

Friday, 5th March, 1948

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 5th March, 1948

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

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following Member made the declaration under Rule 20:

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha (Bihar: General).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 618.†

(The Honourable Minister for Communications was not in his seat when the question was called.)

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am sorry, Sir, I forgot that the House is meeting nowadays fifteen minutes earlier. I thought it was meeting at eleven.

LATE DELIVERY OF AIR MAIL

618 *Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the average time taken by the Postal authorities after the arrival of aeroplanes carrying mails, to deliver the mail to the addressees?

(b) Are Government aware that invariably letters sent by air mail are not delivered until twenty-four hours, and in some cases even later after their arrival at the destination?

(c) In cases where companies run more than one service a day on the scheduled routes, are air mail letters carried by all the services or only once during the day?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Postal Department that air mail letters arriving by planes before sun-set should be delivered the same evening?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (d). Delivery of air mails is made generally within 3 hours of the arrival of the planes. In the case of planes arriving in the afternoon, if the mail bags reach the post office before 4 p. m. their contents are included in the general delivery. When the bags reach after 4 p. m., and before the closing time of the post office, window delivery is effected. When they reach after sun set, the contents are issued for delivery on the following morning. No fresh instructions are necessary.

(b) No.

(c) All the scheduled Air services are utilised for conveyance of mails when there is any saving of time.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: Did the Honourable Minister say that the mails received before sunset are delivered on the following day?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I said if they are received after 4 p. m. and before sunset window delivery is effected. If they are received after sunset they are delivered on the next day.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are there special delivery peons for air mail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why not?

†This question was actually taken up after starred question No. 621. It is however printed serially in the Debates

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in the case of mails received after 4 p.m. the peon delivery is not made?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I said window delivery is made.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will Government consider the desirability that air mails which are posted for expeditious delivery are delivered by peon that day itself if they arrive here before sunset?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is only a suggestion for action.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I ask if any actual investigation has been made in the city of Delhi as to how the air mail letters are delivered?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes. Sometimes it has been found that the letters that ought to have been delivered the same day are delivered the next day. Action is being taken to enforce the delivery according to instructions.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Minister tell the House if air mail letters are delivered quicker than telegrams?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Sometimes it so happens.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Minister considered the necessity for engaging special peons for delivery of air mail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Then the charges will have to be increased.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Has the Honourable Minister satisfied himself that air mail bags placed in a plane at the starting point are not allowed to be detained *en route* to make room for other forms of freight?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have no knowledge of such occurrence.

Mr. R. K. Sidva: In regard to the practice that letters received after 4 p.m. are not delivered, may I know whether the same practice prevails in other parts of the country, for instance in Bombay and Calcutta?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I have said, if the air bags are received after the last delivery has been distributed to the post men, then window delivery is arranged. In Bombay, due to the hour of the last delivery, the air mail may be delivered up to 6 p. m.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has not perhaps caught the answer of the Honourable Minister. His reply was that in case the last delivery had been made and mails are received afterwards then window delivery is arranged. In Bombay if the last delivery is as late as up to 6 p.m., naturally the air mail letters will go with it.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: If a letter is sent by air mail to a particular person and that person is not there at home and has come, for instance, to Delhi to attend the Constituent Assembly meetings will that letter when forwarded here be carried by air mail or by ordinary mail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I do not know the procedure exactly, but I think it will come by ordinary mail.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know the reason why?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: In view of the fact that some of the aeroplanes of the scheduled services come later than half past three, will the Honourable Minister consider at least the desirability of changing this last delivery hour from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. so that those air mail letters may also be included in that delivery?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will consider that suggestion.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether air mail letters marked for express delivery, with two annas additional postage for the purpose, are delivered by the telegraph peon?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is true.

PRICES OF SUGAR BEFORE AND AFTER DE-CONTROL

619. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 129 asked on 6th February 1948, regarding the price of sugar in various places in India before and after de-control and state whether there are any places in India where the price of sugar has fallen below the controlled price? If so, which are those places and what was the price prevailing there on the 15th of January 1948 as compared with the controlled rate?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In the course of supplementary questions I had made it clear that prices of sugar had not fallen below the control rates at any place.

INTRODUCTION OF CROP INSURANCE.

620. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware of their promise given during the 1947 Budget Session to enquire into the possibilities of introducing Crop Insurance in India?

(b) If so, what steps have so far been taken and with what effect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Yes. Sanction for a post of an Officer on Special Duty for preparing a detailed scheme for Crop and Cattle Insurance on an experimental basis has been recently secured. The selection of a qualified actuary for this post is under consideration.

Seth Govinddas: On which date was this selection made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government intend to advertise for the post again. We have been finding difficulty in securing a suitable actuary. We intend to issue an advertisement asking for names for the post.

Seth Govinddas: Did not the Honourable Minister say just now that the services of one person has been secured for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. The selection of a qualified actuary does not refer to any particular person.

Seth Govinddas: Have any qualifications been fixed for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No specific qualifications have been fixed, because this is entirely a new scheme. We have been trying to secure a man from the Commerce Department, where they have an insurance section. We have been in touch with certain provincial governments, we have been in touch with the Actuarial Association of India and we have been finding difficulty in securing a suitable person. We are negotiating with the Government of Bombay for a suitable person. On the whole we have come to the conclusion that we should advertise for this appointment.

Seth Govinddas: Has any Provincial Government made any suggestions in this respect so far?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that any experiments in this direction have been made in India anywhere?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Government is not aware.

Seth Govinddas: Are the Government aware that in one of the States in Central India—it is a small State—I believe it is Dewas Junior, they are insur-

ing crops in the State and under these circumstances will Government take certain facts from that State and see what can be done in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Evidently the experiment must have been on a small scale, as the Honourable Member did not at first even know the name of the State. I am prepared to go into the facts.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Department of Agriculture has gathered information from agricultural departments in other countries?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have Government drawn up any tentative scheme about this crop and cattle insurance?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. We are going to make an experiment in a selected area. So far as India is concerned it is more or less an experiment. Therefore we have no data. We want to collect data and after the experiment is made we will extend the scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government get into touch with the Department of Agriculture in Canada where this experiment has already been made and has proved to be a success?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have got information about the Canadian experiment.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government first make the experiment in the province where generally crops fail?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This will have to be considered. An expert will be appointed.

MANUFACTURE OF SYNTHETIC PETROL.

621. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government contemplate the manufacture of synthetic petrol?

(b) If so, what is the result of any research made in this direction?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The question of the manufacture of synthetic petrol is engaging the attention of Government. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a Committee to go into the question in detail, obtain the advice of foreign experts, and formulate a scheme at a very early date for the consideration of Government. This Committee is now examining the question. The report was submitted yesterday.

(b) No substantial research has so far been made.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government state the sources at present available to the Government of India from which they draw their supply of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the manufacture of synthetic petrol is concerned the sources of supply will be the coal area.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What are the recommendations of the Committee that submitted its report yesterday?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report has only just been received and the report suggests that it will be desirable to bring out some foreign experts for the purpose of exploring the possibility of the manufacture of synthetic petrol from coal. We are satisfied that there will be abundant supply of the kind of coal that is required for the manufacture of synthetic petrol and we are taking active steps to get the services of foreign experts, so that our entire scheme may be ready in the course of the next few months.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to tell the House whether this Committee had the assistance of any expert in devising its report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, we had and we also have secured advice by sending cablegrams to foreign countries. Preliminary information is available but we must explore it further.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which foreign country or countries are today manufacturing synthetic petrol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In Germany and also in America this is being done.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Government considered the possibility or desirability of importing German experts here for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are already taking steps in that direction.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know if any arrangement has been made for the import of the necessary machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think it is not desirable to go into details at this stage. As soon as the scheme is ready the House will be taken into confidence.

CONTRACTOR-CASHIER ON N. W. RAILWAY

822 * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** } Will the Honourable Minister of Railways
 { **Shri K. Santhanam:** } be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Lakshmi Narayan was employed as a contractor-cashier in the North-Western Railway prior to the 15th August, 1947;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Lakshmi Narayan continues to be a contractor-cashier in the East Punjab Railway;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have complained that the said Lakshmi Narayan has not rendered accounts to the extent of several lakhs of rupees belonging to the North-Western Railway in the pre-partition days;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what is the amount involved and whether Government have taken any steps to recover the amount; and

(e) what would be the share of the Government of India in the loss, in the event of the amount or any part of it becoming irrecoverable?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The position is that the firm of Messrs Dina Nath Sheo Pershad were the Contractor-Cashier and Shri Lakshmi Narain was their Manager and the same arrangement continues on the Eastern Punjab Railway.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Chief Auditor, N. W. Railway (Pakistan) had originally intimated that the amount involved was Rs. 54,73,253 which includes Rs. 24,88,576 for which payment appeared to have been made but for which payees' receipts were awaited. The Chief Auditor has since intimated that vouchers for about 1½ lakhs have since been traced in his Cash Office. The Cash Contractors have been asked either to present themselves in person or direct their accredited agent to attend the office of the Chief Auditor, N. W. Railway at Lahore to facilitate a speedy assessment and settlement of their liabilities.

(e) As the question is still under examination, it is not possible at this stage to determine the ultimate irrecoverable loss and the Government of India's share of it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Minister say whether there will be a loss ultimately though he is not sure about the amount?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is impossible to say at present. The matter is still under examination. The contractor in question had to leave Lahore about the middle of August under very difficult circumstances. He had been trying ever since to get back there to settle this matter with the North Western Railway, Pakistan. He was unable to do so for a long while. Recently he has been there and the matter is under detailed examination. Pending that examination it is impossible to say whether there would be any real loss and if so what our share would be.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Minister tell the House whether this particular firm of contractors are engaged in a similar capacity in other railways as well?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is it not risky to continue them with this thing hanging over their heads?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That matter is under examination, and I propose to have it considered.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the financial status of this firm or the individual working under them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to go into detail over this question, but this firm has been in charge of this job on the North Western Railway, as far as I can gather, for a period of thirty years and this is about the first time, as far as I know, that there has been any complication of this kind.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has he given any cash security?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: He has given a fairly heavy security.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I ask whether all this outstanding is for the pre-partition period or for the post-partition period?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is in respect of the pre-partition period.

TRANSPORTATION OF U. P. MUSTARD SEEDS FOR VILLAGE GHANI INDUSTRY, BENGAL

623. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the transport of mustard seeds from the United Provinces to Bengal for utilisation by the Cottage and Village Ghani industry, as specially organised by Khadi Pratistan of Sodepur near Calcutta, has been given only IV class priority, whereas second priority is given to the seeds purchased by oil mills;

(b) if so, what is the reason for this discrimination;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from the Khadi Pratistan and if so, when; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of raising the priority of mustard oil seeds for cottage industry from IV class priority to II class priority?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (c) and (d). No. Mustard seeds when consigned as raw material to oil mills are accorded priority Class II, whereas other less important trade movements are normally allotted priority Class V; specific urgent requirements of Khadi Pratistan of Sodepur have however been upgraded to priority Class I and on a representation dated 3rd February 1948 from Khadi Pratistan, the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta assisted movement by allotting 59 wagons in Class I Priority. In similar cases of sponsored movements Government will be prepared to upgrade priority for Mustard oil seeds.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the priority given to oranges, may I know?

ROADS UNDER RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEME.

624. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) at what places and for what distances road services are operated by the different railway administrations in India under the Rail-Road Co-ordination scheme; and

(b) whether there is any programme of extension of this scheme?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Presumably information is required only in respect of road services operated by Railways as opposed to road undertakings in which Railways are participating financially. If so, the only case of this kind is the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway which operates departmentally a goods transport service between Madras and Bangalore, covering a distance of 220 miles.

(b) No Railway at present has under consideration any scheme of departmental operation of road transport services but almost all railways contemplate participating financially in road transport companies, the formation of which is engaging the attention of the Provincial Governments in connection with their schemes of re-organisation of road motor transport services.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what has been the experience—whether the running of the road transport has been profitable or not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In this particular thing it has been profitable.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is not the profit made at the cost of the public?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I may answer that question—in the same way as any surplus earned by railways is at the cost of the public.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What proportion does it bear to the previous fares before the system was introduced?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I want notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government received any complaints from any organizations in regard to the running of the bus services?

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

REPORTS OF COMMODITIES PRICES BOARD.

625. ***Pand't Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many reports were submitted to Government by the Commodities Prices Board?

(b) How many of these reports have been published?

(c) Do Government propose to lay copies of the remaining reports on the table of the House?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Finance. It has accordingly been transferred to the List of Questions for the 12th March 1948 when it will be answered by Honourable Minister, Finance Ministry.

SURVEY OF PROJECTS ON B. N. RAILWAY.

626. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing the details of the following Survey Projects so far done on the Bengal Nagpur Railway: (i) Raipur-Jeypore Railway; (ii) Sambalpur-Kondagaon Railway;

(iii) Rupsa-Talbandh conversion with extension from Bangriposi and Raireingpur; (v) Talchar-Rourkela Survey; (v) Jeypur-Padur-Kottavalesa Survey; (vi) Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochipore Railway Survey; (vii) Nanpada Gurupur conversion; (viii) Gopalpur-Berhanpur Russel Konda Traffic Survey; and (ix) Rayagada-Nawarangpur Jagdalpur-Byramgarh Broad Gauge Survey?

(b) How far has the work on these projects progressed and when is the work on each of these lines expected to be completed?

(c) When will the Railways begin to work.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A statement showing details of the nine survey projects referred to is placed on the table.

(b) The position of the survey work for each of the projects has been indicated in the statement. No construction work has yet been commenced on any of these projects. Construction work on two of the items only, *viz.* Sambalpur-Kantabanji and Talchar-Rourkela is proposed to be undertaken during the next five year period.

(c) The Government are not in a position at this stage to state when these railways are likely to be completed and opened to traffic.

Statement

Details of the survey projects.

(i) *Raipur-Jeypore Railway.*—This project involves the conversion of the existing narrow gauge line between Raipur and Dhamtari from narrow gauge to broad gauge and construction of a new broad gauge line between Dhamtari and Jeypore via Jagdalpur. The survey has been completed and reports have been received. It has been decided that this project should be examined jointly with Nagpur-Vizagapatam project after the survey reports for the latter have been completed.

(ii) *Sambalpur-Kondagaon Railway.*—The survey of this project was carried out in two sections *viz.*: (1) Sambalpur-Kantabanji and (2) Kantabanji-Kondagaon, and the reports have been received.

The Central Board of Transport have placed the Sambalpur-Kantabanji section in the tentative programme of construction over the next five year period. The rail link from Sambalpur up to the Mahanadi River, including a bridge over it would be required for the transport of materials for the Hirakund Dam Project and the line from the Mahanadi Bridge to Kantabanji would be essential for the movement of new traffic, both industrial and agricultural, which should be developed by the Mahanadi River multi-purposes scheme.

The Kantabanji-Kondagaon section has, however, been placed in category (b), *i.e.*, projects on which work should not proceed at present, in view of the limited resources available in the country.

(iii) *Rupsa-Talbandh conversion with extension from Bangriposi to Rairangpur.*—The field work for the engineering survey has been completed and 67 per cent. of the traffic survey has been completed. Reports are awaited. The project has been placed by the Central Board of Transport in category (b).

(iv) *Talchar-Rourkela Survey.*—The survey for this line is in progress. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in the tentative programme of construction during the next five-year period, since this line would open up new coalfields and provide a direct connection for movement of coal to the south.

(v) *Jeypore-Padwa-Kottavalasa.*—This section forms part of the project of providing a direct rail connection between Nagpur and Vizagapatam. The survey work is in hand. A decision on this project will be taken after the survey reports have been received and considered by the Central Board of Transport.

(vi) *Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochipur.*—The survey of this project has been completed and reports have been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in category (b).

(vii) *Naupada-Gunupur Conversion.*—This forms part of the larger project of conversion of the narrow gauge line between Naupada and Gunupur to Broad Gauge and its extension to meet Raipur-Vizianagaram line. The survey has been completed and the reports have been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in category (b).

(viii) *Gopalpur-Berhanpur-Russelkonda Traffic Survey.*—The survey has been completed and report has been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in category (b).

(b) *Royaghada-Nowrangpur-Jagdulpur-Bairamgarh Broad Gauge Survey*.—This forms part of the proposed East-West connection from Ramgundam to Royaghada via Bairamgarh, Jagdulpur and Nowrangpur. The survey between Ramgundam and Bairamgarh was carried out by the Nizam's State Railway, and of the portion between Bairamgarh and Royaghada by the B. N. Railway. The survey reports from the B. N. Railway have been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed the project in category (b).

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Does it contain the Bobbili-Salu Railway to be constructed again?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The statement that I have placed on the table contains details of all these projects which are either under survey or in respect of which survey reports are under examination. The Honourable Member will get the details from that statement.

Shri B. Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware that some of the railways were proposed to be constructed in 1929-30 and thereafter those projects were dropped owing to economic crisis? And is the Honourable Minister aware that promises were given by the Political Department two years ago when the foreign government was ruling that most of the projected railways would be constructed in these States of Orissa which are now part of Orissa Province?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is no lack of sympathy as far as Government is concerned, but the question is partly one of finance and partly one of material resources.

Shri B. Das: What about priority of development of communications in Orissa? As Orissa is not represented in the Cabinet.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that most of the areas, and specially the Jeypore-Nowrangpur area is most inaccessible and there are very great transport difficulties?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am aware of the position.

Shri Biswanath Das: Is it not a fact that this railway has long been surveyed by the Government and promise of it was also given long before?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes. As a matter of fact, as the Honourable Member no doubt is aware, there was a fairly extensive scheme of railway development which was drawn up about three or four years ago, but it has been difficult for Government to implement many of these schemes for reasons which are to a large extent beyond our control.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not because that some of these railways have proved to be unprofitable because their size is much smaller than even metre-gauge, and have Government considered the possibility of getting better results by increasing the gauge from the very small thing to metre and from metre to broad?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That raises rather a difficult technical and engineering issue on which I would not like to commit myself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has it been considered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of gauges has been under constant examination for a long while.

Shri Biswanath Das: Arising from the reply given by my Honourable friend regarding finance, may I know whether he is aware of the fact that the Maharaja of Jeypore has offered lands free?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact the cost of the land is on the whole a relatively small proportion of the total cost of the project.

RAILWAY PASSENGER TRAFFIC EARNINGS DURING 1946-47.

627. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what was the total passenger traffic earnings in the year 1946-47 for each of the following classes:

(i) first class, (ii) second class, (iii) inter-class, and (iv) third class?

(b) What is the budgeted income for the same, class by class, in the year 1947-48?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House giving the information required.

Statement

(a) The earnings from passenger traffic in 1946-47 of all Indian Government Railways, excluding the N. W. and the B. A. Railways were, in thousands of rupees.

First class	2,87,11
Second class	5,71,18
Inter class	3,91,81
Third class	44,96,27
Total	57,46,27

Figures by classes for the N. W. and B. A. Railways for 1946-47 are not available as the returns from these railways are incomplete, but the total passenger earnings of the B. A. Railway (in thousands) were 7,22,94 and of the N. W. Railway 16,50,71. Total passenger earnings were thus Rs. 81,20,02 (in thousands).

(b) Estimates of earnings are not made separately for each of the upper classes, but only for all upper classes together and the third class. The budget estimates for the whole year 1947-48 for Indian Government Railways as they stood at the time of the framing of the estimates for that year were, in thousands of rupees.

Upper class	15,80,00
Third class	63,10,00
Total	78,90,00

These estimates took into account the increase in fares which became effective from 1st March 1947.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What were the earnings from air-conditioned passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Does that arise?

Mr. Speaker: No, it does not arise.

Mr. B. K. Sidha: What is the difference in percentage between (a) and (b)?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must work out the arithmetic but taking the position generally I think III class passenger earnings would be 3/4 of the total passenger earnings.

Seth Govinddas: What is the difference between I and II class earnings?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must have it worked out.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know whether the figures which he has given is for the divided India or as before partition?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have included both in the statement.

628. * [Withdrawn].

RAW MATERIAL FOR CALCUTTA JUTE MILLS.

629. * **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the plans of Government to supply raw material to the Calcutta Jute Mills as most of the jute growing area is in Pakistan?

(b) Is any research being made to find a suitable substitute for jute?

(c) Are Government aware that a Burmese scientist has been able to find out a substitute for jute?

The Honourable Shri Jayramdas Doulatram: (a) Government have been considering the problem created by the partition of the country resulting in most of the jute growing area being included in Pakistan. The question was discussed recently at a meeting of the Indian Central Jute Committee and a conference in which the Agriculture, Industries and Supply, Commerce, Food

and Finance Ministries and the Indian Central Jute Committee and the Indian Jute Mills Association will participate is proposed to be called to examine all aspects of the question for early action.

(b) The question of finding possible substitutes for jute was discussed by the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in January 1948 and certain substitutes suggested will be examined.

(c) Government's information is that the examination of a substitute for jute by a Burmese Scientist is yet incomplete.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that fibres other than jute are actually being grown for ages and ages in Southern India and their production can be further strengthened?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That will also be examined from this point of view.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has the Government any plan for substituting the production of jute in other provinces of the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That question also will be considered by this conference.

STRENGTH OF OFFICER'S CADRE ON RAILWAYS.

630. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what was the strength of the officer's cadre on the railways before partition and what is the strength at present?

(b) Have Government any proposal to appoint a Commission to examine the question of reducing the number of officers? If not, do Government propose to consider the question?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Before partition, the gazetted cadre of the Indian Government Railways consisted of 2474 posts of which 1787 were permanent and 647 temporary. The existing strength is 1958 of which 1449 posts are permanent and 509 temporary.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, Government have already appointed the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee the terms of reference of which cover the point raised in this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many pre-partition officers have opted for Pakistan and left the Indian Union?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give the number offhand.

Mr. Fajamul Hossain: May I know, Sir, if any one of the Railway employees who opted out for Pakistan has come back to India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It depends on what the Honourable Member means by "opting". If a person has opted provisionally then he has the right to cancel his option and come back; if on the other hand a person has opted finally then he cannot come back.

Mr. Fajamul Hossain: My question is whether anyone has come back to India or not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Of those who have opted provisionally, some have come back.

Mr. Fajamul Hossain: May I know the number?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give the number offhand.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know what is the meaning of provisionally opting and why such an option was given?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That arrangement was made by the Government of India on broad general considerations, not merely in respect

of the Railways, but in respect of all Departments of Government; that is to say, before conditions became normal and settled, we thought it was fair to give employees a chance of making up their minds after a certain amount of experience of the actual conditions under which they were required to work. Therefore option was given on a provisional basis; but a certain period of time was fixed within which it was incumbent on them either to go back on the option or confirm it.

Seth Govinddas: Was such option given to everyone who wanted to go to Pakistan or only for particular persons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: To everybody.

Shri Biswanath Das: Apart from the fairness of the problem, which I dispute and many will dispute, I should like to know how many officers have made use of this provision and returned back from Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will give a detailed answer.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In the case of those members who opted to Pakistan and whose places have been filled up by other people, have such places been given to those people who have come back or who opted from Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: He asks about what happened.

Mr. Speaker: No, he does not 'ask'—he assumes.

Mr. Tajamal Hossain: May I know, Sir, whether if those employees who opted out permanently for Pakistan now want to come back, and there is a vacancy for them, Government will be prepared to take them back?

Mr. Speaker: That is also hypothetical.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know how many officers finally opted out of Pakistan and have been employed on the Indian Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give an answer offhand.

RAILWAY RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Q91. *Shri V. G. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any research institute under the aegis of the Ministry of Railways?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps do Government propose to take in the immediate future to study the special problems of the Railways requiring research?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There has been in existence since 1935 a nucleus research organization as part of the Central Standards Office for Railways. At present it consists of Civil, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Electrical Research Officers. It primarily deals with railway problems in the field of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and connected Metallurgical and Electrical matters.

The expansion of the Railway Research Organization into a comprehensive research institute is now under consideration. But since it covers almost every aspect of railway activities and requirements, its development is intimately connected with the availability of trained technical staff. The paucity of such staff is retarding progress.

(b) Does not arise.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that many if not most of the people who have been engaged on this research have been recruited only on a temporary basis and no one is given an opportunity of specializing in research alone as a matter of career there in this office?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Does the Honourable Member refer to appointments in the Central Standards Office?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are not on a temporary basis.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether railway materials are to be tested only at the Alipore Test House and that there is no testing house for the Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In regard to certain materials that is the position.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know what materials are tested by the Railways themselves?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would like notice of that question.

Shri V. O. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to bring in foreign experts to assist our Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a very wide issue. On certain aspects of railway working it may be necessary and we are considering it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that though the officers employed in this office are otherwise permanent employees of the Railways, they are brought in here only for a temporary period of two or three years?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In the same way as people drafted in the Government of India Secretariat are on a temporary basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But in view of the fact that one has got to concentrate on this research for a considerable period in order to become an expert, have Government not considered the advisability of appointing these people for research as permanent officers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is considerable advantage in appointing officers who have had a certain amount of research experience to normal operational duties.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF LIGHT ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES

632. *Shri V. O. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the post-war plans of Government in the matter of light electrical industries, especially the manufacture of batteries, condensers, transformers, electric bulbs and valves?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred on importing this type of goods?

(c) Has the question of giving tariff protection to the electric bulb manufacturing industry been considered by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government have not yet taken a decision on the development of light electrical industries.

(b) The average annual value of imports of batteries, condensers, valves and electric bulbs during the three years ending 31st March 1946 was about Rs. 56 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister got at the back of his mind any plan for the manufacture of radio sets in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: With regard to the radio industry, we are already giving assistance to a number of private firms to undertake the assembly of radio sets and manufacture of radio components on a planned production basis, and we are consulting them as to how far we can help them in manufacturing radio valves for which also there will be a demand in the country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that an Indian firm which was started in Bombay for the manufacture of cheap radio sets, has been complaining of want of sufficient assistance from the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not aware of this.

NON-AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS AT SOME RAILWAY STATIONS

633. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that at many Railway booking offices, tickets to some railway stations are not available?

(b) Do Government propose to issue paper tickets in all such cases to the passengers so as to avoid the necessity of their buying tickets for stations beyond their destination?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Stations are normally supplied with printed card tickets for those destinations for which there is an appreciable and regular demand for tickets. In addition, every station is authorised to prepare blank paper tickets to destinations for which printed tickets are not available. Printed card tickets have on occasion been in short supply owing to supply difficulties.

(b) Stations are required to prepare and issue paper tickets when printed card tickets are not available and railways are being directed to see that this is regularly done.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the shortage of printed card tickets been the cause of ticketless travel?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: To some extent yes.

REVISED EDITION OF WATT'S DICTIONARY OF ECONOMIC PRODUCTS

634. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that many years ago, a Dictionary comprising several volumes which principally dealt with medicinal herbs found in India and known as Watt's "Dictionary of Economic Products" was published under the auspices of Government?

(b) Is there any proposal to bring out a revised edition of this publication?

(c) If not, do Government propose to consider the advisability of arranging for the publication of a revised edition of this work?

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

(b) and (c). Since 1942, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has been engaged in the task of revising the Dictionary. In addition to up-to-date information and the topics already dealt with in Watt's Dictionary, the new work will also include articles on Indian industries and industrial resources. The first Volume of this new Dictionary is in the Press and is expected to be available by May 1948.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be published in Hindi also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The present edition will be in English, but the suggestion may be considered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will this Watt's book be put on the shelf then?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question does not arise.

EUROPEAN TECHNICIANS ETC. FOR SERVICES IN INDIA

635. *Shri V. O. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that highly qualified European engineers, manufacturing chemists and other technical personnel are willing to come to India;

(b) if so, what efforts Government have made to secure the services of these personnel; and

(c) whether any applications have been received from ex-Enemy nationals of the above categories for service in India and if so, what decision Government have taken in their cases?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) First class experts are difficult to get from European countries on account of the post-war rehabilitation of industries that is going on there, but some experts are available, especially from Germany.

(b) In regard to German technicians the Government of India have already obtained release from the British and American Zones of Germany of some of the experts required by Indian industries. In other cases where firms have been able to secure the services of experts, travel facilities and other assistance have been given by the Government to bring them to India.

(c) Yes, applications have been received from a few Germans. It is the intention of the Government to recruit such of them as are suitable provided they are politically unobjectionable and Indians with similar qualifications are not available.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have the four Powers who are today exploiting Germany, namely Britain, Russia, America and France, placed any obstacles in the way of our getting German technicians?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is a common pool from which we get the men we require, and we have had considerable difficulty in getting the men.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have all the four Governments placed obstacles in our way or only one or two of them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is difficult to say whether the obstacles put were deliberate or not, but we have experienced difficulty in getting what we wanted.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that politically objectionable technicians have been recruited by those very countries who are occupying Germany and are utilising them in their countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: But we tried to avoid the recruitment of politically objectionable technicians.

Shri B. Das: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the United Kingdom is putting difficulties in the way of Germans coming to India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are trying to negotiate so that we can get whom we want.

Shri Khurshed Lal: May I know, Sir, what the factors taken into consideration in classifying a person as politically objectionable?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe views held to be politically objectionable by the Home Ministry.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is Government aware of the fact that German scientists are looking for jobs in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not aware, Sir.

Shri B. E. Diwakar: May I know the nature of the difficulties placed in the way of such individuals coming to India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Naturally the best men who are available are in demand from every country; that is our main difficulty.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know the number of men for whom we are negotiating and their names also, if possible?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have received a request for about 200 experts and we are negotiating in order to get as many as we can.

Shri H. Y. Kamath: Are German Jews also included among them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose so.

Mr. Tajammul Hossain: Would it not be better to send our own men to foreign countries for advanced technical training than to import foreign experts?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion and cannot be allowed.

DEATH OF DR. B. S. MOONJE.

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds with further business I have to refer to the sad demise of an ex-honourable member of this House, Dr. B. S. Moonje. He was a member of this House for over three and a half years and he was a veteran fighter in the cause of Indian liberties. The House knows that he had a special liking for military pursuits and has also established a Military School. We mourn his loss and offer our condolences to the family of the deceased. The House will do him honour by standing for some time.

STATEMENT ON KASHMIR

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I crave your leave and the indulgence of the House to make a statement on Kashmir. I would beg the House to bear with me for a while, because there is a great deal to say, however briefly I might say it.—not that I am going to make any sensational disclosures, there is nothing very secret about what I am going to say and the facts have appeared in the public press and in other places frequently enough during the last few months. Nevertheless it is right that I should place before the House some kind of a consecutive account of what has happened. In order to lessen my task and to help members of the House, we have prepared a White Paper on Kashmir which will be distributed to members. This White Paper does not bring matters right up-to-date. It is practically up to the period of the reference to the Security Council. It is not an absolutely complete paper in the sense that every telegram and every letter is included, but, on the whole, most of the messages that passed between us and the Government of Pakistan or connected messages have been given in this White Paper.

Now, before I speak on this particular Kashmir issue, I should like by your leave to say a few words on a wider issue of which the Kashmir issue is a part. We have been living through strenuous days; we have been passing through a period of dynamic history in India. Much has happened during the past six months, much that was good and much that was very bad. But, perhaps, when the history of India comes to be written, when much of the horror of today has been forgotten, one of the biggest things that will be mentioned, will be the change that has come over India and that is coming over India in regard to the Indian States. We see something very remarkable happening. It is perhaps difficult for us who live in the middle of this change to appreciate the bigness of what has happened. But it is an upsetting in a very curious way—a peaceful way—of a structure that has endured in India for the past 130 or 140 years, more or less ever since the beginnings of the 19th century.

We see the sweep of history suddenly coming, the big broom of history, and changing this 130 years' old structure and putting something else in its place. We cannot definitely and absolutely say what the final and precise outcome of all this will be, though the picture is clearing up fairly rapidly. It would almost appear that there is the hand of destiny functioning. What is happening is nothing that we did not expect. In fact, many of us for the last many

years have had certain objectives in regard to the Indian States and we have worked for them both through our political and other organisations in India, through the people of the States, through the people of the provinces and otherwise. And, on the whole, what is happening today is in line with the objectives we had laid down. So, it is not surprising. Yet, may I confess to you, Sir, that even I who have been rather intimately connected with the States peoples' movement for many years, if I had been asked six months ago what the course of developments would be in the next six months since then, I would have hesitated to say that such rapid changes would have taken place. Many factors have gone to bring about these rapid changes. Ultimately, I suppose, they are the forces of history working,—the unleashing of all manner of forces which had been repressed for so long. For we had during these 130 years a strange phenomenon. The British Government had constructed a State structure in the course of a quarter of a century in the early days of the 19th century. Whether it fitted in, in reality, with conditions then existing in India or not, it is a little difficult to say, that is to say, minus the British Government what would have happened. Anyhow, that dominant power of the British created this system, no doubt, for their own advantage as they thought it. That system continued, not because of any inherent strength, as is obvious today, but because of the continuance of that dominant power, of the paramount power as it was called. All manner of changes were going on in India and in the outside world and yet this Indian States structure continued. Many of us said that it was rather archaic, it was out of date, it had to change and must change and so on and so forth. But now that protecting hand of a foreign Government having been removed, the repressions are removed. The forces that had been kept in check suddenly began to function and we see them in action,—in rapid action. The forces are there, of course; they have not been curbed by any of us, but I think in the manner of dealing with this situation,—an intricate and difficult situation—this House will agree with me that we owe a debt of gratitude to my friend and colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister.

So it is in this mighty context of a changing India in regard to the States that we have to view any particular aspect of it. We saw unfortunately six months back a partition of India, a splitting up of India, a part of India going out of India. Immediately after that process of cutting off, another process started, or rather, always we have had these two processes—the process of integrating India. We have seen this process of integrating India going on in regard to the States, and not only in regard to the States but to some extent even in regard to the Provinces, but much more so in regard to the States. So, these two things have gone on together,—a process of cutting away and a process of integration,—and in the balance it is difficult to say how far we have gained and how far we have lost. It is difficult to say also how far this process of integration will go and whether it will take us ultimately. Nevertheless, it is interesting for us living through this rather strange and dynamic period of India's history to look at it in some perspective, not as actors in the drama but rather as historians looking back on what has happened. The historian who looks back will no doubt consider this integration of the States into India as one of the dominant phases of India's history.

Well, Sir, the process is taking various shapes. There has been an actual merger of a large number of small States into India; there has been a bringing together of a number of States into Unions of States which form units of the Union of India and a certain number of major States remain as separate entities. But what is equally important—and if I may say so, even more important—is not this integration externally but an inner integration, that is, the growth of democratic institutions and responsible government in the States, because that brings about a real integration, not at the top levels of Government

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but at the level of the people. Both these processes have gone on and both these processes, may I remind the House, are in line with the objectives for which we have laboured for many years.

Now it is in this context of changes in the States system that I would like this House to consider the particular case of Kashmir, although it stands apart and many other factors come in the play. To day in India two States stand quite apart from the rest in regard to these processes. Those States are Hyderabad and Kashmir. I am not going at this moment to say anything about Hyderabad. In regard to Kashmir, it stands apart for many reasons, partly because it has got entangled in a certain external politics, that is to say, it has got entangled in the relations between India and Pakistan and so the two essential State issues there are somewhat submerged. It is an odd thing that it should get so entangled. That it got entangled is not odd, but the manner of its entanglement, because the Government of Pakistan have assured us time and again that they have nothing to do with recent events in Kashmir, raids and invasions etc.,—they go on repeating that—; nevertheless, they seek to profit by those events. They seek political advantages out of those events, so that while disclaiming all responsibility for what has happened they do want to share in whatever they might get out of it. Anyhow, the Kashmir problem stands apart.

But for the moment, leaving out this external implication of the Kashmir problem, if you consider it, it is essentially the same problem, that is to say, a problem of the growth of the freedom of the people and the growth also of a new integration. Now, we have been aiming,—the Government of India and the States Ministry have been aiming— at the growth of this inner freedom of the people of all the States. If many of the States have agreed to merge in India or come into closer contact, it is not because the States Ministry took a big stick and threatened them with consequences. It is because of those forces, rising up from the people, other forces, and, fundamentally, the sudden withdrawal of an external force which had kept the States together, or rather the States system together, the might of the British Government and the sanctions behind it. That disappearing, immediately the structure began to collapse and it is an astonishing thing—this sudden collapse of a structure which seemed so solid just a few months or a year ago—, not surprising to those who knew the facts, but undoubtedly surprising to those people who take a superficial view of things. So, essentially we have been aiming at the freedom of the people, knowing and realising that ultimately it will be for the people of the States to decide what their future will be. We are not going to compel them. We do not propose to compel them, and indeed we cannot compel them in the context of the world today in any State. There are other compulsions, the compulsions of geography. That is true: one cannot ignore that. There are many other compulsions. And naturally in considering the problem, we, that is, the Government of India, have always to consider the interests of India as a whole,—the interests of India in regard to security, defence etc.,—but apart from that, we do not wish to exercise any other compulsion in the slightest over the growth of freedom. In fact, we want to encourage it in the people of the States. We know well that if there is that growth of freedom and freedom of decision by the people of the States, that it will be a powerful factor to bring them nearer to our people, because we hope that whatever constitution we might adopt in India, it will be based completely on the will of the people.

Now, may I say a few words before I go on to the Kashmir issue and that is this: In this matter I feel a slight difficulty because the matter is being or going to be again discussed in the Security Council of the United Nations and I would not like to say anything which might be construed, shall I say,

mt. putting any difficulties in the way or coming to a settlement either in the Security Council or elsewhere. Because we earnestly desire a settlement, we earnestly desire that these great forces should be allowed to function normally and to achieve their results, because any other result will be an artificial result. We cannot impose a result—certainly Pakistan cannot impose a result; ultimately there is no doubt in my mind that in Kashmir as elsewhere, the people of Kashmir will decide finally, and all that we wish is that they should have freedom of decision without any external compulsions.

Now, there is one other factor which I should like to put before the House in regard to Kashmir. We have got too used in India unfortunately to thinking of every problem or many problems in terms of communalism, of Hindu versus Muslim or Hindu and Sikh versus Muslim and so on and so forth. That has been an unfortunate legacy of ours and the extent to which it took us cannot be forgotten by us and the tragedies that it has led to. We are trying, I hope, to get rid of the spirit of communalism in this country, in India at least. We hope to put an end to it, not suddenly perhaps, but certainly fairly rapidly.

Now in this context of communal conflict the case of Kashmir stands apart, because Kashmir is not a case of communal conflict; it may be a case of political conflict, if you like; it may be a case of any other conflict, but it is essentially not a case of communal conflict. Therefore this struggle in Kashmir, although it has brought great suffering in its train to the people of Kashmir, it has placed a burden on us—on the Government of India, and the people of India; nevertheless it stands out as a sign of hope that there we see a certain co-operation, combination and co-ordination of certain elements. Hindu and Muslim and Sikh and others on an equal level and for a political fight for their own freedom I wish to stress this because it is continually being said by our opponents and critics on the other side that this is a communal affair and that we are there to support the Hindus or the Sikh minorities as against the Muslim masses of Kashmir—nothing can be more fantastically untrue. We could not for an instant send our armies and we would not be there if we were not supported by very large sections of the population, which means the Muslims of Kashmir. We would not have gone there in spite of the invitation of the Maharaja of Kashmir, if that invitation had not been backed by the representatives of the people of Kashmir and may I say to the House that in spite of our armies having functioned with great gallantry, even our armies could not have succeeded except with the help and co-operation of the people of Kashmir. Now we are charged by people outside beyond the borders of India for going to Kashmir to support an autocratic monarch. The House will remember that one of the conditions that we made at that critical moment, when we had to decide whether to send the Indian Army or not, whether to accept accession or not, one of the conditions was that there must be a popular Government there, and not as a goal and an ideal, but immediately. It was an immediate thing and it was given effect to immediately in so far as it could be given effect to. So, it is strange that this charge should be brought against us. Look at this charge in another context. Those people, men and women of Kashmir, who are with us and who are fighting for their freedom and liberty there, they are not newcomers in the struggle for freedom; for the greater part of a generation, they have fought for the freedom of Kashmir, in Kashmir; they have suffered for it and some of us have deemed it a privilege to be associated with them in this fight for the freedom of Kashmir against autocratic rule. These people are with us today. Who are their opponents, who are against them in Kashmir or elsewhere? What has been their record in the past ten, twenty years in regard to the freedom of Kashmir? It is an interesting speculation and an interesting inquiry, because these gentlemen who talk about the autocracy of the Ruler of Kashmir, who talk about autocracy there, what did they do during these last ten, twenty years? They never

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fought for the freedom of the people of Kashmir; most of them supported that autocracy; most of them opposed the freedom movement in Kashmir. Now because of entirely different reasons, they became the champions of the freedom of Kashmir. And what is the type of freedom they have brought into Kashmir today? The freedom so-called that they have brought into Kashmir is the licence to loot and murder and burn that lovely country and to abduct and carry away the beautiful women of Jammu and Kashmir State; and not only carry them away, but place some of them in the open market place for sale! So, let us have this background before us when we consider this Kashmir story. It is a stirring background of events and many of us have been distressed at the strangely narrow view that people in the Security Council have taken on this matter. I do not desire to enter into the details of what happened in the Security Council or not, but I do feel that this background must be appreciated. It is not a Hindu-Muslim question in Kashmir; it is not a question of certainly our standing for any autocracy or anything. We have already not only during the last fifteen, twenty years shown where we stand in regard to the states with the people and the rulers. In regard to Kashmir, more particularly, we have shown by our actions from the very first day we went there in October last upto today and I shall have something more to say about it before I finish as to how we feel about the freedom of Kashmir.

Now, Sir, I shall go into some slight detail about events in Kashmir.

The House will recall the statement I made on Kashmir on the 25th November 1947. In that statement I recounted briefly the course of events in the Jammu and Kashmir State upto that day, the part played by the Government of Pakistan in these events, and our own objectives.

Our complaint against Pakistan was that it incited and aided tribesmen from outside and its own nationals to wage war on Jammu and Kashmir State. The month of December showed an intensification of military pressure on the State. Nearly 19,000 raiders had been reinforced in the Uri area. 15,000 raiders were operating against the western and south-western borders of the State. Incursions by the raiders into State territory, involving murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women were continuing. The booty was being collected and carried to tribal areas to serve as an inducement to tribesmen to swell the ranks of the raiders. In addition to those actively participating in the raids, a large number of tribesmen and others estimated at 100,000, had been collected in different places in the districts of West Punjab bordering upon Jammu and Kashmir State, and many of them were receiving military training under Pakistan nationals, including officers of the Pakistan Army. They were being looked after in Pakistan territory, fed, clothed, armed and otherwise equipped and transported to the territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State with the help, direct and indirect, of Pakistan officials, both military and civil. The equipment of the invaders included modern weapons such as mortars, medium machine guns, the men wore the battle dress of regular soldiers, fought in regular battle formation and used the tactics of modern warfare. Men-packed wireless sets were in regular use and even Mark 'V' mines were being employed.

More than once, the Government of India had asked the Pakistan Government to deny facilities to the invaders, facilities which constituted an act of aggression and hostility against India, but without any satisfactory response. On the 2nd December, I handed personally to the Prime Minister of Pakistan in New Delhi a letter in which the various forms of aid were briefly recited, and his Government were asked to put an end to such aid promptly and without reservation.

As no reply to this letter was received for some days I sent a reminder by telegram on the 26th December. On the 31st December the Government of India informed their Ambassador in Washington to convey a message to the Chairman of the Security Council of the United Nations. This message was a reference to the Security Council under Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations. On that same day the full text of the message was sent to the Prime Minister of Pakistan by telegram.

On the 1st of January I received a reply from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to my letter dated 22nd December. The contents of this letter revealed no helpful approach to a solution of the Kashmir problem. They consisted only of a series of fantastic charges against India, e.g., a determination to crush Pakistan, organise genocide of Muslims in India, and the procurement of the accession of Kashmir by force and fraud. This letter, even if it had been received earlier, could not have modified our decision to request the Security Council of the United Nations to ask the Government of Pakistan:

(1) to prevent Pakistan Government personnel, Military or civil, from participating and assisting the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir State; (2) to call upon other Pakistan nationals to desist from taking part in the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir State; (3) to deny to the raiders; (a) access to and use of its territory for operations against Kashmir; (b) military and other supplies; (c) all other kinds of aid that might tend to prolong the present struggle.

The House will remember the circumstances in which we had sent our forces to Kashmir. Kashmir State territory, that is, after accession Indian Dominion territory, was being invaded to the accompaniment of murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women. The whole countryside was being ruined. Fresh raiders were continually coming from Pakistan territory into Kashmir State. All the fighting was taking place in Indian Dominion territory. The invaders had their principal bases across the border in Pakistan, received supply and reinforcements from them, and could go back there to rest and recuperate in safety. Our troops had strict orders not to enter Pakistan territory. The normal course to prevent raids on Indian territory would have been to deny the use of any bases to them in Pakistan. Since Pakistan was unwilling to co-operate with us in this manner, the alternatives left to us were to send our armed forces across Pakistan territory for dealing effectively with the invaders, or to request the United Nations to ask Pakistan to do so. Any resort to the first course would have involved armed conflict with Pakistan. We were anxious to avoid this and to try every available method to find a peaceful solution. Therefore the only course left open to us was to make a reference to the Security Council.

I shall not take up the time of the House with a detailed account of the proceedings of the Security Council; these have been fairly fully reported in the press. I must confess that I have been surprised and distressed at the fact that the reference we made has not even been properly considered thus far and other matters have been given precedence. If the facts we stated in our reference were correct, as we claim they were, then certain consequences naturally flowed from them, both in law and from the point of view of establishing peace and order.

On behalf of Pakistan there was a repetition of the fantastic charges against India which had been made previously in the letter of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to which I have referred. Pakistan refused to act at once, to deny assistance in men and material to our enemies in Jammu and Kashmir, to prevent further incursions through Pakistan into the State, and to ask the tribesmen and Pakistanis now in the State to withdraw unless a previous agreement was reached and announced to the effect that the Indian Armed forces should be withdrawn completely from Jammu and Kashmir State.

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and the administration of the State should be replaced by another administration. There were some other matters in dispute also but the principal ones were the two I have mentioned above.

In effect Pakistan not only admitted that they were aiding the raiders but made it clear that they would continue to do so till certain political objectives of theirs were achieved by them. This was a proposal to which the Government of India could not agree. For such an agreement would have been not only a betrayal of the people of Kashmir to whom they had pledged their word, but also a surrender to methods of violence and aggression which would have had disastrous consequences both for India and Pakistan. It was impossible for us to withdraw our forces without grave danger to the State and without handing over the people of the State who trusted in us to an unscrupulous and cruel invader who had already brought so much misery to the State and its people. Nor could we share the responsibility of protecting the people of Kashmir with any other outside force. It was equally impossible for us to agree to the replacement of Shaikh Abdullah's administration by any other. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is now no longer an autocratic government; it is a government representing the largest popular party in the State and is under a leader who, during these many months of unparalleled stress, has sustained the morale of his people, has maintained an effective administration over the greater part of the State, and generally, has inspired effective resistance to the brutal attempts of the invaders to overrun and destroy Kashmir. There is no alternative administration possible in Kashmir, unless that administration rested on coercion. If Shaikh Abdullah were not there by the will of the people, he could not have survived, much less could he have accomplished what he has done during these difficult months. It is for him to choose any national of Kashmir to assist him in his government and it would be improper for us to interfere with his discretion in this matter.

I regret greatly that the representative of Pakistan before the Security Council should have made many statements and charges against India which have no foundation in fact. A great deal has happened in India and Pakistan during the last six months or more which has brought shame to all of us and I am prepared to admit at any stage and at any time the errors of our own people, for I do not think that it is good for the individual or the nation to lapse from truth. That is the lesson our Master taught us and we shall hold to it to the best of our ability. Many horrible things have happened in India and Pakistan during these past months and while we hold strong views as to the initial responsibility for all the frightfulness that has occurred, all of us in a greater or lesser degree have a certain responsibility for it. But so far as the events in Kashmir are concerned, I am convinced in my mind that every action that the Government of India has taken has been straight and above board and inevitable in the circumstances. Our going there at the end of October was thrust upon us by the course of events. Not to have rushed to the rescue of the people of Kashmir when they were in dire peril would have been an eternal disgrace, a gross betrayal and a deep injury. We feel deeply about this matter and it is not merely a question of political advantage or disadvantage. It has been and is a moral issue with us apart from other aspects of the case, and because of this at every stage and at every step I consulted Mahatma Gandhi and had his approval. In the confusion of a welter of charges and exaggerated statements, the basic facts are apt to be forgotten. I should like to know from anyone who studies our record in Kashmir since that fateful day when the raiders swooped down at Muzaffarabad and started their career of rapine and arson. I should like to know what major step we took that was morally or otherwise wrong.

The role of the Indian Army in this conflict, which I repeat was not of our seeking has been conspicuous for its discipline, impartiality, endurance and gallantry. They have extended their protection to every section of the people of the State. To suggest that they should be withdrawn before complete order is restored is to suggest something which is neither practicable nor reasonable and which is further a reflection on the exemplary record of our forces in Kashmir. We are in Kashmir and our forces are there because legally we are on unassailable ground. But even apart from law the moral case of the Indian Union in Kashmir is equally unassailable. If we had not gone there and if our armed forces had not been rushed at great peril into Kashmir, that lovely country would now have been sacked, destroyed and ruined and its men and women who have been noted for ages past for their intelligence and their cultural traditions would have been crushed under the heel of a barbarian invader. No Government in India could tolerate such happening so long as it had the strength to resist it with all its might and if such a fate befell Kashmir what freedom or security would we have in the rest of India?

We have only two objectives in Jammu and Kashmir State; to ensure the freedom and the progress of the people there, and to prevent anything happening that might endanger the security of India. We have nothing else to gain from Kashmir, though Kashmir may profit much by our assistance. If those two objectives are assured to us we are content.

Our making a reference on this issue to the Security Council of the United Nations was an act of faith because we believe in the progressive realisation of world order and a world government. In spite of many shocks we have adhered to the ideals represented by the United Nations and its Charter. But those very ideals teach us also certain duties and responsibilities to our own people and to those who put their trust in us. To betray these people would be to betray the basic ideals for which the United Nations stands or should stand. Even at the moment of accession we went out of our way to make a unilateral declaration that we would abide by the will of the people of Kashmir as declared in a plebiscite or referendum. We insisted further that the Government of Kashmir must immediately become a popular government. We have adhered to that position throughout and we are prepared to have a plebiscite, with every protection for fair voting and to abide by the decision of the people of Kashmir.

Our delegation has gone back to Lake Success after full discussions with us. They have gone back with a clear appreciation of the position of the Government of India and of Indian opinion and fortified with the knowledge that they have our full support. I should like to express my gratitude to Shri Gopalaaswami Ayyangar and his colleagues for the ability and firmness with which they presented our case before the Security Council. Sheikh Abdullah has not gone back because his work lies with his people at this grave juncture. He has to assume a heavier responsibility. I feel confident that he will discharge this new responsibility with that strength and vision which have endeared him to Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in Kashmir. His place in the delegation has been taken by Shri Girija Shankar Bajpai, Secretary General of the Ministry of External Affairs, who has been a tower of strength to me during these difficult months.

I shall not say much about the military situation in Jammu and Kashmir. We have had our moments of anxiety but at no time have I had any doubt about our capacity to meet the enemy and defeat him. Our officers and men are in high spirit, ready to meet any challenge. We have good reason to be proud of our officers and men both of the Army and the Air Force. In particular, I should like to pay a tribute to Brigadier Usman, whose leadership and success have been in keeping with the highest traditions of India's army.

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The representative of Pakistan before the Security Council has brought in many charges against us which have little bearing on the Kashmir issue. He has talked of what he called our aggression in Junagadh and genocide and of much else. I do not wish to take up the time of the House in dealing with these matters. We wish to conceal nothing and if the Security Council desires any investigation we shall welcome it.

Now I should like to inform the House that today the Maharaja of Kashmir is issuing a proclamation and I shall briefly place the contents of that proclamation before the House: or I might as well read the whole proclamation.

PROCLAMATION OF HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA HARI SINGH INDAR MAHINDAR BAHADUR OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, THIS FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY EIGHT."

"In accordance with the traditions of my dynasty I have, from time to time, provided for increasing association of my people with the administration of the State with the object of realising the goal of full responsible government at as early a date as possible and in pursuance of that object have, by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Act of 1996 (XIV of 1996) established a constitutional government with a Council of Ministers, a Legislature with a majority of elected members and an Independent Judiciary;

I have noted with gratification and pride the progress so far made and the legitimate desire of my people for the immediate establishment of a fully democratic constitution based on adult franchise with a hereditary Ruler from my dynasty as the constitutional head of an Executive responsible to the Legislature;

I have already appointed the popular leader of my people, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, as the Head of the Emergency Administration;

It is now my desire to replace the Emergency Administration by a popular Interim Government and to provide for its powers, duties and functions, pending the framing of a fully democratic Constitution;

I accordingly HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS :

1. My Council of Ministers shall consist of the Prime Minister and such other Ministers as may be appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister. I have by Royal Warrant appointed Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah as the Prime Minister with effect from the 1st day of March, 1948.
2. The Prime Minister and other Ministers shall function as a Cabinet and act on the principle of joint responsibility. A Dewan appointed by me shall also be a member of the Cabinet.
3. I take this opportunity of giving once again a solemn assurance that all sections of my people will have opportunities of service, both civil and military, solely on the basis of their merits and irrespective of creed or community.
4. My Council of Ministers shall take appropriate steps, as soon as restoration of normal conditions has been completed, to convene a National Assembly based upon Adult suffrage, having due regard to the principle that the number of representatives from each voting area should, as far as practicable, be proportionate to the population of that area.
5. The Constitution to be framed by the National Assembly shall provide adequate safeguards for the minorities and contain appropriate provisions guaranteeing freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.
6. The National Assembly shall, as soon as the work of framing the new constitution is completed, submit it through the Council of Ministers for my acceptance.

7. In conclusion I repeat the hope that the formation of a popular Interim Government and the inauguration, in the near future, of a fully democratic Constitution will ensure the contentment, happiness and the moral and material advancement of my beloved people."

I am placing this Proclamation on the table of the House.

I should like to congratulate His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir on this decision that he has taken. But the burden now lies on Sheikh Abdullah and his colleagues and the people of Kashmir. I have no doubt as to how they will discharge their burden, because they are not newcomers and we have seen them functioning in the face of all manner of difficulties during the last few months. So I look forward with a certain measure of assurance to the future of Kashmir in spite of all difficulties.

I am, Sir, also placing a copy* of the White Paper on the table of the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): May I request the Honourable the Prime Minister to allot one day for the discussion of this issue?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am in the hands of the House but I should have thought that a vague discussion would not serve the purpose, more especially when the matter is being discussed by the Security Council, and it is difficult to avoid saying things which might create difficulties. That is in fact one of the reasons why I have avoided for sometime past to make any reference to this question in this House, because of this matter being before the Security Council. But I am entirely in the hands of the House in the matter.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): While agreeing with the Honourable the Prime Minister in the very sane advice that he has offered to us, out of the two questions that he has spoken about, namely Kashmir and Hyderabad, he has stated about Kashmir all that has been done and nothing has been said about Hyderabad. May I request him to allot sometime for Hyderabad?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we should carry on this discussion or questioning any further. The opinion in the House is quite clear on the point and it will not be advisable to discuss these questions in the House when there are many other difficult matters outside.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Standing Orders, the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely: (1) Mr. Hussain Imam (2) Shri K. Santhamam, (3) Mr. R. K. Sidhya, (4) Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan, and (5) Shri B. Das.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Change in Procedure regarding the Moring of Demands for Grants

Mr. Speaker: The House will now discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of General Budget. I understand that a list showing the Cut Motions which will be moved by the Congress Party to-day has been circulated to Honourable Members.

As regards the time limit for speeches, the usual practice has been to fix a limit of 15 minutes for all speakers including Movers of the Cut Motions and 20 minutes or more for the Honourable Ministers replying. I trust this suits Honourable Members.

*Not printed in the Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir in view of the changed procedure I would suggest that ordinarily you may allow ten minutes to each speaker and you may in your discretion allow an extra five minutes to any particular speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I gladly accept that amendment. Ordinarily the time limit will be ten minutes and I may give more time if necessary.

There are two changes which it is proposed to introduce this time. One is on my own and that is that we may follow the Parliamentary practice, according to which all these Demands are put from the Chair instead of the Honourable Finance Minister moving each Demand separately. In fact, on the guillotine day, that practice is followed, when it is from the Chair that all the demands are put to the House.

The other change is this. A request was made to me that it is the desire of Honourable Members that, along with the demands, all the cut motions that are to be discussed on a particular demand should be moved, so that Honourable Members will have an opportunity of dealing with all cut motions at the same time and the Honourable Minister may finally reply. There is, I believe, an agreement on that point. So we shall proceed in that manner.

The Demands that are coming up for discussion today are Demands Nos. 28, 29 and 55. I will therefore place these Demands before the House.

DEMAND NO. 22—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,19,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Labour'."

DEMAND NO. 20. - MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,96,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

DEMAND NO. 55.—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,93,71,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Industries and Supplies'."

DEMAND NO. 20.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Stepping up of Production of Large and Small Scale Industries

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Disposal Policy

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Creation of a Commercial and Industrial Service and Pooling up of Technicians

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DEMAND NO. 55.—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Director General of Disposals, Textiles Commissioner and India Stores Department, London.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 50,00,000."

This is an Economy Cut.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 50,00,000."

DEMAND NO. 29.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Administration of State Industries in General and Sindhri Factory in particular

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I believe these are agreed out motions. I understand no other motion is going to be moved now. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar may now speak.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, industry is the backbone of economic life in any country. Almost all countries in the world have industrialised. It is only an industrialised country that can raise the standard of life of its citizens. In America more than 50 per cent of the population are engaged in industry. So is the case in regard to other countries. But in this country the standard of life of the ordinary man is very low on account of the fact that we have for nearly 150 years been pinned to an agricultural economy, being producers of raw materials for the mills and the machines in Lancashire, Manchester and other places. Fortunately the stranglehold has been removed and we have come by our own. We have to industrialise our country immediately. There are a number of factors necessary for this. As in private industry, the entrepreneur, the managerial staff, the machinery, power, technicians, labour and raw materials are necessary, likewise in an economy where a portion of the industry is taken by the state and the other portion is reserved for private enterprise we have to allocate these resources between the two.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

First of all I shall address myself to the need for an economic planning in this country, a need to which I have already referred in my speech on the budget a few days ago. There have been stray attempts to plan with respect to industries here and there, but no co-ordinated plan has yet been evolved. An Industries Conference took place two months ago and Members of this House must be obliged to the book that has been printed and circulated to the Members, containing a lot of information regarding the plans that have already been evolved. At page 88 of the brochure from the Ministry of Industry and Supply relating to the Conference on Industrial Development in India it is admitted that with respect to some industries no plans have been evolved at all. With respect to some others for which Panels were already constituted they did not go into the matter as they were still under consideration. I would like that a Planning Commission should immediately be appointed to co-ordinate all the plans. A policy must be evolved by the Government at an early date indicating what industries the Government proposes to take under state ownership and state management, what others are to be under joint participation of the state and private enterprise, and thirdly what ought to be given as field for private enterprise absolutely. Without that kind of policy nothing can go on and no stepping up of production is possible. Having enunciated that policy the next step is to carry it out in a period of, say, five years. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Minister found that even five years was too long a period having regard to the context of world circumstances in which we are placed; he thought three years would be enough. Therefore, with a plan running over a period of three years we should work out a programme for each year from now. This we can no longer delay and all the efforts of the members, including the Finance Minister, must be devoted to this one purpose of immediately enunciating the Government's policy in this direction, to chalk out a co-ordinated plan having regard to all the reports furnished till now on various industries and ask the other Panels to submit their reports also, co-ordinate them and draw up a programme and see to it that the programme is executed year after year. That is the first desideratum. Inasmuch as we are leaving a number of industries to private enterprise and our first necessity is that they should step up production, we must insist upon their doing it. In the case of any default in this direction I want that officers of the state must take charge of the industry and run it.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras, General): Will that improve matters?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Suppose in the case of a private motor car the driver does not drive it the owner will certainly take charge and say "I am not going to be stranded in the streets because the driver does not drive the car; I shall certainly drive it myself."

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: There will be danger ahead.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no danger ahead; the danger is only in the rear. It is for that purpose I have been suggesting and I do suggest again that a Commercial and Industrial Service should be started by the Government of India. We have started the Administrative Service for all India to keep up the level of administration and to run it as a harmonious whole and a single unit. Likewise in the case of commercial and industrial undertakings which are not run properly or consistently with the interests of

the country in stepping up production, Government must be prepared to step in at a particular time. It is no novel suggestion I am making. The principle has already been accepted. In passing the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill my Honourable friend the Finance Minister accepted the principle that in certain circumstances where loans have been granted to industrial concerns and they are not managing them properly the Corporation should intervene. Power has been given to the Industrial Finance Corporation in such an event to take charge of the management and itself run the industry. If perchance certain industrial concerns default in repayment and the Honourable the Finance Minister is obliged to take charge of the management himself, where is he to go for men? It is necessary therefore, having regard to the statute which we have already created, that an institution or an Industrial Bank should be brought into existence to run such concerns efficiently. Whenever it is necessary to take over their management we must have this industrial service.

I am glad to note that, as anticipated, the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation has been followed up by similar Corporations in the Provinces. The first attempt was envisaged by the Bengal Government. In his Budget speech the Finance Minister of Bengal said that they were also thinking of establishing an Industrial Finance Corporation for Bengal to cater to the needs of smaller industries, as the Central Finance Corporation will address itself to the needs of bigger industries. With the managerial staff and the entrepreneur section the Government itself should provide facilities for bringing into existence such a service.

The next thing is finance. The Finance Minister ever since he took charge of his office has been openly declaring that he was prepared to subordinate all other interests to the one main interest of stepping up of production so that we may have both consumer goods and also speeding up defence industries wherever necessary. I agree that that is the main consideration to which all of us should address ourselves. He has not spared any pains and he has brought into existence an Industrial Finance Corporation for big industries. In the matter of giving relief by way of taxation he has tried to reduce the Business Profits Tax. With respect to smaller companies also he has tried to help them by reducing the tax. But I would urge upon him to have a watch and see to it that these facilities are used to the best advantage. If necessary, he may patronize or help by way of subsidies such industries which fit into the scheme of planning that I have already thought necessary. The plan must envisage priorities to various industries and he must give help by way of reducing import duties and other subsidies also.

Next come coal and power. So far as machinery is concerned, some machinery may be released by Japan. Some men have been sent to find out what machinery is available for us by way of reparations from Japan and from Germany also. In addition some machinery has been ordered from foreign countries. Apart from that, some efforts must be made immediately here to utilise all the war surpluses. A number of pieces of machinery were sold away without regard to their being switched over to civilian industries. Now I wish that the Government appoints a sub-committee to go into this matter and find out what pieces of machinery may be used or switched over for civilian purposes.

I have already submitted that import duty may be reduced to some extent and the merchants or industrialists may be helped that way. Then coal and power are absolutely necessary for running these machines. Coal is no doubt produced in some large quantities, but transport is the bottle-neck. Though large quantities of coal are produced at pitheads, they have not been removed quickly and it is not possible for removing them from time to time quickly. The day before yesterday I suggested that during the war the wagon miles was 77 per day but it has got reduced now to 88. Some kind of penalty may be

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imposed on those people who take four or five wagons and do not utilise them immediately either by unloading or reloading them. Some penalty—per hour or per day—may be imposed in such cases. Mere demurrage is not enough. If a man does not use the wagons properly, the number of wagons allowed to him must be reduced. Coal alone would not solve the problem and railway transport alone must not be looked to. I would still insist upon the Honourable the Industries Minister and the Honourable the Commerce Minister, both of them jointly chartering some ships so that coal from the collieries close to Calcutta may be taken over on the sea route to Bombay if necessary to give additional facilities for transport. Not only coal, but other methods of introducing power will have to be started. In south India, Sir, some inducements were given some time ago by the Electric Supply Corporation and by the Madras Government, under the Mettur project, to start industries on the inducement that they would supply power cheaply. But they have increased the rate that they originally offered to charge for power supply. That makes a set-back in the productive industries. Recently I find western countries, particularly those concerns in America which are oil kings and are in charge of oil production in the Middle East, have reduced the quota of oil supplies to our country. Fuel and oil are other bottle-necks. I would say that we must enter into negotiations with Russia if America would not come to our rescue. I read in the papers some time ago that Batavia was found to be a useful source of oil supply. Australia enter into a contract with Batavia. We and Indonesia are good friends and we can explore that source and enter into a long-term agreement for the supply of fuel and oil to our country. As regards raw products, I do not know what steps have been taken. As yet no steps have been taken in regard to the reduction of freight for the carriage of raw products from one province to another province or to the mill from the place of production. Early steps should be taken in that direction. I ask the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply what steps have been taken to implement the resolution and the reports of the various committees that were appointed. One among them is the report of the Textile Committee. Control over textiles has been removed to some extent, but control is still continued over stores which are required for textiles. Bobbins and spindles are still controlled. Persons in foreign countries are not allowed to utilise them. I shall read a few lines from the Report of the Committee on Textile Industries appointed to advise the Conference on Industrial Development in India last December regarding card clothing, bobbins and shuttles. They say:

"We note that the Textile Commissioner is operating a measure of control over these with a view to ensuring that imported supplies, which are mostly from the U. K., are fairly distributed among mills. We recommend that, where any importer can obtain supplies from soft currency areas other than the U. K., he should be allowed an import licence against such an offer, and Government should leave the distribution of the supplies thus secured to the discretion of the importer. We consider that this will encourage importers to tap new sources of supply."

Sir, having removed control on cloth, I do not think it necessary to continue control on storage and other materials. I commend my cut motion to the acceptance of the House, and I support the cut motion regarding disposals and others which my friends have moved.

Mr. Speaker: Before further discussion, I may just invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the further limitations in the agreed programme on account of the time taken up by the Kashmir statement. We shall have two hours instead of 2½ hours for the Department of Industry and Supply. That means the discussion will come to an end at 4 O'clock. Under the procedure I propose to follow, I have reserved half an hour for the Honourable Minister to reply. That means the debate will end at 8-30.

SRI M. ANANTHASWAMY AYYANGAR: When we do not speak much, where is the room for a reply?

Mr. Speaker: The debate on Labour Department will be reduced by 15

minutes *pro rata* so that it will start at 4. I shall take for each of these demands, this time as guillotine time and then I shall put the demand to the vote of the House and out motions except such, as are sought to be withdrawn. That will be the procedure that we shall be following now.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Isnaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Is there not room for one more announcement that those who have moved cuts will have precedence over other speakers?"

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I was about to say that. I shall also request Honourable Members to be very particular about the time limit now. Time is very short and many members may wish to speak. Therefore, they should not take more time, though those who have moved cut motions may have 15 minutes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I did not know that, Sir. Otherwise I would have continued for five minutes more.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: My only complaint in regard to disposals is that the Government have no coordinated policy or plans. We find, Sir, that many materials which are necessary for the national life of this country and many materials which are necessary for the defence of this country are being sold away for scrap. For instance thousands of motor vehicles which are today required in the country have been sold away for scrap value. A lot of other useful materials also are being sold away. In fact the department has got no list of what they have, what they sell, what they want to sell and what they do not want to sell. This is the state of affairs in regard to disposals, Sir. Let me cite a small example. When they sell disposal goods they get a higher price than the market price but deliver double or treble the quantity which they actually sell. I had a personal experience of it. As secretary of the Refugee Relief Committee in Madras, I bought some utensils; I was told that it was at scrap value. The scrap value which I was charged was double the scrap value ruling in the market. I enquired and found that that was the price which they were getting; further enquiries showed that the price was much higher but the quantities delivered were something more than what they actually purchased. This is the state of affairs which goes on all over the country. You get one permit, say for five tons; you take delivery of five tons. If somebody asked you, you say everytime that the permit is alive. You take delivery once, you take delivery twice, you take delivery thrice, and the permit is still available. (*An Honourable Member:* "No checking at all?") Checking goes on as long as you have no money in your pocket!

Sir, that is the state of affairs in regard to disposals. I should like the Government of India to have a co-ordinated policy and plan in regard to these disposals. They ought to make up their minds as to what they want to sell. They must have a stock account of all that they have and they must see that the disposal is made only after a scrutiny of the stocks which they have. This is in regard to stocks.

Then, Sir, in regard to general industry. As I said the other day transport was the real bottleneck. May I request my friend the Industries Minister that he sees to it that the Provincial Governments do allow motor lorries to be used by industries and businessmen for transport purposes? There is a great restriction about it. If you have no petrol, tell your Provincial Governments that if they want to run or gas plants they would be allowed to do it. Today you have to pay as much as Rs. 10,000 for a permit for a lorry in the Provinces; for a bus you have to pay as much as Rs. 7,000 or 8,000. This is the state of affairs; whether we like it or not it does exist.

I would ask the Honourable the Industry Minister that if he is really serious about stepping up production, he must see to it that transport is eased. I know that it is not his portfolio, but he is a Member of the Government. He has got to see that the industries are not bottlenecked on account of transport. There have been cases day in and day out when the produce is not delivered at the consuming centre: raw material is not carried to the factory and coal

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which is the fuel is rarely available in the factories. This is the state of affairs of our transport, and if this is the state of our transport, then the fact is that without transport you cannot really step up production. Then, is it not right, is it not fair, that without diminishing the petrol stock of the country you should allow motor vehicles to run on gas plants? If you would allow motor vehicles to run on gas plants, a lot of your problems will be over. May be it is a little bit costlier, but the industrialists and businessmen will look to it; at least they will have some transport and the factories will not stop production for want of transport.

Yesterday, the Honourable the Finance Minister, in regard to the stepping up of production, gave a warning to the investors and said that investors were trying to blackmail the Finance Minister. I say, Sir, that is far from true. The fact that the Stock Exchange has gone down is due to the fact that the relief given for B.P.T. is 6-2/8 per cent, but he has allowed five per cent. to be spent for charity by these companies. Now, the Finance Minister stated yesterday that 70—75 per cent. of the shareholders are middleclass men. They are the backbone of industries, they are the backbone of investors. I ask you, Sir, if you give 6 2/8 per cent relief out of the B.P.T. and allow the company to give five per cent for charities, whether it is not actually a transfer from a poor man or a middle class man to a rich man? This is the middle class man's money which the rich people will spend and you know what the Managing Agents, are and what the Managing Agency system is. If you go and ask a Managing Agent, "Will you please give Rs. 10,000 for charity", he will say, "I cannot"; but he would pay the shareholders' money. So, Sir, the investor will profit by these Budget proposals, if you take away five per cent for charity, to the extent of one more per cent only in the total profit; and what is that one per cent when it is divided as profit to the shareholders? It is practically 1/20th per cent of their investment. Is that the relief over which the Stock Market or the investors will be happy and jubilant. The position today in the country is that unless and until we encourage these middle class investors whom the Finance Minister called the backbone of the industry—the backbone of the investing public —, unless they are assured of some reasonable dividend there can be no expansion of industry on a large scale. If you take away five per cent from them for charitable purposes, it is they who pay; today the rich men are paying, today the capitalists are paying; tomorrow it will be the poor or the middle class investor who will have to pay this five per cent as charity. That will be the result of providing this five per cent. for payment towards charities.

Then, Sir, in regard to industries, if you want to put up any machinery firstly you have no steel. The distribution of steel—I would not like to say anything more about it—is far from satisfactory. It is the pull which you have which will get you the steel; it is the influence which you have which will get the steel; it is the influence which you have which will get the cement—not the merits of each case. (An Honourable Member: "Black-market.") Black-market and 'white' market. Today in Madras you can buy up to two to three thousand tons of steel in the black-market if you are prepared to pay three times the price ruling in the country. There is no difficulty in getting the steel, but only you have got to pay the price. The fact is that today the steel or the cement or other materials which you want for industry you really cannot get unless you pay through your nose for it or unless you have some influence with the powers that be.

This is the state of affairs in regard to the industry. Now, if that is the state of affairs in regard to procurement of steel, cement, materials and transport, how do you think you can step up production? Also take the case of labour. There also we have no real plan or policy. We had decided three months back in the Industries Conference that we will have a sort of arrangement of wage limit and all other sorts of things, but nothing has been done so

far. We cannot lose really good time, we cannot afford to wait, we have got to expedite, we have got to hurry up, we have got to see that these industries do flourish in the country.

Now, Sir, all the proposals which the Honourable the Finance Minister introduced in regard to tax relief were for people who were making more than a lakh and twenty thousand rupees. He said that they will all plough back into the industry; how they can plough back into the industry I cannot realise for the life of me—it will be taken out of the industry. I will just give you an instance. People are entitled to ten per cent for depreciation of capital. There are innumerable companies who take out ten per cent depreciation in the account for purposes of income-tax and actually allow only three per cent or four per cent in their books and distribute the rest to the shareholders. Is this ploughing back into industry? They ought to see that depreciation is provided for to the maximum figure and not the minimum figure. If they put depreciation at the maximum figure and only allow such rebates as are provided for in the balance sheet and not on the basis of the Income-Tax Act, you will see that all that money will plough back into the industry and will not be distributed. That is not being done.

Then again, Sir all that the Honourable Finance Minister has been saying yesterday and day before, on his proposals is that this Budget is for the development of industries. If he is not for developing industry, he is not doing his job, but I cannot see anything in the Budget which actually goes to improve the industry. It was the last Budget of Sir Jeremy Raisman which did provide that if you put up a new plant, you will be allowed to have larger depreciation because that will go into the industry.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): On a point of order, Sir. What has this to do with the disposal policy?

Shri Ramnath Goenka: This is General Discussion.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: But my Honourable friend is . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is the General Discussion, but the Honourable Member's point seems to be to give some tips for stepping up production and he says that unless you enlarge industrial concerns it is not possible to step up production.

Will the Honourable Member finish his speech?

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Yes Sir. There are two minutes more and I shall conclude by that time.

Sir, in Pakistan they have recently allowed a larger depreciation for new buildings and new industries, and they have said that for three years new industries will not be charged any income-tax, unless they pay more than five per cent dividend. That is what I would call ploughing back income into the industry. Mere assertion that we are ploughing back income into the industry will not do. Actually, we have got to plough it back and see that the money remains in the industry and does not go out of it.

The Honourable Finance Minister warns us that unless production is stepped up he will see to it next year that he will take very serious notice of it. I do not know, Sir, how he can expect production to be stepped up unless you do something to help the industries, to help the businessman and see that the money is ploughed back into the industry and all the facilities necessary for stepping up production are provided.

Sir, there are available in the country today about 30,000 to 40,000 motor vehicles. Cannot these motor vehicles be requisitioned by Government and run by Government as road transport? The other day, I made a suggestion and I would beg the Honourable the Industry Minister to take note of it. That suggestion is this. There are available in the country today pipelines for the

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transport of petrol and oil from one place to another. Why should he not lay that pipe-line from Calcutta to Delhi and transport oil and petrol through it, and thus relieve the railway tracks of that burden? Sir, it is a very ordinary proposition. 17,000 miles of pipeline were put up by the American Engineers in the course of a few months through impossible territory, namely, Burma and China. All those pipelines are available today. I would ask the Honourable the Industry Minister to requisition that pipeline. Is it an impossible proposition, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member bring his remarks to a close? It is time to adjourn and his time is also up.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Thank you, Sir.

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

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

Shri C. Subramaniam: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter which I want to discuss in my Cut Motion is one which I consider absolutely essential for the purpose of implementing the industrial policy of the Government. It is accepted, Sir, that the objective of the Government is to establish a Socialist Republic, and that involves that the State should own all the means of production; not only own, but also manage them. While that is the objective which is kept in mind, the short-term objective has been defined in the Conference which was held a few months back. It has been decided in the Conference that certain industries should be exclusively owned by the State, that in certain other industries there should be State participation and in the third category, private enterprise should have ample scope. Sir, in any view, the economic functions of the Government is bound to expand in scope in diversity and in intensity, and if the State wants to run any industrial concern, it should be prepared for it. Whenever the question of nationalization is raised, the question is asked, and that too pertinently, where are the personnel to run these industries if they are taken over by the Government. It is for the purpose of preparing the State, Sir, to run these nationalised industries that I have moved this Cut Motion, to impress upon the Government the necessity to create the personnel, which would be essential for the purpose of running the industries. For the purpose of running the industries, I think three classes of personnel are required: first is the technical personnel; second is the administrative service; and the third is the commercial service.

I will just refer to the administrative and the commercial service first. Sir, the ordinary department of a Government, in my view, is not an appropriate instrument for running any industry. The Civil Service, even though it may have many admirable qualities, by its training, tradition and conventions, is not fitted for the job of running an industrial concern. They have been trained in certain routine matters; they are bound by red tapism, which will not do for the purpose of running industrial concerns. In industry, bold thinking and quick decisions are essential, and after taking those decisions, they should be immediately implemented too. To have that quality, a separate administrative service should be trained and so far, I am afraid, no serious attempt has been made to create this service. Our professions about nationalization of industries could be judged whether they are made in the true spirit or not only if we are prepared to create a machinery, which is essential for the purpose of this nationalization of industries. It is, therefore, Sir, of the

utmost importance that the Government should take steps even now to draw up a scheme for the purpose of training this personnel for administrative and commercial service. For this purpose, it is necessary for us to compare and to study the various schemes of training which are given to this sort of personnel, to this administrative and commercial service in other countries and especially I would like that we should have a complete picture of how this personnel are trained in Russia, because that is the one country where all the industries are nationalized and they are run by the State. So, before we draw up a scheme for training this personnel we should send our men to foreign countries, to America, to the United Kingdom and Russia and study the various schemes of training which are given to these services and in comparison with them draw up a scheme for training this personnel in our country, so that they may suit our conditions.

Then I come to the technical personnel, which has got a wider aspect than the administrative and commercial service. Sir, it is admitted that we are very much in short of technical personnel. As a matter of fact, it is said that it is the lack of equipment and the lack of this technical personnel which stand in the way of further expansion of industry. We have got only limited resources in the technical personnel. Therefore, wisdom requires that we should use this limited available personnel to the maximum and to the best use possible. For that purpose, we should have a pool of these technical personnel which should be under Government control. This pool should be available not only for the Government State industries, but also for private industries. Sir, we have recognised that we are going to give some scope for private enterprise in certain sectors at least and the expansion of the industries in those sectors could be controlled by Central legislation. If that be so, for the purpose of proper expansion we should have the proper technical personnel also and private enterprise should be helped by Government in getting the necessary technical personnel. This want of technical personnel is felt in every industry; and in this connection I have a personal experience to relate. We wanted to put up a small printing machinery in our place. We imported it and for erecting it we had a person who we thought was best fitted for it. He went on erecting it but after some time he said that some parts were missing and it could not be erected at all. Then another person came in who said that all parts were there and he entered into a contract with us for erecting it for a certain sum. After working for some time he wanted more and we had to pay more. So that if in such a small industry as printing there is so much difficulty felt for want of technical personnel, it must be much more so in greater industries. It might be all right for concerns like Tata's and Birla's to have their own technicians to help them, but so far as new entrants in the field of industry or smaller concerns are concerned, they necessarily have to depend upon outside help. The best fitted machinery would be a Governmental machinery wherein there would be a pool of technicians available for all purposes to advise industrialists as to the machinery they should get and also provide technicians who would help them in putting up this machinery when available. It is with this purpose that I want that a pool of technicians should be created. Not that all these technicians should be full-time Government employees, we can have a second line also. In private industries there may be persons most fitted for certain jobs. We should have a list of them; we should enter into contract with them or with the concerns in which they are serving that the services of these persons should be made available for others also whenever Government requires them. In that way we could create a second line of technical personnel also. Sir, today in the provinces there are many first-class men who are doing very unimportant jobs. For example, there might be an engineer who is an expert in the construction of dams. In a province that happens once in a way,

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After that is over that engineer is put on to some other job in which his talents are not at all required. So it should be the duty of the Central Government to pool up all these technical resources available and keep a list of them so that they might be available for all persons and provinces who need their help. That is for the purpose of helping private enterprise. And in regard to State enterprise also this technical personnel is all the more essential. It is only with that view that I have moved this out motion so as to impress upon Government the necessity and the urgency of creating an administrative and commercial service and a pool of technicians. I hope that while planning for the expansion of State industries and private industries this will be taken into consideration and the necessary machinery will be created which would be essential for the expansion of State industries as well as private industries.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, my motion is intended to discuss the administration of the State industries in general and the Sindri factory in particular. Most of what I had to say has been said by the Honourable Member who spoke just now. One of the things we have inherited from the British Government is a most expensive administration and along with it red-tapism without any responsibility to see whether the object for which they are working is served or not. Their only object is to make up the file and prepare explanations for any omissions they might have made. Sir, just now my Honourable friend Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena has given me copies of some correspondence from which it appears that one businessman applied for a trade mark in 1944 and as yet nothing has been done about it, though four years have elapsed. It seems that the same policy of red-tapism has been followed in carrying out this sulphate of ammonia factory scheme, the product of which is so much required in this country for increasing the production of food-grains. This had engaged the attention of some industrialists so far back as in 1943; they found that there was great dearth of manure in this country and there is scope for exploitation of the raw material in India instead of depending on foreign countries for these things. They made certain investigations and approached Government with a request that they should be allowed to send their experts to America and other places to find out the possibility of these things with the help of technicians in other countries. But they were not allowed; still they were trying to find out these things. I had occasion to go through some of the correspondence going on between some industrialists here and those in foreign countries. From that I could see that all the machinery required for this was available; though not new machinery, it was at least reconditioned machinery in good order which would give us good results. They could be had from France, Czechoslovakia, America and such other countries. But they were not allowed to get them, and in 1945 Government took this industry in hand and since then they have been going on with this scheme. But in these four years nothing has been done. The scheme prepared by Government was that 600 lakhs of rupees would be required for machinery, 229.5 lakhs for the setting up of the machinery, 190.5 lakhs for buildings. Altogether about rupees eleven crores will be required for that. Since 1945 we have imported manure from foreign countries to the extent of Rs. 17 crores. It means that if the Government had taken upon themselves to start this factory and taken all the resources in their hands, and taken the help of such people who could run this factory, this factory could have been ready in 1945 and we would not have had to import so much manure from outside countries and thereby put the balance of trade against us. Apart from this, the manure, which we have been importing from foreign countries is costing us twice the price as it would have cost us if we had produced the same here in India. The result is that we have added to the cost of production of food-grains. Apart from that we have not been able to supply manure to the extent which it could have been possible to supply if we had been able to produce it in our own country.

From the reply given in answer to a question in the assembly by His Hon'ble minister it appears that the factory will not be able to give full

production till the year 1950. To one of the questions put to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Supply as to how much money has been spent till now on this concern and under what heads, the reply is that altogether the money spent till now is about Rs. 264 lakhs odd. Out of this sum Rs. 52 lakhs and odd has been spent on machineries and Rs. 27 and odd lakhs on buildings. Machinery and building are the main items of expenditure on which most of the capital has to be spent. Now remains about 197 lakhs which it appears might have been spent on administration—a huge figure for the purpose.

As I said before, one of the things which we have inherited from the British Government is the most expensive machinery. (*Shri Ramnarayan Singh*: "Which must go!") And the qualifications of this administrative machinery is red-tapism and to prepare files with all sorts of explanations and to give excuses for anything. This is a most serious thing. Apart from Railways, which is a national undertaking and about which the other day there was a cut motion to the effect that Rs. 25 crores have been spent for foodgrains which, as it appears from the discussions in the House could have been sufficient to feed all the labour classes of the Railway Department, this is another national industry which we have started. As I have already said, the progress which this industry has made does not show that the fate of this industry is very bright. This is being run by the most expensive administrative people whose concern is not so much as to whether the object with which this concern is going to be started is fulfilled or not, but just to prepare the files and give explanations that if a particular thing has not been done these are the explanations. These explanations are not required at present. We are short of food. We are short of so many consumer goods that if all these things will be going on with these explanations, if we shall have men at the top, who will give us nothing but explanations; in that case we do not know where we shall be.

If this industry is to be run properly, enquiries should be made through persons who understand business to find out as to why it was delayed so much and why so much money has been spent? When the machineries were available in other countries, apart from the countries from which they were anxious to purchase, why were these and other requirements not procured from places from where it was possible to get and save so much money of the country?

As some of other things regarding personnels etc. I would have liked to speak on has been touched upon by the previous speakers I would not like to take the time of the House. I feel that if things go on in this way, it will be said that we cannot manage any nationalised industry and it will give others an argument against nationalization of industry. It is high time that we should take up this matter and enquire into it as to why those people who were in charge of this administration neglected this affair in such a way.

Shri B. Das: Sir, mine is an economy cut of Rs. 50 lakhs in a demand of Rs. 3,93,71,000 in the budget of 1948-49. When the previous Finance Minister budgeted for 1947-48, he had a budget figure of Rs. 3,44,00,000 under this head. How is it with Pakistan separated, India is having bigger and bigger budgets unless irresponsibility and light-heartedness can be attributed on the part of our Ministers and the Cabinet as a whole? The Finance Minister introduced a budget where he showed a deficit of Rs. 27 crores. Had the Government fallen in with the idea on this side of the House, there should have been a Committee of this House to look into this matter and there might not have been any necessity of further taxation. I have made my humble efforts and I have given economy cuts to the extent of Rs. 15 crores. Even yesterday when the Honourable Finance Minister was talking, he said there will be no necessity of providing for the Rs. 27 crores to meet the deficit on the head of subsidy over purchase of food. Owing to the fall in the price of

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wheat, rupees seven to eight crores would be saved on the subsidy to food. Of course I gave a cut not on those grounds but because we have to tighten our belts and not send our money to foreign countries and fritter away whatever little sterling or dollar balances we have.

Whatever observations I make on these three heads,—Director General of Disposals, Textile Commissioner's Directorate and India Store Department London—they are equally applicable to the Department of Industry and Supply. The principal test which I apply in this department applies to all the departments under the 104 heads under which the Finance Minister has budgeted and surely if we really function not in the old traditions but in the traditions of a free country, we should easily cut off the Rs. 27 crores that has been deficit.

I will come first to the Director General of Disposals. The budget is for Rs. 1,48,84,000. The Finance Minister has given in his explanatory memorandum an increase of roughly 70 lakhs of expenditure, because 3 P. M. has added the U.S.A. war surplus materials to the Civil Budget and has placed them for the disposal of my Honourable friend the Minister for Industry. He is the man who has to carry all the unwanted goods that are lying anywhere in the world. He must increase the staff and bear the criticism that I am levelling on him and at his department and at the store of goods that may or may not exist.

What alarmed me most when I read a *Reuters* message from London on the sterling balances. That gave me a tremendous shock and I wonder if the Honourable Minister also experienced it. It said that if every thing is adjusted India may get the balance in 25 years at the rate of 15 million per annum. It is British perfidy! We are all accustomed all our lives to British perfidy and yet I cannot understand the following passage in that message:

"Of India's £1,000 million, an appreciable slice would go in settlement of the British Government's military material and other stores in India. These have already been sold, but their price has not yet been fixed. Another comparable deduction could be made by the British Government taking over the liability for pensions for Britons formerly in India's service."

During at least the last six months the Government of India have been functioning as a free Government and they could certainly settle all their dues with the British Government. The U.K. Government might say that the Government of India have not settled the price of the British war materials and on account of that the £1,000 million will be scaled down. The suggestion is that a substantial slice of the £1,000 million as reported by *Reuters*, inspired by the British Exchequer office will be reduced. This is a most surprising thing that one should wonder at!

We are maintaining an office of Director General of Disposals and we are trying to dispose of all the scrap heap that U.S.A. and U.K. have left. I hope that my Honourable friend will throw some light as to how much we owe to England and why we have carried these stores in our account without assessing the price. Perhaps the materials do not exist in this country. Why should we be burdened with 150 crores of U.S.A. surplus stores. It was reduced, as my Honourable friend told us during the last session, by a few crores. Why should he create an establishment of 70 lakhs per annum. All the troubles in the country, all the immorality and the bad atmosphere of bribery and corruption resulted from the perpetuation of the Supply Department. Instead of putting petrol and setting fire to this Disposal Department, we are maintaining an office and trying to create further responsibilities for ourselves on account of the American surplus stores, which the U.K. could have assumed. Why should we sell these surplus stores of U.S.A. and the U.K., it is beyond my comprehension. Why should the Government of India instead of minding their own house talk of minding the house of U.S.A. and the U.K. I fear the

U.K. is wanting to transfer the U.S.A. surplus stores to India's account thus reducing the sterling balances that will be due to India, so that she can tell India she will get 15 million per annum for 25 years. This is disgraceful and the Government is responsible to us and they owe this House and the country an explanation.

We thanked the Honourable Minister when he introduced the policy of de-control. We all wanted decontrol. It is in line with the wish of him who is no more but that does not mean that the Honourable Minister should perpetuate in the department, the number of staff and the expenditure on this Disposal Department.

Take for example the Textile Commissioner's Department. It costs Rs. 58,70,000. I do not know why we should spend this huge sum of money for the Textile Commissioner and his staff as a measure of security. That reminds me that the Honourable Minister's predecessor appointed a Committee called the Disposals Enquiry Committee. It consisted of two ancients who did not know what they have to face at present. My Honourable friend Dr. Mookerjee was not responsible for this Committee and for the report. No action has been taken on it. The report observes at one place something, which indicates the kind of large surplus staff that is still being maintained in the Supply Department.

"Many are preoccupied with their future and several officers with technical qualifications have frankly confessed to us that they are 'passengers' on the look out for employment of a kind offering greater scope for the use of their technical knowledge."

The Government of India have increased the staff three times from what they were before the war. The Supply Department has increased its staff ten times more than what it was before the war and yet the Supply Department, in spite of this report of the two ancients (Sir Maurice Gwyer and Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, the dear one) is being perpetuated and the cost is increased.

I thought we were free and a Dominion, although Russia is telling us all the time that we are not even a dominion that we are being controlled and henpecked by the U. K. I do not know why the India Stores Department in London is billed here for Rs. 42,82,000. I do not think formerly it was under the Minister of Industry and Supply. Now all that is wrong in the Government of India is being thrown on the head of my Honourable friend and he is made the target of criticism. The London Stores Department consists of 200 British officers or so and they are being maintained to help continue the stranglehold on India. They should have been dismissed after 15th August 1947 and I do not see why they were not. If we are a free Dominion, let us have a Trade Delegation by all means. Let us have a trade delegation, an Indian Council or a Commercial Attache controlling everything. Why is it placed under the High Commissioner's Office. The High Commissioner of India in London seems to be a Jack of all trades and master of none. He dabbles in politics, he dabbles in trade and customs. He is perpetuating the employment of Britishers and paying them a salary of Rs. 42,82,000. This is a disgrace to my country. I am ashamed of it. I hope the Honourable Minister and the Cabinet will see to it that the India Stores Department in London is abolished and a separate Trade Delegation is established. The thing is we still want to purchase everything from England. That was the old policy. Is that old diehard policy to be continued? Then Russia is right when it says that India is not only a Dominion but a slavish Dominion.

I have applied certain tests and I want the Honourable Minister to enlighten us whether the Ministry and the Cabinet as a whole discussed and expounded the policy of expenditure that a free country must carry on in the various departments of administration. I find rupees five lakhs is subsidized to the British Commonwealth Ministry for doing agency work for India. How are we free from the clutches of the British diehards when we still use the British

[Shri B. Das]

agency? It means the Cabinet did not analyse the question. It means no attempt was made to evolve a system of budgetary demands which will fit in with the Indian outlook, with the outlook of a free country. What the British have left, everything we are to carry on and perpetuate. I do not know when we will be independent enough not to be burdened with British exploitation, whether through the Office of the High Commissioner, London or through the instrumentality of these hidden grants of British exploitation in almost fifty of the hundred and odd grants. This is a most alarming situation and I hope the Honourable the Minister for Industry will accept this Rs. 50 lakhs cut and also persuade his colleagues in the Cabinet to accept other similar economy cuts in every Department where it has been tabled. I hope also that next year the Cabinet will see that the House resolves itself into a Committee and tries to reduce the demands of the budget: then only the Finance Bill or any measure for taxation should be introduced.

Shri Padampat Singhania (U. P.: General): Sir, I know that our Government has come into power only a few months ago and it was not possible for them to do anything within such a short period. But I think the present setup of our country is quite different from what it used to be at the time when the British Government was ruling this country. Previously the Ministry of Industry and Supply was there in the Government of India for the purpose of discouraging industry in this country. But the time has now come when the Ministry should change its setup: instead of discouraging industry they should come forward as the guardian of industry and to help industry.

We have got before us the budget and have to vote demands for grants without knowing what the Ministry is doing. There is no paper before us by which we can judge what work has been done by the Department of Industry and Supply. As an industrialist I feel—and if the Minister will approve of my suggestion—he should hereafter circulate a progressive report of the industrial development in this country showing what has been done by his Department. The position of the Department ought to be that they should know in which Province which industries have been established and why industry is not in a position to produce or increase production. There is no such arrangement in the Industries Department. The present position is if I have to develop an industry I should appoint an officer of high level to run about the Secretariat Department from one road to another, and if I put an application it may take two years to get disposed of, going from one section to another, and even in the Department nobody knows where the file is. That setup must be changed. Otherwise I feel that there will be no industrial development. The Industries Department has got one of the greatest responsibilities today in our country, because everywhere there is a great need for industrial production. If there is no industrial production you will see that you will be able neither to run the railways, nor work the telephones efficiently, nor supply in a proper manner the stores required for our Defence Services. Without industrial production how are you going to run this country efficiently? Therefore, my first suggestion is that the Department should produce every month a Progressive Report and their Secretaries and officers should be knowing in which Province what industry is developed and what progress has been made in that particular industry.

My second suggestion is this. When I enquire from the various Government Departments what are the stores which are being purchased today from foreign countries for running our own Government Departments like the Railways, the Post Offices and so many other requirements of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, they do not know. When I enquired from the Railway Department the Honourable the Railway Minister says 'I do not know. Our duty is only to send an indent.' It is a great surprise to

me. Here is such a big national undertaking as the Railway where capital more than Rs. 800 crores had been spent, and the Honourable Minister in charge does not know from where the stores are coming! In the case of an ordinary businessman even if it be a small amount of stores he cannot sleep without knowing from where his stores are coming, and he would try to manufacture the things inside this country itself. But what is the position in respect of the Railways? They say they have written to the Supply Department or the Commerce Department, and nobody knows from where the stores are coming. The first duty of the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply should be to make out a list and put it before the House showing so much stores are required, we are buying so much in this country and so much from outside. It should also show why so much has to be bought from outside. I do not see why the Government of India should not make up their mind to manufacture everything they want in this country itself except big equipment like locomotives, aeroplanes and such other big things. The small things they must manufacture in this country and they must make up their mind to produce them within six months. They should make up their mind in that manner and set up a Production Board and see that every item of stores which is a necessity to run this country is manufactured within the next six months. This is the work of the Industries Department. Otherwise, when the budget comes we will simply move a cut motion, discuss it for half an hour, the Minister will give some reply and we will go away from here with the feeling that we have discussed the budget in the Assembly. That will not satisfy us. So I hope the Honourable Minister will take the suggestion in the light I have made it and within six months tell us "I am now in a position to get more than 80 per cent of the supplies I require from this country". Five years before, that is before the war, I remember, we used everytime to make the complaint here about the Industries Department or the Commerce Department that Indian industries should be encouraged and the stores required should be brought in this country. Of course in those days it was a foraign government. But the position is that the specifications have been changed to such an extent that even if somebody is able to produce the goods it will be impossible because the specification is not available in this country.

Times have changed. Whatever raw materials we have, we have to make our own standard according to the goods available in this country. There is no reason why we should still stick to those specifications. I think the greatest difficulty is that they have not got any experts to design out for them the type of goods available in this country. For that purpose also they should make some investigation. They should appoint an investigation commissions and for each item there should be some body to look after things and there should be coordination by which they could get the things required by the government of India if not by the public.

Next I come to the Defence Department purchases. I do not know whether the Defence Department purchases are made through the Industries Department. In the old days they used to say this is a matter of secrecy. It should not go to the Ministry of Industries, but today I am quite sure this charge cannot be levelled because our Ministry is one, and even if it is not the job of the Ministry of Industry and Supply at present, the Minister in charge of that portfolio should interfere and find out what are the things the military are buying, and he should try to manufacture those things in this country. These are my suggestions and I hope the Honourable Minister will try to satisfy this House after six months and to show us that they are able to produce some tangible results.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is quite a lot that one would have liked to say on this subject and the various cut motions that I have tabled would give an indication of what I wanted to

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

say. The time that is available to me to make a speech is so limited that it would be impossible for me to do justice to either the subject or to my own views. Sir, we are discussing at the moment the Department of Industry and Supply. For a long time we debated the issue whether India should industrialize or whether she should ruralize. That issue has once and for all been settled. Although we have not taken a deliberate decision in this House, it is quite apparent that we are all bent upon industrialization. That being so, Sir, it is worth examining as to how serious an effort we have been able to make in this direction and it would be for us to examine what progress we have achieved since we have decided to industrialize. I for one am conscious that the Honourable the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply is very keen and intent upon achieving the best results that he possibly could, and yet Sir, we cannot hide our dissatisfaction that all that was possible does not appear to have been done. First and foremost, Sir, if we want to industrialize, we must have the machinery. Now the House is not aware if there is any plan for the manufacture of machinery. As everybody who is familiar with the development of Russia knows, the first thing that the then industrially backward country took up was the manufacture of machinery. We have yet to know, Sir, what the Honourable Minister has been able to achieve in this direction. We have, as everybody knows, immense man-power, and there is no dearth of raw materials; and all that we require for manufacturing finished goods is machinery; and if that machinery is once produced, there will be no need for us to look to other nations for assistance. So, unless the Honourable Minister is in a position to tell us that he has a definite plan of action in this direction, I would suggest to him that he must bend all his energies to having a quick plan. It should not extend over more than three years, because those days of five year plans are gone; time and space are now contracting rapidly; we are moving much faster than Russia did 20 years ago. So he should have a three year plan and see that within this span of three years, India will produce almost every possible machinery excepting those which require very delicate and minute parts. That is Sir, the first suggestion I would like to make.

Secondly, in order to man those industries, it is very necessary that he should, in co-operation, if necessary, with the Education and other Ministers, have a complete plan for the training of technical man-power. That is another thing. There are I know, big schemes: schemes of technical education in India costing the colossal sum of some 85 crores of rupees. And yet nothing tangible, has actually come out of them at all I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that if he cannot produce first rate experts, highest class technicians, let the country produce fitters, draftsmen, boiler engineers, electricians etc. I mean a lower class of technicians so badly needed everywhere. There is a great demand for this and for want of them much of our work of industrialization has slowed down.

Then I would also invite his attention to the comment which some American industrialists are said to have made so far as our textile industry is concerned. This is one of the biggest industries in the land and yet we are told that our machinery is at least 20 years too old. That also is one of the factors which the Industry Minister ought to set right and try and replace as much of this old-fashioned machinery by new ones as possible.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend who just spoke, Sir Padarnpat Singhania, has made some valuable suggestions. Although he is a capitalist and I am not, I am at one with him so far as his suggestions are concerned. I am particularly in favour of his suggestion by which he asked that the Minister should carefully watch and diligently pursue what progress is being made from month to month and week to week. What he was referring to is what is

known in England as "Progress-chasing." There are it seems a class of persons who are known as "progress-chasing" officers. No sooner a plan is made and started, it is necessary to supervise it from time to time and see that it is speeded up to the utmost possible extent.

The next point I would like to refer to is in connection with the Disposals Department. Everybody is aware of the scandalous nature in which this department is managed and how most valuable food and articles of consumption such as cheese, butter, cigarettes, tea, etc. were allowed to rot for months and years without any care whatsoever. This is a scandal which must be stopped at all costs and no cost would be too high for putting this thing right. One cannot understand why the Disposals Department makes it a point to sell the material in very big lots so that the ordinary average man can not possibly make an attempt to purchase them. As a matter of fact the things that were lying with the Disposals Department were of everyday need. I was told there were mountains of cycles still lying undisposed. I do not know whether this is a fact or not, but I had it from the Prime Minister of my own province that he has seen with his own eyes huge stocks of cycles and other things, and yet in spite of the fact that he was clamouring to have some of them he could not have any! So, Sir, if the Disposals Department even now can get hold of a complete list of the articles and circulate it to the provincial governments, it would be possible not only to meet the crying needs of the people but the Government would also obtain prices which would be much higher than what any of these big capitalists would like to offer. We all know how during question time the Minister was questioned about loans and advances given to certain people who took huge lots of these disposals articles. All these things I hope the Honourable Minister will look into and see to it that we have no complaint to make within the next couple of months.

Then, Sir, we are all familiar with the difficulties of transport. A suggestion has already been made, with which I agree, that all the transport vehicles that are available in the Disposals Department should be put on the road immediately. If petrol is not available, they should be worked by coal, and if that is made available, the difficulties of the Railway Ministry will also diminish and people's conveniences met.

Then, about decontrol of petrol! I am conscious that so far as petrol is concerned we are probably in great difficulties. But here also I am not sure if de-controlling will not ease the situation rather than lead to more trouble. In any case, as my Honourable friend (Mr. Sondhi) points out, anybody who wants to and is intent upon running his car can get all the petrol he needs. I think in all probability the de-controlling of petrol will act in the same way as the de-control of *gur* and sugar and other articles. So it is worthwhile my Honourable friend's giving his attention to this matter also. I know this point has been made and a lot of people have taken it up with the Department; probably it is the Defence Department that is the greatest obstacle in the way. Even so, I feel the matter is worthy of serious consideration once over again. As my time is up I must close my speech.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I am thankful to the members of the House for criticising some of the activities of my Ministry, although some of the remarks which have been made are not entirely based on facts. But still I know, Sir, that the motive behind the criticisms is to secure an all-round improvement in the administration of our own National Government.

Sir, I would divide the criticisms into two parts: the first relates to general questions of policy and the second relates to some matters of detailed administration.

[Dr. Bhanu Prasad Mookerjee]

With regard to the main question of industrial policy, it is unfortunately true that it has not been possible for Government yet to definitely announce it. I convened a Conference last December which was attended by representatives of almost all the important industries in the country, by representatives of the Provincial and the States Governments, and also by spokesmen of different labour organisations. My idea was that we should put all the facts before such a Conference and ask for advice as to the policy which the Government of India should adopt for the purpose of speedy industrialization of this great land of ours. The results of that Conference you will find embodied in a small booklet which we have published. The Resolutions which we arrived at were unanimous, although they dealt with many controversial matters. The Cabinet has appointed a Committee to consider the question of future economic development and I expect that in the course of the next few days, at any rate before the Legislature concludes its Session, the Government of India will be in a position to announce its industrial policy. The Prime Minister has also agreed to allot a special day in order to enable Members of the House to express their opinion on this very vital problem. It will not therefore be expected of me to go into a detailed discussion on this question, but I can say something broadly.

Naturally, we stand for as quick an industrialization of our country as possible. So far as the question of nationalisation goes, the Conference has recommended that the Government should divide industries into three main categories: the first should deal with industries which will be State-owned and State-managed; the second will relate to industries which will, at a subsequent date, be State-owned and State-managed but the existing units may not be disturbed though so far as future development of those industries are concerned it will be under the management and ownership of the State; the third category will be industries which will be controlled and regulated centrally, industries on the development of which future prosperity of India depends,—in this sphere also it will be open to the State, and when I say 'State' I do not mean the Central Government alone, I also mean the Provincial Government or any other local organisation, it will be open to the State to come and start a particular industry if it is considered desirable. Then, the remaining sphere of course will be left to private enterprise. Which industries will be put in categories 1, 2 and 3 is now being discussed by Government, but as I said just now I am hoping that in the course of the next few days the entire policy of the Government will be placed before the House and the country.

Here I should say that although I am speaking here as the Minister in charge of Industry, we cannot think of economic development of India only in terms of industrial expansion. Obviously, economic planning will include the development of departments like agriculture, food, health, and education so that we can have the all-round prosperity of the country. In connection with which industrial development is bound to play a very large and prominent part. That alone can raise the standard of living of the common man in India. We are therefore envisaging the appointment of a Planning Commission which will be permanent body and which will be entrusted with the task of co-ordinating the plans of the various Ministries and ensuring that the development of this country takes place in all the various spheres in a manner consistent with our national needs and aspirations.

I would now come to the remarks made on the Cut Motions; I shall just try to take each Member one by one. Mr. Ayyangar has referred to some matters which are of a general interest relating to future industrial development. When he says that there should be some sort of planning, I agree with him. I have indicated what the policy of the Government is. I have also

indicated that the Government is considering the recommendations of the Industries Conference as also the report of the Economic Committee appointed by the Indian National Congress, and that it will shape its policy after consideration of these and other recommendations.

Mr. Ayyangar has referred to Disposals. I can take that item first because not only had Mr. Ayyangar referred to it but several other Members also. Now, Sir, so far as the working of the Disposals Department goes, the House will recall that the policy of the previous Government was somewhat different; the previous Government decided to dispose of the goods as quickly as possible irrespective of their possible application to the needs of the country. I was rather amused to find that my friend Mr. B. Das also wanted to burn so many things from the disposals—that was what the previous Government also wanted to do. Mr. B. Das wants to burn, Mr. Goenka wants that we should use them for national advancement as far as possible; we cannot burn and at the same time use them—if we burn them the ashes of the goods which we burn will not be useful for national advancement. Sir, the present policy of the Government is entirely different. We have decided that we shall examine the stocks and utilise them to the best advantage of the country. (As Honourable Member: When?) In fact I have appointed a Committee already and that Committee is going to examine this question from the point of view of the best utilisation of the stocks which are now available. Of course the bulk of the stocks is gone but those which remain will not be disposed of in a haphazard manner but will be examined with a view to seeing how far they can be utilised for the industrial and other development of the country.

But even now the Governments have the first priority. If they want any of these goods which are in the Disposals, we give them the first preference. In fact, during the last few months I have tried to help several Provincial Governments by giving them portions of these disposal stocks which would help them in carrying into effect some of their plans for economic expansion. Then we have also laid down that we shall give special preference to educational institutions, universities, research institutions, etc., so far as the use of the scientific apparatus and other materials are concerned. Many of the goods which were declared as 'disposals' are being taken back by the Defence Department, because they consider that although they were declared as surplus they may be capable of being used now by the Defence Department. I should make, Sir, the position of my Ministry clear in this respect. Only that portion of the stocks which is declared to be surplus comes to the Disposals Department; that which is kept with the Military still continues to remain with them. Mr. H. Das read out some statement which was issued by *Reuter*. Well, apparently, that refers to stocks which are still with the Military. I cannot say. I am afraid, how financial adjustments have been made between India and the United Kingdom in respect of military stocks, but so far as I am concerned, when the stocks come to my Ministry they are sold and naturally whatever is sold goes to the credit of the Government of India.

Now, here special reference was made to the American disposals. I think, Sir, Mr. B. Das was completely off his track when he referred to the American disposals and asked me to dispose of them as quickly as possible. In fact, the agreement which has been reached between India and the United States of America is: Whatever is sold up to 50 million dollars will remain with India. The U.S.A. will have no claim whatsoever up to 50 million dollars. Whatever is sold beyond 50 million dollars, half of it will go to the U.S.A. and half will remain with India. The value of that half which will go to the share of the United States Government will not be taken to the U.S.A. but will be spent on some purposes which will be beneficial to India, in consultation with the Government of India. We have already sold American stocks worth more than 50 million dollars, and my information is that the share due to the U.S.A. today is somewhere between five and six crores of rupees; in other words, this

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with which I intend to increase in the months to come, will be available for use in India for certain beneficial purposes.

Shri B. Dig: May I know where that amount is shown in the budget?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am afraid the Honourable Member should address that question to the Honourable the Finance Minister because that is entirely a matter of budgetary arrangement.

A question was raised—which I may dispose of here—as regards possible economy in the disposals staff. Now, we are also fully aware of the necessity of making retrenchment in the staff which we have got for the administration of the Disposals Department. I may tell the House that already the process of retrenchment has started. In fact, notice has been served on about 2,000 persons—they were served only a week ago—and I received two telegrams from the Unions which control the activities of the members of the staff threatening dire consequences if this notice is not withdrawn. But I can assure members of the House that Government is fully aware of the need of economy. We shall again in the course of the year examine the question every two or three months and give effect to the general wishes of the House.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): How is it then that for the coming year the Disposals Department is going to cost three times the cost of the previous seven and a half months. Will the Honourable Minister please refer to page 150?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well: even without looking at that item I can perhaps give the answer: the simple reason is that there were no American stocks in the previous year and the expenses for this section have been added to the cost of administration this year. In fact already nearly one-third of the officers have been retrenched and retrenchment of the lower staff is proceeding at a rapid pace, but the danger of the repercussions coming from the staff being dispensed with hurriedly, I have just explained. I have already referred to the telegrams that I have received—I am not looking at Professor Ranga particularly—which indicate the danger that we have to be aware of.

Shri Birwanath Das (Orissa: General): Is it fair to the members of this House that the Honourable Minister in charge of Industry and Supply should refer us on important questions such as this to the Honourable the Finance Minister, and the Honourable the Finance Minister should refer us back to the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply? These are very important questions and I think either he or the Honourable the Finance Minister should give us the information.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have answered so far as the question of American surplus stock is concerned, but so far as the budgetary arrangements are concerned, obviously, I plead guilty, I cannot say how the budget has been framed.

Mr. Speaker: He does not know how the posting of accounts is made. It is entirely a matter for the Finance Minister.

Shri Birwanath Das: It is not a question of posting of accounts. It is a question of giving very necessary and essential information, in the course of the budget discussion, to the Honourable Members of this House which the Government is bound to do. We are not concerned whether it belongs to the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply or to the Finance Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I think the question may be put to the Honourable the Finance Minister when he replies.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Now, I come to the question of transport. This also has been referred to by several members. There is no doubt that transport is one of the chief bottle-necks today. It has been suggested that we should explore the possibility of sending some of our goods by sea. I may tell the House that already we have done it. The process has

started and we are exploring how we can increase further movement in that direction. The main commodity which is affected by reason of lack of movement is coal, and lack of movement of coal is affecting a number of industries. We recently appointed a special committee—it is sitting in Calcutta every week under the Chairmanship of Sir S. N. Roy—where the Railway Department, the consumers, the colliery people, labour and also our Department are represented. I am glad to report that in the last two months some improvement has been indicated. But even today there will be about two million tons of coal which are lying accumulated in the coal area and unless we can take effective steps to remove the coal and send it to other areas where they are needed, there is no doubt that it will seriously affect the future industrial development of this country.

A suggestion was made, Sir, that we might make more use of transport by lorries. Now, this attempt was made by the West Bengal Government at some critical period about three months ago. They tried to move about 1,000 tons of coal per day by lorries and we found a few weeks later that it was costing them nearly half a million gallons of petrol which of course was very costly. We had therefore to stop that experiment. Now the use of gas plant by lorries is not prohibited by the Government of India and I see no reason why, as was suggested by Mr. Goenka and others, it should not be considered by any Provincial Government. But I should like to give this assurance that if any proposal comes to me for the movement of any essential commodity under my charge by any means of transport, we shall certainly help so far as we can.

I have already dealt with the question of disposals. Mr. Goenka, a reputed journalist, made a rather bad slip. He says no list is maintained of what disposals are available and what are not. At lunch-time I found that there were several bulky volumes lying in the office and everything was noted there. May be the Madras office has not kept the list accurately, but any member who wants may come to my office and check the list without giving any time to anybody to manipulate the list in any way whatsoever. The list is there. Of course, it is a very bulky one involving as it does goods worth about 200 crores of rupees.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Are these two lists like the people in the business keep?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, nothing like that is possible here. Then comes the question of the availability of steel, cement etc. Here the main trouble is shortage of these commodities. If we had more steel, if we had more cement, Mr. Goenka would not have grumbled, but if you have a limited quantity available, you cannot satisfy everyone in respect of all his demands, and some sort of control and check has to be imposed.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to steel, is it not again a matter of lack of transport?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is true to some extent. During the last two months, production of steel has slightly improved. It has gone up by nearly 15,000 tons, but unfortunately there are some difficulties with regard to transport, although even here there has been improvement during the last fortnight.

Here, Sir, I should like to make one point clear. It struck me in the course of my short period of office that perhaps it would be better if we take the Provincial Governments more into our confidence—and also representatives of the industry—in making our allotments. The new policy which we are adopting now is this. In respect of important commodities which are distributed by my Ministry we ask for the opinion of the Provincial Governments

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and are also encouraging industries to form themselves into Associations, so that a particular Association representing as many of the industrial units within that category as possible should be able to approach us and put forward some sort of joint demand. When we arrive at our decision and make the allotment, we shall inform the Provincial Governments also as to what we have done, so that at every step the Provincial Government will know about the decision taken by the Government. If we have made any alteration ourselves after consultation with the Provincial Government, that also will be made available to the Provincial Government.

Then, Sir, with regard to black-marketing, Mr. Goenka said that he knew that 2000 to 3000 tons of steel were available in Madras in the black-market. If he knows where that market is and if he lets me know, I shall be able to do something about it.

Sri Ramnath Goenka: Only contact the stockists. You will find it in their godowns.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If that is so, if he can give me the names of the stockists of steel. . . .

Sri Ramnath Goenka: You consult them. You know them very well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Mr. Goenka knows very well that the Central Government does not control them. It is the Provincial Government which does it, but if any member knows that there is a particular firm which is doing black-marketing, instead of encouraging and getting something from the black-market, it is much better to report the name of such black-marketeer to the Government and we shall be prepared to take suitable action. Here, Sir, I should like to make one point clear. I have also authorised the Provincial Governments to go and examine these stores in any of these places and check the accounts and if any such case comes up where black-marketing is going on, then we shall be prepared to take drastic action.

Then, Sir, with regard to pipeline for passage of petrol, this is nothing new. We know that in fact, two months ago Dalmias brought that to my notice. We investigated it, but the report which we received from the W.M. & P. Ministry was that this was entirely uneconomical and it could not be pursued. However, I am prepared to go into this question again with my Honourable colleague Mr. Gadgil and see whether anything can be done about it.

Then, Sir, with regard to the remarks made by Mr. Subrahmanyam, I welcome the suggestion which he has made. It is essential that Government of India should make some arrangement for securing the necessary personnel. If there is going to be any large-scale policy of nationalisation, if big units of industry are going to remain under the control of the Government, obviously we cannot carry on such factories or units with the help of the old bureaucratic machinery. We must have a new Service and that Service we shall be able to form in some suitable manner. Whether it can be done in the manner suggested by Mr. Subrahmanyam is a matter which will have to be considered, but I can assure him and the House that this is a matter which we have already taken up. Of course, one difficulty is with regard to salary. Some Honourable Members said that the members of the Government service draw a much larger salary, but actually what I have found is that the salaries of officers associated with industry are much higher than what the Government can pay. For instance, Mr. Singhania would be prepared to take away any of the officers and agree to pay them a salary much more than any Government would be prepared to pay.

Shri Padampat Singhania: But not every officer, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not all, but some? Then, Sir, Mr. Jhunjhunwala spoke about the Sindhri Factory. Now, here I am afraid the Honourable Member is under some misapprehension. I myself visited the Sindhri Factory last December. Considerable progress has been made and I am expecting that in the course of 1949 the factory will be completed. Of course there was delay—I found that—but it was due mainly to the non-availability of land and other causes. I do not know whether the Honourable Member has himself visited that area, but coming as he does from Bihar, I would like him to go there and if he finds that anything is happening which is not to his satisfaction, he can certainly tell me. We are shortly going to set up a Committee quite apart from the Government machinery whose business will be to remain in touch with the progress made at Sindhri. I am fully aware of the need for expediting the progress of the construction of this factory and everything possible will be done.

Then, so far as Mr. B. Das is concerned, I am glad to tell him that in the Textile Commissioner's office, re-employment has already started. Only four days ago, notice was served on nearly 500 people and that process will continue. As I said a few minutes ago, Government will go on examining the staff of these particular Departments which need not be kept at the same level at which they used to be previously.

Then, Mr. Deshmukh referred to the question of securing machinery. Now, that Sir is a very important question but not one which is free from difficulty. It is extremely difficult for us to get the capital goods. We placed orders for textile machinery nearly two years ago, but every few months we get some excuse or other and the machinery has not come. We are however, getting nearly 100,000 spindles from Japan. That transaction has been completed between Government and Government and we are expecting that that stock will soon arrive and we will be able to help the textile industry.

So far as manufacture of machinery in India is concerned, that is undoubtedly a part of the long-term plan which Government has before it. I am hoping that as soon as our new plan is out, we shall be able to do something about the matter.

Then, Sir, Mr. Padampat Singhania made a suggestion that there should be more co-operation between Government and industry. I welcome that suggestion. There is some co-operation now, but there is always room for improvement. My proposal is to set up a Central Advisory Board which will be attached to the Ministry of Industry and Supply. It will include representatives from all the important industries, the Provincial Governments and also representatives of consumers' interests and labour. We shall have similar Boards in each Province and I propose to have one separate Committee for each of the important industries, so that we may remain in constant touch with each other and see that one common policy is adopted by the Government as a whole. So far as small industries are concerned their importance also is obvious and it is proposed to appoint a Board for cottage and small industries.

I hope to be able to announce the composition of that Board in the course of the next few weeks. As I said, Sir, the task before us is a gigantic one. We had to face considerable difficulties in the past and this fact is clear that unless and until we are able to produce more, at any rate, if we are not at least able to produce all that we now can, the future before us is extremely dark. I have before me figures which I have not the time to place before the House, but if I get transport facilities, if the assurance of the Honourable the Transport Minister that we have now turned the corner and things will improve in the course of 1948 actually comes to happen, and labour

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does not create much trouble, then with regard to most of the industries, I expect to get an increased production by at least 25 per cent. in the course of 1948, not to speak of big expansion schemes which we also have for the future. I hope, Sir, in view of the assurances which I have given, it will be possible for the Honourable Members to withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. Speaker. Before taking first the cut motions, I should like to know the intentions of the Honourable Members as to whether they press their motions to vote.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Ramnath Goonka: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri O. Subramaniam: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Messrs. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Ramnath Goonka, Subramaniam and Jhunjhunwala want leave of the House to withdraw their motions. Have they got the leave of the House?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: What about the economy cut? I am putting that motion to vote.

Shri B. Das: The Honourable Minister may accept it. He had already said that he is reducing staff in the Textile Commissioner's Department.

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Minister accepts, I have no objection.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is already a provision of reduction of Rs. 25 lakhs in the Budget. I think the Honourable Member should be satisfied in view of the assurance I have given.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: I put the two demands to the House for vote.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,96,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,93,71,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Industries and Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

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

DEMAND NO. 22—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Implementing of Labour Policy and Legislation

Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General): Sir, I move;

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

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."
Labour Policy of Government and the manner of observance of Industrial truce

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I move:

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

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."
Policy re. better Co-operation between Labour and Capital.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, I move:

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

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's motion does not find a place in the papers circulated. In the agreed list, I find there are only two motions, one by Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena and another by Mr. Shiva Rao. May I know where from the Honourable Member is reading his motion?

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Page 6, Sir, in the consolidated list (Incorporating Lists 1 and 2); item 53.

Mr. Chairman: In the consolidated list there are many other motions, but in the agreed list there are only two motions.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): He has moved his motion. Let him proceed.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

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

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): What will be the time-limit for each speaker, because there will be 55 minutes left and there are three cut motions and some of the members may want to speak?

Mr. Chairman: Ten minutes are allowed for each member, as the time is very short.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Sir, at the outset, I would like to express a sense of disappointment that for the discussion of so important a subject as the Government's policy in regard to industrial labour, the House cannot find even an hour during this Budget session.

My motion relates to two matters: the implementing of labour legislation already on the statute book and Government's programme for the future. Looking back over a period of 80 years, one can say that there have been considerable additions made to the statute book to improve the conditions of industrial labour. Sir, even during this session, we have had ample evidence of the solicitude of the present Labour Minister to advance the interests of labour; and if he will permit me to say so, I have watched the work of various members of the Government of India in charge of labour during these thirty years, and I think I can say that there has been no one who has shown that insight into the problems of labour, that sympathy for labour interests and that determination to advance the cause of labour, as the present holder of that office.

Our social code in so far as it relates to industrial labour as it is and as it is likely to be during the next few months when the House has disposed of the various measures that are before it, is certainly impressive on paper. But the real question is as to what is being done to implement these various measures that are placed on the statute-book. Let me take the most important one,—the Factories Act, which has now been referred to Select Committees. For many years it has been pointed out by Commissions which have gone into the

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matter that the administration of the Factories Act is gravely unsatisfactory. During the last few years the number of industrial establishments has increased phenomenally. I think it is true to say that at the present moment the majority of our large-scale industrial establishments are not inspected even once,—certainly not more than once in a year. I know from personal experience during the years I spent in the Trade Union movement that particularly in the smaller towns the Factory Inspector is often the guest of the Manager of the factory he is going to inspect; in such circumstances you can understand what kind of inspection it is going to be. Provincial Governments have put forward the difficulty of finding skilled personnel to man their factory inspectorates. I believe during the last 12 months the Government of India have made a certain beginning in this respect. But I should like the Labour Minister to consider the establishment of a central training institute to train factory inspectors of two categories,—an elaborate course for inspectors who are to be charged with the duty of looking after large-scale establishments with complicated machinery, and a simpler course for men of a lower grade to look after factories like *bidi* factories, glass and shellac factories, tanneries and the like.

I must draw the attention of the Labour Minister to another aspect of this problem of labour administration, and that is with particular reference to the scandalous misuse of child labour at the present moment. We have had on the statute-book two or three measures dealing with this subject. We had in the early thirties a measure to prohibit the pledging of child labour; and on the eve of the war we had the Employment of Children Act. I shall quote to the House a brief passage from a report by an officer appointed by Dr. Ambedkar only two or three years ago.

“In spite of legislation the employment of children between the ages of 6 and 12 in fairly large numbers is prevalent on an amazingly wide scale in open defiance of the law, and employers make no secret of it. Surprising though it may seem, child labour is found even in Government factories and the practice is widespread in Rajputana, Madras and Bihar.”

An Honourable Member: Which Government factories?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: The Government factory at Pachamba in Bihar. I would like to suggest to the Labour Minister in this connection that his department should prepare a bulletin or even a series of bulletins giving in simple non-technical language the contents of the various measures that are placed on the statute-book; and these bulletins should be made freely available to organisers of trade unions and to those who are in charge of registered trade unions, so that an educative propaganda may be undertaken. One of the greatest difficulties in implementing legislation of this kind is the ignorance of workers of their rights.

Now, Sir, my time being very short I must pass on to another very important problem, and that is the Resolution on industrial truce which was adopted last December by the Conference which was presided over by the Minister of Industry and Supply. Towards the end of his speech only a few minutes ago he said that provided labour does not make much trouble he hoped to see a substantial increase in production all round. That, Sir is going to be the crux of the whole problem.

Let me recall for the benefit of the House the main points of this Resolution on industrial truce which stressed the fact that increase in industrial production cannot be achieved without the fullest co-operation between labour and management and stable and friendly relations between them. Sir, what did this Resolution ask for, and what did it promise to industrial labour? In the first place it recommended “the establishment of machinery,—central, regional and functional,—for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions

of labour and fair remuneration for capital, and methods for the association of labour in all matters concerning industrial production through the formation of joint production committees."

I am sorry the Finance Minister is not here; otherwise I would have asked him whether in squandering away six and odd crores of rupees on businessmen he had made those preliminary inquiries for a study and determination of fair wages and a fair remuneration for capital.

In the second place this Resolution also recommended the constitution in each undertaking of works committees representing both management and labour for the settlement of day to day disputes. I hope the Honourable the Labour Minister when he gets up to reply will indicate what progress has been made in this direction.

Lastly, I come to the point to which I attach the greatest importance, and that is the programme of housing of industrial labour. This Resolution said:

"As a first step towards improving the standard of living of workers immediate attention should be devoted to the problem of housing of industrial labour."

The Labour Minister in commending this Resolution to that Conference expressed his determination to see that Government would give the utmost effect at the earliest opportunity to the various classes involved. I hope when he replies to this debate he will tell us what actual steps he has taken or proposes to take to carry out the terms of this last item. Sir, the housing problem has been with us ever since India started on the road to industrialisation. In 1917 the Industrial Commission said:

"Better housing is a most urgent necessity. No industry can be permanent which is built on such unsound foundations as those afforded by Indian labour in its present conditions."

The population of industrial centres has increased enormously during these 30 years. Take Cawnpore; its population in 1941 was under 5 lakhs; in 1944 it was over 8 lakhs, and I understand at the present moment it is nearly a million. A sub-committee of the Committee on Post-war Public Health after visiting various industrial centres came to the conclusion that the result of further development of industry in the post-war period will only be to aggravate the existing conditions of overcrowding.

Sir, there is not much good in the Labour Minister coming forward with sickness insurance schemes or the Health Minister inaugurating a campaign against tuberculosis so long as our industrial centres pour out into the life of the country a stream of deadly poison in the shape of tuberculosis, venereal disease, malaria and leprosy. And there is another reason why I ask the Honourable Minister to give immediate attention to this problem. Sir, when we started the trade union movement in 1919 there was no communist influence in this country. Thirty years ago Mr. Montagu's description of the Indian masses held good: he spoke of the docile, pathetic cantonment of the Indian masses. That description is completely out of date today; and unless the Government of India go ahead with a big all round housing programme I personally see nothing but disaster ahead, not only for industrial production but for much more.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: My cut motion is to discuss the general policy of the Government of India about labour with special reference to the industrial trade. Only half an hour back the Minister of Industry and Supply told us that he had thrown out 2,000 clerks in his department on the streets and 800 others also. I want to know whether the Government of India has any policy for these retrenched people. I think our Government should provide every able-bodied man with enough work to do. I find that even the Government of India employees who have served this Government for the last

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signs of 10 years, and put in the best in them and who were not now fit to go in for any other new job, even they have been thrown out without being provided with alternative employment. This is due to the absence of any labour policy.

Mr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Do they come into the category of labour?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Of course they are labourers. If Government wants to retrench them, they must give them alternative employment elsewhere. I think the Government has got thousands of people in their employ. If they want to get rid of them I think they will have to frame some scheme for alternative employment. In June 1946 the Railway Federation threatened a general strike. There were three lakhs of people to be retrenched and when the question came up for discussion before the Railway Board, the Board yielded. They knew the Federation could paralyse the whole country. Now all those three lakhs of people have been absorbed in the Railway Department. But these 8,000 people have no Federation behind them. That shows that you will listen only to those who will give you trouble.

I was therefore pained to see that when our Minister said that he had retrenched people, the House did not even think it necessary that there must be some method for doing something for them. If you cannot do that for your own employees how can you do anything for the nation.

My point is about industrial truce. The Honourable Minister of Labour feels for the labouring class. All his measures which he has put through the Assembly have been good measures. But our country needs to advance at a much more rapid pace and I hope that he shall be able to do it. But when he here enacts measures, is he aware that they are implemented as they ought to be? I will take the industrial truce. You said that the principles enunciated at that conference were accepted. The conference called upon labour and capital to agree to maintain an industrial peace, to avert lock-outs and strikes, etc., during the next three years. The conditions were that the profits shall not be excessive, that there shall be these protection committees, there shall be works committees in which duly elected representatives of labour will be taken and they shall be able to discuss daily affairs.

I want to tell you, Sir, from my own personal experience of industries, especially of the sugar industry. In that industry this year you have given them so much profit that probably no industry has ever got so much. Last year there was a profit, according to the schedule of Rs. 1/2. This year the price has increased by Rs. 15/- whereas the expenses were only Rs. 9/-. So they have an additional profit of Rs. 6/-. But you have not given labour any thing. You have given them a minimum of Rs. 45/- which comes to 1/8/- a maund; and then you want labour to be contented. But what happens? The most horrible thing is that that you are trying to create discontent amongst them. Here is an agreement with one union and it says that works committees will be formed with an equal number of representatives from labour and the management and this is a Federation which is sponsored by the Syndicate and it is said that only those unions in this Federation shall be represented there.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: May I know what paper my friend is referring to?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: The agreement between the sugar industry the Syndicate and the Sugar Federation. What I want is that your Government should call a conference of all Ministers. The works committees must be composed of men who are elected by labour and not have unions just because the syndicate recognises them. The most important point is this.

Unless labour feels that they have a right to organise themselves, there can never be any proper advancement of the labour cause.

What I want is that you must have a real labour policy. Just now the Minister said they are to have a Planning Commission. Six months have passed. Labour is impatient. Otherwise the whole budget is without any policy or plan behind it. Without labour, of course, you cannot have anything. So this Government should first of all have a general policy and in that labour will have its place. I am sure the Honourable the Minister of Labour is really sympathetic to the labour cause. He feels for it. He should be complimented for that. But this must be done in a manner that the whole of the country supports him. The statement issued by the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress on the 27th February 1948 says.

"It is unfair and misleading that labour organisations and their leaders should be criticized by the Government and employers for the alleged breach of the terms contained in the Industrial Truce resolution. The resolution clearly imposed certain conditions to be fulfilled before labour is expected to give effect to the operative part of the resolution. It is highly improper to put one-sided blame on labour."

"One of the necessary conditions to be fulfilled is the speedy nationalization of the basic industries, banks, etc., which would give a feeling to the workers that production is for the public good, and not primarily for private profits."

They also want that immediately there should be this nationalization of key industries. There must be some policy announced about it. I hope these things shall be done. Unless these things are done, the truce will not be in operation. I have said that instead of having this sort of resolution, you must give conditions to labour so that they will not be forced to go on strike. They must also feel that profits on industries are going to the nation-building works and not to the coffers of the magnates. At present, as I said, the profits do not usually go to national development. People should feel that the profits of industry go to the nation and the surplus towards the maintenance of the workers. If such a policy is evolved and executed the whole labour will fully co-operate with the Government and the Government will rise to its proper place in the comity of nations.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साह : मभापति जी, मैं यह संशोधन मूव (move) करता हूँ। इसका मतलब यह है कि लेबर (labour) और कैपिटल (capital) में झगड़ा रहता है इसको कैसे मिटाया जाय, अभी हम देखते हैं और सबको मालूम है कि जहाँ २ फैक्ट्रियाँ हैं वहाँ प्रोडक्शन (production) में कमी हो गई है और इसका क्या सबब है, उसका सबब यह है कि लेबर (labour) और कैपिटल (capital) में जो मनोवृत्ति है, उसको दूर करने के लिए हम लोगों को कोशिश करना चाहिये इसलिए मैं प्रस्ताव करना चाहता हूँ कि जो रीजनल लेबर कमीश्नर (Regional labour Commissioner) होते हैं वह जब दौरे में जाते हैं तो उनकी मदद देने के लिए बड़े और छोटे २ इन्स्पेक्टर (inspector) रहने चाहिये तो लेबर (labour) को इससे मदद भी मिल जायगी और इस तरह से उनकी हालत बदल सकती है, तो इस तरह जो मांग झगड़ा होगा वह दूर हो जायगा।

दूसरी बात यह है और जिसकी तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये वह यह है कि जहाँ फैक्ट्रियाँ हैं वहाँ लेबर (labour) और फैक्ट्रियाँ ओनरज (factory owners) में झगड़ा होता रहा है, लेबर लेजिसलेशन (Labour Legislation)

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को कायम करने और काम में लाने के लिए वे मदद नहीं देते इसलिए हम लोगों को इस तरह ज्यादा ध्यान देना होगा जिससे जो कुछ हम लोग बनाते हैं वह कैसे कायम हो सकता है, महात्मा गांधी जी भी वर्क्स (works) औरगनाइजर (organisers) की गय बने थे, मैं भोचता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट जो प्रस्ताव भी करेगी उसके साथ-साथ ऐसे अफसर उन जगहों पर रखेगी जहां झगड़े ज्यादा होते हैं तीसरी बात यह है कि गवर्नमेंट की जो नेशनलाइजेशन (nationalisation) के लिए पॉलिसी (policy) है इससे जो प्राइवेट (private) कैपिटलिस्ट (capitalists) हैं वह आहिस्ते-आहिस्ते खत्म हो जायेंगे, इसलिए मैं प्रस्ताव करना चाहता हूँ कि धीरे-धीरे लेबर (labour) लोग तन्हाह में से एक-एक शेयर (share) खरीद लेंगे और धीरे-धीरे ऐसे कैपिटलिस्ट (capitalists) जो हैं वह खत्म हो जायेंगे और वह फिर दूसरे का काम हिन्दुस्तान की मलाट के लिए शुरू करेंगे, मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ; मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो छोटी २ इंडस्ट्रीज (industries) और बड़ी २ इंडस्ट्रीज (industries) में झगड़े होते हैं वह भी खत्म हो जायेंगे, इससे हम लोग कोटेज (cottage) इंडस्ट्रीज (industries) का जो सबाल है उसको भी पूरा कर सकेंगे, आखिर मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमको ठीक तरह से कल्पना करनी चाहिये और ऐसा काम करना चाहिये जिससे देश में कैपिटल (capital) और लेबर (labour) में झगड़ा खत्म हो जाय ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, I move. This cut motion aims at finding out its solution to the labour versus capital disputes. We have seen, and every one knows it, that production in factories has decreased. What is its reason? It is the conflict between labour and capital. We should try to resolve these differences. I, therefore, like to recommend that senior and junior Inspectors should accompany the Regional Labour Commission as they go on tour. This will help labour and change its plight. This will end all disputes.

The second thing which requires greater attention is the labour versus capital disputes which impede the operation of framing and enforcing labour legislation. We must, therefore, think out how we can enforce the laws that we make. Mahatma Gandhi too had advised the appointment of 'works organisers'. I hope, whatever the measures Government may adopt it will also appoint officers to settle disputes at places where disputes are frequent.

The third thing is that the policy of Government regarding nationalisation will result in a gradual extinction of private capitalists. I therefore like to suggest that workmen should be enabled to buy one share each out of their salaries. By and by the capitalists of today will become a non-entity and in future they will devote their time to the service of India. I will content myself with saying that this will end conflicts between the small scale industry and the mill industry. This will also go a long way in solving the problems of cottage industries. In the end I would say that we should make up our minds to find out a solution of the labour versus capital disputes.

श्री० गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं चन्द बात बतलाना चाहता हूँ। यह सवाल इतना अहम है। जैसा कि हमारे माननीय शिवा राव साहब ने अभी कहा है कि इस काम के लिए समय रखा गया है वह कम है लेकिन रकम रक्खी गई है वह बहुत कम रक्खी गई है। हम देखते हैं कि मिनिस्टरी आफ लेबर के लिए २२ लाख रूपया रक्खा गया है और मिनिस्टरी आफ इंडस्ट्रीज के लिए २१ लाख रूपया रक्खा जाता है इसके सिवा इस महकमें के लिए ३ करोड़ की और रकम रक्खी जाती है, तब हमारे विचार में मजदूर लोग कब तक नंगे और भूखे रहेंगे। यह मालूम नहीं।

मजदूरों के लाभ के लिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनके लिए एक सेंट्रल इन्स्टीट्यूशन आफ लेबर (Central Institution of Labour) बनाना चाहिये। यह दिल्ली में न बनना चाहिये क्योंकि दिल्ली में बहुत सी चीजें बनी हैं और उसको ज्यादा रोशन करना ठीक नहीं है। लेकिन यह इन्स्टीट्यूशन (Institution) ऐसी जगह पर होना चाहिये जहां पर सचमुच मजदूर रहते हों और जहां उनका केन्द्र हो इस और ऐसे केन्द्र के मकान सेवाग्राम की औपडिण्डियों जैसे होने चाहिये। आलिशान मकानों में खर्च नहीं होना चाहिये। इससे हमको दो चीजों का फायदा होगा। एक तो मजदूरों की स्थिति का अभ्यास जो करते हैं और हमारे मजदूरों के जो नेता हैं वह वहां रहेंगे। वे लोग उनके साथ रहकर उनके झगड़ों को भी दूर करसकते हैं और उनके रहन सहन के बारे में भी बहुत ज्यादा अभ्यास और जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। इससे मजदूरों की जो कठिनाइयां हैं वह दूर हो जायंगी और मुल्क की आम जनता को जो उनके प्रश्नों से दिलचस्पी रखती है, उन को भी फायदा होगा। मेरा यह सुझाव है और लेबर मिनिस्टर माह्व इम पर सोच विचार करेंगे और एक ऐसा प्रस्ताव लायेंगे जिससे यह योजना बन जाय तो इससे हमारे मुल्क को काफी फायदा होगा।

दूसरी बात जो मुझे कहनी थी वह यह है कि इसमें लेबर मिनिस्टरी के लिए पैसा कम रक्खा गया है। बेचारे स्टैंडिंग कमेटी (Standing Committee) के जो मम्बर हैं उनको माहित्य चाहिये, लिटरेचर (literature) चाहिये, लिटरेचर (literature) चाहे कोई मेरे दोस्त पढ़ते हों और न पढ़ते हों लेकिन उनको लिटरेचर (literature) के लिये पूरी रकम देनी चाहिये। इसमें उमका कोई मीजान नहीं रक्खा गया है। लेबर मिनिस्टरी को अच्छी तरह से काम करने के लिये उनके पास पैसा भी होना चाहिये ताकि वह नई योजनाएँ बना कर अमल में ला सकें। तो मेरे इस प्रस्ताव का यह मकसद है जैसा मैंने ऊपर बतलाया है। दो, तीन बातें मैंने आपके सामने रक्खी हैं। मजदूरों का जो सवाल है वह एक अहम सवाल है। उसको पैसा भी ज्यादा मिलना चाहिये। और ऐसे प्रश्न की चर्चा करने के लिये और उस पर प्रकाश डालने के लिये हमें ज्यादा समय मिलता रहेगा। इतना कहते हुए मैं लेबर मिनिस्टर के सामने यह तजवीज रख रहा हूँ।

(English Translation of the above speech)

Shri Gokulbhai Daniastram Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana State Group): Sir, I want to say a few things. This question is so important that not only insufficient time has been allotted for its discussion, as has been said by Shri Saiva Rao, but the amount provided for it in the Budget is also not enough. We see that rupees twenty two lakhs have been provided for the Ministry of Labour and rupees twenty one lakhs for the Ministry of Industries. In addition to that another sum of rupees three crores has been allotted to the latter Ministry. We cannot say how long then poor labour class will have to go without food and clothing.

In the interest of labour I want to say that a Central Institution of Labour should be established. It should not be located at Delhi because this city is already overcrowded with so many other things and it is not advisable to have any more things here. This institution should be built at such a place where the labourers actually live, and which should be the centre of their activity. The buildings and houses of this centre should be constructed on the model of Sevagram huts. Money should not be wasted on making palatial buildings. In this way we will be killing two birds with one stone. Firstly we will be studying the conditions of labour and secondly the labour leaders will be residing there. Living with them, these leaders will be able to settle their disputes, make an intimate study and acquire a good knowledge about the conditions of labour. That will help in removing the difficulties of the labour, and the people of this country, who are interested in the labour problems, will also be benefited. This is my proposal which I commend to the Honourable Minister for Labour and I hope he will bring before the House a resolution which might provide for this institution. Our country will gain much by it.

The second thing which I have to say is that sufficient funds have not been allotted to the Ministry for Labour. The poor members of the Standing Committee need literature. Some of my friends may read this literature others may not, but funds must nevertheless be provided for this literature. No provision has been made for this. To enable the Ministry of Labour to work properly it should be given money so that it may carry out new schemes. This is the object of my proposal.

I have placed before you two or three things. I want to say that the Labour problem is quite important. More money should be allotted for this purpose, and more time should be given us to discuss this question. With these words I make this proposal to the Honourable the Minister for Labour.

The Honourable Shri Jagtivan Ram: Sir, I am thankful to the Honourable Members for making constructive suggestions for improving my Ministry. I am also thankful to them for this reason that these cut motions are not meant for any reduction in the demand but, as has been made clear by the previous speaker, they feel that the demand under this head should rather have been increased. I do feel, Sir, that the House might have been given some more time for discussion under this demand, but we cannot help it at this stage.

At the very outset I want to make it clear that we are functioning here not without any labour policy. We do have a definite labour policy and every action that we in the Ministry of Labour take is guided by that policy. My Honourable friend Mr. Shriban Lal Raksena said that because the industrial policy or the economic policy of the Government is not clear the labour policy is also not clear. I do not agree with that view. Whether we finally decide upon nationalisation or not, whether we decide upon a purely nationalised economy or a mixed economy, there will not be very much change in the labour

policy in the near future. So we have a definite policy, and if my friend Mr. Dabekar will care to follow the trend of the labour legislation and the administrative actions that the Labour Department has been pursuing he will find for himself that there is a definite policy.

I do agree with my friend Mr. Shiva Rao that the inspection under the Factories Act has not been very efficient. The reason is quite obvious. As Honourable Members in this House are aware, the Factories Act or the factories had a place in the list of subjects assigned to Provincial Governments. It is not a direct responsibility of the Central Government and our handicap lies there. In spite of that we have maintained here a Chief Adviser of Factories and his staff who not only advise the Provincial Governments but also take up the training of the factory inspectors of the Provincial Governments. We are running, so to say, a regular course of training for training the factory inspectors of the Provincial Governments. But I admit, Sir, that the cadre of the inspectors which the Provincial Governments maintain is not sufficient for enforcing the Factories Act, not in remote and far off small towns but also in the big centres of industries. We have always been insisting upon Provincial Governments to increase the strength of their factory inspectors. But, as Mr. Shiva Rao is already aware, the bottle-neck lies in the fact that we are so short of the requisite personnel. In spite of the fact that we create posts and advertise for them we do not find suitable persons, i.e. trained persons, to take up these posts. That is why we have started a short course or a refresher course for training the factory inspectors. It is under my active consideration whether we can establish a Central institution for the training not only of factory inspectors but for the training of factory inspectors, welfare workers and other categories of officers and staff that may be required for the inspection of factories and for welfare activities.

As regards child labour the same difficulty arises. There are certain subjects for which we have in this Parliament can legislate but the administration and enforcement of those Acts is a responsibility of the Provincial Governments. Though child labour is still to be found in spite of the Act, it is on the decrease. Recently we have enforced the Employment of Children Act in the mica mines and mica factories where child labour was much prevalent, and we have already requested the Provincial Government of Bihar to take necessary measures in this direction. We are thinking of starting some welfare activities in the mica mines and we will have welfare officers and inspectors for the welfare work. I am examining the question whether I can empower my welfare officers and inspectors under the Employment of Children Act and give them power to see that no child labour is employed in those factories. So it cannot be said that we simply pass pieces of legislation here and do not enforce them. We make every honest endeavour to enforce them with the material that we have got at our disposal at the present time. I must, however, frankly admit that these are not so strictly and so thoroughly enforced as they ought to have been. But there are limitations. The first limitation is about personnel, that is finding the qualified staff for the purpose. The second difficulty is about the financial resources of the Provincial Governments. That consideration has also to be taken into account.

Another suggestion has been thrown that periodical bulletins may be issued, giving in brief the gist of the various measures or pieces of legislation that are passed here. That proposal is also under my consideration and I want to give effect to it in the near future.

Srinath G. Durga Bai (Madras: General): How do Government propose to engage the children, which they have?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: That question does not arise because child labour is prohibited. The question of alternative employment does not

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arise. As regards the mica mines, in mica fields we have got our Welfare Fund and from the Welfare Fund we may start some institutions for training the children either in general education or in some art and craft. But for other places I am afraid the responsibility as regards education is a provincial subject and I cannot give any undertaking here on that point.

MR. SHIBBAN LAL SAKSENA has raised the question of alternative employment for the staff which is likely to be retrenched by the Central Government. It becomes very difficult for any spokesman of the Government to reconcile the two views of this House—the view of retrenchment and economy on the one hand and finding employment for every able-bodied person in this country on the other. (*An Honourable Member*: “In government service’.) Yes, in government service. I do realize that it is primarily the responsibility of this Government—or as a matter of fact for any government—to find suitable opportunities of employment for every able-bodied person in the country. That is a principle which cannot be disputed and we do not say that we do not stand by that principle. But it will take some time of the House if I were to explain how in spite of our best efforts and determination to find employment for every person in this country we are not in a position at present to fulfil that obligation. It is a matter of common knowledge that during the war very large numbers of people were engaged in government services and in other industries as well and with the restoration of normal conditions very large numbers of people have got to be retrenched. Howsoever unpleasant and painful the situation might appear to be, the Government cannot afford to continue all those people in employment. They will have to retrench them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: We have schemes like the Damodar Valley and other schemes where they can be employed.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have explained just now, howsoever we wish that we could find employment for every person, we are not today in a position to fulfil that obligation and it will become very difficult when people insist that those who are retrenched from government service should be given alternative employment in the government department itself. That is another difficulty. We cannot do that. He has given the example of the railways. It was not due to the pressure of the railway employees that government agreed to continue their services but because there were other considerations as well. The considerations were that in the railway services there are many persons whose hours of work are not regulated and it is just possible that if we were to insist on statutory working hours being observed as in the case of all other workers, a very large number of additional staff will be required in the railways. That was the main consideration which actuated the Railway Board to continue the services of those employees till the final examination of all those questions. So I do not agree with that view. Rather I repudiate that it was under pressure from railway employees that we agreed to continue them in service.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: On the eve of 27th June.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: My friend is not making any new point. I am afraid.

My friend raised the question of works committees. If he will carefully go through the Industrial Disputes Act and the industrial fence resolution which was adopted in December he will find that works committees are to be formed with duly elected representatives of the workers. The question of unions does not arise at all. I want to make it clear here, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command that in the formation of works committees I am not going to recognize any unions. The workers will have full liberty to choose their own representatives. I want to develop workers unions on very healthy lines so that outsiders may not go on spoon-feeding workers for all time to come. I

want workers to be represented on the works committees so that they can realise their duties and responsibilities, and so that they may be in a position to negotiate with their employers and settle their differences without the interference of labour leaders whose considerations in settling and negotiating these matters are not purely trade unionism but some other considerations as well. This sometimes leads to untoward and unpleasant situation which today is impeding production to such a great extent. So I think that complaint of his is unjustified and unjustifiable.

Mr. Saha has raised the question of our conciliation machinery. I may inform the House, Sir, that there exists a conciliation machinery in the Ministry of Labour headed by the Chief Commissioner of Labour. We are strengthening that machinery. So long there were posts of only three Regional Commissioners. We have raised that to five, and I am soon going to increase the number to seven. One Regional Labour Commissioner will be posted each at Calcutta, Dhanbad, Cawnpore, Madras, Bombay and C.P. I am going to increase the number of railway inspectors, as he has suggested, from 20 to 36. We have also increased the number of conciliation officers who come in between the Regional Labour Commissioner and the inspectors. Since the passing of the industrial truce resolution, Sir, I have taken up this question with the provincial governments and the organizations of the workers as to how best to implement the industrial truce resolution. I propose to set up a number of Regional and Central Committees. These committees will study the questions which have been raised by my friend Professor Saksena namely what profits should be given to industry, what wages should be given to labour, and how the surplus of profits should be distributed between labour and capital or between labour, capital and government. That will be the function of these various committees to study and suggest a formula to us which can be given effect to by legislation or executive action as may be deemed necessary. So we are very anxious to implement the industrial truce resolution. I may inform the House, Sir, that I have already finalized the proposal to set up five permanent Adjudicators or Tribunals at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Dhanbad and Cawnpore, and one of them has already been appointed at Dhanbad and has started its work. So, as far as government is concerned, we are very anxious to implement the industrial truce resolution. I hope the same response would be made to that resolution by capital and labour; but I may take this opportunity, Sir, to say that so far as labour is concerned, a section of the labour leaders—I will not say labour—a section of the labour leaders have not behaved properly or in the same spirit in which they accepted the industrial truce resolution because they are not working in the labour field with the sole view to advance the cause of the workers but with a view to advancing their own political motives and party politics. I want to make it clear at this stage, Sir, that in the present conditions when the country is faced with a shortage of every type of consumers' goods, government cannot afford to tolerate the interference in production by any group or party or leaders, and if we will have to take severe actions, we will not falter in that.

The question of housing is really a very important question. My friend Mr. Shiva Rao has quoted and made it clear that no amount of health insurance or health measures will improve the conditions of the workers unless concentrated attention is given to solving their housing problem. Sir, the time at my disposal is very short. I would have liked to deal with this important problem in some detail, but I may inform the Honourable Members in this House that we are determined to solve this problem.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Why not we go on for some more time?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Mr. Chairman: Certainly, you can go on for some time more.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: All right, Sir, thank you. I do rea-

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use that this is a very important problem, and unless we solve this problem, the question of increased production cannot be very much affected. But while considering the question of housing, we will have to take into consideration so many various factors which contribute towards the solution of this problem.

The first question is of the shortage of building materials like cement, iron and steel and coal. Some of the materials are in short supply, for others transport is the greatest bottleneck. Wherever we have to launch any building programme, the first thing that we require is coal for

burning bricks. Though I am glad to inform this to the House, the labour force in the coal fields has been stabilised to a very great extent and today we are not faced with that scarcity of labour in the coal fields as we were in the past years and though we are producing coal the one bottleneck is the transport; the coal that is being produced in the coal fields is not transported in time with the result that the space for stocking and stacking is overflooded and production has to suffer.

The other question is about cement and iron and steel. The members in this House are already aware that we are in short supply in iron and steel and cement as well. I am not putting forward all these difficulties, Sir, with a view to say in the end that faced with all these difficulties, faced with all the shortage of building materials, we are not in a position to launch upon any big housing programme,— that is not my view; rather I have pleasure to announce that we recognise that it is the primary responsibility of the State to house the workers and I accept that responsibility. I may inform the House that I am soon going to constitute a Housing Board which will examine in detail the possibility of overcoming the difficulties of shortage in building materials and launch upon a big programme of industrial housing. I may take this opportunity to inform the House that we have fixed a target of ten lakhs of houses to be built during the course of the next ten years for the working classes in this country. It is possible that in the initial years the progress may not be very satisfactory due to want of building materials. All these questions will be examined by the Housing Board and this Housing Board will fix the quota of houses that may be urgently required in Provinces and industrial centres in consultation with the Provincial Governments and Provincial Housing Boards.

The one handicap that may face us in giving effect in its entirety to this programme will not be any want of funds on the part of the Central Government, but want of building materials which we want to overcome by the substitution of alternative building materials such as timber in place of iron and steel, mud-plaster and other things in place of cement. That will be a question for the Housing Board to examine in detail, which will be very soon constituted and will be associated with two or three expert engineers to investigate all these things.

So as regards housing I may announce that Government is very anxious to do away with the shortage of housing accommodation for the workers and with that end in view we have a programme of housing to build at least ten lakhs of houses in the course of the next ten years.

As regards the last point that has been made by my Honourable friend Mr. (Jokulbhai) Bhatt about the Central Institute of Labour, I could not quite follow what he meant by the Central Institute of Labour and for what purpose he wanted this institute to be set up. If his intention was that workers or welfare workers should be trained in those Institutes, I may inform the House that we are taking advantage of the existence of the Tata School of Social Sciences and a short course in the Calcutta University on Social Science and Social Services, and we are training some of our workers in these two

institutes for doing welfare work among the labourers, in the various employment Departments of the Central Government as well as by private employers.

Sarman G. Durga Bai: May I ask the Honourable Minister one question? May I ask if Government thinks it desirable to bring into existence a Central Institute like the one suggested by Mr. Bhatt, it will be possible to train also many women labour welfare officers? We do not at present have many of them. Some time ago there was an advertisement calling for applications from women candidates, but when they actually applied they were told that since they did not know Hindi language they could not be taken. But if it is a Central Institute all women from all Provinces will take advantage of getting this training which is very necessary in view of the large number of women labour employed and in view also of the necessity of having such women welfare officers.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I was examining that point, whether that Central Institute of Labour is solely with a view to train welfare workers. As I was informing the House, there are already existing two institutions for this purpose and the Central Government is taking advantage of those institutions for training some of their workers. If the demand of welfare workers increases to an appreciable extent, certainly we will examine the possibility of having a Central institution of our own where we can train lady workers as well—we attach greater importance to that. But so far the demand is not so great either in the Government concerns or from private employers. In the Factories (Amendment) Bill which is already before this House a provision has been made that employers or industrial concerns employing 500 workers or something like that—I do not exactly remember—will have to engage one welfare officer at least in their concern. After that, I think, the number of welfare workers that may be required in the country will be greater and I will certainly examine this question whether we can start a Central Institute of Labour ourselves.

Sir, I have not many things to say. The House and the speakers have paid compliments to me for which I feel thankful to them. With their co-operation we may do something for the workers. It is not a question of doing something for the workers, as I have remarked on previous occasions; it is not alone capital, it is not alone the improved variety of machinery, that is going to help production; unless we pay due attention to the human material that is required, it is not possible to increase production. The human material is the labour. Let capital realise that, let Government realise that, let everybody realise that, that they owe something to the human material that adds to the prosperity of the country. Let labour, on the other hand, also realise that they have not only their rights, they have not only their privileges, but they have their duties and responsibilities not only to the employer and to the capitalists, but to the country and the community at large. So long as this Government is here,—the Government which is pledged to a party which stands for ameliorating, not only ameliorating the condition of the common man but of raising his standard of life, I may assure the House that every action which this Government takes will be in pursuit of that object.

I hope, Sir, the members will be good enough to withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. Chairman: May I know the intentions of the Honourable Members who have moved the cut motions? Do they wish me to put the cut motions to the House?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Lakshminarayana Sabu: I also leave to withdraw, Sir.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I beg also, Sir, with the permission of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Members Messrs. B. Shiva Rao, Lakshminarayan Bahu and Shibban Lal Saksena wish to have leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions. Does the House give them the leave?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: Then I put the Demand. The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,19,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 8th March, 1948.