

Wednesday,
10th March, 1948

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE DEBATES)

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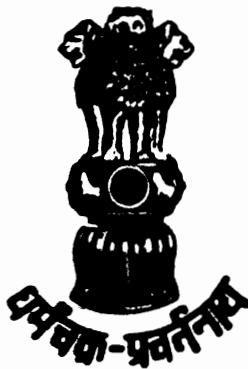
(5th March to 18th March, 1948)

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SECOND SESSION

of the

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1948



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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 10th 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 2C:

Sardar Hukam Singh (East Punjab: Sikh)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

656. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Research Committees connected with agriculture and improvement of cultivation appointed by the Government of India;

(b) whether Government have considered their proposals and if so, with what results; and

(c) how many of these committees are permanent and how many were appointed for specific purposes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (c). Seven permanent Commodity Committees have been set up by Government to deal with research problems relating to cotton, lac, sugarcane, coconut, jute, tobacco and oilseeds. A temporary Kans Control Committee has also been formed to undertake investigations and to recommend the most effective methods of controlling Kans (kind of weeds) with special reference to the immediate possibility of increasing food production. It will be wound up by the end of this year.

(b) An arecanut Committee is also due to start functioning soon. These Committees have not to submit reports to the Government for action but undertake research and development with their own funds raised through cesses or grants from the Government. Their activities are described in their annual reports.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to set up a Committee to go into the question of co-operative or collective farming?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Does this arise from my reply to the question?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Well, I do not know. He must know. It is here stated in part (a) of the question.....“connected with agriculture and improvement of cultivation”, and collective farming is

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No further arguments.

Seth Govinddas: In view of the fact that in different provinces there are different sorts of lands, will Government consider it feasible to appoint Provincial Committees, so that they may go into the question of research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Does the Honourable Member suggest that the Government of India should ask the Provincial Governments to appoint committees on these matters? Government will consider that question.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the Government of India or the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research were doing any research in regard to potato and sweet potato cultivation, and whether they are continuing such research or have they given it up?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This question relates to committees appointed by the Government of India, but this supplementary question relates to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. I will give full replies if a fresh question is put.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My information is that the responsibility has been transferred to the Government of India. What is the position? The question of research of potato and sweet potato cultivation has according to my information been transferred or is sought to be transferred to the Government of India.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that these Committees meet for once or twice in a year and that only for one day at a time, with the result that they are not able to do much work and they have been presided over by the Vice President of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who is himself pressed for time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri B. B. Diwakar: Are there any arrangements for conveying to the agriculturist the results of these researches?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I myself feel that the arrangements for conveying the results of research to the agriculturists are not satisfactory and I hold that special efforts ought to be made. I propose to go into that question as soon as I have more leisure.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of taking advantage of the services of popular organisations of the peasants themselves like the Kisan Congress in order to convey the results of the research to the agriculturists?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That suggestion will be considered.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether when the Aracanot Committee starts functioning and whether the growers of aracanot will be associated with that Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say at present.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What are the results of these researches for the past two years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice of that question.

INSTITUTION FOR THE TRAINING OF PILOTS, GROUND ENGINEERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.

657. **Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there is any School or College for training Air Pilots and Ground Engineers and Officers for Administrative posts?

(b) If so, where is it located and how many students have passed these courses during the year 1947?

(c) Are any scholarships given for this class of training?

(d) Have Government any plan for the expansion of this college and for opening new colleges at other centres in India? If so, in what places?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). A scheme for the training of commercial pilots, ground engineers and flying control officers, is expected to be put into operation during the next cold weather, possibly even earlier.

(c) The question of the grant of scholarships is included as part of the scheme.

(d) The present plans of Government contemplate the opening of the Flying Training and Aerodrome Schools at Allahabad and the Aircraft Engineering School at Barrackpore. Government have no plans at this stage for opening training schools at other centres.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: When is it likely to start this school?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I hope in July next.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if Government still propose to use Flying Clubs for this purpose?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes: The training shall be limited to the Flying Clubs.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if his attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the *Statesman* 2 or 3 days back about the parlous condition of the Bengal Flying Club and whether Government propose to do anything in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: My attention has been drawn to it and I have asked for information.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Is it a fact that Civilian pilots will have to spend Rs. 30,000 to get themselves trained as a pilot?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That may be so.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know if Government will make arrangements to make it more easy for the training of the civilian pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think we are trying to do that.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: May I ask the Honourable Minister if any students had been sent abroad for training as pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: So far as I am aware, no scholarships have been awarded by Government for this purpose, but private companies may have done so.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether women are eligible for pilot training, and if so, are any women being taken for that training?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I have said, the school has not yet been started and the suggestion will be considered.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what particular steps have Government taken to make it possible and to make it easier for people to get training as civil pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Government is opening a school and giving some financial aid to the pilots, who will be trained.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: May I know what will be the cost to a student for purposes of getting licence under the new scheme? Could we have any idea?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not in a position to give the information to the Honourable Member, but if he puts a fresh question, I will be able to give a definite reply.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether Government have an estimate of the number of pilots that will be required for the country during the next 5 years?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No, but the Government is thinking of having as many as possible; in the first year 75 students will be admitted and the number would be doubled later on.

CONTINUANCE OF COMMUNAL DISTINCTION IN SUPPLYING WATER, REFRESHMENTS
ETC. AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

658. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that even after 15th August, 1947, at many Railway stations cries of "Hindu Pani" and "Muslim Pani" are heard?

(b) Have Government issued orders to all concerned that such expressions should not be used while supplying water to passengers?

(c) If so, when?

(d) Are there any sign-boards bearing the words "Hindu Refreshment Room" and "Mohammedan Refreshment Room" in any of the Railway stations in India?

(e) If so, do Government intend to continue these communal refreshment rooms?

(f) Was a suggestion made to the Railway authorities to replace these names by describing them as "Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Refreshment Rooms", by the Federation of Passengers' Associations of India?

(g) If so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) In October, 1946.

(d) Yes.

(e), (f) and (g). Government are aware suggestions have been made that in future there should be only "Vegetarian" and "Non-vegetarian" Refreshment Rooms. This suggestion is to come up for discussion at an early meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister in reply to part (a) has said 'No'. May I know whether his attention has been drawn to this *Hindu pani* and *Muslim pani* being bawled out from Abu Road on the B., B. and C. I. right to Ahmedabad?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has the Honourable Minister himself ascertained? What is his information?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware that there is no civilised nation in the world to whom food and water are supplied on grounds of religion?

Mr. Speaker: That is only giving information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware that at several stations there are stalls bearing the signboards "Orthodox Water" and "General Water"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I am aware of that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government take steps to discontinue this practice?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir, I am putting it before the Central Advisory Council.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Have any instructions been issued to prohibit the serving of beef and pork in railway refreshment rooms?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which has been considered by the Central Advisory Council, and I think there is a strong opinion in that Council that it should be stopped. But we have taken no final decision yet and this matter will also come up in the next meeting of the Advisory Council.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is the Honourable Minister aware that vegetarian food is not supplied in dining cars, and will he take steps to arrange it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, we are going to see that it is supplied.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the proposal of the Honourable Minister before the Central Advisory Council as regards the replacement of the words "Orthodox Water"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We had a preliminary discussion at a meeting some time ago of the Central Advisory Council, and the suggestion was made that instead of the labels "Orthodox" and "General" being affixed to *Chattis* and trolleys and so on, the best way of doing it would be to get the watermen in charge of these things dressed in such a way that one can distinguish whom they represent without any labels. That I think was the suggestion; but, as I said, the whole matter is coming up for consideration again.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it intended to make a distinction regarding this water by any name?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member himself is one of the most active members of the Central Advisory Council and in the course of a week or so we are going to meet and he will have plenty of opportunity to discuss this.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is it a fact that both types of water are composed of hydrogen and oxygen?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are supposed to be.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the words "Orthodox", "Non-orthodox" and "Muslim Orthodox" are used in the Council Chamber restaurant?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of it.

CONTRACTS FOR PURCHASE OF GRAINS FOR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

659. **Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the names of the firms which held contracts for the purchase of grain for military requirements during the last seven years?

(b) Is it a fact some firms established in Pakistan still make purchases for military requirements?

(c) Are tenders invited every year for this contract?

(d) When was the last tender invited and was the lowest tenderer given the contract?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Messrs. Owen Roberts and Co., Ltd., Lahore worked as purchasing agents for foodgrains for the Defence Services for 22 years. They were first appointed agents in 1926 as a result of open tenders. They were re-appointed in 1934 when tenders were called for. In 1937 the agreement with them was converted into one for indefinite period subject to 9 months' notice on either side. Notice of termination of agreement was given to the company on 1st April, 1947 and the agreement terminated on 31st December, 1947.

(b) As stated above Messrs. Owen Roberts Ltd., continued to be the purchasing agents up to 31st December, 1947 under the above agreement. After 15th August, 1947 no purchases were, however, made by them in Pakistan but their activities in the U. P. and Eastern Punjab (including States) continued up to 31st December, 1947 to feed the Grain Depot at Lucknow.

(c) No.

(d) The last tenders were invited in December 1947 for appointment of a Purchasing Agent for one year with effect from 1st January, 1948. After examination of the quotations received it was decided to discontinue purchasing of Foodgrains for the Defence Service through Agents and to make purchases by inviting tenders from the trade every fortnight.

Shri K. Santhanam: Has this firm tendered afterwards for any of these fortnightly purchases of grain?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think so; I am not aware of it. I am prepared to give definite information if a fresh question is put.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Are open tenders invited?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: And are the lowest accepted?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

REPRESENTATIONS BY STUDENTS OF CENTRAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
DELHI

660. ***Shri R. R. Diwakar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two representations signed by a majority of students of the Central College of Agriculture, Delhi, have been submitted to Government, one in November, 1947 and another in February, 1948?

(b) In view of repeated representations by students, do Government propose to institute an unofficial inquiry into their grievances?

(c) What are the reasons for running an ordinary Agricultural College which is not engaged in any research work or special studies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have decided to make full inquiries into the complaints made.

(c) The various post-war development plans of the Centre and of the Provinces and States involve a large demand for Agricultural graduates. The requirements of the Centre alone would come to about 500 graduates. The facilities for training in the existing colleges in the larger Provinces were being expanded, but these increases barely met their own requirements. The smaller Provinces, the Centrally administered areas and the Indian States were experiencing difficulty in arranging for the proper training of Agricultural graduates to meet their own needs. The Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research recommended in 1944 that suitable steps should be taken to meet the situation. Enquiries from areas which have no colleges at present revealed that their requirements came to over 200 students a year. It was, therefore, decided to set up an Agricultural College at Delhi, the expenditure being borne by the Central Government. The College is not meant for research work.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: It may be that in other subjects also no arrangements are made in the colleges in the Centrally administered areas. So do the Central Government intend starting these colleges also?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I can only answer for my own department of Agriculture.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: With reference to part (a) of the question, will it be an official or unofficial inquiry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will be an official inquiry; Government will themselves make inquiries.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: What is the number of students from the centrally administered areas who are studying now in this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think the number is 28.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: How many of them are from the States?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say without notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it proposed to conduct a farmer's training course of six months in this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When is it going to be started?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say straight off and give the definite time.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the subject matter of these representations?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There were complaints about the food supplied, treatment and a number of other matters.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Are there complaints about studies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There are complaints about laboratory arrangements.

AEROGEN GAS PLANT FOR CENTRAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, DELHI.

661 *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no Acrogen Gas Plant has yet been set up in the Central College of Agriculture, Delhi and no gas lamps for experiments are available?

(b) Is it a fact that there is an Acrogen Gas Plant in the premises of the College which is claimed to have been supplied by two different Firms, one from Lahore and another from Delhi?

(c) To whom was payment in respect of the plant made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Neither of the two firms has been paid the cost so far as the dispute between the two firms as to whom the Plant belonged has not yet been settled.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: How is it going to be settled?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: By further enquiries.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: My information is

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member should not put questions regarding individual disputes. That may take its course.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is an important matter of administration.

Mr. Speaker: Then it will be details of administration into which he need not enter.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Has the Government come to a decision as to the location of the Central Agricultural College?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. The site has not yet been finally selected.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: At what stage is the question now?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There are difficulties regarding the securing of a suitable site. We intended to secure an area near about Delhi. But that is going to be given for the refugee development scheme. We are trying to secure some other place.

Seth Govinddas: Will it be near Delhi or so?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present the idea is to have it not far from Delhi.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It may be a joint college between Delhi and East Punjab and may be located in Hissar district, in East Punjab?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action. Besides the Honourable Member also is not in his seat!

SHORTAGE OF FOOD STOCKS IN MADRAS PROVINCE.

†662. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state with reference to the food situation in the Province of Madras:

(a) the expected shortage in the stocks essential for feeding the people;
(b) the stocks that are to be made actually available to the consumers apart from paper allocations;

(c) the provisions for meeting the discrepancy between parts (a) and (b) above;

(d) the expected duration of the shortage; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the shortage in Malabar District is very great and whether any special measures are being taken to rush food stuffs to Malabar in view of the density of population in that district?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) In pursuance of the Revised Food Policy of gradual decontrol and de-rationing, the Madras Government has already de-rationed many areas in the Province. According to their estimates, the rationed population, who will be dependent on Government supplies during the period 1st January to 31st October 1948 will in terms of adults, be about 60,00,000. For meeting the requirements of the rationed population during this period on an 8 ounce basis, they will require 400,000 tons of food-grains. Against the requirements of 400,000 tons, they had on hand, on 1st January, 1948 100,000 tons. Besides according to their estimates, they should be able to procure from the surplus districts, leaving the requirements of the surplus districts themselves, about 600,000 tons. That means, against the requirements of 400,000 tons their own resources are 700,000 tons. There is, thus, no shortage in the quantity that will be required for feeding the rationed population. On the other hand, a surplus stock of 300,000 tons, on the assumption that the procurement target will be reached, will be available with the Provincial Government for meeting the shortages in respect of the un-rationed population.

As regards the rest of the population of the province, who are un-rationed, the requirements can only be calculated on a theoretical Statistical basis. The Madras Government have assumed requirement of 1.19 pound per adult per diem.

Taking the Province as a whole, on the above basis, the estimated shortage from 1st January till 31st October, 1948, i.e., till the beginning of the next Kharif year, amounts to about 2 million tons. This deficit, it must be emphasised is only a theoretical deficit based on certain assumed per capita requirements. What the real requirements will be will become known as time progresses; Government are keeping a careful watch on the situation and are mobilising all resources for help to Madras according as the situation develops.

(b) The Government of India have promised to the Madras Government 4 lakh tons of foodgrains during 1948, which, it is expected to be made available to the Provincial Government during the period January to October, 1948.

(c) The Madras position is under constant watch and everything possible will be done in co-operation with other Provinces and States to help them to tide over the situation.

(d) May to September may be regarded as the most critical period.

(e) Yes, but internal distribution is a matter for the Madras Government to handle. As desired by the Madras Government, the Government of India have already sent to Malabar 8,000 tons of rice and a further consignment of rice is already being ear-marked for Malabar from the Ceiling Import quota for the Province allotted by the Centre.

ANOMALIES IN THE PAY OF RAILWAY STAFF DUE TO (REVISION OF PAY) RULES 1947

663 *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state, whether it is a fact that due to certain anomalies in the Railway (revision of Pay) Rules 1947, certain senior men will get less pay than their junior men? If so, are there any proposals to set the same right?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has prescribed a scale of pay for upper grade clerks of the Railway Accounts Departments, which is lower than the one recommended by the Central Pay Commission *viz.*, a scale of Rs. 80-5-120-8-160, whereas the scale recommended was Rs. 80-5-120-8-200-10-220?

(c) Is it a fact that in accordance with the above rules, the pay of a post-1931 entrant working in the upper grade of clerks in Railway Accounts Departments has been fixed at a lower scale than that of a pre-1931 entrant with an equal number of years of service in that grade?

(d) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of revising these Pay Rules?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, in certain cases. Seniority in such cases will remain unaffected and all anomalies cannot be completely eradicated under any set of rules. Government, however, are continually examining every anomaly which is brought to their notice with a view to remedy the same, if possible.

(b) The scale of Rs. 80—220 was recommended by the Central Pay Commission for categories for whom the minimum qualification required is the possession of a University Degree. The Pay Commission were apparently thinking of offices like the Secretariat where the staff are divided into two broad Categories on the basis of educational qualifications for initial recruitment and where posts in the higher class are filled mostly by direct recruitment. On Railways this is not the case. On Railways initial recruitment has been mostly in the lowest categories and only a small proportion of posts in the next higher categories have been filled by direct recruitment of those having the minimum qualification of a Degree. In order to suit the needs of Railways, therefore, the scale suggested by the Pay Commission has been split up into two *viz.* 80—160 and 160—220, one for the majority of upper grade clerks and the other for those supervising the work of clerks and therefore shouldering higher responsibilities. The former scale has been adopted for Class I clerks in the Accounts Department.

(c) Yes, in certain cases.

(d) No. Under the rules as originally framed, the pre-1931 entrant could not have drawn more pay than that which a post 1931 entrant with corresponding length of service could draw in the prescribed scale. The position complained of has arisen in some cases by the recent concession to pre-1931 entrants by allowing their initial pay in the prescribed scale to be fixed at the stage next above the present pay *plus* interim relief, wherever drawn, and to draw further increments in the normal way. The concession was intended to save the pre-1931 entrants from loss of present emoluments if they should elect the prescribed scales and cannot therefore, be withdrawn.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has the Government considered the desirability of considering the demand for point to point increments in these scales?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member is thinking of a point to point arrangement, I may tell him that that matter has been fully considered and we cannot consider it again.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: By what time will the final decision be taken against these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Pay Commission drew up various scales of pay to cover a great variety of departments and kinds of work; and since the railways have been under company direction for a long time, there is an enormous amount of anomalies on railway services, and it is not possible for me to tell the precise time within which all these anomalies will be removed, but we are doing the best we can.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister give some time to members of the Assembly to meet him and discuss the details about this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am always accessible to Honourable Members of this House.

HIGHER CHARGES AND NON-PAYMENT OF RENTS BY STALL KEEPERS ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS

664. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no rent is charged from the contractors running the stalls on the railway platforms?

(b) Are Government aware that the commodities sold on the railway platforms are generally dearer than the commodities of the same quality sold in the local markets of the same stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. Most Railways charge rent for stalls; others levy licence fees which take rent into account.

(b) No. The prices of commodities sold on platforms are fixed in relation to prevailing market rates.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the licence fee and what is the minimum rent charged?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It varies from railway to railway. I could give the Honourable Member detailed information if he wants it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the selection of these contractors made on a communal basis?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do all the communities get a fair share, including the Sikhs and Parsees?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: How many of these contractors belong to the Scheduled Castes? I want this information.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may want it but I do not wish to encourage questions on a communal basis.

GURMUKHI SCRIPT ON TICKETS OF EAST PUNJAB RAILWAY

665. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that printing of the destination and fare in Gurmukhi language on tickets issued to stations on the East Punjab Railway has now been discontinued?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The reference is probably to tickets issued to passengers from stations on the Eastern Punjab Railway. The printing of destination in Gurmukhi has had recently to be given up as a temporary measure, due to the normal supply of tickets from the North Western Railway Press having broken down and tickets having had to be supplied from East Indian Railway Printing Press at Lucknow where Gurmukhi type is not available.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON AND JUTE BEFORE AND AFTER PARTITION

666. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what was the production of cotton and jute respectively in India before partition and what it is now?

(b) Are any steps being taken to increase their production?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement showing the estimated production of Cotton and Jute before and after the partition is placed on the table of the House.

(b) As regards cotton, steps are being taken to increase the area under the required types to the maximum extent, without encroaching upon the area under food crops and for raising the yield per acre by extension of irrigation facilities, use of manure and improved seed, adoption of a judicious system of rotation and other steps. The whole question was examined by the Indian Central Cotton Committee at its meeting held on 21st November 1947 and steps are being taken to implement the decision as quickly as possible.

The Indian Jute Committee is also engaged in devising means for increasing the yield per acre of jute by the use of seeds of improved strains, by applying correct fertilisers, and by utilising tracts of waste lands and current fallows, and by adopting a judicious system of crop rotation in the jute growing areas. The question is to be fully considered at a representative Conference at which the Government of India, the Provincial Governments concerned, the Indian Central Jute Committee and the Indian Jute Mills Association will confer as to necessary steps to be taken in view of the effects of partition in jute crop and industry.

*Statement showing estimated production of cotton and jute in India Undivided and the Indian Union **

(In 000 bales of 400 lbs. each)

Commodity	India Undivided	Indian Union (including Hyderabad State)
1 Cotton (All varieties) Normal (average 1936-37 to 1938-39)	5,653	4,059
1946-47	3,566	2,198
2 Jute		
Normal (average 1936-37 to 1938-39)	8,362	3,002
1946-47	5,352	1,520
1947-48		1,096

* Estimates for East Punjab, West Bengal and Assam have been made on the basis of the Radcliffe Award.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable Minister tell us what will be the total area under cotton after its cultivation has been extended in the manner suggested by him?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not in a position to give an answer straight off.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Honourable Minister aware that after the Bengal famine the area under cotton was reduced considerably?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That may be so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What portion of it will be brought under cotton again?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say without further collection of information.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What will be the total production of cotton after extension of its cultivation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Nor can I reply to this without further notice.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that cultivation of cotton was reduced under Government orders, and if it is will the Government try and remove those restrictions and ask the Provincial Governments to remove them too?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That suggestion will be adopted.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Minister given figures of production province-wise?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No, total figures are given in the statement.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether the Government of India has carefully considered the desirability or otherwise of removing jute cultivation restrictions which existed in some of the provinces in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter will be considered.

Seth Govinddas: While instructing the Provincial Governments to give more land to cotton, will the Government see that the land which has come under food production is not touched and that that will remain under food production?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter will be taken note of.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Does this new arrangement involve the production of the long-staple cotton that was being produced in Sind?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say without further notice.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know in what particular region this supplementing of the present production is being made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present it is principally in Assam, Bengal, and Orissa. But the idea is to try and find out whether it is not possible to extend jute cultivation in the rest of India.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What outlets do Government propose to find for the extra cotton that they will grow?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government propose to encourage the export of cotton?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is also under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to improve the short staple cotton which is being grown in the C. P. and other parts of South India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

NON-ISSUE OF TICKETS BETWEEN BAPATLA AND TENALI ON M. AND S. M. RAILWAY

667. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that tickets were not issued to passengers for trains running between Bapatla and Tenali on the M. and S.M. Railway during the fourth week of December, 1947 and the first week of January, 1948, and if so, why?

(b) What is the loss of revenue to the Railways due to this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) On account of heavy holidays movements, passenger bookings from stations on the Tenali-Bapatla Section of the M. and S. M. Railway, by certain trains, had to be stopped between the 20th December, 1947 and the 2nd January, 1948.

(b) As trains by which booking was restricted were fully occupied no question of loss of revenue arises.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Did the people in this area travel without tickets then?

Mr. Speaker: That question need not be answered.

MERGER OF EAST PUNJAB RAILWAY WITH EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

668. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that pending the regrouping of Railways on a permanent basis, the East Punjab Railway is being merged into East Indian Railway only as an interim arrangement?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government have not yet taken a final decision on the amalgamation of the Eastern Punjab Railway with the East Indian Railway; the question of regrouping of Railways in the north of India is under active examination. The Indian Railway Enquiry Committee will shortly be consulted and their advice will be taken.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know by what time the report will be ready and will this House be taken into confidence before Government comes to its final decision?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect the report very soon and then I will have to place it before the Railway Enquiry Committee of which Pandit Kunzru is the Chairman.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it part of an all-India scheme of regrouping of railways which have been taken over from companies?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not a matter on which Government have come to a decision yet; provisionally speaking that is the idea.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does the Honourable Minister expect to complete the enquiry of regrouping of railways? Has it not been going on for the past four or five years with regard to the regrouping of the M. and S. M. and S. I. Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot name any date.

Seth Govinddas: When the regrouping of railways is considered, will Government see that there will be only one State railway and not different railways as exist at present?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As soon as regrouping is decided upon the question of nomenclature will be settled.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a part of the economy drive which has been referred to the Railway Enquiry Committee, or the High Power Committee as it is called?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, the question of regrouping as a principle; but whether the principle should be applied, when it should be applied and to what particular regions, is a matter to which sufficient consideration has not so far been given.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government, therefore, await the suggestions from this committee regarding the manner of regrouping and work out details on the lines indicated by them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, unless there are very emergent cases.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: How many of the railways systems will be covered by the proposed regrouping?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That must await the examination which is going on.

PROHIBITION OF BEGGING IN TRAINS AND RAILWAY PREMISES.

669. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether begging in railway trains and railway yards is prohibited; and
- (b) if so, whether necessary steps have been taken to implement such orders and if not, why not?

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

(b) Necessary steps to prevent begging in Railway premises have been taken, and have proved reasonably effective.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: What are the steps which Government propose to take to prevent begging?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Various preventive measures have been taken under rules framed in accordance with the Railways Act.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: But we always see beggars infesting

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware of the fact that there are people who demand donations for various institutions in the compartments and on the platforms, and if so, what steps do they propose to take in order to stop this practice?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a slightly different proposition from the one which is raised in this question.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, what steps have been actually taken to prevent: (a) able-bodied boys and girls from begging in the railway premises; and (b) the stopping of the disgraceful system of distributing the crumbs of passengers' food by the caterers' men among these boys and girls.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are at present actively engaged in a drive against this problem in places like Howrah and the Victoria Terminus, where it has been particularly bad. I may probably inform the House that this practice of begging at railway stations has become particularly acute since the

war, because military personnel who are very generous-hearted people, have been encouraging it and we are now left with a somewhat bad legacy.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is Government aware, Sir, that at certain stations there is an arrangement by means of which the beggars give a certain portion of their earnings to the railway staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member appears to know more about it than I do.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether any arrangements exist for gathering information about the number of beggars in each railway?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is more than our statistical section can comprehend at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is begging as such totally prohibited, or are beggars in the guise of musicians and match-box pedlars allowed to beg?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have not given any specific consideration to this particular type.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the suburban trains of the B., B. and C. I. the beggars travel in the presence of the railway staff and no action is taken against them?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is giving information, rather than asking for it.

ONE MAN CONTRACT SYSTEM FOR RUNNING HOTELS AND STALLS ON ALL RAILWAYS

670. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for giving Railway contract for running hotels and refreshment stalls in all Railways or in certain important Railways to one man;

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of discontinuing this wholesale contract and giving separate contracts for each Railway District in the Railways; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of giving the Chairmen of District Boards or the District Health staff, power to check the quality of foodstuffs sold in mofussil railway stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). On some railways, the contract for the entire European style catering is given to one firm in view of the limited clientele which would render the business unprofitable unless the contract is over a wide area. For Indian catering, a two division limitation was intended to be enforced but this has been limited to new contracts only in view of the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council held in March 1947 that existing Indian contractors should not be ousted from their business unless there are complaints against their management, or service, or the food they supplied which would justify such action.

(c) No. Railways already arrange for periodical medical and other inspections. Apart from this, Administrations invite Members of Local Advisory Committees to make tours from time to time for the purpose of examination of specific matters such as vending arrangements.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What has been the experience of the Railways in running it departmentally?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In fact, some railways have been running them departmentally. It all depends upon how the Honourable Member is looking at the question. Financially, I believe, on certain railways it has

beer successful, partly because it is linked up with the hotels which they are managing. I think they have been able to make some profit on the hotels although they have lost on the refreshment room side. From the point of view of quality, there has been a conflict of opinion.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Do Government propose to run the stalls and refreshment rooms, departmentally?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is a question which has often been considered. I am prepared to have it placed again before the Central Advisory Council, but the opinion expressed by them has been generally against it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any control over the salaries, allowances, hours of work, etc., that prevail between the employers and employees wherever these contractors are brought in?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, we have no definite control, but we have a certain amount of influence.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, in view of the fact that the foodstuffs sold in certain railway stations, especially in the mofussil stations, are not only unhygienic and bad, but also comparatively costlier, will the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department please state whether he would think of enquiring into these complaints and change the contractors?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member would indicate what the complaints are we should be very glad to look into them.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I inform the Honourable Minister

Mr. Speaker: Not here. He may give the information elsewhere.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I state that such complaints have been made and may I ask whether the Honourable Minister would be pleased to inquire into the number of complaints in this regard made by passengers travelling in trains and at different railway stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The normal procedure would be for these complaints to go to the local administration: but if the Honourable Member thinks that the situation is particularly bad in any area with which he is concerned and he will be so good as to communicate it to me I shall personally see that the enquiry is speeded up.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I request the Honourable Minister to consider the need for inquiring into the enormous profits made by these contractors by way of contribution from sub-contractors whom they engage in railway stations, both at specified railway stations and in all railway stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Is the Honourable Member's complaint about the rates charged or the profits made?

Shri Biswanath Das: Both, the rates they charge for the commodities sold as also the profits that they make out of them.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are all matters with which the local Advisory Committee is expected to deal. But if the Honourable Member thinks that there are cases which are particularly bad, I mean serious cases, if he will be so good as to communicate them to me, I will see that the necessary enquiry is put in hand.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in many of these restaurant cars run by contractors only European food is available and Indian food only very seldom?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the period of each contract?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to tell off hand but I believe it varies.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know if food rationing still exists in the railway hotels and dining cars?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: When is this rationing going to be stopped?

Mr. Speaker: Order, oruer.

RE-AMALGAMATION OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS OF RAILWAY BOARD.

671. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to his reply given to part (b) of my starred question No. 359 asked on the 20th February 1948 and state:

(a) whether the posts of Financial Commissioner, Railways and Director of Finance, Railway Board, were created as a result of separation of Accounts from Audit; and

(b) if so, the reason why the question of re-amalgamation of Accounts with Audit was not placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways although it was so recommended even by the Secretariat Re-organisation Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. The posts of Financial Commissioner, Railways and Director of Finance, Railway Board were created during the reorganisation of the Railway Board in 1928 and 1925 respectively as a result of recommendations made by the Acworth Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW VILLAGE POST OFFICES FOR HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

672. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to open new village post offices in the district of Hazaribagh in the year 1948-49 and if so, how many and in which villages?

(b) Have the people of Banhapa, Meru and several other villages near Banhapa between Hazaribagh and Daroo applied to the Superintendent of Post Offices Hazaribagh Division, Hazaribagh for the opening of a new village post office at village Banhapa and if so, what steps are being taken with regard to this question?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes. Proposals are under examination for the opening of nine new post offices at the following villages of the Hazaribagh District: (1) Lari, (2) Barkatha, (3) Pathalgada or Ichak, (4) Jaidih (5) Mayurhand, (6) Maneshmunda, (7) Parej, (8) Patrafu, and (9) Banaha.

(b) Yes, only 3 weeks ago. The proposal is under examination.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIM RAILWAY SERVANTS PROVISIONALLY OPTED PAKISTAN.

673. *Kazi Syed Karimuddin: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several Muslim railway servants had provisionally given their option for service in Pakistan and finally for service in India?

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

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, have such railway servants who were relieved, been re-instated?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. Railway servants, including a number of Muslims, had originally opted provisionally for Pakistan and later changed the option to India final.

(b) Information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House later.

REMOVAL OF CONTROL ON PAPER.

674. *Dr. V. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether any communication has been received from the Government of Madras, for the relaxation of the control on paper by the Government of India?

(b) Do Government propose to remove the control on paper in the near future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) Government is considering the question of removing control on paper.

ROUTE MILEAGE OF B. N. RAILWAY.

675. *Shri Wandkishore Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total route mileage of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) the different Provinces and the States through which the Bengal Nagpur Railway passes; and

(c) its route-mileage in each of the Provinces and States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Approximate route mileage of the Bengal Nagpur Railway by Provinces and States

	Broad Gauge	Narrow Gauge	Total
Bihar Province		116	610
Bengal Province	249	..	249
Orissa Province	466	32	498
Central Provinces	490	681	1,161
Madras Presidency	233	25	258
Eastern States Agency	384	71	455
Central India Agency	157		157
Total	2,463	925	3,388

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the fact that a lot of mileage is run in the province of Orissa and also in view of the fact that there is no province like West Bengal now, will the Government be pleased to inform the House whether they would consider the need for changing the name of the railway?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Biswanath Das: It does, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It does not.

ABOLITION OF GRAINSHOP AT KHARAGPUR ON B. N. RAILWAY.

676. *Shri Nandkishore Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some thousands of Railway employees at Kharagpur in the Bengal Nagpur Railway recently submitted a representation to the Railway authorities concerned for the abolition of the grainshop at Kharagpur.

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what grounds are adduced for the abolition of the grainshop; and

(c) what action Government have taken on the representation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) It has been reported by the Bengal Nagpur Railway that 495 employees at Waltair have submitted representations asking for the payment of cash dearness allowance as recommended by the Central Pay Commission in lieu of the existing cash allowance plus the grainshop concession.

(b) The grounds on which the abolition of the grainshop has been asked for are:

(i) The Railway Grainshops have created a vicious circle which is contaminating society and this must be put a stop to.

(ii) The Government is spending huge amounts to run these cheap grainshops the benefits of which are not reaching railway servants in any appreciable measure.

(iii) Their existence lays down an invidious distinction between the railwaymen and the general public which is humiliating to the sense of dignity and self respect of railway servants.

(c) A collective option in favour of the continuance of the existing cash dearness allowance and the grainshop concession in lieu of the dearness allowance as recommended by the Central Pay Commission, was exercised by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on behalf of all non-gazetted railway servants in October 1947. This was accepted by Government. It is not therefore proposed to take any special action on the representation from the staff of the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

NUMBER AND EMPLOYMENT OF N. W. R. EMPLOYEES OPTED FOR INDIA.

677. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of the old North Western Railway have opted for service in India and how many of them have reported for duty;

(b) how many of these railwaymen have been absorbed in the Eastern Punjab Railway and how many have been posted to other Indian State Railways;

(c) how many of these railwaymen are still unemployed and how many are working as supernumeraries; and

(d) what attempts are being made to provide these unemployed railwaymen with jobs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to reappoint those railway employees who had opted for Pakistan but who have been retrenched there?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is not the policy.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chandhuri: May I know what attempts are being made to provide railwaymen with jobs? This question can be answered: it is with reference to part (d).

Mr. Speaker: Does it not depend upon part (c)?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is a question relating to the posting of people who have opted for India from Pakistan.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chandhuri: May I know what attempts are being made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a general policy which has been laid down by Government with regard to people who have finally opted for India and that policy is being followed. We are posting them as soon as we find openings.

PROGRESS IN PROPOSED RAILWAY LINES FROM RANCHI TO PATNA AND HAZARIBAGH TO DUMKA.

678. **Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what the present stage of the proposed railway lines from Ranchi to Patna and from Hazaribagh to Dumka, in Santal Parganas is;

(b) whether the survey of these lines has been completed and final alignment fixed; and

(c) when the construction is proposed to be begun?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Traffic and preliminary Engineering Surveys have been completed for a line connecting Ranchi with Gaya; a line already exists between Gaya and Patna;

For Hazaribagh Dumka line, surveys have been completed for the portion Hazaribagh to Giridih only. From Giridih there is already a Broad Gauge line up to Madhupur. Between Madhupur and Dumka a new line would be required, for which the survey has been partly done. Alignment has been fixed over sections, for which the survey has been completed.

(c) No final decision has yet been taken about the actual construction of these lines; and the question when the construction is proposed to be begun therefore, does not arise.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: When alignment of any new railway construction is made what is the method by which the needs of the local people are enquired into and considered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, when surveys of this kind are undertaken the local administration deputed an officer who is expected to keep in close touch with the Provincial Government and with local opinion before he puts forward his final proposals. In regard to the question that my Honourable friend has raised, that is the line between Ranchi and Gaya I believe that the officer concerned considered four alternative routes and out of them, as a result of various considerations, he has, I believe, put forward one. But I have not seen the final Report yet.

Mr. Tajamu Hossain: In view of the fact that Ranchi and Patna are the two capitals of the Province of Bihar and that meetings of the Provincial Legislature are held at both the places and the government staff and the Governor are required to stay at both the places, and in view of the fact that there is no through direct train service from Patna to Ranchi do Government propose to

have a through train service from Patna to Ranchi and *vice versa*?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I recognise the force of the consideration put forward by the Honourable Member, but I must determine the order of priority with reference to all-India considerations.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: By what time does the Honourable Minister expect that the final alignment will be made between Ranchi and Gaya?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Reports on the surveys which have been completed will be placed as soon as possible before the Central Transport Board. But I could tell the Honourable Member that before I actually come to a decision on this matter I propose to call in also representatives of the Bihar Government to attend the meeting of the Central Transport Board which would examine this question.

NON-DISCHARGE OF NATIONAL SAVING CERTIFICATES BY CERTAIN SUB POST OFFICES IN HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

679. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the reasons why the Extra Departmental Postmasters of the Branch Post Offices at Simoria, Kandachati, Jorai, Dartar, Hunterganj and Pratappur, in account with the Chatra Sub-Post Office, in Hazaribagh district have not been allowed to discharge the National Saving Certificates?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: According to departmental rules only those extra-departmental branch offices which are authorised to do Savings Bank work or which are converted into National Savings Bureaux under the small Savings Scheme can deal with National Savings Certificates. Kandachati, Jorai, Dartar and Pratappur extra departmental branch offices are neither authorised to do Savings Bank work nor converted into National Savings Bureaux and therefore cannot deal with National Savings Certificates. Hunterganj and Simoria branch offices are vested with Savings Bank powers and it is not a fact that they are not allowed to discharge National Savings Certificates.

RESEARCH STATIONS UNDER INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

680. *Dr. V. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of research stations and their places, which are under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the nature of research conducted there?

(b) Besides the Indian Council of Agricultural Research what are the institutions financed by the Government of India for research in Agriculture including animal husbandry and what is nature of research work done there?

(c) What is the machinery to co-ordinate the activities of all the above stations?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A list of current research schemes financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the stations where they are being carried out is laid on the table of the House. Excepting the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology, which is under the direct control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, all other schemes financed by the Council are worked out at the Institutes under the administrative control of the Central Provincial Governments, Indian States or Universities. The nature of the schemes and the work done thereunder is explained in the annual reports of the Council, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) Besides the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, 17 other institutions are financed by the Government of India for research in Agriculture including animal husbandry.

A list of these Institutions showing the nature of the research work done in each is laid on the table.

(c) The research activities of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the other Central Institutions on the agricultural and animal husbandry sides, including the Commodity Committees, are co-ordinated by the Council primarily through the Vice-Chairman who is also ex-officio President of each Commodity Committee. He is assisted in this work in the majority of cases by the Scientific and Commodity Committees of the Council, its Advisory Board and Governing Body. Barring the Lac Cess Committee, the Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India is also a member of all other Commodity Committees. These Commodity Committees also are represented on the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The technical programme of research work undertaken by the Central Research Institutes and their annual reports are scrutinized by the Council.

The work in Fisheries Stations is co-ordinated by the Fisheries Development Adviser.

Statement.

1. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
2. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.
3. The Central Potato Research Institute, New Delhi.
4. The Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.
5. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.
6. The experimental cattle Breeding Farm, Jubbalpore.
7. Zoological Survey of India, Benares Cantt.
8. Pilot Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay.
9. Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Madras.
10. Indian Fisheries Research Station, Calcutta.
11. Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta.
12. Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.
13. Indian Central Tobacco Committee, Bombay.
14. Indian Central Lac Cess Committee, Ranchi.
15. Indian Central Coconut Committee, Ernakulam.
16. Indian Central Sugarcane Committee, New Delhi.
17. Indian Oilseeds Committee, New Delhi.

LIST OF CURRENT SCHEMES SHOWN PROVINCEWISE

A.—AGRICULTURE

MADRAS

Group	Scheme	Location.
Rice	1. Rice diseases	Coimbatore
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Coimbatore, Salem and Vizagapatam.
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Kodur.
	2. Banana Research.	(Yet to be decided).
Entomology	1. Test with D.D.T. 666 and allied insecticides.	Coimbatore and Guntur.
	2. Schools of Research.	Coimbatore.
Myology	1. Fungicidal Sprays	Gunter and Pattiverampatti (Madura).
BOMBAY		
Rice	1. Rice Breeding	Nowgong and Bulsar.
Wheat and other Cereals	1. Wheat rust	Mahabaleswar.
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Poona, Dharwar and Jaigaon.
	2. Small millets	Hatkhamba.
	3. Jowar Striga	Poona, Surat and Dharwar.

Group	Scheme	Location
Agronomy	1. Crop weather Co-ordination	Poona
	2. Phenological observation	Royal Institute of Science Bombay.
Entomology	1. Test with D. D. T. 666 and allied insecticides.	Poona and Vengurla.
Myology	1. Virus diseases	Poona Agricultural Col- lege.
	2. School of Research	Poona Agricultural Col- lege.
WEST BENGAL		
Rice	1. Paddy insect pests	Calcutta University Chinsura.
	2. Rice vernalization	
	3. Manurial experiments on paddy lands.	
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding	Berhampur.
	2. Physiology of pulses	Presidency College.
Fruits	1. Genetical Investigation of Banana.	Calcutta University.
Soils and Manures	1. Control of erosion	Visva Bharti.
	2. Manurial trials	Chinsura Farm.
UNITED PROVINCES		
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding small millets.	Tarikhel and Gorakhpur.
	2. Maize Breeding (From 1-4-48).	To be started.
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Chaubattia.
	2. Mango Necrosis	Lucknow University.
Fibre	1. Improvement of Sunn hemp.	Allahabad.
Entomology	1. Test with D. D T. 666 and allied insecticides.	Kanpuri
EAST PUNJAB		
Wheat and other Cereals	1. Maize Breeding	Not yet started in East Punjab.
Millets and Pulses	1. Gram with disease	Ferozepur.
	2. Soya beans	Not known.
Fruits	1 Citrus manurial trials	Attari.
Other Crops	1. Medicinal plants	Not yet started in East Punjab.
BIHAR		
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding	Pusa and Sabour.
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Sabour.
	2. Citrus physiology	
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR		
Wheat and Other cereals.	1. Wheat Breeding	Powerkhara, Chindwara Mahabaleswar.
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding	Nagpur and Adhart
	2 Small millets	Dindori

Group	Scheme	Location
Fruits	1. Horticulture 2. Yield data from orchards.	Tharsa Tharsa.
ASSAM		
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Kokilamukh.
Fruits	Horticulture	Tamilkuohi.
ORISSA		
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Cuttack—Bargarh (Sambalpur).
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Angul and Sambalpur
Other Crops	1. Turmeric	Udayagiri.

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Wheat and other cereals	1. Bread rust resistant wheat 2. Maize breeding.	Simla. New Delhi.
Vegetables	1. Potato breeding (intermediate hill stations for potato breeding). 2. Potato seed certification survey.	Simla Kulri Patiala.
Soils and manures	1. Colloid soil constituents. 2. Trace elements in Indian soils. 3. Nitrogen fixation in soils.	New Delhi. New Delhi. New Delhi.
Agonomy	1. Monograph on mixed cropping practices.	New Delhi.
Mycology	1. Fungicidal sprays (Indian Agricultural Research Institute) Mycology, Dn.	New Delhi.
Entomology	1. Test with D. D. T. 666 and allied insecticides.	New Delhi.
General	1. Introduction of new economic plants. 2. Monograph on phosphate Manurial to be started from 1st April, 1948.	New Delhi.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

1. Survey of Horticulture Research.	
2. Abstraction of horticultural literature.	Headquarter.
3. Description of different varieties of fruits.	Headquarter.
4. Indian Institute of Fruit Technology.	

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

1. Crop Production by Catalysis.	Bangalore.
2. Sewage Farming	Bangalore.
3. Biochemical Assay on Soyabean (from 1st April 1948).	Bangalore.

Group	Schemes	Location
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AGRA COLLEGE.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. Cereal Rust | | Simla and Agra. |
| 2. Barley Rust | | Agra. |

LIST OF CURRENT SCHEMES IN STATES

HYDERABAD

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| Agriculture Rice | | 1. Rice Breeding—Experimental Warangal Farm. |
| Millets and pulses | | 1. Pulse Breeding—Experimental Wangraal Farm |
| Fruits | | 1. Horticulture—(Sangareddi and Aurangabad). |

MYSORE

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|---------|
| Millets and pulses | | Pulse Breeding Hebbal Farm, Irwin Canal Farm, Small millets Hobbal Farm, Irwin canal farm and Babur Farm | Mendya. |
| Fruits | | Horticulture (Hessarghatta) | |
| Mycology | | Fungicidal sprays (not yet started.) | |

TRAVANCOORE

AGRICULTURE

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| Rice | | Rice breeding | Monkompur and Adoor. |
| Other crops | | Cloves | Pepper Farm, Konni and Black Rock Estate, Nagercoil. |

KASHMIR

AGRICULTURE

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|--|
| Rice | | 1. Rice breeding Pratap Model Srinagar Farm. |
| Fruits | | 1. Horticulture Survey. |

BARODA

AGRICULTURE

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Millets and Pulses | | 1. Pulse and millets breeding | Baroda, Jagundan, Vyara and Deedard. |
| Fodder and grazing | | Improvement of pastures | In 4 places. |
| General | | Village Rehabilitation | In 4 places. |

GWALIOR

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Millets and pulses | | 1. Pulse breeding | Gwalior Vjyani. |
| Miscellaneous Crops | | 1. Coriander diseases | Gwalior |

COORO

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Fruits | | 1. Orange cultivation | Pallibetta. |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|

B.—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

MADRAS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Diseases, pests and cure | | 1. D (V) I. O. | Veterinary Madras. | College, |
| | | 2. Helminthiasis | Veterinary Madras. | College, |
| | | 3. Poultry diseases | Madras. | |
| | | 4. Sheep and Goat diseases | Madras. | |

Group	Scheme	Location
	5. Indigenous drugs used in Veterinary Medicine .	Medical College, Madras
Fish	1. Rural Pisciculture .	Madras.
	2. Fish eggs and larvae (Madras University).	Madras.
	3. Manufacture of semi-dried prawns.	Ikividor and Pulicate.
	4. Biology of Marine prawns (Madras University).	Madras.
Animal Breeding	1. Improvement of Kangay and breed.	Palayakothai, Erode.
	2. Sheep Breeding	Livestock Research Station, Hosur, Salem Dis.
BOMBAY		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	} Veterinary College, Bombay Parel, Bombay. Poona.
	2. Poultry diseases	
	3. Sheep and Goat diseases	
Animal Breeding	1. Cattle improvement (Kaukrej).	Sanand (Ahmedabad).
	2. Sheep breeding and wool analysis.	Poona.
	3. Wool analysis (Bombay University)	Matunga, Bombay.
	4. Javie Sheep Development	Javie, Sholapur District.
WEST BENGAL		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
	2. Poultry diseases	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
	3. Sheep and goat diseases	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
	4. Control of certain parasites	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
Fish	1. Bionomics of Indian Migratory fishes.	Galsi.
UNITED PROVINCES		
Diseases and pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Lucknow.
	2. Helminthiasis (Lucknow University).	Lucknow.
	3. Poultry diseases	Lucknow.
	4. Ringerpest spleen vaccine	Lucknow.
Animal Breeding	1. Cattle improvement	Chhata, Rutha District.
	2. Methods of yoking bullocks	(Allahabad Agriculture Research Institute), Allahabad.
Animal Nutrition Dairying	1. Research on Cattle feeding	Bharari Farm, Jhansi.
	1. Dairy Technology	(Allahabad Agriculture Institute), Allahabad.
	2. Transport of Milk	Lucknow.
EAST PUNJAB		
Dairying	1. Rapid and Detailed Determination of Fat, etc. of milk.	(Not started).
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Hissar.
	2. Poultry Diseases	Hissar.
	3. Sheep and goat diseases	Hissar.
Animal Breeding	1. Goat Breeding	Hissar.
	2. Angora Goats	Hissar.
	3. Livestock investigation	Hissar.

Group	Scheme	Location
	4. Sheep Breeding and Wool Analysis	Hissar.
	5. Trial of Bikaneri Sheep in Villages	Hissar.
BIHAR		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Patna.
	2. Poultry diseases	Patna.
	3. Sheep and Goat diseases	Patna.
Animal Breeding	1. Sheep Breeding and Wool Analysis	Monghyr.
Dairying	1. Rapid and detailed determination of Fat etc. of milk. (not started).	
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Nagpur.
	2. Poultry Diseases	Nagpur.
Dairying	1. Development Ghee Industry	Jhallar.
Poultry	1. Development Research in Poultry	Betul District. Telinkheri Farm, Nagpur.
ASSAM		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Gauhati.
	2. Poultry Diseases	Gauhati.
	3. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (not commenced)	Gauhati.
Animal Nutrition	1. Animal Nutrition	Khanapara Farm, Gauhati.
ORISSA		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Cuttack.
	2. Poultry Diseases	Cuttack.
	3. Sheep and Goat diseases	Cuttack.
Animal Breeding	1. Development Research in Goats.	Angul.
	2. Sheep Breeding	Angul.
Animal Nutrition	1. Standardization of Rations for Ryots cattle.	Angul, Outtack.
AJMER-MERWARA		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Ajmer.
HYDERABAD		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Hyderabad (Dn.).
	2. Poultry diseases	Hyderabad (Dn.).
MYSORE		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. Poultry diseases	Bangalore.
	2. Sheep and Goats Diseases	Bangalore.
BARODA		
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Baroda.
	2. Poultry diseases (Bombay-Gujrat-Baroda)	Baroda.

Group	Scheme	Location
	3. Sheep and Goats diseases .	Baroda.
Animal Breeding	1. Wool Analysis	Patna.
KASHMIR		
Diseases pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O.	Srinagar.
	2. Sheep and Goats diseases .	Srinagar.
Animal Breeding	1. Sheep Breeding and Wool Analysis.	Banihal, Jammu.
TRAVANCORE		
Animal Breeding	1. Cattle Improvement	Villages Trivandrum.
INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE		
Animal Nutrition	1. Nutritive Value of Vansapati and Vitamin 'A' content of Ghee.	Isatnagar.
	2. Alkali Treated Straw	Isatnagar.
	3. Nutritive value of certain indigenous grasses and leafy fodders.	Isatnagar.
	4. Bearing of nutrition on helminthic infestation (Not started).	Isatnagar.
Poultry	1. Poultry Breeding (Village Extn.).	Isatnagar.
Diseases pests and cure	1. Diseases caused by anaerobes.	Mukteswar.
	2. Tuberculosis and John's disease.	Mukteswar.
	3. Vaccination against foot and mouth disease.	Mukteswar.
	4. Helminthiasis	Isatnagar.
	5. Control of (ox) warble fly pest.	Mukteswar.
	6. Damage caused by ticks and warble flies to hides and skins.	Mukteswar.
	7. Defects caused to hides and skins by minor biological factors.	Mukteswar.
	8. Helminth parasites affecting poultry.	Isatnagar.
	9. Tuberculin Testing	Mukteswar, and Madras.
INDIAN DIARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE		
Dairying	1. Biochemical Research on Indian Dahi.	Bangalore.
	2. Transport of milk over long distances.	Bangalore.
	3. Composition of milk of cows, buffaloes, etc.	Bangalore.
	4. Bacteriological quality of market milk.	Bangalore.
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE		
	Lincolic acid content of ghee.	Bangalore.

Bombay

Institutions financed by Government of India for research in Agriculture.

1. *Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.*—Designed (i) to carry on fundamental research in Agriculture, (ii) to help in co-ordinating research in the Agricultural Sciences throughout India and (iii) to import post-graduate training in different agricultural sciences.

2. *Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.*—Designed to carry out research on (1) fundamentals and those aspects of rice which have a wider application and (2) research on problems of a local nature. These researches include studies such as the cytology, genetics, taxonomy and morphology of the rice plant, the breeding of strains resistant to salt, flood, drought, etc., the breeding technique for hybridisation, the physiology of the plant in relation to vernalisation, photoperiodism, salt, drought and food conditions, etc.

3. *The Central Potato Research Institute, New Delhi.*—Designed to carry out research in (i) the evolution of the higher yielding varieties for different climates and Soil; (ii) the production of seed potatoes free from disease and true to variety, (iii) the elimination of fungal diseases which attack the crop in the field by breeding disease-resistant varieties and by devising control measures; (iv) the improvement of seed storage so as to prevent loss of rots and insect pests and (v) the finding out of methods by which the potato could be preserved fresh or processed so that it could be used as food whenever required.

4. *The Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.*—This Institute studies problems relating to dairy husbandry, dairy chemistry, dairy bacteriology and dairy technology.

5. *The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.*—This Institute investigates Veterinary and animal husbandry problems from all aspects including nutritional, genetical, biological parasitological, pathological and bacteriological.

6. *The Experimental Cattle Breeding Farm, Jubbulpore.*—This Farm is meant for evolving a general utility type of cattle and is in the course of being established.

7. *Zoological Survey of India.*—To investigate the fauna of India, to act as guardians of the standard Zoological Collections of India, to arrange and maintain the Zoological galleries of the Indian Museum, to identify specimens as required by investigators in any part of the country and to advise Government generally on Zoological matters.

8. *Pilot Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay.*—To carry out researches on the location of fishing grounds, determining fishing seasons, fishing intensities, etc., and for vessels, craft and gear for the exploitation of fisheries in Indian Waters.

9. *Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Madras.*—To carry out Biological, Cartographic Hydrographic, Bacteriological and Meteorological investigations with reference to Marine Fisheries and general faunistic studies so far as marine fisheries are concerned.

10. *Inland Fisheries Research Station, Calcutta.*—As in the case of No. 9, with reference to Pond, Tank Riverine and Estuarine Fisheries.

11. Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta.

12. Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

13. Indian Central Tobacco Committee, Bombay.

14. Indian Central Lac Cass Committee, Ranchi.

15. Indian Central Sugarcane Committee, New Delhi.

16. Indian Central Coconut Committee, Ernakulam.

17. Indian Central Oilseeds Committee, New Delhi.

These Committees undertake technological and economic research with regard to the commodity with which they are concerned.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: There are various Committees set up—like the Sugar Committee, the Rice Committee, the Tobacco Committee etc. for research on those articles—under the direct control of the Ministry. May I ask what is the work that is left to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That will be found from the Reports placed in the Library and on the table of the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Russell Committee had said that the results of these labours in research should reach the agriculturists in the field and if so will he tell the House what steps have been taken to translate these results to the farmers in the fields?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said in reply to an earlier question, I personally am not satisfied that we have done all that is possible to see that the results of research reach the cultivator. At present the work is being carried on through the Provincial Governments. The whole machinery for this purpose has to be examined and we will try to do the best that is possible to improve things.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of bringing all these activities under one body, either under the direct control of the Ministry or the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action which may be considered.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The suggestion will be considered, Sir.

UNIFORM STANDARDISATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES THROUGHOUT INDIAN UNION

881. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of a uniform standardisation of weights and measures throughout the Indian Union?

(b) If so, do Government propose to arrange for the manufacture of the Standard Weights and Measures for use throughout India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) According to the distribution of matters in the Legislative Lists, the "establishment of standards of weight" is in the Federal Legislative List and "weights and measures" in the Provincial Legislative List. In accordance with this, the Central Government is responsible for defining the standards of weight and the maintenance of the primary standards so defined, while the enforcement of the standards so defined and maintained is the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. In 1939 the Central Legislature passed an Act known as the Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939. Necessary legislation for the enforcement of the standards laid down in this Act has, however, not been completed in all the Provinces. The Act, as it stands, extends to the whole of what was known as British India. The question of its extension to the other parts of the Dominion will be taken up as soon as the position of the various States is finally settled.

(b) As provided for in the Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939, the Central Government has already supplied to the Provincial Governments one complete set each of duly authenticated standard weights. Such sets can also be had by States from the Mint Master on payment.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In view of the prevalence of various kinds of weights and measures in different parts of the country will the Central Government consider the desirability of seeing that the recommendations and the provisions of the Act are brought into action by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Government appreciate that there should be uniformity, but the matter of its enforcement rests with the Provinces as the constitutional position stands today.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware that many vendors in bazars and markets are in the habit of using stones and pebbles for weighment?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am personally aware of it along with the Honourable Member who has put the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will he take steps to see that this practice is eradicated?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter for the Provincial Governments to look into.

Seth Govinddas: What about the Centrally administered area?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Central Government will look after it.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: In view of the fact that the Metric system is recognized as the most rational system do Government propose to introduce it in India as soon as possible?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter for consideration.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Is there any co-ordination between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments in the matter of standardization of weights and measures?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I did not catch the question.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPROVEMENT OF COWS AND BULLS BREED IN INDIAN UNION.

682. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to improve the breed of cows and bulls in India after the 15th August, 1947?

(b) Is there free movement of cattle from Sind to India?

(c) What is the estimated cattle wealth of India?

(d) Are there any stud-bulls from Texas and Australia in the experimental farms run by Government?

(e) Is there any demand from the public for Sind cows? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to meet this particular demand?

The Honourable Shri Jalramdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India have approved of the establishment of two Experimental Cattle Breeding Farms one for evolving a general utility type of cattle and another for evolving a type with high milking capacity. The former is being established at Jubbulpore and a suitable site for the latter is under consideration.

An Expert Committee has also been appointed to make recommendations for preserving the cattle wealth of the country and promoting its development.

(b) No.

(c) The population of cattle (including buffaloes) in the present provinces and states including Hyderabad of the Indian Dominion based on 1940 livestock Census was 178.2 millions. According to 1945 census the cattle population in the provinces only was 111.2 millions; figures for states are not available. The next quinquennial cattle census will be held in 1950 when the latest position of the cattle will be known.

(d) No Texas and Australian bulls are maintained in Experimental farms run by Government.

(e) Yes.

The High Commissioner for India in Pakistan has been requested to approach the Pakistan Government to allow the export of Sindhi and other breeds of cattle from Pakistan.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER COMPULSORY MOTOR INSURANCE ACT.

683. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total number of buses, lorries and private cars registered under the compulsory Motor Insurance Act for the third party risk?

(b) Have Government ascertained whether all the vehicles have been registered under this Act?

(c) Have any prosecutions been launched for the non-registration of such vehicles?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, dealing with insurance of motor vehicles against third party risks. All vehicles are required under this Act to be insured against third party risk with the exception of those owned by Central and Provincial Governments and local authority notified in that behalf or by State-owned railways.

(b) and (c). Information in regard to the total number of vehicles insured and the prosecutions launched for failure to insure, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE SETS TO VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF BIHAR.

664. *Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of telephone sets supplied to various districts in Bihar during the last twelve months?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of these cannot be installed for lack of cable wires?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take steps to provide all the materials necessary, so that telephone sets needed at least in the Divisional Headquarters are installed as soon as possible?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). Presumably the Honourable Member desires to have information regarding telephone connections. If so, the reply is as follows:

279 connections have already been given. About 1300 applications are pending for want of cable pairs or positions in the switchboards. These figures relate to the Provinces of Bihar and Orissa. Information for the Province of Bihar alone is not readily available.

(c) Yes.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that Pandit Govind Malaviya has been elected to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Ministry of Education, until the end of financial year 1948-49 vice Shri S. Radhakrishnan resigned.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

Mr. Speaker: According to the agreed programme, the departments under discussion by way of cut motions are the Departments of Commerce and Health and Medical Services. These will be the three Demands. So I first put to the House the three Demands Nos. 21, 18, and 51, and of course the Cut Motions will be moved.

DEMAND NO. 21—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,82,000 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 Commerce'."

DEMAND NO. 18—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,23,000 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 Health'."

DEMAND NO. 51—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

DEMAND NO. 21—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

International Trade Agreement

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

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

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

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

Export and Import Policy and Establishment of an Indian Communal Corporation

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

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

Mr. Speaker: Cut Motion moved:

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

Appointment of Trade Commissioners

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

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

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

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

Coastal Shipping and Insurance

Shri R. R. Diwakar: (Bombay: General): Sir, I beg to move:

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

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

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

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, the cut motion that stands in my name which I have just moved refers to the foreign trade policy of India. On the day we started discussions on the budget, we referred to the industrial policy that is to be pursued in India. The day before yesterday we discussed the Foreign policy of India. Today I have started a discussion on the Foreign

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Trade Policy. You will please see, Sir, that the last war was fought on practical economic issues. Hitler again and again shouted that he was only crying for living space and also for raw materials which before the previous war, had been practically monopolised by a few countries. England, with respect to its own Commonwealth countries, entered into an agreement known as the Ottawa Agreement, confining raw materials to itself and also monopolising markets which those countries could give. The United States of America entered into similar agreements with the Latin Countries of South America. Belgium, with its Congo and other countries in its empire, had its own raw material for its industries and also its own markets in the same countries. Likewise, Holland, though small, had Indonesia and other countries which could supply raw materials and to which also it could send its finished products. Therefore, Sir, the model of these imperialistic countries was being copied by Hitler by way of expansion and acquiring some more colonies, by Italy conquering Ethiopia, and by Japan trying to force its way on the Philippines and the whole of the Pacific and all the countries in Asia. War therefore has taught a lesson to the countries which have come out successful during this war. The United States of America therefore thought of bringing a number of international organizations into existence—the UNO in place of the League of Nations; the UNESCO, the organization under which the international trade organization is sought to be brought into existence. It had its first and second sittings in Geneva. Draft Agreements were prepared. Thereafter a number of countries met in Havana and our Honourable Minister for Commerce was also there and he came back only recently. All the Trade Agreements and the International Trade Organization are being finalised there. The latest information has not been placed before us. My first complaint against the Department of Commerce is that we have not been furnished with reliable statistics of our foreign trade at all. The statistics of the sea-borne trade of India are all very old. We have not got the latest statistics available in this country. The publication 'Review of Trade', which was performing a very useful function, was suspended so long ago as 1943-44. Statistics are not issued from time to time even for the journalists and economists in this country, and for the public, and they are not kept in touch with the progress of developments or with the progress of negotiations at Havana. Help, which should be very valuable, from that direction, is not available to the Government of India by way of criticism, etc. Therefore my first suggestion to the Commerce Minister is that he must bring all the statistics up-to-date and make them fully available. We have to depend upon the statistics of either the United States or the United Kingdom.

Now Sir, what is the lesson of the previous war? The move in the direction of bringing into existence some international trade organization is very welcome—all of us must welcome it. But unfortunately the basic foundations of that organization are not well laid to avoid a war. The main object, as appears from the various terms, clauses and explanations of the agreement that has been circulated to us, appears to be only this—they want to avoid a war but confine the raw products and markets to highly developed countries. The undeveloped countries are left in the cold. A strangle hold is sought to be placed upon them. It takes into consideration only highly developed countries and want to distribute raw materials amongst them. That is the main object of this organization. The one thing that is lacking is this—they want to have equal access to raw materials and ration raw materials amongst the highly industrialized countries. There is not a word, I am afraid there is not even a proper reference to the distribution of capital goods. Undeveloped countries are in need of capital goods. I want this provision there to supplement the other provision for rationing of or easy access to raw material.

Access to capital goods for all undeveloped countries must also be one of the basic foundations of this international trade agreement on which the International Trade Organization is sought to be built up. Otherwise the rich will continue to grow richer; the developed countries will become more developed. If you want to avoid a fight on economic issues in the world, we must provide that capital goods also must be rationed. All countries in the world must have equal access to capital goods as much as they are sought to be provided with raw materials in the world. That is my first objection to this Organisation: I mean the objects of this Organisation may be very good but the way in which they have proceeded is not quite accurate and proper.

My next objection is this. The Organisation is expected to come into being in the beginning of 1950. Till then, in the long range establishment of this Organisation there is no provision for sharing of capital goods, but they have made provision for supplying capital goods to the war-devastated countries of Europe by the Marshall Plan. That is an interim arrangement; America is helping those already industrialised countries, which had a set back on account of the war to rehabilitate themselves by the Marshall Plan. We are not helped by the Marshall Plan on the one side, nor does this Organisation help us to put up our industries by giving us capital goods. Even Japan has been set on its feet once again; it is fast reviving its own trade in textiles and is supplying the rest of the world in cotton manufactures.

That is one defect of this Organisation. The other one is that it is provided in the terms of this Charter and the Organisation as one of its basic rules that a principle of differential cost ought to be applied. That means that countries which cannot produce industrial goods such as ships, aeroplanes, motorcars etc., at the same cheap rates as can be produced by highly-industrialised countries, ought not to embark upon the production or manufacture of such goods. Let us take for instance the ship-building industry. We have got raw materials and steel and iron; we have also got labour. But the only thing against us is that we may not in the first year be able to produce ships at the same cheap rate because we have had no experience in that industry—in an infant industry the cost of production will certainly be much more than that in one which has gained a footing and has been working for a long time. Therefore in that field we may not at the outset be able to produce goods as cheap as the other highly-industrialised countries may be able to do. If those industrialised countries want a clause in this Charter that there should be a provision preventing less-developed countries producing these goods, because they may not be able to produce as cheaply as the high-developed countries can, that will be a stranglehold upon less-developed countries in the matter of production or increased production. (Inter-ception) I find that there is a clause and I will show it to my friend.

The third thing is that they want a multilateral agreement to be entered into. The natural corollary or consequence is that tariffs for various commodities in various countries must be gradually reduced, so much so that the finished products of highly-developed countries might easily flow into the markets of less-developed countries and the raw-products of industrially less-developed countries may flow into the highly developed countries. Therefore, if this Organisation, based on multilateral agreements, on the most-favoured-nation clause instead of bilateral agreements, were to come into operation the danger immediately to less-developed countries is that they will have to continue as hewers of wood and drawers of water—produce only raw materials for supplying to the industries of the West.

This country cannot increase its standard of wealth or the general standard of wealth of its masses unless it industrialises. This multilateral agreement cannot immediately be brought into force with respect to less-developed

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 countries. This no doubt was expected and that is why India and various
 12 Noon other countries have been allowed to enter into bilateral arrange-
 ments regarding tariffs with various countries. The Delegation
 that went, as the House must feel satisfied, has done its best. We have entered
 into agreements with about fifteen countries; we have to enter into agreement
 with other countries. But by the range of goods that has already been cover-
 ed, the export trade comes to Rs. 85 crores and the import trade to Rs. 81
 crores, whereas our general export trade is to the tune of Rs. 150—200 crores
 and import trade likewise. Therefore a number of other articles and a
 number of other countries have to be covered by other agreements which may
 be entered into sooner or later.

But this point has to be borne in mind: at the outset when this Trade Or-
 ganisation was initiated America wanted to have only one object in view, that
 there ought to be no trade barriers and that tariffs must be reduced all over
 the world. That was her main concern so that her articles may be pushed
 all over the world. Then England came on the scene and said that that prin-
 ciple alone would not suffice; she wanted full employment for her nationals;
 therefore that was also included as one of the objects of the International
 Agreement. So far as the less-developed countries are concerned they have
 not placed the third consideration before this Organisation.

The first consideration is reduction of tariffs around, which America wanted.
 Full employment was what England wanted and with that pretext she wanted
 to avoid reduction of tariffs and choose her own form of tariffs so that every
 citizen in that country may be fully employed and its industry may not be
 affected. We, who are the less-developed countries, must have insisted upon
 this, that it must have been open, to protect our industries as much as we can,
 to concentrate only on one condition that our industries are not affected. We
 can give preference to this or that country, we can impose high tariff walls
 with respect to certain industries, and so on. But there was that matter
 which must have been insisted on; that must also have been one of the basic
 foundations of this Charter, not only multilateral trade agreements
 involving reduction of tariffs, not only full employment, but also the develop-
 ment of the less-developed countries. That is not set out as one of the
 objects of this International Trade Organisation.

Sir, I can only think of a simile on our getting into the International Trade
 Organisation, being undeveloped as we are, linking ourselves to America or
 Great Britain which are highly-developed, like yoking a lame donkey to a race
 horse. We, the lame donkey, can never proceed at the pace and it may be a
 drag; but in this connection we cannot be a drag either on the U.S.A. or on the
 United Kingdom—we will be left alone, all alone. I am sure, Sir, that
 before the agreement is finalised, the Ministry of Commerce will insist upon
 these provisions being made.

I may come to the other important matter which has been agitating us and
 which is still followed by the Honourable the Finance Minister, and we have
 to take a decision properly in regard to this matter. That is Imperial Prefer-
 ence. Are we to be in this bloc? Is it going to help us? We came into it
 in Ottawa, but are we to continue? We have already covered 1100 odd mil-
 lions of sterling to our credit. So much is there; should we continue earning
 more and more sterling hereafter and accumulate it when England is not in a
 position to pay us? What are our needs? Now the world market is being
 captured and the world situation is being dominated not by the United King-
 dom so much as by America. We have now, by our tariffs and by preferences,
 to divert the course of trade—not wholly but partially and in an increasing
 measure—from the United Kingdom and other sterling areas to the United States

of America. That is what I would urge upon this Government to do immediately. That step must be taken we are hard up for dollars and other hard currencies, we have to get capital goods. We must so enter into agreements that our raw materials go to the hard currency countries and we get capital goods in return. With respect to grain and other things that we want, we can have transactions in the sterling area countries.

Now, Sir, what is it that we can send to America? Jute we can send, hides and skins we can send, mica we can send, manganese we can send, and all other minerals which have a good market in America. So far as jute is concerned, I am afraid the Honourable Minister has bungled. I cannot use the word 'bungled' more strongly; if it were possible, I would say he has bungle squared or bungle cubed. That is what he has done. I find, Sir, in the latest issue of *Finance* of Calcutta that a number of persons who have been carrying on jute trade with America, which is one of our largest customers in that commodity, had entered into agreements with America already, and quotas have been given to Bombay merchants. America wanted to honour and stick to the agreements that they had entered into with the shippers in Calcutta and was not prepared to divert their custom to Bombay merchants.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Minister for Commerce): That is not true. I have denied it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You may deny, but that is what I find from every paper in Calcutta.

An Honourable Member: Propaganda.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: You know what it is due to.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am anxious that this sort of thing should not happen. I am not interested in the Calcutta merchant or in the Bombay merchant; I am interested in India as a whole.

Now, what happens is this. I do not know if my Honourable friend the Commerce Minister will be able to refute this argument. As between these Calcutta and Bombay shippers, America went without sufficient quantity of jute. They have increased the production of paper bags by 40 per cent of the normal last year. The paper bag was invented by America and was produced by them. They could not go on waiting for jute until the disputes in India are settled. Therefore, they have increased the output of paper bags, and the result is that the intake of jute has deteriorated by 18 per cent. It is now for us to bestir ourselves, settle our internal differences and see to it that we do not lose this market. If we lose even this market, our dollars will go down. I only request, I am not anxious to heap criticisms on the Minister. I would like this matter to be cleared up and effective steps taken in this direction.

Then, Sir, I come to our food situation. We are deficient in food. I am glad that we have entered into an agreement with our immediate neighbour, Australia, and that so far as food commodities are concerned we are getting 7½ million tons for a period of five years in exchange for our textiles. Australia is a good market for us to trade with and a good neighbour. Likewise we must enter into a sort of regional trade pact with Burma, Malaya, Singapore and even the Western countries like Afghanistan and others. We may get whatever deficiency there is in foodgrains from those countries in return for our textiles.

Lastly, Sir, we are apt to ignore in our anxiety to conclude agreements with foreign countries and get hard currency from them our neighbour Pakistan. Whatever differences we may have on political issues, even they must be settled. Political issues have not been allowed to stand in the way of trade. The difficulty is this. We used to get large quantities of cotton from

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Pakistan West which was being supplied to Ahmedabad Mills. Ahmedabad Mills produce the finer variety of cotton textiles and if we cannot get cotton from Sind or Karachi, we have to go to Egypt or America. In so far as jute is concerned, that is one of the useful commodities which we have in Eastern Pakistan. In return for this, we may give Pakistan sugar; we may give them coal—they have ordered coal all the way from the United States of America. Now, let us enter into trade agreements; let us not put up barriers between each other; let us be on good friendly relations.

One other point, Sir, which I wish to point out in this connection is this. The U.S.S.R. is not a member of this World Trade Organisation; it is not a member of the Monetary Fund; it is not a member of the International Bank. All the same, U.S.S.R. has been trading with various countries and entering into bilateral agreements. The other day the U.K. entered into an agreement with U.S.S.R. that it will supply light steam engines to Russia and in return take wheat, barley and timber in large quantities. Therefore, whatever their ideologies, however much they may differ there, and whatever steps they may take elsewhere, so far as trade is concerned they are entering into trade agreements similarly, we ought not to distinguish between this country or that country so far as trade is concerned. Now, what is that Russia can supply? All the oil companies, the American and British, have combined and they have reduced the oil quota that has been assigned to us? In this respect, we can well enter into an agreement with Russia. She can supply us oil, she can supply us coal, she can supply us wheat, she can supply us ammonium sulphate. I learn that three ships containing large quantities of ammonium sulphate have already come to the port of Bombay from Russia or are on their way. These are the articles that we can get from Russia. Let us enter into an agreement with Russia also. Churchill said during the war that the object of the war was to win the war. Likewise, the object of our international trade policy must be to preserve and increase the wealth of this country economically, consistent of course with our good neighbourliness with other countries. That must be our primary concern. Let us not continue to be following Great Britain in her vicissitudes. Let us not be over-anxious about her. Let us change our direction in trade and divert it to U.S.A. Let us also try to get as much from Russia as well as Pakistan as possible.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Sir, it is really very difficult to discuss the export and import policy of the Government of India without statistics. The last date for which I was able to get any figures with regard to exports and imports was December 1946. In London papers, in the *Economist* for instance, we get figures of the import and export trade of England in the very next month, but here we cannot get them for a year and more. In the absence of facts and figures, therefore, it is practically impossible to discuss with any precision the export and import policy of the Government.

But generally speaking there has been a lot of whispering campaign going on in the country in regard to the export and import policy of the Government of India. It is well known, Sir, that there is a large profit in commodities between prices prevailing in India and those prevailing in foreign countries. People who are generally not interested in the trade, like to get into it merely to take advantage of the difference in prices. There is nothing unnatural about it, but it is here where the Government of India should set their foot down and see that no injustice is done to any interest whatsoever.

In Bombay, Sir, I am told that in regard to the export of oil seeds, owing to the difference in price between the purchase in this country and sale outside it being very large, certain individuals and firms have been given the most favoured treatment, although their existence in the trade did not justify it. The

same applies in regard to the export of cotton. The East Indian Cotton Association I understand took a deputation to the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister about two months ago when he was in Bombay and gave vent to their grievances. Several letters on the subject have been addressed to the Press for publication. It is for various reasons not possible for the Press to publish them. This Assembly is just the forum where those grievances can be ventilated.

Let me now take export of Jute, Sir. The Honourable the Commerce Minister just now told us that there was no basis in the allegations that were made by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. Now, whether those allegations are true or not, a public agitation has been carried on in the Press for the last ten days. The article of the *Statesman* day before yesterday is the culminating point in that direction, and still we had no authoritative reply from the Government of India so far. What is the conclusion to which we come to? We are bound to come to the inevitable conclusion that everything is not O. K. in this regard. That is the least that we can say in this respect.

Then, Sir, in regard to imports we have the same story. The time at my disposal is short; otherwise, I would have given chapter and verse in regard to the various commodities in which charges of unfairness can be levelled. Whether those charges are right or wrong, it is for the Honourable Commerce Minister to answer, but the fact remains that unsavoury whispering campaign has been going on in regard to imports also. Take for instance the import of motor cars. There are certain firms who get preference over others, although they are not entitled to that quota on the basis of their imports in the basic period. Sir, I will mention only one instance and that has been bothering me for the last three months. There are two makes of cars in this country which have been given, to my knowledge, comparatively very large quotas and what do those cars sell at? They do not sell at the price at which competitive cars sell in this country; I mean the Hindusthan 10 and the Studebaker. The Standard 10, the Vauxhall 12, the Austin 10 are practically the same priced cars in England; they sell at about £480 each car in London. What was the price of Hindusthan 10 in the country about a month back? In India the Hindusthan 10 was selling at 9,000 and odd whereas the other cars were selling at 7,000 and odd. There is the regulation which allows a profit of 25 to 30 per cent. on the landed cost of the cars. On the Hindusthan 10 the profit is said to be about 60 per cent. That law does not seem to apply to Hindusthan 10. I saw from the advertisement in newspapers that recently the price of Hindusthan 10 has been reduced to Rs. 7,700. I say that there has been no reduction yet in the London market in regard to the price of Hindusthan 10 and other similar cars. Hindusthan 10 is exactly the same car as Morris 10 and it has been given the name "Hindusthan 10" for this country. Now, Sir, it would appear the price has been reduced by Rs. 1,800 per car in the last one week; it is not because there is any drop in the price of these cars in England, but it is because people are not prepared to pay that Rs. 9,500 today; they used to pay Rs. 9,500 for this car before because they could not get Austin 10, Standard 10 or Vauxhall 12 in the market and because they did not get these, they used to pay the black market price which in this case was white market price. The Studebaker is still sold more or less on the same high price basis as other American cars are in short supply. Now, may I ask in all seriousness of the Commerce Minister why in spite of all this, this firm should be given preference in regard to import quotas and fixation of high prices.

An Honourable Member: What is the name of the Company?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has mentioned the name of the make. It is not desirable that individual instances should be cited, because the firm referred to has no opportunity of making a reply. But he can state facts without mentioning names.

[Shri Ramnath Goenka]

Shri Ramnath Goenka: I shall not mention the name of the firm and the names of the cars are there and the Honourable the Commerce Minister knows them as much as I do and which every member of the House knows. Recently the Madras Government wanted the dealer of the Hindustan 10 and Studebaker to produce their original Home invoices to fix their selling prices. They refused to produce the invoices and said: "We are only dealers; we buy from Hindustan Motor Limited and therefore, we cannot produce the invoices" and the Hindustan Motors Limited are outside the jurisdiction of the Government of Madras. Sir, I would have expected the Honourable the Commerce Minister in the circumstances to cancel the import licence of this firm who sell at such abnormal prices.

I will take the case of newsprint in which I am keenly interested. It was agreed by the Government that the highest priority should be given to food and then the second highest priority should be given to newsprint, because newsprint is required for the purpose of printing newspapers *inter alia* to keep up the morale of the people. Now, Sir, what happens? The Commerce Department it appears have laid down a new policy which will result in cutting down about 40 per cent. of the circulation of newspapers in this country. Besides this the small newspapers are practically closing down; some of them have closed down for want of newsprint. The price of newsprint now prevailing is double the landed cost in this country. The big newspapers and those who are influential somehow or other manage to carry on. Out of about 1,400 newspapers in this country there are only 68 large newspapers, who consume more than ten tons a month and the rest of them are small newspapers. They are closing down every day and if the larger newspapers come to their rescue, the Government of India does not help them in granting necessary import licences.

Then, Sir, instances after instances can be multiplied with regard to various matters. Let me mention only one matter more, Sir. The Government of India in the *Gazette of India* issued a notification giving a list of prohibited articles for which import licence will not be allowed. One Bank Manager one day showed me a licence for the import of refrigerators, which was one of the items in the prohibited list. He was wondering whether he was right in opening a letter of credit for an article which was on the prohibited list, but for which his client had a licence in his hands. Now, Sir, when licences for prohibited articles are being given, and licences for luxury articles are being given, for dollar exchange, licences for newsprint are withheld. I need not mention various instances; the fact remains that something is wrong somewhere. I am not making any charges. I know very bad tradition has been inherited by the Honourable the Commerce Minister. I say the only remedy for all these ills is to establish an Indian Commercial Corporation on the basis of the U.K.C.C. That Corporation can be established by law to buy in this country and sell outside and *vice versa*. We are virtual monopolists in tea, coffee, manganese, oil seeds etc. Cloth prices are three to four times more in foreign countries than prevailing in this country as the Honourable Minister has admitted himself. Then there is jute for which Bengal holds a monopoly; hides and skins, which is practically the monopoly of South India. All these articles this Indian Commercial Corporation can buy in this country and sell in foreign countries and get the profits for the nation. Then there are articles which we import. We can buy them in foreign countries. If properly managed this profit will reach into 50 to 60 crores, ordinarily speaking. If you say that the merchants will be eliminated, to some extent, I say that they deserve to be eliminated for the way in which they have been behaving.

Take the case of cotton mills today. It was definitely agreed that the cotton mill-owners will see that no higher prices than the prices fixed between the

Government of India and the mill-owners themselves shall be charged. Today it is an open secret and if the Honourable the Commerce Minister would like to come with me, I will take him to the nearest market, Delhi and he will see that on 40 counts 30 per cent., on 50 to 60 counts 40 to 45 per cent. and on 80 counts 70 to 75 more is charged over the agreed price between the mill-owners and the Government. That is what is happening in Bombay; That is what is happening in Kanpur; that is what is happening in Ahmedabad and that is what is happening in the Delhi market. Sir, when they come to a decision and the mill-owners give an undertaking, is it not their duty to see that no higher prices than those approved by the mill-owners are charged at least by the mills themselves. Even before the ink is dried on the agreements profiteering has started. This is why I say the industrialists and traders deserve no more sympathy. Sir, that being so, we have given plenty of opportunity to these middlemen or merchants or traders or to the millowners or to the industrialists; and we have come to the conclusion that we must now take the law in our own hands and see that the trade of the country is carried on in the interests of the country and for the country and the profits, if any, should come to the nation and not go to individuals, other things being equal.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Sir, my cut motion relates to the appointment of Trade Commissioners. Our trade is now in its infancy; for the last three hundred years the Britishers have been occupying India and they carried on trade with this country. They came here as traders and then conquered this country and ruled it. The most important thing to remember is that the progress of any country depends on its economic development which again depends upon its trade. So our trade has been suffering all these years because foreigners were in occupation and used the country for their benefit. During the British regime they appointed some Trade Commissioners to look after this country's trade but they were really to look after British interests. They appointed only those people who would discourage the exports of our country and encourage imports from other countries. Even though in some countries now we have got Indian Trade Commissioners, they also are following the same policy because they were trained on those lines.

Another thing is that our exporters always look to some importer there. There are no Trade Commissioners to look after the interests of our trade and so the trader has to send his own man to see the markets of these foreign countries. Thus he has to incur a heavy expenditure and is put to a loss. And there he is not able to find out a good market for our goods. Sir, the budget shows that there are only five or six Trade Commissioners appointed. Now we have got trade with many other countries and specially to Asian countries we have to send our handloom cloth and other textiles. In these Asian countries there are practically no Trade Commissioners and our people—specially the Chambers of Commerce—are sending their own representatives to look after their trade. These exporters sometimes black-market in certain articles and in importing certain other articles. They produce before Government some letter from the importer and get a license which they sell or black-market to some one. These black markets are going on because of the lack of Trade Commissioners.

Sir, very recently an offer was made from Canada to sell us tractors. A Canadian firm asked our Commerce Ministry to buy these tractors; they said it is not their business but that of the Agriculture Ministry. That Ministry said it was not their business but the business of the Industries Ministry. The result was that we could not get these tractors and that is how our trade suffers.

Sir, India is growing coconuts and America wants to purchase five thousand tons of desiccated coconuts per annum, but no one has arranged these things. If we export these desiccated coconuts we will have dollar currency to the tune of a million. Some places fell vacant in countries like Kabul, Siam and Egypt and there is no provision as to how and when these places will be filled up.

[Shri V. C. Kesava Rao]

Our Indian traders are experiencing a lot of difficulty regarding their correspondence. In the foreign countries these people have influence and want to send things but for want of proper facilities they have to look to some other agency to carry on their business. So there is a lot of delay in the correspondence here as well as in foreign countries. To remove all these difficulties I request that in almost all countries where our trade is carried on Trade Commissioners should be appointed and proper facilities arranged for our trade.

Shri R. B. Diwaker: Sir, I have moved a cut motion with regard to coastal shipping and also insurance. It is a very important subject in so far as all shipping is part of the circulatory system of every country. The present position of shipping in India is, to say the least, very deplorable. Most of the shipping companies working here are foreign companies. Though there are some Indian shipping companies they are not very prosperous and are not capable of development to a very great extent unless the Government of India take the initiative in the matter and see that from the point of view of national shipping, national economy, and national defence, major steps are taken for the development of coastal shipping. In fact if I look back at history I find that it was on account of the neglect of navigation and coastal shipping that India exposed herself to exploitation by maritime countries like England, Holland, Portugal and others. If we had been as alert as it is necessary for every living nation to be, we would not have become the exploiting ground of so many maritime countries; and, as we know, it ultimately ended in our enslavement. Today what is the position?

I should like to look at coastal shipping from two points of view. One is the point of view of trade and commerce and as a channel for conveying things from place to place; the other is the point of view of the shipbuilding industry as such. The present coastal shipping business in India is divided between two types of ships, big ships and country craft. One may be said to be the big ships used by steam navigation companies, and the other is small country-craft. There are about twenty shipping companies which are Indian-owned. There might be a few more or less, because the figures I tried to get were not very up to date. But there are about 500 companies plying small craft on the west coast. There might be an equal number on the east coast. I have not been able to get those figures. But the goods and the passengers handled by the navigation companies is a little more—I am speaking of 1942-48—than that handled by the small country-craft. That shows that if 55 per cent. of coastal shipping was handled by the big companies, something like 45 per cent. was handled by the small country-craft. Therefore in the economy of our country, the small country-craft plays a very important part, just at present at least. And I do not see any possibility of getting very big ships built during the next few years. If we think of buying them in foreign markets, well we know that the cost is very high, and possibly they will not be available even if orders are placed from today onwards. Let us take England itself. I do not think England is in a position to execute orders which are placed there because they themselves are in a tight corner and they are manufacturing for their own purposes. The same might be the case with America; and to be satisfied with buying very old secondhand ships is like tying down our progress for at least a decade or so. Therefore, my plea is that the Government should consider this big industry as well as shipping from the point of view of the small country-craft and give encouragement to it as well. It is natural that the big navigation companies are averse to this kind of encouragement that may be given to the small country-craft because there is a conflict of interests. It is almost like that conflict which arises in the bigger field of industry, between big industries and small industries or village industries. But then just at present, I think, unless we work out a synthesis and have a *via media* there is no possibility of progress so far as this industry and coastal shipping are con-

cerned. We cannot afford any longer to entrust big shipping industry to foreigners. We have had enough losses from that course and we also know that at the shipping conference that was held the British-owned companies and the foreign companies definitely said that they were not in a position to accept any programme or policy on behalf of the Government of India to discourage their companies and their shipping to the advantage of the Indian shipping companies. They said there should be free competition. Well, seemingly that position looks very reasonable and rational but equity or justice are all well so long as we talk of generalities. But we have seen that during the last century practically, the British shipping companies have built up large profits, have prospered at the cost of Indian shipping and Indian companies because Indian shipping and Indian companies were at a great disadvantage. They were not encouraged at all and therefore today it would not be right on the part of British shipping companies and foreign-owned shipping companies to say that they must be given justice. It is only wiping out past injustice if the Indian Government today takes the initiative in encouraging Indian shipping industry as well as small-craft industry.

I think the Honourable Minister is aware that in 1947 the Government accepted the policy which was enunciated by the Sorely Committee and some other committees that during the next seven years the Government would try to see that about two million tons of shipping would be built and put on the sea. But I do not exactly know the present progress made in that line. It is necessary to see that shipbuilding is encouraged in India, even if this programme is to be carried out. Otherwise this two million tons of shipping, if it is to be bought, or constructed in foreign shipyards, not less than Rs. 200 crores would flow to foreign countries. Of course, my calculations might not be correct, but grossly I can say about Rs. 1,000 per ton is what may be said to be nearest to the calculation. So I would plead with the Government to look at it from this point of view and just as they have floated what is called the Industrial Finance Corporation, there should be a Shipping Finance Corporation in India. It is only in that way that the country can build the ships that it requires within the time at our disposal according to the Government policy. Shipping has far greater advantages than land transport. For instance, once a man is on the ship, or some other material is on the ship, it can go round to any point in India which is on the seas; also it can go inland wherever there are big rivers with deep enough water. So from three points of view, namely national economy, shipping facilities, and also from the point of view of defence, it is necessary that the Ministry of Commerce should address itself to this important question. And I emphasize again that small country-craft should be encouraged not only in regard to manufacture but it should also be rationalized. If it is possible, it should be arranged that power-driven country-craft is encouraged, given facilities to go faster. More insurance companies should be floated in order to insure the things that are carried or conveyed by the small country-craft, otherwise people do not desire to entrust their goods to small country-craft on account of their being exposed to greater dangers. Thus it would be possible for us within the next seven years as the Government has envisaged, by special efforts to see that shipping and country-craft to the extent that it is necessary may be put on the seas, and this particular line of national development may be reached within the scheduled time. With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, three of the cut motions moved today relate to International Trade Agreements, the export and import policy and the appointment of Trade Commissioners and all the three of them really hinge upon one central factor, namely the policy of the Government in regard to external trade. At the outset I would like to mention that this country's destiny having been so long the plaything of the needs of a wartime economy and largely controlled by the people who were running the war has

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now been brought to a stage where, unless there is definite and conscious planning, it is not likely that either the people engaged in external trade will be satisfied or that the country will get the maximum benefit out of it. To me it seems that it is a case for the Honourable Minister having to try to increase the available staff with him. Actually as the Ministry is staffed at present, if you ask the Honourable Minister to work out a policy, even a skeleton policy, I do not think he has got the machinery for that purpose.

On a previous occasion I said in this House that this Government is sadly lacking in the necessary amount of technical advice, particularly on economic matters. I repeat that statement now. This department had a fairly decent sized Economic Adviser's section which has now been reduced to practically next to nothing. It may be that this Department is dependent on its sister department, Industries and Supplies in regard to technical advice on several matters but actually co-ordinated activity seems to be very difficult. In fact, the criticism of the licensing policy of this Government is that there was no order nor method. There might have been a few cases of favouritism, I do not dispute it. Probably some of these were even glaring instances of favouritism. What we find really from our objective study of the position is that there was no reason or rhyme behind the grant of these import and export licenses. In fact, early in 1947, during the first half of the year, the department practically denuded our exchange resources by the granting of licenses in a haphazard manner, so that to the extent of my information Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs worth of camphor was imported from the U.S.A., of which only ten per cent. was needed for industrial purposes and the rest went towards being burnt as incense to the Gods in South India. That is an instance of the waste of our exchange resources, which is nothing short of being criminal. Similarly I think this country imported tooth brushes and tooth pastes which might last for three years and the import of fountain pens in this country during 1947 equals the aggregate of the imports during any five best years in the past that the trade could record. So that it only shows that the Commerce Ministry has not had the machinery for the purpose of shaping its policy nor to find out what is absolutely necessary for the country and what is not. Willy nilly the force of circumstances have brought us to a stage where unless we consciously and deliberately plan our import and export policy we shall be soon in queer street.

I hope therefore that any emphasis on the need for a trade policy covering both exports and imports will not be taken amiss by my Honourable friend. In fact on the cut motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar I thought the emphasis should be on the basis, "Let us know what exactly is going to be our policy, so that we shall be able to acquit ourselves suitably in international trade conferences, because we would then know definitely what we want." As a matter of fact during the Geneva Conference, I understand, our delegation was in the unhappy position of not knowing what to do. This country was being divided and our delegation did not know whether they represented one part of divided India or the united India and what was the policy that they had to put forward. All these problems were before them in Geneva. If we are to outline a definite trade policy and if my honourable friends who in season and out of season want a curtailment of the expenses of the Government are prepared to be liberal at least so far as the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, to enable them to gather together the necessary machinery for the purpose of framing a policy then we will be entitled to ask them why they have no definite trade policy.

The next matter that I would like to deal with is the question of the appointment of trade commissioners. My friend Mr. Keshava Rao from Madras offered some remarks on this question. I do not think those remarks are really fair in regard to the work of a number of people who have gone out

from the country abroad and who have been doing their best within the limitations imposed on them. It is no doubt true that, functioning as they did in the past—as subordinates of the British Government—our Trade Commissioners could not do very much. The position is now different. The position is that we are an independent country and if we have a trade policy our men could do abroad very well indeed. At the moment I think we are rather short of men abroad for this particular purpose. In many of the places where we had trade commissioners in the past we have nobody today. I think the Honourable Minister will do well to give his close personal attention to this question and send out men from India who would be able to represent the trading interests of this country and do well by this country.

Another question is in regard to the organisation of our commercial departments elsewhere on which I would like to lay some stress. We have an organisation called the Supply Mission in America. We have a Supply Mission in England, also an India Stores Department and various other organisations. There is a Trade Commissioner in England and a Trade Commissioner in America. I would like to ask my Honourable friend if there is any co-ordination between these people. Do they meet together or do they meet people who go out from India? In fact I was told by a junior member of the delegation that went out to Lake Success, the other day, that neither the head of the India Supply Mission in America nor the Trade Commissioner there thought fit to call on a Minister of this Government who had gone there though not certainly for a purpose germane to the work that is being done by the Supply Mission or the Trade Commission. Nobody would think it is not proper that these people should meet him, talk to him and probably give him whatever information they can to aid him in his work. That is the type of co-ordination that now exists. The Embassy is in one place, our trade commissioner is another place and they have nothing whatever to do in the matter of close contact with the Supply Mission. If we really are going to benefit by a Purchasing Department or a department which aids non-official trade agencies in these areas, they must all come together. They must be in one place and in one building. They will have to follow one policy and act with one voice. It is not a question of one person doing one thing and the other person countermanding it. I was told sometime back that one department of the Government wanted light tractors. Somebody said that there were about 100 tractors available in a particular factory in U.S.A. Another department of his Government said that they had not yet decided whether they were going to import tractors at all. This is an instance of the I. and S. Department, the Agriculture Department and the Commerce Department is going in different ways so far as the question of importing valuable material from abroad is concerned, which will ultimately leave this country without the necessary material, particularly in a world where the market is the seller's market and not the buyer's market.

That leads me on to the question whether this Government should have an organisation which will be able to canalise the major activities of export and import. My friend on my left mentioned the need for starting some sort of Commercial Corporation similar to the UKCC that functioned during the war. My own feeling is that it would be wise to start a Corporation of this nature. I think it was sometimes in 1944 the Government of India as it then was, seriously considered the idea of starting such a Corporation. I am not able to remember what happened but I do remember that there was a conference in Bombay of various interests and certain broad outlines were chalked out. But I suppose vested interests stood in the way of any such corporation coming into being. The necessity for a corporation of this nature, as I have said before, is clear because all our export trade has been more or less disorganised. Practically all our exports in the past were taken out of the normal trade channels.

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At that time export was regulated partly by the Government of India, the U.K. Food Ministry regulated it in the case of food articles and the U.K. Ministry of Supply in the case of other articles—so much so that some of the big people in the regular business have gone out of it. The so-called normal channels that now exist were not the normal channels that existed before 1939.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar said something about jute and he criticized the Minister. I think it is a matter in which the Minister has to be supported. A question was asked the other day—we were not able to elicit all the information we wanted to—but if newspapers here, however eminent, carry on propaganda on behalf of vested interests which are mostly foreign interests, Government has to see to it that the foreign interests will not have a whip hand in this matter, particularly at a time when jute, as everyone knows, is needed for the purpose of barter with countries which supply us food and members in this House should support Government and stand by it in its action which may not be wise in all its aspects but which is certainly wise in the essence of it. I think it is time that the Cabinet as a whole takes note of what is being done in newspapers in this country. The other day the *Statesman* wrote an article apparently sponsored by certain interests. The bulk of the jute interests in Calcutta are European interests with one or two big Indian interests and they wanted things their own way. That is followed up by a leading article in the *Statesman* which is, to say the least, insulting. I would suggest to the Honourable Prime Minister who is here that he ought to read that article. It is thoroughly insulting to a National Government which has no other interest except to do the right thing by the people. Here we have a newspaper trying to boost foreign interests. In a matter like this therefore I would ask every member of this House to support the Commerce Minister in whatever he does.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the *Indian Finance* of Calcutta?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The *Indian Finance* might have its own reasons for doing a particular thing. It does not happen to be a member of the Legislative Assembly elected by the people having to do good to the people: it is there to serve its own interests.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member propose to take a long time?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I will require only a couple of minutes, Sir, and with your indulgence I will finish before the House rises for Lunch.

While on this question I would like to revive this matter of starting a state corporation. My Honourable friend to my left has given certain reasons as to why it should be done. The Commerce Minister has told us and I think other Ministers have also told us that in some cases, for instance in the case of foodgrains purchased from other countries, we are including as a part of the terms of the contract certain amount of quotas for the purpose of export from this country of textiles in most cases. Knowing as we do, that there is a very big margin between the prices obtaining in this country and elsewhere—though this marginal difference will probably not continue to be as big in the future under a de-controlled economy—I think it is only right that the Government should tap a portion of the difference for the benefit of the taxpayer. This will also save all the embarrassment to the Government of giving licences to this particular person or that particular person. Jute has got to be controlled by Government for various reasons because of the peculiar position in which that trade is. Similarly coffee. There was a complaint the other day that the Coffee Board is making an enormous amount of money for being divided amongst coffee interests and why it should not be the monopoly of Government or why the Government should not get all the necessary revenue from this source instead of by way of taxes. The position may not obtain for

a long time because actually our monopoly will not remain for long in this respect. In another five years our oilseeds monopoly will cease when East and West Africa develop this industry. But so long as the monopoly is there, at a time when the Government is not able to tap the full resources needed by way of taxation, why should it not take over the trade in these articles and make as much money as it can? Trade interests will be satisfied if no undue favouritism is given to any particular person. That is a very valid argument for making the Honourable Minister consider this particular suggestion of a State Corporation made by my Honourable friend to my left.

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.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I shall try to deal with one or two points which have arisen in the course of this debate. One is about the introduction of customs barriers between India and Pakistan. As has been clearly pointed out by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, whatever political differences we may have, on business there should be no differences whatsoever. With regard to these customs barriers, they are mutually destructive of the Dominions. There are long common land frontiers and customs barriers will always be a costly matter to maintain. There would be plenty of smuggling and, of course its necessary corollary, corruption. The effect of this would be that if customs barriers fail, they will cause enormous loss to both the Dominions and specially of the consumers on both sides, and if they succeed, the result would be that raw jute for instance will be diverted from Pakistan to foreign countries. Raw jute is a great necessity for West Bengal or rather for the whole of India. Raw jute is absolutely necessary for our enormous jute mill industry and if we miss raw jute from East Bengal, the result would be that crores of rupees would be lost to India. Firstly the export of finished jute products brings us an enormous amount of customs revenues, and again the jute trade gives us a very large amount of Income-tax. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has dealt with a very important aspect of the situation, namely that we will gradually lose the foreign markets. The greatest danger of jute is substitutes, and if we cannot supply jute products to the civilized world, they will be forced to introduce substitutes. There is already a considerable amount of research in foreign countries to find cheap and effective substitutes, and our customs-policy will be highly injurious to both the Dominions. As has been suggested by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, I think there should be a trade agreement between the two countries. There are I understand, very influential business men in both the Dominions. I think these business men should be asked to take up the negotiations, and I think business men can do business negotiations more speedily and more smoothly and effectively than Government organizations do. The trade agreement should be on a broader basis between the two. East Bengal produces 70 per cent. of raw jute. The finished jute is made in West Bengal. We have coal, and Pakistan has foodgrains. They have cotton, and we have cotton cloth. May we not try to exchange these things for our mutual benefit? Without elaborating the point any further, I should strongly support the policy which has been advocated by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Then we come to another important matter, namely the handling of jute quotas this year. It has been suggested by an esteemed Honourable Member that we should support the Honourable Minister in whatever he does, and he has gone to the length of declaring that we should support him whether he is right or wrong. I think the Honourable Member has gone a little too far. Some of us

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have come here to support the Government, but to say that we should support the Minister whether he is right or wrong is practically conceding that he is wrong. The Honourable Member who opened the debate never suggested anything personal against the Minister. He rather said that it was his duty to bring to the notice of the House certain important aspects of this matter and he asked the Honourable Minister to give us the facts. There was not the slightest suggestion of anything undesirable so far as the Honourable Minister is concerned. The Honourable Member who suggested that we should support the Minister even when he is wrong, has introduced a very interesting diversion in the House by pointing out that the paper which has given currency to certain reports is a foreign paper. I submit that we should consider the allegations on the merits rather than emphasise the fact that the paper was a foreign paper. Some time ago when the Honourable Minister was away from India, some jute interests saw some members, and some of them saw me. They said that the policy of distributing quotas between experienced shippers and new-comers was initiated by the late government and they were anxious that this should not be repeated. I can assure the House that these interests who saw us were all Indians. They made frantic appeals to the Government and they urged that if the quotas were distributed amongst new-comers who had no experience of the trade, great disaster will follow, and disaster has really followed. In fact we have lost not only the present market but we have compromised a future market to a large extent. I have never been in touch with any European business men in this respect nor do I happen to have the good fortune of knowing them. What I have said is based on information derived from Indian sources alone. In these circumstances it would have been more to the point to refute the allegations than emphasising the foreign character of the newspaper. I should submit that the policy of distributing patronage to a large number of people as was done in the case of distribution of cloth quotas, should never have been followed in a matter of international importance like this. I think, Sir, the Honourable Minister should henceforth distribute the quotas amongst experienced shippers irrespective of the fact whether they are Europeans or Indians; we cannot afford to lose foreign markets; and even if the shippers were foreign merchants there are a large number—70 or 75 per cent.—of shareholders who are all Indians and middle class people. Many of the shippers are Indians. It will not do to say that some of them are foreigners and therefore business should be taken away from their hands. We cannot do so without affecting our own prosperity and our future. Foreigners are perhaps more in touch with foreign markets and are therefore suitable for our purposes. Remembering that jute is the largest export in India and that Indian jute is an exclusive monopoly in the world, we should in our own interests do everything to retain our monopoly and our dominant position in this respect.

I hope the Honourable Minister will explain to the House the exact method by which the export quotas were really distributed, and especially as to the allegation of the newspaper—which allegations are made by others too—as to whether a large number of quotas have remained unused, or were given to those who did not know how to use them; it is said that there were some attempts to black-market them but some hitch arose and it could not be carried out. The allegation is that quotas have not been used: in the meantime we have lost the market in consequence. The Honourable Minister must feel that if there is the slightest truth in these allegations then there is certainly something wrong in the Department.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been hearing a lot about jute and other things this morning, and I want to turn the attention of the House now to the manner in which our tea trade has been handled by the Commerce Department.

Sir, Amritsar was the principal market for the export of tea from India to Afghanistan and Kashmir. This year for reasons over which the Commerce Department had no control—owing to the Rawalpindi route being closed—tea could not be sent to Kashmir. But Afghanistan presents an entirely different story. It seems that since the beginning of January the export of tea to Afghanistan has been at a standstill on account of Governmental action. I put a question to the Honourable Minister early last month and he told the House that the Central Government had not passed any order banning the export of tea, the East Punjab Government had not passed any order banning the export of tea, but the East Punjab Government had placed certain restrictions which had resulted in the stoppage of export to Afghanistan. Sir, I do not know what is the distinction between a ban and placing restrictions which results in the stoppage of exports altogether. The Honourable the Commerce Minister then also said that he was taking steps to see that the East Punjab Government did not interfere in our foreign trade in this manner. But the House would be surprised to hear that though over a month has passed since that question was put and this assurance was given by the Honourable Minister, those restrictions imposed by the East Punjab Government still continue and nothing has been done in the matter so far. The result is that stocks of tea are accumulating in Amritsar and the very important market of Afghanistan that we had is likely to be lost. I do not know how it came about that a Provincial Government interfered in the matter of foreign trade. I submit that if Provincial Governments situated on the border of India are going to monkey about with our foreign trade and it becomes open to any local official—may be a Deputy Commissioner, may be someone else—who takes it into his head to interfere with trade in this manner and stop trade in this manner, then this is a matter about which the Government and this House ought to take serious notice.

Sir, tea is one of our principal articles of export and if our trade is going to be interfered in this manner, I submit we are going to lose very heavily. It is very surprising that in spite of this matter having been brought to the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Minister such a long time back, the position remains absolutely unchanged. We are talking about loss of our market for jute, the likelihood is that this market for tea in Afghanistan also we are likely to lose because after this season passes and they manage to take their tea from somewhere then we would be losing that market.

The actual position has been that traders from Afghanistan have been willing to take the stock of tea from Amritsar and export it to Afghanistan at their own risk; they have been willing to take it at the border of India and Pakistan and the Indian traders are not to suffer any risk. What I want to know is, what are those restrictions which the East Punjab Government still continue to impose and which the Government of India is unable to get lifted?

Sir, last Wednesday I put a short notice question about the system of export of jute. Before and after that a persistent campaign has been carried on against the Honourable the Commerce Minister about the introduction of this new system; his motives, his methods, have all been challenged. I must confess that this criticism coming as it does from the quarter from which it comes, makes me at first sight extremely suspicious of the motives of the people who are criticising him. When foreign vested interests criticise the policy adopted by the Honourable the Commerce Minister, we have to be on our guard about the *bona fides* of the criticism. It is also a fact, as far as I know, that the West Bengal Government objected to the introduction of the established shippers system last year and they have not raised any objection, so far as I know, to the introduction of this system. But the fact remains that grave allegations have been made that whatever the merits of this system or that system may be, favouritism has been shown in the allotment of quotas, that

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people who were not established in the trade had been given quotas and that people have been given quotas who have not been able to utilise them, with the result that the trade has suffered.

Sir, ours is a country where the saying that "Caesar's wife must be above suspicion" is not a mere saying. We have inherited a tradition where Rama turned out Sita merely on certain allegations!

I submit that in order to safeguard the fair name of the Government, in order to safeguard the fair name of the Honourable the Commerce Minister, it is necessary that these allegations which have been made and which are being freely made should be enquired into and refuted if they are false. The allegations, Sir, are serious. We cannot ignore or shut eyes to them. If it is a fact that quotas have been allotted to the people having impressive stationery and fictitious Calcutta offices, that is a serious matter. I hope, Sir, that this allegation is false; I hope, Sir, if an independent enquiry is held this allegation will turn out to be false, but I submit that in order to keep up the fair name of this Government and in order to maintain the prestige of this Government, it is necessary that the lie should be brought home to those who have dared to make this allegation.

Sir, in the very nature of things, this quota business places tremendous powers in the hands of officials, in whose way great temptations come, and although quotas may be necessary we have to guard against these evils coming in. Of course, as far as I can see, the best solution would be, as suggested, to constitute a Commercial Corporation and the Government must nationalise the entire foreign trade, so that the evils of favouritism and corruption may not come in. I remember some time back we had questions by my Honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta in which he pointed out the existence of advertisements about the sale of these quotas in the papers. It is said that quotas have been allotted to people who were never in the trade. It is said that quotas to the extent of about 9,000 tons have been allotted to a jeweller in Bombay. Well, Sir, these are allegations I submit which should not be allowed to go unchallenged and I hope in fairness to the Government and in fairness to the Honourable Minister himself, he will give us a clear statement about these things.

Shri Arun Chandra Gaha (West Bengal: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Goenka. The commerce policy of the country should be so regulated as to help the economic development of the nation. It should not be an isolated policy, but it should be co-ordinated with the entire economics of the country. First of all, I should like to draw your attention and the attention of this House to the jute trade position. It is the principal export trade of India comprising nearly 28 per cent. of the total exports of our country. It furnishes quite a good sum for our foreign exchange, with which we have to buy our food and other necessaries. Already the partition of Bengal has administered a rude shock to this trade. Seventy per cent. of the raw jute production has been left outside the Indian Union, and we have got only 30 per cent. of the jute producing areas. Instead of getting some special encouragement, and I would say, special indulgence, which it should get, this trade has been badly treated by the Government of free India. This trade, due to its geographical condition, has been practically limited to certain portions of the country—eastern parts of India; and India was almost the monopoly producer of jute in the world. She enjoyed the unique position of supplying the jute products to the whole world. But now, due to some short-sighted policy or due to inefficiency or due to some corrupt practice, this trade has been put in a wrong way.

Several speakers before me have related cases of people who were never in this trade having been allotted export quotas of jute. These quotas are now being sold or are attempted to be sold, and it is reported that the Calcutta shippers who can supply the hessian are refusing to purchase these quota permits, with the result that the whole trade has been put at a standstill. Huge stocks of jute have piled up in the Calcutta godowns and our foreign market is being denied the supply that they are eagerly awaiting from India. It is reported that America, one of the biggest jute purchasers, is trying to find out some other substitute or some other markets. It has been alleged in this House that most of the Calcutta shippers are of foreign origin. That is not exactly true. I think not more than 20 per cent. of the Calcutta shippers in the jute trade are foreigners; the majority of the present-day Calcutta shippers are of Indian nationality. So, Sir, the whole policy should be reviewed. Unless this is done immediately, it is apprehended that the whole economic policy of the Government may be upset. Our purchasing power depends to a very great extent on the supply of jute to the outside countries. It has been reported that many Calcutta shippers are trying to go to East Bengal, i.e. to the Pakistan Dominion, which would mean that the Calcutta market and the Indian market would suffer great loss.

Bengal has been partitioned and due to that, Calcutta port has received a shock. It was the supply port of East Bengal and other parts of India, but now East Bengal has been cut off from its region of supply. Although Calcutta deserves some consideration and some safeguard from the Government of India, we see, instead of that, a policy of discriminating against Calcutta being followed by the Government of India. I do not like to ascribe any motive or any regional interests. I know not what the policy is. Somehow or other, there is something wrong in the whole policy. If Calcutta suffers in this trade, the whole of India will suffer and the whole export trade of India will suffer. Consequently, our purchasing power will also go down.

Then, Sir, about 70,000 workers are working in this jute trade in Calcutta. If the Calcutta business collapses, if the jute trade of Calcutta collapses, then these 70,000 workers with all their family members will be put into very great difficulties. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been invested in this trade and I do not know what will be the fate of this huge amount if the trade collapses due to the short-sighted policy of the Government.

Then, my Honourable friend Mr. Khurshed Lal has spoken about the tea trade also. In that trade also, if you are going to lose the Afghanistan market or the market in the Middle East, that would be a great loss for the whole country.

I would again like to say that the commercial policy of the country should be co-ordinated and correlated with the entire economic structure of the country and it should not be treated as an isolated thing.

Then, Sir, I must also refer to the import policy. Now the present import policy is one in which the system of granting import licences goes on haphazardly without any plan or order. Mostly, we see persons who have been either in the business previously or who are aspiring to enter into business with a view to having some means of livelihood get these permits. The whole import policy should be regulated and controlled, so that our national industry

3 P.M. may prosper and for this there should be some non-official body. An Honourable friend has suggested that a Commercial Corporation or something like that should be established. Somehow or other, this should not be left to the absolute discretion of the Department. I am constrained to say, Sir, that the Commerce Department, the department which is issuing the export and import licences has not much of reputation for honesty and efficiency to lose. It may be that there is something wrong, but that is for the Honour-

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able Minister to find out. Then it has been said in the House that one foreign paper has been making this propaganda for the interests of the foreign investors in jute. That also is not correct. The *Indian Finance* is the best financial paper in India and it has written a series of articles against the jute policy of the Government. So, the whole policy requires to be reviewed and revised from the point of view of national economy. I again make an appeal on behalf of Calcutta, which port has already suffered too much due to the partition of Bengal that Calcutta needs some special care, some special privilege and some indulgence from the Government of India, so that it may be able to recoup.

Then, Sir, there is another point on which I should like to speak and that is the trade policy between the two Dominions. Already custom barriers have been put and I do not know how this will affect the revenue of the Government. This may bring some money, some revenue on both sides, but we should also look to the poor consumers. As far as Bengal is concerned, Calcutta was the supply port for the whole area, not only for the imported articles, but also for the indigenous goods and for the goods produced in India. So to put these custom barriers indiscriminately would mean the strangling of the entire business of the province. So, Sir, I would request the Honourable Minister to revise this policy and see if any way may be found out, so that the two Dominions may have some free trade or something like that. With these few remarks, Sir, I support the cut motion.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the previous speakers has said that the Government had no definite policy regarding export and import, but if I have understood the Government correctly, when the Government introduced the Export and Import Control Bill in 1947, they had certain definite policy in their mind, and when this Bill was introduced the assembly members had questioned the then Commerce Member as to the necessity of such a control then. The then Commerce Member then explained the policy underlying the control of import and export trade. One of the things which the Commerce Member said was that especially at the present juncture we have very limited amount of dollars in our hands and we want to export such things which are not required in our country and import such things which are mostly required in our country, so that we can increase our production here and utilise our sterling balances to the utmost benefit of the country. His special point was towards importing of as much of capital goods on which depends the increase of production in our country. He made it explicitly clear that we shall give first preference to importing of capital goods and foodstuffs, and shall not waste our dollars in importing luxuries. That is the underlying principle which he explained to us and having heard this argument of the Commerce Member, none of us could go against the control of such things and we all agreed. But then there was another thing and that was taking the power in the hands of the Government, of issuing permits and granting licences and on this there was much discussion and there was a note of dissent also. I was one of those who put in a minute of dissent.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is referring only to his minute of dissent and disclosing the contents of what he has stated. I suppose he will not go further as to what happened in the Select Committee?

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: May I refer to the minute of dissent?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: I am simply referring to that, and nothing beyond that. In that I have said, Sir:

"There is no objection to the restrictions of import and export of any commodity whenever the country requires it. Be it for one year, three years or even more. But I object to the continuance of the present system of giving licences to import and export a particular

commodity to a particular person or class of persons, as this has resulted in creating a group of vested interests consisting of officials and the merchants to whom licences are issued, and has led to various sorts of nepotism and corruption and has come in the way of freedom of trade. . . ."

Then, Sir, an amendment was moved in the House to this effect and several alternatives were given to the then Commerce Member that if these alternatives be adopted then the Government has only to take care to see that dollars are given for importing things according to the principle laid down and to see that the same are not wasted for luxury goods etc. An assurance was given by the then Commerce Member that the discretion of giving licences shall be properly exercised. But the result shows that what we had apprehended has unfortunately proved true; luxury goods have been imported in preference to capital goods; and the discussion in the House shows that giving of licences has resulted in nepotism and corruption of the worst type. Sir, there has been a complaint here in the House; I have heard the arguments that licences had been issued to many newcomers who wanted to deal in this business. I am not against that, Sir, for the simple reason that if you confine your trade only to persons who had been in the trade before, the result will be that so many other intending persons who want to do business will be debarred and they had been debarred. One of the worst things which has happened as a result of this control is that all the trade has been monopolised by a few persons and even if anything has been given to the new persons, it has not been given to one who wanted to deal with that thing, in order to earn his livelihood making that as a profession, who wanted to take that thing as a profession, but licences were given to persons who never meant to make that thing as a profession, but just to make a temporary profit out of that licence, and these too were confined mostly to millionaires.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhuri was just now telling me that most of the businessmen who wanted to come into new trades in various commodities were not given licences while people who had nothing to do with that business and who never intended to do any business were given licences; the result was that *bona-fide* businessmen were kept away from dealing in things which they wanted to develop and thereby promote regular trade. I am not concerned with who gets the licences and who does not get them; that is not a matter of much interest. What I however feel most is that dollars which should have been utilised only for capital goods and for things as foodstuffs etc. have been utilised for things without which we could and can very well do.

Sir, I asked a question here as to the quantity and value of materials imported into this country after the 15th August last, because as to the things imported by the previous Government before that date the less said the better. So I put this question on the 2nd December last about capital goods, luxury goods and foodstuffs. That information was not supplied to me; I was told that the information was being collected. The other day I asked the office whether the information was ready, and I was told that it had not yet been collected. Then again I wanted to know from the Finance Minister as to how much of our sterling balances has been utilised for capital goods and how much for luxury goods and foodstuffs. He referred me to the Report on Seaborne Trade; and as regards capital goods and consumer goods he said the statistics is not kept. Sir, it is a matter of great regret that even our Minister does not know what amount is spent on capital goods on which depends the future development of our country. This shows what control they have kept! It was said by a previous speaker that camphor worth 60 lakhs of rupees was imported, out of which only 20 lakhs worth was required for industry; we do not know what was done with the rest of that camphor. If you go to Connaught Circus you will find shops filled with only luxury goods,—lipsticks, toothpaste, perfumery, wine, etc. But machine tools and parts are not

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available at all. The Finance Minister said that there is no bar and all applications for capital goods are granted as a matter of course. But if the Commerce Minister will kindly go through the file he will find that that is not so.

Sir, I have no more time to give instances that the Government has not exercised the control over dollars properly. So far as control on dollars and the granting of licences and other things are concerned, it is not the policy which is wrong. The policy is there and it is right, but, it is the administration which is faulty and must be remedied. Sir, I support the out motion.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I am highly obliged to Honourable Members for their frank and free comments and suggestions on matters pertaining to the Commerce Ministry which, I may assure them, I value very deeply. Sir, it shall be my endeavour to have these various suggestions carefully scrutinised by our Ministry at the earliest possible opportunity; and I on my part undertake to give effect to them in the light of this detailed examination without the least possible delay.

Sir, if Honourable Members will permit me, I will say a few words about my personal attitude towards controls in general and those specific aspects of controls in particular which have loomed so large in the course of our deliberations today. I am no lover of controls for controls' sake. Nevertheless I realise that in those spheres of our present economy where a purposive direction is needed it is not possible to remove all restraints or controls over those economic activities and leave them to the so-called natural economic laws to take care of them. Sir, that in my view would be a right royal road to chaos, confusion and social inequities. At the same time I fully recognise that it is Government's duty to see that only those controls or restraints are kept which should be of a bare minimum nature in order that economic initiative and enterprise are given the fullest scope for development and are not clogged and enmeshed in a mass of rules and regulations or departmental codes. (*An Honourable Member:* "Is it private enterprise?") All enterprise including private enterprise, because that is the basis of trade and commerce.

Sir, that is essentially or basically a problem of administration and organisation to which very close scrutiny will have to be paid in the near future and to which—I will regretfully though very frankly admit to the House—it has not been possible for me to give sufficient attention which it deserves or merits because of my other preoccupations with several vital issues. Honourable Members are aware of the hardships and hindrances resulting in perpetual crisis with which we have been faced and which we had to tackle. I do not want to plead this as an excuse but I hope my Honourable friends will take this as an explanation for my inability to come to grips with this essentially organisational matter of Governmental control machinery.

Sir, a good deal has been said about inefficiency, corruption, mismanagement, etc. I do not desire to go into the details of these charges. At the same time I do not want unequivocally to dispute them. However, if I may pass on my experience of this Ministry of the last few months, for whatever it may be worth to my Honourable friends, I can say that most of these complaints are, to put it mildly, over-exaggerated. Nevertheless, Sir, we have tried to do our best under trying circumstances and we shall spare no pains hereafter to see that all these complaints, which have been closely associated with our control offices, are eliminated at the earliest possible opportunity.

I would remind my Honourable friends of the circumstances under which these controls were introduced. To bring home to them the difficulties, the magnitude of the problems and the complexities with which we were faced. My Honourable friends know that it was during the period of stress and strain of the war that these various control offices were, so to say, set up overnight. Mass recruitment to these offices was made, and I must be frank when I say

that accelerated promotions were also given. But I do not desire to go into and rake up the unhappy past at this juncture. We have, Sir, during the last few months taken some positive steps to remove several of these evils which have crept into our machinery of control, and for the benefit of the House I shall mention one or two of such steps.

Very stringent security measures have been enforced in order to prevent all and sundry from literally invading our control offices and establishing contacts with not only our officers but other members of the staff. According to reports which have reached me, this step has had its desired effect and to a large extent efficiency has increased. We have also at the same time effected a large number of transfers in order to eliminate many a square peg from the round hole that he was in and we have taken steps to see that wherever any replacements or additional staff are recruited, a proper selection of the correct type of personnel is done according to our strict governmental regulations. I have every hope and faith that in the none too distant future very little will remain that can be said against our control organisation. For all this I honestly and sincerely feel a sort of public co-operation and public spirit is needed from not only my friends who have been all too willing to criticise our control machinery, but also from the general public at large. I can give this assurance to my Honourable friends here today, that I shall very much appreciate it if they bring any case of complaint personally to me and I shall personally undertake to investigate it and I can promise that suitable and most drastic steps will be taken against those who are responsible for giving a bad name or odour to our control offices.

Sir, I do not want to say very much more regarding our organisation and administration of these offices. Only one word more: just as a single swallow does not make the summer, so I would say a few instances or complaints against our control offices should in themselves not be sufficient to condemn our whole organisation as such. I shall be failing in my duty if I did not pay my highest tributes to some of our superior officers, who have risen to the occasion at the moment and who are co-operating with me in eliminating many of these evils.

Well, I shall now pass on to a brief elucidation of our much maligned export and import policy. We have been accused of not having a policy whatsoever. In that connection, my Honourable friend, Mr. Anathasayanam Ayyangar, as well as my other friends like Mr. Krishnamachari and one or two others from this House have accused us of a lack of a foreign trade policy. May I remind my friends that the foreign trade policy of this country as we visualized it was enunciated so far back as October 1946. It was an occasion when I presided over the Trade Policy Committee consisting of businessmen, economists, representatives of Chambers of Commerce—more or less a well representative gathering, wherein that policy was very clearly and unequivocally enunciated. That policy still stands. If I may say so, international trade is not an end in itself. It is, as I said then, a means to an end, and so far as our exports are concerned, at that time I said that it shall be our desire to see that only manufactured or semi-manufactured goods are sent out of this country in increasing quantities. On the other hand, so far as our imports go, I felt that what we needed and what was pointed out by my friend, Mr. Thunjhunwala a few minutes ago, was essentially capital goods for production purposes in this country so as to increase the innate wealth of this great land. That policy still remains.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the details of our import and export policy. May I before I get down to these details, remind the House that no import and export policy can be a static policy. Accordingly our import and export

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policy is a dynamic policy, which varies according to the ever-changing factors with which we are faced and circumstances to which that policy has to be adapted. As my Honourable friends are aware, our imports and exports were controlled in the early period of the war, sometime, if I remember right, from the year 1941-42. Our control over exports was largely effected with the avowed objects of reserving essential goods for national needs: and, secondly, preventing key commodities from going into territories which were under the control of the enemy. Since then, I know that the second circumstance or factor which motivated our control over exports no longer exists. All the same, even after the termination of hostilities, it has been deemed proper that control over exports should continue in order to see that there is an equitable distribution of commodities, of which the world is in short supply, to all our markets, thereby retaining our old or natural markets as well as newly acquired ones, trying to canalise our trade to those channels from which sources we are likely to secure those goods so urgently needed in this country: And our third consideration for continuance of export control is to earn as much foreign exchange as is possible in these difficult times for our purpose.

Our export policy is continuously kept under review and it is relaxed or liberalised according to circumstances of the case of particular articles constituting our export list. No opportunity is lost to decontrol as early as possible, so that we may be relieved of all the odium that our Ministry is generally associated with and for the information of my Honourable friends I may say that since the termination of the war roughly about 200 articles have been completely decontrolled. Controlled commodities—and there are not too many of them—are allowed to be exported out of this country on what is generally called the "established shipper's principle", that is export quotas are granted to such applicants who have in the past exported those commodities or goods to particular countries during a particular basic year. The basic year generally taken is the year 1941-42. Even then in such commodities, in order to ensure that genuine or *bona fide* traders are allowed to take interest in these various trades in which they were not in the previous or basic year, a certain percentage is reserved for what are called new comers.

There are other controlled commodities like oilseeds, oils and jute, in which the "established shipper's principle" does not work or was found to be wanting in some respects and had to be changed. For those commodities licenses are issued to any applicant who is familiar with that particular trade and who can show firm contracts with foreign buyers abroad.....

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): May I know why the Government are allowing such useful and necessary commodities like oil cake to go out of the country? They are useful as food for animals and also useful for agricultural purposes.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I will explain that later.

As I was saying in these particular commodities there is nothing like an "established shipper's principle" at work but applications are invited from all who are connected with the trade who have knowledge of that trade and who can show firm contracts with foreign buyers. In certain cases too an extra precaution is taken, namely a certificate or a guarantee from the bank is needed if letters of credit are not produced.

Since the particular matter of jute has been voiced so fervently in the House today, before I pass on to our import policy or other things pertaining to our exports, I should like to explain in a little detail our jute export policy.

We are as anxious as any of our friends who have said certain things today, to see that our jute trade maintains and retains its pre-eminent position that it enjoys in our export list. A very pertinent question which can be answered

rightaway before I go into the details of our jute export system is, why is it necessary at all to maintain control over jute exports? Sir, there are three factors at work which necessitate the continuance of our control over jute exports. First of all, we have to so canalise our jute trade to those countries from which we can earn the largest amount of foreign exchange that is so badly needed to buy the surplus capital goods and foodstuffs which are only available from those particular areas. For the sake of canalising our jute trade in those particular directions we have to assign what are called "destinational quotas". Quotas are given to particular countries and according to our needs of particular types of foreign exchange additional quotas are given to those particular destinations. In the second place, as Honourable friends are fully aware, we have our trade sanctions against South Africa. We have to be careful enough to see that jute, which is so much needed all over the world and more so when there is a jute-famine as in South Africa, is not allowed to be re-exported from certain of these countries to South Africa. A few instances have been brought in the past to the notice of the Commerce Ministry by some friends of this House as well as by certain friends outside and accordingly steps have been taken to cancel the destinational quotas of these particular countries. Without that help, I contend, it would not have been possible for Government effectively to enforce its trade sanctions against South Africa.

There is a third reason too why we desire to maintain the control system over our jute exports. As Honourable Members are fully aware our requirements of foodgrains are quite urgent and it is available only in certain parts of the world, where it is surplus. Accordingly very often Government has to negotiate barter transactions or arrangements with those particular countries and jute goods are urgently needed in such transactions. Without a control over jute exports it will not be possible, for us to effect these barter arrangements.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the details of our jute control. As several of my Honourable friends here in the House must be aware the jute year begins from July and ends in June. This jute year we have thought fit for administrative reasons to divide into two equal parts, namely the period from July to December and the second period from January to June. During the last four or five years before the introduction of the established shipper's principle in 1947 after the fixation of destinational quotas, jute export licenses were issued to all business people who were familiar with the trade, who could produce evidence to show that there have been orders from foreign buyers and who could also substantiate those orders either by bank guarantees or letters of credit. This system somehow was altered during 1947 and the established shippers principle was for the first time introduced in its place. The established shippers principle, so far as jute exports went, operated only for one shipping period. Certain evils of that system were brought to our notice and I am sure what my friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad was alluding to, namely about the representations made to him in December, was to the same effect and the representations must have been the same representations which were made to us also in the Commerce Ministry. Those representations brought to light certain features which we honestly feel are not in the best national interests. Under the established shippers principle where quotas were distributed to a few firms who had been exporting jute and jute goods from this country in the past, they were allowed to select any one out of the past ten years, ranging from 1936 to 1946. We examined those figures and we were convinced that in the best interests of the nationals of this country as well as in the best interests of our jute export trade we could not tolerate that state of things to continue. Also, the West Bengal Government drew our pointed attention to the fact that the new system which had worked for that one shipping period had reacted very badly.

[Mr. C. H. Bhabha] on our Indian shippers. The figures that they produced to us went to show that 80 per cent only of the total export trade in jute and jute goods went into Indian hands whereas the rest, that is 70 per cent, was confined to non-Indian shippers. I do not desire to waste the time of the House by telling it as to why this state of things, namely that 70 per cent of the trade during that particular shipping period went into non-Indian hands, was there.

Sir, there have been certain complaints or, if I may put it, allegations against the distribution of these quotas. Before I come to that point I should like to impress on the House that the new system for jute exports is nothing but the reversal to the system which was in operation for about three to four years, with certain modifications. If my Honourable friends in this House took the trouble of comparing the notifications then issued or the system then prevailing with the system which is in existence today they will find that there is hardly any difference.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: What is the period?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: 1948 to 1st April 1947. Certain evils were tried to be remedied. One of the conditions that was enunciated while going back to the old system was that in the first instance a provisional quota slip would be issued to such merchants who showed, or who had proofs to show, that there had been a concluded business or contract with a foreign buyer and thereafter they were required to produce an irrevocable letter of credit in their own favour. Now, my friends will understand that it is very difficult for foreign buyers to open such irrevocable letters of credit in names of a jeweller or a candlestick-maker as they have tried to make out. Sir, Another safeguard that we have tried to take while going back to the old system has been that we have made it a condition to the issue of quota slips that the documents attached thereto will not be negotiable instruments among bankers.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: On a point of information, Sir, the Honourable Minister said that before a quota was granted one has to enter into a concluded contract, say, for a particular quantity of jute. What will happen to his concluded agreement if subsequently you do not give any quota to him?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I did not mean that there should be a concluded contract exclusively. Even firm orders were sufficient for issuing these provisional quota slips. In cases which have been referred to by my Honourable friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala, if he carefully studies our notifications on the subject and our Press Note which we hope to issue today after this debate is over, he will find that we have specifically and categorically stated that where *bona fide* concluded contracts exist very liberally quota slips will be issued for those quantities.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): You are giving some time-limit to those people to establish their claim.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, I would just like to touch one more point. The time is up and you have already served me with a notice, but if you will permit me, Sir, and if my Honourable Colleague the Health Minister will agree to sparing a few minutes for me I shall refer to it.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is not of his Honourable Colleague not agreeing to spare some time, but that one and a quarter hours are allotted to that discussion.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I will then try to be as brief as possible. The other essential point is about allocation of quotas and diversion of trade away from Calcutta. I must give an absolute lie to such sort of inspired propaganda that has been consistently going on in the last few days. From statistics which are available to us it can be shown—and I will welcome

any of my Honourable friends to come and have a close scrutiny of these data and statistics—that the bulk of the trade, as it used to be, is still with Calcutta firms. (An Honourable Member: "European firms") No. In some cases 100 per cent. of the licences issued are to Calcutta merchants and in other cases nothing less than 70 to 75 per cent. have been issued to Calcutta firms. It is merely, in my view, an inspired propaganda from certain quarters that has been vociferously going on and I would like to treat it with the contempt that it deserves.

As I have very little time at my disposal I am afraid I cannot go into many other things regarding our jute export policy as much as I would like to do.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: What about unused quotas?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is not true also. I will go to the other subjects. I shall go into a few prominent points which have been made out by some of my friends during the course of the debate. I plead at once guilty to the charge that we have not got sufficient statistics readily available which is not only a handicap to my Honourable friends in this House but also a great handicap to me personally. We have tried to strengthen our statistical organisation, but at the same time there are no doubt delays in these publications. The delays, if I may say in just one line, have been the cumulative result of several factors which have been in operation for the last few years. In the first place, as my Honourable friends are aware, our Commercial and Statistical Intelligence Section is located at Calcutta where there were a series of troubles necessitating delay in the publication of our vital statistics. Sir, there was besides the postal strike to which I must also refer. And the greatest handicap, Sir, has been the printing press, a point which might be answered by my Honourable Colleague the Works Minister.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have statistics been gathered?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, they have been gathered.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab: General): The postal strike was over a year and a half ago.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, as I have admitted to the House, we are very much handicapped by lack of statistics, and I can assure my Honourable friends that every effort will be made by me to see that our organisation keeps up to the time-limit and that the statistics that are published will become useful and are published with the least possible delay.

There is one other point about the International Trade Agreement raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. As my Honourable friend rightly said, we have at Geneva concluded a tariff and trade agreement with fifteen countries. This agreement was carried on under difficult circumstances which was referred to by another Honourable friend of mine, that our delegation was handicapped because of the partition of the country that then took place. Nevertheless I may assure my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar as well as my other friends that this matter of international trade and tariff agreement, as well as the Charter which has not yet been finalized, will be laid before the House on a subsequent occasion and the House will then have full opportunity of debating on that subject. For that reason I do not propose to say anything more now nor do I desire to contradict a few misstatements or incorrect statements, if I may put it so, that have been made by one or two of my friends in this House pertaining to clauses in the Charter.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the decision taken regarding the Charter be final before it is placed before the Assembly?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: It cannot be final. It has to be ratified by the Assembly, so also the Trade Agreement.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): The Honourable Minister said that in 1947, "somehow"—that was the word used—the old system came to be adopted. I thought he was the Minister concerned in 1947.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: No, Sir. I was not the Minister-in-Charge.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Could he enlighten us on the point?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I do not want to go into this matter of jute quotas, but my friend Dr. Sitaramayya, is a member of the Standing Committee and I shall be glad to supply him with all the information when we convene the next meeting of the Standing Committee of the Legislature.

Sir, I shall now come to the question of Trade Commissioners organization, against which one of my other friends has moved a cut motion. Sir, I am aware of certain deficiencies of our trade organizations abroad, and also I am aware of their not having fulfilled properly the role that has been assigned or allotted to them. Nevertheless I assure my Honourable friends of this House that we shall see that our Trade Commissioners live up to the jobs in which they are placed, and we shall also see that a sufficient number of Trade Commissioners are posted in places where they are very badly needed for the development of our trade.

My friend Mr. Diwakar, has referred to coastal shipping. This is one of the problems which is always in the fore-front of the Commerce Ministry and I promise that all active steps will be taken to see that our coastal shipping is reserved exclusively for Indian bottoms as far as possible. In that connection I am sure my Honourable friend is aware that at the present moment there is what is called a conference, which consists of two non-Indian Lines and one Indian Line, which is carrying our coastal trade. The Shipping Policy Committee, which he referred to, submitted its report some time last year and we have more or less accepted all the fundamental recommendations contained in that report. We are trying our utmost to see that coastal shipping is kept exclusively for Indian ships, but our biggest bottle-neck, if I may inform the House, is our shortage of tonnage. We have made efforts in that direction too, and as a first step we propose to introduce what is called the licensing system for our coastal ships. By that method we hope that in gradual course of time when more Indian tonnage is available, the share of Indian ships in our coastal trade will be gradually increased to the elimination of non-Indian ships.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Are you introducing a Bill in this session about that?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes. Legislation will be brought before the House very soon. Regarding country craft, we know the important part that country crafts have played so far as our coastal trade went especially during the war years, and in order to put them to some use and co-ordinate them with big steamship companies, to which my friend has referred, we have set up a committee to find out ways and means by which these country crafts can be fitted into the whole picture of reservation of coastal trade also.

Sir, I see that the time is running against me. I would be prepared to consider any other suggestions that any of my friends in the House might bring to my notice, or if there are any points which I have not touched upon due to want of time, I am prepared to furnish information should any Honourable Member care to come to me and ask for it. With these explanations and assurance, I am sure, Sir....."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the Indian Commercial Corporation?

The Honourable Mr. O. H. Bhabha: I will say just one word about this. That is always before our eyes and we have a scheme of that nature under the consideration of our Ministry at present. There are certain obstacles and I would have liked very much to put them before our Honourable friends in the House, but because of want of time I regret it is not possible for me to do so. I hope with these assurances my Honourable friends who have moved cut motions against me will kindly withdraw them.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, they are not cut motions against the Minister, but in respect of Demands. What is it that is desired now by the Honourable Members who have moved the cut motions?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With the sweet reasonableness of the Honourable Minister, I am convinced that he will do his best. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

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

Shri V. O. Kesava Rao: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Have Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

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

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,82,000 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 Commerce'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds to discuss other cut motions, I should like to invite the attention of Honourable Members to the fact that the arrangement of allotting this time of 2½ hours and 1½ hours does not seem to be quite satisfactory, but that is for Honourable Members to decide amongst themselves. We are already short by 15 minutes in regard to the time allotted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): The House may sit for fifteen minutes longer.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but personally I would not encourage that practice every day. It involves many other considerations if we sit longer: people have appointments, there are considerations of the work which the staff 4 P.M. is put to, and if members carry an impression that we can sit longer, then the time-limit becomes meaningless.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: In view of the fact, however, that the next one is a lady's chance, it may be given.

Mr. Speaker: I am merely pointing out the various aspects; the House, of course, is aware of it. I wish we could give more time to the present Demand, and the Honourable the Commerce Minister had longer time at his disposal; so that he could have placed before the House more material which it was necessary to supply to the House. But that is a matter for the Honourable Members, as I said. This is an agreed arrangement to allot time like that, and, therefore, I do not wish to interfere with it.

This also brings to notice one more fact, that in cases of an arrangement like this, the number of Cut Motions should not exceed two, at least when

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the time limit is about 1½ hours. I find there are three Cut Motions to be moved now. That means that, even if the House sits up to 5-15 P.M., out of the 75 minutes that we have, at least 20 minutes will have to be given to the Honourable Minister.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Half an hour for the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I am saying at least twenty minutes. Even if it is twenty minutes it leaves 55 minutes and if three Cut Motions are to be moved and if each member moving it is given 15 minutes, 45 minutes are cut off leaving ten minutes for the rest of the speakers. Therefore, I would earnestly appeal to those who are going to move these Cut Motions not to take more than ten minutes, so as to leave some time for other members to express their views.

DEMAND NO. 18.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Public Health Policy

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Health' be reduced by Ra. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Health' be reduced by Ra. 100."

DEMAND NO. 51—MEDICAL SERVICES

Need of encouraging Ayurvedic System of Medicines and Registration of Ayurvedic Practitioners

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Ra. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Ra. 100."

Inadequacy of Medical Relief

Seth Govinddas (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Ra. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Ra. 100."

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Sir, the building of a nation and of the national health must be the consideration of the Central Government. Now we see in India only living creatures, creatures which are moving about in streets without proper health. We have been in different circumstances but now we are free; in order to safeguard our freedom we must be a healthy nation. Health is the first item and the Central Government must take every step to take care of the health of the nation and do all research work which will help the healthy growth of the nation. Without a healthy body we cannot grow a healthy mind and a healthy nation. So, next to food, the health problem of the country must be the first problem.

As the time at my disposal is only ten minutes, I want to give certain facts and figures from the Report of the Health Survey and Development Committee itself so that we can make matters easy. Since I cannot develop each and every point I am going to give you only the points.

The first request that I will have to make is that the Central Government should allot large sums of money and that the money so allotted for the health of the nation will not be a waste, that it will return double-fold in different forms. The Report says:

"A nation's health is perhaps the most potent single factor in determining the character and extent of its development and progress and any expenditure of money and effort on improving the national health is a gilt-edged investment yielding immediate and steady returns in increased productive capacity."

These were the words. I cannot say anything more than that the allotment made in the Budget for the Public Health of the country is very very meagre. The Central Government must take responsibility. No doubt the field of medicine has been taken as a Provincial subject. I do not grudge it—Provinces should be given autonomy in that subject of treating patients and giving all medical relief for the persons of that Province. But there are a lot of things to be done. For a long time Central planning, co-ordination and research will be necessary to make our medicines self-sufficient and bring ourselves in line with the medical facilities which foreign countries give. So, unless the Centre controls certain branches of medicine, research and co-ordination, it will be very difficult. For that purpose the Public Health Ministry must be made a permanent Ministry on a proper footing. As far as my information goes, the Ministry is even now on a temporary basis. I hope the Minister in charge will more or less place the Ministry on a permanent footing, though not with a large set of officers, at least with efficient administration to look after the branches of the Centrally Administered Areas and subjects which have been given to the Central Government. A Central Organisation is so very essential.

As regards the grants given to Provinces, the Central Government is granting as block grants and has not fixed, I think, that a certain percentage of grants given to Provinces must be set apart for public health expenditure. If it is possible I would even request the Honourable Minister that a certain percentage of money should be fixed from the block grants made by the Centre to the Provinces and the Provinces must spend that amount for the welfare and public health of the people there. Otherwise those amounts might be utilised for other expenditure. So I will insist upon this point.

The other point is as regards the Centrally Administered Areas—Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, I am giving an example. The total budget allotment is Rs. 6-34 crores out of that for medical expenditure they spend only about Rs. 62 lakhs for the public health of the Centrally Administered Areas. This amount is wholly inadequate. The present public health conditions are very low as I have said. The death rate is very high—I am not going to give you the death rate, etc., and horrify you with all those figures but everybody knows the state of affairs.

As regards the poor state of health, the causes are many. Malnutrition alone will not be taken as the chief reason. Since India is an agricultural land and a land of villages, the medical relief and the public health relief should reach the villages. Now they are not reaching the villages; Government must see that they reach the villages without further delay because unless we have strong and healthy villagers, it will contaminate the whole district and from the district to the province and from the province to the whole of India.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

So certain Central legislation or central direction may be necessary in matters of public health. As regards malaria Leprosy prevention and other epidemics, they must be stopped. No doubt relief is given in the provinces. But directions must go from the Centre. I can give many examples. Take for instance, sewage water. In some towns, they are simply letting it out into the rivers. I know in Trichinopoly it is let out directly into the river. There are many other places where this kind of thing is being done. Septic Tank effluents must be constructed and it is only through them that sewage must be taken out and let into the rivers. Thus there are many matters in which the Central Government can give directions. The same is the case with regard to housing also. There must be a housing programme for industrial areas. It is not enough

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mere sanctioning money for Tuberculosis hospitals etc. The preventive side must first be considered and preference must be given to the preventive side. People must be educated to be healthy and lead healthy lives. What happens today? If there is an epidemic, the public health menials and officers rush to the place and pour some phenyle and other things and go away. The next day again the same dirty conditions prevail. The villagers are left to their own fates. That must not be the criterion for the Public Health Department. They must educate the public and bring out public health pamphlets. They must tell the people how they must live in villages, how sanitation must be maintained. Health bulletins must be issued. And here, if I may refer to the Ayurvedic system of medicine, it lays down certain principles. It lays down what an individual should do when he gets up in the morning till he goes to bed. It lays down how he should wash his face, how he should clean his teeth, how he should take bath, whether he should take oil bath and when he should take it and so on. These are the things which keep an individual healthy. If these things are preserved, and thereby the health of the individual is preserved, then there will be a healthy nation. So, unless individual ill health is rectified, it is no use your spending money on big Hospitals and other things.

There are many other things, Madam, which I can give as examples in developing individual health, but my time is short and I cannot give comparative figures with other countries. As regards hospital facilities, I would say in general that they are wanting. I have no time to go into the question of the inadequacy of health personal i.e. midwives, doctors etc. individually. In particular, I would request the Honourable the Health Minister to see that as regards Tuberculosis an Institute of Tuberculosis is set up here at Delhi. As regards public health and sanitation, I am afraid it is not being seriously thought of. Public Health are talking of bore hole latrines. After some time regular tests will have to be done, as to, whether the sub-soil water has been polluted near by. Who is to do that work? But its possibilities must be explored. For that purpose a Public Health Engineering Section must be attached to D. G.'s Department. As regards training institutions, they are very few. There should be a scientific expansion in them. In Delhi and the Centrally Administered Areas, the Lady Hardinge Hospital, etc., must be extended and the Central Government should conduct research in various Branches and the college taken by the centre. The Central Government must be more liberal to the Provinces in giving grants for public, and they should also specify a certain amount which the Provinces, should spend for Public Health.

With these words, Madam, I move my out motion.

Shri Biswanath Das: Madam, I thank you very much for your favour of allowing a period of ten minutes even to discuss a question of this magnitude. With a majority, and at that an overwhelming majority, assured, there need be no difficulty for a Ministry to be worried about the discussions because they are sure that these out motions will be withdrawn. But, Madam, I want the Honourable Ministers to feel and see that the explanations that they give here are being carried to the countryside and people are being explained the intentions underlying a particular act of the Ministry. From this view of the question, our discussions here assume their importance. I want the Honourable Ministers to realise that serious propaganda is being carried on against them and against the Congress organisation in the countryside by interested parties. It is this sort of propaganda which makes us feel and move in the matter of giving notice of out motions, so that we get information and carry the replies to

the masses. I want the Ministry and the party organisation to see these things, and see them in their proper perspective. That is why I feel sorry that a question of this magnitude should have been given only ten minutes.

Madam, I am today moving a cut about Ayurveda. Ayurveda is the science of life. It represents our culture. It represents oriental culture. It is a science full in itself, and independent. Judged from the point of view of utility, it is of supreme importance to the people of this country. The living of an Indian was so good that his average life was 125 years, which phenomenon does not exist in any country of the West today, with all their so-called advanced science. Unfortunately, in India Ayurveda has not received official patronage. Official patronage goes to a system which was born in other soils. Today, look into educational institutions, look into research institutions, look into hospitals,— everywhere you find allopathy and very little Ayurvedic institutions which are maintained, supported or subsidised by the Government. It has been my unfortunate experience that the system of Ayurveda has not only not received its patronage from the ruling classes who presided over the destinies of India before August 15, but also from its Advisers some of whom were Indians themselves. Today it is our good fortune that the Advisers of the Government and the Government themselves are not of the same old stock as before August 1947. Therefore, I have a right to expect better treatment for Ayurvedic system of treatment.

Madam, this system of medicine has suffered the neglect of centuries, has suffered from the obstruction of people who never had a word of sympathy for it. Now conditions are changed. People have therefore a right to expect that this system will be restored to its previous prestige and eminence. It is fair, Madam, for me to give friends here an idea of the attempts made towards its revival. After the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, earnest and immediate attempts were made by the Provincial Governments of the day to revive Ayurveda. In this regard, Committees were constituted and specially, the Government of Madras under the guidance of the late lamented Raja of Panagal constituted a Committee. The Government of Bengal also constituted another Committee and similarly, some other Provincial Governments also took parallel action.

Madras took a distinct step in this direction by giving shape to the recommendations of the Committee. Madam, in Bengal very little has been done and though the committee appointed by the Government constituted gentlemen like the late lamented Gananath Sen, Jadunath Gupta and Jamini Bhusan Roy, very little has been done in this regard. The real representatives of the nation never thought of reviving these systems, because they knew that very little could be done by the Government of the day, unless the entire system of administration is changed. Now we claim that the system of administration has been changed and today we have a National Government at the head of administration. It is therefore in the fitness of things to see that our culture, our system of treatment, a treatment that has the proud privilege of claiming to be the noblest system of treatment, should be revived and be restored to its ancient eminence.

Madam, it is a matter very well known to our people that during the Montagu-Chelmsford Constitution, the Congress attempted to fight against the show-boy of the British Imperialism, namely the system of administration that was adumbrated in provinces in the name of responsible Government. Therefore, they never thought of reviving these systems of treatment. Even under the new constitution that was adumbrated under the Government of India Act. of 1935, our efforts were directed against British Imperialism and the attempt was to create deadlocks and thereafter to give a fight to British Imperialism by direct action.

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Construction was not then in our programme. That explains why when we had formed a system of administration in the provinces, very little has been done in this direction. That being the position, it becomes a matter of duty on the part of the National Government to see that our system of treatment is being restored to its place of eminence. In this connection, I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the loss of Mahatma Gandhi in whom this system of culture has lost the greatest benefactor. Madam, today the masses of India are the mainstay of this system of treatment. If, as I have already stated, we do not realize our responsibility in this regard, I have no hesitation in saying in this House that the masses will take it in their own hands and see that this responsibility is realised in actual practice, because they are the greatest patrons of this system of treatment. Madam, it is an unfortunate situation today in this country that we have got drugs available in plenty and in abundance and at the same time go to the village-side and you will see that the people are suffering and dying for want of treatment. Therefore I appeal to the Honourable Minister in charge of the Ministry to see that early action is taken in restoring Ayurvedic system of treatment to its proper place by constituting a Central Board of Ayurved and also organize course of studies and hospitals and institutions for instruction for practitioners as also post-graduate course of training and for research. Unless these are done, I do not think we will be doing our duty. Madam, the Honourable Minister in charge of the Ministry has the clever way of saying: "Well, look at the university faculties; go and approach the universities." How can you say so, when you have the Delhi University and the Aligarh University under you. Institute faculties, set up a Central Board Advisory Committee to advise you on these matters. I press upon the Government to take early action and unless it is being taken, it will be a disaster for the ministry and for ourselves.

श्री गोविन्ददाम : सभानेत्री महोदया, मैं चिकित्सक नहीं हूँ। मैं हूँ एक साधारण नागरिक, और एक साधारण नागरिक की दृष्टि से मैं देशवासियों के स्वास्थ्य की ओर देखता हूँ, और जब मैं यह करता हूँ तब संस्कृत की यह उक्ति सदा मेरे सामने रहती है।

‘अरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्म साधनम्’

इस देश की अवस्था क्या है? इनके रोग फैले हुए हैं जिनकी गणना नहीं की जा सकती। एक ओर राजयक्ष्मा, मलेरिया, पेचिश इत्यादि, दूसरी ओर हैजा, प्लेग, क्षीतला आदि संक्रामक बीमारियाँ; और इसका फल क्या निकला है। जहाँ अफ्रीका में १००० पीछे १००१ मनुष्य मरते हैं, इंग्लैंड में १२.१ मनुष्य मरते हैं, कॅनेडा में ९.२ मरते हैं, वहाँ भारत में १७.५ मनुष्यों की मृत्यु होती है। हमारे वहाँ एक हजार पीछे १६.७ बच्चों की मृत्यु होती है अमरीका में केवल ३.४, इंग्लैंड में ४.३ और कॅनेडा में ४.७ होती है। इस जताब्दी के आरम्भ में भारत, जापान, फिलिपाइन और नीदरलैंड आदि देशों में माता और हैजे की अवस्था एक ही थी। पर आज एक लाख मनुष्यों के पीछे जहाँ भारत में माता से १६.२ और हैजे से ०.९३ मनुष्यों की मृत्यु होती है वहाँ जापान में माता से ०.००८, हैजे से ०.०९; फिलिपाइन में माता से ०.० और हैजे से ०.०१; नीदरलैंड में माता से ०.० और हैजे से ०.० मृत्यु दिखाई देती हैं।

इस अवस्था के कारण प्रचानतः दो हैं। पहली बात यह है कि हमारी जनता का जो स्वास्थ्य है वह इतना निर्बल हो गया है कि उनमें किसी प्रकार के रोग को सहन करने की शक्ति नहीं रह गई है। और दूसरा कारण यह है कि रोग निवारक संस्थाओं और चिकित्सकों की इतनी कमी है कि संसार के किसी देश से उनकी तुलना नहीं की जा सकती।

देशवासियों का स्वास्थ्य तीन बातों पर निर्भर रहता है : पहली बात उनकी रहन सहन, दूसरी बात उनकी स्वास्थ्य-सम्बन्धी शिक्षा; और तीसरी बात स्वास्थ्य-विभाग की परिपूर्णता। स्वास्थ्यकर भोजन हमें उल्लब्ध नहीं है। जब हमें स्वास्थ्यकर भोजन ही उल्लब्ध नहीं, तो रहन सहन की अन्य बातें गौण हो जाती हैं। स्वास्थ्य-सम्बन्धी शिक्षा का तो प्रचार ही नहीं है। यहां के लोग यह नहीं जानते कि उन्हें कौन वस्तु खानी चाहिये और कौन नहीं। वे यह नहीं जानते कि रोगों से उन्हें किम प्रकार बचना चाहिये। वह यह नहीं जानते कि उन्हें अपने रहन सहन को स्वास्थ्यकर किम प्रकार रखना चाहिये जिमसे रोग का आगमन ही उनके निकट नही हो सके।

स्वास्थ्य विभाग का इतना ही विकास हुआ है कि यहां केवल ६७०० अस्पतालों हैं। इनमें प्रति वर्ष केवल साढ़े तीन करोड़ रोगियों का रोगोपचार हो सकता है। डाक्टर यहां ४७५०० हैं तथा नर्स हैं केवल ७०००। जापान से भी कम। जापान की अपेक्षा भारतवर्ष कितना बड़ा देश है? जापान की जन-संख्या के सामने भारत की जन-संख्या कितनी अधिक है? लेकिन हमारे यहां जापान से भी कम डाक्टर हैं इंग्लैंड में करीब ६१४२० डाक्टर हैं और नर्स हैं एक लाख नौ हजार पांचसौ याने प्रति डाक्टर के पीछे दो नर्स।

अब उपाय क्या है? पहला उपाय यह है कि बीमारों का उपचार होना चाहिए। दूसरा यह है कि बीमारियों का अवरोध और स्वास्थ्य की वृद्धि होनी चाहिए। विदेशों में पहला कार्य याने बीमारों का उपचार वं डाक्टर करते हैं जो प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिस भी करते हैं। उन्हें अस्पतालों में अवैतनिक रूप से, वहां के कानून ऐसे हैं जिनके कारण, काम करना पड़ता है। वहां पर दूसरा कार्य यानी बीमारियों का अवरोध और स्वास्थ्य की वृद्धि सरकार करती है। निर्धनता तथा अन्य बातों के कारण, भारत में ये दोनों कार्य सरकार से करने पड़ेंगे।

[श्री 5 गोविन्द दास]

इस सम्बन्ध में मेरे जो १३ सुझाव हैं वे में माननीया मंत्रिणी महोदया के सम्मुख रखना चाहता हूँ। इन सुझावों को रख कर मैं अपना स्थान ग्रहण कर लूँगा।

(१) स्वास्थ्य सम्बन्धी कानूनों का निर्माण। १९१९ और १९३५ के कानून इस सम्बन्ध में अपर्याप्त हैं।

(२) स्वास्थ्य प्रान्तों का विषय होते हुए भी प्रान्तों और केन्द्र का सहयोग १९३९ में मद्रास में इस विषय में इंग्लैंड के समान एक कान्सालिडेटेड (Consolidated) एक्ट (Act) पास किया था। अन्य प्रान्तों में भी यही हो।

(३) संक्रामक तथा अन्य रोगों को रोकने के प्रयत्न।

(४) मक्खी और अच्छी दवाओं का प्रबन्ध।

(५) पैसा न दे सकने वाले दवा के अभाव में न रोगी रहें और न मरें।

(६) वर्तमान अस्पतालों का सुधार।

(७) अस्पतालों विशेष कर देहाती अस्पतालों की वृद्धि।

(८) डाक्टरों और नर्सों आदि की वृद्धि।

(९) ग्रामों में आवागमन के साधन जिनसे चिकित्सक और दवाएँ ग्रामों में जा सकें।

(१०) ऐम्बुलेन्स की वृद्धि।

(११) चलती फिरती अस्पतालों

(१२) बच्चों की नर्सरीज।

(१३) मैटनिटी होम्स।

जहाँ तक चिकित्सा पद्धति का संबंध है मैं अपने माननीय मित्र विश्वनाथ दास से सहमत हूँ हमारा यह सारा कार्य जब तक कभी पूरा नहीं हो सकता जब तक हम अपनी प्राचीन चिकित्सा पद्धति आयुर्वेदका आश्रय न लेंगे।

(English Translation of the above speech)

Beth Govinddas: Madam, I am not a physician. I am an ordinary citizen and I visualize the health of my country men from the point of view of an ordinary man. When I do this, I have always in view the following quotation from Sanskrit:

("Shriramadyam Khalu Dharm Sadhanam")

What is the condition of this country? There are innumerable diseases. We have on one side phthisis, malaria, dysentery etc., and on the other cholera,

plague, small-pox and other infectious diseases and with what result? Whereas in America, England and Canada, the rate of mortality is 10:1, 12:1 and 9:2 per thousand respectively, it is 17.5 in India.

The rate of infantile mortality in India is 167 per thousand; in America, England and Canada it is only 34, 43 and 47 respectively. Earlier in this century conditions in regard to small-pox and cholera which prevailed in India, Japan, Phillipines and Netherlands and other countries were similar. Whereas in India today the death rate from small-pox and cholera is 16:2 and 29:3 for each lac of population respectively, in Japan, Phillipines and Netherlands it is 0.008 and 0.09, 0.0 and 0.09, 0.0 and 0.0 from both these diseases respectively.

There are two main reasons for this state of affairs. Firstly the health of our people has deteriorated to such an extent that they have lost all stamina to withstand attacks of diseases. Secondly there is a shortage of prophylactic institutions and physicians to an extent which cannot be compared with any country of the world.

The health of our countrymen depends on three factors; firstly their way of living, secondly their education in health matters and thirdly self-sufficiency of the Health Department. We are unable to procure healthy diet. When we do not get nourishing diet, then the other things such as way of living etc. pale into insignificance. No publicity is being given at all to education in health matters. The people here do not know as to what they should eat and what not? They do not know how to escape from the attacks of diseases; and people are ignorant and do not know how to create healthy environments which may render it difficult for a disease to attack them.

As a result of the expansion of the Health Department, there are 6,700 hospitals only. The number of patients that can be annually treated in these hospitals is 3½ crores. The number of Doctors and Nurses here is only 87500 and 7000 respectively. Less than Japan even. India is far larger a country than Japan. The population of India far exceeds that of Japan. But here we have a lesser number of Doctors than in Japan. The number of Doctors and Nurses in England is about 69420 and 109500 respectively *i.e.* there are two nurses per doctor.

What is the remedy? The first remedy is that the sick should be rendered medical treatment; the second is that the diseases should be prevented and the health improved. In foreign countries, first of all those doctors treat the sick who are private practitioners and are attached to hospitals. They have to work in the hospitals in an honorary capacity in accordance with the rules existing there. There the other duties *i.e.*, the suppression of diseases and the improvement of health are undertaken by the Government. On account of poverty and other reasons both these things will have to be looked after in India by the Government.

I would like to place before the Honourable Minister thirteen suggestions which I have to make in this connection and then I will resume my seat.

1. Framing of Legislation *re* health. The laws enacted in 1919 and 1935 in this connection are quite inadequate.
2. Co-ordination between the centre and Provinces—though Health comes within the purview of Provincial subjects. In 1939 a consolidated Act similar to that in force in England was passed in Madras. The same should be done in other Provinces.
3. Steps to prevent infectious and other diseases;
4. Arrangements for the supply of cheap and good medicines;
5. Those who cannot afford to pay should not fall victims to illness and death for want of medicines;
6. Improvement of the existing hospitals;
7. Expansion of hospitals especially those in rural areas:

کے محکمہ کے لئے رکھی گئی ہے۔ اس لئے میں نے فائنلس منسٹر کی توجہ اس طرف مبذول کرائی تھی کہ ان کے بجٹ میں کسی قسم کی پلاننگ (Planning) نہیں ہے۔ پلاننگ (Planning) کا مطالبہ یہ ہے کہ ان کو یہ دیکھنا چاہئے کہ زیادہ سے زیادہ دشواریاں اور مشکلات اس ملک کے ریلے والوں کی کس طرف ہیں اور وہ کونسی ضروریات ہیں جن کی طرف ہم کو مقابلہ اور چھڑونکے کے زیادہ توجہ دینا چاہئے اور زیادہ خرچ کرنا چاہئے۔ اس لئے میں سمجھتی ہوں کہ خوراک، صحت اور تعلیم میں ایک طرح سے Co-ordination ہونا چاہئے۔ کہونکہ یہ تینوں چیزیں ملکر لوگوں کی صحت پر زیادہ اثر ڈال سکتی ہیں۔ ہم نے دیکھا ہے کہ اوسط عمر انگلستان کے لوگوں کی ۵۱ سال ہے۔ امریکہ میں ۵۸ سال۔ جاپان میں ۴۴ سال اور ہندوستان میں ۲۷ سال ہے۔

ہندوستان کے بچوں کی اموات کی تعداد ۱۶۲ ہے۔ اس کے مقابلے میں جب کہ ولایت میں ۵۸ اور امریکہ میں ۵۴۔ ہمارے ملک میں ۲ لاکھ اموات صرف ہیضہ اور Small-pox سے ہوتی ہیں یہ اعداد و شمار ایسی ہیں کہ ہم لوگوں کو ان پر جتنا بھی زیادہ دغیان ہو سکے دینا چاہئے اور جیٹریقے سے بھی ہو ہم اپنے ملک کے ریلے والوں کی صحت کی طرف خیال کریں۔ میں نے جنرل بجٹ کے ڈسکشن (Discussion) میں گورنمنٹ کی توجہ اس طرف دلائی تھی کہ گورنمنٹ کے لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ جلد سے جلد ایک ایسا بورڈ مقرر کرے جس کے ذریعہ وہ یہ معلوم کر سکے کہ وہاں کے لوگوں کی ضروریات کے مطابق انکی اقتصادی حالت کے مطابق کیا بہتر سے بہتر خوراک ہو سکتی ہے جس سے وہ زیادہ سے زیادہ اپنی صحت کے لحاظ سے فائدہ اٹھا سکیں بہت ہی سخت افسوس ہے کہ باوجود انکی ریسرچ (Research) کے ہمارے ملک میں اب تک کوئی سٹینڈرڈ فوڈ (standard food) نہیں ہے ہم یہ دیکھتے ہیں کہ یہاں کے لوگوں کی صحت روز بروز گرتی جا رہی ہے۔ یہ کس وجہ سے ہے؟ اسکی بیشتر ذمہ داری خراب خوراک کی وجہ سے ہے یہاں زیادہ تر اموات بیماریوں کی وجہ سے ہوتی ہیں تو اس لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ ہماری صحت کی منسٹری اس طرف خیال کرے اور جلد سے جلد ایک ایسا کمیشن بتوائے اور وہ کمیشن ریکمنڈ (Recommend) کرے کہ کس طرح سے بہتر سے بہتر خوراک کم سے کم قیمت میں ہمیں مل سکتی ہے۔ انگلستان میں باوجود سخت راشننگ کے وہاں کے لوگوں کی صحت بچائے کرنے کے لئے اور بہتر ہو گئی۔ اسکی وجہ یہ ہے کہ Experts نے خوراک کی نیوٹریٹو ویلیو (Nutritive value) معلوم کرنیکی کوشش کی اور اسی حساب سے خوراک کی راشننگ کی۔ کیا ہمارے ملک میں یہ چیزیں ممکن نہیں ہیں اور کیا یہاں کے لئے ایک سٹینڈرڈ فوڈ (Standardised food) نیوٹریٹو ویلیو (Nutritive value) کو مدنظر رکھ کر ہونے تلاش نہیں کیا جا سکتا؟

[بیگم امیناز رسول]

صحت و صحت: انا وقت نہیں ہے کہ اور مسائل پر بھی کچھ کہہ سکوں لیکن نرسز فزیکل (Nurses physical) ٹریننگ ایک ضروری چیز ہے جس کی طرف ہماری توجہ منسٹری (Health Ministry) کو خہال کرنا چاہئے کیونکہ اگر فزیکل ٹریننگ (Physical training) ہمارے ملک کے بچوں، لڑکھوں، عورتوں اور مردوں کو نہیں ملے گی تو انکی صحت دوست نہیں ہو سکتی۔ مجھے جہاننگ اپنے صوبے کا تجربہ ہے میں جانتی ہوں کہ کونسل آف ڈیفرنڈ (Council of Dufferin Fund) کی کمیٹیوں نے جو انکی صحت ہسپتال تھوہ گورنمنٹ کے سپرد کر دئے تھے لیکن سٹارل ڈفرنڈ (Central Dufferin Fund) کی جو کمیٹی ہے اُسکی صحت ابھی لہڈی ہارڈنگ ہسپتال ہے میں سمجھتی ہوں کہ جہاننگ جلد ہو سکے گورنمنٹ لہڈی ہارڈنگ کالج اپنے صحت لے لے تاکہ وہاں کا انتظام بہتر ہو جائے۔ ہمیں افسوس ہے یہ دیکھنا پڑتا ہے کہ ہمارے ملک میں نرسوں کی بہت کمی ہے۔ اور اطراف میں وزیر صحت کو خاص طور سے توجہ دلو گی کہ جلدی ہو سکے وہ نرسوں کو زیادہ سے زیادہ ہم پہنچانے کی کوشش کریں۔ کل ہی مہری ایک ملے والی ہے وہی تھیں کہہ انکی ایک دوست ہمار ہیں ہارڈنگ کوشش کے دہاں۔ میں انکو نرس نہیں ملی۔ اس سے یہ معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ لہڈی ہارڈنگ اور انگریز نرسوں کے چلے جانے سے یہاں نرسوں کی بہت کمی ہو گئی ہے۔ اس لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ ہلدی ہارڈنگ نرسوں کو لہڈنگ حاصل کریں تاکہ ملک کی ضروریات پوری ہو سکیں میں ان جلد لہڈنگ کے ساتھ اس کوشش کو جو ابھی ہو (Move) کیا گیا ہے سپورٹ (Support) کرتی ہوں۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Begum Aisaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): I had no intention of speaking in Hindustani, but after the speech of the Honourable Member it occurred to me that I should speak in the language which is understood and spoken by the majority of my countrymen. There is no doubt that the health problem is vital to our country and we should not shut our eyes to realities that so long as the health of a people is not improved their minds cannot be healthy nor can their economic life be bettered. In their report the Famine Commission had stated that no economic prosperity is possible for a nation whose people are poor in health and are not sound in mind.

Madam from an examination of different reports we find that the average cost on the health of an Englishman is Rs. 54/- and on an American Rs. 51/- whereas in India it is only five annas. Bhoré Committee recommends that under the circumstances in India a sum of Rs. 2/5 to Rs. 8/8 should be spent per head in India. I have to say this because I was sorry to find that the Budget of the Government of India provides only a slender sum of rupees one crore for national health. It is true that health is a Provincial subject, but we nevertheless should keep in view the importance of medical work and public health and spend much more, and the drive in this direction should be from the centre. I think from the point of view of national requirements health, education and food are such vital factors as deserve a major share of our revenues. But it is a pity that these three aspects have been neglected by

the Government of India and the least amount of money is being spent on them. A sum of rupees 126 crores has been provided for Defence, whereas only a sum of Rs. 20 crores has been provided for nation building departments. I had therefore to point out to the Ministry of Finance that the Budget contains no sort of planning. By planning I mean that Government should see what are people's greatest needs and requirements which require our attention to a greater extent and allotment for which liberal funds should be provided. I feel therefore that coordination is required between Food, Health and Education, as these three factors together can substantially effect public health. We have seen that the average life of an Englishman is 58 years, of an American it is 59, of a Japanese it is 44 whereas of an Indian it is only 27 years. The average infant mortality in India is 162. Against this it is 58 in England and 54 in America. In this country two lakhs of people a year die of cholera and small-pox. These figures call for our greatest attention and we pay attention to the health of the people of this country in all possible ways.

While discussing the General Budget, I had pointed out that it is high time for Government to immediately appoint a Board by means of which, keeping in view the necessities of people and their economic condition, the most wholesome food may be found out so that people may get the maximum benefit so far as health is concerned. It is a matter of great regret that in spite of so much research work there is no standard food in India. We see that our national health is deteriorating day by day. What is its cause? Diet is one of the most important of these causes. Diseases take the greatest toll of life here. Our Ministry for Health must, therefore, attend to it and constitute a Board which may advise us in what way our people can obtain the best food at the cheapest price. In spite of stringent rationing in England, the health of Englishmen instead of deteriorating, has improved. It is due to the efforts of the experts who found out the nutritive value of foods and then that food was rationed on the result of this research. Is all this not possible in our country? Can we not find out a standardised food keeping in view the nutritive value of it.

Due to shortage of time at my disposal it is not possible for me to talk on other aspects, but physical training of nurses is an important matter to which our Ministry of Health should pay its attention. So long as our men, women and children do not receive physical training, it is not possible to better their health. From personal experience of my village, I can say, that the Council of Dufferin Funds Committee has surrendered to the Government the hospitals which were under its control, but the Committee of the Central Dufferin Fund still has under its management the Lady Hardinge Hospital. I think, Government should take over the Lady Hardinge College as soon as possible so that its management may be improved. We are sorry to find that there is a great dearth of nurses in our country. To this thing particularly I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister that arrangements be made to provide as many nurses as possible. Only yesterday one of my acquaintances complained that one of her sick friends could not get a nurse in Delhi in spite of her best efforts. This shows that the departure of the Anglo Indian and English nurses has created a scarcity which must be made up by training Indian nurses, if the country's requirements have to be met. With these few words I support the cut motion which has been moved just now.

बीधरी रणवीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं श्री विश्वनाथदासजी के कटौती के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुए मंत्रिणि महोदया का ध्यान इस तरफ आकषित करना चाहता हूँ कि देहान्तों के अन्दर हजारों ऐसे आदमी हैं जो अपने आपको वैध कहते हैं

[श्रीधरी रणवीर सिंह]

और जो देहातियों की जिन्दगियों पर खेल खेलते हैं। हर कोई आदमी जो एक दिन भी किसी बँध के पास बैठ जाता है जा करके देहात में एक बहुत अच्छा डाक्टर बन जाता है उन लोगों के लिये इसमें कोई शक नहीं चूँकि उनके यहां तो २०-२० मील की एरिया (area) में एक भी अस्पताल नहीं होता क्या आयुर्वेदिक क्या दूसरा किसी किस्म का औषधालय होता ही नहीं। इस लिये वह उनको एक बहुत अच्छा और बहुत विद्वान आदमी प्रतीत होता है और वह बगैर किसी हिष्क के साथ अपनी जिन्दगी की कुर्बानी देने के लिये उसके सामने अपने शरीर को, अपने जीवन को उसके नजुर्बा करने के लिये पेश कर देते हैं।

उस तकलीफ को जिससे हम समय हिन्दुस्तान के ८० फीसदी आदमी मुक्तिला हैं, दूर करने के लिये मैं यह प्रार्थना करूँगा कि आज बँधों के सुधार के लिये, जिस प्रकार एंग्लोपैथ डाक्टरों के लिये रजिस्ट्रों के खोलने का अभी बिल आया था उसी तरह से बँधों को भी दर्ज किया जाय और वही लोग जो आपसे सर्टिफाइड (Certified) हों उनको ही चिकित्सा करने की इजाजत मिले। क्योंकि हममें हिन्दुस्तान के बहुत से आदमियों को एक दबा के सिस्टम में अर्थात् आयुर्वेदिक पद्धति में टीका प्रचार में आगम पहुंच सकेगा।

दूसरा बात जो है जिसकी तरफ मैं राजकुमारी जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ यह यह है कि देहातों के अन्दर आज भी लाखों ऐसी बहनें हैं जब उन्हें डिलिवरी (delivery) होती है तो उनके यहां ऐमी-ऐमी डाक्टरनी जिन्हें मायद किमी बीज का भी पता नहीं है, वह डाक्टरनी बन जाती हैं और उनकी जिन्दगियों पर खेल खेलती हैं, और यही कारण है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर मृत्यु संख्या के अन्दर सब से ज्यादा संख्या आज भी उन बहनों की है जिनके ऊपर डिलिवरी (delivery) के समय नजुर्बा का खेल खेला जाता है। तो इस लिये इस बीज की तरफ भी मैं उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि वह कोई इस किस्म की बात की ओर ध्यान दें। यह कहा जाता है कि यह subject या विषय जो है वह सबों का विषय है। कल और परसों ही हमारे माननीय फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहिब ने यह बात कही थी कि देहात या देहातियों के बारे में यहां कोई बहुत बड़ी बात नहीं की जा सकती है, बल्कि उन्होंने एक तरह से यह बात भी कह दी थी कि हमने उनके लाभ के लिये ऐसा किया है कि मुँहों को एक बड़ा भारी तीस करोड़ का दान दे दिया है। लेकिन मैं ग्याम तोर से राजकुमारी जी से यह चाहता हूँ कि वह इस दान के अन्दर एक बहुत बड़ी रकम इस विषय के लिये दें अर्थात् बहनों के लाभ के लिये और जो मैंने उस समय निवेदन किया था, बँधों के सुधार के लिये कोई न कोई बिल जल्दी ही लाए।

मेरा दिल चाहता था कि मैं कुछ और कहूँ क्योंकि मैं भी एक देहाती हूँ, देहात में पैदा हुआ हूँ और देहात में पला और आज भी मैं देहात में रहता हूँ। तो इसलिये मेरा बड़ा दिल करता था कि आज मैं कुछ और बातें आप से निवेदन कर दूँ। देहात हिन्दुस्तान की रीढ़ की हड्डी है, हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर सात लाख देहातों में लोग पड़े हैं लेकिन जहाँ तक अस्पतालों या दवा दारु का ताल्लुक है मैं पूछता हूँ कितना हिस्सा इसमें देहात के लिये जाता है। इसके लिये भी मैंने दो कटौती के प्रस्ताव भेजे थे। एक देहात में चिकित्सालय या औषधालय खोलने के लिये था। उनसे मैं यह नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि देहात के अन्दर चाहे वह सेंट्रैल्ली ऐडमिनिस्टर्ड एरिया (centrally administered area) हो चाहे सूबों के, अस्पताल खुलवायें। जिनके ऊपर आज इतनी तकलीफ है और जो कि देश की रीढ़ की हड्डी है, उनका ठीक तरह से पालन हो सके और वह जिस प्रकार आज मरते हैं उस प्रकार लाखों भाई न मरें।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, while fully supporting the cut motion moved by Shri Biswanath Das Ji, I invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that there are many people in our villages who call themselves Vaidyas and make experiments on the lives of the people of our country. Even a common man who has just come in contact with a Vaidya and has spent a day or two with him pretends himself as a full fledged doctor in the country side. This is possible because there are no hospitals of any kind, Ayurvedic or Allopathic, round about them for miles. The people, therefore, look upon him as a learned man of qualities, and without hesitation entrust themselves to his care, and allow him to make experiments upon themselves.

To remove this evil, therefore, which effects about 80 per cent. of our population today, I submit that a bill like the one introduced recently for enrolling names of allopathic doctors, be introduced to register names of Vaidyas also; and only those Vaidyas, who are granted certificates should be allowed to practise. In this way only our people can make a beneficial use of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

The next thing to which I wish to invite the attention of Shrimati Rajkumari Ji, is that there are still many homes in our rural population where the so-called lady doctors, who really know nothing about the profession, go to attend on cases of confinement, and then they make experiments there. This is the reason why the death rate is the highest in our country of our sisters who fall a victim to these experiments at the time of their confinement. To this, I earnestly invite the attention of the Honourable Minister and request her to give thought to the matter. It has been pointed out that this is a provincial matter, and only the other day the Honourable the Finance Minister stated in the House that we cannot do much here for rural areas. He made it clear that the Central Government has allotted a sum of rupees thirty crores to provinces for this purpose. I would particularly request the Honourable Minister for Health to sanction a large part of this money for the welfare of these women, and also request her to bring forward a Bill to control the Vaidyas.

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

As a villager—as one who was born and brought up in a village—and as one who is still living in a village, I wished to say something more about villages. They are the backbone of our country; they number about seven lakhs and have a vast population but so far as the question of providing hospitals and medicines for them is concerned I have to ask, how much money is allotted for villages? I also gave notice of two cut motions; one of them was about opening of rural dispensaries. I, therefore, request that dispensaries should be opened in the rural areas without going into the details of the question whether the villages fall in the centrally administered area or within the areas of the Provinces. Medical help should be provided for those who are suffering and are the backbone of our country so that they may not die in the manner they do today.

Shri K. Sambasam: Madam, I did not want to speak at all but there is one point which nobody else has touched and it is a matter of the greatest importance. So I would take only two or three minutes.

The Bhoré Committee made its report in December 1945. It has been with the Government for over two years and it is high time that the Government made up their mind and announced their policy, especially in the matter of the organisation of medical research, because I believe that the Central Government can do the greatest service to help in medicine only by organising research. The Committee have reported that though there are a few institutions of research the present organisation is defective and should be strengthened. They have recommended the establishment of a general research organisation with executive and administrative branches and they have also in particular recommended a central institution for post-graduate teaching. They have called it All India Medical Institute. I do not want to go into the details, but I would like the Minister to explain to the House what steps are being taken to bring this All India Medical Institute into being. I hope she will be able to announce that it will come into existence very soon.

Again, Madam, there are several provincial institutions which have been doing research but the Committee have reported that owing to the accumulation of routine work their research work has fallen behind and they have become mere manufacturers of serum or testing houses in such matters. Institutions like the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, the King Institute, Guindy and the Haffkine, Institute, Bombay should be brought into the plan of central research. I would also suggest that the various funds like the Indian Research Fund and the Dufferin Fund should be amalgamated and handed over to this new institution for research. Colleges like the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, should also be handed over to it. The whole thing is in a sort of chaos. There are various committees and funds and no one knows what happens to them. I suggest that the Minister should take early steps to reorganise research on a proper, solid and effective basis. There are various other things which ought to be done about tuberculosis, leprosy, etc. I regret, I have not the time to develop those points. I hope the Minister will do what is possible.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Madam, first of all let me thank Honourable Members for the great interest they have evinced in the matter of the nation's health. Nothing could delight the heart of the Health Minister more than to find a real keenness amongst the members to better the position in a field that has not in my opinion in the past been given the importance that it merits.

Before replying, to the various points touched on by the Honourable speakers I would just like to remind the House that health being a provincial subject, however much we may wish it otherwise, medical relief, public health and most of the duties which vitally affect the health of the community are the

functions of Provinces. Nevertheless apart from being responsible for the centrally administered areas as well as for India's international health obligation and for maintaining a certain number of institutions directly under its care, the Centre does help the provinces by means of development grants for their medical and health schemes. Moreover for the purpose of providing expert advice, whenever necessary, it does have experts in various branches of medicine and public health. The Centre has also taken steps to provide the provinces with quinine and synthetic anti-malaria drugs for combating this fell disease.

At the very outset I would like to say that Government are painfully aware of the very unsatisfactory condition of public health all over the country and it will be my constant endeavour, so long as I am called upon to serve the country here, to do my utmost to remedy the existing sorry state of affairs.

I am aware of the high statistics of mortality that have been referred to by some speakers and the high incidence also of various diseases. I am aware of the low expectation of life and I am aware also of the paucity of doctors and general medical personnel. The task is not an easy one and wonders cannot be worked overnight but it is the intention of the Government to speed up all health programmes. It was the intention of myself and my colleagues in the Health Ministry, the moment we came into the service of the first National Government of Free India, to initiate schemes at once for the improvement of public health, more especially over centrally administered areas, because I was most anxious that these areas at any rate might become ideal, so that they might serve as an example to the rest of India. But as the House is aware, the tragic events that supervened almost immediately after the 15th of August last year taxed the resources of Government to the utmost and for several months all the energies of the Ministry of Health and all the organisations under it had to be diverted to give medical relief and medical aid to the millions of suffering, displaced men, women and children. We were called upon to make elaborate arrangements almost with lightning speed for the provision of medical relief in various camps run by the Government. At Kurukshetra, for example, hospital provision had to be made for over 1,000 beds and a very large number of medical officers and ancillary staff had to be recruited. In this single camp nearly one lakh persons were inoculated against cholera and five lakhs were vaccinated. Large medical stores had to be transported to various camps for use not only in Delhi and East Punjab but also in Kashmir and other states. We had to arrange for seats for displaced medical students in various colleges in the Indian Union and I would here like to pay a tribute to the help that we received in this regard from all the provinces and some states also. We tried and are still trying our best to rehabilitate many refugee doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who were displaced from Pukistan. The refugee work, I may also mention, is by no means over. I mention these facts only to show.....

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the number of doctors?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I can give you figures but I have not got the time to go into them now. I only mention this in order to show to the House that this Department has not really had much chance of forging ahead with their plans. Nevertheless it is an ill wind that blows no one any good. The emergency work has, I believe, proved to be a rich experience both for those who organised and those who served in the field and it has certainly shown what can be done, if there is the will to serve.

In spite, however, of having to grapple with problems of medical aid and relief to refugees, other fields of activity, I venture to suggest, have not been neglected. Since last August, as the House is aware, three long overdue

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[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

measures for the proper development of the important professions of dentistry, pharmacy and nursing have been placed on the statute book and steps will be taken without undue delay for the creation of the Councils which these Acts have provided for. During the coming year the Health Ministry proposes to proceed with certain important schemes in the field of medical education, medical relief and public health. The Advisory Committee appointed last year to draw up a plan for an All India Medical Institute has submitted its report. The scheme is primarily for the promotion of post-graduate studies in all branches of medicine and is estimated to cost over five crores.

As the House is aware, our ship of finance is very heavily laden and we have to possess patience, however unwillingly, lest we cause it to founder. In addition, building material is not to be had for the asking. These are definite handicaps in the way of such progress as we in the Health Ministry would like to speed up. Therefore as an immediate step we have to content ourselves with trying to develop suitable branches in the existing Medical Colleges in India in order to make an immediate beginning in the development of post-graduate medical courses. A provision of Rs. 12 lakhs has been made in this year's budget for the preliminary steps to go on with the establishment of the All India Institute of Medicine. And I would like to assure the House that I am immensely keen on the speeding up of this programme. Government has agreed to give a grant to the Delhi University for a post-graduate diploma course in T. B. Proposals for the establishment of an Institute for Tuberculosis in the Delhi University are also under consideration. Necessary provisions for these purposes have been made in the budget. The Interim Commission of the World Health Organization has agreed to send out a field team to start B. C. G. vaccinations for the first time in India. The team is expected to arrive here by the end of May, I believe. With its help it is hoped to start the manufacture also of the vaccine at our own Institute at Guindy and begin field work in the Madanapalle area where there is a well-established sanatorium. In view of the fact that T. B. is now a major health problem these measures are not a whit too soon and I hope very much that they really will prove effective.

Leprosy which has been mentioned by one of the speakers is another disease for which nothing adequate has been done so far. Leper colonies run on efficient lines are a necessity. It is also proposed to give a scholarship to a leading Indian research worker of leprosy to go abroad for a short study tour. This will be done under the aegis of the Indian Research Fund Association.

The question of giving financial aid to the Benares and Aligarh Universities for starting Medical Colleges is also under consideration.

Rupees two lakhs has been budgeted for the College for Nursing here. This institution is very poorly housed at the moment and, as Honourable Members are aware, this is a service which has been sadly neglected up till now. Nurses are badly paid, badly housed and overworked, generally speaking, and their number is ludicrously small in comparison with our needs, so that we need to speed up this Nursing College in order that we may have not only more nurses but nurses that can go into the Provinces in order to start colleges there.

Honourable Members know full well that the fringe of the problem of medical relief has not been touched—indeed it cannot be touched so long as the rural areas are neglected. I am in full sympathy with every word that has fallen from the lips of speakers in the matter of medical relief and aid to rural areas. Therefore, as far as Delhi is concerned, priority has been given to the setting up of Rural Health Centres on the lines suggested by the Bhole Committee. In

the new set-up of things it is time, in my opinion, that we democratized our national efforts so that instead of building from the top as hitherto we lay a sound foundation from the bottom. A reorientation of ideas regarding new methods of approach must come into being which will involve the coordination and integration of various social welfare agencies. The efforts of the people themselves have to be directed towards a solution of their own health problems and we cannot therefore continue to work in water-tight compartments because health is inextricably bound up with education, housing, labour, food and agriculture.

• Delhi is also to have an Infectious Diseases hospital. The Irwin Hospital is to be extended in order to meet the ever-increasing need for medical aid. I am sorry to have to say that every day we have to refuse from 100 to 150 in-patients simply because we have no room. Its bed strength is sought to be raised from 320 to 660. It is hoped to build a new Out-patients Department also with adequate staff to serve the large number of these sufferers. The dispensary, the Casualty department, and the X-ray sections will be improved as also, I hope, the Pathological laboratory. Then there are certain non-governmental hospitals working in the Delhi area which are also to be improved. A budget provision of Rs. 36,80,000 for Delhi has been made this year.

In Ajmer-Merwara a new hospital is to be constructed and a T. B. clinic is to be established. A secondary health centre is to be set up at Beawar. Five primary health centres are to be set up in the rural areas of Ajmer. Existing dispensaries are to be improved and provision has been made for ambulance cars and travelling dispensaries. I need hardly emphasize that these are essential needs for catering to the medical relief of rural areas. In addition, a grant has already been sanctioned—and I am sure many Members will be glad to hear about it—in order to dispense at once with the present primitive method of the removal of sewage which has, to our shame, existed in Ajmer up to date.

Then, post-graduate training abroad for doctors, dentists and nurses will be continued as usual for the coming year.

Inasmuch as special emphasis has so far not been laid on the preventive side,—this has also been stressed by some of the speakers and I am wholly in agreement with them for. I look upon it as even more important than the curative—it is proposed to launch an extensive health education drive through the media of travelling health exhibitions, moving pictures, models and posters, publication of simple pamphlets in the languages of the Provinces and in Hindustani and also through the radio. I might mention that a good beginning has already been made in this direction and a sum of rupees one lakh has been provided for the purpose for the coming year. In order to control disease due to preventive agents, Honourable Members will agree with me that we must concentrate on research. An army of well-trained officers of health is needed in order to implement the knowledge that we have and that we are yearly getting in increasing measure. I hope that this aspect of development will grow rapidly. The economic loss of the country through ill-health can no longer be ignored or neglected. Health personnel at all levels must be trained and trained expeditiously. The Provincial Governments have drawn up their five year development schemes of which the Government of India is fully aware, and they are helped financially by the Central Government by these block development grants. The suggestion was thrown out by one speaker that the Government of India should impress upon the Provinces the necessity of spending so much per cent. of that grant for health programmes. I shall convey that message to the Provincial Governments.

[Rajkumari Ainrit Kaur]

I do not deny, madam, for one moment that the medical relief provided is generally speaking very inadequate, but I do submit that within the financial resources with the Government steps are now being sought to be taken to improve matters without delay. I have mentioned the preventive side already. In order to ensure proper coordination between it and the curative aspect the post of Director General of Health Services has been created. The Director General combines in himself now the direction of both the preventive and curative sides.

The House will, I am sure, agree that this was a necessary and very long overdue change.

In regard to the question of the encouragement of the indigenous systems of medicine, I must repeat what I have said on the floor of this House more than once in the course of this session as well as the last. Government did appoint a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ramnath Chopra to make recommendations in regard to research in these systems and to report on the measures to be taken to improve facilities for training in them, the desirability of state control over the practice of them, and any other measures to increase their usefulness as part of a comprehensive health plan. The report has unfortunately been delayed owing to the serious illness of the Chairman and now I am told we may not expect it till the end of May. Honourable members, however, I hope, will agree that any steps to be taken by the Government in the matter can only be usefully considered when this report is available and complete data has been placed before us; but I do want members to realise that there can be no question of the indigenous systems supplanting the modern scientific system. Science, as I have said once before, knows no barriers of race or clime. Knowledge gained through research and practical application may not be ignored. It would be folly for us to dwell on or rest content with our achievements in the past and shut the windows of our understanding, as it were, to the light of modern scientific achievements in the vast field of medicine and surgery. I am sure it would be wrong on the part of any state not to try and afford the best and most scientific medical relief to the sick and suffering committed to its charge. It does not follow that the cheapest is the best. If we have not been able to afford adequate medical attention and relief so far, that is surely both our fault and our misfortune. It is not the fault of any system. Scientific knowledge of chemistry, of physics and biology, of the structure and functions of the various issues and organs of the body, sufficient knowledge of surgery, of sepsis and asepsis, of bacteriology, X-rays, electrotherapy, dentistry and modern public health—these are the minimum essentials for anyone who can claim to attend to the sick and suffering humanity. The important thing for us to consider is in what condition the indigenous systems of medicine today are and what is necessary to make them a progressive scientific art. We may not, we dare not, be content with less. There is ample room for research. Whatever in either the Ayurvedic or Unani systems of medicine or in Homoeopathy stands the test of scientific scrutiny must and will be translated and synthesized in modern scientific medicine and add to the fund of world knowledge, and I would beg of the House to agree with me that it is in the spirit of the quest for truth—and what is science but a quest for truth—that we must go forward and see to what extent indigenous systems can be developed and regulated for medical relief in the country, and not in any spirit of rivalry with allopathy.

There are certain other matters to which speakers have referred. I have already mentioned that Government have budgeted for a T. B. Institute; arrangements are being made for a Public Health Engineering Section at the Centre; the taking over of the Lady Hardinge College is under consideration,

and I hope it will be an accomplished fact before long. The question of taking over the Guindy institution in Madras, the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta, and the Haffkine Institute in Bombay, which suggestion has been put forward by one of the speakers, will be considered in consultation with the provincial Governments. One member spoke of the present nature of the Health Ministry, that it is not permanent. It is only a technical thing and will be put right because I agree with him that it is essential for this Ministry to remain at the Centre and that a great deal of Central planning and co-ordination in the matter of health development of the country can be done from the Centre. I do not mind at all being pilloried for not having got enough money for health problems. I will ask the help of the House to get me more! We can absorb as much as you like.

I need hardly add that the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature will be consulted on all important schemes of the Health Ministry and I am sure that their advice and help will always be available to Government.

Madam, I have referred to the fact that financial stringency hampers the speed of our development plans, but philanthropists can help in many ways. I do hope that the removal of taxes on money given to charities approved by Government will enable us in the coming year to put through at least some of our cherished schemes. I shall expect Honourable Members to help me in this.

With these few words I hope I have made it clear to the members of the House that we are as keen as any one of them for the proper development of our Health programmes and I hope that they will now withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask the Honourable Members who have moved cut motions on Health and Medical Services if they wish to withdraw them?

Dr. V. Subramaniam: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Biswanath Das: So far as the Ayurvedic portion of the reply is concerned, it is insulting to the system itself, but still I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Seth Govind Das: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Have the Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

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

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,23,000 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 Health'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 11th March, 1948.