

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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(2nd April to 16th May, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

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CORRIGENDA

In the Parliamentary Debates (Part I—Questions and Answers) Third Session of Parliament (Second Part), 1951,—

In Volume VII—

1. No. 1, dated the 2nd April, 1951,—

(i) कालम २७८२, पंक्ति ३, “हम” के स्थान पर “इस” पढ़ें ।

(ii) - کالم ۲۷۸۳ نہجے سے سطر ۸ میں ”بھی“ کے بجائے ”اسی“ پڑھیں۔

(iii) Col. 2807, line 30 for “Archaeological” read “archaeological” and line 5 from bottom for “Ttransport” read “Transport”.

2. No. 7, dated the 10th April, 1951,—

(i) कालम ३०३२, नीचे से पंक्ति ४ “बगैहर” के स्थान पर “बगैरह” पढ़ें ।

(ii) Col. 3055, lines 16 and 17 for the word “Consituation” read “Constitution”.

3. No. 8, dated the 11th April, 1951,—

कालम ३१२५, नीचे से पंक्ति ९ “यागिज्य” के स्थान पर “वाधिज्य” पढ़ें ।

4. No. 11, dated the 16th April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3230, line 27 from bottom for “ment” read “meant”.

(ii) Col. 3244, line 23 insert “of” after the words “abolition of any”.

(iii) कालम ३२५१, नीचे से पंक्ति २ “श्री जागडे” के स्थान पर “श्री जापडे” पढ़ें ।

(iv) Col. 3254, line 14 for “yards” read “years”.

5. No. 12, dated the 17th April, 1951,—

Col. 3267, line 24 for “clerllago” read “clerkage”.

6. No. 13, dated the 18th April, 1951,—

(i) Cols. 3301 & 3302, lines 22 from bottom and 24 respectively for the words “statu- tary” and “statutory” read “statuary”.

(ii) Col. 3330, line 21 for “landing ” read “landed”.

(iii) Col. 3340, lines 16 and 18 for “manzas” read “mouzas”.

7. No. 15, dated the 20th April, 1951,—

Col. 3402, line 2 from bottom for “Cureh” read “Church”.

8. No. 16, dated the 21st April, 1951,—

Col. 3447, for the existing line 24 substitute “ship Scholarship ; and ”

9. No. 17, dated the 23rd April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3478, line 27 from bottom for “so” read “of”.

(ii) Col. 3491, between lines 4 and 5 from bottom insert new line “and (iii) Raw materials during the period October 1950 to February”.

10. No. 19, dated the 25th April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3548, for the existing line 20 from bottom substitute “satisfaction of Members. It is the”.

(ii) Col. 3556 for the existing line 1 from bottom substitute “Indian Rupee or Sterling ?” and for line 26 from bottom substitute “meet for the first session. Accord”

- کالم ۳۵۱۳ نہجے سے سطر ۱۱ و سطر ۲۶ کے بجائے ”د طور پر“ پڑھیں۔

11. No. 20, dated the 26th April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3621, line 7 from bottom for the figures “1,420” read “41,420”.

(ii) Col. 3626, line 1 for “condeming” read “condemning”.

12. No. 22, dated the 28th April, 1951,—

Col. 3687, line 26 for “complete” read “compete”.

13. No. 26, dated the 3rd May 1951,—

Col. 3881 for the existing line 17 from bottom *substitute* "and Supply (Shri Gadgil):(a) 105".

14. No. 27, dated the 4th May, 1951,—

Col. 3925, line 25 from bottom for "fireman" read "firman".

15. No. 30, dated the 8th May 1951,—

(i) Col. 4041, for the existing line 15 from bottom *substitute* "(c) No, as none is considered neces-".

(ii) Col. 4042, line 31 *insert* "such" before the word "circums-".

16. No. 31, dated the 9th May, 1951,—

Col. 4087, line 21 for "Rama" read "Rana".

17. No. 32, dated the 10th May, 1951,—

(i) Col. 4124, line 20 from bottom for "member" read "number".

(ii) Col. 4129, line 21 for the words "having come" read "coming out of", lines 6 & 8 from bottom for the figure "1.4.51" read "15.4.51", and for "15.4.51" read "1.4.51" respectively.

- (iii) कालम ४१३३, पंक्ति १२ "नियम" के स्थान पर "नियंत्रणों" पढ़ें ।

18. No. 33, dated the 11th May, 1951,—

(i) Col. 4150, line 10 from bottom for "of" read "to".

(ii) Col. 4161, line 17 for the figure "85" read "185".

(iii) Col. 4162, line 24 for "in view of" read "in lieu of".

19. No. 36, dated the 15th May, 1951,—

(i) Col. 4270, line 30 for "pait-mixture" read "paint-mixture"

(ii) कालम ४२८८, पंक्ति २८, "*२९५" के स्थान पर "२९५" पढ़ें ।

(iii) कालम ४२८९, नीचे से पंक्ति १९, "बद्य" के स्थान पर "लाद्य" पढ़ें ।

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

The-Speaker

The Honourable Shri G. V. Mavalankar.

The Deputy-Speaker

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Panel of Chairmen

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

Shrimati G. Durgabai.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka.

Sardar Hukam Singh.

Shri Manilal Chaturbhai Shah.

Secretary

Shri M. N. Kaul, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary

Shri A. J. M. Atkinson.

Shri N. C. Nandi.

Shri D. N. Majumdar.

Shri C. V. Narayana Rao.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Members of the Cabinet

- Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs—The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and the States—The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
Minister of Education—The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
Minister Without Portfolio—The Honourable Shri C. Rajagopalachari.
Minister of Defence—The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh.
Minister of Labour—The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram.
Minister of Communications—The Honourable Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai.
Minister of Health—The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.
Minister of Law—The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
Minister of Works, Mines and Power—The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil.
Minister of Transport and Railways—The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar.
Minister of Industry and Supply—The Honourable Shri Hare Krishna Mahtab.
Minister of Food and Agriculture—The Honourable Shri K. M. Munshi.
Minister of Commerce—The Honourable Shri Sri Prakasa.
Minister of Finance—The Honourable Shri Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh.

Ministers not in the Cabinet.

- Minister for the purposes of agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan of the 8th April, 1950—The Honourable Shri C. C. Biswas.**
Minister of State for Transport and Railways—The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam.
Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting—The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar.
Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs—The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha.
Minister of State for Rehabilitation—The Honourable Shri Ajit Prasad Jain.
Deputy Minister of Communications—Shri Khurshed Lal.
Deputy Minister of External Affairs—Dr. B. V. Keekar.
Deputy Minister of Commerce—Shri Dattatraya Parasahuram Karmarkar.
Deputy Minister of Defence—Major General Himatsinghji.
Deputy Minister of Works, Mines and Power—Shri S. N. Buragohain.
Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture—Shri M. Thirumala Rao.

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

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 10th April, 1951

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES

*2950. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has decided the broad outlines of policy on the question of technical assistance to industries; and

(b) if so, on what principles?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of press communique dated 3rd November, 1950 issued by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research giving the broad outlines of policy to be followed in regard to technical assistance to industry is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 12].

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether in this connection there was any consultation with the industrialists, and if so, whether they have promised any contribution to us?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, the Ministry is in constant touch with industrialists and they are coming to us for assistance which we are always glad to offer.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: Have they promised us any contribution for the technical assistance?

Shri Sri Prakasa: In answer to a previous question, Sir, I gave the 26 P.S.

various figures of contributions from industrialists. Theirs is a consolidated contribution and is not earmarked for any particular purpose.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: What forms of technical assistance were made available during the course of last year?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I fear, Sir, I have not got the exact data required.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the technical aid is not bringing the result which was expected of it: there is a demand, or view, that only such assistance should be given which should fit in with the priorities of our planning of industries?

Shri Sri Prakasa: As the hon. Member will see from the statement I have laid on the Table of the House, we are willing to offer our assistance to industrialists under various heads; and if industrialists want our assistance under those heads we give them.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, what industries profited by technical assistance during last year?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I fear, Sir, I have not got the list here.

श्री द्विवेदी: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में जहाँ जहाँ कच्चा माल और दूसरे साधन एकत्रित हैं और जिन के बारे में मंत्रालय अनुसंधान कर रहा है, वहाँ पर खोज के लिए क्या कोई टेकनिकल हैंड्स भेजे गये? उदाहरण के लिये विद्युत प्रवेद्य में सीमेंट और लोहे जिन के लिये पर्य्याप्त साधन वहाँ पर हैं फैक्ट्रियाँ बनाने के लिये क्या कोई टेकनिकल सहायता दी जाती है?

[Shri Dwivedi: I want to know whether any technical hands have

been sent to carry on research work in such places in India, where raw materials and other resources which the Ministry is investigating are found? For instance, whether any technical assistance has been given to establish cement and iron factories in Vindhya Pradesh, as these materials necessary for them are found there in sufficient quantity?]

श्री श्री प्रकाश : यह सवाल तो इस से नहीं निकलता क्योंकि इस में तो मुझ से यह पूछा गया है कि मेरे विभाग की तरफ से व्यवसायों को क्या क्या सहायता दी गई है। यदि माननीय सदस्य इस सवाल में दूसरा कोई सवाल पूछें तो मैं उत्तर देने को तैयार हूँ।

[Shri Sri Prakasa: This question does not arise out of it, as only this has been asked in the main question as to what assistance has been given to these industries by my Ministry. If the hon. Member were to give notice of any other question in this connection, I am prepared to answer it.]

श्री द्विवेदी : आज विन्ध्य प्रदेश में जो काम चल रहे हैं, जैसे हीरे और कोयले का, वहाँ क्या कोई टेक्निकल सहायता दी गई है ?

[Shri Dwivedi: Whether any technical assistance has been given to those industries such as diamond and coal industries that are being run in Vindhya Pradesh these days?]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member wants information regarding a particular industry he should put a specific question.

Shri E. Velayudhan: May I know whether the Minister is aware that the industrialists have better technical experts than the Government are having today?

Shri Sri Prakasa: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether Government have got sufficient number of technicians to give technical personnel to the industries and if so what is the number?

Shri Sri Prakasa: That again is a matter of opinion, because I could not say whether the number we have is more or less than is required.

PETROL BELT IN NAINI TAL TARAI AREA

*2951. Prof. S. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent prospectings have established that a petrol belt is running through the Naini Tal Tarai area in the Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether any conclusive proof of the petrol belt has been established?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) The Geological Survey of India report that they are not aware of any prospecting having been undertaken for oil in the Naini Tal Tarai area in the Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether Government have any information that some of the American technical experts employed on behalf of the Government of Nepal have traced the continuation of the belt inside the Nepal territory?

Shri Sri Prakasa: So far as our information goes, there is not much possibility of finding oil in Uttar Pradesh. We follow the well known principle of going from the known to the unknown and after we have finished our investigations in the Jwalamukhi Area in the Kangra district in the Punjab we shall trace the line further and see whether we can find anything in Uttar Pradesh.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री बतलायेंगे कि डिगबोई को छोड़ कर भारत-वर्ष के और किसी स्थान पर पेट्रोल मिलने की सम्भावना पाई जाती है ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there is any possibility of finding petroleum belt at other places of India except at Digboi?]

श्री श्री प्रकाश : अभी तक आसम में ही ख्यातकर अनुसंधान किया गया है, लेकिन कुछ कुछ भाग्यों और जगह भी हैं, विशेषकर पंजाब में। जहाँ मैंने अभी कहा ज्वालामुखी प्रदेश में इसकी सम्भावना है। इस के अतिरिक्त हम लोगों ने कच्छ, अंडमन और मद्रास के रामनरु प्रदेश में भी अनुसंधान करने का प्रयत्न किया है।

[Shri Sri Prakasa: So far exploratory work has been done mostly in Assam,

but there is possibility of finding petrol belt in other places also, specially in the Punjab and as I have just now stated there is a possibility of finding petrol in the Jwalamukhi area. Besides this we have done exploratory work in Cutch, Andamans and Ramnad district of Madras.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : मैं इस सम्बन्ध में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बस्तर और सरगुजा यह जो दो रियासतें थीं जिन का कि अब मध्य प्रदेश में विलीनीकरण हो चुका है वहाँ भी कुछ किया गया है, और क्या गवर्नमेन्ट को यह बात मालूम है कि वहाँ पर भी कुछ इस की सम्भावना है?

[Seth Govind Das: In this connection I want to know whether any investigations have been made in Bastar and Sarguja States which have now been merged with Madhya Pradesh and whether the Government are aware of the possibility of the existence of such a belt there also?]

श्री श्री प्रकाश : बात यह है कि ऐसे सब कामों के लिये करोड़ों रुपये की आवश्यकता पड़ती है और जब तक यह निश्चय नहीं हो जाता कि किसी विशेष स्थान में हमें तेल मिल जायेगा, तब तक इस काम में गवर्नमेन्ट पढ़ने के लिये तैयार नहीं है।

[Shri Sri Prakasa: The fact is that crores of rupees are required for such purposes and the Government is not prepared to undertake any such investigations unless they are sure about the possibility of finding petrol belt there.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या इस सम्बन्ध में पानीवाले महाराज के नेत्रे जाने का विचार किया जा रहा है जिस में कि जिस प्रकार उन्होंने पानी की खोज की उसी प्रकार तेल की खोज करें ?

[Seth Govind Das: Do the Government propose to send Paniwala Maharaj there so that he may divine the existence of petrol belt as he did in the case of water?]

श्री श्री प्रकाश : पानीवाले महाराज का मुझे पता नहीं है। हाँ, स्टेशनों पर

जल्द उन से मुलाकात होती रहती है।

[Shri Sri Prakasa: I do not know anything about Paniwala Maharaj. Of course, I see them at the Railway Stations.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : मेरा मतलब उन पानीवाले महाराजों से नहीं है बल्कि उन पानीवाले महाराज से जिन को गवर्नमेन्ट ने इस काम के लिये नियुक्त कर रक्खा है।

[Seth Govind Das: I do not mean those Paniwala Maharajs (water carriers) of the Railway stations, but I mean that Paniwala Maharaj whom the Government have deputed for this purpose.]

श्री श्री प्रकाश : मेरे विभाग में कोई पानीवाला महाराज नियुक्त नहीं किया गया है।

[Shri Sri Prakasa: No such Paniwala Maharaj has been appointed in my Department.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेन्ट के एक विभाग...

[Seth Govind Das: Has any department of.....]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, Order, the hon. Member is a well-experienced Parliamentarian. He cannot go on speaking again and again, when I ask him not to continue. He cannot turn a deaf ear to the Chair.

What has paniwala maharaj to do with oil; there must be an oilwala maharaj for that.

T.B.

*2952. Prof. S. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a method for the technical production of P.A.S. a specific for T.B. has been devised by a former research Scholar of the University College of Science of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to adopt or encourage this method?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) As Government have not undertaken manufacture of the drug for commercial purposes, the question of their adopting the method does not arise. If however, any private firm

were to apply for assistance in the import of raw materials or for the supply of raw material from indigenous sources for the manufacture of the drug. Government would be prepared to give all possible help.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether Government experts have examined the technical method discovered by the professor?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, the method has been looked into and as a matter of fact the doctor who has discovered this method is working with a firm and that firm is producing P.A.S.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know what amount of P. A. S., especially in terms of money, is imported from outside?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question. P. A. S. is on the O. G. L.

Shri T. Husain: Have Government tried to find out if there is any specific for T. B. in the Ayurvedic, Unani or Homoeopathic systems of treatment?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have often had claims made from those who practise according to the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine, they have been looked into but I have not had any proof that those claims are justified.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the World Health Organisation is prepared to help India in a mass vaccination programme during the next few years, and if so, what is the extent and the scope of help which this World Health Organisation has offered to India?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The World Health Organisation and U. N. I. C. E. F. have been helping India in regard to mass vaccination of B. C. G. which is a preventive against T. B. But I do not quite see how it arises out of this question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It doesn't.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have Government tested the efficacy and quality of this indigenous production?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: P. A. S. is a well-known product.

Shri A. C. Guha: I know. But I want to know whether Government has particularly examined the quality produced by this method.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government has no information that this product is not up to standard.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Have Government got any complete anti-T. B. programme to be executed in the near future?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not see how this question arises.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

*2953. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference has sent any supplies of relief to India for needy persons; and

(b) if so, what are the commodities, whether they have been distributed and if so, to whom?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 13.]

Shri Sidhva: May I know the quantity that was sent by this Association and to whom they were distributed?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: If the hon. Member will read the statement he will find that 6,00,000 pounds of wheat, 1,80,000 pounds of cereals and 1,80,000 pounds of chocolate milk powder were received in 1948-49 and they were distributed mainly to refugees through Government agencies. Then, 53 cases of Atebrin containing 11,537 bottles each were received also in 1948-49 and these were distributed to Public Health organisations for free supply to poor and needy persons. Then later, 2 tons of clothing, foodstuffs and medicines also were received quite recently, in January 1951, and these stores are being distributed for the flood-affected areas of Kashmir—foodstuffs went to Bihar and some medicines to the Delhi area, and some for relief camps in Bombay State.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether this National Catholic Welfare Conference is supplying food parcels to India in association with the C. A. R. E. organisation which also supplied food and clothing to India?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think the two have any reference to each other.

SCIENTIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTRE

*2954. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to establish a

Scientific Bibliographical Centre in Delhi?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): Yes, Sir.

DEMOLITION OF DISPLACED PERSONS' HOUSES IN MOTINAGAR

*2955. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 100 pucca houses built by the displaced persons at their own cost on the open land in Motinagar were forcibly demolished in the last week of December, 1950;

(b) if so, what was the exact number of houses pulled down and the number of families rendered homeless thereby;

(c) under whose orders these houses were demolished and whether sufficient notice was given to the occupants of these houses before forcible demolition was resorted to;

(d) whether it is a fact that the said pucca houses were put up by the occupants with the tacit consent of the Government and the express permission of the Secretary and the Medical Officer of the New Delhi Municipal Committee;

(e) whether any alternative accommodation was offered to the occupants of these houses, if so in which locality, and if not, why not;

(f) whether any excesses were committed by the Police officials in carrying out the eviction order;

(g) if so, what steps have been taken to bring to book such officers, who resorted to more force than was absolutely essential for the purpose;

(h) for how many houses the order of eviction was passed, and why was the orders of eviction and demolition issued and carried out when the Delhi Premises Eviction and Requisition Bill was still being considered by the Select Committee and is yet to be passed by Parliament;

(i) what is the estimate of the damage caused to the persons who put up those structures with the consent or connivance of the authorities;

(j) how Government contemplate to compensate them for such losses; and

(k) whether any alternative accommodation has been provided to the families who have been rendered homeless and thrown out on the streets?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). Forty-five unauthorised constructions, of which

thirty-five were occupied by displaced persons were demolished in Motinagar. The number of families affected is not known.

(c) The houses were demolished under orders of the Delhi Improvement Trust and after giving sufficient notice more than once.

(d) No.

(e) According to Government's policy alternative accommodation is to be provided only in the case of older constructions, that is, those put up before 24th August 1948. The constructions which have been demolished were, however, recent ones put up after August 1950.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) In all two hundred and thirty-three notices were issued. In view, in spite of repeated warnings, of the rapid increase of unauthorised construction on Improvement Trust land it was found necessary to take action under the existing Improvement Trust Law.

(i) The total cost of the structures demolished is estimated to be about Rs. 30,000. There was no consent or connivance of the authorities.

(j) The constructions being entirely unauthorised, the question of compensation does not arise.

(k) Alternative accommodation was not asked for by the persons concerned.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know whether any evidence was disclosed as to when the first constructions were made on these plots?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is very difficult to say exactly when, but unauthorised constructions are going up daily.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it not a fact that in respect of the occupants the Government has been pleased to prescribe that alternative accommodation must be given to them before they are disturbed?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That is not so where unauthorised constructions are concerned after a given date.

Dr. Deshmukh: What was the area covered by these houses which were demolished and have any new houses been built since the demolition of these old houses?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of the question as to the area covered by these houses. As far as new houses are concerned,

no more have gone up because plans have to be made for building and all plans have been held up because of unauthorized constructions on these Improvement Trust lands.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know how long it would take for the Improvement Trust to start construction on these plots?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not give the answer, because, as you know, there has just been an enquiry made and the Enquiry Committee has just furnished its report. But the Improvement Trust does go on building according as it can and according as people come forward to buy land and build houses on that land.

Dr. Deshmukh: Has the Government considered the possibility that the Improvement Trust would in all probability take a few years before they start the construction, and whether it would not have been desirable to allow these houses to continue for some more time?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That is a suggestion for action, Mr. Deputy-Speaker. But in any case I deny that the Improvement Trust will take years to build houses.

Shri Chattopadhyay: May I know whether any legal steps were taken when these unauthorized constructions were first detected?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I may inform the House as I have already said in my answers that notices were given again and again, the Chief Commissioner gave a directive on the 8th of August 1948, he issued again a press note on the 24th of August, 1948 and the Delhi Improvement Trust gave a further notice. But in spite of these the unauthorized constructions went on. I have met people again and again in this connection. They all promised me always that they will not put up houses, and yet unauthorized construction continues.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it a fact that thirty houses were demolished in *Kacheha Damdama* and that these houses were not built after August 1950 but even in 1949?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I want to have notice for that question. The hon. Member is referring to something else.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What was the urgency of demolishing these *kucha* houses when the other houses are not to be substituted before the passage of a few years more?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Unauthorized construction cannot be allowed to proceed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it not a fact that about 5,000 and more unauthorized constructions exist in Delhi and have all of them been demolished?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Wherever possible, they are demolished.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it not a fact that a sub-committee of Members of this House was appointed and they have suggested that no house should be demolished which came into being before August 1950?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No such rule exists.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Dr. Deshmukh: The question has not been understood by the hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister says that there is no such recommendation.

Shri Kamath: No Sir, she said "rule" not "recommendations."

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No such recommendation has...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When the hon. Minister gives an answer, you must accept it.

Shri Kamath: We should accept any answer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There cannot be a discussion on the answer. You accept it or say it is wrong at some later date.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The hon. Minister has stated that alternative accommodation was not given to those persons who were evicted from these houses. Is it a fact that they did not ask for any accommodation or the Government was unable to give it to them?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They were neither entitled to an alternative accommodation when they were law-breakers, nor did they ask for any accommodation.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

*2956. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the improvements effected in the Central Secretariat Library since 1947-48?

(b) How far have the Inter-library loan relations with foreign information services and embassies in Delhi progressed?

مسٹر آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا آزاد) :

(اے) ایک اسٹیٹمنٹ ہاؤس کی
ٹیبل پر رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔

[See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 14.]

(بی) دلی میں جو بلبر کے

ایمبیسز میں ان کے لئے اس لائبریری
کے دروازے برابر کھلے رکھے ہیں اور وہ
جب چاہتے ہیں اس سے فائدہ اٹھاتے
ہیں۔ اس کے بدلے میں لائبریری کو
جب کبھی ضرورت پڑتی ہے وہ
ان ایمبیسز کی سروس سے فائدہ اٹھاتے
ہے۔

[The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 14.)

(b) The Central Secretariat Library is open to the Embassies in New Delhi which do make use of its services. The Library in return avails itself of the services of the Embassies when necessary.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: Has the supply of books to the Nanking Library in China been continued through the External Affairs Ministry? If so, may I know whether reciprocal arrangements for exchange of books are going on?

مولانا آزاد: جہاں تک مجھے

معلوم ہے کولی جنرل سسٹم اس طرح کے
تبادلہ کا کام نہیں کر رہا ہے۔

[Maulana Azad: No, Sir. So far as I know there is no general system for such an exchange of books.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that books were sent to the Nanking Library in 1945-46?

مولانا آزاد: میں اس واقعہ کی

نسبت کچھ نہیں کہہ سکتا۔ یہ کہہ
سکتا ہوں کہ اس لائبریری کی کتابیں
کسی دوسری جگہ نہیں بھیجی
جاتیں۔ یہ اسکے جنرل رول کے خلاف
ہے۔

[Maulana Azad: I cannot say anything about this thing. All that I can say is that the books of this library are not sent to any other place. It is against the general rules of the library.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: Are the supply of valuable bibliographical data to Ministries going on? If so, may I know how many have been supplied so far?

مولانا آزاد: میں ابھی نہیں بتا
سکتا۔

[Maulana Azad: I cannot give this information at this time.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know if the facilities for research that have been provided in the Central Secretariat Library are being utilized? If so, by how many persons it has been utilized.

مولانا آزاد: اس کی تعداد میں

ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا۔

[Maulana Azad: I cannot give the figures just now.]

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any selection Committee for selecting books for purchase by this Library or is it done by the Librarian alone?

مولانا آزاد: ہاں ایک سلیکشن

کمیٹی ہے جو ہر ہفتہ میں میٹنگ
کرتی ہے۔

[Maulana Azad: Yes, there is a selection Committee which meets every week.]

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the Ministry is able to give me the number of books that they are having in the Central Secretariat Library?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will put down a separate question for that.

شری تی حسمن: کیا میں یہ

جان سکتا ہوں کہ اس لائبریری کے
انڈو ہندی اور سنسکرت کی کتابوں
کا اضافہ کیا گیا ہے؟

[Shri T. Husain: May I know whether Hindi and Sanskrit books have been added to this library?]

مولانا آزاد : اس سے پہلے اس میں
ہندی کا کوئی سیکشن نہیں تھا۔
پچھلے برس ہم نے ہندی کا سیکشن
کھولا ہے اور اس میں کتابیں بڑھائی
جا رہی ہیں۔

[Maulana Azad: Formerly there was no separate section of Hindi in this library. Last year we opened a Hindi Section and the number of Hindi books is being increased.]

شری ٹی۔ حسین : سنسکرت کی
کچھ کتابیں بڑھائی گئی ہیں یا
نہیں؟

[Shri T. Husain: Has the number of Sanskrit books been increased also or not?]

مولانا آزاد : نہیں سنسکرت کی
کتابیں ابھی اسمیں نہیں خریدی
گئی ہیں۔

[Maulana Azad: No Sanskrit books have not yet been purchased for the library.]

سید گوہیند داس : माननीय मंत्री जी
ने अभी यह कहा कि जहाँ तक इस लाइब्रेरी
का ताल्लुक है वहाँ तक हम को विदेशी
दूतावासों से भी कुछ सहायता मिलती है।
क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि वह किस प्रकार
की सहायता है और क्या इस सम्बन्ध में
गवर्नमेंट की कोई निश्चित योजना है जिस
को उन दूतावासों के सामने रख कर कोई
सहायता ली जा सकती है ?

[Seth Govind Das: The hon. Minister has just now stated that so far as this library is concerned, we get some help from the foreign embassies as well. May I know what kind of help we get from them and whether the Government have any definite plan which can be placed before those embassies for getting such help?]

مولانا آزاد : ابھی ہمیں جو سہایتا
ملتی ہے وہ اس طرح کی ہے جیسے

یونائٹڈ نیشنس نے یہ تسلیم کر لیا
ہے کہ جتنی کتابیں وہ چھاپیں گے
ان کی ایک ایک کاپی یہاں بھیج
دیئے۔ اس کی مدد ہمیں مل رہی
ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ جو فارن ایمبیسیز
یہاں ہیں انہوں نے انفارمیشن کے اور
کلچرل تعلقات کے جو سیکشن کھولے
ہیں انکے ذریعہ بھی ہمیں کچھ
کتابیں ملتی رہتی ہیں۔

[Maulana Azad: The kind of help that we get at present is like this. The United Nations have agreed to send us one copy each of books that they would publish. We are getting this help. Besides this, we get some books from the Information and Cultural Relations Sections that have been opened by the foreign embassies in India.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the number of Members of the special library committee that has been constituted for the selection of books and also who is the Chairman of the committee?

مولانا آزاد : کمیٹی کے جس کے
سات ممبر ہیں اور منسٹرن کے
سہکریٹری اس کے چیئرمین ہیں۔
میں ان کے نام ابھی نہیں بتلا سکتا۔

[Maulana Azad: The Committee consists of seven members, and the Secretary of this Ministry is the Chairman of the Committee. I cannot give their names just now.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next Question.

AUDIT DEPARTMENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*2957. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the maintenance charges of the Audit Departments in the foreign countries?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The expenditure on the office of the Auditor Indian Accounts, London and of the Audit Office which it is proposed to set up in Washington in the current year is estimated to cost Rs. 5.31 lakhs.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the arrangement for the audit of accounts in other countries where we have not got audit departments?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: All their accounts find their way, Sir, to the Accountant General, Central Revenues in India.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is there any difficulty being felt in such auditing from here?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: No, Sir. I do not think any difficulty is experienced in this matter. The auditors outside are under the control of the Auditor General in India in exactly the same way as any Accountant General in India, except that they do not keep any initial accounts but they are subject to the discipline and other control of the Controller and their findings are finally incorporated in the Auditor General's report as in the case of our internal accounts.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Why has it been found necessary to have these offices in London and Washington?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: On account of the magnitude of the transactions, Sir.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India after his tour and inspection of the embassies and missions last year suggested a reorganisation of our audit offices abroad, with a view to suiting or adapting them to the new conditions of our Indian Republic?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have not seen any such report, Sir.

Shri Kamath: Has he made a report at all on this subject to the Government?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have not seen any such report at all.

Shri Kamath: Has he made any recommendations or suggestion in this regard?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same question in another form.

Shri T. Husain: Do Government propose to reorganise the audit department in foreign countries with a view to economy? If so, may I know in what manner?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: This is primarily a matter for the Auditor General. I do not believe that he has come to the conclusion that any retrenchment is called for in some of these audit offices. Indeed here in India, he has been pressing for increase in the staff on account of the addition to his responsibilities.

Shri T. N. Singh: With regard to places where there are no audit sections, may I know whether it is pro-

posed for the Auditor General or some other officer of his staff to visit those places or to have the auditing done by the books being brought to India?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Unless there is any special reason, I do not think a visit by the Auditor General or any officer of his would be necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Question No. 2958; Prof. K. T. Shah; absent. Next question.

Shri Hussain Imam: On a point of order, Sir, Prof. K. T. Shah is not in his seat. But, this question asks for a Statement being laid on the Table. Still, there is no statement available in the Notice Office, in spite of your warning yesterday.

The Deputy-Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinghji): The statement is being collected.

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN MINISTRIES

*2959. **Babu Gopinath Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the total number of persons (excluding Class IV staff) employed in the various Ministries and how many of them are permanent and how many are temporary?

(b) Of the persons who are temporary, how many have put in a service of (i) eight years and above; (ii) five to eight years; and (iii) more than three years but less than five years?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari):

(a) Permanent	2292
Temporary	4642
Total	6934

(b) (i) Eight years and above	862
(ii) Five to eight years	1568
(iii) More than three years but less than five years	1080
Total	3510

Babu Gopinath Singh: Will the hon. Minister kindly state the reasons for not making these employees permanent?

Shri Rajagopalachari: The reason is that there are no permanent posts against which they could be made permanent. That is the general reason. But, I have explained the difficulties on many occasions in respect of details.

Babu Gopinath Singh: May I know if the principles governing discharges

and reversion to lower grades in respect of these employees have been altered more than a score of times during the last four years?

Shri Rajagopalachari: I am not sure about the actual number of the alterations. But, hon. Members should not be angry if Government makes changes now and then in regard to their policies in this respect where humanitarian considerations, economy, efficiency and several other elements have to be taken into account.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know if there is any time limit for the confirmation of these posts and if so, what is the minimum time?

Shri Rajagopalachari: I have explained this on many occasions previously; I may do so again. Hon. Members are aware that during the war, temporary posts were created in large numbers and after the War, they could not be liquidated at once for several reasons. Then, we provided that persons who had been recruited otherwise than through the Public Service Commission should ordinarily be confirmed if they pass the tests held by the Commission. One examination for the purpose of filling vacancies was held in 1947; 185 assistants and 563 clerks were confirmed on the results. Those persons who had qualified in the Commission's examination earlier and Scheduled classes employees who fulfilled certain conditions were also allowed to be confirmed. The total number of confirmations thus made in the Assistant's grade was 116 and in the Clerks' grade 326. New schemes were brought in and accepted and are being worked to provide for more of these temporary people. On the whole, out of the 4642 employees that I have stated in my answer, 3510 have completed three years service. Of these, 1,000 have been found to be primarily eligible to be declared quasi-permanent even when there are no posts readily available. We are working out the schemes and when they are completed, large numbers will be taken in. All that could possibly be done to meet the justice of the case in this matter is being done.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know what is the policy of the Government in connection with employees in the Government of India, who have put in some service and who have also qualified themselves in certain examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, in connection with the retrenchment that is going to take place as a result of the economy drive?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise?

Shri Dwivedi: There are certain employees under the Ministries of the Government of India who have put in some service and who have qualified themselves in the examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. I want to know what the policy of the Government of India will be in connection with retrenchment if any?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question relates to temporary employees.

Shri Dwivedi: Some have put in two years of service and they have also qualified by becoming successful at certain examinations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has already explained that the posts are temporary irrespective of the number of years of service of the employees.

Shri Dwivedi: They have passed certain examinations also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But, the posts are temporary.

Shri Rajagopalachari: Possibly, the hon. Member has not followed the answer. The question is in respect of temporary employees. The hon. Member should remember that when these temporary employees were taken, it was quite distinctly understood that they could not make any claims for permanency. For those who have put in more than three years of service, we have attempted to provide as much as possible.

Shri Rathnaswamy: If the Government does not confirm even such of them as have put in more than five years of service, is there not a possibility of administrative efficiency suffering on account of lack of decision in this regard?

Shri Rajagopalachari: Mere length of service in the temporary services is not enough. It may be 5 years; it may be 20 years. But, some qualifications have been prescribed which are reasonable qualifications. For those who have put in three years and who satisfy the reasonable qualifications prescribed, every attempt is made to find jobs. We have not only found jobs for them, but we have also tried to give them a quasi-permanent status against half the number of semi-permanent jobs which may be expected when the schemes are completed, that is to say available for three years at least. Having provided for all those, it is not right to say that we are breaking any promise or are guilty of any indecision if we do not create jobs for persons who were recruited on a very temporary basis. We cannot do more than we have done and

I do not think there will be any break down of morale on that account. On the contrary, efficiency may break down if we simply supply men with posts when the posts are not necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Seth Govind Das: May I ask one question, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The answer is complete. A statement has been read out by the Minister. I shall proceed to the next question.

Shri T. Husain: One question about displaced persons only, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whoever it may be; they are all temporary. Next question.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT OF ARMAMENTS

***2960. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state when and at what place was the Commonwealth Conference on scientific developments of armaments held and who were the delegates who attended?

(b) Is there any arrangement between the Commonwealth countries for free exchange of advanced scientific and technical information regarding development of armaments?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinhji): (a) The hon. Member is probably referring to the Conference of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Defence Science which was held in U. K. from the 3rd to 21st July 1950. The Conference did not deal particularly with development of armaments but dealt mainly with subjects like operational research, civil defence, meteorological research of interest to the defence Services etc., and discussed generally how the scientific talent in each of the Commonwealth countries could be utilised to the best advantage in defence science research. All the Commonwealth countries participated in the Conference and Observers from U.S.A. were also present. I lay a statement on the Table of the House giving the list of delegates who attended. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 15.]

(b) There is no regular arrangement for the free exchange of such information. Information which is specifically required is, however, generally made available.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Sir, is it a fact that some category of information is held over by the Commonwealth countries as security classifications and if so, in what categories is information held over?

Major-General Himatsinhji: Scientific information relating to armaments which is secret, is not ordinarily shared between all the Commonwealth countries, because that would obviously be against security considerations. The general understanding is that if any of the countries is definitely interested in a particular problem and is undertaking research for the benefit of the Commonwealth, on that problem, then such information would be made available, provided secrecy is maintained in the country to which the information is supplied. This is not an unreasonable procedure.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: While information should be exchanged on a reciprocal basis among the Commonwealth countries, is it a fact that all technical publications received from the United Kingdom are paid by us while we are sending our technical publications free of charge especially Reports on Preservation of Stores and other problems connected with stores?

Major-General Himatsinhji: Sir, I cannot offhand give the reply about the payments. But with regard to exchange of technical information, the U. K. has been helpful and where we needed any information we did not find any difficulty in getting it. The present arrangement is more beneficial to us because we are getting more than what we give.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Sir, is it a fact that now a separate Department has been created under the Ministry of Defence whose head is the Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, and if so what is the coordination between the Director of Technical Development and this body?

Major-General Himatsinhji: The Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence is Dr. Kothari whose services have been loaned from the Delhi University. His authorised pay is Rs. 2,600 to Rs. 2,500; but this officer refused to take that pay preferring to take only Rs. 1,250 which was his pay in the Delhi University. This new section co-ordinates with the Directorate of Technical Development and gradually we hope to merge the two into one.

Shri T. Husain: Sir, was any member of the Standing Committee for Defence included in these conferences and if not, why not?

Major-General Himatsinhji: No Sir, as none of them was qualified.

POINT FOUR PROGRAMME

*2961. **Shri Alexander:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first batch of trainees under the Point Four Programme has been recruited; and

(b) if not, when they will be recruited?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) No. The essential purpose of that Programme is to provide such elements of American technical "know-how" and experience as may be available and useful in contributing to the general economic development of countries interested. As such, the requests for technical assistance are to be related to the projects in operation, and are to be sponsored by the authorities concerned. The selection of persons for training will not take the usual form of selection of trainees for scholarships etc.

(b) Lists of our requirements have been forwarded to the Government of the U. S. A. and the question of availability regarding training facilities is still under the consideration of that Government.

Shri Alexander: Sir, may I know how many people have availed themselves of this technical aid programme, or how many industries have availed of this assistance?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I said only lists have been forwarded to the Government of the U. S. A. So there is no question of trainees having availed themselves yet of the programme; and the lists that have been forwarded concern the requirements of Government alone. It is possible that we shall send supplementary lists which will include the requirements of the private sector also.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether any activity on the basis of this Point Four Programme is going on in India?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think, Sir, there was a press-note on this question which was placed in the library of the House, I think towards the end of December; and it was stated there that the Government of India have already obtained from the U. S. A. Government some experts for agricultural projects, one for the Central Tractor Organisation and another agronomist and plant breeder and a third for extension services.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether similar enquiries have been made by the Government of India from the United Kingdom and other European

countries for the training of technical personnel in these specialised lines and whether there will not, therefore, be overlapping between these and the enquiries made in the United States of America?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: This Point Four Programme of course, belongs only to the U. S. A. and the United Nations. There is provision under the Colombo Plan for exchange of technical personnel and care would be taken to see that these two supplement each other and do not overlap.

EXCISE DUTIES

*2962. **Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amounts of receipts from the excise duties on tea, tobacco, petrol and kerosene in the State of Assam, in the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): A statement showing the amounts of the central excise duties on tea, tobacco (including cigarettes), petrol (motor spirit), and kerosene, collected in the State of Assam during the financial years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 (April to December only) is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 16.]

Shri J. N. Hazarika: What are the respective shares of income from these duties on tobacco and tea and kerosene distributed during the last four years, and what is proposed to be allotted to the State of Assam this year out of the Consolidated Fund of India under article 272 of the Constitution or otherwise?

Shri Tyagi: Central excise duties are not now distributed to the various provinces in accordance with what accrues from the particular States. These duties are taxes on the consumers and they do not really come from the States in which taxed commodities are manufactured.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Then, am I to understand that there is no machinery in existence or under contemplation of the Government to allocate these excise duties to the respective States under that article of the Constitution?

Shri Tyagi: Excise duties are not to be distributed even under that article. Government by Act can distribute a part or whole of the duty realised; but as I stated in reply to a question some time back, Government has already introduced a Bill constituting the Finance Commission and have left it to the Finance Commission to finally say how much is to be given to the various States.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether any State has requested the Government of India for a share in the excise duty collected—especially on tobacco—and if so what was the Government's reply to this?

Shri Tyagi: The position about tobacco is slightly different. We are already giving a few States some compensation for the loss of their sales-tax on tobacco. Some States were realising sales-tax on tobacco when the excise duty on tobacco was first levied and they had to give up this sales-tax and some compensation was granted. According to the new Constitution, now they can levy any sales-tax on such commodities as come under the excise duty of the Centre.

Shri Kesava Rao: What is the compensation given to Madras?

Shri Tyagi: Yes, Madras up till now was receiving Rs. 56 lakhs on account of the loss on their sales-tax on tobacco.

Shri Bharati: What is the total amount collected from Madras in respect of the tobacco tax?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that Madras received Rs. 56 lakhs on account of loss in sales tax on this account?

Shri Bharati: Have they protested against this amount?

Shri Tyagi: Naturally. Now there is a question of even stopping this payment.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: In the statement it is shown that the excise duty realised on tea during 1949-50 at the rate of three annas per lb. is refundable on export. What were the export duties on tea realised from Assam during these years?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question relates only to excise duty. The question of the hon. Member is not relevant and I cannot allow it.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Another question. Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it on the same lines?

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Will the Minister give the figure of the tea produced in Assam, the quantity of tea exported and the quantity consumed internally?

Shri Tyagi: According to the question I am required only to furnish information with regard to the excise duties realised on these commodities. I can give the amounts of these duties. I do not have at present ready with me figures of the quantity of tea produced.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: I understood the Minister to say that according to the new Constitution sales tax cannot be imposed on commodities that are paying an excise duty.....

An Hon. Member: It is wrong.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: He said that and that is why I want a clarification. Is sales tax not being charged on sugar or cloth?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question relates to sales tax on tobacco and let supplementary questions be confined to that.

श्री रामराज जवारे : क्या बिहार स्टेट ने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रार्थना की है?

[**Shri Ramraj Jaware:** Has the Bihar State made any request in this connection?]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question relates only to Assam with respect to which details had to be collected. It does not relate to Bihar.

MINERAL WEALTH IN SCHEDULED AREAS

*2963. **Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) what information, if any, Government have with regard to the mineral wealth embedded in Scheduled Areas; and

(b) whether any fresh attempts have been made or are likely to be made in this direction?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of the important investigations undertaken by the Geological Survey of India in the Scheduled Areas since 1947 is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 17.]

The Geological Survey of India intend to continue investigations to acquire more knowledge of the mineral resources of these areas. A list of the geological work proposed for the next two years is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 17.]

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: May I know whether there are any coal or oil deposits in the Madras Agency area?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The hon. Member may kindly study the statement I have laid on the Table of the House. It extends to five closely typed foolscap pages and he will find there all the information that he needs.

Shri T. N. Singh: With regard to the information gathered relating to minerals, is the Government in a position to state whether prospecting has been made in particular directions and whether the matter has reached a stage when exploitation may be started?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I will again draw my hon. friend's attention to the long statement I have laid on the Table, where he will find all the information that he wants.

Shri T. Husain: May I know whether Government has made any enquiries regarding the Kharsawa, Seraikilla and Chota Nagpur areas?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I would again refer my hon. friend to the long list I have laid on the Table.

Shri T. Husain: I want to know whether these areas also are included in the list or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members must take care to see that before they come to the House they study the statements placed in the Notice Office for the day. If they are interested in particular questions they should look into the statements and come prepared to the House to put their questions. As a matter of fact the answer to this question covers five closely typed pages. How can the Minister be expected to lay his hands on a particular item in answer to a general question?

CENTRAL EXCISE COLLECTORATES

*2964. **Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many Central Excise Collectorates have been set up in India;

(b) how many persons have been recruited to this department in Hyderabad;

(c) how many have been sent by the Central Government to serve in Hyderabad;

(d) whether it is a fact that the old staff of the Hyderabad State Excise Department, who are not able to cope up with English introduced in official business, are willing to get transferred to other departments; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken so far?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) Eleven

(b) and (c). The hon. Member presumably wants to know the number of persons taken over from the Hyderabad State Government and the number sent by the Central Government from their organisations for the administration of Central Excise in

Hyderabad; if so, the figures are 325 and 99 respectively.

(d) Yes.

(e) Although under the Scheme of the Federal Financial Integration, the staff have no right to opt for service under one or the other Government, the Government of India considered the matter on a request from the Hyderabad Government and keeping in view the interests both of the Department and of the officers, they have agreed to retransfer a number of officers. Arrangements are being made by the Collector of Central Excise, Hyderabad, in consultation with the State Government authorities, to effect the retransfer of the officers as and when substitutes are available.

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: May I know whether there is any special recruitment for the Central Excise services?

Shri Tyagi: The general lines are followed. There is no particular method of recruitment.

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: Is there any special training for the Central excise people?

Shri Tyagi: No special training is given. After they are recruited they work under senior officers and learn the work.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Sir, I have to request that priority may be given to my question No. 2967. The question relates to a matter in which many Members are interested.

Shrimati Durgabai: Also there is a precedent when Mr. Kamath's question was given priority the other day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I said that it would not be a precedent.

जोंक घाटी योजना

*२९६५. **श्री चण्डी:** (ए) क्या प्राकृतिक संसाधन तथा वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश में जोंक (महानदी की सहायक नदी घाटी) योजना का मूमापन कार्य कब तक समाप्त हो जायेगा ?

(बी) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कि निर्माण कार्य कब आरम्भ किया जावे, किसी निश्चय पर पहुंची है ?

(सी) क्या सरकार जोंक घाटी योजना को किसी समिति के सम्मुख यह ज्ञात करने के लिए भेजने का विचार कर रही है कि वहाँ निर्माण कार्य प्रारम्भ किया जाये अथवा नहीं ?

JAUNK VALLEY PROJECT

[*2965. Shri Jangde: (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state how long it will take to complete the survey work of the Jaunk Valley Project (a tributary of Mahanadi) in the Madhya Pradesh?

(b) Have Government arrived at any decision as to when construction work should be undertaken?

(c) Do Government propose to refer the Jaunk Valley Project to some council in order to ascertain whether the construction work should be undertaken or not?]

प्रारम्भिक संशोधन तथा वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान मंत्री

(श्रीश्री प्रकाश) : २९६५ (ए) जोंक घाटी

योजना की सम्भावनाओं की अभी तक जांच हो रही है। सन् १९५२-५३ तक अनुमान किया जाता है कि सब आपरीक्षण, भूमापन और अनुसंधान के कार्य समाप्त हो सकेंगे।

(बी) अनुसंधान के वर्तमान स्तर पर इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ निश्चित परिणाम तक पहुँचना सम्भव नहीं है।

(सी) अनुसंधान की समाप्ति और योजना के निर्माण के बाद ही यह बात निश्चित की जा सकती है।

[The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) At this stage, the potentialities of the Jaunk Project are being investigated. These surveys and investigations are expected to be completed by 1952-53.

(b) At this stage of investigations it is too early to arrive at a definite conclusion in this regard.

(c) This can be decided only after investigations are completed and the project has been prepared.]

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलावेंगे कि क्या यह सत्य नहीं

है कि अभी हाल ही में सरकार ने जोंक घाटी के भूमापन कार्य को फरवरी मास तक ही चलने देने का आदेश दिया था ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether is it not a fact that recently the Government had ordered to continue the land survey work of the Jaunk Valley Project up to the month of February only?]

श्री श्री प्रकाश : इस तरह का आदेश तो नहीं दिया। गया परन्तु इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे यह कहना है कि इसके खर्च के लिये यह प्रकल्प का कि मध्य प्रदेश के शासन की तरफ से और कुछ केन्द्रीय शासन की तरफ से खर्च होगा। परन्तु मध्य प्रदेश ने अब कहा है कि वह कुछ भी खर्च नहीं कर सकता। इस कारण आगे के प्रश्न पर अभी विचार हो रहा है और इस कारण अभी खर्च का निर्धारित करना सम्भव नहीं है।

[Shri Sri Prakasa: No such order was issued, but in this connection I have to say that it was decided that the expenditure regarding this land survey work would be shared by the Madhya Pradesh Government and the Central Government. But now the Madhya Pradesh Government have informed us that they are not in a position to incur any expenditure in this connection. Therefore the question of future expenditure is under consideration and hence it is not possible to fix a time limit.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question hour is over.

Shrimati Durgabai: May I ask for your ruling on the point that the fact that a question was given priority on some occasion would itself not constitute a precedent, though the Chair says that it is not a precedent and that that particular priority given should not be taken as a precedent?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no such thing as a precedent except for the guidance of the Chair. These are not rulings of the Privy Council in a particular case. It is open to the Chair itself to review its own ruling of an earlier occasion. In that particular case I recollect that I definitely stated that on account of the exceptional circumstances and the high personage to whom the question related I was making an exception and that it ought not

to act as a precedent. I am not going to depart from the ruling I gave.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MILITARY STORES

*2958. Prof. K. T. Shah: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the total value or cost as recorded in the Ministry's books of (i) the various kinds of Stores, installations and equipments, maintained in the several branches of the Defence Services, and in the departments under each of these, as on the 31st December, 1950;

(ii) the livestock, and animals for carriage of goods or personnel, coaches, wagons, lorries or trucks, maintained in the several branches of the Defence Services, and in the Departments under each of these, as on the 31st of December, 1950; and

(iii) the quarters, camps, schools and other buildings for training, hospitals, dispensaries and hospital Stores, maintained in the several branches of the Defence Services, and in the departments under each of these, as on the 31st December 1950; and

(b) the provision made for the proper storage and safe-keeping, or maintenance, of the Stores, Installations and Equipment, as well as for the proper housing and care of the animals and live-stock conveyances or vehicles, maintained by the several branches of the Defence Services, and in the departments under each of these, as on 31st December, 1950?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinhji): (a) and (b). The detailed information required is not readily available, and its collection will involve an expenditure of time and labour which will be wholly incommensurate with any value it may have when collected. Even after it is collected, it may not be in the public interest to disclose most of it. In the circumstances, I regret I am unable to supply the information asked for.

FOOD FOR MILITARY

*2966. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total quantity of food necessary for the Military in India?

(b) Has the 25 per cent. cut in rations been applied in the case of military requirements?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinhji): (a) It

will be contrary to the public interest to disclose this information.

(b) No.

ESTATE DUTY BILL

*2967. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are not proceeding on with the Estate Duty Bill?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): No.

CENTRAL FILM LIBRARY

*2968. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Film Library has been opened and if so, when; and

(b) if not, when it is likely to be opened?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad). (a) The Department (now Ministry) of Education established in April 1947 the Central Film Library as a lending library of educational films and filmstrips to schools and other educational institutions throughout the country. It has since been functioning as a part of the Audio-Visual Aids Section of the Ministry.

(b) The question does not arise.

BLOOD-PLASMA

*2969. Shri Alexander: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a dearth of Blood-Plasma in the hospitals in the Centrally Administered Areas;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to see that adequate supply of this is maintained;

(c) whether it is a fact that artificial Blood-Plasma can be manufactured out of sugar; and

(d) if so, whether any research is being carried on in this direction?

The Minister of Health (Bakumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required in respect of all Centrally Administered Areas except Andamans and Nicobar Islands is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 18.]

Information regarding the latter has been called for and will be furnished as soon as it becomes available.

(c) Yes. There are substitutes for plasma produced from sugar and Dextran is one of them. Gelatin is another substitute.

(d) Yes. The research on the use of gelatin as a substitute for plasma is being carried out at the National Chemical Laboratory of India at Poona.

CASUAL LEAVE

*2970. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that casual leave for Government employees has been reduced from twenty days to fifteen days in the year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this decision?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): (a) Yes.

(b) Government consider that 15 days casual leave per year is adequate. In this connection, I would point out that before the war, casual leave was limited to 15 days per year. It was raised to 20 days during the war as the number of working hours was increased to 40½ per week. The number of working hours is now 36 per week while the number of closed holidays has also gone up from 18 to 22.

"KASHMIR STORY"

*2971. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Film entitled "The Kashmir Story" has been shown in India and if so, when, at what place or places, and for how long; and

(b) whether this film has been shown in the U.S.A.?

The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Shri Diwakar): (a) and (b). According to available information, the film has been exhibited in India as well in the U. K. and U.S.A. Details regarding the dates, places and frequency of exhibition are not available as the film was a private production and its distribution to cinemas was arranged by the producer.

SOCIAL EDUCATION SCHEME

*2972. **Thakur Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state when the Social Education Scheme for which a sum of nearly two lacs was sanctioned last year, is to be brought into force in Bhopal?

The Minister of Education (Maniana Azad): No amount was actually sanctioned for Social Education in Bhopal; but there was a proposal to set apart a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs during the year 1950-51 for this purpose. Due to financial stringency, however,

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no funds were available and the scheme had to be dropped.

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

*2973. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) which languages are at present being taught in the School of Foreign Languages; and

(b) whether there is any scheme to make provision for other languages also?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinghji): (a) French, German, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, and Persian.

(b) Yes. It is proposed to start Hindi classes.

MINERAL ADVISORY BOARD

*2974. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the constitution of the Mineral Advisory Board; and

(b) how many recommendations of the Board have been accepted and implemented during the years 1949 and 1950?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) and (b). The Mineral Advisory Board consisting mostly of officials, was created in 1946. Its constitution and functions are given in the late Labour Department Resolution No. M102(4) dated 9th January 1946, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, an. exure No. 19.]

The Board never met; and with the constitution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, a proposal to abolish this board and set up in its place a Board consisting largely of non-officials representing the mineral industry, to advise the Government of India as well as the mining public on matters relating to production and marketing of minerals, is under consideration.

EXPENDITURE ON VARIOUS UNITS IN A.I.R.

*2975. **Shri Jagannath Das:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred in maintaining Gujerathi, Tamil, Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, and Oriya units in the All India Radio for the years, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, separately;

(b) how many of these languages are being utilised for external and how

many for both external and internal broadcasts; and

(c) how many news bulletins are being broadcast in each of these languages every day in internal and external services?

The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Shri Diwakar):

(a) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 20.]

(b) Two of these languages namely, Tamil and Gujarati are being utilised both for external and internal broadcasts, the rest only for internal broadcasts.

(c) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 20.]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RETRENCHMENT)

*2976. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many persons have been retrenched from the Ministry of Defence and its attached and sub-ordinate offices, since January, 1951?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinhji): The following civilian staff have been retrenched from the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Headquarters:

Ministerial Staff	...	120.
Key Punch Operators	...	7.
Class IV servants	...	9.

Information regarding the lower formations of the Armed Forces is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

CENTRAL APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*2977. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases have been decided by the Central Appellate Tribunal for war pensions during the year 1950-51; and

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on this tribunal during the same year?

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): (a) 797.

(b) Rs. 16.043/14/-.

MONAZITE PROCESSING FACTORY, ALWAYE

*2978. **Shri Alexander:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and

Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) how far has the work of the Monazite Processing Factory at Alwaye and the installation of the machinery has progressed;

(b) what are the industries for which they can be utilised either directly or indirectly; and

(c) whether Government propose to instal machineries for production of atomic energy for utilisation in industry?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) Work on the construction of the monazite processing factory buildings at Alwaye has been started and the main buildings are expected to be completed in about six months' time. Orders for most of the plant and machinery have been placed and most of the equipment is expected to arrive by the end of June, 1951.

(b) The gas mantle industry, manufacture of flints, cigarette lighters, misch metal for steel casting, special glass for lenses and optical goods, enamelling of steel, high temperature resisting alloys of magnesium.

(c) Yes, Sir: but only when such working is a practicable proposition.

FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

*2979. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 1830 asked on the 1st March, 1951 and state why it has not yet been found possible to arrange a meeting of the Fact Finding Committee for the disposal of India Office Building and its contents?

(b) When is a meeting of this Committee likely to be held?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). The delay in arranging a meeting of the Expert Fact Finding Committee is due to worsening of the international situation which has distracted the parties from tackling the problem. The matter is, however, under consideration and results may be expected in the near future.

भारतीय स्वतंत्रता पदक

*२९८०. श्री बी० ऐस० आर्यः गृह कार्य मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(ए) क्या सरकार ने गणराज्य दिवस पर "भारतीय स्वतंत्रता पदक" प्रदान करने

की प्रथा आरम्भ करने का निश्चय किया था ;

(बी) यदि किया था तो यह प्रथा कब से आरम्भ की जाने वाली थी; तथा

(सी) पुलिस तथा सेना के उन कर्मचारियों की संख्या जिन्हें १५ अगस्त १९४७ से यह पदक प्रदान किये गये हैं ?

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MEDALS

[*2980. Shri B. S. Arya: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to introduce the system of awarding *Indian Independence Medals* on the Republic Day;

(b) if so, when it was to be introduced; and

(c) the number of police and military personnel who have been awarded the medal since 15th August 1947?]

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): (a) and (b). Government decided in January 1950 that a medal called the *Indian Independence Medal* should be awarded to all persons serving in the Police forces on the 26th January 1950 and also to certain categories of Defence personnel.

(c) No awards have yet been made. The medals are now being struck and the distribution will be spread over 4 years.

TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS

*2981. Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to transcribe the inscriptions found in the various temples in Madras State;

(b) in how many temples inscriptions have been copied till now;

(c) whether the temples having inscriptions have been charted and if so, what is the total number of such temples;

(d) what steps are being taken to transcribe the inscriptions in the other temples; and

(e) whether all the inscriptions that have been transcribed have been published?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) and (d). A regular epigraphical survey of inscriptions

including those in temples in the Madras State, is being conducted.

(b) The number is 3756.

(c) No, Sir.

(e) About one fourth of the transcribed inscriptions have so far been published.

हिन्दी का प्रचार

* २९८२ श्री बी० ऐस० आर्य : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) १९५० के वर्ष में अखिल भारतीय रेडियो ने हिन्दी भाषा के प्रचार के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रयत्न किये ;

(बी) अहिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों के स्टेशनों से वहाँ की प्रादेशिक भाषाओं के अतिरिक्त हिन्दी भाषा में कितनी बार हिन्दी का कार्यक्रम प्रसारित किया जाता है; तथा

(सी) किन किन देशों के लिए हिन्दी में समाचार प्रसारित किये जाते हैं ?

POPULARISATION OF HINDI

[*2982. Shri B. S. Arya: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the All India Radio in 1950 to popularise the Hindi language;

(b) how many programmes in Hindi are broadcast in non-Hindi speaking areas in addition to the programmes of the respective regional languages; and

(c) for which foreign countries Hindi news bulletins are broadcast?]

The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Shri Diwakar): (a) The following steps were taken by All India Radio in 1950 to popularise the Hindi language:

(i) each Station serving the Hindi area broadcast a large variety of programmes reflecting the highest traditions of Hindi language and literature, projecting contemporary trends and utilising the best available talent and material;

(ii) each Station in the non-Hindi area broadcast Hindi lessons through the medium of its regional language or languages,

and also relayed one or two of the Hindi news bulletins;

(iii) consistent efforts were made to make the Hindi news bulletins as widely intelligible and popular as possible.

(b) Two types of programmes—Hindi lessons and Hindi news bulletins—were broadcast by non-Hindi stations. Most of these stations also presented a number of music programmes in Hindi, while a few also broadcast some Hindi spoken-word items.

(c) Hindi news bulletins are broadcast in All India Radio's External Services directed to the following countries: East Africa, South Africa, Mauritius, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and certain other parts of South East Asia.

WIRELESS IN STATES

*2983. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of Part A, Part B and Part C States, the capitals of which are linked with Delhi by wireless system?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): We have wireless links for all parts of India. It is not in the public interest to give detailed information on this subject beyond this. It is not seen why the hon. Member wants this information to be given in the House.

JAIL REFORMS

*2984. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what are the important jail reforms effected during the last three years in the Centrally Administered Areas?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

CENSUS

*2985. **Shri M. P. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House giving the details of the Census just finished regarding the total population of the country, literacy, income and figures, State-wise and sex-wise?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given on the 7th April, 1951, to Shri Chandrika Ram's Starred question No. 2856.

BHOPAL COLLEGE

*2986. **Thakur Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state if there is any proposal to raise the Bhopal College up to the M.A. Degree course in the year 1952?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): No, Sir.

FREE MILK TO STUDENTS IN BHOPAL

*2987. **Thakur Lal Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there was any scheme under the consideration of Government towards the end of the year 1950 to supply free milk to the school boys and girls of (i) Primary, (ii) Middle and (iii) Secondary Schools of Bhopal State?

(b) If so, has this scheme been given effect to and if not, why not?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) No Sir; but early in 1951 the question was taken up for consideration as it was expected that a large supply of milk powder will be available as a gift from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

(b) The scheme has not so far been implemented as the expected offer of milk powder from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund has not materialized.

ARTIFICIAL SILK

*2988. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been undertaken to find out the suitability of Indian wood for making pulp which will be used for the manufacture of artificial silk; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The results indicate that various varieties of Indian wood are suitable for making pulp which can be used for the manufacture of Artificial silk. The practical utilisation will however involve trials on a pilot plant scale. This matter is receiving the attention of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Silk and Art Silk Mills Research Association, Bombay.

PROVINCIAL LOAN'S FUND

*2989. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what was the outstanding debt due to the Government of India due on the Provincial Loan's Fund on 1st April 1936, State-wise?

(b) Were such debts repaid or are they still outstanding?

(c) What is the present debt due to the Government of India by each of the Part A States till the 31st March, 1951?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). A statement containing the information required is laid on the Table. [See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 21.]

CENSUS

*2990. **Shri B. K. Pani:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have begun the enumeration of census of social condition and investigation and calculation of economic condition;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have enlisted the co-operation of non-official bodies and institutions for this purpose;

(c) when Government propose to publish the census of population and social condition statistics; and

(d) what is the expected date of publication of economic condition statistics?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): (a) and (b). It is presumed the hon. Member refers to the 1951 census of population which has been recently concluded. The enumeration was carried out by employees of Government and Local Bodies with the active co-operation of numerous non-officials.

(c) and (d). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given on the 7th April, 1951 to Shri Chandrika Ram's Starred Question No. 2856.

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION FROM TIBET

*2991. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the proceedings of the 21st March 1951, of the Legislative Assembly of the Uttar Pradesh, when it was alleged that there was a Communist infil-

tration from the borders touching Tibet;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to verify these allegations;

(c) whether any understanding between the Governments of India and Nepal has been agreed upon to keep a patrol on the borders of Tibet and the frontier countries and if so, since when; and

(d) whether any violations on these borders have so far been reported?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): (a) and (b). A few Tibetans from Lim near Lhasa came to the jungles of Garhwal for collecting wood for making utensils which fetch a high price in Tibet. There has been no infiltration of Communists or others.

(c) and (d). The answer is in the negative.

RED FORT

*2992. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the maintenance of the Red Fort Delhi in 1949-50 and 1950-51; and

(b) the amount collected during the same period by way of entrance fee?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) The amounts spent during 1949-50 and 1950-51, are Rs. 74,186/- and Rs. 38,434/- respectively.

(b) The amount collected by sale of tickets, is Rs. 95,546/4/-.

VANASPATI

*2993. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to substitute animal ghee by *vanaspati* in the ration of armed forces of India; and

(b) if so, what will be the saving and since when this change has been effected?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinghji): (a) Yes.

(b) The saving during 1950-51 was Rs. 61,21,028/- approximately.

Anticipated saving during 1951-52 is Rs. 83,79,040/- approximately.

The change was partially effected from the 15th August 1944 and totally from March 1951

CULTURAL DELEGATION

*2994. **Kaka Bhagwant Roy:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government of India propose to send a cultural delegation to the South East Asia?

(b) If so, when?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). There is no proposal before the Government of India to send a cultural delegation to South East Asia.

INCOME-TAX IN PEPSU

*2995. **Kaka Bhagwant Roy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of income-tax realised in PEPSU in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The total amount of income-tax collected in PEPSU since integration on 13th April 1950 and up to the 28th February 1951 was about Rs. 25 lakhs. In 1949-50 the tax was collected by the State Government and not by the Government of India.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

*2996. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state what amount of loan and for what purpose was taken by the Damodar Valley Corporation from the World Bank?

(b) What are the conditions and what part of it has been spent on what projects?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) The Government of India have taken a loan of 185 lakh dollars from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for financing the Bokaro Thermal Station and Konar Dam Projects of the Damodar Valley Corporation.

(b) A copy of the agreement entered into with the Bank containing the terms and conditions on which the loan has been granted was laid on the Table of the House in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 470, by Shri B. K. Das on August 10, 1950. So far a sum of forty-four lakhs of dollars has been withdrawn from this account.

TELAIYA RESERVOIR AREA

*2997. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to

state how many families have been dislocated from the Telaiya Reservoir Area?

(b) What are the provisions made for their re-settlement?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) None so far. The reservoir is expected to begin to fill up only after the dry-season of 1951-52.

(b) Those who want land for land and/or house for house will be provided with what they want in the rehabilitation area where waste land is being reclaimed and houses are being built. Others will receive monetary compensation.

MYSORE STATE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

*2998. **Shri M. V. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders have been issued by Government proposing to treat the servants of the Mysore State Government taken over under the Federal Financial Integration as temporary Staff on the existing scales of pay for another year again and if so the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committees in respect of Gazetted and non-Gazetted Staff have been received by the Central Board of Revenue and if so, on what dates;

(c) whether it is not a fact that the Agreement reached at the Conference of Chief Secretaries held on 24-25 February 1950, envisaged the granting of Central Pay Scales to this personnel as from 1st April 1951 at the latest, subject to assessment of officers and evaluation and equation of posts and grades;

(d) whether this inordinate delay in implementing the Agreement has not resulted in discrimination as between Government servants performing the same kind of work in the Departments comprised in the Federal Financial Integration; and

(e) whether Government are aware that this policy has caused acute discontent in the minds of the personnel taken over from Mysore State?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) No Sir. Under the orders issued by Government, the Mysore State staff taken over by the Centre under the Federal Financial Integration scheme for Income-tax and Central Excise administration are kept on the same scales of pay and conditions of service as they enjoyed

in the State prior to integration, pending a final decision on the question of the terms and conditions of their absorption in Central Government cadres.

(b) So far as Gazetted officers are concerned, no *ad hoc* Committee has so far been appointed. As regards non-gazetted staff, the Committee's report in respect of Central Excise staff (class III) was received on the 9th October 1950 and that in respect of Income-tax staff on the 8th November 1950.

(c) The question of pay scales to be given to Part B States Government servants taken over by the Centre was not specifically discussed by the Conference. After consultation with the States the Government of India, however, issued a Press Communique on the 21st March 1950 which stated *inter alia* that it was expected that the persons ultimately taken over from the State would be brought on to the Central Scales of Pay and Allowances within a period of one year.

(d) and (e). The Government of India have decided that the Central Pay Commission's scales of pay and allowances should be applied with effect from the 1st April 1951 in the case of such officers and the staff of the State as are finally absorbed in the Central Government cadres.

HIRAKUD SUB-STATIONS

*3000. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has offered assistance by way of equipment for Hirakud Sub-stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that the French offer is cheaper than the German and British offers, and if so, what are the separate quotations;

(c) whether the French offer has been scrutinised by CWINC and D.G.I.S.; and

(d) at what stage the matter rests?

The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa): (a) If the hon. Member implies by 'France' the Government of France, the answer is in the negative. The fact is that the United French Industries, agents of some manufacturers in France, were one of the 28 tenderers for equipment required for eleven grid sub-stations for the Hirakud Project, in response to an advertisement in that behalf, through the Director General, Supply and Disposals, under three groups.

(b) In one group, the tender of the United French Industries to which the hon. Member presumably refers, was not really the lowest, considering the items that they had omitted when submitting their tenders. In the other two groups, the tenders were only apparently lowest but could not be accepted because of technical defects.

(c) Yes, Sir. Besides C.W.I.N.C. and Director General, Supply and Disposals, the tenders were also scrutinised by the representatives of the Ministries of Works, Production and Supply and Finance.

(d) Orders have been placed by the Director General, Supply and Disposals.

INCOME-TAX INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

196. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the term of the Income-tax Investigation Commission has been extended;

(b) if so, up to what date; and

(c) when the order extending the life of the Commission will be laid before Parliament?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Up to the 31st December 1952.

(c) A copy of the order was laid on the Table of the House on the 7th April, 1951.

COMMUNISTS

197. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any spurt in the Communist activities in Telangana, Andhra and among the aboriginal tribes of Bengal and Bombay; and

(b) what is the nature of such activities at present.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): (a) and (b). No, on the contrary it can be stated that there has been an improvement. But in Telangana, which is still the worst affected area, murders, burning of village records, looting and destruction of food grains have not stopped.

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

198. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 164 asked on 3rd August 1950, and state whether the History of Philosophy has now been published?

(b) If so, what is the price of the book?

(c) If not, when is it likely to be published?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): (a) to (c). The typescript of the book (History of Philosophy-Eastern and Western) has been handed over to the Publishers and it is expected that the book will be available to the public by April 1952. It will be priced at about 3 Guineas per set of two volumes.

CO-EDUCATION

199. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what practical steps, if any, have been taken by Government during the past three years for Co-education in the Centrally Administered Areas?

The Minister of Education (Maulana Azad): There is no definite or uniform practice in the different Centrally Administered Areas in regard to co-education. At the University stage there is co-education generally. At the Primary stage also there is generally co-education. At the Secondary stage the practice varies more considerably from area to area according to practical considerations. No restrictions, whatsoever are placed on the admission of girls to educational

institutions intended mainly for boys. Special institutions for girls are opened only in areas where there are a large number of girl students.

DEATH RATE IN BHOPAL

200. **Thakur Lal Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the death rate per thousand population (i) in the city of Bhopal and (ii) in the mofussil outside Bhopal city during the years 1949 and 1950?

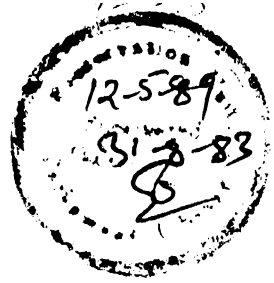
(b) How does it compare with the death rate of India in the same years?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The number of deaths registered during the years 1949 and 1950 is as follows:

- (i) in the city of Bhopal, 232 and 268 respectively giving a mortality rate of 2.6 and 3.0 per thousand of population respectively; and
- (ii) in the mofussil outside Bhopal city 11,830 and 10,003 respectively giving a rate of 14.8 and 12.5 per thousand of population respectively.

(b) The death rate of India during 1949 is estimated at 16.0 per thousand of population. The corresponding rate for the year 1950 is not yet available.

Tuesday, 10th April, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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VOLUME X, 1951

(31st March, 1951 to 20th April, 1951)

Third Session
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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)
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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 10th April, 1951

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-47 A.M.

**STATEMENT RE. INCOME-TAX
INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): Before you take up other matters, Sir, may I know what time you wish to allot for the discussion of the Defence Ministry Demand which has been pending for some ten days now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When we come to the Demands for Grants I shall state what I have to say on it.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): Shri Kamath the other day raised the question whether the time taken by the Finance Ministry for laying on the Table a copy of the notification regarding the extension of the term of the Income-tax Investigation Commission was reasonable or not. The facts of the situation, Sir, are as follows. As you observed the other day, I was not prepared for this particular question and therefore I did not have the facts before me.

The date of the notification is the 28th March but it actually appeared in the *Gazette of India* on the 31st March as the *Gazette* ordinarily issues on Saturdays only. The Parliament Secretariat received the notice of the question which Shri Kamath has put on the 30th March and we received an advance copy on the 31st March.

The final admitted list of questions which is really the only authoritative list was received by the Ministry of Finance from the Parliament Secretariat on the 5th April. The 1st April was a Sunday and on Monday, the 2nd we addressed a communication to the Parliament Secretariat requesting them to place a copy of the notification on the Table of the House. It will be quite clear, Sir, in the first place, that there was no delay. Shri Kamath observed in the course of his statement that it was his suspicion that it was because he sent a question on the subject soon after that we took the action which the law required us to take. There is no way of denying the hon. Member the comfort of his own suspicions, but as a matter of fact there is as little casual connection between his question and our action, as is illustrated in the well-known *kakathali nyaya*.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): The statement made by the Finance Minister raises an important issue and that is this. The statement seeks to make out that after the Parliament Secretariat sent an advance copy of my question on the subject, the Finance Ministry got busy about this matter and.....

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I did not say that at all....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On the other hand, I understood the Finance Minister say that it was a sheer accident. He had already intimated to the Parliament Secretariat that it may be included in the agenda for laying it on the Table. It so happened that the dates synchronised with the putting of a question by the hon. Member. That is purely *kakathali*, that is what the hon. Minister says.

Shri Kamath: Apart from that, the issue before the House is this. The amended Act stipulates that the order extending the term of the Commission shall be laid on the Table of the House

[Shri Kamath]

as soon as may be after it is made. Here the order was made—it does not matter to the House as to when it was notified in the Gazette. The order was made on the 28th March, if I heard him aright; it may have been published in the Gazette later on, but the fact is that though the House was sitting it took the Ministry as many as eight days to send a copy of that order to the House. The pertinent question, therefore, is.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will answer that question—the hon. Member need not dilate upon it. The hon. Minister read out several dates. The order was made on the 28th March, it is true. It was communicated to the Parliament Secretariat which received it on the 2nd April. It was set down on the order paper as supplementary agenda on the 5th April, 1951. In this connection, I would like to inform Members about the practice that is adopted in the matter of including in the agenda items relating to laying of papers on the Table of the House. The practice in regard to inclusion of such items in the agenda is as follows. Whenever a Ministry suggests a definite date for laying on the Table a paper which is received from that Ministry, that item is included in the agenda for that day if possible or in the supplementary agenda, or falling that, in very urgent cases it is included in the memorandum of business. A paper is laid on the Table even with the shortest notice in case a definite date is suggested by the Minister. I do not think it is obligatory on the Minister in this case to indicate a particular date. Therefore, where no date is mentioned for laying the paper on the Table, it is the long-established practice to include the item in the agenda of a day which is the earliest question day for that Ministry—this practice was started nearly two decades ago—so that the Minister is not inconvenienced by having to be present in the House just to lay a paper on the Table.

So far as the present matter is concerned, there was absolutely no delay. The matter was communicated to the Parliament Secretariat, and inasmuch as no particular date was fixed—which, of course, in this particular case was not obligatory on the part of the Minister—it has been included in the agenda for the 5th of April. Discussion on this matter may conclude.

Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab): On a point of information, Sir. The hon. Minister has used an expression and you have repeated it. Would you

kindly just elucidate the meaning of that constitutional term *kakathali nyaya*?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now proceed to the next business.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
SPECIFICATION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs, No. 26/12/50-R.G., dated the 15th February, 1951, addressed to certain Members of Parliament regarding specification of Scheduled Tribes as I promised in the course of the debate on the 5th April, 1951. [See Appendix XXIV, annexure 16.]

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF
DEMANDS—concluded

SECOND STAGE—concluded

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with consideration of Demands. The list of business for today has set out Demands for Grants for the Finance Ministry for consideration. In addition, in the supplementary agenda that has been circulated to hon. Members the Demand for Grant for the Defence Ministry amounting to over Rs. 128 crores has also been set down. I propose to start with discussion on the Demands for the Finance Ministry. So far as the other Demand of the Defence Ministry is concerned, it will be taken up at 4-30 p.m. There will be guillotine at 5 p.m. Hon. Members will recollect that on the previous occasion the discussion on this Demand was over. All the relevant discussion had already taken place; the hon. Minister was called upon to reply and he gave the reply also. At that stage, I found that a number of hon. Members wanted clarification on certain points and they went on putting questions after questions. With respect to certain questions the hon. Minister had an immediate reply; with regard to others, having regard to the number of questions involved, I suggested that they might be sent to the Parliament Secretariat to be communicated to the hon. Minister so that he may lay a statement on the Table. For that purpose, the matter was adjourned. I understand that the statement was laid on the Table yesterday, and it was also suggested that whichever hon. Member was interested might take a copy from the Notice Office. All this has been done, and nothing more remains.

So, I will take the Demand at 4-30 and proceed with it from that stage.

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): May I just point out that the questions which I had put down have not been answered in the statement and consequently it is very necessary to have a discussion. Whether those questions are pertinent or not and whether they should be answered or not, it would take longer than half an hour and it would be fair to us if you give an hour.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): I also want to repeat the same thing. Out of the 14 questions I had given, more than half have not been replied to.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are well aware that in reply to questions, a statement has been made. They should accept and be satisfied with the statement. If answers are not given, therein to any of the questions they may draw any inference they like. This is not a question hour. When during a debate a number of questions are raised, the Minister states what he has to say in his reply. I have gone further in this case and asked him to make a statement with regard to further questions that were asked. Is there no limit to the number of questions? What is this novel practice for which hon. Members are claiming a right in this House? It is quite unusual. The hon. Member who was himself President of another House thinks that this is a place where we can go on cross-examining the Defence Minister. Enough has been said. I am not going to allow any further questions. The matter will be taken up at 4-30.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): On a point of clarification, how much time would be allotted to the Minister and how much for Members?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No further questions. The Minister has already made the statement. I shall allow one or two questions which I think have not been clarified in the statement. I will then put the Demand to the vote of the House.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): May I draw your attention to what was said yesterday when the Defence Minister placed a statement on the Table? You were then pleased to observe that copies of the statement could be obtained by hon. Members who wanted to speak on the matter and even others who were interested in it. It seemed from these words that yesterday you thought that a discussion of the subject would be permissible. Therefore, it is a matter of surprise to learn that you have now made up

your mind to permit no discussion on this Demand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is wrong for the hon. Member to have drawn that inference that a further discussion from my statement that copies of the papers laid on the Table would be available to hon. Members. What was meant was that such use could be made of those papers as hon. Members have a right to do. I have no right to re-open the discussion, which has been concluded; nor can I allot another day or another time for discussion. If for purposes of clarification one or two questions are to be put, I would have no objection. The whole proceeding will not be re-opened. If my statement yesterday gave rise to any such impression, I am sorry for that, but I cannot go beyond the practice and re-open a matter which has been concluded.

12 NOON.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I draw your attention to the fact that we had a precedent of this nature in the matter of Rs. 30 lakhs which were demanded for the Railway collieries. The supplementary demand was held over and a full discussion took place on that subject subsequently. We were under the impression that the same procedure would be adopted in this case also. This Demand was not put to the vote, and therefore it was thought that this particular matter—I mean the jeep deal and the arms and ammunition contract—would be considered again.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member himself has stated that the discussion was held over and the matter was referred for investigation. I very well remember that the hon. Minister was willing to place this matter in the hands of the Estimates Committee. A number of other hon. Members were invited. Discussions went on and I on behalf of the Estimates Committee made a statement. The hon. Minister agreed with it and then the discussion was closed. This is not that stage. We are at a different stage altogether. We have reached a further stage. In the usual course, on the previous day I should have put the Demand to the vote of the House and taken the chance and left it to the House whether to accept it or reject it. So, there is no good comparing the two proceedings.

Shri Kamath: We should have at least one hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no need for one hour.

Pandit Kunzru: May I point out that the Parliament Secretariat, in the bulletin that it has circulated about yesterday's proceedings, has interpreted your words in the same way that I have done?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not saying that the hon. Member is giving a different interpretation. Possibly, just like him the office also has interpreted it in that way, but that is not what I meant, and that is something that I cannot do.

Shri Kamath: Will you give one hour, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Only half an hour. The whole thing has been clarified already.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): The instance of the railway collieries' demand was quoted. No statement clarifying the points raised was laid on the Table by the hon. Minister in that instance. So, there is no parallel between that and this.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: I want to explain.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No explanation is necessary. I have come to a conclusion.

Shri Kamath: You have an open mind, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have always got an open mind, but the mind can be open only up to a particular point. It has to be closed at times.

DEMAND No. 21—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,28,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND No. 22—CUSTOMS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,68,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Customs'."

DEMAND No. 23—UNION EXCISE DUTIES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,15,89,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Union Excise Duties'."

DEMAND No. 24—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,49,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

DEMAND No. 25—OPIUM.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,89,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Opium'."

DEMAND No. 26—STAMPS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,51,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Stamps'."

DEMAND No. 27—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries'."

DEMAND No. 28—AUDIT.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,85,02,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND No. 29—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

DEMAND No. 30—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,15,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No. 31—CURRENCY.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Currency'."

DEMAND No. 32—MINT.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND No. 33—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,65,06,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 34—MISCELLANEOUS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,97,30,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

DEMAND No. 35—GRANTS-IN-AID TO STATES.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,87,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Grants-in-aid to States'."

DEMAND No. 36—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Union and State Governments'."

DEMAND No. 37—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,36,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND No. 38—PRE-PARTITION PAYMENTS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,51,65,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Pre-Partition Payments'."

DEMAND No. 39—EXTRAORDINARY PAYMENTS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,81,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Extraordinary Payments’.”

DEMAND No. 97—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE INDIA SECURITY PRESS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,39,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on the India Security Press’.”

DEMAND No. 98—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,68,08,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Industrial Development’.”

DEMAND No. 99—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Currency’.”

DEMAND No. 100—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,54,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Mints’.”

DEMAND No. 101—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Commuted Value of Pensions’.”

DEMAND No. 102—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Payments to Retrenched Personnel’.”

DEMAND No. 103—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF GOVERNMENT TRADING.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,54,09,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government Trading’.”

DEMAND No. 104—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Development’.”

DEMAND No. 105—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,99,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Loans and Advances by the Central Government’.”

Revaluation of Indian rupee

Shri Hussain Imam: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Financial and Economic Policy

Pandit Kunrru: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Grant of Equitable Subvention

Shri Subbiah (Hyderabad): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the 'Grants-in-aid to States' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Indian Customs Service

Shri Jaipal Singh (Bihar): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sales tax in Delhi State

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,00,000."

Failure to revalue the rupee

Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure of economy drive

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to check inflation

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Condition of middle-classes

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Evasion of Income-tax

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy underlying audit

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sterling Balances

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Grants-in-aid to States

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Results of devaluation

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Cut motions moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

"That the demand under the head 'Grants-in-aid to States' be reduced by Rs. 100."

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 1 crore."

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

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[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

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Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa): I have patiently followed these few days the discussion on the floor of the House on the grants. Sir, my sympathies go to the Finance Ministry. In the first place 'finance' has always to face the demands of the different Ministries on the one hand and the demands of the Members of this hon. House on the other. In this difficult task this unfortunate Ministry has found three Ministers in successive turns, my hon. friend being the last. He is the last in the line to hold the field and let me hope that he will stay longer and again face hon. Members of this House after the next elections.

Sir, after a series of deficit budgets, he comes forward with a surplus one with certain new principles enunciated in it. Sir, this Ministry I was feeling, was working hard, probably wanting some aid and I congratulate the hon. the Finance Minister for having chosen an active understudy and lieutenant in Mr. Tyagi. I welcome him and hope he will make himself useful and respected in the Ministry

Sir, while thanking my hon. friend to the extent to which I could go, I have to state that if I stand today to discuss this Budget, it is not with a view to criticise it. As long as the Congress Party holds office, the role of the Members of the Congress Party is that of back benchers, initiative always remaining with the Cabinet and the party executive. Sir, that being the position, I stand here only to seek clarification on certain important aspects.

My hon. friend knows that this is the last budget, we having reached the end of our journey. Sir, we have to face one of the biggest elections known to history. My hon. friend allowed the Railway Ministry to formulate principles involving new experiments in a state monopoly concern, by raising fares, for which there was absolutely no need from the point of view of the

working of the Ministry itself. The fares were raised for the needs of the general revenues. It is a new principle. This new principle, I claim, ought to have been discussed previously on the floor of this House.

Again my hon. friend has taken courage to state that the Grow More Food grants ought to be financed from the general revenues. The principle may be right or wrong. It is not for me to discuss. But I claim that a principle, so important as this, should be open to prior discussion here. Similarly, there are certain capital works which are proposed to be financed from the ordinary revenues. I have already stated that I am not going to discuss here the merits of the case; that will take time. But I feel that I am entitled to know from the hon. the Finance Minister who is a democrat of democrats, why these principles were not discussed on the floor of the House before they were finally adopted. Even in this case I may join issue with him that he has kept the initiative to himself. He has not placed all the cards on the table. He does not say whether it is his intention to take, as a matter of course, all the capital expenditure incurred in the Defence Department to be financed from the revenue, or only certain specified works, and if so, on what basis and on what principles. A question so important as this, I claim, should have been considered and accepted by this hon. House.

Sir, I concede that the new experiment that is proposed to be adumbrated by my hon. friend may be good or bad, may be right or wrong, but I must frankly confess that it lacks political wisdom and the responsibility of prior consultation with the legislature before the accepted principle is given up and a new course of action is proposed to be taken up.

Having said that, I come to another important aspect and that is about the appointment of Finance Commission. As the House knows we were following the Otto Niemeyer Award. The President of the Constituent Assembly had appointed a Committee and they made certain recommendations. I have to state in this House, as I had stated in the Constituent Assembly, that we are not at all happy over these awards. The sooner these awards are torn off and thrown, the better for the States, barring the important States of Bombay, Madras and Bengal. It is a serious handicap to the development programme of all the other States excluding these three. Under these circumstances my hon. friend cannot make me agree to accept the Award to which

he himself is a party and in which he played so very important and honourable part. Therefore the only other alternative is the appointment of a Finance Commission. Under the provisions of the Constitution two years have been laid down as the maximum period within which the Commission has to be appointed. Sir, the Constitution begins from the 26th January, 1950. One year and odd has elapsed already—fourteen or fifteen months. You have just another ten months more. But my hon. friend brings in proposals for the coming year without saying anything about this unfortunate Commission that has to be appointed. I would not have minded had he taken any step to bring a Bill before the hon. Members of this House in terms of the article in the Constitution. I believe article 281 lays down that the qualifications of the Members of the Commission have to be laid down in terms of an Act. Parliament has to propose and lay down qualifications, they have to introduce a Bill in terms of the Constitution laying down the qualifications of the Members of the Commission. I claim that the omission of such an important question in the Budget, either in the Budget Memorandum or in the Budget speech, necessarily calls for comment. He will please pardon me.....

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): Is he aware that a Bill has been introduced here in regard to the Finance Commission?

Shri Biswanath Das: I am very sorry I stated it without knowledge—not only myself but a number of other Members also were not able to tell me about this—and I apologize. Sir, I thank him. And the sooner this Commission is appointed and his Award is torn off and washed clean the better for himself, for us and for all the other Provinces barring these three Provinces.

Then I come to the question of debts that other countries owe to India. First let me take Burma. Burma owes us about 48 millions and odd as a result of Railways and other joint undertakings that had gone over to Burma. We have been paying interest on these debts, but Burma has paid, I believe, only 2½ crores a year in instalments only for four years. Burma is an independent State. Conditions had been unsettled there, I realize. But now conditions have been settled. Burma is now having conditions stabilized, law and order restored. I should like to know from the hon. the Finance Minister what steps he has taken to see that the instalments that Burma owes to India are insisted

upon and realized in due course. We are passing through difficult times. Burma has got ample resources and has developed her resources. From the statements and telegrams as appear in the press, Burma has enough rice. She has improved her agricultural industry and some other industries, and she has stabilized her position. The elections of Burma are coming up very soon. Under these circumstances, is it not the duty and responsibility of my hon. friend to see that the instalments that Burma owes to India are being realized, and does he not owe a responsibility to the hon. Members of this House to state what steps are being taken in this regard?

Having stated so far about Burma I come to the question of Pakistan debts. On the date of separation it was roughly estimated that Pakistan has to pay India about Rs. 300 crores. The definite amount was kept to be decided subsequently. Year after year we see in the Budget memorandum the same indefinite sum shown. I have a claim to know from the hon. the Finance Minister the steps that have been taken so far—it is not alone a question of the recovery, it is a question of definitely fixing up the dues of India from Pakistan and realisation thereafter. That preliminary action has not yet been taken, and I am sorry to state that my hon. friend has not stated anything either in the Memorandum or in his speech by way of information about the actions taken in this regard. He will please do well to explain to us the steps that have been taken, the definite amount that Pakistan owes to us, and also the question of realisation that has to come in the usual course.

I find from the records that a moratorium of four years was being allowed to Pakistan. The four years may be from the 1st April 1947 or from the 15th August 1947. In any event the four years moratorium passes by 1951.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: By 1952.

Shri Biswanath Das: How? If it is four years from 1947.....

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: From 1948.

Shri Biswanath Das: If that were so, certainly the question of payment remains to be stated. But my hon. friend has a duty to explain what definite steps have been taken to finalise this and state definitely the amount that Pakistan owes to us.

Then again arises another question. He has entered into a commercial pact

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or treaty with Pakistan on the basis of the par value of the Pakistan rupee. Are we to realize this above amount on the basis of par value or on the basis of the Indian rupee? That is an important question and we expect a reply from him on that point.

Coming to the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement, the trade agreement was concluded between India and Pakistan fairly long before the presentation of the Budget, and yet my hon. friend in his Budget speech states that the question is still pending with the International Monetary Bank. He states in Part A of his Budget speech that the question is still pending consideration. Why should he make that statement? Having concluded the pact or the commercial treaty, having accepted the par value of the Pakistan rupee, is it left to him still to say that the International Monetary Bank will decide otherwise? How can it be? What is the decision after all? The decision of the International Bank is in confirmation of what India and Pakistan have done. That is the latest decision. Under these circumstances I claim, Sir, that my hon. friend is not fair to the hon. Members of this House, in stating in a way which puts the case as if the matter is still under consideration.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not get the point of the hon. Member.

Shri Biswanath Das: I am very sorry, but I have a very short time at my disposal; I will state what he has stated...

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I stated that a trade agreement has been made as announced and that in due course the International Monetary Fund will give its decision on the par value of Pakistan rupee.

Shri Biswanath Das: That you have not stated. If you had stated that the bank will give a decision on the par value of the Pakistan rupee, there was nothing for me to complain. I will just read what the hon. Finance Minister has stated.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whether the hon. Minister said it or not, that is the position.

Shri Biswanath Das: I agree that is the position. My complaint is that a definite and satisfactory decision should have been reached on this question. The hon. Finance Minister stated in his budget speech that he has accepted the trade agreement and should have clearly stated that the International Bank is going to accept it and that is my complaint.

Then I come to the question of the purchase of British Defence disposals. Sir, we and Pakistan purchased these installations. We had to pay Rs. 133 crores to Britain and have paid about Rs. 12 crores for Pakistan and we have got to realize from Pakistan, the amount due from the sales of these disposals. Looking into the Budget memorandum of the past two years, I find that these amounts have not been recovered. I would like to know why these amounts have not been recovered even though it was stated that these amounts have fallen due from 1949-50. Why should a tendency of soft-heartedness be shown at a time by the Government of a State which is itself in hopeless stress and difficulty to another State which is affluent and is having a surplus budget with remission of taxation?

Sir, a word about retrenchment. We have been harping on it. Government are stressing the need of retrenchment. The Economy Committee was appointed and after a lot of labour the mountain produced a mouse. The result was this: The hon. Finance Minister in his statement says that by giving full effect to the recommendations of the Economy Committee, the economy will be to the extent of Rs. 4½ crores. Sir, my hon. friend's predecessor Dr. John Matthai after discussing with the various Ministries as also with the standing Finance Committee came to the conclusion that no useful purpose will be served by these discussions because no Ministry was willing to accept any of these economies. Therefore, it was announced by him, I believe in Parliament, that he would think of a cut of 10 per cent. Great hopes were raised and I now find that my hon. friend says that all the cuts that the executive Government could think of will be of the order of Rs. 5½ crores. Let it be what it is. Sir, having stated so far, I come to the Estimates Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Biswanath Das: I am very sorry I have got something more to say, but I will try to be brief.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When the Finance Bill comes up the hon. Member can speak at length.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I want to know what steps the Finance Ministry is taking on the Estimates Committee's report. From what we have heard from the hon. Ministers, none of them seem to be willing to place their cards as to the extent they would be willing to accept the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. The Committee

have examined the proposals of the various Ministries in great details, and have tried so far as possible to come to decisions keeping an eye on the needs of the administration. Sir, as soon as decisions were arrived at, those were communicated to the Ministry concerned for examination. Therefore no one could say that they were taken by surprise. Under these circumstances, we were surprised to see that no Ministry has given any indication of the extent to which they would be willing to accept these recommendations. Now it rests on the Finance Minister to see that the recommendations are given effect to. My only hope is the announcement made by my hon. friend, Shri Tyagi wherein he said that he had appointed a Joint Secretary to take charge of the reports, scrutinise them and insist upon the Ministry concerned to give effect to the recommendations. Let me hope that even this great hope may not be like the mountain in labour producing a mouse.

Shri Khandubhai Desai (Bombay): I believe that the Finance Ministry is the key to the whole economic situation in the country. It is in charge of collecting the taxes from the people and distributing the total amount thus collected between the different Ministries for expenditure. I should say that in the collection of the taxes the Ministry is really very careful and would not permit any evasion of the taxation except of course to a certain extent in the matter of income-tax where there is a race between the tax dodger and tax collector. As for other taxes, the Ministry is very particular and there is a sort of centralized control and scrutiny over the collection of taxes by this Ministry. Can we say that the same control, scrutiny and investigation is being exercised in the matter of the expenditure of Rs. 300 and odd crores that are being collected in this country? My answer to this is this: The Finance Ministry may have got some rules for technically supervising the expenditure of the various Ministries, but I feel that the merits of the various items of expenditure that come before it as 'estimate' is not being examined into. I understand that the Finance Ministry has got its Financial Advisers to the various Ministries. I would like to take this opportunity to place before the House that these Financial Advisers attached and associated with the various Ministries are not exercising the duties and obligations placed upon them by the Finance Ministry. After all, the Finance Minister is the custodian and trustee of all the funds that are being collected. During the course of the Debate on the Budget,

various points have come up for criticism before the House. Some answers were given, though not satisfactory, by the various Ministries. They were in the form of defending the expenditure incurred by these Ministries on particular items. I would like to tell the Finance Minister that he is not there to defend each and every item of expenditure incurred by the Ministries; but he is there to scrutinise all the items that have come before this House for criticism. I think, if the Finance Minister strengthens his departments even with more personnel if necessary to examine each and every item of the expenditure incurred by the various Ministries attached to the Government of India, that money will be well spent. I think that now there is a change of policy as far as collection of taxes is concerned. The Finance Minister has very rightly now declared that he is looking to the common man to conduct this Government and that he is looking to the common man to finance this Government. The common man will certainly tell him: "We will give you whatever money you require; but it is poor man's money and so please see that every pie that you spend on any activities of the Government is very properly spent". That is all that I want to place before the Finance Minister.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Sorry to interrupt; it would make it easy for me to answer if the hon. Member could refer to any instance which he has in his mind. I do not want many; just one or two to illustrate what he has in mind. It is very difficult to deal with a general accusation that financial control is slack.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: As a Member of the Estimates Committee, I have had occasion to go in some detail into the expenditure of some of the Ministries. We found that there has been a sort of technical control, but on the merits of each particular item of expenditure, there was no scrutiny whatsoever. Therefore, my suggestion is that as far as the Estimates Committee is concerned, it would be much better if a representative of the Finance Ministry of high rank is associated in the deliberations of the Estimates Committee, so that he may be able to place before the Finance Minister his reactions about what he has heard during the course of the examination of the various estimates. There is one instance to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. It was brought to our notice in the course of the examination of the Defence Estimate; that stores valued at several hundreds of

[Shri Khandubhai Desai]

crores were left in this country when the war ended, out of which the Defence Ministry has released for disposal stores valued at Rs. 128 crores. What has happened to the remaining stores, we do not know up to now. It may have been that a part of the stores may be live stores which may be utilised by the Defence Ministry for its current use; but I do not know whether that has been included in the Defence Estimates anywhere. I tried to find out—but I could not—whether any credit has been given for these stores which were in value to the extent, according to my opinion, of about 400 crores. I do not mean to say that they have been misapplied or misappropriated; but we do not know how this substantial amount has been dealt with. As I said, possibly they may be live stores and may be utilised by the Defence Ministry. If what I say is correct, then, possibly, the Defence expenditure may be much more than what we have been led to believe according to the budget estimate.

The time at my disposal is rather short; so I would like to concentrate on one point which has been worrying me.

Shrimati Durgabai (Madras): May I ask the hon. Member one question, for clarification? May I know whether the hon. Member is referring to a paragraph in the Estimate Committee's report on the re-organisation of the Secretariat wherein it was said that the financial control on minor items is rigid, whereas on the major items, it was rather slack?

Shri Khandubhai Desai: That is what I am referring to also. In one statement I said that every pie that is being spent in the Secretariat or the Ministries should be very properly looked into and accounted for. That is what I said. It is for the Finance Minister now to evolve a system where-by a proper scrutiny is made.

Everybody is worried over the question of prices. This is the one Ministry to which we look upon for bringing down the prices of various commodities. I do appreciate that the Ministry has made all efforts to bring down the prices and I do agree with the hon. Finance Minister when he said that had he not properly looked into the matter and devised certain means, probably, the prices would have gone up further. He has asked us to be satisfied with what has been possible in the circumstances. But, the fact remains that the prices are what they are today. He has not also held out

to us any hopes of the prices coming down. Let us see what situation this has created. We all know that certain leaders of a political party have somehow or other got themselves associated with the Government employees, and every now and then, every two or three months, the country is being administered with threats of strikes, to an extent of demoralising the morale of the Government employees. I do agree that all human efforts are being made by Government to bring down the prices; but the prices are not coming down because of certain circumstances over which the Finance Ministry or the Government may have no control. I quite see that. But, the fact remains that the prices are not coming down. On the contrary, we have heard during the last week that Government have increased the price of cloth anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent. That would again raise the cost of living of the Government employees. What can be done now? It is apparently a very difficult situation. There are some people, actuated by political motives, who are bound to exploit the miseries of the employees. Government say that if we give you dearness allowances as recommended by the Pay Commission, that would upset the whole economy and would again bring about the spiral of rising prices. I am particularly concerned with Class III and Class IV Government employees. As far as the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission are concerned, Government have, for various reasons, may be beyond their control, not been able to honour their obligations and to give increased dearness allowances to their employees as recommended by the Commission. I do not think that these employees working in the various government services, whether they be in the Railways or in the Ordnance Depots or Stores or even in the Secretariat or in the Local Governments would be satisfied by a unilateral declaration by the Government that they cannot do anything in the matter. I think, that would be a negative policy and that will not do. I would suggest, if I may, that the time has come now when there should be a proper investigation of the whole situation and an impartial commission may be appointed to look into the whole question of dearness allowance. At the stage at which we now are, I would recommend to the Government that as far as certain items which form the ordinary needs of the poor employees are concerned, for example the rationed cereals or cloth etc., these may be given to them at concessional rates. Unless some such action is taken, I am afraid the politi-

cal parties to which I have referred, will be unnecessarily exciting the government employees and they will create a situation which will be bad. I do agree that the country is passing through a very critical period in its history and any action which calls upon or results in the government employees staging a strike is not only unpatriotic but is anti-national and what is worse, it will be suicidal, it will not be in the interests of the employees themselves. I would therefore, appeal to the political party who wants to exploit the situation, not to indulge in strike threats but to follow constitutional methods. They claim to be the opposition in the country and if that be so, the opposition also, in my opinion, must act with a sense of responsibility. As far as the Government is concerned, I would appeal to the Government to consider the suggestions I have made and do whatever is possible in the matter so as to allay the growing discontent. That is all I wish to say in the matter in the time at my disposal. I have a few more things to say, but I would not take away the time of my other colleagues here who wish to speak and I shall leave them for the present and avail myself of some other opportunity to give expression to them and lay them before this House on some future occasion.

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal): I would like to address my remarks to the question of whether or not we have arrived at a stage when we should seriously consider the question of the value of our rupee. Sir, you remember the rupee was devalued in September 1949. There were justifications for that at that time, for the sterling areas had devalued their currencies and it was thought necessary that we should also be careful to see how the thing worked. Sir, this arrangement has now worked for about eighteen months and I feel it is now high time we took account of the position as it stands now. In the year 1950, the imports came to Rs. 542 crores and the exports to Rs. 557 crores. Therefore our balance of payment position has been favourable and we have had no difficulty. But now on account of the very huge quantities of food grains to be imported due to the various difficulties that had arisen in the country, and also because of the high prices of jute and cotton which we have to import and which we must necessarily import, I think the imports will perhaps rise to about Rs. 700 crores or even a little more. And so if we keep the value of our rupee as it now is, we will

have to find exports to the extent of about Rs. 700 crores. But looking at the exports that we have made this year, I do not think that even with very favourable conditions and taking a liberal view of the thing, we can reach that figure of exports. As you know, we have been exporting large quantities of cloth and that has brought about a situation in the country when there is serious scarcity of cloth and so we have to seriously consider putting a stop to all exports of cloth. We have to consider the stopping of all export of textiles because people in the country cannot get what they want and there is scarcity in the land the like of which we have never had before. Therefore the hon. Minister in charge has rightly cut down the exports. But I think we may have to consider the question of total banning of exports in textiles at least for the next few months. The index of wholesale prices has also gone up considerably during the last 12 months. Whereas on the 25th March, 1950, the number for food articles was 395, now on the 24th of March, 1951, it is as much as 414. Similarly the number for industrial raw materials has gone up from 486 to 648, that for semi-manufactured goods from 346 to 386. So far as textiles are concerned, the steep rise I think has been on account of the de-control of jute and prices have shot up from 561 to 987. The position is very clear and it is quite evident that all these prices have gone up very considerably. The cost of living index in Bombay has also gone up. If we cannot hold up this rise in the prices, it will be a very difficult problem for the Government to check inflation. I think if we decide to raise the value of the rupee to its par value, to the value it had, we would straightaway save a lot of money in our imports. If the country had to pay about Rs. 700 crores and if the savings came to about 30 per cent. we would straightaway save about Rs. 210 crores. Even if we lost thereby a certain amount of exports, it will not be more than Rs. 50 crores or so and in any case we would be making a net saving of Rs. 160 crores or thereabouts straightaway by revaluing our rupee. Countries devalue when the prices of the commodities they export are rather high. But the prices of all our commodities are below the prices ruling in different parts of the world. If we want, we can export cotton textiles. We can sell steel, cement and even sugar as the prices here are less than what they are in other countries. Therefore, there is no justification for keeping up the devaluation of the rupee.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: But is this a permanent feature or a temporary one?

Shri Himatsingka: It is a permanent feature. So far as the prices of articles manufactured here are concerned, they are below those ruling elsewhere and that is why our country is in a position to export things to different parts of the world. Therefore I would request the hon. Minister to consider whether this is not the right moment when we should straightaway revalue our rupee. If we do not do that now, a time will come when it will be impossible for us to find the amounts that will be necessary to make payments for our imports. You cannot cut down imports because you have got to import food. You have got to import jute and also cotton. The import of jute and cotton alone from Pakistan will perhaps be to the extent of 120 crores and if we revalue our rupee at the rate of 44 crores for every 100 crores, the difference will come to 53 crores. Therefore I would beg of the Finance Minister to consider the question with his experts and come to an early decision, so that the country may not go on losing more and more on this one item only.

Perhaps this question of revaluing our rupee might solve a lot of difficulties. I have received today the April issue of Economic Survey Report of the British Government for 1951. I will quote just one paragraph of the conclusions they have arrived at:

"The account given in this Survey of the United Kingdom's economic prospects in 1951 is in many ways harsh and unpleasant. It presents a sharp contrast to the successful achievements of 1950. Even so, many of the assumptions on which it is based may well prove to have been optimistic. There is always a considerable element of uncertainty in the forecasts given in the Economic Survey, but this year it is much greater than before. We cannot count on getting the raw materials required for a 4 per cent. increase in industrial production. We cannot count on being able to raise the earnings of our visible exports by over £500 million. We cannot count on the rise in import prices being kept within the limits described above. None of these developments will be more than to a small extent under the control of this country, and if events abroad should turn out less favourably than has here been assumed, we may find ourselves in very serious difficulties. At best we face in the immediate future a

decline in the rate of increase in the national output a worsening of the balance of payments, a fall in supplies of some consumer goods, and a continuing rise in prices."

If the prices in U.K. rise, as I am afraid they are going to, our imports from that country also will cost us much more and therefore it is high time that we take up this question for consideration and come to a definite conclusion as early as possible. If the point of view I am putting forward for the consideration of the hon. Minister and his Government is right we should not delay the decision any further.

The House will remember that the question of decontrol of jute was taken up sometime in November last year. It is right that we have decontrolled jute, as a result of which a number of problems have been solved. The price of jute has gone up. It is now 102 instead of 35 which we were trying to stick to. Even at this price the manufactured article is selling at a good profit. Whereas when we decontrolled the price of Hessian was at Rs. 55 it is now about 118 plus the additional duty levied by this hon. House. Therefore we should not lose any further time in coming to a definite conclusion about this. This revaluation is the one thing whereby we will bring down the cost of living.

One of the two things that go into the price structure is food. At the present moment the prices have not gone up because the imported food-stuff has not come into the picture yet. When imports come from outside the prices rise and the cost of living will go on rising and create a spiral. We will then have to raise the wages of wage-earners and a lot of difficulties will be created. Therefore I feel that this question should be taken up and some definite conclusion arrived at as early as possible.

If the rupee is revalued the cost of living will come down. Labour and also the middle classes and others too will gain. There will be an all round improvement. Therefore a decision on this question ought not to be allowed to drift.

Judged from another point of view, if there is difficulty of payment we cannot reduce the number of our imports like industrial raw materials or food. But if we do revalue our rupee we will be saving in every thing—food, jute, cotton and even in capital goods also. Therefore there is no reason

why this question should not be seriously considered and some decision arrived at as soon as possible.

Sir, I would like to take another ten minutes and would continue after lunch.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has already taken ten minutes.

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

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

[SHRIMATI DURGAJI in the Chair]

Shri Himatsingka: Madam, before lunch I was addressing you on the question of re-valuation and so far as that point is concerned I have finished except for one more small suggestion. What I feel is that when the hon. Minister, Mr. Munshi's ships begin to come as we all want them to come quickly, the position of our balance of payments might begin to become adverse and then it might be difficult for us to justify re-valuation, and therefore this question is very urgent from that point of view also.

I want to refer to two or three small matters which are questions of importance from the point of view of the prestige of the Government as also in view of the difficulties that a number of persons have been put to. One is the question of pre-partition liabilities. As you may be aware, a large number of persons have to receive various amounts for works done or supplies made to the undivided Government of India as it then was, and to the Provinces of Pre-partitioned Punjab and Bengal. There are certain arrangements whereby certain amounts are to be paid in the first instance by Pakistan and in certain other cases in the first instance by the Indian Union or West Bengal. The people who supplied these things or executed these works do not know how matters stand, and on account of the fact that there is some trouble or other that is brewing between the two Governments, a large number of payments have not been made to these parties. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have this question looked into and, as the claims have all been examined by the Partition Council and the other Committees that were set up for the purpose, to see to it that they are paid. It may be that they have to adjust their accounts with the other Governments in West Pakistan or East Pakistan.

but surely it is up to the Government of India to see that the nationals of this country who did a lot of work for the Government and supplied various articles are paid their dues, dues which have been passed for payment by the Partition Council and the other Committees that were set up.

Another question to which I want to draw the hon. Finance Minister's attention is the question of the sales-tax. As you know by virtue of article 286 restrictions have been imposed on the levy of sales-tax on sales of articles outside the State. As you also know, practically the whole of textiles are produced in the State of Bombay and are supplied to Bihar, Bengal, Assam and other States. Article 286 makes it absolutely clear that no law of a State shall impose, or authorise the imposition of, a tax on the sale of goods where such sale takes place outside the State, and in the explanation it has been made clear that "a sale shall be deemed to have taken place in the State in which the goods have actually been delivered as a direct result of such sale...for the purpose of consumption". No one can dispute the proposition that so far as cloth is concerned it is being delivered in the various States to which allotment has been made for consumption in those States. The article makes it absolutely clear and incumbent on the States from which the cloth is exported not to charge the sales-tax, but only today I have got a letter from a party that the Bombay Government has been charging the sales-tax on supplies that are going out of Bombay to the various States. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to take up this question. It cannot be expected that individual parties will quarrel over this matter or take it to the courts, but when the Constitution has made it absolutely clear I think this matter should be looked into and something should be done.

Another matter to which I want to draw my hon. friend's attention is with regard to some of the river valley schemes which have been taken in hand in the various States. I was told in West Bengal that about Rs. 2 crores have been advanced for the Mor River scheme. They have completed the barrage and are constructing the dam, and if one more crore can be advanced I was told the scheme can be completed one season ahead. If the scheme can be completed one season ahead we will be getting the extra produce of about six lakh acres which are intended to be irrigated by the scheme, and I think it will be worth

[Shri Himatsingka]

our while to find this additional money for the State if they are in a position, as they say they are, to complete the scheme one season earlier. It will increase our production and will solve a lot of our difficulties so far as the food question is concerned.

I also wanted to make a few suggestions on the question of controls as they create a lot of problems for the hon. Finance Minister. The moment any kind of control is introduced the blackmarket springs up, and whether a person wants it or not the moment prices go outside the fixed limit those moneys are kept out of the books and this always creates a problem. Therefore, I would suggest that this question should also be considered and steps taken to minimise controls as far as they could possibly be without detriment to the other questions involved. Controls should be removed from such of the articles as can safely be decontrolled, so that at least some of the problems which go to create so much ill-feeling against the Government and bring a bad name for the Government rightly or wrongly, will be solved.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the various suggestions I have made with regard to sales-tax, controls and other important issues.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): The Finance Ministry is responsible for the all-round financial and economic affairs of the State and also of the country. The most important problem that has been engaging the attention of this House and perhaps of the Government is that of effecting economy. The hon. Finance Minister came with a reputation that he was very much in earnest about effecting economy, but it seems he has either despaired of the task or has not been able to do anything appreciable. Like charity every virtue ought to be practised first at home. The Finance Minister ought to have first effected economy in his own Ministry. I think he has not done anything significant—at least which may appear to the House significant or appreciable—in his own department. For his Ministry it is not only a question of effecting economy in his own department but also a question of exercising control over the expenditure of the different Ministries. That control should not be only at one point, that is when the money is sanctioned, but it should be a continuous process so that when the sanctioned sum is spent the entire

expenditure should be under the control and supervision of the Ministry of Finance.

In certain cases the Estimates Committee has found that there has been too much of control and supervision in minor matters while in major matters the supervision and control has not been as it ought to have been. I would invite the hon. the Finance Minister's attention to para. 16 of the second Report of the Estimates Committee and would request him to see what he can do to improve the situation. I can cite one or two cases. The payment of Rs. 1 crore in respect of fertilizer purchases without the previous sanction of the Finance Ministry is a matter where that Ministry has not fulfilled its obligations. As against this, for some petty repairs, files have been moving up and down. For instance, in the Calcutta Press, the sanction for repairs to a lorry costing a sum of about Rs. 800 was received after two months and in the meanwhile the Manager had to pay about Rs. 3,000 by way of hire charges for private lorries. All such cases should be minutely examined by the hon. the Finance Minister and his worthy lieutenant Shri Mahavir Tyagi.

Then I come to the question of the Indian rupee. When our rupee was devalued, perhaps we could not help it, but then the whole thing was done hurriedly and without proper consultation with the countries with which our economic relations were intimate—I mean Pakistan and Ceylon. For having done that hurriedly, perhaps depending too much on Anglo-American goodwill, we have to pay heavily. Then, Madam, the hon. the Finance Minister went to the International Monetary Fund at Paris last September or October full of hopes to have the Pakistan rupee's exchange value lowered by the I.M.F., but his hopes were not fulfilled. When Pakistan was in a mood to come to terms in last September, we depended too much on the I.M.F. or Anglo-American goodwill and we have now had to accept Pakistan rupee at its par value. Apart from the question of prestige, I think the present value of the Indian rupee is going to cause serious harm to our position financially.

Madam, it has been said that our foreign-exchange position last year after devaluation had improved. During the twelve months of the pre-devaluation period, the exchange receipts were Rs. 517 crores and payments Rs. 766 crores, a deficit of

Rs. 249 crores, whereas during the twelve months of the post-devaluation period, our receipts were Rs. 638 crores and payments Rs. 572 crores, leaving a favourable balance of Rs. 66 crores. But these figures do not give the full picture of our financial position. The favourable balance of Rs. 66 crores was mainly due to the curtailment of our imports to the tune of about Rs. 125 crores and increase of 82 crores in export of textile manufactures—in spite of an overall shortage of textiles here. In effect therefore our exports did not increase by any appreciable quantity simply because of devaluation.

Government have tried to keep down the inflationary pressure, lest the effects of devaluation be neutralised. Even here, they have not been successful in spite of their best efforts. The general index figure which before devaluation was somewhere near 390 today stands at near about 450 points. So, inflation has not been checked and this has almost neutralised the benefits of devaluation.

If we revalue our rupee the position is likely to be improved. If the entire sterling areas devalue their coins the position may be easier; but even if the other sterling countries do not revalue, we are likely to benefit to a certain extent. Our estimated cotton purchases in the next year to the tune of Rs. 65 crores is likely to come down to Rs. 45 crores. The present Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement leaves a deficit of Rs. 50 crores; if we revalue our rupee, this gap will be wiped out or be reduced by at least Rs. 40 crores. This is likely to reduce inflation and cost of production helping exports.

Then there are other points also. Now that the I.M.F. has accepted the Pakistan rupee ratio, the position has vitally changed. Our acceptance of the par value of the Pakistan rupee in the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement was conditional and limited to that particular fact only; but now that the I.M.F. has accepted the Pakistan rate, it has become obligatory for us to make all payments at that rate. I understand that Pakistan has already put in a claim for Rs. 49 crores on account of Reserve Bank assets and there are pension and other payments also which require periodical adjustment between the two countries. If we do not revalue our rupee, we shall have to make all payments at the present rate, which would be a great loss to our country.

As a Member coming from Bengal, I must say that the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement must have been

concluded some months ago. I can understand other Members of the Cabinet except the Finance Minister who are men from public and political life having idealistic illusions about the intentions and purposes of the Anglo-American bloc; but the Finance Minister coming as he does from the Services ought to have better appraised their mind. I think he also depended too much on their goodwill and did not take any step to conclude the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement earlier when we would have got better terms. This is not to say that because a mistake was committed then, we should persist in that and not rectify that. It is not that I do not appreciate that if we had not concluded this Agreement even now, it would have been worse still for us. But when the Agreement was concluded certain industries of Bengal, particularly ceramics, glass, hosiery and toilets ought to have been included. Undivided Bengal was one economic unit and even divided Bengal continues to be one economic unit. Both the Governments of India and Pakistan seem to forget that, they have to bear this important fact in mind. And I would ask the hon. the Finance Minister to include these articles.

In the end I would just like to say a word about jute. Even now, as would be apparent from press reports the position is very dark and unless some effective steps are taken in the line of State trading, there will be trouble in jute trade. The practice of having a man from the industry as Controller, as in the case of iron and steel, has landed us into all this trouble. (An Hon. Member: Is he still the Controller?) No, he is very much the Controller even now. He has that Directorial control and authority of allotment to shippers. Government have all along been guided by the advice of the Controller and his companions and that has landed them in the present difficulties—incurring heavy losses. As my time is up, I conclude here, Madam.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): The hon. the Finance Minister's taxation proposals have imposed an additional burden of Rs. 31.6 crores on the people of this country, which has mostly fallen on the lower middle and poor people. Several hon. Members have been flooded with telegrams from the tobacco associations from which we are going to knock out some Rs. 12 crores. I am not going into the merits of this tax just now; that I shall deal with when the Finance Bill comes before this House.

[Shri Sidhva]

But, I would like to say in this connection that if this policy of the hon. Finance Minister is going to be followed in future, I do not know where our country will be. If my hon. friend Mr. Deshmukh banks on the "Colombo Plan", I may tell him that the "Colombo Plan", is still on paper, even if the Colombo Plan comes into existence we have to raise ourselves some crores of rupees. Let him face realities as they exist in the country. I do feel, Sir, that, if he tightens the belts of the various Departments and stops the leakages—I know he has devoted some attention to it and has brought forward certain proposals—that will go some way.

In the budget discussions of 1948 I stated that we have imposed sufficient taxes and if only all these taxes are legitimately and rightly collected, they are quite adequate for the administration of this country. If I remember rightly, this view was shared by my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi last year that if all the taxes are properly collected there will be no occasion for imposing further taxation. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this matter. The whole system today is in a mess. The finance, and accounts are in such a mess that the deeper one goes the more perplexed one becomes. I do not know what is accounts; I do not know what is cash and I do not know what is audit. Of course, while I know the meanings of all of them, I do not know how they are functioning—who is responsible for accounts, who is responsible for payments and who is responsible for audit. There may be responsible audit officers and there may be responsible account officers. But where is the chain; where is the link and who is the co-ordinating authority? This is a matter which deserves the earnest consideration of the hon. the Finance Minister.

Then, Sir, I come to Disposals and Controls. We were assured by Minister after Minister that the Disposals would be closed by the 31st of March, 1951. But the organisation still continues. As far as I am able to gather—of course I am speaking subject to correction—the Provincial and Central expenditure on disposals and controls is something like Rs. 9½ crores. I may be incorrect, because figures of provincial expenditure were not easily available. My point is this. I am not entirely in favour of decontrol. But where it is possible, why not fix a ceiling price and remove the control? How long are you going to continue this control. There is for example the Textile Control organisation, with its

headquarters in Bombay and offices throughout the country. Similarly, if one were to visit the Shahjahan Road one would find thousands of employees working. Where it is necessary, do continue the control. But has any attention been paid to the fact that the time has come when controls on certain items can be relaxed? I would request the hon. the Finance Minister to bear this fact in mind.

The third point I want to deal with is the Estimates Committee. I wanted to know the other day—he was not present then in his seat—the view of the hon. the Finance Minister about this Committee, because he has come after the Estimates Committee was appointed. To refresh his memory, I may tell him that his predecessor, Dr. Matthal attached great importance to the reports of the Estimates Committee. For his benefit, I would like to read to him what he said at the last Budget session:

"I attach such great importance to the Estimates Committee that I would like to consider their proposals. . . . They will be the guardians, they will be the custodians and they will give me a certain amount of support when my Budget is prepared. Therefore, I am looking to that Estimates Committee with great interest."

He also suggested: "I do not expect the Estimates Committee to overhaul 12 Ministries. I would suggest them to overhaul only 3 Ministries."

He also suggested that the reports on these three Ministries should be sent in time. Now, we sent reports on three Ministries. The first was on the Ministry of Industry and Supply and it was sent to the Ministry in September to enable the Finance Minister to consider the proposal before the Budget. The saving suggested was Rs. 2,13,72,000. Later we submitted a Report on Reorganisation of the Secretariat, where no figures of saving were suggested. Then we sent our Report on the Ministry of Commerce suggesting a saving of Rs. 23,76,000. In our fourth report on the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power we estimated a saving of about Rs. 1,70,08,000. All told we recommended a saving of Rs. 4,07,56,000. Now I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what his policy is: whether he wants to give that importance to the Estimates Committee which his predecessor attached? We, the honorary Members of the Committee devoted a lot of our time to this Committee. You, Madam, were one of the members and you know how

after day we worked for five or six hours, discussing various matters, examining officers, etc. If the hon. Minister is going to attach to this committee only that importance which is attached to other standing committees, then, personally I think that it is no use having the Estimates Committee. I would, in this connection like to quote what Dr. Matthai said on the 28th February 1950.

"I am looking forward to the work of the Estimates Committee when it is set up because I think, in two directions it is going to exert a healthy influence upon the course of public expenditure. In the first place, the suggestions and criticisms which may be made by the Estimates Committee, would, in my judgment, give a very useful direction and guidance to the Government in the matter of regulating expenditure. Secondly, I think the knowledge that the expenditure of Government and of the various Departments of Government would be examined in detail by an independent authority set up by the House would, I am certain, act as a deterrent on extravagance in public expenditure."

He took very keen interest in this Committee and attended our Rules Committee, presided over by the hon. the Speaker. He suggested that we should complete our reports and present them to the Finance Minister before the Budget was taken up. We, therefore, took particular care to finish our report in time and send them to him. Now, I would like to know what he has done with them. Has he paid any attention to them or has he thrown them into the waste paper basket, though it is not likely literally. However, he did not make any mention of it in his Budget speech. I am sure he realises what great importance his predecessor attached to this committee. I therefore feel that he must read the committee's reports and see whether it is worth continuing the work of E.C. If he does not consider it worth continuing, let us not waste our time and Government's money any more.

At any rate, I would suggest that he should not treat their proposals like any other Standing Committee, or even the Standing Finance Committee, for Dr. Matthai had said:

"There is a very real distinction between the work of the Standing Finance Committee and the work of the proposed Estimates Committee. The Standing Finance

Committee is concerned with specific proposals of expenditure made by each Department of Government but the Estimates Committee's business would be to make a comprehensive examination of expenditure in relation to the resources available to Government. The real business of the Estimates Committee would, therefore, be, taking the policy and the objectives of Government (with which they are not concerned), to suggest how this policy and these objectives could be carried out with the least expenditure of public resources. That, Sir, is the first matter to which I would like to refer as arising from the introduction of the Constitution."

3 P.M.

There are further paragraphs of what was said both by Dr. Matthai and the Speaker on this point. But I would not take much of the time of the House. I would request my hon. friend Mr. Deshmukh to kindly call for these reports and read them and see whether he agrees with them or not. He may have different views. If he has different views, let him please tell us. Because, we shall be sitting again and we do not want—at least I do not want to waste my time. I have to come here at great cost and expense, Government have also to foot the bills of the Members. I do not want that money to be wasted, if our Reports are to be treated by the Finance Minister in this way. I am saying so for this reason that he has made no mention of it, I repeat, in his Budget speech. I expected that he would exhaustively deal with it. But perhaps he has not had sufficient time. He could have at least stated, "I am keeping these with me, and even during the course of this year I will see that they are examined and given effect to". But he has simply dismissed it in his Budget speech.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Would the hon. Member be content if he is told that the Reports are being examined? If he is, then I can assure him that they are being examined very actively.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member's anxiety is that the recommendations ought to be implemented.

Shri Sidhva: Yes, Madam, you rightly came to my rescue. The other day my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi told me the same thing, that he has appointed an officer and that he is looking into them. And I thanked him. But I do not want that recom-

[Shri Sidhva]

mendations made in 1950 should be implemented in 1953. I want him to give effect to the recommendations in the 1951-52 budget. That is the point. If you examine them and come to the conclusion that these are certainly points which ought to be considered, please give effect to them immediately.

One last word of warning. If he is going to send the Reports to the Ministries concerned, they are not going to help them. By all means send them to the Ministers. But from past experience, of the Economy Committee's recommendations and various other proposals, I can say that they will turn them down. They will say, "We are under-staffed, we want more staff, we cannot effect any economy" and so on. That is my grouse, that if the Finance Minister is going to wait and depend upon the recommendations of the Ministries concerned, there is no use. By all means send them for formality's sake, but use your discretion. My hon. friend should use his discretion. I do not want him to accept our proposal wholesale if he thinks something fundamentally incorrect. But let him consider it seriously. If he gives it a little more attention I am confident that the problem will be solved.

Shri Subbiah: While rising to speak on this occasion I beg to state that one of the most important events after the Police action which is agitating the minds of the people in Hyderabad State is the Federal financial integration and the inadequate subvention which has been allotted to it. Millions and millions worth of assets have been taken over without allowing the people of the State from having any say in the matter. In the year 1948 the Indian States Finances Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India, whose Chairman was Sir V. T. Krishnamachari. This Committee went into the financial structure of all the States and submitted its report with its recommendations. It suggested a set of formulae according to which all the Federal subjects were to be taken over by the Government of India under article 278 of the Indian Constitution. At a moment's reflection upon the outcome of this report and the recommendations that it made it will show to an unbiased mind that the Committee was only interested in Government of India's taking over all the Federal subjects, anyhow without caring for the fact

whether or not the States would be in a position to rehabilitate their financial affairs by agreeing to accept such subvention that would be granted in their favour. I am very sorry to say, no civilized Government would have acted with its own people and the units who owe allegiance to it, in such a shabby manner as the Government of India has done in the matter of Federal financial integration and by giving them inadequate subvention. The people were not consulted. The State Governments—whatever Governments were there at the head of the States—were not given any opportunity to suggest any deviation in the formula that had been set by the Enquiry Committee. On account of this the Hyderabad State was the worst sufferer. It had its finances placed on a sound basis. Crores of rupees used to be the net result of revenue and expenditure every year, and it used to be added to the treasury of the Hyderabad State. But all that is suffering today.

Looking into the details it will be found that the Committee took into consideration for revenue purposes the actuals of 1947-48 and 1948-49. On the expenditure side they took into consideration the actuals of 1948-49. Unfortunately for the Hyderabad State, these years were the most unrepresentative years. During this period, and just prior to it, all the revenues were adversely affected, and the expenditure had gone up. There was the Razakar regime which had wasted crores of rupees in preparation for war against the Indian Union. People had revolted against the Razakar rule. There was chaos and confusion. The Government of India was preparing to march its troops at the request of the people of the Hyderabad State, to save them from the ruination and the reign of terror which had been let loose by the Razakars upon the people. There was blockade which had resulted in bringing to a standstill all the economic activities of the Hyderabad State. People were closing down their normal channels of trade and commerce in order to save their lives and were fleeing out of Hyderabad State. And I know for certain the Hyderabad State represented to the Enquiry Committee that these years cannot be taken as representative years, but their pleadings were not heeded to and they forced their own decision upon the Hyderabad State. Unfortunately for the Hyderabad people, at the moment the Government was consisting of Members who were servants of the Government of India and who were more keen in carrying

out the behests of the Government than safeguarding the interest of the people of Hyderabad State. They could not resist the decision which was thrust upon them. With the result they accepted Rs. 135 lakhs as subvention and committed the economy of the Hyderabad State for a period of ten years.

Even then they have not looked into the accounts properly. For instance, take Income-tax. Income-tax in Hyderabad State was introduced for the first time in the second half of the year 1947-48. The machinery for the collection was still to gather momentum. There were political upheavals. Notwithstanding this, the collections in the second half of the year 1947-48 were about Rs. 50 lakhs. But in the next year, soon after, in 1948-49 the collections had gone up to about Rs. 178 lakhs. The average of these two will be about Rs. 1.14 crores. But this cannot be taken as a representative figure for calculating the revenue gap.

It is an average of 18 months and not of 24 months as it ought to be. In the following six months from October 1949 to March 1950 the income-tax collections in Hyderabad State had gone up to 1.03 crores of rupees. From this it becomes obvious that the figure for income-tax should have been taken, if not more, at least at Rs. 2 crores. In this matter a clear injustice has been done to the Hyderabad State. It will be obvious from all these that the Hyderabad State is entitled for purposes of income-tax calculations Rs. 2 crores whereas the States Inquiry Committee took into account only Rs. 90 lakhs. On this account I would submit before this House that Hyderabad State is entitled for a crore of rupees more, towards the subvention that has already been given to it. The other item is Railways. On the revenue side the average of the railway receipts of Rs. 154.74 lakhs for 1947-48 and Rs. 88.23 lakhs for the year 1948-49 is taken into consideration. This figure of 88.23 cannot be taken as a representative figure because it is the result of extraordinary circumstances that were prevailing in the Hyderabad State which had affected the traffic just before and after the Police action. Taking into consideration that Railway earnings had increased throughout India in the years 1947-48-49 the Hyderabad State should have got at least Rs. 175 lakhs on an average as Railway receipt for calculating revenue gap. On this account again Hyderabad State is entitled to get another Rs. 50 lakhs.

I wish to tell you that this is a very serious problem which is agitating the minds of the people and I have come to place this before this House after discussing for several days with the people who were interested in it and I hope you will give me an opportunity to at least place all the figures before this House, if not anything else that I may like to say in this connection.

On the expenditure side the Inquiry Committee has taken into account Rs. 2 crores as an average expenditure for the maintenance of the Indian State Forces in Hyderabad State. During the war years from 1942 to 1946 for the maintenance of 8,000 troops the expenditure never went beyond Rs. 80 lakhs or to a crore but how can it be that when the Government of India fixed the strength of the Hyderabad Army at 5,700 troops the expenditure would go beyond Rs. 60 lakhs to a crore. I have got the figures, but the time does not permit me to place all these before this House. I would, on the other hand challenge the Government of India to come forward and particularly the Minister of Defence and prove how he has come to this decision that in the case of maintenance of 5,700 troops, Rs. 2 crores are required in Hyderabad State. But today the position is entirely changed in the sense that the Hyderabad Army has been completely demobilised. The Government of India has no obligation now whatsoever and it has effected a saving of Rs. 2 crores to itself. But this has, however, created a very serious problem for the Hyderabad State. Thousands of the people who are trained in the regular army have been thrown out of employment; they are going about into streets of Hyderabad begging for jobs and they are not able to get anything. It has created a very serious problem for the Hyderabad State and it is going to tell heavily upon the resources of Hyderabad State whether or not any arrangement is going to be made to settle them in life.

Then taking into consideration the income-tax, the railway earnings, the expenditure on the defence, national highways and Rs. 27 lakhs which we are being denied on account of the compensation for acquisition of lands at the time of expansion of the aerodrome, Hyderabad is entitled to get at least Rs. 4 crores as subvention. There is a demand for justice behind this increase. It is more or less a secret deal that has been entered into by the Government of India with the servants of the Government of India. This was first brought to the notice

[Shri Subblah]

of the people in the Hyderabad State. When the economy committee was appointed that was presided over by an able, independent, intelligent senior Member of the I.C.S. Mr. A.D. Corwala, who is very well known to this House. Such an independent person carefully looked into the figures and has irresistibly come to the conclusion that the Government of India has entered into a raw deal with the Hyderabad State in this matter. There were other members of the Committee who have also come to the same conclusion. Hyderabad State today is suffering for lack of finances and the Government of India shall have to realize that the State has got to meet heavy expenditure on account of capital works and feed the social activities and solve the unemployment and economic problems and to pay for education, medical health and other development schemes without which there will be much confusion. Therefore justice has got to be done to Hyderabad State, and the Government of India should make provision and pay such sums as Hyderabad State is entitled to get on account of subvention which should be nothing less than 4 crores.

Shri Hussain Imam: My cut motion is:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the policy re: revaluation of Indian rupee with reference to revised Budget figures."

I feel that the time has long since past, not come when this thing should have been seriously considered by the Government. The question of revaluation that was decided was decided in circumstances which were abnormal and I have the authority of Dr. John Matthal for the statement which he made in this House when this matter was being discussed when he said that this was done not with the full consideration which this matter deserved. The following are the words used by Dr. John Matthal on 5th October 1949 here:

"I feel that in this matter I have had to act not on conviction born of logic necessarily but, so to speak by the compulsion of events."

If a thing was done under duress, should it not at leisure be examined? This was in spite of all the forebodings and forecasts of the wise people that Pakistan will not be able to make any ratio and in spite of the fact that Dr. John Matthal used a very harsh

word. I would like to quote from the speech, but I cannot find it here. Mr. Munshi when he was not a Minister repeated those words and it was like this: "It was done by Pakistan under some sort of aberration."

I say Madam that every single test that we can apply shows that we had made a mistake in accepting devaluation that we did. I am not for being wise after the event and I spoke on this subject on 6th October 1949 when I stated:

"I wish to stress the fact that I regard a rise in price as inevitable, unavoidable and inescapable."

Today I find from the statistics that the Economic Adviser's indices for whole sale prices for foodgrains have risen by 53 points from January 1950 to 24th March 1951. The general index for all the articles has gone up by 63 points and the price.....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is not heard because of the talk going behind him.

Shri Hussain Imam: The figure for the variable index of industrial securities between 25th March 1950 and 24th March 1951 has risen from 113 to 133, a rise of 20 points in one year. As far as jute is concerned the figures are most telling. The price of jute in March 1950 was 68.7 and in March 1951 it was 110.8 a rise of 42 per cent. All these factors point that things are moving from bad to worse. Not only this; we are face to face with the huge purchase of food-grains from outside. One hundred and sixty crores of rupees on the present valuation have to be spent. In other words, goods and services of the value of 160 crores will have to be made available to the foreigners in order to get 4 lakh tons of food that we want. In addition to this, we have to import defence requirements and we have to import railway materials. In all, there is an expenditure, in this year, of more than 225 crores to be made outside. Let me make my position perfectly clear. I am not for going back to Pakistan parity. But, we must have some revaluation. We must be the judge of what re-valuation is most suitable to us. We should not blindly follow the U.K. example as when they devalued from 4 dollars to 2.8 dollars, 44 per cent. of their old valuation.

Another factor which speaks highly of the unbalanced economy of ours is that we have issued notes over and over again in larger amounts. In

December 1949, the total notes issued were 1113 crores; today, they stand at 1259 crores. An increase of 146 crores has been made in the Issue Department showing how precarious our position has become. The phenomenal rise in the prices of all goods inside the country is due to one factor and one factor only; that is because our money is under-valued. The value should be raised. I say, if my old friend Mr. Tyagi were on this side of the House, I would have had much greater strength than I could have in having him on the other Benches. But, I hope that he will exert his influence and see that India gets a good deal out of this.

I personally feel, that in the circumstances in which we are today, it is very necessary that we must bring down the cost of living. To bring down the cost of living with an under-valued currency is an impossibility. The fear that we had always that our things will not be exportable was a wrong fear. There was so much margin in the jute prices. Your control price was Rs. 35; today jute is being quoted at Rs. 90, since the control has been removed. After the removal of controls, the price has shot up. I feel that jute is a good indication of how much our currency can bear revaluation. What has been the result of our policy. All the advantages of our de-valuation have gone over to Pakistan. Do not forget that at the end of September 1950, Pakistan offered to give 3 lakh bales at the old prices; it was the India Government which refused to take them. Today, they went out begging at whatever price they dictated. They offered at Rs. 30/-, we are now buying at Rs. 90/-. Mr Tyagi raised very rightly the question about sugar. The fact is that our Government is not wide awake to take advantage of the offers when they are made. In the case of sugar, when offers were made, they refused; but when compelled by events, they bought it at £ 10 more per ton than the price at which sugar was formerly offered. Similar is the case with jute. The fact has been lost sight of that many share-holders in the companies have lost several crores on account of the fact that the companies had to close down. As you know, jute was available. But, because everybody knew that India was going to have a contract with Pakistan, and there was going to be de-control, people who were wide awake withheld their stocks. I am told by very reliable sources that Calcutta had a stock of not less than 10 lakh bales and they are now coming forward.

Very few bales of Pakistan jute have come; but the mills are working. Why? Because it is the intermediaries who are making money. We do everything too late. We are too wise before the event and the events prove us, in the eyes of the world, to be foolish.

The reason for all this is that this business of control is a most complicated thing. I do not blame the Government. I realise the difficulties. You cannot even rely on the advice of the business people. One may have an over-sold position and he may give one advice; another may have an over-bought position and he will give another advice. You cannot be guided even by the advice of experts. The best thing is to be as far away from controls as we could. It is necessary that our currency should be correctly valued. It is because of the under-valuation of our currency that we are having all these difficulties. You must decide to value it correctly on the basis of its intrinsic value. I am neither for a 30 cent rupee nor a 21 cent rupee. We are very fortunate in having as our Finance Minister a man who is capable of understanding this thing much better than others. I wish him not to be obsessed by the thought that we have done one thing and we must stick to it. Let us realise that we made a mistake. I want Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh, as an expert, to decide the question. Whatever solution is brought forward by Mr. Deshmukh, I am sure, will be in the best interests of the country. I wish him to live for the future and not in the past.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In the limited time at my disposal, I propose to confine my attention to the taxation proposals made by my hon. friend the Finance Minister; there too only to one part of the taxation proposals, namely, the sales tax. I have not got the time to dwell on the merits or the demerits of the sales tax, although, in passing, I might say that it has been described by an eminent economist of the position of Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, only the other day, as a regressive tax. Not only that. Reference has been made to this tax in the Report on the working of the Income-tax Investigation Commission and it has been pointed out how this sales tax results in tax evasion not only in sales tax but also in Income-tax. This must give food for thought to my hon. friend and I am sure he must have given his attention to that. The report says:

“The inter-relation of the sales tax and the income-tax deserves

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consideration from the point of view of evasion of income-tax. It has been found that persons who sell articles dissuade purchasers from insisting upon a cash memo on the inducement of not demanding from the customer the sales tax chargeable on the sale. This arrangement is advantageous both to the seller and to the purchaser, as the former is able thus to omit the sales from his books and thereby evade both sales tax and income-tax; the latter obtains an immediate benefit of a lesser price and is prepared to collude with the seller in keeping the sale out of the record. In the result, both income-tax and the sales tax suffer by reason of the omission of the sales from the records of the seller."

This, of course, raises a larger issue. It is for my hon. friend to look into the question whether it is not high time for the Government to devise ways and means of checking this widespread evasion not only of sales tax, but also of Income-tax

I would certainly make one suggestion to my hon. friend and it is this. Generally speaking, if sales tax is to be levied—and no doubt this offers a ready source of income and a number of provinces are benefiting from the proceeds of this tax—I would suggest it for the consideration of the hon. Minister that if this tax is to be collected he should consider the advisability of collecting it at the source. If the tax is collected at the source, and then distributed amongst the different provinces, it will save so much bother and it will perhaps give a greater yield also; evasion will be minimised and complications due to different circumstances obtaining in different provinces and also the different rates of sales tax obtaining in different areas, that also will go. That much about sales tax in general.

I would like to confine my attention now to the position of this tax to the State of Delhi. In this connection, I would like the hon. Minister and this House not to be guided by slogans or by the mere fact that other States collect sales tax, and therefore Delhi must also pay this tax. I would like them to be sympathetic and to give their very sympathetic consideration to the various factors which obtain in Delhi and which are not obtaining in other Provinces.

The first thing in this connection which I would like my hon. friend to

consider is that Delhi is the traditional capital of the country. It has been the biggest distributing centre in North India. Long before Amritsar and Kanpur were developed as distributing centres, Delhi used to cater for both these provinces and for Rajputana and for the entire North India. Then again, Delhi is an urban city State. It has not got the advantages which the adjoining provinces have. Large scale industries my hon. friends know by now, have been discouraged and it is the policy of the Government that Delhi, being the capital should not have such large-scale industries in it, that these industries should not be encouraged here. Then as we all know, Delhi has no sources of agricultural income. The only two sources of income in Delhi are government employment and trade. As far as employment goes, if you take the figures so far as Delhi is concerned, probably South India will head the list and Delhi will be at the tail end, with perhaps less than 1 per cent. So the problem really is, how are we going to fashion the future economic development of this State of Delhi which is so very important, being the capital of India.

Another factor which has been added to this problem is this. Due to the partition of the country even the cottage industries that existed here have suffered a very serious set-back because of the exodus of those people who were primarily artisans and who contributed to the wealth of Delhi. They have gone to Pakistan. For instance the silk industry, the ivory industry, the silver industry and so many others which were existing here as cottage industries have all suffered a very great set-back. On the other hand, we have got an influx of refugees to an extent to which no other town in India has, and these refugees also come from a class which.....

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal): What about Calcutta?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Well, my sister knows the difference between Calcutta and Delhi. But my point is this. In Calcutta also people have come and people have also gone out and it is a question of adjustment, whereas in Delhi we have got more than 6 lakhs of people more. And most of these people who have come from West Pakistan are again urban trading people. Therefore Delhi has become a place abounding with trading people and if we do not get any people to sell to, you can very well

imagine what the effect of it will be on the economy of Delhi.

Therefore, my point is that if we have to consider the question of levying any tax here we must not levy a tax which will prejudicially or adversely affect the economic structure of Delhi. The hon. Finance Minister, while making this proposal gave the reasons why he was imposing it and I am glad he has been frank about it. Here is what he said:

“The neighbouring States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have sales taxes and there have been complaints that the existence of a tax-free zone in Delhi results in a diversion of trade from these States to Delhi to the detriment of their revenues, without any corresponding benefit to the Centre. The Centre has been advising the various State Governments to exploit sales taxes for augmenting their resources and there is no reason why the Centre should not introduce it in Delhi in the present financial stringency.”

Frankly speaking, the Finance Minister has himself here admitted that it is not primarily or purely a revenue measure, that he is not guided by considerations of revenue, but that he is guided more by the complaints made or the pressure brought to bear upon him by the adjoining States. In this context, I would request him to compare the economy of Delhi with the economy of the adjoining two provinces. If he is going to yield to the pressure of the adjoining Provinces, let him himself decide whether it would be fair to this tiny State of Delhi to be put on a par with the adjoining provinces in this respect in as much as these provinces continue to enjoy so many other economic and other conditions which Delhi does not. The hon. Minister said that we have asked the provinces to augment their incomes. I want to point out that by the imposition of sales tax here, you are not going to augment the income of Delhi. On the other hand he will be augmenting the incomes of the Punjab and the Uttar Pradesh as has been admitted, the complaint is that the custom duty is going to Delhi which otherwise would have gone to the Uttar Pradesh or to the Punjab. Therefore when there is sales tax in Delhi all this custom duty will certainly go to the Uttar Pradesh or to the Punjab and not come to Delhi. Therefore, according to his own argument there is no reason why he should treat this matter so lightly.

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Then there are other factors which I would like to point out. Delhi to-day is one of the costliest cities and the hon. Minister knows this as well as anyone of us. Articles of everyday necessity are available much cheaper some ten miles away from Delhi to the North and the South of Delhi. They cost some 15 to 20 per cent. more in Delhi. Fuel, cereals and so many other.....

An. Hon. Member: What about grains?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Grain is controlled, I mean things which are free from control. For instance gram is selling at a higher price here than in East Punjab. Therefore, my point is, the cost of living here is much higher and nobody can challenge that statement. Therefore by imposing this tax, the hon. Minister will not be helping himself, but as a matter of fact, he will be sounding the death knell of the trade in Delhi. The amount of agitation that has happened in Delhi is very well known to him. Representations have been made to him and he knows that not only the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council, but even the Chief Commissioner is opposed to the imposition of this tax.

Shri Sidhva: The other day the hon. Member was criticising the Chief Commissioner and to-day he is praising him.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It is no question of praising anybody; it is a case of both agreeing.

One other factor that has to be taken into consideration is this. If this tax is levied the Delhi Municipality will lose heavily in terminal tax. Today the income from terminal tax derived by the Delhi Municipality is to the tune of 70 lakhs. If articles coming here are not allowed to be re-exported from here, which will be the natural consequence of this tax, the Delhi Municipality will lose 20 to 25 lakhs. (*Shri Sondhi:* No.) That is my estimate. (*Interruption*) I am really surprised at my friend Mr. Sondhi, who is trying to show his enthusiasm for the imposition of this tax. (*Shri Sondhi:* I do not). He does not realise that lakhs and lakhs of people who have not yet found their feet and who have just started to manage some earning will be adversely affected.....

Shri Sidhva: I might inform my friend that in other States they pay sales tax on food also.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Let the hon. Member be left to himself.

Shri Sidhva: I am sorry, Madam.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: My earnest appeal to my friend the Finance Minister is that even if this tax is to be imposed, the present is hardly the time to do it. Conditions in Delhi are so very fluid and unsettled that he should think twice before a measure of this character is considered.....

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): Will the hon. Member agree to the tax after the elections?

Mr. Chairman: Let not the hon. Member be interrupted; he has very little time at his disposal.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It is not a question of anyone agreeing. I am sorry that although my friend Mr. Sondhi is a *Delhiwala* and lives here, he owes his allegiance to the Punjab. That is my grouse. People like him are fifth columnists here. It will be for him to answer that question; it will not be for me to answer. Those people have with great difficulty in three years time just managed to make a living and they will see that their trade is ruined and my hon. friend will have to answer that, not me.

Therefore I appeal with all the earnestness at my command to my hon. friend not to treat this question very lightly. Let this matter be examined thoroughly before any final decision is taken.

Lastly I would like to draw his attention and the attention of the House to the fact that he has found a simple method of imposing this tax. Whereas this tax has been the subject of controversy in other provincial legislatures, wherever it has been imposed—there have been a great deal of amendments and there is no uniformity in other provinces,—in Delhi he wants simply to extend under the Delhi Act either the Calcutta tax or the tax in other Provinces. This would be most unfair to Delhi. Even if it is to be imposed let this legislature decide what it should be. The method that he has suggested, namely that this will be done by applying with suitable modifications the law of one of the Part A. States, I suggest that this would be adding insult to injury. We are talking of democracy and we are today trying to satisfy Part C States and even in a matter like this tax we are just trying to impose it by notification or by saying that this will be done by extending

the tax of any other Province to this State. Therefore I earnestly appeal to my hon. friend to please take into consideration the various factors which I have placed before him. If after careful examination he feels that he has got to impose this tax, let that tax measure come before the House and let this House decide as to what that tax should be.

In the end I would again appeal to him to remember that Delhi occupies a distinctive place and many benefits which other States enjoy are denied. Delhi cannot have industry nor agriculture. Therefore he should take all these factors into consideration and not proceed with this tax now. With these words, I oppose it.

Mr. Chairman: I propose calling on the Finance Minister at 3-50 and I can allow five minutes to one more speaker.

Maulvi Wajed Ali (Assam): I would require at least seven minutes.

Mr. Chairman: In that case I will straightaway call upon the Finance Minister.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Madam.....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has forfeited his right.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am grateful to Shri Biswanath Das for his kind references to me. He made various points. The first was that the principles of allocation of expenditure between revenue and capital heads were not discussed before the House before they were embodied in the Budget. That has never been done before and indeed the creation of the capital expenditure head is only about three or four years old. It was done, I believe, by Sir Archibald Rowlands. I have given in paragraphs 34 and 35 of my speech the reasons why I thought logically certain expenditure should be shown under revenue heads and not under capital heads. Those considerations are there before hon. Members and that amounts in a sense to a discussion of those principles. There was time during the general discussion to refer to that if Members had wanted to but I wish to reiterate again that the question of the headings under which expenditure is classified are hardly matters of general discussion or any special discussion in this House.

Mr. Biswanath Das asked as to what had happened in regard to the debt due from Burma. Burma's present position is well known and I believe that it is still difficult, in spite of what Mr. Biswanath Das said, and we believe that it is optimistic to expect Burma to resume payment of her debt. But the matter is, as it is bound to be, constantly under review. Far from Burma being able to repay its debt, only last year the Commonwealth countries had to consider the grant of a £6 million loan to her. It may be that conditions have improved slightly but, as I say, the matter will not be lost sight of.

Mr. Biswanath Das raised the question of the debt due from Pakistan. According to figures available to us it is of the order of about 300 crores under various heads such as Railways, P. & T. assets, cash balances given on partition, full payment for ordnance factories, pensionary liability, share of uncovered debt, miscellaneous assets minus liabilities taken over and so on. We have to agree these figures with the Government of Pakistan and we hope to be able to do it in the course of the current year, as I said in the course of answers to some questions here in this House. But some of the basic materials such as the closed accounts of the prepartition period, the actuarial value of the pensionary liability, etc., are not yet ready. There are also a number of other points such as liability for postal cash certificates, savings bank deposits, which are still to be finalised. Unless these figures are finalised obviously it is no use entering into negotiations with the Government of Pakistan. As I mentioned during the course of Mr. Biswanath Das's speech the first instalment of the debt is due only on the 15th August 1952.

So, we have a little more than a year in which to agree on the final figure.

Then Shri Das raised the question of the currency in which the debt due to us would be paid. Well, it is to be paid in Indian rupees, but to me it does not seem to matter what exchange ratio a debtor country chooses to run. We have no intention of influencing the rate which Burma may fix later on if and when she starts paying, or any other country for the matter of that; so long as we receive repayment in the currency in which it is due, namely our rupee, our interests are fully served. And this is a matter for forty years—one

never knows what changes here will be in the relative value of the currencies of the two countries. Therefore, even if there had been some theoretical justification in the point sought to be made by Shri Das, it has only a very short-term significance and not a long-term one.

Shri Das referred to something I said during the course of my Budget speech about the trade agreement. I find that I did refer to the I.M.F. What I said was that "as the question of the par value of the Pakistan rupee is still before the International Monetary Fund, I did not wish to say anything at this stage on this subject." Then I went on to say, "As the Prime Minister mentioned in the House a few days ago we took the initiative in arranging for the resumption of trade talks between the two countries. These talks have resulted in a satisfactory agreement the terms of which I announced in the House last Monday." So, I fail to see what Shri Das's grievance has been in this matter.

Shri Biswanath Das: The statement contained in that speech should have been more definite that we have accepted the par value of the rupee even with knowledge of the International Bank. That would have made the position clear.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: We have made the trade agreement on the basis of this par value. That was doing no worse than what many other countries did in September 1949; that is to say when Pakistan kept her par value they were prepared to trade with her. Like us they also had to wait for a formal fixation of par value by the International Monetary Fund. We might have taken up that question earlier.—I will deal with that later when I come to Shri Imam's speech.—but the point is that whatever we did was provisional in the sense that the par value had to be formally fixed with the approval of the International Monetary Fund.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I explain? I have absolutely no complaint to make. The hon. Minister is as patriotic as we are. I do not complain on that score. What I say is this: why could not the hon. Finance Minister in his important financial speech definitely, specifically and clearly state that we accepted the par value of the Pakistan rupee and that that is going to be the exchange ratio to be accepted by the International Bank, because by that

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time the International Bank also must have known it and must have accepted it. Why keep some ambiguity and leave people to think?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The I.M.F. had not met then, and the I.M.F. had to take that decision not with our own concurrence but with the concurrence of all the members on the executive board. All that they knew was that India was now prepared to trade with Pakistan on the basis of the provisional par value. Therefore, we had no reason to believe, although we had every expectation, that the I.M.F. now would see things in the light of the altered circumstances and would probably accept the par value announced by Pakistan.

Another question raised by Shri Das was the purchase of Defence installations. He asked why we have not recovered the value of stores etc. which were allocated to Pakistan. The position is that India paid the initial amount to U.K. and Pakistan agreed to pay currently for her share of the stores and installations located in Pakistan. She has paid Rs. 2 crores and odd for the fixed assets, but for the stores she owes about Rs. 16 crores. The transfer of the remaining stores has been held up because of this non-payment. Therefore, there is no question of being soft to Pakistan in this matter.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know how much worth of stores you have held up?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I suppose equivalent to what they owe us, namely Rs. 16 crores.

Then there is this question of retrenchment about which more than one speaker has spoken. I have from time to time explained the situation. I explained that the sector of the Budget which is amenable to this cut is a comparatively small one and in the circumstances which we found ourselves in I could not do very much better. Reference has been made to the ten per cent. cut which my predecessor made, but we think that we have done a little better in that we related whatever is to be cut to particular measures like abolition of certain posts or the discontinuance of certain services, or specific cuts in travelling allowance, contingencies, and so on. So, all I can say is that there is a greater expectation of our being able to retain this economy than was the case when the ten per cent. cut was imposed

and was almost immediately after nullified because of lack of any fixation in regard to individual budgets. It is very difficult to deal with this on general grounds and it would be necessary for me to illustrate my point by referring to certain specific items in which we hoped to have economy but which after consideration we found we need not pursue. Take the case of the Films Division. At one time we thought that perhaps we might be able to save money on it and I urged that on my colleague, the hon. Minister of State. He placed certain facts before me and we, that is to say the Cabinet, came to the conclusion that given a couple of years the Films Division might be made self-supporting and therefore, since the Division was doing so much good work, it was better that it should be allowed to continue rather than be wound up. There are many other instances like that where we considered individual items like the labour exchanges, and so on, and we went into detail and came to a unanimous conclusion that some of these economy measures which had been proposed by us on a *prima facie* examination could not be given effect to. This is not the only economy that has been effected because reference has been made to the economy under Defence. That is a thing which one does not like to refer to in very specific terms, but this is the first time that we have faced realistically, having at the same time regard to the security of the State, the problem of effecting economy under the head 'Defence'. Then, as I said, we have not given up hopes. What we have considered is only the expenditure on the Central offices. There are still attached offices which have yet to be examined, as well as some of our bigger Embassies abroad. I hope to be able to devote some attention to possible economies in those during the course of the year and it will take a little time.

4 P.M.

As regards capital expenditure, it is fatally easy—so to speak—to effect economies. It is not enough merely to cut down expenditure on development schemes. That kind of economy can be shown by any one. There the real economy is how within a given amount of money a certain amount of work which can be specified beforehand can be carried out, and it is our intention to strengthen the finance control organisations in these various agencies which are carrying out the work and see if these competent

engineers who are in charge of the works could not give us some economy. After all, an engineer has been described as a person who can build a bridge for Rs. 1 lakh which any fool can build for Rs. 10 lakhs. We shall therefore put them to the test this year, but these are matters which cannot be demonstrated straightaway. I can only say at the end of the year that after a period of continuous pressure, I have saved some money here or saved some money there and it should not be money or gain by merely shortfall in the budgeted expenditure, that is to say, shortfall in carrying out the work which they had undertaken to carry out during the year. In other words, if the particular P.W.D. concerned builds say thirty houses instead of twenty-five, and saves some money, then I would agree that they have carried out the work economically.

That leads me to the question of the control on expenditure. I have been unable to understand the gravamen of this charge. We are charged with being very careful in minor matters but not being quite so careful in major matters. Then we are charged with not being very effective. Well, I do not know what this means. If it means that schemes are not properly scrutinised, then I do not think that is true. Neither is it fair either to the Finance Ministry or to the Standing Finance Committee. Every scheme is very carefully vetted and indeed the sort of complaint that I hear is that the Finance Ministry is a perpetual nuisance and if there is anything in that criticism I should imagine that we are rather over-doing it than not doing it satisfactorily. There has been evidence of the Finance Minister himself being belaboured occasionally by his colleagues here in this House in the course of the Budget discussions.

Shri Sondhi: Only the Maulana Saheb did so.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Now, there was a specific suggestion made in this regard and that was that the Estimates Committee should have a representative of the Finance Ministry present in attendance when they hold their deliberations. Now, that too I cannot understand because I believe that all their meetings have been attended by the Joint Secretary, Finance, who is concerned with the Ministry that is being scrutinised. He is always there and the Joint Secretary is a fairly high level official. He is indeed our representative in a particular Ministry. It is only where a matter of policy is

involved that the case comes up to me or sometimes goes up to the Cabinet and as I said, the Joint Secretary—whoever he may be for the Ministry concerned—attends all meetings of the Estimates Committee. Mr. Sidhva has been very cross with me that I made no reference to the Estimates Committee during the course of my Budget speech. But the simple reason was that we were busy examining their recommendations. I might have said by wasting one more sentence that “as regards the Estimates Committee we are examining the recommendations”, but that I do not think would have added to the enlightenment of the House.

Shri Sidhva: At least your views you could have given.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The trouble is that I have not been able to formulate my views. I cannot both present a Budget and defend it here and attend all the discussions and attend to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. It is only when I have got my able colleague that I have been able to make special arrangements for dealing with the recommendations of the Estimates Committee, and indeed that was one of the first things that he.....

Shrimati Renuka Ray: He was a party to the Estimates Committee report.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I know. I was going to say that it was only to be expected that he should attach very great importance to this matter, and even if I had been negligent—which I was not—there was no likelihood of his allowing me to continue to be so. He, immediately on entering office, sent me a long note as to how this matter should be processed and I think it was announced as to how we intend to deal with it. We are, in spite of our other preoccupations, actively examining the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. Only this morning, I have received the second report of the Estimates Committee, along with this chart. All the recommendations are set out here. The comments of the old Industry and Supply Ministry are put down here. I think even Mr. Sidhva agreed that there was no objection to the Ministry concerned being invited to give their observations, although I believe his advice was that too much importance should not be attached to their comments.

Shri Sidhva: That was only for eliciting information.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Not information, but I believe that the duty of a colleague goes a little further. I think it is my duty to give every consideration to what they have to say.

Shri Sidhva: By all means.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: So, that is there. The comments of the Finance Ministry at the official level are also on this file and it is only then that the paper has been put up to the Minister of State and then to me. We have to decide what conclusions to come to on each item. Some of these are matters of policy like "this organisation or that organisation should not be there" or "this service or that service should not be there." That leads you to the examination of what is the scope of the Estimates Committee's recommendations. It may be that so far as the policy is concerned, it would have to be determined by a reference to the Cabinet and once a decision is taken by the Cabinet then within the four corners of the policy you have to consider whether the scheme of expenditure which had been suggested by the Estimates Committee should be adopted or not. So, all I can say is that we are actively engaged in the examination of these recommendations and before we put up the matter to the Cabinet, in case we are unable to agree. I think it would be useful if we have some informal discussions even with the Chairman of the Estimates Committee. That procedure has been followed in one or two stray cases, but I myself am thinking of recommending that this should be the normal procedure, so that if there is any misunderstanding or if there has not been an adequate presentation of facts by the Ministry concerned.....

Shri Sidhva: That is the system prevailing in the House of Commons. The Minister confers with the Estimates Committee and comes to an understanding.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That is how we propose to do it, and I find in this particular report that the Ministry and the Estimates Committee are not quite agreed as to the actual facts in regard to Disposals. There are very wide variations between the two sets of figures and it would be our job first to get them reconciled before we can take a decision on them.

Shri Sidhva: They were supplied by the Ministry's officials.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not know whose fault it is. It is quite conceivable that they did not express themselves properly or did not understand the request, but anyway when the matter comes to me I have got to see which set of figures is right, whatever the genesis of the difference of opinion may be. All I can say is that we have every intention of treating the Estimates Committee as an ally and of seeing to what extent they will help us to conserve and apply our resources to the best possible advantage.

Then, I come to the observations of Shri Khandubhai Desai. He referred to the accounting of the defence stores. By and large, his criticism is right that the amounts do not portray year by year what is spent out of the surplus stores which we acquired. In other words, the payment was made once and for all as a capital payment. Then, part of it which we did not need was disposed of and the rest was just there, and we are drawing on it.

The result will be that when we finish, as we may in a year or two, we shall require in our current expenditure an equivalent of what we have spent over that period and to that extent we may find that we shall not be able to reduce the military expenditure even if we wanted to. So, as an account matter his criticism is right, but there is nothing that can be done about it now, because most of the stores have been used up.

Then he referred to prices. I am afraid I cannot hold out any hopes that we shall be able to bring down prices. Some of the other Ministries are in a happy position to say that co-operation is not forthcoming from the States and so on. My position is that sometimes things go wrong in the rest of the world outside India and that being so there are obvious limitations to what can be attempted here. This is a particularly bad year to consider our achievements, because in a very important respect, namely food production, we have suffered not so much for our own sins of omission, but on account of natural causes. To lose three or four million tons of grain in a year, with its stress of other international factors is a very serious matter. The same thing holds about cotton. To make things worse the American cotton crop was 9 million bales instead of 16 million bales and we had not been able to solve our difficulties with Pakistan, so that we got no import of cotton from them. So, that is the

principal reason why we have not been able to bring down the prices of food or cloth, and as hon. Members know, they play a very important part in the wholesale price index as well as in the cost of living index and unless we make some impression on the food front, I do not suppose it will be possible for us to show any improvement on the price front. But, as I said in my budget speech, what I am attempting to do is to see that on the monetary and fiscal side at any rate, we take measures which should help us to keep prices under control, and that is partly the explanation of the taxation which I am asking you to vote and the general cutting down, as far as possible, of the capital expenditure which we are going to incur. Therefore, if at the end of the year we find that we are not putting any additional money into circulation, then we are not generating any fresh inflation. So, at least that end of it we hope to be able to hold firmly.

Reference has been made to some expansion in the currency circulation. But I do not think that is a matter to worry about very seriously. This kind of expansion of the order of Rs. 50 or 60 crores takes place almost every season and this year the busy season is likely to extend a couple of months more than in other years, because of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement. With respect to that at least some commodities will move across the border and therefore till the end of May we shall not be in a position to judge as to how far there has been any permanent increase in the amount of bank notes in circulation. But I do not believe it will be more than Rs. 20 or 25 crores. On the bank money side I do not believe there has been any great expansion; so, on the whole, I think we may be glad that we have not added significantly to the money side.

This brings me back to the problem of production. As a result of this taxation and so on, there ought to be some restraint on spending. But that will not reflect itself, till some of these measures have had an opportunity of affecting the situation and I think it would be too early to judge. It is like a medicine or injection which takes slow effect. Other things being equal, we will find that if there has not been a positive improvement in the situation, at least there have been no deterioration. The recent deterioration in the wholesale price index has been due to very special factors, such as the rise in

the price of jute products, which I believe will abate as reports of the new sowings are to hand. It must be remembered that the jute season is a very short one, and by August or September we should be in a position to command a very large supply of jute. At that time I believe prices would be far more reasonable. So far as our own purchases are concerned, we have not paid at the rates that are anywhere near the rates that are ruling. So far as the $\frac{1}{2}$ lakh bales are concerned, we would pay Rs. 57 per ton, instead of Rs. 102 which is the quotation today.

Then a suggestion was made by Shri Khandubhai Desai, since perhaps he recognised that an increase in dearness allowance is not feasible—by the way for every Rs. 10 increase up to Rs. 300 it would cost us Rs. 17 crores—we should give cloth and cereals at concession rates. Cloth people have already been buying at, I do not know how many per cent., above the controlled prices. I have every expectation that as a result of the increase that has been granted now, they will probably have to pay very much less than what they have been paying! So, in effect, that ought to be some kind of relief. As regards food we are already giving a subsidy of about Rs. 21 crores which is available to the industrial towns or large cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad Government employees who are posted there ought to be able to share in that.

Now Mr. Himatsingka referred to revaluation. That is a subject on which one has to be very careful.

Shri Hussain Imam: The least you say on the subject the better.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: All I can say is that it is not for lack of consideration of all the factors that we have not acted. I have been in almost continuous touch with our own experts and the experts of the Reserve Bank and provisionally we are not satisfied that a revaluation of our currency is likely to be, in the present circumstances, in the interest of the country.

Figures have been quoted by Mr. Himatsingka. I can also quote figures, but I have not got the time. The conclusion that the Reserve Bank experts have arrived at is that a 15 per cent. revaluation would probably involve a balance of payment deficit of round about Rs. 50 crores and a 30 per cent. revaluation will involve a deficit in the balance of

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

payment of Rs. 135 crores, whereas if we do not revalue we shall probably hold things square.

I think what Mr. Hussain Imam said is not quite correct that devaluation has not affected us at all. Anyone who is competent to examine this matter has come to the conclusion that devaluation has been beneficial and that it has improved our balance of payment position and that till the outbreak of the Korean hostilities it did not prove too difficult to check the increase in prices that was expected as a result of devaluation. If we were to revalue we shall probably be worse off, instead of being better off. It is not a question of getting things cheap at all. In rupees it would be a question of being able to get things, to have the wherewithal to buy things with. I think it is fallacious to consider this problem in terms of rupees. What we have to consider is the foreign exchange equivalent. Whether we revalue or not, if American prices or United Kingdom prices are expressed in terms of these prices they are not going to be altered because we revalue.

So we should have to pay the same. On the exports side it is almost certain that our exports, quantitatively, will suffer. The total annual earnings in terms of foreign exchange would also fall. What is far more important is one has to consider this from the point of view of the effect it is likely to have on the Budget. Immediately I think we will lose a lot of revenue on the side of export duties, and also lose on the import duties because the landed price in rupees will be very much lower. So there will be a loss on the import side too. If the House would like to make up for revenue of another fifty crores, it will be a different matter. In any case it raises very difficult issues. We never remit the problem, that is to say, this kind of problem will never be put on the shelf. But we can only take a decision from time to time. As I said, on a full examination of the relevant facts of the situation I have come to the conclusion that at the moment it would not be in the interests of the country to revalue the rupee.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

I have only ten minutes more. I shall proceed to Mr. Guha's statement. He has charged us, curiously, with not having effected any economy in our own Department. I do not know what he has based his

charge on. Because, we carried out all the economies, we were among the one or two Ministries which carried out the recommendations of the old Economy Committee, and after that also we have abolished several posts. If he meant that we should have abolished the posts of Income-tax officers and Excise Commissioners and so on, then I think there is a very severe limit to what is possible in that respect. Because, our experience is that for every rupee that you lay out on additional staff, provided it is trained staff, you get ten times that money as revenue. It is only because I cannot get trained staff that I cannot expand my staff. If I can get trained men I would like to double the Income-tax staff so as to liquidate the arrears that is outstanding, which is again another problem to which my hon. colleague the Minister of State is addressing himself very vigorously.

Shri Sondhi: Why not advertise for these posts?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is a question of seven or eight years' experience in going through accounts and knowing what is what. It cannot be done by just asking people to do it.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): My friend Mr. Sondhi has got it!

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: So I think, Sir, that this charge is completely unjustifiable.

Shri A. C. Guha: I did not say that no economy has been effected, but not appreciable economy has been effected.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It all depends on the appreciation of the Member. It is no use my quoting—my colleague says I might quote some posts—but it is not a matter of quoting a few posts. It does not lead you one way or the other. If he is interested I would invite him to have a conference with the Secretary, Revenue and Expenditure and satisfy himself. Indeed on the Finance Ministry side we are not a spending Ministry. We flatter ourselves that we get the sinews and wherewithal for the Government to run.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): So raise the expenditure; you will get more revenue.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Well, it might be possible, as I said, provided we get trained people.

He referred to the fertilizer affair. Now, there again, I am puzzled because I do not know where the Finance Ministry comes in. It makes certain rules and regulations, and we say that a certificate should be there

that the Finance Officer has agreed before an indent is placed. Then, an officer of the Agriculture Ministry places an indent, ordinarily, with an officer of the Industry and Supply Ministry. The officer of the Industry and Supply Ministry imagines that the certificate must be there, otherwise this order would not come through. And the rest of the thing proceeds as usual. Now, in the ordinary course this would have been found out by the Audit Officer when he finds that payment had been made without the certificate of the Finance Officer. But that takes a little time. All these are post-audit things, and in course of time somebody would have been called to account. As it happened, the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture when he took over charge discovered this. Therefore an enquiry was started which was conducted by the Secretary (Revenue and Expenditure), and whatever facts there were came before the House. Now, I cannot see where there has been any failure on the part of the Finance Ministry in this affair. The rules are there. We could not say anything more than that there should be an indent certified by the Finance Officer attached to the Ministry concerned.

Shri A. C. Guha: It only means that there have been loop-holes in the rules by virtue of which payment to the tune of Rs. 1 crore could have been made without sanction.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The payment was made in London, because this order was transferred then to London. And London was not concerned with the certificate on the indent. London was justified in making the purchase on the requisition of the Industry and Supply Ministry. In any case, even if such a thing occurs, all that we can do is to see if there are any loop-holes in the rules and whether they could not be tightened.

Then there was some reference to the Indo-Pakistan trade. I do not know if there is any use going over the whole history of this affair. At one time I did myself think, in September, that we should have a special agreement. But at that time we were misled (a) by the estimates of the jute crop that we are going to get, and (b) by the expectations of export of Pakistan jute to other countries. It was the continuation of high prices abroad that made it possible for Pakistan to export very much more. If that had not been exported, then all that jute would have come to us,

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I shall now deal with the Delhi sales tax.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. Minister to reserve this for the Finance Bill so as to leave the remaining half an hour for the other subject?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, and it will be better because I shall be able to give a more elaborate reply to the hon. Member. I have considered all the representations made and there are two things I would say before I conclude. One is the Income-tax Investigation Commission says the presence of an efficient sales tax organisation on the spot is an advantage to the Income-tax, as the total sales are got into the books. Secondly, as regards the Chief Commissioner, first he supported the tax, then he opposed it, and now he is again supporting it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now take up the cut motions relating to this demand.

Shri Hussain Imam: I beg to withdraw my cut motion.

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall put Pandit Kunzru's cut motion to the vote of the House.

Shri Hussain Imam: He did not move it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I treated all these cut motions as having been moved. Therefore, unless the hon. Member wants to withdraw, I have to put it to the House. The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put Shri Subbiah's cut motion. The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Grants-in-aid to States' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I beg to withdraw my cut motion.

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Prof. S. L. Saksena: I also beg to withdraw all my cut motions.

The cut motion were, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts mentioned in the order paper be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of Demands Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, and 105 under the control of the Ministry of Finance."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Deputy-Speaker the motions for demands for grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below—Ed. of P. P.]

DEMAND No. 21—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,28,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND No. 22—CUSTOMS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,68,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Customs'."

DEMAND No. 23—UNION EXCISE DUTIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,15,89,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Union Excise Duties'."

DEMAND No. 24—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,49,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect

of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

DEMAND No. 25—OPIUM

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,89,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Opium'."

DEMAND No. 26—STAMPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,51,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Stamps'."

DEMAND No. 27—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries'."

DEMAND No. 28—AUDIT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,02,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND No. 29—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

DEMAND No. 30—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,15,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No. 31—CURRENCY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Currency'."

DEMAND No. 32—MINT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND No. 33—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,65,06,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 34—MISCELLANEOUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,97,30,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

DEMAND No. 35—GRANTS-IN-AID TO STATES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,87,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Grants-in-aid to States'."

DEMAND No. 36—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Union and State Governments'."

DEMAND No. 37—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,36,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND No. 38—FRÉ-PARTITION PAYMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2, 51,65,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Fré-Partition Payments'."

DEMAND No. 39—EXTRAORDINARY PAYMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,81,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Extraordinary Payments'."

DEMAND No. 97—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE INDIA SECURITY PRESS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,39,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the India Security Press'."

DEMAND No. 98—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,68,08,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

DEMAND NO. 99—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency'."

DEMAND NO. 100—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,54,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

DEMAND NO. 101—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

DEMAND NO. 102—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

DEMAND NO. 103—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF GOVERNMENT TRADING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,54,09,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government Trading'."

DEMAND NO. 104—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges

which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

DEMAND NO. 105—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,99,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Loans and Advances by the Central Government'."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take up the demand which has been held over.

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): I just want to say one or two words. I do not wish to take up the time of the House. Yesterday I placed on the Table of the House a statement giving complete details of the Jeep contract. I do not want to repeat all that is said in the statement. I simply want to add one or two words regarding the questions which were put by one or two hon. Members. I do not know whether it was the opinion of the House that it should be in the form of question and answer. Therefore I have given my reply in the statement itself. I hope, Sir, with the facts that I have placed before this House, the House will be in a position to agree to the grant that was left over on the 26th March.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: Sir. I have sent you a motion in connection with this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, I shall refer to that. I received notice of a motion this morning from Mr. Sarangdhar Das in the following terms:

"I hereby give notice that I intend to move the following motion with reference to the further discussion of the motion moved by the hon. C. D. Deshmukh on the 26th March, 1951 in respect of the Demand for Defence Services, Effective—Army to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952:

'While agreeing with the Demand under Head "Defence Services. Effective—Army" this House is of the opinion that the matter of the contract entered into by the Government of India in 1948-49 in London for Jeeps and rifles and ammunition be thoroughly inquired into by a Committee consisting of the following five Members of this House (names to be declared at the time of making the motion) with instruction to report to the House on the 30th of April, 1951.'

I am afraid this is out of order for this reason that on a motion for the vote on Demands for grants, a cut motion alone is the one that is contemplated for reduction. No other motion at this stage or with respect to this demand is allowed under the rules. Therefore, the hon. Member may seek an appropriate remedy other than the one that is thought of now.

Pandit Kunzru: May I put two questions to the hon. Defence Minister. The first question is this: My hon. friend the other day stated in the House that he knew nothing about the contract for steel placed with a certain firm. That contract was placed by the Department which was formerly known as the Department of Industry and Supply. It was placed because otherwise compensation amounting to £60,000 would have had to be paid on account of the cancellation of the contract for rifles and ammunition. How is it that the Defence Minister is unaware of this?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information or asking questions?

Pandit Kunzru: I am asking for information. In view of the connection between the two, how is it that the hon. Defence Minister is unaware of this? My second question is this. Are the firms that have failed to supply the Defence Ministry the things that it needed, jeeps, rifles and ammunition, still on the list of suppliers to the Defence Ministry of the Government of India.

Sardar Baldev Singh: What I stated the other day in this House, I still stick to that. The order for steel plates was placed independently and it was not agreed to by the Defence Ministry nor is it our business to do so. It was placed quite independently and, therefore,

as far as the Defence Ministry are concerned, we know nothing about it. As regards the compensation which the hon. Member had mentioned, it was never raised with us. We never agreed to pay compensation and therefore what I said the other day was that as far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, we know nothing about it.

Pandit Kunzru: Did not the Defence Ministry have to pay compensation because the contract for steel plates was placed,.....

Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not know whether the contract was placed, but this matter was undoubtedly dealt with by the Industry and Supply Ministry. The second question, Sir, is whether this firm still remains as a supplier to the Defence Ministry of the Government of India. I suppose that is the question.

With regard to this, as I have already stated, as far as jeeps are concerned, this contract has been placed with another firm. As far as I know, there are no orders outstanding with this firm.

Pandit Kunzru: The hon. Minister does not seem to have understood my question. I mean to ask whether fresh orders will be placed with these firms which have defaulted in future too and whether they have been enabled to carry out the orders in future too.

Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot give a categorical answer to that. I cannot say "no". If after full satisfaction and full guarantees, if we require some stores which are not available elsewhere, after satisfying ourselves fully in the matter, we might place orders. But as I said earlier, there is no intention of placing any orders at present.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar): I would like to know what is the exact position with regard to the statement of the hon. Minister and his remarks now. Are we to take that as the final answer and the last word in regard to the entire matter or would there be any opportunity to discuss this thing because, speaking for myself, I would say that there are many remarks and many sentences in this statement which are far from satisfactory, and raise also in my opinion constitutional issues regarding the position of this House *vis a vis* purchasing officers or officers who place contracts on behalf of this country? For instance, the hon. Minister stated

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that the High Commissioner had satisfied himself about the credit worthiness of the particular firm. Are we not entitled to know on what grounds he satisfied himself?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For the discussion of various budget demands and the Finance Bill we have allotted a number of days. With respect to this demand as many as five hon. Members spoke on the question of jeeps, namely, Messrs. Shiva Rao, Pandit Kunzru, Joachim Alva, Chaliha, Biswanath Das and the hon. Defence Minister replied. In addition to that the hon. Defence Minister was prepared to answer questions as is usual in the end. The hon. Finance Minister was asked certain question just now and he replied. In order to give sufficient opportunity to hon. Members to think out those questions, sufficient time was allowed. Questions were put and a statement was also issued. What more is required, I am not able to understand. One question leads to another and one answer leads to another question. So long as the Government and the State continue to exist there will be always questions and always answers. I am not able to ask the Defence Minister to state whether with respect to this matter any further discussion is necessary or not.

Shri Hussain Imam: I wish to make a suggestion which will satisfy the House and the Government in dealing with this matter. My own suggestion is that the statement that has been given to us does not fulfil the promise which the hon. Minister made in the House and which you, Mr. Deputy Speaker yourself stated here.

Here I have got the following words:

"A copy of this statement has been placed on the Table by the hon. Defence Minister and hon. Members who desire to take part will find all these things."

The hon. Minister said that this statement contains replies to our questions. You said Yes, but it does not contain the replies. There are contradictions between this statement and the speech which the hon. Minister made in the House, for instance on the subject of whether an officer...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I do not want to pursue this matter. There is a general discussion on the demands and cut motions. Finally

the Minister in charge replies. A number of questions are put to him. The Minister in charge replies to whatever has been said during the course of the discussions. Ultimately, some more questions are put if some hon. Members want more elucidation. We will assume that they are not satisfied. Then, what is the procedure? That another day should be given, or a fresh period has to be allotted for further discussion of the Demands for Grants; I cannot understand, this kind of suggestion. There must be a limit set. If they are not satisfied, they may seek any other remedy. This is all that the hon. Minister has stated. The hon. Members must be satisfied or not.

Shri Hussain Imam: I was only suggesting that a Committee of the House may be appointed to enquire into this matter, (Several Hon. Members: No, no) and pending that we may pass.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is out of order. As I have already said, the hon. Member, without putting it in writing and sending it to me by way of an amendment motion, wants to repeat what Mr. Sarangdhar Das has put down in writing. The general opinion of the House is there. Certainly, he can make his motion in an appropriate manner. I am not going to allow this suggestion at present.

Shri Bharati (Madras): If they are so minded, let them vote against.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: Sir, I abide by your ruling. What I wish to point out is this. The hon. Minister says that the questions have been answered. We find that all the questions have not been covered. I think it is our duty to point out that they have not been covered. Not only that. From the statement itself it is seen that there are certain terms on which the contract was placed and those terms were not fulfilled and yet part-payment has been made, and it is such a huge sum of money! In spite of non-fulfilment of those terms, money has been given. In passing, I might also mention that a Bombay paper has brought out many allegations, which need be refuted by Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. In some form or other, hon. Members are raising the same issue again and again. I put the question straight to hon. Members. Questions are put for elucidation. The Minister replies in his own way to the best of his ability, so far as the facts in his

possession go. Even then, some Members may not be satisfied. Are we to hold up the work of the House merely because two or three Members are not satisfied? They may not be satisfied. As a matter of fact, if there is a regular Opposition, it is not to their interest to get satisfied. I cannot hold up the business of the House for the purpose of some hon. Members who cannot be satisfied. Under these circumstances, hon. Members may put these questions later on if they like, and if the rules permit, get elucidation. There is the Question-hour, a full hour. There are various other methods by which these matters can be brought up. There is no method in the Parliamentary practice either here or in May's Parliamentary Practice to force a Minister to say what a Member wants him to say.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I just draw your attention to one fact here? On page 3 of the statement, regarding the reason why this offer was rejected, the Minister says:

“Unfortunately it was not possible for us to spare the necessary number of technical men to undertake this task.”

What we understood from his speech was that the laches were on the part of the suppliers. From this statement it seems that what was wrong was that there were no men in England on whom we could rely, and no men were available in India whom we could send to England to examine these jeeps. This is a very great matter. On every jeep we are losing something like £164. Therefore, I want this matter to be examined by your committee, as I suggested earlier.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no use in trying to please me by saying ‘my committee’. What I want to say is, a jeep could not be had for nothing. There is difference of view as to whether these deserve that price. To the best of the ability of the Government, they say that on that side, the man claims to have done his best and on our side, we have not had sufficient men to go and examine. Therefore, both sides seem to be correct. I would not allow a discussion on this. But for some more elucidation. I would request the Prime Minister to give a final statement if there are any further matters and that will close the discussion.

Shri Kamath: On a point of information, Sir, the hon. Minister has

stated in his note on page 4 that our High Commissioner in London, “has succeeded in negotiating another contract with a new firm, under which the contractor.....(ii) supplies us 1,007 new jeeps at £395 each, plus £19 for crating.” I would like to know, if the hon. Defence Minister can throw some more light upon it today, what the price of a new jeep is in the open market in England and America, and secondly whether this £414 represents the price of a jeep F.O.B. British port or its landed cost in Bombay.

Sardar Baldev Singh: All this is mentioned there.

Shri Kamath: That is not given in this note. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us what was the price at the time that this contract was negotiated, that is July-August, 1950. The note says that the new arrangement was settled in its broad outlines in July-August 1950 although the actual contract was not signed until early in March 1951. The delay was due to various things, portance. It goes on to say that settlement of matters of minor im-deliveries are to start three months hence and continue at the rate of 68 per month. That is to say, it will be completed 18 months hence. I would also like the Minister to say what the penalty clause in the new contract is, that is penalty for non-delivery or non-performance of the contract.

opportunity to say a few words on

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me this this subject.....

Pandit Kunzru: On a point of order, Sir,—this is not a matter for laughter,—you have already decided that the discussion on this subject is closed. How is the Prime Minister then going to make a speech on this subject? So far as the Prime Minister is concerned, every Member will be glad to hear him. But, the rights of all Members should be the same. In raising this point of order, I am only standing up for the rights of Members of this House, which should be equal.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree that the rights of all Members here, irrespective of the side they sit, ought to be equal. I am under the impression that the hon. Prime Minister is only replying to such other matters on which hon. Members were anxious to have a reply. In that way, it is open to any Member of the Ministry to

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answer for, or in addition to any explanation given by any Minister. In that way, I think it would be for the benefit of hon. Members who are very anxious to have answers to their questions. There is no separate discussion or debate; no further opportunity will be given to any other Member.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak because this particular matter has raised a great deal of interest in the country and serious charges have been brought against the Government in regard to this. When this matter came up before the House on the last occasion, the House postponed consideration of it so that it may have more time and the Defence Minister might give the facts of the case to the House. Whenever the House wants further information or is not content with the information that has been given, it is perfectly right for the House to enquire. The House has to be vigilant in such matters and for our part, Government welcomed this opportunity of looking into this matter further and to supply this information to the House. We have utilised this opportunity to pay a great deal of attention ourselves to it. And as you know, some hon. Members of this House have also had a chance of looking into this matter and we have profited a great deal by their suggestions and their observations to which we shall certainly pay a great deal of attention.

Pandit Kunzru: Who are those Members who looked into this matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know the names of some of them, but.....

Pandit Kunzru: But who authorised them to do this work?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As the hon. Member knows, he was himself invited by me and he refused to come. That is an attitude I entirely fail to understand.

Pandit Kunzru: That is a different matter altogether. I want the Prime Minister to know that I can answer this point that he has raised and if the Chair would give me another opportunity to reply to that point, I will certainly do so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I understood the Prime Minister to say was that he was ready and quite willing to show the files—of course very

confidentially—to any hon. Members who wanted to satisfy themselves by looking into the papers. And some Members who were interested came to him and did look into the papers to satisfy themselves. That is what the Prime Minister referred to when he said that he invited the hon. Member to meet him.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Quite apart from this, I have often said it in the House and to hon. Members that whenever they have any enquiry to make, whenever they hear any complaint, it will be my privilege to help to find out what it is and any Member can come at any time, subject of course, to the time available at the time. Therefore whether it is this matter or any other, Government is anxious to pursue any complaint which has, *prima facie* some substance in it.

In this particular matter a great deal has been said in the country and something was said in this House also and a certain word which is frequently used, has been used very often. That word is "scandal". Now, I can say more especially about one matter into which I have personally enquired as well as in regard to this jeep matter, having gone into it thoroughly I should like to state with such personal authority as I possess that the only scandal about this matter is the use of the word "scandal" all the time. The House will remember that this transaction took place two and a half years ago at a critical moment in the country's history. Those circumstances have to be remembered. It is not an easy matter to get military or other supplies quickly, more especially when there are all kinds of governmental and other difficulties in the way. It is true that when we examined these past papers etc. two and a half years later, we found many things in it which we would rather have had otherwise. We found certain non-compliance in certain things, in inspection etc. These we found and we shall profit by this experience. But the point that the House is interested to know is whether there is anything which might be called corruption in it or even whether there is anything which may be called gross negligence in it. These are the important factors, and I can say with complete confidence that I have found not a trace of anything of that kind. I have found and others have found that there was delay and non-compliance, that the inspection was not complete. Because of our need and because of the difficulties of the situation, we tried to find a way out

of the difficulties and ultimately—and I want this to be made perfectly clear—as it has been made clear—that we succeeded in finding a way out which involved no loss to the country. Mr. Hussain Imam has stated and again repeated here that we have lost so much on every jeep. There has been no loss. Mr. Kamath enquired how much is the price of a jeep here and abroad. I cannot exactly state the prices. But he will find at bottom of page 4 of the Defence Minister's note that the price of delivery in Bombay would be less than the Willys jeeps assembled at Bombay, allowing for customs duties and freight etc. So there has been no loss in this transaction ultimately. This matter caused us a lot of worry and it has taken up a lot of our time, not only now but in the past. It has a long history of two and a half years. If I may repeat it, the House must remember the circumstances in which this was done.

Mr. Hussain Imam said something about inspectors. When this contract originally came up before us, that was almost the first thing to be dealt with by us. Purchases up to that time were made through the India Office and the War Office of the United Kingdom, before the change-over took place. At that time we had no corps of inspectors. Nobody can have a very large body of such persons and therefore we used some firms. We did not have them then in Delhi. We could have sent one or two only. So when we were asked to supply a large number of inspectors we could not do so and we had to take the help of a firm—Messrs. Lloyds with a worldwide reputation. Whether they did the job well or not is another matter. As it happened they did not give satisfaction and that is perfectly true. Therefore ultimately we stopped that and found a way out.

Now, I submit that looking into the whole thing, we have learnt many lessons from which we have profited and from which we will profit. There is absolutely nothing improper about it as was mentioned by some newspapers. Some newspapers of course who are bent that way take advantage of perhaps loose language used by some hon. Member or someone else and magnify it to a tremendous extent. Whether at the present moment or at any time, when a large quantity of defence materials has to be purchased, it is not an easy matter to get them on account of

national and international difficulties. One has to take the circumstances as they are. One cannot proceed with these purchases in the same way as perhaps we might in normal times and in normal cases. Keeping that in view, I do submit to the House that this whole business, after close examination, reveals nothing to which Government can take serious exception, except that we learnt from certain errors, certainly, nor would the House take exception. I would like to make it perfectly clear to the House and to the country that, having gone into this whole matter, we are completely satisfied and as I have said, in these circumstances, no question arises of, shall I say, further enquiry. We have made enquiries enough and we do wish to take full advantage of what we have learnt from this not only in regard to future matters but even with regard to recent past matters. We have examined them thoroughly so that we may not have to face any like difficulties in the future.

Shri Kamath: What about my question? There is still one minute left.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think it is five o'clock. The question is:

“That a sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,28,55,09,000, be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952 in respect of ‘Defence Services, Effective—Army’.”

The motion was adopted

5 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now apply the guillotine and I will put the remaining demands to the House. The question is:

“That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the order paper be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of Demand Nos. 62 and 63 under the control of the Ministry of Law, demand No. 69 under the control of the Department of Par-

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liamentary Affairs and demand No. 92 relating to Parliament."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Deputy-Speaker the motions for demands for grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below—Ed. of P. P.]

DEMAND NO. 62—MINISTRY OF LAW

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,71,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND NO. 63—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending

the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Administration Justice'."

DEMAND NO. 69—DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Department of Parliamentary Affairs'."

DEMAND NO. 92—PARLIAMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,08,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Parliament'."

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 11th April, 1951.