is the only one we can have, viz., the stoppage of the pension. I am not prohibiting absolutely that a person who has been the President shall be disqualified from going into trade, business or profession. That is not my purpose. My purpose simply is: that if he does so, he does it by sacrificing his pension. I do not want to be misunderstood. I should certainly not desire that the President should go into business, trade, or profession. If he does, we cannot prevent him I realise, by a legal provision. We are only using the one sanction that we have, namely, we withhold his pension. This, Sir...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Suspending the pension during that period.

Prof. K. T. Shah: That is all. This is a point which I had not made during the original debate. I hope you would not have found any repetition and I commend my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendments moved:

(i) In clause 2, after "office" occurring in line three, insert "or by physical disability, or incapacity".

(ii) After the existing proviso to clause 2, add new proviso:

"Provided further that when any such President accepts any paid post, office or appointment under the Government of India, or under any State in India, or in any foreign country under any foreign Government, or if he is engaged in any trade, business or profession, no such pension shall be payable or paid, to any such person who has, for any reason, ceased to hold office, during the period that he has accepted and

is engaged in any appointment, post or office mentioned in this proviso, or is engaged in any trade, business or profession".

Shri Kamath: Are you disposing of the amendments one by one?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. Both the amendments may be answered together.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Mr. Kamath's amendment is of the same nature.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall come to it later.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: So far as the first amendment is concerned, I do not think these words are necessary because if he is physically disabled or if he is incapacitated, then, one may assume that he will resign and therefore it will be covered by the words retirement or resignation. I do not see the hon. Member's difficulty. I think that that situation will be taken care of. Therefore, I do not accept this amendment.

So far as the second amendment is concerned, I have already made certain observations. I would just like the House to consider what foreign countries would think if we made a provision against an ex-President taking service in a foreign country. I should say that such a contingency is absolutely unthinkable.

Prof. K. T. Shah: On a point of explanation, Sir, I am not saying that we should not allow him to accept service in any foreign country. All I say is that the pension should not be paid during that period.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I say such a contingency should not be thought of. I do not think the hon. Member has caught my point. It is such a fearsome contingency that I do not think it will ever happen. We should be subjecting ourselves to ridicule if we were to make a provision against such a contingency.

Prof. K. T. Shah: As regards the contingency happening, there is the case of President Hoover, who accepted the responsibility of distributing food to the distressed countries, from the League of Nations. Such things do happen.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: League of Nations was not another Government.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am only referring to the words used by the hon. Member: foreign country or State. It is not necessary for us to provide against any such contingency.

The idea seems to be running in his mind that somehow by doing this, we shall be achieving what we should have achieved by adding a direct prohibition in the Constitution itself. Since that cannot be done, he is thinking of this. I must characterise it as a petty way of trying to ensure that the ex-President does not behave in a particular manner. I say, again, that it is not necessary to imagine that it would happen. If it were to happen, then, a mere withholding of sanction would not obviate such a course of things. Therefore, this is a small indirect way of trying to meet his major objective which cannot now be achieved by any amendment of the Bill. I think that if this contingency is to be avoided, it can only be done in two ways. One is the amount of pension, which, as I have already stated, is reasonable enough to enable a person of simple tastes to live a life of dignity; secondly, it must be left to his own sense of fitness of things. It is that on which I rely principally and therefore, I oppose these amendments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

(i) In clause 2, after "office" occurring in line three, insert "or by physical disability, or incapacity".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

(ii) After the existing proviso to clause 2, add new proviso:

"Provided further that when any such President accepts any paid post, office or appointment under the Government of India, or under any State in India, or in any foreign country under any foreign Government, or if he is engaged in any trade, business or profession, no such pension shall be payable or paid, to any such person who has, for any reason, ceased to hold office, during the period that he has accepted and is engaged in any appointment, post or office mentioned in this proviso, or is engaged in any trade, business or profession."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then amendment No. 26 of Shri Kamath, I am afraid, is barred. So far as the first proviso is concerned, saying that no pension shall be paid to a person if he has been removed from office, such payment is not contemplated at all. It is only a question of resignation

Shri Kamath: But the Finance Minister did not make the position clear.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He did. Unless there is provision in the Statute enabling the payment of a pension, no one is automatically entitled to draw any pension. If it is on expiry of office or resignation, then pension can be paid; there is no question of dismissal or impeachment. And Mr. Kamath's second proviso also has been covered.

Shri Kamath: Does "paid employment" come under "profession"?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, profession is a comprehensive term. Employment, trade, business and profession all come under that.

Shri Kamath: What about employment in a commercial firm, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, that also comes in. The person may be a clerk or the manager or something else. Well, there is no good pursuing this matter. I am quite clear in my mind that this is all covered by the previous amendment which has been negatived by the House.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Sir, so far as part (ii) of Mr. Kamath's amendment is concerned, it is of much smaller import and just because we have rejected an amendment of a much wider import—I mean the one moved by Prof. Shah—that is no argument that we should reject the amendment of a smaller import also. Not that I am in favour of this particular amendment, I would like to submit that for the simple reason that we have rejected Prof. Shah's amendment we need not rule this amendment of Mr. Kamath as out of order. We can refuse an amendment of wider import and at the same time accept the amendment of a smaller import.

Shri Kamath: Because the wide and sweeping amendment of Prof. Shah has been rejected, it does not follow that no other amendment even of a restricted nature can come in.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So the hon. Member is willing to allow the person to engage himself in trade or business and still take pension?

Shri Kamath: No, Sir, that is not the point.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Because he is not moving the alternative one it does not arise.

Shri Kamath: Not the alternative, but the second proviso.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment No. 31 is only a definition of office of profit. What the hon. Member wants to move is the proviso, not the alternative. Amendment No. 31 relates only to the alternative one, where the words "office of profit" occur.

Shri Kamath: - It is there in part (ii) of amendment No. 26 also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may move it.

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

After the existing proviso to clause 2, add new proviso:

"Provided further that no pension shall be payable to such person, if he holds an office of profit under the Government of India, or the Government of any State, or if he engages in any other paid employment."

Payment of pension will be barred to an ex-President in such cases where he holds an office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of a State or when he engages in any paid employment. It is not necessary for me to dilate upon it. I will content myself with saying that the Finance Minister when he moved for consideration of the Bill and in the debate too made it clear that either the dignity of the office which the ex-President has held demands that a pension be paid to him or to enable him to maintain a comfortable or decent standard of living. If he holds an office of profit under the Government or engages in any other paid employment it is obvious that he does not need any more allowance, salary or pension for maintaining a comfortable or decent standard of living.

As regards the dignity of the office, I am in agreement with the Finance Minister that if the ex-President behaves in a way other than the Finance Minister and the House wish him to do, by engaging in any other job or taking up any other appointment, that itself more or less amounts to an act on his part, such an act that he will largely forfeit the dignity of the high office he has held. I am sure the Finance Minister does not subscribe to the cynical observation of the Sanskrit poet:

Sarve gunah kanchanamashrayante

It is not necessary that all the virtues or qualities that we want to repose or expect in an ex-President

must be dependent upon the little pension (*kanchana*) we may give to him, or vouchsafe to him. I expect that the hope entertained by the Finance Minister that the President will not behave except in a particular way will be fulfilled. It is always difficult to judge how human beings will behave but we all hope with the Finance Minister that he will act in a particular way. But there are cases which have already happened, for instance the acceptance of a Minister's post by the ex-Governor-General. It came to us as a surprise, though a pleasant one and we welcomed him here in our midst. One can therefore be never sure how a retired President will behave under particular circumstances. It is obviously an essential principle that during the period that he holds an office of profit this pension will not be admissible to him.

Clause 2 makes it clear that the pension would be paid to him if he resigns his office. It is not quite clear as to whether he will get it only when he resigns after a full term or whether he will get it even when he resigns after say, six months, four months, or even fifteen days of office. It only says that if he resigns his office, he will get pension, just the same amount as a President who has served the full term will get. In the case of Government servants there is what is called proportionate pension and even in the case of the French President, who is the only exception to the salutary rule of the elected head of a State not being entitled to a pension, he gets only a proportionate pension depending upon the term he has served as President of the French Republic. In this Bill, however, there is attached no such condition as the length of the term of office. Nor has it been laid down as to what are the circumstances under which he is entitled to draw a pension. Nor do we find any provision where it is said that the pension would be admissible to the ex-President only where he does not engage in any paid employment or office of profit. The Finance Minister is perhaps inclined to live in a little idealistic world of his own, coloured by poetic imagery, and expects that all human beings will behave as he hopes, and will all be men of sterling integrity and character and will be above human temptations. I certainly welcome this hope, and I also look forward to that day when human beings will be of that calibre. But for the present, in the imperfect world as it is today, we have got to foresee all contingencies and we have got to provide for them. The Finance Minister is also not averse to foreseeing contingencies, but he only hopes that these things will

not happen, but if they do happen, what then? He will not be here to tell us what to do. It is therefore necessary that there should be provision in this Bill saying that this pension will not be an unconditional grant to a retiring President or ex-President. I therefore hope that my two amendments would commend themselves to the House, because when an ex-President accepts a paid job or takes up an office of profit, the *raison d'être* for the grant of pension in consideration of the dignity of his high office and of the standard of living he should conform to disappears and once the *raison d'être* is not there, there is no need to pay or continue to pay that pension to the ex-President.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have no new argument. I am unable to accept the amendment.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar): Has the hon. Minister said anything about this idea of proportionate pension?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not think that proportionate pension is mentioned at all in the amendment which has been moved by the hon. Member.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

After the existing proviso to clause 2, add new proviso:

"Provided further that no pension shall be payable to such person, if he holds an office of profit under the Government of India, or the Government of any State, or if he engages in any other paid employment."

The motion was negatived.

* **Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1.—(Short title)

Amendment made:

In clause 1, for "1950" substitute "1951".

—[*Shri C. D. Deshmukh*]

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HYDERABAD PUBLIC COMPANIES (LIMITATION OF DIVIDENDS) REPEALING BILL.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the public Companies (Limitation of Dividends) Regulation, 1358F of Hyderabad, be taken into consideration."

The Statement of Objects and Reasons is self-explanatory and I need not make any observation in support of my motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Public Companies (Limitation of Dividends) Regulation, 1358F of Hyderabad, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1. (Short title and commencement.)

Amendment made:

In sub-clause (1) of clause 1, for "1950" substitute "1951".

—[*Shri C. D. Deshmukh*]

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

FINANCE COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to determine the qualifications requisite for appointment as members of the Finance

Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected, and to prescribe their powers, be taken into consideration."

The House then adjourned till Half Past Eight of the Clock on Friday, the 4th May, 1951.