

Friday, 2nd December, 1949

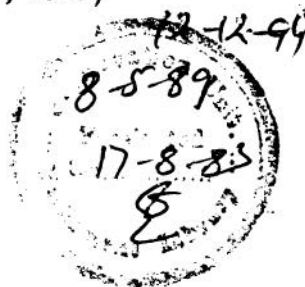
THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME IV, 1949

(28th November to 24th December, 1949)



SIXTH SESSION
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 2nd December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

EXCHANGE BANK OF INDIA AND AFRICA

*214. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Exchange Bank of India and Africa Ltd. has been wound up under the orders of the court?

(b) What was the amount of depositors' money at the time the bank stopped payment?

(c) How many depositors were there?

(d) When was the inspection of this bank made by the Reserve Bank and what was the report on the said bank?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The High Court, Bombay, has passed an order for winding up the Bank and an official liquidator has been appointed for the purpose.

(b) Information regarding the amount of deposits on the 2nd May, 1949, when the bank suspended payment is not available. The latest figures available relate to the 22nd April, 1949, and according to these the amount comes to about 2.75 crores of rupees.

(c) Government have no information about the number of depositors.

(d) The last inspection was made in May, 1949, under the direction of the High Court, Bombay, in terms of section 37 of the Banking Companies Act, 1949. The inspection report was made to the High Court and its contents cannot be disclosed without the permission of the High Court, Bombay.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the cause of compulsory winding up by the court?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a matter of proceedings before the court.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: My point was whether the court took the initiative or some of the depositors or shareholders took the initiative for winding up this Bank.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily, courts make an order on the application of a party. He may be a shareholder. I think it is a matter of record. I won't allow the question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has information whether this winding up was because some of the Directors dabbled in share speculation and whether they are involved?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, now, as the matter is *sub judice* before the High Court, one cannot go into these questions at this stage. It will be a matter for decision by the High Court.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: The House is entitled to know. A sum of 2.58 crores of depositors' money is involved. The shareholders are involved.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member must realise that all these questions are questions of investigation judicially by the High Court. His question was whether the failure was the result of any directors dabbling in speculative transactions. That is not a matter which can be answered here. That is a matter for decision before the High Court in the liquidation proceedings. In fact, it is not possible for him to get information here when the proceedings are pending in the High Court.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I be permitted to ask one question? Up to what stage the High Court proceedings have gone, may I ask that question?

Mr. Speaker: They are liquidation proceedings. That is all. Next question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the names of the Directors and the Managing Director of this Bank?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: I have not got the names here.

FIRE IN R.I.N. DOCKYARD, BOMBAY

*215, **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the beginning of June 1949 there was a serious fire in the R.I.N. Dockyard in Bombay?

(b) If so, what was the total damage caused to Government and what were the goods so damaged?

(c) Were the goods insured and if so, for what amount and has the amount been recovered from the insurance company?

(d) What was the cause of the fire?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) The total damage is in the neighbourhood of Rupees 30 lakhs. Various articles such as radio equipment, stationery, bicycles, furniture, records etc., were stored in the building that caught fire.

(c) No. Normally Government stores are not insured.

(d) A Board of Enquiry was convened to investigate the circumstances of the fire. The Board thought the fire may possibly have been due to electric short circuit, spontaneous combustion, lightning or carelessness such as thoughtless throwing from the public road outside, of a lighted cigarette end. The Board were of the opinion, however, that proper precautions had been observed by the authorities.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, why Government stores are not insured? Have they no value? What is the policy of the Government?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is the normal practice because the premium is so heavy.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable the Finance Minister whether it is the policy of the Government that their stores wherever they are have no value and need not be insured?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is arguing now.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: I want to know what is the reason for not insuring.

Mr. Speaker: The premium is heavy as stated by the Honourable Minister.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know what the premium is. Have they enquired what the premium is?

Mr. Speaker: That is entering into an argument.

Prof. N. G. Banga: Are the Government maintaining any fire fighting equipment and facilities wherever they keep stores?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any other private concerns who store similar articles insure? I do not know why the Government.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can allow that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Were any fire engines employed in extinguishing the fire and how much time did the fire engines take in reaching the place?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The fire engines of the Bombay Corporation were working. Not one, but several.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Three or four alternative causes have been given. May I know, has any particular specific cause been fixed for the fire or not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No; these are the possible causes. It has not been possible to ascertain what the exact cause was.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What steps have the Government taken to prevent such an occurrence in the future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have already stated in my reply, all possible precautions are taken.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know where the new building of the dockyard is sought to be located? In the same place?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Not decided as yet.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have the Government made sure that it was not a case of sabotage?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have got no information to that effect.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bbarathi: Is there a fire engine in the dockyard itself?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not quite certain; but I think fire fighting equipment on a small scale is provided everywhere, but not fire fighting engines.

RADAR EQUIPMENT FOR R.I.A.F.

*216. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any Radar Equipment has been installed at any Military airfield in India?

(b) If so, what are the names of such airfields?

(c) Has any order been placed in foreign countries for Radar equipment?

(d) If so, what is the total quantity and value of this equipment and has any of the equipment since arrived?

(e) Are the Indian Air Force Officials trained in the operation of Radar? If so, how many radar operators in India are Indians and how many are foreigners?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (e). All that is necessary and possible to strengthen the defences of the country is being done. It is, however, regretted that it is not possible to divulge the details.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any official of the Defence Ministry made a statement regarding the placement of orders for these radars and if that is so, may I know why information is denied to this House by the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not aware of the statement made by any official of the Ministry. But, as the Honourable Member knows, radar is an important equipment. What I have stated is, all possible steps are being taken to strengthen the defences of the country. It is not possible to divulge the details.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in Bombay a high military officer made a statement that radar equipment is surely to be installed in all military air fields in India, that the R.I.A.F. have placed orders in the United Kingdom, that one has already been set up in Palam? May I know if that is correct? In what other places have these been installed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is an open secret that radar equipment is absolutely necessary. I do not deny that arrangements are being made to instal radar equipment wherever it is necessary. It is not possible to give details.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether our Indian Air Force are undergoing special training for this purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sorry, it is not possible to give details.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he is trying to utilize those people—Indians—who have been trained during the War? There was a battalion in Palam dealing particularly with radar operations.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

IRON LUNGS

*217. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether arrangements have been made to import portable respirators to combat Poliomyelitis?

(b) If so, how many have arrived and have they been experimented on the patients and if so, with what results?

(c) What was the cost of these imported iron lungs?

(d) Is it contemplated to import more?

(e) How many cases of Poliomyelitis have occurred in India?

(f) How many proved fatal and how many have survived?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Yes. Through the World Health Organisation.

(b) and (d). Five have arrived and fifteen more are expected shortly. There has been no occasion so far to use them on patients. The five which have arrived have been tested and found to be in satisfactory working order.

(c) The cost is met from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's allocation to India. Each "ironlung" is estimated to cost about \$1,100.

(e) and (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 1.)

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Have any of these lungs been sent to Bombay?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have no information about that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is this disease, Poliomyelitis, new to India or have any cases occurred in the past?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: It has been discovered recently.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know before these orders were placed for import from abroad the Government took any measures to find out whether our own hospitals here in India were equipped with these "iron lungs"?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Some of our hospitals are equipped with the "iron lungs".

Shri A. Karanakara Menon: May I know in how many cases were these "iron lungs" used and how many were successful?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Some deaths occurred before these iron lungs were received but since these lungs have been received, there has been no occasion for using these.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he is aware that there is a drug in South India which is useful for infantile paralysis and whether any attempts are being made to utilize it more and more?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Government have no information

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I would like to know whether the Business of the House should not take priority over other business with the Honourable Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker: We take it for granted that there must be some unavoidable reasons.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

*218. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of scholars sent overseas and the names of places they were sent to, during the current year?

(b) How many are for technical and practical training and what stipends have been offered to them?

(c) Are these scholars given training in such industries which are likely to grow in India in the near future?

(d) Has the new scheme for sending scholars to foreign countries for study which was announced by Government during the last session materialised? If so, what are the details thereof?

آریہل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) چوالیس اسکالرز بھیجے گئے - ۳۵ یو - ایس - اے -

۸ یو - ۷ - ایک سو تین ٹیکنالوجی

(b) اورسٹری اسکالرشپ کی پرانی اسکیم ایک جنرل ایجوکیشنل اسکیم تھی

لیکن اس میں تعلیم اور پریکٹیکل ٹریننگ کا بھی انتظام کیا گیا تھا - جو

اسکالرز باہر بھیجے گئے ان میں بڑی تعداد ایسے لوگوں کی تھی جنکی پڑھائی کے

پر دوگرام میں تعلیم اور پریکٹیکل ٹریننگ کا بھی کورس تھا -

خرچ کا سہارا جو ہو اسٹار کو عیا کیا تھا وہ یہ ہے

۴۰۰ پونڈ سالانہ

یہ - کے اور سوئٹزرلینڈ کے لئے

۴۶۰ پونڈ سالانہ

انگلوپلے کامیون کے لئے

۱۹۲۰ سالہ

یہ - ایس - اے کے لئے

تہنیں کی ایس ایس میں شامل نہیں ہے -

(c) پرائی اسکیم اس طرح چلائی گئی ہے کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ - پراونشل گورنمنٹ اور انڈیئن اسٹوڈنٹ گورنمنٹ کی ملصقوں سے پوچھا جاتا تھا کہ ان کی صلاحیت کیا ہے اور ان کی اسٹڈیز کو سامنے رکھ کر اسٹار چلے جاتے تھے - ایسا نہیں کہا جاتا تھا کہ ملک کی انڈسٹری کی صلاحیت سامنے رکھ کر اسٹار چلے جائیں - پھر یہ بات ضرور کہی جا سکتی ہے کہ اسٹار کی ایک اچھی تعداد ایسے سہولت کے لئے چلی گئی جس سے انڈیئن انڈسٹری کو فائدہ پہنچا -

(d) نئی اسکیم کو چلانے کے لئے تمام کام پورا ہو گیا تھا اور انسٹیٹیوٹوں کے چننا کا کام شروع ہونے والا تھا لیکن اچانک ایسے روک دیا ہوا کیونکہ جو رقم اسکے لئے نکالا گیا تھا پچھت کے خیال سے اس میں ازچون ہو گئی - اب معاملہ پر پھر غور کیا جا رہا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Forty-four scholars out of whom thirty-five have been sent to the U.S.A., eight to the U.K. and one to Switzerland.

(b) The Overseas Scholarships Scheme is essentially an educational one but technical and practical training forms an integral part of it and is imparted where necessary. The majority of the students have courses of technical and practical training included in their programmes of study.

The rate of stipend for U.K. and Switzerland is £400 per annum for all institutions except Oxford and Cambridge where the rate is £460 per annum. For the U.S.A. the rate is \$1,920 per annum. These figures exclude the actual tuition fees which are paid direct to the institutions concerned.

(c) These scholars were selected and sent abroad against the specific needs of the various Ministries of the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and the Indian States Governments, and not particularly with a view to manning Indian industries, although some of them are actually receiving training in subjects useful for industrial development.

(d) All preliminaries of the New Scheme had been settled and the selection of the candidates was about to commence, but due to financial difficulties the work had to be stopped.

شہی آر - کے - مدھیول: میں چلای وزیر صاحب سے پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں

کہ اس میں کتنے لوگوں نے پورا کورس کیا -

Shri B. K. Sidhya: May I know from the Honourable Minister how many of the scholars completed their course?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بغیر ضروری آٹکوری کے میں یہ نہیں بتا سکتا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say without making necessary enquiries.

سردار بھوپندر سنگھ مان : جو طالب علم باہر بھیجے گئے تھے واپس آنے پر انکو مناسب جگہ دلتی کٹھیں یا نہیں ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Have those scholars who were sent abroad been fixed up against suitable posts on their return or not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بڑی تعداد کو جگہیں دلتی کٹھیں ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A large number have been provided with jobs.

سردار بھوپندر سنگھ مان : ان دھلیوں میں کتنی تعداد دلت جاتھوں کی تھی ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What was the number of scheduled-caste scholars out of this?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I require notice for this.

श्री जय नारायण व्यास : क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो तादाद हिस्सा (b) में बताई गई है उसमें वह ताकिवेइरुम भी शरीक हैं जो स्टेट्स और स्टेट्स यूनियन की तरफ से भेजे गये हैं ।

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the number referred to in part (b) also includes the scholars sponsored by the States and States Union?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں اس تعداد میں انڈین اسٹوڈنٹس کے طالب علم بھی شامل ہونگے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. The scholars from the Indian states may have been included in this figure.

श्री जय नारायण व्यास : इन स्कालरों में जिनको स्टेट की तरफ से खर्चा मिलता है, क्या वह इस तादाद में शरीक है या नहीं ?

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Does this figure include the scholars whose expenses are borne by the states or not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اورسبز اسٹالرشپ اسکیم میں انڈین اسٹوڈنٹس کے طالب علم بھی رکھے گئے تھے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scholars from Indian states were also included in the Overseas Scholarships Scheme.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या इसमें इस बात का ख्याल रखा गया है कि सिर्फ़ उन्हीं विषयों के लिये विद्यार्थियों को बाहर भेजा जाय जिन विषयों के लिए हिन्दुस्तान में शिक्षा देने का प्रबन्ध नहीं है ?

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister please say whether this has been kept in view that scholars should be sent abroad for training in those subjects only for which no arrangements exist in India?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : آنریبل ممبر کو اچھی طرح معلوم ہے کہ اورشلیم اسکالرشپ کی پروانگی اسکیم پچھلی گورنمنٹ نے شروع کی تھی۔ اس میں کئی طرح کی خامیاں تھیں جنہیں موجودہ گورنمنٹ نے محسوس کیا اور اسلئے اسکیم ختم کر دی گئی۔ ایک خاصی یہ تھی کہ جن ممالک کی پڑھائی کا ملک کے اندر بہ آسانی انتظام کیا جا سکتا تھا اسکے لئے بھی کچھ تدبیر تھی بلکہ بھیسے گئے لیکن جو تعداد میں نے اپنے جواب میں بتائی ہے ان میں سے کوئی ویدیا تھی کسی ایسی تعلیم کے لئے نہیں بھیجا گیا ہے جو ہندوستان میں اس وقت مل سکتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Honourable Member is very well aware that the old Overseas Scholarships Scheme was introduced by the previous Government. It contained many obvious defects which the present Government felt and it was for this reason that this scheme had to be abandoned. One of the defects was that even in respect of those subjects in which training could be easily arranged in India, scholars were sent abroad. But the number which I have stated in my reply does not include any scholar who has been sent for receiving training in any subject arrangements for which are at present available in India.

श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन : इन तुलबा के चुनने का क्या तरीका है ? क्या ये युनिवर्सिटी की सिफारिश पर चुने जाते हैं या गवर्नमेंट अपनी जिम्मेदारी पर उनको चुनती है ?

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the method of selecting these students? Are they selected on the recommendations of the University or the Government make the final selection on their own responsibility?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : سلیکشن بورڈ کے ذریعہ طلباء چنے جاتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scholars are selected through the selection boards.

عربی دیسے بلدیو گھتا : جو طلبا تکنیکل اور دوسری تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے لئے دوسرے ملکوں میں گئے ہیں کیا انکا کوئی ریکارڈ رکھا جاتا ہے ؟ کیوں نہیں کی وجہ سے جو اخراجات انکے پرہ گئے ہیں اسبات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے کیا گورنمنٹ نے انکو سہولیت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے

Shri Doshbandhu Gupta: Is any record maintained of the scholars who have gone to receive training in technical and other subjects in foreign countries? Have Government decided to give them any facilities in view of their increased expenses as a result of devaluation?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: قریلوٹیشن کی وجہ سے سہولت دینے کا سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا بچت کا سوال پیدا ہو جاتا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question of giving facilities because of devaluation does not arise. The question that arises is one of saving.

شری دیپس بلدھو گپتا: میرا مطلب ان طلباء سے ہے جنکو ڈالر کی وجہ سے مشکلات پیش آئیگی۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I am referring to those students who would be faced with difficulties on account of the dollar.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: ابھی تک دستوری کے سامنے ایسی کوئی مشکل پیش نہیں آئی اور اگر آئیگی تو اس پر ضرور فور کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such difficulty has as yet been brought to the notice of the Ministry. If and when it is brought to the notice, it will be considered.

شری دیپس بلدھو گپتا: میں جناب وزیر صاحب سے دریافت کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ پرانی اسکیم کے ختم ہونے کے بعد جو نئی اسکیم چلائی گئی ہے اس کے مطابق تعلیم پانے کے لئے باہر امیدوار بھیجے جائیں گے یا نہیں۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether or not scholars will be sent abroad for receiving education under the new scheme that has been started after the old scheme has ceased to operate?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: نئی اسکیم کے مطابق کام ہو رہا تھا مگر اسے روک دینا پڑا کیونکہ پھر نئے سرے سے بچت کا سوال پیدا ہو گیا۔ نتیجہ یہ نکلا کہ ابھی تک اوروں کے ممبروں کا کام شروع نہیں ہوا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The new scheme was being acted upon, but it had to be stopped because the question of economy cropped anew. The result is that so far the selection of candidates has not started.

سےٹ گووینڈ داس: جو نئی سکیم بنائی جا رہی ہے اس میں کیا اس بات کا خیال رکھا جا رہا ہے کہ ان کے لیے ان کے لیے باہر بھیجے جائیں جن کی تعلیم ہندوستان میں نہیں دی جاتی؟

Seth Govind Das: While framing the new scheme, will this be kept in view that scholars are sent for training in those subjects only for which arrangements do not exist in India?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یقیناً۔ نئی اسکیم میں یہ بات سامنے رکھی گئی

ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Certainly. This thing has been kept in view under the new scheme.

مستور تجمل حسون : میں یہ جانتا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا کوئی ایسے طالب علم بھی ان میں ہیں کہ جن کو وطن سے ملے ہوں اور وہ آنے کے بعد پاکستان بھاگ گئے ہوں -

Mr. Tajammul Husain: May I know whether there are such scholars who were given stipends and on their return went away to Pakistan?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ کے علم میں ایسا کوئی کس نہیں آیا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such case has come within the knowledge of the Government.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: How many scholars who had gone abroad and returned to India, still remain to be absorbed by the Government or industries in the profession?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جیسا کہ میں نے ابھی کہا ہے وہی تعداد کو کام پر لایا جا چکا ہے - کئی آدمیوں کے لئے ابھی انتظام نہیں ہوا ہے اسکی تعداد میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Just as I have already stated, a very large number have been employed. I cannot tell the number of those for whom arrangement has not yet been made.

چوہدری رانبیر سنگھ : کیا منتری مہودے کو پتا ہے کہ کسکے کسکے پڑنے کے لیے بھی کسکے باہر بھیجے گئے تھے اور اب انہوں پر انکو کوئی جگہ نہیں دی گئی ہے ؟

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that scholars were also sent abroad for receiving training in agriculture, and now on their return they have not been provided with any jobs?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : وہی تعداد کو کام پر لیا گیا ہے - کچھ لوگ ایسے بھی ہیں جن کسکے کسکے کی جا رہی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A large number have been provided with employment. There still remain some such men for whom efforts are being made.

DEPUTATIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

†*219. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of deputations for various purposes that went to foreign countries in the years 1948 and 1949 up to the end of October from all the Ministries?

(b) What is the total expenditure on each such deputation?

(c) Do Government intend to curtail the expenditure on such deputations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 130 and 103 in the years 1948 and 1949 respectively.

(b) Total expenditure during 1948 and 1949 on these deputations has been Rs. 25,59,000 and Rs. 845,000 respectively. A statement showing the cost of each such deputation will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Government have already taken suitable measures to curtail the expenditure on deputations as far as possible.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

OVER-TIME AND CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCES

*220. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of money distributed among the officers and staff working in the various Ministries at Delhi on account of over-time and conveyance allowances, from 1st April 1949 to 31st October 1949?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The total amount is approximately Rs. 1,62,000.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if these allowances bear any relation to the basic pay of the person who draws the allowance?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, it does not.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: According to what rules are these allowances granted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, as the Honourable Member himself knows, there are two kinds of allowances. There is the over-time allowance and there is the conveyance allowance. The bulk of the expenditure incurred is in respect of the conveyance allowance. This conveyance allowance is granted to clerks and *chaprasis* who happen to stay late in the office or who attend office on holidays, to meet their transport expenses.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Does the rule still continue, or you have stopped it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It continues.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if it is due to any shortage of personnel that there is work left, even after office hours?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is partly the quantum of work, and partly scarcity of personnel in particular spheres of work.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: To what classes of officers is this over-time allowed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is given to officers of only one department, that is, the Overseas Communication Service here. The other class of employees to whom over-time allowance is paid, I think are drivers of staff cars.

Shri E. K. Sihdva: I want to know whether officers are paid over-time allowances for working in the office after office hours.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, not to officers, but only to clerks and *chaprasis*.

IMPORT OF SPORTS GOODS FOR C.O.D., DELHI

*221. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Skymaster plane chartered by the Government of India arrived in Bombay on the morning of the 5th September, 1949 from London *en route* to Delhi carrying 4,000 pounds of Sports goods consigned to the Central Ordnance Depot, Delhi;

(b) the expenditure incurred by Government for chartering the plane; and

(c) the total cost of these 4,000 pounds of sports goods brought by the plane?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (c). The plane in question was chartered under the instructions of the Defence Ministry and carried approximately 21,500 lbs. of urgently required training equipment of considerable value.

(b) £ 2,750.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what is the meaning of the term "training equipment"? Do they mean sports goods?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: May I make it clear. They are not sports goods as understood by the Honourable Member. It is special equipment for the training of troops in a particular line.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it is the usual practice for the Defence Department to bring these goods from European countries in chartered planes?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not the normal practice. But this equipment was required within a specific period, and after that period there was little use for it, and that is why we had to charter a special plane to bring this equipment.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether enquiries were made in India whether these things which were imported from outside were manufactured in India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If these goods had been manufactured in India, the necessity to import them from abroad would not have arisen.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the value of the goods imported?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I regret it is not possible to disclose the value, but it was equipment of considerable value.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

*222. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans taken by India in different instalments from the International Monetary Fund to date; and

(b) the terms and conditions of such loans?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total purchases made so far from the International Monetary Fund amount to \$99.98 million. Of this amount \$ 44.12 million were purchased during the period March, 1948 to June, 1948 and the balance during the period July, 1948 to March, 1949.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to part (a) of Starred Question No. 574 on 22nd February, 1949.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What percentage of this total is borrowed by the different provinces and States of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not possible to allocate in this manner the amount that we have purchased from the International Monetary Fund, among specific categories of expenditure.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it proposed to purchase any new loan in the current year, in addition to what has already been purchased from the International Monetary Fund?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is no such intention just at present.

DEMONSTRATION MALABIA TEAM

*223. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any Demonstration Malaria Team has come to this country in connection with Government's Anti-malaria Campaign for 1949?

(b) If so, what is the total expenditure incurred by Government in this connection?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Four World Health Organisation malaria control demonstration teams have been allocated to India for two years to demonstrate in selected areas of high malaria endemicity, modern methods of malaria control at the lowest feasible costs and to train local professional and auxiliary personnel. Three, out of these four teams, are already working in the Terai areas in the United Provinces, Jeypore Hill tracts in Orissa, and Malnad in Mysore. The fourth team is expected to start operations shortly in Ernad in Madras.

(b) The total cost to the Government of India is estimated at Rs. 90,000 for one year on account of the board and lodging and internal travel expenses of the World Health Organisation personnel. The cost to the Provincial Governments concerned for the first year is estimated at Rs. 4,18,000 and for the second year at Rs. 3,18,000.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these teams coming from abroad have developed some new technique of the treatment, which was unknown in this country before?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The report has been recently submitted and it has not been possible to assess its value so far.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I only wanted to know whether they have adopted or developed any new technique.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot give the details, it is an expert thing, it is all included in the report and the report is under the consideration of Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know if any Indian doctors have been associated with the operations of these teams, and if so, how many?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Yes, there is a parallel Indian team as an under-study, consisting of a malariologist, an entomologist, a senior malaria inspector, three or four other malaria inspectors and other auxiliary staff to carry on the programme of work after the departure of the foreign team.

Sjt. Bohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Has any of these teams visited Assam so far, which is one of the worst affected parts of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Not for the present.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there is any other scheme for the control of malaria, under consideration, besides bringing out these teams from abroad?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Of course, there are.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: In which part of India are the parties working?

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: In which province of India is the incidence of Malaria highest?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Government of India made any special contribution to the International Organisation for sending out these teams?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The Government of India is already making a contribution of six lakhs to the W.H.O.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Any other general contribution from there?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Nothing.

Dr. P. S. Deshpakh: To what countries do these persons constituting the teams belong?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The W.H.O. is composed of different countries. If the Honourable Member wants a specific answer I would like to have notice.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

*224. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons so far rehabilitated and settled in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) how many of them are from East Bengal; and

(c) to which classes they belong?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of displaced persons so far rehabilitated in the Andamans is 777. They comprise 187 families.

(b) All of them are from East Bengal.

(c) One hundred and seventy-six families are cultivators, seven are artisans, one confectioner, one compounder and two do not belong to any particular category.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: How many of those persons who went to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have come back and what are their reasons for their coming back?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Twelve families have since returned to the country, two on account of illness and others on account of their unwillingness to do any kind of work.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: What facilities are given to them? Are agricultural and house building materials available there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The concessions given to them are (i) free passage with board from Calcutta to Port Blair, (ii) ten acres of land free of cost with remission of land revenue for the first two years, (iii) grant of Rs. 30 to every adult member and Rs. 15 for every child subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 per month per family for a period of nine months from the date of disembarkation at Port Blair, (iv) grant of two buffaloes as plough cattle and one she-buffalo as milk cattle, (v) grant of seed paddy, agricultural implements and manure free of cost, (vi) artisans and non-agriculturists are given half an acre of land for construction of houses and financial assistance as admissible to agriculturists for a period of three months, and (vii) all the families are to be given sufficient building materials free of cost.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: In how many of these islands which constitute the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have these displaced persons been rehabilitated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are so many small islands. I cannot tell the Honourable Member in what and how many islands they are distributed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How much has been spent so far on these refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say offhand how much is spent at present. I must have notice of that question.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it proposed to send any more families there? If so, how many?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It depends upon the Bengal Government's desire to send more families there.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: This allotment of ten acres of land, is it per adult member of the family or for the entire family?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Ten acres of land with remission of land revenue to the family.

Shri C. M. Ponnacha: Is this scheme of settlement in the islands open only to displaced persons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: For the present that is the only demand.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government intend to give land in these islands to those people who are willing to go and settle there and do agricultural work?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far Government have received no application from other persons.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What steps are taken by the Bengal Government to popularise the scheme among the refugees in Bengal?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Bengal Government have advertised it fully.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Are Government satisfied that these agricultural facilities which the Honourable Minister just now mentioned have actually been given to those settlers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course all the facilities have been given.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the West Punjab refugees are allowed to go and settle there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They are very unwilling to go and settle there.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS

*225. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number and names of the Tuberculosis hospitals in the Indian Union?

(b) How many of these are run by the Government of India and how many by Provincial Governments?

(c) How many are under private management and do they receive any grants from Government?

(d) How many patients died in the Tuberculosis Hospitals in the year 1948.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (d). A statement containing the information required so far as is available at present is placed on the Table of the House. See Appendix VII, annexure No. 2.)

Information is still due from some Provincial Governments. It will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: What is the total contribution made by the Children's Emergency Fund of the United Nations to tuberculosis in the country and how do Government propose to spend the money?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I require notice.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to encourage the treatment of tuberculosis by Ayurvedic methods?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: The best course for Honourable Members would be to study the statement put in by him and then put him any further questions.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR TRAINING ABROAD

*226. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of students sent abroad to have training in Agriculture and allied subjects in the years 1948 and 1949?

(b) How many of them received scholarships and help from (i) the Government of India and (ii) other Governments?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ۲۹ اسٹوڈنٹس بھیجے گئے - ۱۶ سالہ ۱۹۴۸ میں اور

۱۳ سالہ ۱۹۴۹ میں -

(b) ۹ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کے - ۴ پرووینشل گورنمنٹوں کے اور ۱۶ انڈین اسٹوڈنٹس کے - پرووینشل اور انڈین اسٹوڈنٹس گورنمنٹوں نے جن لوگوں کو بھیجا تھا ان کا پورا خرچ انہیں گورنمنٹوں نے اٹھایا - صرف ایک وڈیارتھی کے لئے سنٹرل گورنمنٹ نے ادا خرچ دیا تھا -

دو پرووینٹ اسٹوڈنٹس کو بھی گورنمنٹ نے فرض کے روپ میں مدد دی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Twenty-nine students, comprising sixteen during 1948 and thirteen during 1949.

(b) (i) Nine of these received scholarships from the Government of India, and (ii) four were sponsored by the Provincial Governments and sixteen by the Indian States Governments.

The expenditure on the Provincial sponsored students was borne by the Provincial Governments except in the case of one where it was shared by the Government of India with the Provincial Government in the ratio of 50:50.

The expenditure in respect of the States sponsored students was borne entirely by the States concerned.

In addition to the above twenty-nine scholars two private students who went on their own responsibility were given financial assistance in the form of a loan from the Government of India.

سنٹرل گورنمنٹ : جو طالب علم پانے کے بعد واپس آئے ہیں اور جن کو ملازمت

ملی ہے کیا حکومت کے پاس ایسی کوئی اسکیم ہے کہ جہاں روپیہ ان کی تعلیم پر خرچ کیا گیا ہو وہ کسی پرمیٹنگ کے مطابق ان کی تعلقہ سے تب تک وصول کیا جاتا رہے جب تک کہ وہ سارا روپیہ جو ان پر خرچ کیا گیا ہو وصول ہو جائے - اگر کوئی ایسی اسکیم نہیں ہے تو کٹوں ؟

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know whether Government have got any such scheme: under which the total amount, that has been spent over the education of those scholars who have since returned after receiving their training abroad and have been provided with jobs, could be recovered from their salaries on some percentage basis till such time the entire amount is repaid. If not, why not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: نہیں - احکم میں ایسی کوئی شرط نہیں رکھی گئی تھی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. No such condition had been laid down in the scheme.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: At least the Honourable Minister might give the figures in English so that we may be able to follow him.

श्रीमती जी० दुर्गाबाई : क्या में जान सकती हूं कि खाली ट्रेनिंग दिलवाने के सिवाय सरकार उन सब को काम पर लगवाने की जिम्मेदारी भी उठाती है ?

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether, besides arranging for their training, Government also take upon themselves the responsibility to provide them with jobs?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: سرکار پوری کوشش کرتی ہے انہیں کام پر لگایا جائے اور بڑی تعداد لگائی گئی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government do their best to provide them with employment and a large number have been employed.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या वह ही विषय पढ़ाने के लिये यह विद्यार्थी बाहर भेजे जाते हैं, जिनकी कि तालीम हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं मिल सकती? में जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे कौन से विषय हैं जो यहां पर नहीं पढ़ाये जाने और जिनके लिये उनको बाहर भेजा जाता है ।

Seth Govind Das: Are these scholars sent abroad for receiving education in those subjects for the teaching of which no arrangements exist in India? I would like to know what are those subjects in which training cannot be imparted here and for which they are sent abroad?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: آنریبل ممبر کو یہ معلوم ہے کہ یہ پرانی حکیم کے ماتحت بھیجے گئے ہیں - پرانی حکیم میں اگر کچھ خرابیاں ہیں تو اسکی ذمہداری موجودہ گورنمنٹ نہیں لے سکتی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Honourable Member is aware that they were sent under the old scheme. The present Government are not responsible for any of the defects that existed in the old scheme.

श्री एच० जे० खांडेकर : क्या में यह पूछ सकता हूं कि जो लोग एग्रीकल्चर ट्रेनिंग हासिल करने के बाद हिन्दुस्तान वापिस आये हैं, उनमें से कितने लोगों को अभी तक सरकारी नौकरी नहीं मिली है ?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know what is the number of those scholars who have since returned to India after receiving education in Agriculture and have not as yet been provided with Government jobs?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا - اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say this at the moment. I would like to have a notice of it.

श्री एच० जे० खांडेकर : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि सी० पी० से दो हरिजन लड़के एग्रीकल्चर की ट्रेनिंग के लिये भेजे गये थे, उनको अभी नौकरी नहीं दी गई?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Are Government aware that the two Harijan scholars from C.P. who were sent for receiving education in Agriculture have not as yet been provided with any employment?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جب تک تفصیلات معلوم نہ ہوں - کچھ نہیں کہا جا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say anything unless details are made available.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: How many of these students belong to the scheduled castes?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say this just now.

श्री महावीर त्यागी : क्या यह सब लोग नौकरी के लिये पढ़ाये गये हैं?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have all these persons been given training for the sake of employment?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ کچھ ضروری نہیں ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is not necessarily so.

चौधरी रणबीर सिंह : क्या मन्त्री महोदय को यह पता है कि जिन नौकरियों के लिये तालीम हासिल करने के लिये यह लोग बाहर भेजे गये हैं, वह नौकरियां छः महीने पहिले ही पूर की गई हैं ?

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that all those posts for which these persons were sent to receive training have already been filled up six months ago?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس طرح کا کوئی کیس گورنمنٹ کے سامنے نہیں آیا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such case has come to the notice of Government.

Sgt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is any undertaking taken from the scholars, who are sent overseas for training in technical subjects, to the effect that they will serve the Government after return.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ شرط رکھی گئی ہے - مگر اس کے ساتھ یہ بھی ہے - کہ اگر تین سہ ماہے تک کام پر نہیں لگا دیئے گئے تو پھر وہ آزاد ہونگے - کہ جو غیر سرکاری ملازمت انہیں ملے - اختیار کر لیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This condition has been prescribed. But along with this, provision has been made that in case they are not provided with service within a period of three months, they would be permitted to undertake any private employment that they might secure.

PERSONS DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL

***227. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are at present detained without trial by Government;

(b) the grounds on which they are so detained; and

(c) whether it is proposed to prosecute any of them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of persons in detention in the Chief Commissioners' provinces is only ten.

(b) For activities prejudicial to the public safety or maintenance of public order.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Of these detainees how many are members of the Communist Party of India and how many are non-Communists?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They are all members of that party.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there anyone among them who was a member of the Union of Posts and Telegraphs workers and who was arrested before the strike notice was withdrawn but still detained though the strike never came off?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the Honourable Member gives me the name of any detainee for whom he wants particular information I will make enquiries.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is there any classification among these political detainees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no classification.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know how much is being paid to these detainees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As much as they deserve.

MIR LAIK ALI

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

(a) whether the investigation against Mir Laik Ali, formerly of the Government of the Nizam of Hyderabad is still in progress;

(b) whether any charges against the colleagues of Mir Laik Ali are also under investigation;

(c) if so, the names of such of his colleagues; and

(d) when Mir Laik Ali and his colleagues are expected to be put on trial?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Nawab Fazal Nawaz Jung, Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan, Mr. Abdur Rauf, Mr. Abdur Rahim, Mr. Yamin Zuberi, Mr. Pingle Venkatrama Reddy, Mr. B. S. Venkat Rao and Mr. Raja Mohanlal.

(d) This will depend on the result of the investigations which are in progress.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When will this investigation be concluded?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is very difficult to say when the investigation will be concluded, but all efforts are being made to expedite the inquiry.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is Mr. E. S. Venkat Rao still in jail or is he at his place?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I think he is under house arrest.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are all of them—Mir Laik Ali and the others—under house arrest?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes, they are all under house arrest.

CURRENCY NOTES

*229. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of currency notes issued by the Reserve Bank, and the percentage of their backing in gold; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been an addition in the issue of currency notes in the year 1948-49, and if so, of what amount, and what percentage of gold reserve there is in respect of this additional issue?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total issue of currency notes as on the 25th November, 1949 amounted to Rs. 1109.43 crores. The gold held against this issue amounted to Rs. 40.02 crores, the ratio of gold to total note issue being thus 3.606 per cent.

(b) There has been an addition of about Rs. 5 crores during 1948-49. This addition has been made against assets other than gold.

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether the percentage of the gold which is now kept in the Reserve Bank is the same as it was before or whether it has come down?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Under the Reserve Bank Act there is a certain minimum holding of gold that we have got to maintain as security against notes, namely, Rs. 40 crores worth of gold. That position is maintained.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that in the matter of the sale of gold which is being made by the Reserve Bank, particular care is taken to see that that percentage is maintained?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What we do is to see that the provisions of the Reserve Bank Act are properly complied with.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the gold holding in the Reserve Bank has been revalued after devaluation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: The Honourable Minister mentioned securities other than gold security. May I know the nature of those other securities?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The reserve against our currency issue consists of gold, of sterling securities, of rupee securities and of rupee coins.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know the respective quantities of these various securities and what ratio they hold to each other?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I can give the Honourable Member the information required, but if he would care to read the Weekly Statements issued by the Reserve Bank of India he will get all this information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much worth of gold is kept as security?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Rs. 40 crores.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know at what rate this gold is valued—whether it is at pre-war rates or at the rates prevailing at any subsequent dates?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The gold is valued at the rate prescribed in the Reserve Bank Act which, I think, works out to Rs. 21-3-0 per tola.

DELEGATIONS

*230. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on account of delegations, commissions, goodwill missions and persons sent to visit foreign countries by Government during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49;

(b) the total expenditure debited to the Government of India on account of inviting foreign bodies, foreign delegations, commissions and persons to India for Government work; and

(c) whether any financial sanction is previously obtained by the Ministry of External Affairs before incurring new expenditure referred to in parts (a) and (b) above?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total expenditure incurred is as follows:

1947-48	Rs. 21,46,000
1948-49	Rs. 25,43,000

(b) The total expenditure incurred is:

1947-48	Rs. 5,36,000
1948-49	Rs. 8,75,000

(c) Previous financial sanction is obtained from the Ministry of Finance before such expenditure is incurred.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that it is the policy of the Government to send these delegations now only to those places or to those countries where our Embassies do not exist?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That really is a matter for the External Affairs Ministry to answer. As far as I am concerned, from the purely financial point of view we are taking very strict measures to see that the expenditure on these delegations is kept down to the lowest possible level.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Will the Government see that such curtailment does not result in the isolation of India from world affairs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That, I take it, is a point which the Honourable the Prime Minister keeps in view.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister what arrangements are made to audit the accounts of these delegations, whether the audit takes place here or by any officer with the High Commissioner in London?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Of course it is under the direction of the Auditor General, but we are proposing to tighten our measures for the audit of these accounts as the Honourable Member knows.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Secretary of the Finance Ministry who has been sent abroad to study the question of expenditure in Embassies has made any report regarding the expenditure incurred by them, how much of it can be curtailed and in what manner the personnel in the Embassies can be utilised as subordinate officers, etc.?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Secretary of the Finance Ministry went to London and to Washington to examine particularly the question of the control of expenditure. As regards the question of auditing, as far as I am in a position to inform the House, the Auditor-General, I think, still has an idea of making a personal visit to some of our principal Embassies in order to see that the measures for audit are satisfactory.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Secretary made any report?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not any formal report.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to part (a) of the question, what exactly is meant by "persons sent", apart from "delegations, commissions and goodwill missions"? Is there any separate category like that?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That enquiry should be addressed to the questioner.

Shrimati Dakahayani Velayudhan: Is it not a fact that Government allow certain deputations to visit countries other than those they are expected to visit?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If there is any official business in those countries of an urgent character I think they sometimes do.

HYDERABAD POLICE ACTION

*231. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the amount of total expenditure incurred in the Hyderabad Police action and the steps the Government of India have taken to debit the amount to the Government of Hyderabad?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information is still being compiled and I regret it will not be complete for some time.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि कितने दिनों के अन्दर इसका पता लग जायगा, और क्या हाउस के इस सेशन के पहले मिनिस्टर साहब इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ कह सकेंगे?

Seth Govind Das: May I know how many days it will take to make this information available and will it be possible for the Honourable Minister to place it before the House before the close of this Session?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In this session? I don't think so. It will take some time.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the question of collecting the amount, what exactly is the policy? Is the amount to be debited to the account of the Hyderabad Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course the amount will be recovered from the Hyderabad State.

REHABILITATION IN THE ANDAMANS

***232. Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of families sent to the Andamans for the purpose of rehabilitation;
- (b) the number that have so far been actually settled there;
- (c) the average area of land allotted and the pecuniary help and other facilities given to each family;
- (d) the total land reclaimed by the recent settlers; and
- (e) the occupations taken up by the settlers with number for each of those?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 199.

(b) 187.

(c) (i) About ten acres per family up to the end of September 1949. (ii) A copy of a statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

(d) About 610 acres up to the end of September, 1949.

(e) One hundred and seventy six families are cultivators; seven are artisans; one confectioner, one compounder and two do not belong to any particular category.

STATEMENT

- (i) free passage with board from Calcutta to Port Blair;
- (ii) ten acres of land free of cost, with remission of land revenue for the first two years;
- (iii) a grant of Rs. 30 to every adult member and Rs. 15 for each child, subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 per month per family for a period of 9 months from the date of dis-embarkation at Port Blair;
- (iv) grant of two buffaloes as plough cattle and one she-buffalo as milk cattle;
- (v) grant of seed paddy, agricultural implements and manure free of cost;
- (vi) artisans and non-agriculturists were given half an acre of land for construction of houses and financial assistance as admissible to agriculturists for a period of 3 months; and
- (vii) all families are to be given sufficient building material free of cost.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Do these persons enter into any contract before they are sent to the Islands?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no contract.

Sardar Bhopindar Singh Man: Do the Government keep in view the size of the family at the time of allotment of this ten acres of land, or is it a fixed and a flat scale? *

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Generally this is the rule but if any family is of a smaller size perhaps they will take less land but if it is larger they can ask for more. There is no particular bar but this is the average fixed at present.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is this scheme open to all refugees if they are willing to go to the Andamans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is a scheme initiated at the instance of the West Bengal Government. There has been no demand from any other Province.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is there any report about the health of the people who are there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Fairly good health.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to promote the growth of any industries, cottage or otherwise, apart from agriculture in these Islands?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not through the refugees.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the convict population is still there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No. no. There is no convict population there and we don't intend to have any convict population there.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a general proposal to colonise the Andaman Islands and as a part of that proposal to invite various people there? Is there such a scheme under the consideration of the Agriculture or Home Affairs Ministry?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is a question for the Agriculture Ministry.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the Home Affairs Ministry?

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: What is the total number of families that may possibly be colonised in the Andamans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say what is the possibility as regards the number of people that could be settled there but there is plenty of scope at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the old cellular jail used for nowadays?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no experience of the old cellular jail.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is it used for now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Most of the cells were dilapidated and practically razed to the ground. Some of them are used by the refugees also.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is the Government maintaining any additional staff there for the rehabilitation of these refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The necessary staff is kept.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What kind of diseases are prevalent in these Islands, and is there adequate medical staff for treating those diseases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Normally all the diseases are there.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether any evacuee is free to come away at Government expense when he is willing to come back?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If any person wants to come back, of course he is free to come back. If Government finds it necessary to provide for facilities, they will.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: What is the defence arrangement for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in case of war?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Same defence arrangements as for the whole of India. No special arrangements are necessary.

MILITARY STORES

†*233. **Shri E. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that military stores are kept in the open at army depots all over India?

(b) What is the total loss reported, by damage and waste, due to the goods lying in the open?

(c) What is the total loss reported by way of thefts due to the goods lying insufficiently protected?

(d) What steps are Government taking to avoid this loss?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is a fact that certain military stores are kept in the open at Army Depots for want of covered accommodation.

(b) and (c). It is regretted that no estimate of losses on account of stores lying out in the open or insufficiently protected can be given. Losses are usually due to a combination of causes.

(d) Steps are being taken to build the accommodation required as quickly as financial and material limitations will allow. Till adequate permanent accommodation is built Lahore Sheds and similar temporary constructions are being erected as far as possible. Steps are being taken to re-organise existing storage accommodation with a view to bringing the maximum quantity of stores possible under the existing covered accommodation. Where stores have to be left out in the open unavoidably, cover is provided by means of tents and tarpaulins or *chappars*. Perishable stores are given preference for covered accommodation and other stores kept in the open are stacked in such a way as to reduce the risk of damage to a minimum. Security precautions including such measures as perimeter lighting and fencing are being taken.

CHHATTISGARH STATES

*234. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government of India have received any appeals against the decisions of the Provincial Government from the employees of Chhattisgarh States in connection with pay, pension, leave etc.?

(b) If so, what decision have Government taken in respect of the said appeals?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

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

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Is it a fact that the Government of India has given instructions to Provincial Governments to see that no State employees suffer any economic loss as a result of the merger?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, as far as possible no State employee has any reason to complain and we have taken precautions for that.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that many persons have been either reduced or victimised by succeeding administrations in some cases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not true.

* 235. [WITHDRAWN]

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

†*236. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what are the special features of the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla?

(b) When is it expected to start functioning?

(c) What is the number of officers likely to be trained every year?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The National Defence Academy which is being built at Khadakvasla will be unique in that combined training will be imparted to the potential officers of all the three Defence Services at the same institution.

(b) By about 1954.

(c) Five hundred.

EASTERN HIGHER TECHNICAL INSTITUTION

†*237. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state as to when the Eastern Higher Technical Institution will start functioning?

(b) Has the selection of the senior staff for this Institution been made?

(c) What will be the number of students trained annually and what are the subjects for study?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The present financial stringency has affected almost all our activities. Nevertheless Government hope that the Institution will start functioning about August 1950.

(b) Most of the senior professors for the Institution have been selected and the incumbents are expected to join by February, 1950.

(c) The Institution will ultimately provide facilities for 2,000 undergraduate and 1,000 post-graduate students and research workers. The subjects for study are given in statement which is placed on the Table of the House.

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

STATEMENT

Under-graduate courses.—Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Sanitary Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture (Building Construction and Town Planning), Metallurgy, Botany, Meteorology and Geology and Geophysics.

Post-graduate courses.—Fuel Technology, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals, Regional Planning, Paper Technology, Glass and Ceramics, Plastics, Paints and Pigments, Hydraulic and River Research, Transportation (including Railway Engineering), Structural Engineering (including High Dams), Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning, Design of Electrical Machinery, Automobile Engineering, Machine Tools, Design of machinery and Instruments, Light alloys, Industrial Physics, Electronics (including radio engineering), Economic Botany, Geophysics, Geology, Mineralogy, Meteorology and Food Technology.

ADULTERATION

*238. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to prevent adulteration of (i) foodstuffs, (ii) drugs, and (iii) patent medicines?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): The position is as follows:

(i) Adulteration of foodstuffs is a Provincial subject. Provincial Governments and Local Administrations have their own Acts for the prevention of adulteration of food and they are expected to enforce the laws. The Central Government have been impressing on the Provinces and Local Administrations from time to time the necessity of more vigorous enforcement of the existing Acts to combat the evil of adulteration of foodstuffs.

(ii) The Drugs Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder lay down Standards of quality for Drugs and provide punishment for the manufacture or sale of drugs which are not of Standard quality. Inspectors and Government Analysts have been appointed under the Drugs Act by Provincial Governments and one of the principal duties of these officers is to prevent the manufacture and sale of adulterated drugs.

(iii) The Drugs Act, 1940 and the Drugs Rules, contain provisions according to which the manufacturers of patent medicines have either to indicate the composition of the medicines on the label of the container or get the patent medicine registered at the Central Drugs Laboratory after disclosing the true formula of the medicine to the Director of the Laboratory. It is an offence to sell a patent medicine which does not conform to the formula exhibited on the label or disclosed to the Central Drugs Laboratory.

INTERVIEWS BY F.P.S.C.

*239. **Shri Arun Chandra Gaba:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of posts for which the Federal Public Service Commission has called candidates for interview during the year 1949?

(b) What is the amount received as fees from the applicants and what is the amount spent on travelling expenses of the candidates called for interview?

(c) How many of these posts, have been filled up by men in Government service, how many by outsiders and how many have not yet been filled up?

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

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 854, upto the 15th October 1949.

(b) Rs. 81,204-2-0 as fees; and Rs. 2,26,122-12-6 on travelling expenses.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when it is completed.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Does this number include the persons recently recruited to the I.P. and I.A.S.?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: How many of them are Harijans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I must have notice for that question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Among these persons are there any Indians who were living in foreign countries like England and America and were called here for interview and were paid travelling allowance for that purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information on the subject.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

NON-SECURITY ITEMS

*240. **Shri B. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are still adhering to and insisting on the old Defence Specifications for non-security items, purchased from foreign countries?

(b) What are the figures of import of the various non-security items from the years 1937 to 1948?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to change the specifications and meet the complete requirements of the non-security items from indigenous sources?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (c). Specifications of all stores and equipment are reviewed periodically in the light of actual experience. Old specifications are being relaxed in order to obtain supplies through indigenous sources, provided such relaxation does not affect the efficiency and operational needs of the Services.

(b) The information is not readily available and can only be collected at the cost of extremely disproportionate expenditure of time and labour.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE

*241. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state when the Environmental Hygiene Committee started its work and what places has the Committee visited?

(b) What is the financial provision for the Committee and how much money has been spent so far?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the Committee?

(d) What achievements, if any, has the Committee made?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The Committee started work on the 25th June 1948. A list of the places visited by the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 3.)

(b) No specific budget provision for the Committee was made but an expenditure of about Rs. 50,400 has been incurred and it is proposed to meet it by re-appropriation.

(c) A statement containing the terms of reference of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 4.)

(d) The Committee has just submitted a report to Government.

ECONOMY

*242. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether in view of the pressing need for economy the question of reducing the strength of staffs of Private Secretaries, Assistant Private Secretaries, Personal Assistants and similar officers attached to the Ministers, and Secretaries, in the Government of India, to that of the pre-15th August, 1947 period has been considered, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is one of the questions which is now engaging the attention of Government in connection with the general scheme of reorganisation of the machinery of Government.

DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT WORK

*243. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what action Government propose to take to insure that all references from the public including the members of the Constituent Assembly addressed to the Ministers and Government departments are attended to promptly, and in cases where disposal is likely to take some time, acknowledge receipt of such references as an interim action?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government have no reason to believe that communications from non-official bodies or individuals are not attended to with due expedition. They have already issued instructions that such communications as call for a reply should be acknowledged on receipt. If any specific case of unreasonable delay occurs and is brought to the notice of the Minister concerned, I am sure it will be carefully investigated.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS

*244. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers in the Government of India who have attained the age of superannuation to date since the 15th August, 1947;

(b) the total number of those who were granted extensions showing the period for which extension was granted; and

(c) the total number of those who were actually retired?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.



HONORARY MAGISTRATES

*245. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of the Centrally administered areas in which Honorary Magistrates are still appointed, with the number of such Magistrates functioning in each of them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Delhi 8, Ajmer-Merwara 16-Coorg 35, and Bhopal 9. •

POOL AND NON-POOL OFFICERS

***246. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bajpai Committee appointed by the Government in connection with the Reorganisation of the Central Secretariat recommended that the distinction between a pool and non-pool officer should be abolished and the Secretariat should be manned only by experienced officers? If so, what steps have Government taken to abolish the pool; and

(b) whether it is a fact that on account of this pool many junior officers got jump in their promotion, and their seniors in service or cadre are still working in junior grades?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) No.

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

***247. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Government of India on foreign scholarships of all kinds in the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and up to the end of October 1949;

(b) how much of this amount was spent on scholars belonging to the Scheduled Castes;

(c) what provision exists for foreign scholarships for Scheduled Castes during the current year;

(d) what is the total provision for foreign scholarships of all kinds for 1948-49 and 1949-50; and

(e) how much of this is likely to be spent in the course of the current year?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Approximately a sum of rupees one crore and twenty two lakhs only has been incurred on foreign scholarships of all kinds during the period in question. A statement showing the details yearwise is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 5.)

(b) Rupees six and a half lakhs approximately.

(c) Under the terms governing the grant of foreign scholarships, no part of the provision is to be set apart for any particular group or community.

(d) Rupees forty-eight lakhs only approximately.

(e) Rupees seventeen and a half lakhs only approximately.

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

***248. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the hour in the morning when broadcasts on the various radio stations in India start;

(b) the total number of hours during which broadcasting is undertaken by the various stations in India;

(c) the period of time spent on broadcasts in English out of the above at each of the stations; and

(d) the time spent on English music?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 6.)

FEDERAL COURT (CASES)

***249. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, both original and appellate, pending before the Federal Court as on the 1st October, 1949 with the dates of the three oldest cases; and

(b) the number of cases, both original and appellate, transferred or shortly to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Federal Court from His Majesty's Privy Council in London?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Ninety-eight. The three oldest cases were filed in 1948, on the 17th March, 28th April and 24th May.

(b) About fifty.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

***250. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the position of our sterling balances with the Bank of England as at the end of October, 1949, and the amount of Sterling Balances liquidated during the period commencing from April, 1949 up to date and also the specific purpose for which the amount was utilised?

(b) What was the total cost of imports from and exports to the soft and hard currency areas from 1st April, 1949 up to the present day?

(c) What were the dollar earnings made by India from month to month during this period and the causes of decrease, if any?

(d) What was the total cost of consumer goods and capital goods imported separately from soft and hard currency areas and the percentage of imports of capital goods to the total imports?

(e) What was the total value of motor cars, buses, trucks and other luxury goods like toilets, perfumery, oils, etc. imported separately from the hard currency and soft currency areas?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Our Sterling Balances which stood at Rs. 921 crores on the 1st of April 1949 had declined to Rs. 789 crores at the end of October 1949. The amount liquidated during this period was therefore Rs. 132 crores. This amount was used to meet India's overall balance of payments deficit.

(b) Figures are available at present only for the period April to August 1949. According to the Sea-borne Trade Accounts, the total value of imports during this period, from the soft currency areas and the hard currency areas was Rs. 215.30 crores and Rs. 60.95 crores respectively. The value of exports to these areas during the same period was Rs. 114.7 crores and Rs. 35.6 crores respectively.

(c) A statement containing the information is placed on the Table. (*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 7.)

(d) The Sea-borne Trade Accounts do not classify imports according to consumer and capital goods, and it is not, therefore possible to give separate figures of imports of capital and consumer goods. Imports of plant and machinery.

which constitute the bulk of capital goods, were valued at Rs. 10·81 crores from hard currency areas and Rs. 29·05 crores from soft currency areas respectively, during the five months from April 1949 to August 1949. The percentages of imports of plant and machinery to the total imports are 17·7 and 13·5 for hard and soft currency areas respectively.

(e) It is not correct to say that all motor cars, buses and trucks, and oils are luxury goods, for instance a large proportion of cars, buses and trucks are used directly for industrial and developmental purposes and Government give due consideration to this fact in fixing the import programme from time to time. The total value of such of these items as is available from the Seaborne Trade Accounts is set out in the Statement, which also I lay on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 8.)

PRIVATE PROPERTY OF RULERS

***251. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state what principle has been followed in determining the private property of Rulers and has this principle been deviated from in some cases? If so, to what extent and for what reasons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I propose shortly to lay on the Table of the House a White Paper dealing, *inter alia*, with this question. I would request the honourable Member to await the White Paper.

ADULT LITERACY

***252. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of adult literates as compared with the total number of adults, who will be eligible for voting in the next elections;

(b) the steps the Government of India are taking for a drive towards adult literacy and the date by which it is expected to make every adult literate in the country; and

(c) whether the total expenditure on adult literacy drive will be borne by the Centre or the Provinces or by both the Governments, and if so, in what proportion?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The approximate number of adults who will be eligible for voting in 1950-51 elections will be 18·67 crores in India (including States). Of these about 1·87 crores will be literates.

(b) In consultation with the Provincial Governments this Ministry decided to make every adult literate in the course of ten years. With this end in view a Guide Scheme was prepared and the Provincial Governments requested to have their first-five year programme of Social Education in order to achieve 50 per cent. of literacy in accordance with it. All the Provincial Governments have accordingly prepared their schemes and have made a start on them.

(c) The total expenditure on Adult Literacy Drive will be borne both by the Provinces and the Centre on 50 : 50 basis.

In view of the financial stringency it cannot be said if it would be possible for Government to adhere to the above programme. If the required amount is not available, it is obvious the programme will have to be delayed. A sum of Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned in the current financial year for Social Education but as the result of Government's drive for economy in expenditure, a portion of this amount has to be surrendered. This means that even this small amount could not be provided by the Central Government. •

DOLLAR INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

***253. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. John Snyder, United States Secretary of the Treasury, on the eve of the Anglo-Canadian-American Dollar talks about the conditions for flow of American capital into foreign under-developed countries;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter of attracting American investments into India; and

(c) whether Government have started any negotiations with the Government of the United States in this matter, and if so, with what results?

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

(b) I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the Government of India's statement on Industrial Policy dated 6th April, 1948, and the Honourable the Prime Minister's statement on the participation of foreign capital in Indian industries made in Parliament on 6th April, 1949. Government consider that these two statements adequately cover the points made by Mr. Snyder. At the same time they will continue the policy of examining, in individual cases, any further points which may need clarification.

(c) Yes. It had been suggested by the United States that the existence of a proper treaty relationship between the two countries would help in the investment of American capital in India and there have been discussions between the representatives of the Government of India and the Government of the United States at the technical level on the draft of a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation with a view to exploring the scope and contents of such a Treaty. No final conclusions have been reached and the negotiations are continuing.

PROVINCIAL LOAN FUND

***254. Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the present state of the Provincial Loan Fund in respect of (i) the total amounts advanced to various Provinces and the respective rates of interest charged from them; (ii) the balance in hand; and (iii) the total amount of the pending demands by the various Provinces and States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Provincial Loans Fund was closed down with effect from the 1st April 1936 and loans are now given by the Government of India direct to the Provinces and States as and when necessary. A statement showing the outstanding loans made to the various Provinces and the rate of interest charged on them is laid on the Table. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 9.)

SERAIKELLA AND KHARSWAN STATES

***255. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Government of India have ascertained the opinion of the people regarding the merger of Seraikella and Kharswan States in Bihar?

(b) What is their policy in merging these Orissa States in Bihar?

(c) What remedy have the Government in view to protect the cultural, economic and political interest of the Oriyas in Seraikella and Kharswan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué issued by Government of India, Ministry of States on 18th May, 1948.

(c) The good sense of the Government and the people of the Province including the Oriyas.

REPORTS REGISTERED IN POLICE POSTS

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

(a) the total number of reports registered in each of the various police posts in the province of Delhi from 1st January to 31st October 1949;

(b) the total number of reports out of those referred to in part (a) above which pertains to police personnel; and

(c) the number of cases separately wherein no action was taken on those referred to in parts (a) and (b) above?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 10.)

(b) Thirty-two.

(c) Nil.

RAM MOHAN PALACE

*257. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are intending to acquire the building known as Ram Mohan Palace at Ernakulam, in which the Travancore-Cochin High Court is housed, for purposes of the Royal Indian Navy?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No.

OPIUM MANUFACTURE

*258. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaitia;**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the present income of the Government of India from internal consumption of opium and from export thereof?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No income is derived from internal consumption as sales of opium to the Provinces and States are made on a no profit no loss basis.

As regards exports, a profit of Rs. 4,95,000 accrued during the year 1948.

FUNDS FOR COMMODITY CESS COMMITTEES

*259. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the procedure being adopted to sanction funds to Commodity Cess Committees in accordance with the resolutions of the Finance Sub-Committees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The procedure for sanctioning funds for Commodity Cess Committees is laid down in the rules framed under the relevant Acts constituting such Committees. Copies of the Acts and the rules framed thereunder are available in the library of the House.

The administration of these Acts rests with the Ministry of Agriculture.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS

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

(a) whether any efforts have been made or are being made to cut down the Defence expenditure on the construction of permanent buildings for the residence of Defence personnel in consequence of the economy drive; and

(b) if so, with what financial results?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that the partition of the country left India with only 1/3rd of the permanent military accommodation in undivided India. In the case of the Navy and the Air Force, the accommodation available was extremely limited, considering that these two Services needed rapid expansion. Full use is being made of temporary accommodation constructed during the war. Planning for the reconstruction of the accommodation which is essential must, however, of necessity go ahead. The scrutiny of works projects during the year 1949-50 in the light of the economy drive has resulted in expenditure of nearly Rs. 297 lakhs being postponed in the capital works grant for the year 1949-50.

RAILWAY AUDIT ACCOUNTANTS

*261. Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have now decided to introduce a unified scale of pay for the Accountants in the Railway Audit Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

PROSECUTIONS BY SPECIAL POLICE

*262. Giani Gurmukh Singh Munsafi: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons prosecuted in Delhi by the Special Police Establishment under the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the number of cases resulting in convictions therefrom from 1st January, 1949 upto date?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

CHIEF COMMISSIONERS

8. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names, qualifications, experience and salaries including allowances of the present Chief Commissioners of the Centrally Administered Areas, in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 11.)

AIR CRASH IN CALCUTTA

Shri R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether two Royal Indian Air Force aircrafts collided in mid-air over Calcutta on the 16th November, 1949 and fell in the heart of the city killing and injuring several people?

(b) If so, what is the total number of casualties and what is the condition of the injured persons?

(c) What was the cause of the collision?

(d) Was the movement of both the aircrafts notified by the Signal Tower from the Calcutta Aerodrome? If so, with what result?

(e) Were the pilots amateurs or fully trained?

(f) What action have Government taken in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, an air crash occurred in Calcutta on November 16th.

(b) The casualties are—eight killed including the pilot of one plane, and thirteen seriously injured. Twenty persons who sustained minor injuries have since been discharged from hospitals.

(c) Six aircraft were flying in formation when one of them accidentally hit a vulture and then collided against the aircraft next to it, resulting in the crash.

(d) The aircrafts were on their way to Kumbhigram in Assam, and the Calcutta Aerodrome had signalled the Kumbhigram Aerodrome.

(e) All the pilots were fully trained.

(f) Government have appointed two Courts of Enquiry—one to enquire into the reasons for the crash and damage to aircraft, etc., and the second to go into the question of loss of life among members of the public and damage caused to private property. The members of the second Court include an engineer officer and a representative of the West Bengal Government. Any special instructions or orders for the future will be issued by Government in the light of the reports of the two Courts of Enquiry.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the result of that enquiry will be available to this House when it is ready?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is a purely Departmental enquiry, but if Honourable Members are interested and if it is in the public interest, then perhaps it may be made available to Honourable Members.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Out of the thirteen persons who were seriously injured, may I know what is their present condition?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्रीजी को यह बात मालूम है कि इन दिनों में इस तरह के एक्सीडेंट्स बहुत हो रहे हैं और अभी हाल में एक एक्सीडेंट इलाहाबाद में हुआ, जहाँ कायस्थ पाठशाला कालेज से एक एरोप्लेन भिड़ा। इस सम्बन्ध में गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है जिससे कि इस तरह के एक्सीडेंट्स बचाये जा सकें जो आजकल बहुत ज्यादा हो रहे हैं।

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware that many such accidents are taking place these days, one such has recently been at Allahabad, where one aeroplane collided against the building of Kayestha Pathshala College? What measures are Government taking in this connection to prevent such accidents which are very frequent now-a-days?

آنریبل سردار بلدیو سنگھ : پچھلے دنوں میں ایکسڈنٹس ہو رہے ہیں -
 لیکن آنریبل ممبر صاحب نے اللہ آباد کے متعلق جو ذکر کیا ہے اس کا ایئر
 فورس سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے - وہ سول ایویشن کا تھا -

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Accidents have taken place during the last few days, but the Allahabad accident to which the Honourable Member has referred has got no connection with the Air Force. That belonged to the Civil Aviation.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How much time was taken to clear the wreckage of the plane? Were many days taken?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information,

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any truth in the Press Report that the owner of the site made money out of this accident by levying a charge of one anna or two annas on the visitors who came to see the wreckage of the plane? Did he make death pay a dividend to him?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any buildings were damaged due to the fall of these aircrafts and if so, what is the damage?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Slight damage was done to the buildings and the Enquiry Committee have it in one of their terms of reference to report on the damage done to buildings.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it Government's intention to pay compensation for the loss of property and life caused on account of this accident?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Not as a rule, but if it is found from enquiries that some kind of compensation is to be given, the matter will be considered.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether any compensation will be paid or not to the families of those who have died and to those who have received serious injuries?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I said not as a rule, but during the last war, in such accidents, the claim for compensation has been admitted and it is very difficult for me to say straightaway whether compensation in this case will be paid or not. It will be examined on the receipt of the report of the enquiry committee.

Friday, 2nd December, 1949

**THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES**

**(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS)**

Official Report

Volume VI, 1949

(28th November to 17th December, 1949)

Sixth Session
of the
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1949



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**CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES**

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Friday, 2nd December, 1949

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-50 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT, 1944

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): I beg to lay on the table a copy of each of the following notifications in accordance with Section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:

- (1) Notification No. C. No. 1/Spl./M/Exc./48, dated the 1st March, 1949,
- (2) Central Excises Notification No. 5, dated the 12th March, 1949,
- (3) Central Excises Notification No. 9, dated the 5th April, 1949,
- (4) Central Excises Notification No. 13, dated the 9th April, 1949,
- (5) Central Excises Notification No. 14, dated the 30th April, 1949,
- (6) Central Excises Notification No. 15, dated the 7th May, 1949,
- (7) Central Excises Notification No. 16, dated the 7th May, 1949,
- (8) Central Excises Notification No. 17, dated the 14th May, 1949,
- (9) Central Excises Notification No. 21, dated the 4th June, 1949,
- (10) Central Excises Notification No. 23, dated the 2nd July, 1949,
- (11) Central Excises Notification No. 26, dated the 13th August, 1949,
- (12) Central Excises Notification No. 28, dated the 1st September, 1949,
- (13) Central Excises Notification No. 29, dated the 10th September, 1949,
- (14) Central Excises Notification No. 30, dated the 1st October, 1949,
- (15) Central Excises Notification No. 32, dated the 29th October, 1949.

[Copy placed in the Library. See Nos. P-21/49 to P-35/49.]

TAXATION LAWS (EXTENSION TO MERGED STATES AND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to extend certain laws relating to taxation on income to certain areas administered as parts of Governors' Provinces or as Chief Commissioners' Provinces and further to amend certain laws relating to taxation on income."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to extend certain laws relating to taxation on income to certain areas administered as parts of Governors' Provinces or as Chief Commissioners' Provinces and further to amend certain laws relating to taxation on income."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

EXPLOSIVES (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): Sir, I move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption for a limited period of operations affecting ammunition, explosives or inflammable substances from certain restrictions and for the regulation of those operations."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption for a limited period of operations affecting ammunition, explosives or inflammable substances from certain restrictions and for the regulation of those operations."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (BANKING AND INSURANCE COMPANIES) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister of Labour): Sir, I move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the adjudication of industrial disputes concerning certain banking and insurance companies."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the adjudication of industrial disputes concerning certain banking and insurance companies."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

TRANSFER OF DETAINED PERSONS BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister of Home Affairs and the States): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal from one unit to another unit of persons subjected to preventive detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order, be taken into consideration."

The subject matter of the Bill is very simple. The Prisoners' Act provides for the transfer of prisoners from one province to another, but there is no provision regarding a similar transfer of persons subjected to preventive detention. Having regard to the scheme of the Prisoners' Act, a mere amendment of that Act to provide for such transfer is not appropriate. The absence of this power has been a source of considerable embarrassment to the Government and of inconvenience to the detenus who although detained in one province belong really to another. Therefore, it has been found necessary to have statutory provision for transfer of persons under detention for security or other purposes. During the last several months, we had had requests from various kinds of detenus for transfer from the province where they were detained to the province to which they really belonged.

But we could not give them any facilities because we have had no such power and, therefore, it has been found necessary to seek your assistance for making such a provision in the Statute.

Now to meet this emergency we had promulgated an ordinance on the 19th July 1949 which will expire in January 1950. The Central List of the present Government of India Act as well as the New Constitution contains an item relating to the persons subjected to preventive detention for reasons of state. So, the necessity of such a provision is of permanent nature and it is essential to provide for such transfers in the Statute. The Bill before the House seeks for such a provision. It has been accepted by the Standing Committee of the Legislature for the Home Ministry before which it was placed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal from one unit to another unit of persons subjected to preventive detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order, be taken into consideration."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): I wish to obtain, Sir, some information on one or two points that arise out of this Bill. This Bill provides for the removal from one unit to another of persons subjected to preventive detention. I do not know whether there is on the Statute Book any Act which empowers the Government of India to remove or transfer from one unit to any of the Centrally Administered Areas such persons subjected to preventive detention.

I would request the hon. Home Minister to enlighten the House on this point: whether Government has powers already for removal of detenus from one unit, that is one province, or State to any of the Centrally Administered Areas, and if that be not so, whether Government propose to assume such powers, of course not under this Bill, but otherwise in the near future. I fear that this Bill would remain incomplete and incomprehensive, unless provision is made by legislation to provide for the removal of detenus not merely from one unit to another, but also from one unit to any of the Centrally Administered Areas.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, this Bill is only intended to give effect by way of procedure to the amendment that we made recently in the Constituent Assembly to the Concurrent List of the Adapted Government of India Act. Item 3 of the List relates to removal of prisoners and accused persons from one unit to another, but does not relate to persons
12 Noon who are detained under sub-section 4 of the Second Amendment Act of 1949. This related to item No. 3 of the Concurrent List and reads:

"Removal from one unit to another unit of prisoners, accused persons and persons subjected to preventive detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order."

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

It is, therefore, under the Government of India Act, as amended by the Second Amendment Act of 1949 that this item of removal of persons detained from one unit to another has been put in the Concurrent List. This Bill lays down the procedure that is to be followed in removing such persons from one province to another.

If the Government of one province intends to send such prisoners for reasons of security to another province the consent of the other province is necessary—that is all that is laid down in this Bill. I think the word "province" though it has not been defined would also mean an "ceding State" or "union of States" and also a Centrally Administered Area. I would request the hon. Minister to consider whether it would not be more advisable to use the word "Unit" because that is the term used in the Government of India Act, as adapted. That is also the term used in the Amendment Act. Moreover that word would cover the Centrally Administered Areas as well as the States. Otherwise, there is no principle involved in this Bill. It is only intended to carry out the amendment that has been made.

I would, however, suggest for the consideration of the hon. Minister one small amendment—even at this stage—if it meets with his approval I will formally move it. Under sub-clause (2) removal of prisoners from one province to another alone is contemplated. The Government of a unit which detains a person if it wants to transfer him, in the interest of public safety, need only take the consent of the province to which he is being transferred. In some cases, I feel that it may be desirable that the approval of the Centre may also be taken. In 1942 some of us from Madras were transferred to a jail in the Central Provinces, the previous history of which was that in the preceding summer about one hundred prisoners died of meningitis. That was the jail to which we were all transferred. In spite of repeated complaints, we were also just asked to live in a shed something like the goods-shed of a wayside third class railway station. It was a tin shed and the roof was very low. The degree of heat in Amraoti—from which my hon. friend Dr. Deshmukh comes—is 122 degrees in summer. Our repeated requests that we should be transferred to a better place were not heeded to. Our transfer was at the direction of the Central Government and not of the Provincial Government. Anyhow I consider it desirable that there must be one more authority who may come to the rescue of these people, instead of leaving them entirely to the individual discretion of the province which wants to send these people away.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Home Minister to include a provision that the approval of the Central Government should also be taken for any such transfer.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far as Mr. Kamath's question is concerned, I understand the word 'unit' or 'province' includes Chief Commissioners' Provinces also. Therefore, no difficulty arises.

So far as Mr. Ayyangar's suggestion is concerned, I have no objection to add the words, "with the consent of the Central Government". Probably, in all cases transfers will be with the consent of the Central Government. It may involve a little delay; but it is better. I have no objection to accept this amendment for the addition of the words 'with the consent of the Central Government'. Although I do not know what the past Government did during the period of war about which my hon. friend made a reference, they were under the Defence of India Rules transferred from one place to another and from one province to another as they liked. No such experience he will have as any of us will have. But, still, it is better if the Centre's control is there. Therefore, I have no objection to accept that.

About the other suggestion, I have not been able to follow what is exactly meant. But, if the word 'unit' is to be substituted for 'province', I have no objection, because provinces will be considered as units hereafter. I would accept that suggestion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will you, Sir, permit me to invite the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the Statement of Objects and Reasons which refers to the ordinance promulgated by Government in July last and which is sought to be replaced by the present Act? That ordinance refers to provinces or States. The unit, therefore, does not refer to Centrally Administered Areas. Unless that doubt is cleared, it will remain vague.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 'Unit' will include Centrally Administered Areas.

Mr. Speaker: The word 'unit' will include Centrally Administered Areas. This position does not require any examination again. This means that no further amendments will have to be made.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal from one unit to another unit of persons subjected to preventive detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: We shall now proceed clause by clause. The point is, there are certain amendments already tabled to clauses 1 and 2. So, I am taking clause 2.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): My amendment is of a very formal nature. If it is acceptable, I am moving it; otherwise, not.

Mr. Speaker: The position is now changed. Instead of the word 'Province' I understand the word 'unit' has to be substituted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Even under the General Clauses Act, a Province shall mean a Governor's province, a Lieutenant Governor's province or a Chief Commissioner's province.

Mr. Speaker: The position is clear. I am always a bit nervous about last minute changes which may appear formal, but may still create some difficulty.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam (Minister of State for Transport and Railways): The word 'unit' has not been defined anywhere. The word 'Province', as has been defined, has been made to include the Acceding States. Therefore, there is no change needed in the Draft as it is.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am satisfied, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let it remain as it is. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: This is only a drafting amendment. It is left to the discretion of the hon. Minister. If it is acceptable, I shall move; otherwise, it is not necessary.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I think the draft as it is, is quite good. I do not accept the amendment.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): With your permission Sir, I would like to be allowed to move amendments relating to sub-clause (1) at one time because they are related to each other. I move:

(i) "That in sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'Province' occurring in line six, the words 'and the conditions of his detention' be inserted",

[Fandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

(ii) "That in subclause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'detained' occurring in line seven, the words 'in such place of detention' be inserted", and

(iii) "That in subclause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'in accordance with the provisions of the order' occurring at the end be omitted".

This clause 2 speaks of two Governments: one Government which makes the order and the other Government to whose jurisdiction the prisoner is to be removed. In line 7, you will be pleased to see the words are: "provide by order for the removal of such person to any place of detention in that other Province; and the person so removed shall be detained in that other province". That is, the consent of the Government in whose jurisdiction the prisoner is to be transferred has to be taken in regard to place of detention. Further on, we read: "and the person so removed shall be detained in that other province in accordance with the provisions of the order." I understand that so far as the conditions of detention are concerned, according to clause 2, no consent of the Government in whose jurisdiction the prisoner is to be removed, is to be taken. I would like to know if the other Government in whose jurisdiction the prisoner is to be transferred has to give its consent to the conditions of detention also. Because, the conditions of detention are different in different provinces. The Jail Rules are very different. It may happen that as regards the visit of the relations of the prisoner, and in regard to other amenities, the rules in the other province are not the same. Therefore, I would rather like to know if it is the intention of the Bill that only consent has to be given in regard to the place of detention. Then, an amendment may be made in line 8, that "the person so removed shall be detained in such place of detention." If it is the intention of this Bill that the conditions of detention are also to be determined by the Government which orders the preventive detention with the consent of the other Government then, these words "in accordance with the provisions of the order" should be replaced by the words 'conditions of detention' in line 6. If both the things are to be regulated by the Government which orders detention, after the word "Province" in line 6, these words should be added, "and the conditions of his detention". If the intention is that not only the place of detention, but the conditions of detention also are to be regulated by the Government in whose jurisdiction the prisoner is being transferred, then, this should be made clear. In my humble opinion, this is not clear if both the things are to be regulated by the Government which sends the prisoner or by the Government in whose jurisdiction the prisoner is to be placed. Therefore, if my contention finds favour with the mover of this Bill, I would respectfully submit that the point may be considered.

Mr. Speaker: Shall I place the amendments before the House? Is the amendment acceptable?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No; I do not think it is necessary at all; nor does it read well. The transfer is of the person detained; the conditions of detention cannot be transferred. If the terms or conditions differ from one province to another, when a person who is detained is transferred to another province, it will be the province or the Centre which will settle the terms and conditions of detention. It is not necessary to have any provision. It is not necessary to place the amendments.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ayyangar may move the other amendment. He has just given notice of the amendment. As it has been accepted by the hon. Minister, I take it that it is an agreed amendment and I do not insist on any further formal notice.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, with your permission, I move:

"That in subclause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'Province' occurring in line five, the words 'and the approval of the Central Government' be inserted."

Then, the clause will read as follows:

"the Government of that Province may, with the consent of the Government of any other Province and the approval of the Central Government, provide by order for the removal of such person to any place....."

I have already submitted the reasons for including this.

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor (U.P. General): I have just one word to say in connection with the amendment moved by my hon. friend Mr. Ayyangar. I am entirely in sympathy and in full agreement with the necessity for making some amendment in this clause 2 to meet the view-point of Shri Ayyangar, but I think the object he has in view would be better served if in place of his amendment we have an amendment to this effect:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following proviso be added:

"Provided that the Central Government on representation being made by the detenu reverse the order for removal."

I think as the Deputy Prime Minister has rightly pointed out while replying to the suggestion made by Mr. Ayyangar in the first instance, if it is made obligatory to secure the previous consent of the Central Government, delay might occur and in certain cases such delay may be very undesirable and secondly, also the person who is proposed to be transferred will have absolutely no opportunity of making representation to the Central Government against the proposal of a Provincial Government for his transfer. According to Mr. Ayyangar's amendment all this procedure would be carried on, I suppose, behind the back of the detenu whereas if my suggestion is accepted, the detenu who is to be affected will have an opportunity of placing his case before the Central Government and the Central Government, after looking into the representation of the detenu will be in possession of the full facts of the case and will then be in a better position to decide as to whether the order of transfer should be confirmed or reversed. For these reasons, I would submit that the amendment which I have submitted may be accepted rather than the amendment suggested by Mr. Ayyangar.

Mr. Speaker: What is the position? There is an alternative suggestion made.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I would prefer the first suggestion—the amendment moved by Mr. Ayyangar and not accept the other one.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member press the amendment?

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Then I do not press it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in subclause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'Province' occurring in line five, the words 'and the approval of the Central Government' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

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

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister of Home Affairs and the States): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878, be taken into consideration."

As the Statement of Objects and Reasons explains, this Bill has been necessitated because the existing Act does not cover the export or import of arms by air. This lacuna in the Act has the effect of excluding from the purview of the Indian Arms Act unauthorised import or export of arms by air, although, under the Indian Aircraft Rules, a person who engages in such import or export can be prosecuted and punished. In the first place, the Indian Aircraft Rules are differently designed. They are intended to cover the safety of the aircraft in flight as well as at the aerodrome. We are, however, concerned from a broader aspect, *viz.*, the security of the State itself and from that point of view a check on illicit traffic in arms is essential. Also, the punishment provided in the Indian Aircraft Rules is not adequate. It is obviously necessary that unauthorised import or export of arms, etc., by air should be dealt with as severely as similar import or export by land or sea. For this purpose, therefore, I feel it necessary that the Indian Arms Act be amended.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I am taking all the clauses together as there are no amendments.

The motion is:

"That clauses 1 to 4 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri M. Ananthaayyanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I did not want to participate in the discussion on this Bill as this is a very simple one. This is intended to cover cases of export or import of arms by air. Even if a person is allowed to carry arms by sea or train, if he misbehaves with those arms, the fellow passengers can stop and prevent him from misbehaving. But if a man is allowed to carry arms when travelling by air, there is nothing to prevent him misbehaving with them in mid-air. I would therefore request the hon. Minister to do something to see that passengers by air are not exposed to this danger.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: What is the point raised?

Mr. Speaker: The point raised is this that, if people are permitted to carry arms in aircraft, there is always the danger of those arms being misused by somebody sometimes, and just as it is possible to prevent any misuse on land or on sea, it will not be so in mid-air, to prevent that misuse. He does not know whether this aspect is covered by this Bill. If not, his request is that while framing rules, care should be taken to see that passengers travelling by air are free from possible danger of anybody carrying arms, misusing the same.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes. I shall look into that question.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) SECOND AMENDMENT BILL

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister of Industry and Supply): I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, this Bill seeks to validate the ordinance which was passed a few months ago. The House will remember that the Essential Supplies Act of 1946 is now functioning by virtue of a special provision in the India Act of 1946 which gave the Central Legislature powers to make laws with respect of trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of certain specified commodities, including cotton textiles. The question arose whether raw cotton was included in the definition of woollen and cotton textiles. The opinion of the Law Ministry was that it did not include raw cotton, which virtually meant that cotton had to be controlled by the Provinces. It became a commodity which was not capable of being controlled by the Centre. This matter had been debated on the floor of the House, and as a result of the opinion then obtained, the Constituent Assembly was moved, and the India Act has been suitably amended. It is now proposed to include raw cotton, including ginned cotton and cotton seed, as one of the commodities which may be controlled by the Central Government. That is one change.

The second is with regard to the definition of coal. Now, in accordance with a decision recently given by a Bombay court, coke may not be included within the term “coal”. We have, therefore, been advised that it will be better to define coal as including coke and other derivatives of coal. Now, this definition has to be given retrospective effect, because already orders which were passed by the Central Government under the Essential Supplies Act included control over coke. The India Act which has been amended has already laid down that this definition will be given retrospective effect. These are the two short changes which are now sought to be made in the Essential Supplies Act, 1946, in accordance with the powers conferred upon this Legislature by the amendment made in the India Act, 1946.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U.P.: General): May I put a question? Does control by Government really mean control at the stage when the cotton comes to the market or when it is on the field, and does it also mean procurement of the cotton?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: By this Bill, Government propose to control both *kapas* and also ginned cotton, but whether Government will really control *kapas* is a different matter. We have decided not to control *kapas* for the time being. What the Bill proposes is to give power to the Central Government to control it, if necessary. Whether this control will be imposed in respect of every commodity is a matter which will depend on various factors.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will it entail procurement of cotton, just as in the case of wheat procurement is also done?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will mean control over *kapas* by Government, if it decides to have such control.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): The Bill that has been tabled by the hon. Minister is a thoroughly non-controversial one and is one which need not be discussed at very great length. But, Sir, so far as these powers of control and fixation of prices and other things are concerned, I must place before the House the grievances of the growers of cotton. Very often, in the control of these commodities and the fixation of prices, our experience is that the prices given or the controls enforced come at the absolutely wrong psychological moment so that whenever the grower has the commodity with him, the price is generally showing a tendency to fall, and just at the stage at which it leaves his hands and goes into the hands of the merchant the prices become abnormally high. Now, so far as raw cotton and ginned cotton are concerned, everybody knows that we are in great short supply on account of a very bad crop in Central India which produces nearly 24 per cent. of our total cotton produced in India at the present time—the crop was badly spoilt by excessive rains—and it has now come down to 3 annas. But we have raised a very big industry which is one of our very important industries in the country and which depends on the cotton supplies for its progress and prosperity. And under these circumstances, the prices are bound to be very high because there is bound to be competition between the various mills to get hold of the quantity that is available, the very limited quantity. What generally happens is that we fix the ceiling and floor prices, and our experience is that these prices are not really respected by the merchant class. Just as we have fixed the jute prices and they were not respected. Recently at Calcutta we found that in spite of the fact that the Government had fixed a certain price, those persons who had licenses from Government to export a certain quantity of jute and jute goods, they were not able to get an ounce of jute or jute goods at that particular rate. In fact, taking advantage of the presence of the State Trading Committee at Calcutta, certain parties placed before us their complaints. Similar was the position of cotton. Last year that was our experience, the year before that also, when merchants used to buy at a premium of anything between Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 over the highest prices laid down by government. Evidently merchants will not bargain for a loss. They know that there will be demand. The merchant knows that the textile mills are bound to pay higher rates. The case of sugar has become notorious. Government brings out a statement or communique stating that certain prices are fixed, but nobody in India can get any sugar for that price. Therefore, I say the fixing of prices brings about certain evils which have to be eliminated as much as possible. I am prepared to admit that the remedy is not in our hands. But it is the duty and responsibility of government to see that in enforcing the prices or in settling the prices the primary grower

does not suffer at the hands of those who live by exploiting the primary grower.

In lending my support to this Bill, I would only bring to the notice of the hon. Members that the prices fixed by the hon. Minister for raw cotton even to-day are not adequate. We are actually paying nearly about two and a half times as much as for cotton imported from distant countries like Egypt, South Africa and elsewhere. Even so it has been demonstrated from facts and figures taken from government records, by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, that the prices given to the Indian agriculturist are not economic enough. It has ceased to be economic for the cultivators to grow it in the area which produces the largest amount of cotton. Under the circumstances, whenever my hon. friend is called upon to deal with this commodity I hope he will take all these facts into consideration and do his best to see that the cotton grower does not suffer. If the cotton grower suffers he will have no inclination to cultivate cotton and the textile mills will suffer. We will probably have to pay far higher prices for cotton imported from abroad. There will be labour troubles and there will be no end of difficulties arising in those circumstances. From that point of view I would like to press on the hon. Minister's attention the woes of the cotton grower and I hope he will kindly modify the policy of control and fixation of prices in such a way that the largest benefit goes to the grower so that the increased prosperity will be available both to the textile manufacturers and textile labourers.

चौधरी रणवीरसिंह : सभापति महोदय, यह कानून का मसौदा कोई बहुत ज्यादा मतभेद का विषय नहीं है और इसका समर्थन करते हुए डाक्टर पंजाबराव देशमुख जी ने जितनी बातें कही हैं उनका भी मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। हम अब की दफा जब आल इण्डिया सेंट्रल काटन कमिटी (All India Central Cotton Committee) की मीटिंग (meeting) में शामिल हुए तो वहाँ पर एक सी० पी० (C. P.) के काटन ग्रोवर (cotton grower) भी उसके मेम्बर (member) थे। उन्होंने बडी होशियारी से और गवर्नमेंट (Government) के स्टैटिस्टिक्स (statistics) की मदद से अपना केस (case) पेश किया कि काटन की कीमत जो किसान को दी जाती है वह किसी तरह उसके लिये इकानामिकल (economical) नहीं है। हम तो वहाँ द्रष्टा की हैसियत से थे और वह वहाँ उसके बाकायदा मेम्बर थे। उन्होंने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया था कि उनकी कीमत बढ़नी चाहिये और वह इस लिये भी कि चूँकि हमारे मन्त्री महोदय ने थोड़े ही दिन हुए उस वक्त काटन की स्केयरसिटी (scarcity) बताया थी। और यह झूट भी नहीं है क्या कि हम साठ सत्तर करोड़ की काटन दूसरे देशों से इम्पोर्ट (import) करते हैं। तो अगर हम चाहते हैं कि काटन के मामले में सैल्फ सफिशियंट (self sufficient) तो कंट्रोल (control) के माने यही नहीं होने चाहियें कि काश्तकार की कमर को तोड़ा जाय, बल्कि कंट्रोल तो दर असल अगर होना चाहिये तो काश्तकार व लाभ के लिये ही होना चाहिये। तो मैं यह समझता हूँ और उम्मीद करता हूँ कि काटन की कीमत जो थोड़ी है इसको बढ़ाया जायगा। बढकिसमती है कि केन्द्रीय कपास सभा के अन्दर एक दो के सिवा कीमत को बढ़ाने के समर्थन के लिये

रणवीरसिंह]

कोई नहीं मिला क्योंकि वहाँ पर जो आदमी थे वे सब मिल्स (mills) के नुमाइन्दे थे। उनकी सिर्फ एक ही इच्छा थी कि उनको काटन जरूर मिले और जो क्रीमट मुकदर को गयी है उसके ऊपर ही मूहय्या को जाय।

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar)].

इसके अलावा मैं आपके जरिये इस सिलसिले में मन्त्री महोदय से कुछ अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। वह यह है कि अभी उन्होंने इस मसविदे के अन्दर काटन सीड (cotton seed) का जिक्र किया है। जहाँ तक काटन सीड का ताल्लुक है, मैं आपको यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि एक तरफ काटन सीड के ग्रोअर (grower) को कितनी कीमत मिलती है और दूसरी तरफ जो काटन सीड का कन्स्यूमर (consumer) है उसको उसके लिये कितनी कीमत देनी पड़ती है। सी० पी० के अन्दर विनीले की कीमत मुश्किल से दस रुपये मन है, लेकिन पंजाब के अन्दर उसी विनीले की जो काश्तकार अपनी भैंस को खिलाने के लिये लेता है, सोलह रुपये मन कीमत देनी पड़ती है। आप जरा अन्दाजा कीजिये कि ६ रुपये का फर्क सिर्फ उसके लाने और बेचने में कर दिया गया है। अगर यह कण्ट्रोल सही मानों में आजाद देश का कण्ट्रोल बनना चाहता है और अगर सरकार लोगों की नुमाइन्दे सरकार सही तौर पर बनना चाहती है, तो उसे इस किस्म की कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि मिडिलमैन (middle-man) का मुनाफा कम कराये और इसके लिये मैं मन्त्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

हम काटन मार्केटिंग कमेटी (Cotton Marketing Committee) के सिलसिले में बम्बई गये थे। यहाँ एक दोस्त हमारे सामने आये जो बम्बई में एक बहुत भारी कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी (co-operative society) को चलाते थे। उन्होंने अपनी मुश्किलत को बताया कि ईस्ट इण्डिया काटन एसोसियेशन (East India Cotton Association) एक जमात है जो काटन के मार्केट (market) को कण्ट्रोल करती है। वहाँ पर काटन ग्रोअर्स कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी (Cotton Growers' Co-operative Society) की तरफ से अगर कोई अपनी काटन सीधी मिल को देना चाहता है तो वह उनसे लेते में सिलसिले में हैं। बल्कि उनके मुकाबले में जो मिडिलमैन अपनी काटन उनको देते हैं उसको यह लेते हैं। सही बात तो इससे यह है कि ईस्ट इण्डिया काटन एसोसियेशन बजात खुद एक मिडिलमैन की जमात है। तो मैं मन्त्री महोदय से यह चाहता हूँ कि यह कण्ट्रोल के तहत कोई ऐसी बात लाये जिससे काटन ग्रोअर्स को भी लाभ हो।

मैं यह बात कहते हुए इस कानून के मसविदे का समर्थन करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Razbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Sir, this Bill is not the subject of any great controversy and I endorse whatever has been said by Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukhji in supporting it. When I attended the meeting of the All India Central Cotton Committee this time there happened to be among the members a cotton grower from the C.P. Very cleverly and with the aid of Government statistics he put forth his case that the price of cotton as it was paid to the cultivator was in no way economical for him. I was present there simply in the position of a spectator whereas he was a regular member. He also urged that the price should be raised, more so since our Minister had, then, quite recently, stated that there was a scarcity of cotton. And, this is not wrong either, inasmuch as we import cotton worth sixty or seventy crores from other countries. If then we desire to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of cotton we should not take 'control' to mean simply that we break the back of the cultivator. On the other hand, if any control is to be there it should be in the interests of the cultivator. Hence I think and feel that the present price of cotton should be raised. Unfortunately, barring one or two, there was nobody in the Central Cotton Committee to support the move for increase in prices because whatever people were present there happened to be representatives of the mills. Their only desire was that they must have cotton and that it must be supplied to them at the price that had been fixed.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar)].

Besides this I want also to make a submission, through you, to the Honourable Minister in this connection. He has mentioned cotton-seed in the context of this Bill. In so far as cotton-seed is concerned I want to bring to your notice the contrast as between the price which the grower of cotton-seed receives for it and that, on the other side, which the consumer thereof has to pay for it. The price of cotton-seed prevailing in the C.P. is hardly ten rupees a maund whereas the cultivator who purchases the same cotton-seed for feeding his buffalo has to pay for it at the rate of sixteen rupees a maund. You may just consider how a difference of six rupees has been caused between the prices at which he sells and purchases. If this 'control' is to be the 'control' of a free country, in the true sense of the term, and if the Government wishes to become truly representative of the people it should take steps so as to reduce the middle-man's profit and to that end I make this appeal to the Honourable Minister.

I went to Bombay in connection with Cotton Marketing Committee. There I met a friend who was running a very big co-operative society in Bombay. In narrating his difficulties he stated that there was a body known as the East India Cotton Association which controlled the market in cotton. If someone, on behalf of the cotton-growers' cooperative society, wishes to sell cotton direct to the mills they hesitate to take it. On the other hand they are prepared to receive cotton offered to them by the middle-men. The real fact is that the East India Cotton Association itself is a middle-men's organisation. Hence, I want that the Honourable Minister should introduce some such device through the medium of the 'control' as might also be of benefit to the cotton-growers.

In saying so I lend my support to this Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, Dr. Deshmukh has rightly referred to the price at which cotton cultivators are today called upon to sell their produce. We have not fixed the price of *kapas* for the very reason which Dr. Deshmukh has referred to. In fact while fixing the price of cotton this year we actually gave an increase of 10 to 12 per cent. over the previous

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee]

year price except, I admit, that we could not give any increase in the price of *jarilla*, which is the basic variety and is in fact the main produce of Dr. Deshmukh's province. Here there is an eternal conflict between the producer and the manufacturer. If we raise the price of the raw material naturally the price of cloth which is dependent to the extent of about 60 per cent. on the price of cotton will go up. The agriculturists demand that Government should make it possible for the supply of cloth at cheap rates and at the same time they demand that the price of cotton should go up. It is difficult to reconcile the two but we are trying to make such adjustments as we consider to be fair and equitable to the country's economy as a whole.

But there is one fundamental point which the House must not lose sight of. India is producing this year 28 lakh bales of cotton, which is slightly better than last year's production. Last year on account of natural calamities production went down by nearly 6 lakh bales. Out of this 28 lakh bales we set apart about two lakh bales which are really surplus to the requirements of the mills. Most of this is exported and some is used for other purposes. What is the quantity that our mills require for their normal production? If we want to produce four million yards of cloth from mills and 350 million lbs. of free yarn for our handloom industry, we will require at least 34 lakh bales of Indian and Pakistan varieties of cotton and six lakh bales of foreign cotton of longer staple. As I said just now we expect to get about 26 lakh bales of cotton from Indian production. For reasons which I need not go into we do not expect to get any large quantity of cotton from Pakistan. Therefore it is obvious that we are short of that essential quantity of cotton which we require for the minimum production of our cotton textiles. That, in fact, is the reason why there must be some control over production and distribution in an equitable way throughout the country. Hitherto this matter was left in the hands of the provinces. We have now taken power for the Centre. We have not imposed control over *kapas* yet because it will immediately affect lakhs of cultivators throughout the country and for the Government to set up a suitable machinery for controlling this will become almost an impossible affair. Therefore we have fixed the ceiling and the floor prices of cotton. How can that be utilised for the purpose of adjusting the price of *kapas*? It can be done by occasional requisitioning made by provincial governments. It can also be done by preventing large scale purchases either by merchants or by mills themselves, who may do so completely ignoring the control price that we have fixed. During the last fortnight we had discussed this matter in consultation with the Provincial Governments and other interests involved, and we have now introduced a zonal scheme. We have divided the country into regions which are mainly the cotton producing regions and we propose to prevent the free movement of cotton from one area to another except on permits to be issued by the Textile Commissioner. These permits will be issued to the mills in accordance with their requirements. This will prevent speculative purchases and also purchases which may be made by mills at prices higher than what we would like them to be. I agree with Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh that this is a matter which presents considerable difficulties, but from what I have stated I believe the House will agree with me that we are trying to work out this control machinery in co-operation not only with the Provincial Governments but also with the other interests involved, keeping in view the essential requirements of the cotton producers. But, as I said at the beginning, the real remedy for us is to increase our cotton production. I can see no other long-term remedy for saving the future of the biggest industry in our country.

Shri B. L. Sondal (Pest Punjab: General): Give us more money for our Bhakra project and we will do it.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Give the incentive to the cotton producer.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The incentive to the cotton producer will naturally be to fix prices which we consider fair and equitable, and are comparable to other agricultural products. And that we constantly do.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As well as to the price paid for imported cotton.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I will come to that. And that we propose to do by constantly reviewing the position. I may tell the House that some time in January or February we will review the price position so far as the next year's production is concerned.

So far as the price that we have to pay for the imported cotton is concerned, there is some apparent logic in what Dr. Deshmukh says, that if foreign cotton can be purchased at such high prices, why not the Indian cotton be allowed to be sold at equally high prices?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not equally high, but at least something more than what it is now.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There we should not look at the matter only from the point of view of the cotton cultivator. As I said, what is the object that Government have in view? We want that cloth should be produced at as reasonably cheap prices as possible.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If the hon. Minister would forgive me I want to ask him a question. May I ask whether the millowners have not paid per bale something like Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 more than the control price and yet their profits were not affected—in fact they made equal profits?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In some cases perhaps the millowners purchased at higher rates. But it should not be forgotten that the mills had during the last year fairly large reserves which they utilised. In fact this year we are going to have a carry over of 10 to 12 lakhs bales only which means it will not last for more than three months and in 1950 we may not have any reserves at all. Now that is a position which obviously no government can possibly face with equanimity. As I said, the only solution is to have a balanced agricultural economy for the country. Just as you want to grow more food we have also to grow more cotton and more jute, but all done in such a balanced way that our entire economy may prosper to the advantage of the people of this country. I shall bear in mind the suggestions which have been made today in enforcing the powers which the Central Government now possesses under the Act.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take the Bill clause by clause.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Is my hon. friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad moving his commas?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): It is the custom not to move them: they are to be left to the Draftsman. That has been the custom long established in this House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The other amendment is by Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena. He is not here. But the amendment (to include "sugarcane") is foreign to the

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker:]

scope of the Bill. Is Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad moving his other amendment to add the word "and" at the end of clause 2(a)?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It is a formality which cannot be left to.....

An Honourable Member: It is a formal one.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It is a formality which cannot be left to the Draftsman. I shall move it if it is acceptable. It is intended to connect the two parts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think they are connected.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The semi-colon connects them.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then it is all right.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das (West Bengal: General): Sir, I have got two amendments of the same nature. One is to clause 2 and the other is to clause 3. My amendments seek to delete the words "and other derivatives of coal". They do not seek to alter the principle or the provisions of this Bill but only to delete these words because in my opinion these words are absolutely unnecessary and are a misfit here. They will create confusions and complications to get rid of which this Bill has been brought forward. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons the hon. the Mover has said:

"It has always been assumed that 'coke' was included in the meaning of 'coal', and 'coke' has accordingly been under Central control. Some doubt has, however, been thrown on this assumption by a recent judicial decision. It was necessary, therefore, that the matter should be placed beyond doubt."

It appears from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Government wants to put coke within the meaning of the word 'coal' and for that reason they have inserted coke as well as 'other derivatives of coal' here. The word 'derivative', I submit, has got a scientific meaning of its own. The Chambers' Dictionary says that derivatives are all those articles derived from a certain thing. By the words 'derivatives of coal' we mean so many things—coal gas, coal tar which is used largely by the villagers, aniline dyes, that is chemical dyes including washerman's blue, and a large number of other chemicals and medicines too. From the Statement of Objects and Reasons it appears that the hon. the Mover of this Bill has no intention to bring these articles, namely, coal gas, coal tar, chemical dyes including washerman's blue, a large number of medicines and chemicals under the purview of Central control. Therefore it is not necessary at all that these words "derivatives of coal" should be here. I think the hon. Mover will kindly consider my amendments and the House also will accept them.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This matter was considered by our law advisers and in view of certain doubts which were thrown by recent judicial decisions it was thought that it would be safer to define coal in this comprehensive way. Of course, as I said, a few minutes ago, the passing of this Bill does not mean that immediately we start controlling every commodity. The power is taken so that in case any emergency arises we won't have to come back to the Legislature. I can assure my hon. friend that we shall take good care to see that we do not touch at least the washermen, not to speak of the other commodities which he has mentioned. But in view of the very difficulties to which he has referred, about which doubt has been expressed by our legal advisers, I think it will be safer to leave the clause as it is.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Am I to understand that the Government reserves to itself the right to bring under control coal gas, coal tar, chemical dyes including washerman's blue and other chemicals and medicines too, if it wants?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If that emergency arises, but not now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would it suit the hon. Member if we say "other derivatives of like nature"?

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I do not want such a sweeping term as "derivatives of coal" which will create complications and confusion. If Government want let them enumerate all the articles which they want to bring under this category.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the control is actually imposed, then of course that will be done. Of course my friend consulted the Chambers Dictionary, I find our draftsmen referred to the Encyclopaedia and the Oxford Dictionary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, does the hon. Member intend to pursue the matter?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The hon. Member's apprehension is that the Government is taking wide powers—not that they will be used. He objects to taking powers over things which are not intended at all to be used.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I don't press my amendments, Sir.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'and shall be deemed always to have been inserted' be omitted."

I also move:

"That to part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following *Explanation* be added:

Explanation.—Clause (b) shall have retrospective effect as if it came into force on the 23rd day of November, 1946."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the difference in substance?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The difference to my humble mind would be a little substantial. It would remove some amount of torture over the English language. So long as the English language is used in the Legislature it should be in the proper form. I shall explain my difficulties at once and I believe the hon. Minister will sympathise with that difficulty and try to resolve it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think the hon. Minister has already considered this amendment.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, we have. I may mention that there is no chance of accepting this amendment. In fact, it is the same language as was approved by the Constituent Assembly and there Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad supported it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I shall try to place my difficulties and ask the hon. Minister to reconsider the matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister seems to be aware of the difficulties.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: No, Sir, I don't think so. The hon. Minister seems moved more by a sense of humour than a sense of appreciation of the point.

An Honourable Member: You are also laughing!

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Not at all. The hon. Member must fancy that I am not accustomed to wasting my valuable time and the valuable time of the House.

Sir, the position is this. Clause (b) tries to insert after the word "coal" in the original Act:

"(including coke and other derivatives of coal)",

and then the abjectionable passage comes that these words "shall be inserted, and shall be deemed always to have been inserted". I fancy the word "insertion" is a single momentary act, it is never a continuous act. If you insert certain words in an Act, the insertion is complete; you cannot say that it shall be deemed always to have been inserted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is the real torture.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The hon. Minister has already made it clear at the beginning that what is meant is to give retrospective effect. I want to say that this clause shall have retrospective effect. As an authority on this method of expression, I shall cite Act XI of 1938, an Act which was presided over by Mr. N. N. Sircar, a very celebrated lawyer. There the amendment of the Hindu Women's Right to Property Act was under consideration and it was desired to give retrospective effect to the Act. In sub-section (2) of section 1, it stated like this.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may continue after Lunch.

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: As I was submitting, the idea in sub-clause (b) of clause 2 is that the words "including coke and other derivatives of coal" shall be inserted and shall have retrospective effect as if it was enacted on the 23rd day of November 1946, which was the date on which the Act which is being amended by this Bill came into operation. As the hon. Minister stated quite frankly that this clarification should have retrospective effect, I want by my amendment simply to say that this shall have retrospective effect. As an example, I submit that the language of Act XI of 1938 of the Central Assembly, which was in connection with the Hindu Women's Right to Properties Act is on the same lines. It was made as a clarification and it was desired that this clarification should have effect from the date when the original Act was passed. It said, "Sub-section (2) of Section 1 shall have retrospective effect as if it had come into force on the 14th day of April 1937". The phraseology in the Bill is not very happy. The words "shall be deemed always to have been inserted" seems to be rather a queer way of putting it. Insertion is a single act. You can insert it today or with effect from the date of the original Act, but it cannot be deemed to have been always inserted. I submit my amendment would make it much better not only to read but also to hear:

An Honourable Member: What is yours?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I have already read it. It is that this "clause (b) shall have retrospective effect as if it came into force on the 23rd day of November 1946". The occasion for this change arose in this way, that the meaning of the word 'coal' was always understood to include derivatives of coal, but on account of a ruling of a High Court this meaning came into doubt and it is necessary to remove that doubt. That is clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It is necessary to clarify this and to clarify that it shall have effect from the date on which the original Act came into force. Therefore, nothing could be more original than to say that this clause (b) shall have retrospective effect as if it came into force on the date the original Act came into force. As I have said, this was the wording in a well drafted Act and it was enacted during the time of Mr. N. N. Sircar, one of the greatest of Law Members. I submit this should be acceptable to the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'and shall be deemed always to have been inserted' be omitted and the following *Explanation* be added to part (b):

Explanation.—Clause (b) shall have retrospective effect as if it came into force on the 23rd day of November, 1946."

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think it is necessary to disturb the draft as I have proposed. In fact, we have taken exactly the same language as has been embodied in the amending Act passed by the Constituent Assembly, and we would create complications if we insert new phraseology at this stage.

So far as the object is concerned, there is no difference between the hon. Mover and Government. Both of us desire that this should be deemed to have been included from the very commencement of the Act. The difference between the Act which he has just read out which was apparently piloted by Mr. N. N. Sircar and this one is that this amends the original Act passed by Parliament three years ago and the other Act was one passed for the first time.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: No, no.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In any case, in spite of the difference that may exist on the philosophy of insertion, I do not think there is any case for accepting the amendment moved by the hon. Member.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I explain that the drafting.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is trying to have a second speech by way of explanation. The Minister has replied. He is unwilling to accept the amendment. I do not think there is any scope for further arguments. If he wishes, I shall put the amendment to the House.

The question is:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'and shall be deemed always to have been inserted' be omitted and the following *Explanation* be added to part (b):

Explanation.—Clause (b) shall have retrospective effect as if it came into force on the 23rd day of November, 1946."

The motion was negatived.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I wish to move my amendment to the clause, notice of which I had given.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is somewhat late. I wish he was present when the amendment was called out.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I had gone to Bombay to give evidence.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that he was not present at the time the amendment was called out. I do not think it would be permissible for him to move it now.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): This morning during Question Hour when an hon. Minister was not present you allowed his questions to be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: But some arrangement was made by the hon. Minister earlier to have the questions answered. If the hon. Member had left the amendment to some other Member, I might have considered it.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Then, may I say something on the clause?

Mr. Speaker: He may, if he likes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, this Bill proposes to include raw cotton and cotton seed among the essential items over which the Central Government can exercise control. I propose that sugar cane may also be included in those items.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): How is this relevant to clause 2?

Mr. Speaker: Let me hear what the hon. Member has to say.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, the Preamble speaks of certain items but has omitted sugar cane. I wish the words "sugar cane" were also there.

Mr. Speaker: I must uphold the objection of Prof. Ranga. The hon. Member is trying to introduce a new matter which is not within the scope of this Bill. Had he been permitted to move his amendment, the matter would have stood on a different footing.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What I mean to say is that the hon. Minister is trying to take power for the Central Government to exercise control over certain items. I suggest that sugar cane may also be brought as one of those commodities.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point in pursuing that matter.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The amendment of Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena falls through for the same reason. Then there is an amendment in the name of Dr. Mohon Das.

Dr. Mohon Das: I moved a similar amendment to clause 2, which was not acceptable to the hon. Minister. I do not therefore want to move this amendment.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Nor do I want to move my other amendments, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I welcome this measure, particularly the introduction of this clause. But as in the case of cotton, I only wish that the price of sugar cane were also fixed.

Just like cotton which is the main ingredient in the manufacture of textiles, sugar cane is the main ingredient in the manufacture of sugar. Sir, it is a well known fact that cotton accounts for a good percentage of the cost of production of textiles. In the case of coarse cloth, cotton accounts for as much as 60 per cent of the cost of the manufactured product. In the case of fine cloth, the price of cotton is 33 and 1/3 per cent; labour and other items accounting for the balance of 66 and 2/3 per cent. If, therefore, cotton and cotton seed prices have not been controlled so far it is on account of the abnormal work that is involved in putting the controls into force. Once it was controlled and cotton prices were fixed; but the commodity had to be decontrolled and prices of textiles soared up partly on account of the rivalry between the mill-owners and the cotton growers. As between the mill-owner and the grower, certainly my sympathies are with the grower. Sir, in the old Assembly I was representing the Ceded districts, which consisted of five districts out of which four produced cotton. Adoni is one of the biggest cotton markets of South India. But the main difficulty is that there is no co-ordination between the Industries Minister who fixes these prices and the Agriculture Minister who is responsible for fixing the area under cotton. I wish there were greater co-ordination between these two wings of Government. What I want to say is this. Recently cotton prices soared up for the reason that a considerable portion of the acreage under commercial crops were all of a sudden converted into area under food crops. Later on it so transpired that the cultivators found the food crops to be an unremunerative proposition and wanted to switch back to commercial crops. The result was that in the transitional period a good portion of the acreage was allowed to lie fallow. Some encouragement was no doubt sought to be given to the producer by subsidising the growth of cotton to the extent of two crores or something of the kind. Even that has not been found to be sufficient. The danger is want of finance and want of marketing facilities for these people. There should be crop planning and the provincial Governments should have the power to plan how much acreage should be under sugarcane, how much under cereals and how much under cotton. This is what the hon. Minister meant when he said that there ought to be a balance between all these crops. Unfortunately, on account of various movements, one movement or another affecting one interest or another, the provincial Governments are terribly afraid of introducing legislation so that they may have power to plan crops or limit the production of particular crops and allow the production of other crops. Some such power must be given to the provincial Governments. So far as the Central Government is concerned, greater marketing facilities must be given to them. I know the producer does not get enough; the mill-owner does not get enough; but the person who enters into forward contracts, months in advance, gets away with a large profit. The poor grower falls a captive under the middleman, and undertakes to sell four months later. He does not know what the world conditions would be, how much cotton would be available in the market, whether there would be a larger demand or a lesser supply. There is great danger in allowing this middleman. He waits until only a very small quantity is available in the market and pushes up his price. I am afraid this alone will not afford the required results; various other steps have to be taken. I would suggest there should be a Finance Corporation for this purpose. At any rate, financial facilities must be given to the growers and forward contracts regarding cotton ought not to be allowed much in advance. No doubt, you may never avoid a forward contract; it may be a month in advance, not for the next year's season.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That would be gambling.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes; that is what exactly takes place. That ought to be done away with. Then, I come to research. Sir, I am sick of hearing constantly our Ahmedabad mills saying that there is dearth of cotton

[Shri M. Ananthasayauam Ayyangar]

and we have to purchase so much from Egypt and other places, because Pakistan was producing the long staple cotton which was used in the Ahmedabad mills. I read some years ago in the reports of the Cottou Committee that the continent of Europe, Germany and other countries, wanted not the long staple cotton, but only our short staple cotton. They processed the short staple cotton into some medium staple. This cotton was in large demand in those countries. With the aid of research, they were able to convert one staple and make it a longer staple by some process. How is it that so far as we are concerned, in spite of the fact that there has been the cotton cess, the Cotton Committee and researches in various parts of the country, we have not progressed. There is absolutely no co-ordination between the research department and the cultivator. In sugarcane, they have done much better. The Coimbatore sugarcane is now holding the field in various other parts of the country. So far as cotton is concerned, look at the position. We were in a position to export thirteen to seventeen crores worth of cotton to Japan. Japan is not a grower of cotton. It was taking our cheap cotton, converting it into goods and sending them back and they were competing in our own markets. Where has all that gone? Far from being an exporting country, on account of the munificence of the hon. Minister for Industry and Supply, two lakhs of bales are sought to be released. That is what he said, if I have understood him aright. The Englishmen who first came to India, went back and said, a kind of wool grows on the top of trees in India. We were the first persons to grow cotton, from the Vedic period. Where is that country which was in a position to clothe the entire world and whose cloth was in great demand in foreign countries? Today, we have to go about begging other countries: we are in that unfortunate position. There is one way traffic. He wanted to reduce the prices: we reduced the prices. I expect that with the large-heartedness of my hon. friend, the Minister for Industry and Supply, he will address himself to all the aspects of this problem not merely confining himself to this. I am afraid he may lay his very strong hand over the grower and reduce the prices and the business men of Bombay may get the better of this bargain and just crush the grower between the mill owners of Bombay and Ahmedabad on the one hand and the middlemen on the other. I hope all of us are safe in the hands of the hon. Minister and I trust that he may not use these large powers to the disadvantage of the grower. I hope that these and other powers that are given, will be used for the benefit of the grower and for the benefit of the textile industry.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I will add only a few words to what has fallen from the Deputy-Speaker. We are thinking only of long staple cotton and as far as long staple cotton is concerned, our country is in sore need of it. The only part of the country where it is grown at present is the East Punjab. In the East Punjab also, there are some districts that grow this. We had prospect of stepping up the growth of this cotton if Bhakra dam that is being constructed was properly attended to. I understand that instead of attending to it, now, the proposal is to see that the money which is required for this dam is not being given to it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is tragic.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: For the year 1950-51, we would require 21 crores of Rupees for this Bhakra dam; but the Government are giving only six crores. If the Government does not give this amount, say at least nine crores more, I am afraid that this work will be retarded a great deal and we may not even see this completed in 1956-57 or even later. My humble submission is, instead of giving our attention to the palliatives, let us try to go to the root of the question. If you succeed in growing this long staple cotton in the East Punjab, all your difficulties will be solved. You need not have recourse

to research and all other things and the long staple cotton which we need will be readily available in this country. I would rather beg the hon. Minister for Industry and Supply to use his good offices in getting more money for the Bhakra dam scheme. My humble submission is that the real solution lies in more production than in control. I am also a member of the Cotton Committee. Last time when I attended it, there were complaints from every side. The cultivators complained that they were not getting a square deal and that they cannot even fully recover their cost of production. I do not know how far their complaint is justified. I am glad that the Government has been kind enough to increase the rate in regard to other cotton except jarilla. All the same, I do feel that the complaint of the cultivators is to a certain extent correct. When we are importing cotton, we pay a great deal more; but so far as our cultivators are concerned, we are not fully alive to their interests. At the same time, there is a certain conflict between food, cotton and jute. It is very difficult to solve this conflict. When we want more food, we cannot see that more land is allowed to the cultivation of cotton. My humble submission is that we should have a balanced economy. If cotton brings in more money, there is no reason why cotton should not be allowed to be grown over a greater area. All the same, the real aspect of the question which I want to impress is that when lands are already under cultivation, you have only to supply water and there is nothing more to be done. This can only be done by not stopping the river valley schemes. I would therefore request the hon. Minister for Industry and Supply to use his good offices to see that these river valley schemes are not stopped.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I am whole-heartedly in agreement with what my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bburgava has said, with regard to the irrigation projects in East Punjab and I sincerely hope that the four Ministers who happen to be here for the time being will do their best to see that sufficient funds are made available for that project. It cannot be argued that sufficient money would not be available merely because of sterling or dollar exchange difficulties or anything like that; because, this money can be arranged in our own country and it can be utilised for payment of all the material and labour that will be engaged in our own country from our own resources. It is a well known fact that cotton under irrigation yields very much more—sometimes more than twice as much—than cotton under rain-fed cultivation and if you really want long-staple cotton, then you can't do better than develop projects in

3 P.M. East Punjab. I can't say I am in favour of this particular clause nor can I say that I am satisfied that Government are justified in seeking to extend these powers to raw cotton and cotton seed. My reasons are slightly different from those advanced by the Deputy-Speaker. The Deputy-Speaker started saying if you have controlled the prices of sugarcane, you should be prepared to control the price of cotton and cotton seed. I don't accept that argument. I dare say some of the members of this House would remember how the price of sugarcane came to be fixed years ago. It was not because the price of sugar was being fixed but because it was then felt that the sugarcane growers were so weak compared to millowners that they had to be protected. If protection were to be given to producers or manufacturers of sugar, then surely the producers of sugarcane also should be protected. It was for that reason the prices of sugarcane came to be fixed—not controlled. It was to be fixed by the Provincial Government but it was possible also for the Central Government to make suggestions to provincial governments. That is the genesis for the fixation of sugarcane prices. Do we or do we not want the fixation—not control—of the price of cotton and cotton seed? My idea is that we don't need it and we should not try to control it. Why do I say so? Is it because I am opposed to all fixations or controls—No, Sir. But because I know if you were to fix the prices of these essential raw commodities, the method adopted by Government is unsatisfactory and too arbitrary. The prices are not fixed for agricultural commodities in the same way as for manufactured

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

ones. When they consider fixation of manufactured goods' prices they take into consideration the cost of production, reasonable margin of profit in addition to making allowances for depreciation and various other considerations. But when they come to fix prices for agricultural produce, they do not seem to take all these points into consideration at all. They seem to have a rule of thumb and they fix the prices more in relation to prices of manufactured goods that emanate from these raw materials than in relation to the standard of living of the agriculturists, their cost of cultivation, and the various charges they have to meet with the result that in most cases the prices fixed are uneconomical. Just now Pandit Bhargava said that before the Central Cotton Committee various speakers complained that the floor prices fixed for cotton did not leave enough for our agriculturists to maintain themselves. Indeed they did not even cover their cost of cultivation in most cases and that was the reason for the acreage under cotton going down within the last 5 years and it reached rather an alarming state of things during last year and our Agriculture Ministry woke up to the need to encourage agriculturists and grow more and more cotton. Now how is it possible for Government to persuade our peasants to grow more cotton or sugarcane or foodgrains or oilseeds? One of these two things is possible for them. One is to introduce such varieties of these crops as would yield twice or thrice as much as normally would be possible so that the peasant would be induced to grow more of these varieties and sell and realize a bigger income. Are they able to do it? The machinery as was complained by the Deputy-Speaker, is quite unsatisfactory. Then other method is to raise the price of these things. Are the Government going to follow this policy? Last year when they fixed floor prices for cotton there were complaints—even the East India Cotton Association complained. But Government turned a deaf ear by saying what they did was enough. Thereafter they found that these prices were not enough as cotton was not moving into the market and on pressure from the textile industry itself, Government found it necessary or possible to raise the prices. That is not the procedure we would like Government to adopt and similar procedure is likely to be followed if this particular clause is accepted by this House without a proper assurance from the hon. Minister concerned. If we are to have a proper crop planning in this country—I am in agreement with others in this matter—then we must make up our minds as to how we are going to satisfy our own agriculturists and safeguard the interest of land, cattle, agricultural labour and peasants—all these put together. Why do I talk about lands? Because there is only a depth of soil that can be made use of by crops that are to be raised on any particular piece of land and if that soil is to be exhausted by constant cropping then the fertility would go down. Similarly if you are not going to feed your cattle properly, then the bullock power would go down. To-day we have reached a stage when all these four assets are being depleted and exhausted day after day, merely because the Government has not been pursuing a proper policy of prices. During war the then Government found it necessary to discourage growing of cotton and they wanted more lands under foodgrains. Therefore they offered a kind of subsidy to encourage people to give up cotton growing and they did so. We find it necessary to induce peasants to grow more cotton. What is the encouragement you are giving—practically nothing. If any encouragement is being given to-day, I would very much like the hon. Minister to tell us so. Secondly during war there was no market at all for our internal cotton as the Japanese market had collapsed and the then Government came forward with the offer to purchase the surplus after fixing a floor price and they had invested several crores of rupees in that direction. To-day what is the encouragement our Government is prepared to give in order to see more and more cotton is produced. They should be thinking of fixing a price which would cover the genuine cost of cultivation and also leave sufficient margin to maintain a decent standard of

living for the agriculturist and help him to get out of the clutches of the middlemen. Not very long ago the Textile Advisory Committee met in Delhi and they were asked to consider whether it would be advisable to control the prices of raw cotton—Kapas and seed. They advised the Minister that they were not at all in favour of such control and they did not think it would work. At the same time they said that in order to get round the mischief of the middlemen they themselves were trying to establish direct contact with growers and have some sort of forward contracts and assure themselves of sufficient supplies and some of them were competing among themselves to pay the grower a higher price than they could get from out of these controlled rates.

Why were they willing to advise the Government to fix a higher price? There is some sort of mischief here. If they fixed higher prices, as a basis for legitimate transaction, then the position would have been better *vis-a-vis* the consumer *vis-a-vis* the manufacturer as well as the middleman. On the other hand if the Government were to fix lower prices, lower than the cost of cultivation, then it would be possible for them to strike a more favourable bargain with the agriculturist, even though they might be paying a little more than the control price, and the agriculturist would always be at their mercy. Sir, I protest against this method, and that is why I am anxious that the Government, if they take this power at all, to control the price of raw cotton and cotton seeds, then they should follow the same policy that they follow in the fixing of industrial products, and take into consideration the interests of the agriculturists themselves, consult the agriculturists and not consult only the textile manufacturers. I therefore request the Government, if possible, not to press the passing of this clause and extending their power to control prices of raw cotton and cotton seeds, and if that is not possible, at least to try not to enforce it, as far as possible, and to enforce it, if and when they do so, mainly in the interests of the cotton grower, and not in the interests of the middleman and the textile manufacturers.

Lastly, I wish to say that these forward contracts are not bad in themselves. What we want to do is to control speculation. We have been asking this before the Oil Seeds Committee, in the Indian Central Cotton Committee and from other crop committees that Government should take early steps to control speculation, and if necessary bring in the necessary legislation before this House and get it passed. But there has been inordinate delay in this matter, and I do not know why. I sincerely hope the hon. Dr. Mookerjee will try to see that the Government gets the necessary legislation passed to control speculation and thus protect both the consumers on the one side and the producers on the other.

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू: वावस्पति जी, एक बात में कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक रुई हम ज्यादा पैदा न करेंगे तब तक देश की हालत अच्छी नहीं होगी। नहीं तो भला करते हुये आप और भी खराब कर देंगे। बरार में जो रुई का जन्मस्थान है वहाँ जरीला काटन जोर जबर्दस्ती करके अभी चली गई है इससे उन लोगों को फायदा नहीं है। इससे उन लोगों को बहुत नुकसान पहुंचता है। जरीला काटन उस जगह पर ठीक होगी या नहीं होगी इसकी अच्छी तरह से परीक्षा नहीं हुई। फिर ऐसा हुवा कि जरीला काटन वहाँ अच्छी तरह से नहीं हुई और फिर जो काटन और जो सीड्स (seeds) हैं, मीडियम (medium) और शार्ट (short) स्टैपल (staple) सीड्स जो है उससे गाय बछड़ों के खाने के लिये फायदा होता है। जो लॉग स्टैपल (long staple) की सीड्स

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू

हैं उनको गाय बछड़े नहीं खाते। इस लिये उन लोगों को हुत दुःख पहुंचता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जब इस काम को जब सरकार अपने हाथ में लेती है तो अच्छी तरह से उसको विचार करके उसका उपयोग करे। नहीं तो जैसा कि सरकार काटन ऑर्डिनंस (Cotton Ordinance) चला देती है और अब भी एक एक्ट (Act) बना देती है और फिर हिन्दुस्तान की हालत अच्छी करने के लिये इच्छा करती है, अमंगल करेगी तो यह ठीक नहीं होगा। यह एक बात मंने कही।

दूसरी बात में कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक जमाना ऐसा था कि उत्कल में रुई बहुत पैदा होती थी। अब आप देखते हैं कि उत्कल में बहुत कम रुई की पैदावार होती है। इस बात को विचार करके, समझ करके कि उत्कल में जैसे ज्यादा रुई पैदा हो सकती है, इस बात की कोशिश करनी चाहिये। मैं देखता हूँ सब बोलते हैं कि उत्कल में अब चावल बहुत पैदा होता है। यह सब के लिये जैसा एक ब्रेद वाक्य हो गया है। परन्तु मैं देखता हूँ कि उत्कल में जितना चावल होता है वह उन लोगों के लिये काफी है। उस से ज्यादा नहीं। चावल के साथ कपास कैसे पैदा होगी यह सोचना चाहिये। वहाँ आदमियों के पास हाथ में पैसा ज्यादा कैसे आयेगा। अगर वहाँ पर ठीक तरह से प्रबन्ध नहीं किया गया तो उत्कल तरक्की नहीं कर सकेगा और नीचे हो जायेगा। इस लिये मैं विशेष तौर से शिल्प मन्त्री जी को कहूंगा कि इस तरह की कोशिश करनी चाहिये जैसे वहाँ पर कपास की पैदावार ज्यादा हो सक्ती है।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Sir, I want to say that unless we produce more cotton, conditions in the country will not improve. Unless that is done you will not improve matters but rather make them worse. *Zarilla* cotton has recently been introduced per force into Berar, which is the home of cotton. This is not beneficial to the people there but has, on the other hand, caused them a good deal of loss. It has not been tested properly whether or not *Zarilla* cotton would be produced there very well. It so transpired that *Zarilla* cotton did not yield a good crop there. Moreover there is an additional advantage in the case of medium and short staple seeds inasmuch as these are eaten by cows and calves. The long staple seeds are not eaten by the cows and the calves. Thus a lot of hardship is caused to those people. I want that when the Government takes such a task into its own hands it must act after full deliberation. Otherwise, it will not be good if it proceeds in the same way as it does in promulgating a Cotton Ordinance and then framing an Act and thereby intending to improve conditions in India.

There is something more that I want to say. There was a time when cotton was produced in abundance in *Utkal* (Orissa). Now, as you see, much less cotton is produced in *Utkal*. Considering the fact that as more cotton can be produced in *Utkal*, efforts should be made in that direction. I find everybody saying that rice is at present produced in abundance in *Utkal*. This has almost come to be a gospel truth. But I find that the rice that is produced in *Utkal* is just enough for these people. Nothing more than that. We should think as to how will cotton be grown along with rice? How will more money come into the hands of the people there? If things are not managed properly there,

Utkal will not be able to prosper and will go down. I would, therefore make a particular request to the Minister for Industries to make efforts so that production of cotton there could be increased.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, this clause is open to grave misapplication, unless extreme care is taken. This is meant to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act of 1946. This is a remnant of those controls and control laws after the war was over, and it was then understood that this power would be temporary. In spite of that, these powers have been perpetuated and more power is being taken from time to time.

Sir, with regard to control by government of anything, the only effect has been that the things controlled have gone out of the market, the grower does not get an economic price for his produce, and the purchaser or the consumer ultimately gets at a huge price, and there is blackmarketing.

There are three competing things which have to grow out of the land which is now a fixed quantity. Food must be grown from the land. Along with that comes the competitor cotton. This cotton has got to be grown from the same quantity of land. And a third competitor is jute and we have to produce jute also from the same quantity of land. Reclamation of land is now out of the question. Bhakra Dam project has gone to the winds. Irrigation water is not to be had, and yet all these powers are being taken, without showing the House any means of effecting these purposes. So far as food is concerned, it is produced by the growers, but the procurement policy is most discouraging and economic price is not assured to the producer. Similar would be the effect on the cotton growers. And with regard to jute production, there is ample jute in East and West Bengal, and if there is over-production, prices would go down, because there will be cut-throat competition. There is no dearth of jute. The question is only one of accommodation. I know the situation between India and Pakistan on account of various reasons, specially devaluation, is difficult and delicate and I do not pretend to understand the real situation.

Shri R. K. Sidha (C.P. and Berar: General): But we must make our country self-sufficient.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The jute produced in the two Bengals would be enough to supply the whole world . . .

A1 Honourable Member: But how to get the jute from East Bengal?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Jute somehow or other should be obtained from East Bengal on reasonable terms, if possible. I also feel that the attitude of East Bengal and Pakistan in this respect is not very satisfactory. However, it is a matter of business interests between the two countries and it will not be beyond the capacity of our Government to see a way out. On the other hand, on the fixed quantity of land the scheme of producing both cotton and jute would be rather contradictory—each would cut at the production of the other. In the circumstances I submit that the new power should be exercised with a great deal of caution to prevent the mischief which it has been so long impossible to prevent.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Sir, I am sorry there is some sort of misapprehension about the whole matter. My friends who have been speaking seem to be under the impression that it is possible to grow cotton everywhere and that it would be profitable to grow cotton on any land. It is not a fact. There are lands which can grow cotton and others which cannot. Not only that, there are lands which with irrigation can give very good results in cotton and there are other lands which cannot take water and

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cannot grow cotton. So you cannot apply as a sort of general rule that you can grow cotton anywhere and everywhere. By increasing the acreage you are not going to increase the production. It is not a sound proposition.

It was said that we were able to export two million bales of cotton in the old days and why not utilise it here. There are two things to be said about it. A large portion of what was exported is being used in the cotton mills in India and the other portion which could not be used in the mills in India was wanted by only one or two countries, principally Japan and it was exported. Even at the present moment only cotton which is low in quality and can be used only for certain special purposes is being exported and even now about one million bales of cotton are being exported . . .

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Two lakh bales.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: About a million even now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Ask the Minister.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: That sort of cotton, if it is going to be grown or its production extended by increasing the acreage, will be useful not to our country but only for export. It is a fact that where cotton can grow irrigation will increase the production, not twice but three or four times. For instance in the part of the country from which I come the production of cotton in an irrigated land is something like four times more than in an unirrigated land nearby. If irrigation is extended certainly we can extend the production of cotton. I am entirely in accord with Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that we ought to strain every nerve to give irrigation facilities for land which can grow cotton. But to say generally that you will be able to reduce the imports of India by doing this is I submit a mistaken impression. As regards the kind of cotton which we are importing we have tried our best for 30 or 40 years to grow long-staple cotton but we have not succeeded. Pandit Bhargava also said that that kind of long-staple cotton can be grown in East Punjab. He is making a mistake there . . .

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: No, no.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: It is no doubt a fact that what is grown in East Punjab is a little longer in staple than what is grown in some other parts of India. For instance in the part of India from which I come we grow cotton as long in staple as East Punjab. Surat is also growing cotton of the same staple. But for higher counts like 80, 100, etc. we want longer staple. That we have not yet been able to grow anywhere in India.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Experiments have proved that longer staple cotton can be grown in East Punjab.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Long staple cotton means anything which is longer than $7/8$ of an inch. What is wanted is not $7/8$ " but very much longer staple cotton. We have practically got all that we need of this sort of cotton. At present the longer staple which we want (which is longer than $7/8$ to one inch) has to come from outside. We have to depend on the outside market for that and we have to pay a higher price.

Coming to the price, what we are fixing is no doubt low with reference to the cotton grown on unproductive soil. An irrigated land gives something like Rs. 300 to 1,000 an acre . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I put a question to the hon. Member? My hon. friend is aware of the fact that in fixing the price of cotton goods it is the cost of production not of the very productive mill but of the marginal mill that is taken into consideration.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: That is right. I do not deny it. All that I say is that to say that the price that is fixed for cotton is very low is wrong. In properly irrigated cotton land the income is between Rs. 800 to 1,000 which compares very favourably with any other crop.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is the gross income.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Yes, but the expenses for cotton cultivation are nothing like what has to be spent for tobacco, sugarcane or plantains, which are the competing crops. The mistake is not in actually fixing the price of the several varieties of cotton. They are fairly all right. The trouble arose last year because in fixing the price of yarn and cloth they fixed a price which was a little higher than was justified. That was my contention before the Textile Advisory Board and I have expressed it in several places where this matter was considered. Therefore the mills were in a position to pay more than what was fixed for cotton. The sufferer on that account was not the producer but the consumer who was charged more for his cloth than what he ought really to have paid. To argue from that that any control which is exercised or any price fixed is going to affect the grower is not fair to such control. I am not enamoured of controls. I have been urging that the controls ought to go and if they go the consumer will be benefited. That has been my position . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Also the producer.

Shri O. V. Alagaram (Madras: General): That is doubtful.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I only want to say that the control exercised by the department was not working really against the producer but as I said it was against the consumer. If they could have fixed the price of cloth a little lower then everybody would have been served properly. That is the position.

As regards the actual clause now under consideration I beg to submit that it will be very difficult to administer the provision with regard to raw cotton and *kapas*, especially as cotton seeds are used for sowing, cattle food and other purposes. It also sometimes so happens that if the prices for cotton go down in the market it is compensated by the price of cotton seeds. A number of considerations have to be taken into account before prices are fixed. It is not generally done. They generally think that if the *kapas* price is to be fixed they need not consider the price of cotton seed and so on. Therefore, to administer it will be a very difficult proposition.

Also, there are different varieties of cotton which do not yield the same result. Ginning percentages vary. In some sorts of cotton ginning percentages will be higher and in others lower. If they have a general rule of fixing prices with regard to different parts of the country, some parts of the country will naturally suffer. So I beg to submit that Government will be very careful in dealing with this matter. As my hon. friend Prof. Ranga said the Textile Advisory Committee was not in favour of fixing the price of *kapas* and raw cotton for this very reason, namely, that it is a very complicated affair and the Government cannot administer it properly even though the millowners who were on the Textile Advisory Committee wanted to fix the price of cotton, including raw cotton, at a very low price.

With this request to the Government to be very careful in undertaking this—I would advise them first not to undertake the price fixation of raw cotton and *kapas*, but if they are going to do it I would ask them to consider all sides of the issue before undertaking such a complicated matter—I will support the clause that is before the House.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, the viewpoints which have been expressed by hon. Members indicate the complexity of the problem that we have to tackle. And that justifies the action of the Government up

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till now in not having controlled *kapas* and cotton seeds. I can assure hon. Members that before we decide to control *kapas* or cotton seeds we will review the position with the utmost care and will do so if we are satisfied that such control can be satisfactorily implemented. But, as I said in the morning, the crux of the problem is that India is short of cotton for the time being and we have got to put our heads together for the purpose of enabling the country to produce this extra 10 to 15 lakhs bales of cotton that the country needs for maintaining its textile industry. Until that happens some sort of control and regulation become essential.

One point which was emphasized by my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is with regard to forward contracts. I am glad to announce that we have recently decided to readjust the control orders in respect of forward contracts, and we have now provided that such forward contracts, which will be allowed only with effect from a specified date, will be permitted in accordance with the rules to be framed by the East India Cotton Association with the approval of Government and also with effect from a date to be notified by the Government of India through the Textile Commissioner. As was pointed out by one or two Members, some forward contract is essential—it becomes inevitable. So you cannot ban forward contracts altogether. But I do feel that if Government act wisely and also act in time there is no reason why we should not be able to check speculations in forward contracts in cotton which have had disastrous consequences during the last few years.

As regards my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's anxiety to see that India may produce more cotton so that we may export the same, be forgot apparently, for the time being that nearly 10 to 15 lakhs bales of cotton used to be produced in Pakistan. In fact India used to get about 10 lakhs bales of cotton from that area. Now we have lost that territory and naturally the economy of cotton production has been considerably disturbed.

So far as our future plans are concerned, hon. Members must have seen that two meetings were held recently. One was of the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The other was a conference which was called by my hon. colleague the Agriculture Minister. The object of both of these meetings was to devise ways and means so that progressively we may increase the production of cotton, particularly of those varieties which are now being produced in Pakistan. Of course, my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has rightly pointed out that if proper facilities are given in East Punjab it may be possible for that Province to produce larger quantities of the longer staple cotton. But whether the necessary grant for the Bhakra Dam project will be available or not is a matter which I must refer to my hon. colleague the Finance Minister. That is a question which I cannot answer. In any case I can assure the House that one of the matters which is now engaging the attention of the Cabinet is a co-ordinated plan for increased production of these vital commodities, and particularly of cotton. And I hope that very soon it will be possible for Government to announce its policy so that in the course of the next two or three or four years we may be able to attain our objective.

Lastly, about prices. Here we have witnessed during the last half an hour the eternal conflict amongst the consumer, the producer and the manufacturer which was displayed by my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, who is the proverbial representative of consumers in this country, by my friend Prof. Ranga for the producers, and by my friend Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar. The last speech was a balanced approach, although I believe the Speaker will be accused of having spoken on behalf of the capitalist and the manufacturer. But I can assure you, Sir, that while fixing prices it has been the endeavour of Government to look not to the interests of the manufacturers alone but of the producers also.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what steps have Government taken, even in this Ministry, to consult the interests concerned so far as peasants go?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We could not get accredited representative and the person to whom we could fall back upon was my hon. friend Prof. Ranga himself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Peasants have their organisations. They were never consulted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I can assure my hon. friend Prof. Ranga that so far as producers' interests are concerned the Provincial Governments themselves are very keen to protect them because they cannot afford to ignore the wishes of the large number of agriculturist producers within their zones. But here I would beg of the House to remember one aspect of the matter. If Government does not fix any control prices, prices will get themselves adjusted in relation to the prices for various agricultural commodities. Take for instance C.P. and Berar. There the production of cotton has gone down considerably in recent years. I was there about a month ago and I was told by representatives of producers as also by Government that the prices of groundnut were so attractive in that Province that the agriculturists did not want to produce cotton.

What is it that Government have done? What Government have been anxious to do is to fix the prices of cotton in such a way that they could bear equitable comparison with the prices of foodgrains. It cannot be suggested by any Member of the House that we should deliberately fix the prices of cotton so high as will react on prices of food grains. Obviously, there must be some co-ordinated policy adopted by Government. And here again, the demand is made by all sections of the House that prices of essential commodities must come down as quickly as possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not unconditionally.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If Government have to take steps for the purpose of reducing prices of essential commodities, of which food and cloth naturally occupy very important positions, and at the same time, if Members demand that we should go on giving more and more prices to the agriculturists than would be justifiable, then obviously you cannot give effect to the Central policy which I believe is the policy adopted by the House as a whole. What we have to bear in mind is this: the prices which we will fix must be economic, the prices which we will fix must enable producers to grow more. These are the two important considerations which must be kept before us. Subject to this, if any attempt is made by Government to bring down prices to a reasonable level, I don't think there will be any opposition from any quarter of the House. In any case, the debate which has taken place amply justifies that during the transitional period, until and unless there is ample production in respect of these important commodities, some powers of regulation and control must vest in the hands of the Government and in spite of the alarm expressed by my friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, I believe, Sir, the House will accept the Bill as has been proposed by me.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I was a little surprised at the attitude of my friend Prof. Ranga. Probably he thought that this Bill is intended to bring down the prices of cotton only, but in fact I wanted power of control given to the Centre mainly for solving the main problem, the problem of ensuring to the cultivator a proper return per acre. The problem in these commodities, whether it is cotton or sugarcane, is not that we should fix prices for them but that per acre of the field the cultivator must get more return and therefore I want Central control so that they may be enabled to get per acre of land more yield of these commodities. I hope that this control is not being taken merely to fix prices but to intensify efforts to produce per acre of land more cotton and more of other important commodities. For the last fifteen years the U. P. and Bihar Governments were trying to do it but they have failed. Now I want that the Centre should do it. The Centre should spend much more on research and on transferring the fruits of that research from the library to the field. So far all the money that has been spent on research has been practically wasted because the results of the research were not being passed on to the field and the cultivator often used the same old antiquated methods.

Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to see that the control which the Centre is taking will be used for developing the cultivation of cotton in a manner that the cotton grower can stand in a fair position even in comparison to the best foreign countries. I don't see any reason why they cannot grow even Egyptian cotton. When Sind was part of India, experiments were made there and we were almost successful in producing a variety roughly like the Egyptian cotton. Though Sind is not part of this country now, still East Punjab is there and there might be other areas where we might grow fine cotton. I would certainly support the request of my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and my friend Mr. Chaudhuri that Government should see that schemes like the Bhakra Dam which will give an immediate return and will solve the problem of the country, are not axed in the manner they are probably being done.

Sir, while the hon. Minister is getting this Bill through the House, and we all have given him consent to get it through, I hope that he will not be satisfied only with fixing the prices but that he will see that very soon India will be the producer of a cotton crop which will be able to compete with world markets and be able to produce cotton of all varieties. There are varieties of cotton—brown cotton, yellow cotton and green cotton—produced in Russia. We may be able to produce all those qualities. It should be the main function of Government to try and see that we are able to produce our requirements of cotton. So far we were dependent on Pakistan cotton, but the attitude of Pakistan has recently been such that we must immediately take steps to see that we are not at the mercy of anybody. In spite of what my hon. friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad has said, I think there is no way out for us but to produce the required amount of cotton in this country. It is a thing which can be done. If, as I have stated, the results of research are carried to the cultivator we may be able to produce better cotton and get more per acre. It was said that on the same field we have to grow food, we have to grow jute, sugarcane and cotton and that we cannot do all those things. I say we can do all those things if we increase the yield per acre. So, the maximum attention should be paid to increase the yield. The prices cannot be reduced unless the cultivator has got a better yield. If per acre he produces double the quantity he is producing now he probably will get more than what he is getting

today inspite of lower prices. Therefore, after this control is taken by the Centre, they should see that improved research is introduced and more development undertaken while at the same time attempts are made to produce the best qualities of cotton.

चौधरी रजबीर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं मसविदे का समर्थन करते हुये यह कह बगैर नहीं रह सकता कि कन्ट्रोल (Control) से जो त्राकृत हासिल की जाती है उससे काटन (Cotton) पैदा नहीं की जा सकती। काटन तो खेत में उगेगी और उसे किसान ही उगायेगा। देश काटन के इम्पोर्ट (import) की बीमारी से छूट नहीं सकता जब तक आप किसान के लिये ऐसे हालात पैदा न कर दें जिससे कि वह ज्यादा काटन पैदा कर सके और इस वक्त जो कन्ट्रोल का यह बिल (Bill) है उसकी आवश्यकता ही नहीं रहेगी। आपने कहा कि आप कोशिश करेंगे। पर मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप चाहते हैं कि देश में कपड़ा और अनाज बहुत ज्यादा हो। इसके लिये सबसे पहिले वह जरूरी है कि पंजाब के बाखरा बांध को पूरा किया जाय। कल भी मैंने इसके बारे में जिक्र किया था कि इसका बनाया बहुत जरूरी है। वहाँ परटनल (Tunnel) लोदी जा चुकी है और वह तैयार भी हो गई है। अगर पंजाब सरकार को रूपा नहीं दिया गया तो इस बात का बहुत खतरा है कि अगले सीजन (Season) में वह टनल फट जाय। अंशर यह टनल फट गई तो फिर यह बांध कभी भी नहीं बन सकता है। यह बात आसानी से कही जा सकती है कि इस समय रुपया कहां से आये। इकोनोमी (Economy) के नाम पर ऐसी बड़ी स्कीम (Scheme) को टाला नहीं जा सकता है। अगर इस किस्म की बात की गई तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस तरह के एक दो बिल तो क्या हजारों बिल भी देश के अन्दर काटन पैदा नहीं कर सकते हैं। अगर आप सही मानों में यह चाहते हैं कि आपकी इण्डस्ट्री (industry) के लिये काटन मिले तो आपको जैसा कि मैंने बताया उत किस्म का इन्तजाम करना चाहिये। मैं दो तीन बातों के लिये आप से निवेदन करता हूँ और उनका इन्तजाम आपको करना होगा।

एक बात तो यह है और जिस की तरफ सरकार का बहुत ज्यादा पैसा भी नहीं लगता। जैसा कि मैंने कल भी कहा था और मैंने इस बात को अपने रेल्वे मिनिस्टर (Railway Minister) साहब को भी बतला दिया था और उन्होंने इस बात को तुन कर ताज्जुब भी किया था और उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसा कभी नहीं हो सकता। मेरे पास इस बात का सबूत है। इसके लिये एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री (Agriculture Ministry) के एक सप्लाय ऑफिसर (Supply Officer) की मददली गयी मैं जो कि २ हज़ार से ज्यादा तनस्वाह पातें हैं। मदद फ़ेन्सिंग वायर (Fencing wire) के। इस वायर को एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट (Agriculture Department) ने अपने फार्म (Farm) के लिये मंगवाया था। एक आदमी ने नहीं मंगवाया था बल्कि यू. पी. (U. P.) वालों ने इसकी डिमाण्ड (Demand) भेजी थी। दो साल तक मृतवातर कहन पर भी वह अभी तक नहीं पहुंचा। कम से कम चार पांच महीने से मैं अपनी एग्रीकल्चरल

[बीधरी रणवीर सिंह]

स्टैंडिंग कमेटी (Agricultural Standing Committee) द्वारा और मिनिसट्री द्वारा भी यह कोशिश कर रहा हूँ कि किसी तरह से यह पहुँच। मुझे खेद है कि जब मैं वाजपुरा गया तो वहाँ के लोगों ने मुझे इस बात की याद दिलाई कि वह अभी तक नहीं पहुँचा। इसके वहाँ पर मैं पहुँचने से पैदावार में बहुत घाटा होता है। वह जो तराई भावर का एरिया (Area) है बहुत लम्बा फैला हुआ है। वाइल्ड एनीमल (Wild Animals) से अनाज को बचाने के लिये यह वाइर मंगाया गया था। उस एरिया में काफ़ी सादाद में काटन और अनाज पैदा हो सकता है। इसके लिये सरकार को न बहुत खर्च करना पड़ता है और न बाहर से कोई ऐसी चीज़ मंगानी पड़ती है।

दूसरी चीज़ जिसे मुझे निवेदन करनी है वह यह है कि वाजपुर के एरिया को साफ़ करने के लिये वहाँ पर ट्रैक्टर (Tractor) आये हुये हैं और वहाँ पर एक ट्रैक्टर का आरगनाइजेशन (Organisation) भी है। वह ट्रैक्टर जब रेल्वे को पार करते हैं तो उनके साथ हैरो (Harrow) लगते हैं और रेल्वे का दरवाजा जब तक निकाल न दिया जाय या बड़ा न कर दिया जाय तो बराबर तकलीफ़ होती रहेगी। लेकिन मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि वह काम किसी एक आदमी का नहीं था, किसी एक आदमी की ज़मीन नहीं है, वह तो सरकारी ज़मीन है। इसके बावजूद ओ. टी. आर. (O.T.R.) से एक मामूली डिमाण्ड जिससे कि अनाज और दूसरी चीज़ों की पैदावार में काफ़ी नुकसान पहुँच रहा है, उसको पूरा करने से इन्कार कर दिया। वह एक दो चीज़ें मैंने आपके सामने रख दी हैं।

आज सुबह मंत्री महोदय साहब ने कहा था कि किसानों की जो मांग है वह बहुत बेजा मांग है। एक तरफ़ तो आप कहते हैं कि चीज़ों के दाम कम होने चाहिये और दूसरी तरफ़ आप कहते हैं कि किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा देना चाहिये। तो वह दोनों बातें एक दूसरे के विरुद्ध हैं। मिसाल के तौर पर आप अगर कोई चीज़ पैदा करते हैं तो नैचुरली (Naturally) एक बात करनी पड़ेगी वह यह है कि जो प्रोडक्शन (Production) करने में खर्च होता है उसी हिसाब रख कर उसको मार्केट (Market) में रखना होगा। लेकिन अर्थ विज्ञान के कायदे कानून खेती पर लागू नहीं होते। ऐसा कुछ भाई समझते हैं जो रूल्स (Rules) हैं, जो लाज़ (Laws) हैं वह सिर्फ़ कारखानों पर ही लागू होते हैं। मैं नहीं समझ पाता कि जब आप किसी कारखाने की पैदावार को बढ़ाते हैं उसकी कीमत को भी बढ़ाना पड़ता है तो आप कैसे वह बात नान सकते हैं कि अनाज और काटन की पैदावार देश में उसकी कीमत कम करके बढ़ सकती है। वह जो किसान ज्यादा दाम मांग रहे हैं वह आपको ज्यादा दिखाई देता है। जैसा कि आपने कहा कि यह कोई किसान का इन्टरेस्ट (Interest) है, वह गलत बात है। किसानों का इन्टरेस्ट नहीं है।

एक बात में फिर दोहरा देना चाहता हूँ। आपने कहा कि किसानों का इन्स्ट्रुमन्ट प्रान्तीय सरकार काफ़ी एडवोकेट (Advocate) करती है। इस लिये वह एग्रीकल्चरिस्टों से घबराती है। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह ज़माना दूर नहीं कि इस हाउस (House) को भी एग्रीकल्चरिस्टों से डरना होगा और बग़ैर उनकी मख़्जी के वह इस हाउस के अन्दर नहीं आ सकेंगे। यह देश किसानों का देश है। इस देश की आबादी ७५ फ़ीसदी से भी ज़्यादा किसानों की आबादी है। आप कहते हैं कि प्रान्तीय सरकार उन पर निर्भर है सो मैं आपको बतला देना चाहता हूँ कि सिर्फ़ एक साल की बात है इस बात का पता आप सब लोगों को चल जायेगा।

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).]

मैं एक दो बात कण्ट्रोल के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि इस बात का ख्याल रखा जाना चाहिये कि प्रोड्यूसर (Producer) और कंज्यूमर (Consumer) के दामों में बहुत अन्तर न हो। अजकल हम इस तरह देखते हैं कि अगर प्रोड्यूसर कोई चीज़ १० रुपया में तैयार करता है तो कंज्यूमर को वह १६ रुपया में मिलती है। मैं कहता हूँ कि जो चीज़ १० रुपया में तैयार होती है उसको कंज्यूमर को ११ रुपया में मिलना चाहिये। इस तरह का इन्त ग़ाम आप कर सकते हैं तो सब जनता को फ़ायदा होगा। इसकी एक मिसाल मैं आप लोगों के सामने देता हूँ। पंजाब से जो चना मद्रास को जाता है वह पंजाब से ७ रुपया मन में जाता है और मद्रास में वह २१ रुपया मन जनता को दिया जाता है। यह बहुत ख़राब बात है इस तरह की बातों को सरकार को दूर करना चाहिये।

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is because of the railway bottleneck. You don't give transport.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We give all the facilities they want.

श्री चौधरी रणवीर सिंह: मैं ट्रांसपोर्ट मिनिस्ट्री (Transport Ministry) को दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ और मैं उनको गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) के स्प्लाइं आफिसर को चिट्ठी दिखा सकता हूँ। इसके बावजूद भी ६ महीने हो गये अभी तक वह तार फार्म में नहीं पहुँची जो कि बहुत ही आवश्यक है।

तो मैं आपको यह बता रहा था कि कंज्यूमर से नहीं टकरा कर भी आप बहुत कुछ कर सकते हैं। अगर आप ज़रा दिल और गुर्रडे के साथ चले और कोशिश करन चाहें तो मैंने आपको बताया कि आप काफ़ी कर सकते हैं।

[चौधरी रणबीर सिंह]

दूसरी चीज चीप मनी (Cheap money) के बारे में है। आपने एक इण्डियल फ़ाइनेन्स कारपोरेशन (Industrial Finance Corporation) बनाया है, इसलिये कि इण्डस्ट्री (Industry) बढ़ सकें। मुझे दुःख है कि हमारे फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर (Finance Minister) साहब चले गये। पिछली दफ़ा जब बजट डिसकशन (Budget discussion) था उस वक़्त भी मैंने कहा था और आज भी मैं आप से कहता हूँ कि अगर आप चाहते हैं कि देश के अन्दर काटन उधादा पैदा हो तो आप एक एग्रीकल्चरल फ़ाइनेन्स कारपोरेशन (Agricultural Finance Corporation) पैदा कीजिये। आप उस वक़्त तक ज्यादा कपास पैदा नहीं कर सकते जब तक कि आप देश के उन हिस्सों की ज़मीनों को जो कि वेस्ट लैंड्स (Waste-lands) हैं न तुड़बावें और वह उस वक़्त तक नहीं टूट सकती जब तक कि आप ट्रैक्टरों देश में उधादा नहीं लाते। कल ही भोर्नेन्द्रसिंह जी मान ने कहा था कि इस देश में छोटे ट्रैक्टरों नहीं आये मुझे इसका दुःख नहीं है क्योंकि लैंड (Land) तो है वी ट्रैक्टरों heavy tractors से ही टूट सकती है और गवर्नमेंट ने बड़ी अवलमन्दी की कि उन्होंने बड़े ट्रैक्टरों मंगवाये लेकिन आज अगर मैं और दस पांच किसान जो सोचते हैं कि मिल कर एक को-ऑपरेटिव सोसायटी (Cooperative Society) बनावें और ट्रैक्टर खरीदें तो गवर्नमेंट हमको कोई चीप मनी (Cheap money) सप्लाई (Supply) करने का ढंग अस्तित्वार नहीं करती। मुझे इसके कहने में कोई शर्म महसूस नहीं होती कि मैंने दो तीन भाईयों के साथ मिल कर एक ट्रैक्टर खरीदने की कोशिश की। हमें इसके लिये कुछ रुपये की ज़रूरत थी। लेकिन मुझे दस रुपये सैकड़ों से कम रुपया नहीं मिल सका और मैं नहीं चाहता था कि अपने दोस्तों को इसके लिये तंग करूं। लेकिन आखिर मजबूरन मुझे अपने दोस्तों के दरवाजे पर जाना ही पड़ा और रुपया बगैर इन्टरस्ट के लोना चाहा। मगर एक आम किसान को वह रुपया नहीं मिल सकता। जब मैं एक आम किसान के नाते रुपये के बाजार में गया तो मुझे रुपया दस रुपये और बारह रुपये के भाव के इन्टरस्ट के बगैर नहीं मिला।

तो मैंने आपको यह दो तीन बातें बतायीं। यह किसानों की भुक्तिलात हैं जो उसके बगैर किसी कंज्यूमर के टक्कर में आये हुये हल हो सकती हैं। आपका जो यह ह्याल है कि काटन और ईख और जूट (Jute) में आपस में टक्कर है मैं यह दावे से कहता हूँ कि अगर आप चीप मनी एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट (Agriculturist) को दे दें और पंजाबी एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट को यू० पी० और सी० पी० में खुला हाथ दे दें तो यह प्रब्लेम (Problem) एकदम हल हो जाती है। आपको यह जान कर ताज्जुब होगा कि नैनीताल एक छोटा सा ज़िला है। वहां बाजपुर तहसील में ७० फीसदी जमीन अब पंजाब ह एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट के हाथ में है। तो अगर आप पंजाबी एग्री-

क्लबिस्ट को जरा खुली छुट्टी दे दें और चीप मनी दे दें तो में दावे के साथ कहता हूँ कि एक साल के अन्दर देश के लिये न ली गेहूँ की प्राबलेम रहेगी, न ईख की प्राबलेम रहेगी, न चावल की प्राबलेम रहेगी, न काटन की प्राबलेम रहेगी और न जूट की ही प्राबलेम रहेगी ।

श्री महावीर त्यागी : और यू० पी० वाले कहाँ जायेंगे ?

चौधरी रणबीर सिंह : यू० पी० वाले तो कुच्छ करते ही नहीं ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Sir, while extending my support to the Bill, I cannot but say that the mere acquisition of power of control will not increase the production of cotton; production of cotton is possible only through cultivation in the fields and with the peasants' toil. Unless we provide incentive to the kisan to produce more cotton by creating the necessary atmosphere we will not be able to stop imports. In fact there will be no necessity to bring such a Bill before the House then. You have promised to strive towards this end. Still I would like to re-emphasize, as I did yesterday, that if you really wish to have plenty of cloth and food grains in the country, it is imperative that Bhakra Dam in the East Punjab should be completed as the first measure. The tunnel has been laid and is ready for use there. If enough funds are not placed at the disposal of East Punjab Government in time, it is very probable that the tunnel may burst with the approach of next season. Once this happens, the completion of this Dam will ever remain a dream. It can easily be said where to get the necessary money at a time such as at present. But such big plans cannot be deferred in the name of economy. If things of this sort have their way, not one but thousands of Bills of this nature cannot increase the production of cotton in the country. If the intention to procure more cotton for the industry is real, you will have to adopt measures as suggested by me. I would like to make a few suggestions in this respect which cannot be dispensed with on any score whatsoever.

The first of these suggestions does not demand much expenditure by the Government. I had made a mention about it yesterday, as I also told the Minister of Railways who had acclaimed surprise and described the plea as impossible. I am in a position to prove it. This help was sought of a supply officer of the Ministry of Agriculture who draws more than Rs. 2,000 a month, it was for procuring fencing wire. The Agriculture Department had procured the fencing wire for their own farm. It was not one individual's procurement, but, in fact, a demand was put forward by U. P. also. The wire, of course, has not reached them despite two years' continuous reminding. For the last four or five months at least, I myself have been trying to obtain it. I have sought the assistance of Agricultural Standing Committee and the Ministry concerned so that I may get it somehow. I have, however, to regret that on my return to Vajpur I was again reminded about it by the people there. It has not reached them so far with consequent decrease in production. This wire was to be used to protect grain crops from the wild animals in the stony 'bhavar area' spread over a vast expanse. Much cotton and food grains can be produced in that area. Government is not called upon to spend much or import anything from outside towards this end.

The second thing which I wish to submit is that in Vajpur some tractors have been brought to clean up the area. There is a tractor organisation as well. The harrows of these tractors while crossing the railway line, have to clash

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

against the gate-reels and unless the gate is removed or widened, the inconvenience will continue to be felt. But I have to state with much regret that such a petty demand which was not made by a solitary individual has been refused by the O. T. R. authorities. The land actually belongs to Government and so many others and, above all, serious loss to the production of food grains and other crops is occurring. I have, therefore, placed these things before you.

This morning the hon. Minister had described the peasants' demands as 'much unjustified'. In one voice you wish to bring down the prices while in the other you want to benefit the growers more and more. The two stands are conflicting. For instance, if a certain commodity is produced, its marketing price will have to be fixed after taking into consideration the production expenditure. But some people think that the rudiments of finance hardly apply as far as cultivation goes. To say the least, the rules and bye-laws can apply to the factories only. I cannot understand the logic that whereas in the case of factories you increase prices whenever the necessity to bring up production is felt, you wish to increase the production of food grains and cotton and yet to procure it at reduced prices. The peasants' demand for increased prices seems exaggerating to you only. It is wrong to say, as you do, that the *kisans* look to their interest. The peasants have no interest of their own.

One thing I would like to repeat. You maintain that the peasants' interests are sufficiently advocated by the Provincial Governments who are, in fact, afraid of them. I wish it to be conveyed to this House that the day is not far off when it will also fear the agriculturists, and the Members will be unable to enter it without their assent. This is primarily a country of the agriculturists. It is they who constitute more than 75 per cent. of its population. You say the issue concerns the Provincial Governments. It is a matter of one year only when you will come to realise about it.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).]

I wish to say a few things regarding the controls as well. One is that due care should be taken to see that there is not much difference between the producers' and consumers' prices. These days it is seen that the consumer pays sixteen rupees for an article which costs the producer only ten. I assert that an article produced at a cost of ten rupees should be available to the consumer at eleven. If you can arrange things this way, much benefit will result to all sections of the populace. I will like to cite one instance in this behalf. The gram transported to Madras from the Punjab is priced at rupees seven a maund whereas people in Madras can get it only at Rs. 21 a maund. This is much improper and the Government should take steps to stop it forthwith.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is because of the railway bottle-neck. You don't give transport.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam (Minister of State for Transport and Railways): We give all the facilities they want.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: I can challenge the Ministry of Transport on this issue and show them the letter from the supply officer of the Government of Ind's in suite of which the wire in question has not reached the farm, even after a lapse of six months.

So I was endeavouring to tell that that much can be achieved without having a clash with the consumers' interests. I have said that if you take courage in both hands and make a determined effort, substantial results can be achieved.

Another point concerns cheap money. An Industrial Finance Corporation has been set up to promote and develop industry. I regret the absence of hon. the Finance Minister. I repeat what I said on the occasion of the discussion regarding the last Budget. If you mean to increase production of cotton in the country, then proceed with setting up an Agricultural Finance Corporation. An increase in production of *kapas* cannot be brought about until all the land known as waste-land in different parts of the country is brought under the plough. This will not be practicable till more tractors are imported. Only yesterday Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man had complained that small tractors are not imported in the country. I do not deplore this fact. The waste-land can be brought under cultivation by heavy tractors alone. Government has been quite wise for importing big tractors only. Government, however, do not adopt measures to provide with the cheap money whenever some *kisans* meet together to devise ways for the formation of a co-operative society to purchase tractors. I have no sense of humiliation in recalling the effort that I made to purchase a tractor in common with a few friends. We needed some money for it which was not to be had except at an interest of ten per cent. I did not intend to inconvenience my friends on this score, but, out of helplessness, I had to go to them ultimately to seek to have the required money from them without interest. A peasant with ordinary means, however, cannot get that much amount. I could not get it except at interest of ten or twelve per cent. when I went to the market in that capacity *viz.* as an ordinary *kisan*.

So I have conveyed these few points. These are a few hardships experienced by the peasants and are capable of solution without clashing with the interests of the consumers. You think that cultivation of cotton, sugarcane and jute is possible only at the expense of one or the other. But I say it with authority that if you undertake to provide the agriculturist with cheap money and give the Punjabi agriculturist a free hand in U. P. and C. P., the problem can be solved within no time. You will be surprised to know that the Punjabi agriculturist holds as much as 70 per cent. of land in Bajpur Tehsil of a small district like Nainital. As such, I claim that give a free rope and cheap money to the Punjabi agriculturists; within one year there shall be no shortage of wheat left nor there will be any problem of sugar-cane, rice, cotton or jute.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Where will people of U.P. go?

Ch. Ranbir Singh: U.P. people do nothing.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I do not wish to repeat what I have said with regard to the general aspects of this question. The only effect of these controls is that the producer as well as the consumer are both put to a sacrifice. Some middlemen, some big magnates are the only persons who profit by this.

But I wish to draw the attention of this House—at least the literary section of it—to the state of affairs with regard to drafting of Bills. The little amendment which I moved and which was rejected has perpetuated a great anomaly. I wish respectfully to point it out to them. The whole point is that what would be the date of effect of the insertion of a certain passage into the parent Act?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary or desirable for the hon. Member to repeat the arguments that he has already made out?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It is the same point, but a new argument.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But it is not going to serve any purpose.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: But this is a relevant matter in the Third Reading stage and I wish to point it out. The whole question is what is the effect—the legal effect—of the insertion of a passage into a parent Act? As soon as it is inserted it remains there for ever till repealed. So, what is the point, I respectfully ask, in saying that it shall be deemed always to have been inserted? What is the point in the word “always”? If you insert it once it remains here for ever, at least till it is repealed. What is the point in emphasising its everlasting character? It remains there without any such words. I submit, Sir, that the drafting has deteriorated and I should point out that my hon. friend’s suggestion that in the Constituent Assembly I was a consenting party to this sort of drafting is entirely wrong.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: By not opposing.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I opposed it. But what is the use of opposing bad draftsmanship? Somehow the Government and the Ministers revel in bad draftsmanship, that it is impossible to create any impression on them. The hon. Ministers suffer from a kind of sensitiveness or rather a kind of bashfulness in admitting a mistake. The point is they don’t want to admit their mistakes on the floor of the House. I have found that whenever I have communicated suggestions privately they have accepted them, but the same ones will be rejected on the floor of the House. (*An Honourable Member:* Then why not try the private method?) I have tried both and my experience is that the private method succeeds better than the public method. I, therefore, submit that there should be an attempt to improve the draftsmanship. It is a pity to see all sorts of mistakes scattered here and there, as for instance at the end of the long title there should be a full-stop. Who is going to look into these? Somehow or other the draftsmen have no time to look into these. There should be some kind of uniformity even in these small matters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Member to a ruling given by the Chair on a similar previous occasion:

“The hon. Member has to speak on the motion ‘That the Bill be passed’. All these details have been fully thrashed out during the discussion which took place at earlier stages. The hon. Member must now confine himself to supporting or opposing the Bill.”

This is the ruling which was given in connection with a similar detailed discussion at the Third Reading stage. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Member to conclude his speech.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I support the Bill whole-heartedly, but oppose the bad draftsmanship.

Shri B. K. Sishya: Sir, in the course of the discussion of this Bill some interesting points have been brought out. It was brought out that the Government are reconsidering today, in view of the economy drive, some of the productive schemes which they had sanctioned originally. My friend Pandit Bhakurdas Bhargava mentioned Bhakra Dam. I entirely agree with him that this scheme must be thoroughly supported by the Government and it is only fair that hon. the Finance Minister should know the consensus of opinion in the House on this subject. I therefore feel it my duty to raise my voice and point out that it is the unanimous opinion of this House that there should be no economy in the matter of the Bhakra Dam.

Sir, it is a well known fact that Sind was a desert. But the construction of the Sukkur Barrage—which is one of the biggest canal irrigation schemes—has converted it into a garden and granary with the result that it is even able to export food to other countries. From that experience I may tell the House that while we are deficit in food grains and cotton it is the duty of this Government to carry on with these productive schemes and not to pursue a false economy.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance) On a point of information: may I know whether the hon. Member is equally keen on the other river valley projects?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I may assure hon. the Finance Minister that we are very keen on these productive projects. I stated yesterday that it would be wrong on the part of Government to hold over industrial schemes like tool manufacture, steel production, hydro-electric projects, boiler factory and such other schemes which, within four or five years, are bound to bring happiness and prosperity to the country. Therefore, I hope the Government will bear in mind the sense of this House in this respect and that these schemes are not held over.

As regards long staple cotton, I can also say that the Central Cotton Committee carried on research in a District called Tharapur in Sind and a variety known in the Punjab and Sind as American cotton or 84F was being grown. I do not know, after the loss of these two provinces, what effort is being made by the Government to do research work in this long staple cotton in other places. My hon. friend Mr. Chettiar stated that cotton is not grown in every place. Similarly, all crops are not grown in all places. Even paddy is grown only in particular places where there is plenty of water supply and the soil is suitable. This is not applicable only to cotton. My point is, while we feel that long staple cotton is very necessary, Government must certainly see that we step up production of food and cotton. I do not know what they have been doing with regard to these things after we lost these provinces. They have got the bargaining power in their hands. Unfortunately, our Government has not given serious thought to this matter. I was pleased to hear from the hon. Minister of Industry and Supply that the Government are now considering the whole policy in a co-ordinated spirit. That is the thing that we have been asking here. One Minister says that he wants more lands for cotton; another Minister says that he wants more lands for sugarcane; and yet another Minister says that he wants more lands for food grains. That sort of thing will never bring prosperity and happiness to the country, and we may not be self-sufficient at any stage. Therefore, I would be very glad if the Government at the Cabinet level take up this matter and see that these schemes are put through and not held over for various considerations. I thought that was the only point to be specially stressed, and I am very glad that my hon. Friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has brought up this point so that we may express our views on that. I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I stand to congratulate Dr. Mookerjee for having got what all he wanted. After all, what is it that he got? He got more powers to control, which, I take it, under a scheme of responsible Government, as we have today in India, a National Government and responsible Government, means higher and deeper responsibilities. He has failed up till now in handling controls of textiles, and if that failure is to be repeated after all these powers, he goes down and with him we go down. I appeal to him, while giving him these wide powers, to bear this in mind.

Sir, my hon. friend Prof. Ranga joined issue with him. He did not want controls at the stage of primary production. I am afraid that if Dr. Mookerjee has failed, it was because of the unnatural process that he was taking up till now. How could you have controls at the top without having controls at the bottom? I do not understand it. Still, we have to bow down before better wisdom. I am glad now control starts from the bottom to the top. If it means mere control and leaving it to the local officials, I am afraid he goes down and with him, we. Let the controls be effective, in the sense of developing primary production as also manufactures, and to bring down prices.

[Shri Biswanath Das]

Unless both these things are done, control and all the higher and bigger powers conferred on the Government will be futile and useless, and all will be converted into sorrow. I am afraid that the looseness of the controls due to the unnatural process of controlling at certain stages, was responsible for giving ample opportunities to the businessmen and manufacturers to make huge profits. You may appoint Income-tax Commissions and Enquiry Commissions. Yet, you leave the gate wide open for black marketing and adding to the pile of huge sums of black market money that they have already got. Let me hope that with the powers that we have given him, he will utilise them to the fullest extent so as to fight not only against black marketing, but also keep up the promise to which the Government is committed, namely, to bring down the prices at least by ten per cent.

Sir, these controls will be useless unless you control cotton seeds also, which some friends object. I want full control even of cotton seeds. It was very painful to read that cotton seeds are exported in lakhs of tons out of India. I ask how could you feed your cattle? How could you have manure for your lands if you throw away this useful commodity on foreign countries. Therefore, I want full control. I would appeal to the hon. Dr. Mookerjee to see that with the powers that we have conferred on him, the export of cotton seeds is controlled and utilised to the best advantage of the country.

Sir, my friend Dr. Deshmukh took my breath away when he enunciated some of his theories. He wanted higher prices for cotton growers. So did my friend Prof. Ranga. Well, if the present prices are lower and if they are uneconomic, and if they do not afford a proper incentive for greater production, and you want the agriculturists to get proper prices, how could we do this unless you give power to the Government to control the prices and fix the proper prices. I am sure they cannot ignore the interests of the agriculturists, because he is the primary producer. You cannot have raw materials if you sacrifice the interests of the agriculturists. Therefore, I want his interests to be safeguarded.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My protest is not against extending the control to the cotton producer, but against the manner in which the Government has been using these controls.

Shri Biswanath Das: In that I am with you. I have already stated that the controls are not properly used. My hon. friend Dr. Deshmukh said; you pay higher prices for foreign cotton, why can't you pay a similar price for Indian cotton?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I said higher prices.

Shri Biswanath Das: Yes; you said higher prices. If the Tatas come today and say, you pay higher prices for foreign iron, why can't you pay us a higher price, I would ask, is that the reason why I have given protection to the industry in all stages? I have made a sacrifice; is it for nothing that I made the sacrifice? The country has made a great sacrifice for the protection of iron, sugar, textiles, and so on and so forth. Sacrifice must have this corresponding benefit. Therefore, I claim that neither the Tatas, nor the cotton producers nor even the primary producers of cotton could come up with the claim on this ground. Of course, I agree if economic grounds warrant that, certainly the agriculturists must have . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is only on that ground that we wanted.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So did I; that was the chief ground.

Shri Biswanath Das: I claim that the consumer should be saved from the greed of three sets of people: the manufacturer, the businessman, and if need be, even the primary producer. The consumer has to be protected and if you

don't do it, bear in mind that you will have to raise the pay of all your officials as also the wages of labour. No country can tolerate the present conditions, much less could you keep the peace fairly longer. Under these circumstances I appeal again to my friend the hon. Dr. Mookerjee to use these high and responsible powers to his utmost ability so as to bring down the prices and also develop production and manufacture. Food and clothing are the two primary needs of man. If these are denied, the whole thing reduces itself to nothing, your Constitution however good it might be reduces itself to a mere scrap of paper and your Fundamental Rights are nothing absolutely to an ordinary commoner. Therefore I appeal to you to use these powers on these counts. I come from a province which produces only rice. My hon. friend who hailed from C.P. and Berar as also from other provinces which have a good fortune or misfortune of having food-surpluses, they have a claim, I think, to ask the Government as also this Legislature through you to say what sin have they committed for taking to food production if representatives representing areas of commercial crops claim higher prices? That is not fair; nor is it desirable from the higher economy of the country. Therefore I plead with all my friends not to plead for a very unfortunate cause.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Fact is the land is diverted from food to cash crops.

Shri Biswanath Das: That is because the agriculturist has to weigh between prices. I know oilseeds pay higher prices than food crops. That is one of the reasons why there is a tendency to divert. Is it justifiable for the primary cotton grower, if on a comparison of prices of 1939 to to-day's it is seen that the price of foodstuffs has increased by about 200 per cent. while the price of cotton is 300 per cent. or even more? If that is to be seen, I don't think it comes with good grace as a reasonable argument for my friends. Therefore there should be a fair adjustment and I would appeal and argue with Government that a proper machinery should be set up in this regard so that the economy of the country is not disturbed. You can't have both ways. You want that Government should take up to crop planning and you refuse control. Therefore give them power and if they don't, say good-bye. That is the position which I am prepared to take always. There is a limit to our sacrifice. Yesterday I was arguing in this House about the location of sugar industry in Bihar and U.P. where there is less possibility of having the output which the coastal districts could have. It took my breath away to hear that sugar prices in provinces of U.P. and Bihar are announced to be sold lower than in other provinces. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Industries and Supplies whether there is also such a move in this regard *viz.* in cotton, that the cotton textiles prices in the producing provinces will be lower than in other provinces. That is a pernicious way because that calls upon other provinces to sacrifice—to put themselves not only to double sacrifice but also to eternal sacrifice, which is unfair. Therefore I should like to have a reply from the hon. Minister.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is no such proposal.

Shri Biswanath Das: I am glad to hear that. Though it is not quite relevant here, I strongly protest that the sale price of sugar in Bihar and U.P. should be lower than the prices in other provinces.

Prof. Sashban Lal Saksena: Not so.

Shri Biswanath Das: I will show you from published accounts. There is one more point. A lot of things have been said that we are producing short staple cotton, and therefore it is not useful for our manufacturers. I come from an area where hand-spinning has developed to a marvellous extent. We spin from our ordinary cotton to the extent of 200 counts. The late lamented

[Shri Biswanath Das]

Mahadeo Dessai when he visited my district fell prostrate at the feet of an old lady who was spinning to a count of 200 and all this has been done with our country cotton. I have a right to expect from our experts as to how this is possible while the same could not be done in mills. Therefore the experts and scientists have a duty in this regard. You have the East India Cotton Association. You have the Cotton Committee and added to it the I.C.A.R. and the Pusa Institute. What are these institutions doing and why not research be taken up in this regard? How could the ordinary ladies in their village homes spin to the extent of 200 counts with ordinary country-made cotton. Therefore research is called for in this regard. With this I congratulate my friend and I beg of him to realize the heavy responsibility that we have placed in his hands.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): Sir, I move:

"That question be now put."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I don't want to make a long speech in reply to the debate. No new point has been raised. My friend Chandhry Ranbir Singh misunderstood my remarks altogether. Obviously no Government can ignore the legitimate interests of the Agriculturists but while fixing prices, Government have to bear in mind the interests of all the parties involved. Agriculturists are themselves consumers. Consumers are not outside the realm of agriculturists and they have to be supplied with essential commodities which in their turn must be made available to them at reasonable prices. Of course, one defect in our present system, I must frankly recognize, is the absence of statistical data which would enable us to appreciate exactly what the cost of agricultural produce is. So far as cost of production of manufactured goods is concerned, certain investigation has been made but so far as agricultural products are concerned, no such investigation on a wide scale has yet been made and unless the defect is removed, it will be extremely difficult for Government to fix prices for agricultural commodities which will be fair and equitable to the producers themselves. So far as the desirability of controlling *kapas* is concerned, a number of suggestions have been made here and Government will bear them in mind in considering this matter at a later stage. I expect a conference will have to be called which will be representative of all the interests involved, and if at all it is found necessary to control *kapas*, only then will government undertake this responsibility.

Lastly, my friend Mr. Biswanath Das asked me to admit that the textile control had completely failed. I am afraid I cannot oblige him. I feel that the textile control has not failed, and if we survey what we have been able to do and compare things after the control began with what existed before, then it will be seen that we have brought down the prices of textile goods. During the decontrol period prices rose to between 50 to 150 per cent. and now the prices have been considerably brought down. And now the position is such that in many places textile goods are available for sale at prices lower than the stamped prices. Of course, as I said in the morning, the only way we can make textile goods available at cheap rates will be dependent on the availability of cotton, and unless we can increase our production of cotton we cannot expect to supply textile goods at reasonable rates.

Another thing which has happened during the last few weeks or rather during the past few months is the increased export of textile goods. We have been able to recapture a number of foreign markets, and I expect that in the course of this year we will be able to reach the figure of 800 million yards of export which means about 800 million yards out of about 4,000 million yards of mill made goods which we will produce. That will give us valuable foreign-exchange which will certainly reduce our adverse balance of payment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

RUBBER (PRODUCTION AND MARKETING) AMENDMENT BILL

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister of Industry and Supply): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is a very short amendment and.....

Shri P. T. Chacko (Travancore State): But very serious.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Bill provides to delete a sub-clause which now enables the producers of rubber to sell rubber to persons who may not have any license at all. Now, the result of this has been that quite a substantial production of rubber which is now produced is being sold to unlicensed dealers. The matter was considered by the Rubber Board, and we consulted the Provincial and State Governments concerned, and it was their unanimous view that this clause should be deleted. In future if the rubber producers desire to sell, they should be allowed to sell only to licensed dealers. What is proposed to do is to issue general licenses so that the producers, if they desire to sell their products directly would be entitled to do so without much inconvenience. The matter has been considered by all the interests involved, the producers, the consumers and the Provincial and State Governments concerned and it is their unanimous desire that this amendment is necessary. I therefore move that this Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

There is an amendment by Prof. Saksena for reference of the Bill to a select committee.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.; General): Through my amendment I only wanted to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to one aspect of this question. He has called it a small amendment, and the purpose he has in view is laudable, namely, that the bigger estate owners should not be permitted to defeat the purpose of this control. But I wanted to say that the small growers of rubber are also affected by this and its effect on them should also be considered. So I want this Bill to be properly considered in a select committee which may go into all the details of it and see that the small growers are not badly affected. Hence I move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha, Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri Lakshminarayana Sahu, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Shri P. T. Chacko and the Mover."

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

I only want to see that the amendment is effected in such a manner that the small growers are not affected. I am in full sympathy with the object that the large estates should not be allowed to defeat the object, but the small growers must be saved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such a small Bill, does it require reference to a select committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The very point which Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena has raised was actually taken into consideration and we made a reference to the Government of Madras and to the Travancore and Cochin Governments, and the proposal has been agreed to. I can assure Prof. Saksena that the case of the small producers will be considered by Government in the proper way and it is not necessary to refer the Bill to a select committee at all. This is a small measure, and we can accept it here and now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to accept this assurance, or does he want to press his amendment?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I am not pressing it.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, the necessity for the measure brought before the House this afternoon by the hon. Minister of Industry and Supply cannot be over estimated. With the rapid development of our mechanised and motor industry, the bicycle and automobile industry, the electrical industry and the surgical appliances manufacturing industry, rubber is fast acquiring a great importance in our national economy. It is, therefore, essential that the buying and selling transactions of this commodity should be under control of a central organisation, and in this case there is the Indian Rubber Board which is already functioning as such. I feel that it would be of interest to know from the hon. Minister how far we are today dependent upon foreign countries for the supply of rubber for our industrial purposes, how far we are dependent upon the dollar areas, and how far upon the sterling areas and the soft currency areas, and what our annual production of rubber to-day is and what is our total requirement for our growing automobile and mechanised industries. And further I would like to know whether any attempt is being made to increase the production of rubber in our country which will be very essential in the near future. We would also like to know what experiments are being made to the manufacture synthetic rubber in our country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these points are very interesting but the scope of this Bill is very limited. Under the existing law nobody is allowed to sell rubber except under a license but there is a proviso which says that if the producer himself wants to sell he need not have any licence. In the experience of Government this distinction between sale by producer and any other person is creating difficulties and therefore they say that all persons must sell under a licence. The hon. Minister gave an assurance to Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena that he would avoid hardships in the case of the smaller producers. I do not think the hon. Minister is ready with all the facts and figures that the hon. Member wants.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, Sir, I am ready.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But it is not within the scope of the Bill at present. The hon. Member must confine himself to the scope of the Bill.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is exactly the point. The point I have in mind has arisen out of the measure which is before the House. The hon. Minister stated in his introductory speech that there have been some unlicensed transactions in this commodity and hence it is quite likely that there may have been some waste of this essential commodity so far as national purposes are concerned. That is why I have raised the point which I did a little while ago. We want that this commodity should be conserved and not wasted in any way either in buying or selling in an unlicensed or any other unrestricted manner. This commodity has to be conserved and developed to its highest potential. I was very glad to see that the hon. Minister interrupted you, Sir, to say that he has got the facts and figures ready. It would be very interesting to know what the figures are with regard to the various categories I mentioned a little while ago.

Lastly I would say that the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill makes it clear that the proviso to the existing section 14 exempts owners of rubber estates from the operation of that section in respect of rubber produced in their own estates. Within the last two or three years I do not know how many unlicensed transactions in buying and selling have taken place, how many such deals have been made by owners of large estates. It would be worthwhile to know from the Minister how many such illicit or rather unlicensed transactions have taken place.....

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They were not illegal under the present law.

Shri H. V. Kamath: They are perfectly legal under the present law, but they will soon become illegal under the law contemplated. So it would be interesting to know how many such transactions have taken place during the last two or three years and whether any national waste has been caused thereby.

Sir, I welcome this measure and support the Bill moved by the hon. Minister.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Sir, though this is a small measure, yet it is one which vitally affects the interests of the small growers.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has just given an assurance that in respect of small producers he will give them free licence.

Shri P. T. Chacko: The hon. Minister is carried away by the recommendation of the Rubber Board which consists of only large estate owners and on which the small producers are not represented.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The small producers will get free licence.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaudha (Assam: General): Under what provision?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They will be given free licence under the present Bill.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Section 14 prohibits the buying and selling and under the proviso the selling of rubber by owners alone is legalised and not the buying of it. Under the present Act even rubber owners can sell their produce only to licensed people and not to others. Eighty per cent. of the rubber produced in India is produced in Travancore and out of that 40 per cent. is produced by very small growers. The word used in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is "estate owners". That may give an idea that the owners of rubber are owners of extensive plantations. But 40 per cent. of the owners are owners of very small areas, some holding 20 or 30 cents and some owning only 20 or 25 trees. People cultivate rubber in small farms along with pepper, coconut,

[Shri P. J. Chacko]

arecanut or other crops. As the Act stands now nobody can sell rubber to anybody except a licensed dealer and nobody can sell rubber without a licence excepting the producers themselves. What difference will this amendment make in the actual control of the dealings, I ask? The only difference is that the small producers will have to take licence from the Rubber Board. Even now under section 14 licensed dealers can purchase rubber. By amending the present Act the position will be that these small producers will not be allowed to sell their rubber to anyone without a licence. After tapping the rubber these small producers may not have sufficient quantity of latex to coagulate it and they take the latex to dealers who deal in latex. Latex also is included in rubber under the definition in section 3. The small producer may not have sufficient quantity to coagulate and to get out of it good rubber and so they sell the latex. By this amendment the small producer will not be allowed to do what they have been doing till now. Every owner must be a registered owner under section 10. Besides this registration they are now asked to pay a fee to take a licence for the sale of the small quantity of rubber or latex which they produce. As far as the actual control is concerned, the only difference will be that there will be licences for all these small estate owners. According to the present rules they will have to pay something to the Rubber Board to take a licence.

The whole difficulty comes in from the recommendation of the Indian Rubber Board, as I feel it, because the Indian Rubber Board is a body wherein the small producer is not represented. Therefore, in order that they may get more money, in order that their finances may be made all right they have recommended this amendment. The purpose of this Bill, according to me, is to give some more money to the Indian Rubber Board, and nothing more than that. And what more control can be effected by giving licence to these producers. The same people after taking the licences will be dealing in the same manner as they were dealing before. The only difference will be that the small producers will have licences. I cannot understand how Government can have more control by imposing licences on these small producers and asking them to pay a fee of Rs. 25 or 30 to the Indian Rubber Board. That is the only difference which this Bill makes if it is enacted into law. So I feel this amendment is unnecessary. I appeal to the hon. Minister to consider the position of the small producers, and, if this Bill should be enacted, I appeal to him that licences may be given to all these small producers free of any fees.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I shall refer to the last speaker first. In fact the point which he raised I had mentioned previously. The cases of the small producers should be properly protected. But the very reason which he advanced namely that between 35 and 40 per cent. of the rubber today is being produced by this group of small producers weighed with Government in not excluding the small rubber producers from the scope of this clause. Otherwise we will not be able to regulate the transactions relating to 35 to 40 per cent. of the total rubber production in this country.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I point out that they are all registered holders?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, I know. But so far as sales are concerned, as my hon. friend Mr. Kamath put it, unauthorised sales should be regulated. But I can certainly assure the hon. Member that Government will see to it that the interests of these small producers are not in any way jeopardised. It will be quite easy for us to allow them licences free of cost. And later on, if we find that their interests are being sacrificed, then we will be able, if necessary, to come forward before the House again and have some sort of special powers. I am also anxious that they are represented in some way on the Board itself. Of course we have now given

representation to the State Government concerned, and there being a popular government now in Travancore and Cochin, they are also quite alive to the need for protecting the interests of the small growers.

Now, in regard to the more important question asked by Mr. Kamath, I did not refer to it because I thought that it might not be quite relevant to the subject matter of this Bill. India is today producing about 16,000 tons on an average of raw rubber per year. Our manufacturers require nearly about 21,000 tons of raw rubber which means that we are short by about 5,000 tons per year. We are importing this from foreign countries. The unfortunate position today is that the price of Indian raw rubber is about 40 per cent. higher than the world price. The result of that has been that rubber goods manufactured in India which had a good export market have practically lost their export market, because goods which are manufactured with raw rubber priced at so high a rate cannot obviously sell in foreign countries. At the same time, if we allow a larger quantity of raw rubber to come into this country from foreign lands, then the interests of the rubber producers in this country will automatically suffer. Here again the only possible way out of it is to reduce the cost of production of raw rubber and to increase its production. I have got a scheme, which has been placed before me during the last few months, which involves expenses to the tune of Rs. eight crores, if India is to produce raw rubber of good quality in the course of the next fifteen years.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I interrupt the hon. Minister? Are our imports from the dollar area or from the soft currency areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not from the dollar area, it is from soft currency areas. But so far as rubber plantation is concerned, practically it will have to be replanted entirely if we desire to obtain satisfactory results. This is a matter which is now under investigation by Government.

So far as import and export are concerned, in regard to the manufacture of rubber goods we are practically self-sufficient. So far as tyres and tubes are concerned, practically imports of these are not allowed except in special cases. For instance the ceilings that have been fixed are these. From July to December 1949 from the dollar area we expect to import only Rs. 5 lakhs worth of tyres and tubes; from the U.K. not more than Rs. 20 lakhs worth of them. In regard to foot-wear we are not allowing any import at all. I have also got here the total figure for imports in 1949. For January to June the figures are: automobile tyres and tubes Rs. 2,45,000; bicycle tyres and tubes Rs. 8,000; footwear Rs. 11,000; and miscellaneous goods about Rs. 9,00,000. So far as export is concerned we have just allowed export and the quota recommended for the first half of 1949 comes to Nos. 1,73,926 for automobile tubes and tyres and Nos. 8,57,500 for bicycle tubes and tyres. That is what we are exporting. But so far as the future of the industry is concerned it depends on our ability to reduce the cost of production of raw rubber and to increase its production in the coming few years.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know if anything is being done about synthetic rubber?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Nothing much.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether rubber is also exported from India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Practically nil.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

(Clauses 1 and 2 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

REQUISITIONED LAND (APPORTIONMENT OF COMPENSATION) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister of Defence): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the apportionment of compensation payable in respect of requisitioned land, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I need not take the time of the House in explaining the reasons for this Bill. They have been made clear in the Statement of Objects and Reasons enclosed with the Bill. Difficulty arose on account of a ruling given by the Calcutta High Court. To remedy that we had to promulgate an Ordinance. That Ordinance will lapse in the next month or so. The West Bengal Government, amongst others, pointed out that if this Ordinance is not replaced by an Act there will be enormous difficulty and that is the reason for bringing forward this Bill.

Sir, the Bill is very simple and I hope the House will agree to it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the apportionment of compensation payable in respect of requisitioned land, be taken into consideration."

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I have got an amendment to refer it to a Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the hon. Member has not given names so far. I am not going to allow this amendment.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I can give the names now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not the practice. I don't think the hon. Member is serious about pressing this motion for Select Committee. I am only appealing to him. If hon. Members are interested in quickly passing this Bill which seeks to correct an error of distribution of compensation pointed out by the High Court and which tries to set right a lacuna, then we must not take much time over it. If, however, they think they must have more time over this then we have to adjourn.

Some Honourable Members: We will take it up on Monday.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U.P.: General): Sir, I have only a few remarks to make. The Bill is very good and I support it. But while supporting it I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Defence that possession of land has been taken in many cases by the military without giving any compensation whatsoever. The Bill deals with distribution of compensation between two shareholders. Compensation like that can be distributed only when the Ministry makes its mind about granting of compensation itself. The position is that no compensation has been given. I have got cases like that with me. Recently when I came here I came across the case of a poor man having a little hut through which a road was taken connecting Sahranpur Road

to Premnagar. The military went there, uprooted the house although the man was not there, his wife and others were thrown out of the house and his luggage also was thrown out. The man came weeping to me in the night. I have got his letter in my hand now. Sir, it is only for this purpose that I am speaking. I am sore on this point. I can't allow any Army to handle any private citizen in that way. The Army is meant to give protection to people and not to throw them out of their houses. If I had my way, I would have shot the Army officer if he behaved in that fashion. I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. the Defence Minister that if the military goes on behaving in that bad manner and if officers go on acting like that, forcibly driving people out of their houses and taking possession of their houses without giving them any compensation or any alternative accommodation, I say this is a thing which cannot be tolerated. Babu wrote an article in 1942 when boats were taken possession of in East Bengal and houses also were taken possession of. He insisted that whatever be the need of the country, the poor man must first have his alternative accommodation and then alone can his house be touched. If people are to be thrown out of their houses like that and compensation is not given as you used to do in the good old days, I am afraid this thing will be intolerable. I don't want to take more time of the House because houses are now being taken and I don't know if the military can come and take possession of this House and we may have to wait for compensation.

Sir, another case is that of a piece of land taken in my own constituency. It was the best land in the whole of my Province; it produced *basmati*, the most precious rice of the land. That land was taken possession of in 1943 and is still in the possession of the Army. Some of this land is also being used for agricultural purposes and has been let out by the Army on profit to other tenants than the original owners. I have been struggling for this case for years together, even when I was not a Member of this House nor a member of the Defence Committee, but I confess my failure. I could not help those tenants of my constituency. The land is neither being returned to them nor is it used by the Army. An order was received from the Land Hiring and Disposals Service, Headquarters Sub Area, Dehra Dun wherein it was mentioned that 140 acres of land (out of 268 acres) at Kandli, Bilaspur, has been taken possession of and will be available for de-requisitioning at the site on Monday. That was the letter received, dated 24th March, 1945, but the land has so far not been returned to those persons. They are being given compensation only at the rate of Rs. 2 per *biga* of that excellent land.

Sir, I want an assurance from the hon. the Defence Minister. Let him first defend the poor man in the country; if he fails to defend the poor man living in the hut, I cannot trust him to defend the borders of India. Let him defend his own people against his own Army. I submit the Defence Ministry has a right to requisition land because it is for the cause of the country and for the cause of the safety of the country, but he must see that the Ministry and the Government do not do it at the cost of the individual citizen. I hope the Ministry will take notice of a little bit of my temper in the matter and will kindly see to it. Otherwise, I support the motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I see several hon. Members wanting to speak. How long will Mr. Chaudhuri want to speak?

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I want 15 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This seems to be a controversial matter. So, we shall now adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 5th December, 1949.