

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

TUESDAY , 23rd MARCH, 1943

Vol. II—No. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd March, 1943.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr. Tinnevely Sellamier Sankara Aiyar, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Financial Commissioner, Railways),

Mr. Olaf Kirkpatrick Caroe, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, External Affairs Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

DUTY HOURS FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

352. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if there are any duty hours fixed for the ministerial staff in the Government of India Secretariat (Civil side)? If so, how many?

(b) Are these working hours followed in practice?

(c) If they were fixed for overtime work, is any overtime allowance given to the staff? If so, how much? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) The office-hours in the Civil Departments of the Secretariat are at present 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M. on weekdays and 10-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. on Saturday.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 23rd March, 1942, to clause (j) of Sardar Sant Singh's question No. 66.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these times are in practice carried out in the offices or the clerks have to stay overtime?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: These are meant to be minimum times for office attendance. The staff are expected to attend office longer if there is urgent work to be done.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How much longer do they stay?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: It varies according to the pressure of work. Some staff who are engaged in work may have to stay longer, while others who may have finished their work can go.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Do they get anything for working overtime?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: There is no overtime allowance.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there no complaint from them?

(No answer.)

OPENING OF SHOPS FOR FOOD SUPPLY TO MINISTERIAL STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

353. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that certain shops have been opened to supply food-stuff to the General Headquarters' staff? If so, has any such arrangement for opening shops been made for the ministerial staff of the Secretariat? If not, do Government propose to do so? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Government have opened a Grocery Stall to meet the requirements of only those members of the staff of the General Headquarters at Delhi, who would normally, if stationed in a Cantonment, be entitled to such facilities, i.e., Navy, Military and Air Force personnel, excluding the civil personnel, at General Headquarters.

No similar arrangement has been made for the ministerial staff of the Secretariat or the Civil personnel of the General Headquarters, but it is intended shortly to put into force a Scheme for the supply, to Central Government servants in Delhi, of certain essential commodities.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any arrangement or is any arrangement proposed to be made for supplying foodstuff to the Members of the Assembly

when they are here? We are very much inconvenienced and I would like to know whether any arrangement is going to be made.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I understood there was a restaurant in the Assembly.

HINDI AND URDU AS MEDIA OF PUBLICITY IN THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT.

354. *Bhai Parma Nand: Will the Honourable Member representing the Information and Broadcasting Department please state:

(a) to what extent Hindi and Urdu are being used as the media of publicity in the Information and Broadcasting Department; and

(b) the comparative strength of the Hindi and Urdu staff, gazetted as well as subordinate?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Both Urdu and Hindi are used by:

(A) the Bureau of Public Information for:

(i) the publicity material which they issue to the press;

(ii) the fortnightly magazines, *Bharatiya Samachar* and *Markazi Ittelaat*, the Urdu and Hindi editions of *Indian Information*; and

(iii) the pamphlets printed and distributed by them occasionally.

(B) the All India Radio in their broadcast programmes. It is the constant attempt of All India Radio to reflect in its present programmes the linguistic styles of the authors and speakers within the area from which each station draws its talent but it is not possible to maintain any statistics regarding the use of Urdu and Hindi.

(b) The comparative strength of the Hindi and Urdu staff, gazetted as well as subordinate, in the Bureau of Public Information is:

| | Hindi. | Urdu. | | Hindi. | Urdu. |
|--------------------|--------|-------|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| Gazetted | 1 | 2 | Subordinate | 9 | 11 |

Similar information in respect of All India Radio is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any committee associated with these officers to remove the difficulty of this vexed question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I want notice.

Bhai Parma Nand: Is there any discrimination observed between the head of the Hindi and the head of the Urdu Department?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: None whatsoever.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is there any Standing Committee of the House or an Advisory Committee to advise this particular department about the language question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I want notice of this question. That was the question already put by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

NEWS AGENCIES OF THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

+355. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member representing the Department of Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the names of the various presses or news agencies subscribed to by the Department with the amounts of subscription paid to each annually; and

(b) the names of the various presses or news agencies existing at present in India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The names of the news agencies subscribed to by the Department and the payments to them for the year 1942-43 are:

Reuters—Rs. 1,12,800 (approximately). Associated Press of India—Rs. 13,140 (approximately). United Press of India—Rs. 12,470 (approximately). Orient Press of India—Rs. 1,226-11-0.

(b) I lay on the table a list of known agencies purveying news to public which are at present operating in India.

Statement.

The foreign agencies operating in India are:

Reuter; Associated Press of America; United Press of America; British United Press, London; Central News Agency of China; The Tass News Agency; Agency Francaise Ind.; International News Service; and Exchange Telegraph.

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

*Except Reuter, these foreign agencies are mainly concerned with carrying a service out of India.

The news agencies in India are :

Associated Press of India; United Press of India; and Orient Press of India.

There are other local agencies which operate over a limited field whose names are not known to Government of India.

LEASE-LEND AID FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

356. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message, dated Washington, the 4th March, on the recent report of the United States Office of War Information, that from its inception in March 1941 to January 1, this year, lend-lease aid to India totalled 295,501,494 dollars in value, and that India was being strengthened with the aid of lend-lease as the source of supply for the Allied armies in China, India and the areas of the Middle East?

(b) In view of the fact that the Honourable the Finance Member had in his last year's Budget speech stated that the value of lease-lend materials for which he had made provision in the budget expenditure was Rs. 43 crores, will the Honourable Member please state:

(i) how much out of the above reported lease-lend aid to India has been actually allotted to India as utilised for India's own purposes;

(ii) how much of the lease-lend materials received in India has been sold to private parties who have been asked to pay rupee price for their purchases; and

(iii) how much has been allotted as received in India but utilised on behalf of His Majesty's Government, or used as supplies for the Allied armies in China, India and areas of the Middle East?

(c) As the Government of India are considering the possibility of entering into a direct Mutual Aid Agreement with the United States of America, does the Honourable Member propose to state clearly the precise nature of the liability which the Government of India will have to bear as a result of the working of such an Agreement? Will Government seek to put a 'ceiling' or maximum limit on the amount of reciprocal aid given, or to be given, by India under the scheme, and will India be asked to bear liability only for the lease-lend goods used strictly for India's own defence and not for the wider purposes of utilising India as the base of operations of the United Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement I made in the Assembly on this question on the 17th March.

(c) Conversations are at present proceeding between representatives of the Government of India and of the United States of America regarding the possibility of such an agreement. Government are not yet in a position to make a statement, but all aspects of the matter are receiving careful consideration.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if the negotiations are made direct or through the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said they were proceeding between representatives of the Government of India and the United States of America.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The negotiations are not through sterling but through rupee and dollar direct?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the negotiations are between the representatives of the Government of India and the United States of America. I cannot make that any more direct.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When you say lend-lease, it means that there is something leased. May I know what the Government of India is leasing when they get loans from America?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Lease-lend or lend-lease is a comprehensive term and I do not think that there is anything in our relations with the United States of America which corresponds to the narrow conception of lease but the term has been in common use since this kind of aid was given by America.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether the loans that are being given by America will be paid to them in cash or kind hereafter.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must refer the Honourable Member to the agreements which have been published between the United States and Britain and certain other countries which indicate the nature of the arrangement.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know what is the reply to the later part of part (c)?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that all aspects of the matter are receiving careful consideration.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Are Government aware that the two conditions on which the United States of America could bring into force the lease-lend arrangements are that the defence of the country should be vital—vital to the defence of America first and secondly that the contribution of each country should be according to its capacity?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Are these aspects being borne in mind?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly.

ADVICE GIVEN BY CENTRAL BOARD OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA REGARDING
UTILIZATION OF INDIA'S STERLING CREDITS.

357. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether in the matter of Government's proposal to utilise India's accumulated sterling credits in capitalising pensions and in creating a post-war reconstruction fund, the Directors of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India have been consulted, and their opinion and advice sought by Government? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to acquaint the House with the advice or opinion tendered by the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India to the Government of India?

(b) What are the terms of any Resolution that may have been passed by the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India in connection with the problem of utilisation of India's sterling credits?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). Correspondence between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India in this matter is confidential.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to say that no recommendation has yet been received from the Board by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Having stated that correspondence is confidential, I regret that I must decline to be drawn into any further communication in the matter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has there been any correspondence at all?

(No answer.)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Government already committed to the proposal "to utilise India's accumulated sterling credits in capitalising pensions and in creating a post-war reconstruction fund"?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speech.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Budget speech did not deal with this point very clearly?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not argue.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think it made it clear that there were no final commitments at this stage.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA AT THE INTER-ALLIED MONETARY CONFERENCE.

358. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message, dated London, March 9, in connection with the Inter-Allied Monetary Conference? Was any representative of India invited to attend that Conference and to submit India's case in connection with the post-war monetary arrangements at that Conference?

(b) If a delegate was invited to represent India, does the Honourable Member propose to inform the House who represented this country at that Conference?

(c) Does the Honourable Member also propose to acquaint the House with the views which such delegate may have expressed at that Conference?

(d) In view of the fact that any decision arrived at by this Inter-Allied Monetary Conference is bound to be of vital importance to India's monetary and financial problem, do Government propose to give an assurance that they would not bind themselves to any such decision without giving an early opportunity to the legislature as well as the non-official public to fully appraise the implications of such a decision and to express their views on the same?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the remarks which I made on this subject in my reply to the general discussion on the Finance Bill on the 17th March.

(d) Government hope to be in a position to provide such an opportunity.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to parts (a), (b) and (c), unfortunately I was not present at the meeting when the Honourable Member made his statement. Is he quite sure that his reply on that occasion covered all these various points specifically?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must ask my Honourable friend to read the speech. It was a fairly full statement. It gave as much information as I was in a position to give on the subject.

ASSAMESE REPRESENTATION IN THE STAFF OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

†359. ***Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the total number of employees (excluding menials) of the Reserve Bank of India, and the number of the natives of the province of Assam employed therein? Do Government propose to consider that every province should be represented in the service of the Bank?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government have no information. The recruitment of the staff of the Reserve Bank of India is entirely a matter for the Central Board of the Bank.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

DISCOVERY OF A MINIATURE MINT AT SOLAN.

62. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that a miniature mint had been unearthed in May 1941 by the Government police at Solan within the Baghat State, Simla Hills, and, if so, who tried the culprits, and with what result? Who were the offenders?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government have no information.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

EXECUTION OF PIR OF PAGARO.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly from Mr. S. D. Misra to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the attempt of the British Government to provoke the people of India to rebellion by execution of Pir Pagaro.

There was a motion sought to be moved on the question of the sentence passed by court under the Martial Law on the 20th instant. When did the execution take place?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary, War Department): The execution took place at 8 A.M. on the 20th instant.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the sentence did not refer to the execution.

Mr. H. A. Sattar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhamnadan): The motion did not refer to the execution and we did not know at that time of the execution. It was announced only yesterday.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I object to this motion. The House only the other day refused leave to discuss a motion for adjournment regarding the sentence

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

[Mr. C. M. Trivedi.]

passed by the court under the Martial Law Regulations, and the execution is a logical corollary of the sentence.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not necessarily. There may be an appeal; there may be pardon. Does the Honourable Member object to leave being granted?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As objection has been taken to leave being granted, those Honourable Members who are in favour of leave being granted will rise in their seats.

(Less than 25 Honourable Members rose.)

As less than 25 Members have risen, leave is being refused.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received another notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee but I received it after I had taken my seat. It cannot be moved today.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Can I move it tomorrow, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot say that now. The Honourable Member can take his chance.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE CIVIL DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. N. V. H. Symons (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Civil Defence is concerned, during the financial year, 1943-44."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Civil Defence is concerned, during the financial year, 1943-44."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, it is proposed that the Assembly should elect only three Members, but there are four organised parties in this House at the present moment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): The Muslim League Party is not interested.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Even if the Muslim League Party is not interested, there are three other Parties and there are the unattached Members. I suggest therefore that number three be raised to five.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Sir, in previous years the Muslim League Party was not interested in this Committee and this year too it is not going to take part in this Committee at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Government Member accept the suggestion that the number should be increased to five?

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: If the House wishes five Members, we will accept that number.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Civil Defence is concerned, during the financial year, 1943-44."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE CONVENTION REGARDING THE RAILWAY FINANCE.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, nine Members to serve with the Honourable the War Transport and Finance Members and the Financial Commissioner, Railways as a Committee to consider

matters arising out of clause (iv) of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly on 2nd March, 1943, amending the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution, dated 20th September, 1924, and to report in the course of the Session preceding the Budget Session 1944."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, nine Members to serve with the Honourable the War Transport and Finance Members and the Financial Commissioner, Railways as a Committee to consider matters arising out of clause (iv) of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly on 2nd March, 1943, amending the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution, dated 20th September, 1924, and to report in the course of the Session preceding the Budget Session 1944."

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, on a point of information. I would like the Honourable Member to inform the House what was the number of the members of the Committee that considered the original question of separation of the Railway Finances from the General Revenue.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot recall off-hand, but in 1924, it was first discussed by the Standing Finance Committee and also by the Central Advisory Committee and then referred to a small Special Committee. I am not in a position to give the exact number of Members of that Committee. As the House wanted a special Committee, I discussed this matter with Leaders of various Parties informally and this Resolution is the result of those discussions.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there are two important points to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Members as these points are not clear from the Resolution. Number one is: whether the discussion on the amendment of this Convention will be limited as a war emergency measure, that is, only a temporary Convention which should be in force during the war, or whether it is intended that we should consider amendment of this Convention not only for war time but as a permanent measure till the Assembly decides otherwise. The second point which is not clear is: will the discussion be limited to one aspect of the Convention or it will be extended to other problems which are raised in the Convention itself. For example, I would very much like this Committee consider clause 2 of the Convention which is really a very important clause.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What is clause 2?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Clauses (2) and (3) are:

"2. The contribution shall be based on the capital at charge and working results of commercial lines, and shall be a sum equal to one per cent, on the capital at charge of commercial lines (excluding capital contributed by Companies and Indian States) at the end of the penultimate financial year plus one-fifth of any surplus profits remaining after payment of this fixed return, subject to the condition that, if in any year railway revenues are insufficient to provide the percentage of one per cent on the capital at charge surplus profits in the next or subsequent years will not be deemed to have accrued for purposes of division until such deficiency has been made good.

The interest on the capital at charge of, and the loss in working, strategic lines shall be borne by general revenues and shall consequently be deducted from the contribution so calculated in order to arrive at the net amount payable from railway to general revenues, each year.

(3) Any surplus remaining after this payment to general revenues shall be transferred to a railway reserve; provided that if the amount available for transfer to the railway reserve exceeds in any year three crores of rupees only two-thirds of the excess over three crores shall be transferred to the railway reserve and the remaining one-third shall accrue to general revenues."

I want to know whether we will be at liberty to discuss the Convention as a whole or we will be allowed to discuss matters arising out of clause (iv). I would very much like to know what is the scope of this clause. I request that the scope of the Committee should be widened. We should be able to discuss every aspect of the Convention and should not confine ourselves to the distribution of profits which have been arrived at by one particular method of calculation. The particular method of calculation should also be considered by this Committee. I hope the Honourable Member would give facilities to this Committee to discuss every aspect of the Convention, as it is not clear from the

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

Resolution whether the scope of enquiry will be limited to one clause or it will be at liberty to discuss the whole Convention of 1924. Sir, as a Committee is to be appointed, it is very desirable that this Committee should have the fullest possible facilities to discuss the matter entirely. In the first instance when was passed the Convention of 1924, it was clearly understood that from time to time the House will review the working of that Convention. It is the first occasion that a Committee has been appointed to consider the Convention of 1924, that is, after 17 years—17 years is a very long period—it is therefore very desirable that according to the terms which were arrived at in September, 1924, a Committee of the House should first examine the working of the Convention of 1924 and as a result of their deliberations they should recommend to the Assembly what modifications, if any, should be made in that Convention. Probably, it is just possible that we may suggest a kind of temporary amendment for war period in view of the enormous profits that we are having in the Railways during war time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member wish to discuss the whole subject now?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I want that the terms of reference should be wide enough to permit us to discuss every aspect and every point raised in the Convention of 1924.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): Mr. President, as has been pointed out by my Honourable friend Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad this is a very momentous committee in which many points are to be discussed and sifted. I am one of the oldest members of the Committee. I was present at the first Convention when it came off in the year 1924.

An Honourable Member: What was the number of Members?

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: The number of Members, of course, I do not know. So far as I can recollect the number of Members of the Committee set up to discuss this point was greater than nine. Irrespective of that fact, may I remind the Honourable Members of this House that this being a very important Committee number nine will not serve the purpose. This is a very important Committee involving so many financial questions to be decided by them. Therefore, I hope the Member in charge will not oppose my suggestion that the number should be raised at least to fifteen.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, my Honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad said that he has seen the working of the Convention for the last seventeen years and therefore he is entitled to have his say in the matter. Syed Murtuza Sahib claims more and says that he knows the Convention from the date of its birth. Sir, my claim is still greater. I was present when it was conceived. I have seen its birth and its growth ever since. Therefore, I have a right to say something. Last time it was considered by the Standing Finance Committee and by the Central Advisory Committee. This time we have not got the benefit of that consideration and still Government are putting up a smaller number on the Committee. In view of the depleted condition of the House number nine . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Twelve, there are official members also.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I notice that the Honourable the Finance and the War Transport Members and the Financial Commissioner Railways are there along with the rest. In view of the depleted condition of the House, the number is not less. But the House is evincing so much interest in this question where crores of rupees are involved and in view of the fact that practically the Convention is set at naught during the last 19 years to a large extent in actual working. I think it should be reviewed with more consideration and care. I am not anxious that it should be nine or ten or twelve, but I do say that the subject matter is an important one and it deserves to be considered by a larger body than the one proposed. My Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad has

put into my hands the copy of the Debate which took place in this House on 3rd March 1924. There I find that the number of Members, including the officials, was 19. I therefore suggest that there is no harm in your increasing the present strength by adding two or three more. I suggest that the non-official Members should be 12 and including the Officials the Committee will consist of 15 Members.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that it is only a suggestion and not an amendment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I will make one suggestion. It was already said that formerly this Convention was considered by the Central Advisory Committee for Railways and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways also. It has not been considered by these two Committees this time. Only a small Committee of 12 is suggested. I, therefore suggest that the Members of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways or the Members of the Central Advisory Committee for Railways might be co-opted with this Committee.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, we received notice of this Resolution no doubt a few days ago, but the Assembly office was closed on account of holidays and therefore we could not send notice of any amendment to this Resolution. I hope the Chair would permit me to move an amendment to increase the number of Members of this Committee. I move that the number of Members be increased from nine to fifteen.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, with regard to the first two points made by my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, I could not quite grasp all the points that he was making from the book from which he was reading. But I gather that what he asked for was that there should be a general survey of the financial conditions of the Convention and that it should not be limited to war time arrangements. Well, Sir, the Resolution as drafted requires the Committee to consider all matters arising out of clause (iv) of the Resolution of March 2nd and that in itself gives the Committee a very wide scope. It is the intention that the Committee shall make a general survey of the working of the Convention, of the Depreciation Fund and the general relations between general finance and railway finance.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Do you refer to clause (iv) of the Convention or the Resolution?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Of the Resolution which was before Honourable Members. I think therefore that the Honourable Member will be satisfied that the scope of the Committee will be sufficiently wide. I myself propose to place before the Committee an agenda covering the main points for discussion, and the Committee can then discuss that and we can decide whether it should be widened or not.

With regard to the other point raised, namely the size of the Committee, I have discussed this with Party Leaders and they have agreed with the Resolution in the form in which it has been placed before the House, that is to say the Party Leaders have agreed that the Committee should consist of twelve Members as defined in the Resolution. The number allows for a balance between the Parties and I hope that figure will be agreed to. This Committee has got to do a good deal of very intensive, close work in connection with the financial clauses, the depreciation fund and so on, and it is therefore desirable that it should be a small working body, and for work of this sort, the smaller the body, the better. I hope when the Members are elected, the House will elect the most expert people that they can to this Committee in order to give this very important question the intensive study which it deserves and which, in my opinion can best be carried out by a small Committee, not exceeding twelve in number. That being the case, I hope the House will not press the point that the number should be increased. There will be other opportunities for the House to discuss this matter in future when the Committee has reported.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will you co-opt the Members of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am sorry I did not answer that point. The Standing Finance Committee for Railways consists of eleven Members and if we were to co-opt the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, then it would make the total an unwieldy Committee for the intensive work which we hope to carry through.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I suggest that you can reduce the number of this Committee, say, to five so that you can include the Members of the Railway Standing Finance Committee as *ex-officio* Members. This will come to 16 Members. That will be more convenient, because both the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and this Committee will have to consider the matter. I suggest only five more.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer again to the original procedure which I proposed: it was that the Standing Finance Committee should examine this subject and report to the House and that the House should then appoint a Committee consisting of say the Leaders of Parties or another Expert Committee to examine this subject. I put forward that proposal, but then the House rejected it. The House said that they preferred a working committee of this sort. I think, Sir, having agreed to this course, we should adhere to the procedure which is embodied in this Resolution.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Two suggestions have been made, one to increase the number from 12 to 15 and the other to co-opt the Members of the Railway Standing Finance Committee

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There must be an end to this discussion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is he willing to increase the number from 12 to 15?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He adheres to nine.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, nine, plus three official Members.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct nine Members to serve with the Honourable the War Transport and Finance Members and the Financial Commissioner Railways as a Committee to consider matters arising out of clause (iv) of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly on 2nd March, 1943, amending the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution, dated 20th September, 1924, and to report in the course of the Session preceding the Budget Session 1944."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of elections of Members for the Standing Committee for the Department of Civil Defence and the Committee appointed to consider the Convention regarding the Railway Finance, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Thursday, the 25th March, 1943, and that the elections, if necessary, will take place on Tuesday, the 30th March, 1943. The elections, which will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M., will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 26—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,89,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,89,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the

year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29A—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,20,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,20,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—POLICE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Police'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Police'."

Adequate Representation of Muslims in additional Appointments.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,85,000, in respect of 'Police' be reduced by Rs. 100'."

Sir, Rs. 1,49,86,000 is going to be given to the provinces for additional appointments in the Police. In this connection, I simply wish to draw the attention of the Department and request the Honourable Member in charge to ask the various Provincial Governments to consider the claims of the Mussalmans in matters of additional appointments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,86,000, in respect of 'Police' be reduced by Rs. 100'."

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): In this connection, I wish to ask the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us what the constitutional position is as regards his generous contribution to the provinces for employing additional police for some purposes. I am not concerned with what object this additional police was to be employed, but under the constitutional law, the law and order are the sole responsibility of Provincial Governments and, as such, the implication is that all the charges in connection with the maintenance of law and order are to be borne by the provinces. Why should the Central Government go out of their way and contribute, or grant subsidies to the Provincial Governments for the purposes of doing that duty which, according to the Constitution, is the sole responsibility of the provinces? In the memorandum that he has circulated to us, he has stated the constitutional position to be what I am submitting for the information of the House. Am I to understand, Sir, that this additional contribution given to the provinces, without the provinces having asked them for this help, is due to the fact that certain circulars have been issued in connection with the last disturbances by the Central Government laying down a certain line of policy to be followed by the provinces? Is this contribution a sort of temptation offered to the Provincial Governments to carry

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

out the mandate of the Central Government in putting down the disturbances? If this is so, the position would be that the Central Government denies the Provincial Governments the right of that autonomous self-Government which is granted by the Government of India Act 1935. Why should the Central Government be generous enough to make this contribution to a department which is the sole responsibility of the provinces? I, therefore, say that the House should not pass that portion of the grant which has been made for this purpose—I think, it is Rs. 1,08,00,000 to the provinces. This Rs. 1,08,00,000 should not be granted to the Honourable the Finance Member for the purpose because the purpose is two-fold injurious: In the first place, it curbs the independent spirit of the Provincial Governments; and in the second place, it is an attempt on behalf of the Central Government to bribe the Provincial Governments to carry out their policy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this particular question was discussed in the Finance Committee and I also raised this question there and I discussed it separately when the attempt was made by the Provincial Government to open a school at Aligarh. My Honourable friend did not exactly understand the position. We have been complaining about the use of Martial Law. We have been complaining all the time that the military forces ought not to be used in the administration of the country. Therefore, they are now following a scheme in which they have a special police which they call 'Military Police' and it will be under the civil administration and not under military administration and this Police will very largely be employed in the administration of law and order.

Sardar Sant Singh: At whose responsibility?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My Honourable friend says the responsibility of maintaining law and order in the provinces lies with the Provincial Governments, but that is not the point which I am discussing. There are many things which are the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. Take the case of education, for instance. The Government of India have been giving grants in all these matters which are really the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. The point is that the Central Government is very often asked to depute the military for the maintenance of law and order. How, in that case, it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government? I admit the proposition of my friend, Sardar Sant Singh, that the Central Government should never lend any military for the maintenance of law and order. But that is not the case.

Sardar Sant Singh: The Constitution provides for that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Therefore, when we can make use of the military police for the maintenance of law and order—there is a proposal to train special police which will work under the civil administration and which will take away this work from the military authorities altogether—your chances of martial law will be minimised. I may also tell the Honourable Member that this scheme has nothing to do with the troubles that arose in connection with the affairs which developed after the 8th August 1942. This is entirely a different proposal, viz., to have military police, and it has no connection with the disturbances in 1942. Therefore, this is a help which is exceedingly useful and ought to be given to the Provinces, because the Provinces in their budgets never provided for the training of military police

Sardar Sant Singh: Did the Provinces ask for this help?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I know the Finance Department will not give money to a person unless he asks for it. The Finance Department knows how to refuse, but never knows how to give without being asked.

Sardar Sant Singh: You are evading the issue.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I am not quite clear whether my Honourable friend, Mr. Sant Singh, is raising a purely constitutional point or whether he is attempting to raise a point of policy. As regards the purely constitutional point, I would refer him to sub-section (2) of section 150 of the Government of India Act, which says that the Federation or a Province may

make grants for any purpose notwithstanding that the purpose is not one with respect to which the Federal or the Provincial Legislature, as the case may be, may make laws. In other words, although the constitution provides for a fairly hard and fast delimitation of the legislative powers of the Central and the Provinces, it also provides that there may be finance provided for either purpose by either the Centre or the Provinces. So that the Centre can come to the aid of the Provinces, and the Provinces in certain respects can come to the aid of the Centre.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I at this stage interrupt. I do not deny your right to come to the aid of a Province. I deny your right to give that aid without there being any necessity for it or by offering a bribe to the Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I quite understand the Honourable Member's point and he is simply wrong on the facts. 'The position is that in the situation as it then existed, there was consultation between the Centre and the Provinces. Now as always happens in regard to such consultation, the Provinces are apt to say: 'Well, we admit that the existing arrangements are not satisfactory, but we do not see how we, with our limited capacity, would be able to improve it to the required standard'. At that stage it is surely open to the Centre to say: 'Well, you consider this matter on its merits, and for the moment exclude the financial aspect. When we have decided what should be the proper standard, we will then consider how the arrangement should be financed.' That of course implies that if the finance required is beyond the capacity of the Provincial Government, the Centre may be prepared to come to their assistance, and that is exactly what happened in the present case. There were consultations and as a result the Centre has agreed to come to the assistance of the Provinces in accordance with the limitations of their financial capacity.'

(Mr. K. C. Neogy then rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is too late. The Honourable the Finance Member has already replied to it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,86,000, be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 31—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,000, be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,000, be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

Attitude of Departments towards Muslims in matters of Services.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,000, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage', be reduced by Rs. 100."

I find that a considerable amount is going to be given to this department. I will confine myself to the additional grant. From the various questions put on the floor of this House, we have come to know that the position of Mussalmans in the matter of service in this department amounts almost to nil. I remember that out of 252 officers getting Rs. 500 and above, there were only one or two Muslims. Therefore, I am justified in saying that the position of Muslims in this department is nil. This is a very important department, particularly in these days of war. I thought it proper to draw the attention of the authorities to take into consideration the fact that when they were appointing persons they should also consider the claims of the Muslims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,000, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage', be reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I received a memorandum from some friends in Calcutta drawing my attention to certain administrative matters in the affairs of the Port of Calcutta. I do not know exactly who is the Member in charge of this due to the recent changes of portfolios. But the papers are still lying with me and I think that the matters referred to in that memorandum require close examination. I do not like to discuss those points on the floor of this House, but I hope that the Honourable gentleman in charge of this Department may look into the complaints which this memorandum raises, and which appear to be very reasonable, as they do need close scrutiny.

Mr. T. S. Pillay (Government of India: Nominated Official): I did not follow closely the remarks made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani, but I understood him to say that the Mussalmans in the Port Trust were not adequately represented. If that is his point I should like to remind the Honourable Member that the Port Trust is an independent body. It has got its own powers and acts under them. There are statutory powers. As regards the supplementary grant itself, it will be seen from the note appended

12 NOON. to the demand that the demand is mainly due to payment of grant to Port Commissioners, Calcutta, in connection with the construction of two camps for stevedore labour, more repairs due mainly to cyclone damage, rise in prices of provisions, stores and coal and increase in temporary staff and dearness allowance.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: It is also due to pay of officers.

(Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is too late. The Government Member has replied.

The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,000, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage', be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—14.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Bhutto, Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh.
Choudhury, Moulvi Muhammad Hossain.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Ghiasuddin Mr. M.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muham-
mad

Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali, Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—49.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Aiyar, Mr. T. S. Sankara.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Ambegaonkar, Mr. K. G.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Caroe, Mr. O. K.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Gray, Mr. B. L.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwar Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar
Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shamsul-Ulema.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Laljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.

Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Noon, The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz
Khan.
Pai, Mr. A. V.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Pillay, Mr. T. S.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam
Kadir Muhammad.
Spear, Dr. T. G. P.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Symons, Mr. N. V. H.
Thakur Singh, Major.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Vijai Prasad Singh, Maharaja Bahadur
Ram Ran.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I had already spoken on the last motion and therefore I could not speak again on that motion. This motion is a similar one to the last one. We did not like the issue raised by the Honourable Secretary in charge of the Commerce Department that we in this House could not criticise any institution which has been created by a separate Act and which is really an independent institution. This is an important principle which he has raised and we challenged it by dividing the House last time. We have repeatedly exercised this right. In the case of the Bangalore Institute of Science there was mismanagement and the question was raised on the floor of the House. An enquiry was made by the Government as a result into the affairs of the Institute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What the Honourable Member is saying has no relation to Lighthouses and Lightships.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is also an independent thing and we have the right to criticise and I do not like that the Honourable Member . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Nobody contested that right regarding Lighthouses and Lightships.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We are just opposing the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think that has been questioned at all. Ports and Pilotage is a different matter; it is in charge of Port Commissioners.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I had no chance to reply to the point raised by my Honourable friend except when I could get up again, and since he has raised the issue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The argument that was advanced by the Government Member regarding Ports and Pilotage was that they were administered by the Port Commissioners which is a self-governing body and therefore Members could not criticise their actions as regards communal representation. But does that apply to Lighthouses and Lightships?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Lighthouses are administered by the same body.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know whether Government takes that view.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No. As I understand the position, Lighthouses and Lightships are administered directly by the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Botanical Survey'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Botanical Survey'."

Revision of Pay of Quinine Officer.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000, in respect of 'Botanical Survey' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The purpose of my moving this cut motion is only to know why at this time when every kind of economy is being practised, a revision of pay is made. I want to know on what ground the Quinine Officer requires his salary to be revised.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000, in respect of 'Botanical Survey' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): The Principal Quinine Officer is an officer of the Government of Bengal and in peace time he performed certain duties for the Central Government for which he received from central revenues a special pay of Rs. 100. His main pay was borne by the Government under which he serves, namely, the Government of Bengal. With the entry of Japan into the war and the arising of difficult problems affecting quinine, the Central Government have made much greater demands on this officer's services and increased his responsibilities. The matter has two aspects. Not only is he working very much harder than he worked before, but he is doing a good deal more for the Central Government than he has done in the past, and indeed we wanted to take him over as a wholetime officer but the Bengal Government were unwilling to give him up. It has been agreed that his pay should be raised and that the Central Government, instead of paying him a special pay of Rs. 100 a month only, should share his pay with the Provincial Government as we share his time. That is the full explanation of why more of his pay falls on the Central Government. I hope in view of that explanation the Honourable Member will withdraw his cut motion.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In view of the explanation just given I beg leave to withdraw my cut motion.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Zoological Survey'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 55,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,84,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Geological Survey'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,84,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39—METEOROLOGY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 42—MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Medical Services'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 43—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Public Health'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 45—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The point which I wanted to raise on the last occasion was out of order because it was under the direct administration of the Government, that is, the question of Lighthouses. But this one is a grant to an autonomous body, and my Honourable friend has raised the issue on the floor of this House that we in this House cannot criticise the action or mismanagement of an autonomous body. I challenge this view. We are really the custodians of the public funds.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Who has challenged the right of the Honourable Member to discuss this motion, if it is in order otherwise?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I will oppose the policy if the thing is admitted. We are really the custodians of the public interest and we are looking after the contribution by the taxpayers and it is our duty to see that the money given to any institution or society for any purpose whatsoever is really used in the best interests of the country and there should be no mismanagement. So, whenever there is the question of grant coming in, we have a right to criticise the working of that particular body, though it may have been created by an Act of the Legislature and however autonomous

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must remember that this is a supplementary demand. He cannot go into questions of policy or the general administration of the department. He must confine himself to this particular sum which is wanted. He can discuss the question whether it should or should not be granted. The Honourable Member cannot discuss the whole policy of the department.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I oppose this demand, because the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is now an autonomous body and is existing under a certain Act. The attitude of this Council is very very inimical to the Muslims of India. There are lots of experts among the Muslims but

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.]

if you compare the experts appointed by this Council with the number of Muslim experts

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not a new service at all. The Honourable Member must remember that. This is merely a supplementary demand for an additional sum. That is all.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I want to submit this. This Council has got nothing to do with the Central Revenues. An Act was passed and under that certain cess is being levied and out of that cess this body is being maintained.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is a question which ought to have been raised at the time of the General Budget. It cannot be taken up now.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: There is no such provision in the original Budget. This body is doing as it likes and there is no control

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am saying that this Council does not deserve the grant given by this House, because it does not follow any rule or regulation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to understand my ruling. My ruling is that the Honourable Member cannot go into the policy which has led to the establishment of this department or the general administration of this department. He can only discuss the question whether this additional sum should be granted or not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: On a point of order. If this additional sum is due to some maladministration, then cannot we discuss it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If this one lakh has arisen owing to any definite mismanagement then the Honourable Member can discuss it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I want to submit that whenever any demand comes up before this House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have given my ruling. The Honourable Member must accept it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I bow to your ruling. I am not disputing your ruling. I am saying that whenever any demand comes up before this House, the Members of the House will be in order to impose conditions, before sanctioning the grant.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No amendment has been made or even given notice of. He must remember that a supplementary demand stands on a different footing from the main demand. He can oppose this demand, if he likes.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am opposing the demand.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: With your permission, I would merely like to say two or three sentences by way of explanation of the attitude of Government which seems to have given rise to misunderstanding. I do not think anybody on these Benches would claim that because a body is a local self-governing body, therefore this House, at the time of voting finance or grant to that body, is not in order in discussing certain aspects of the administration. The only point to which I would draw the attention of the House is that by legislation this House has devolved certain duties and responsibilities on that body, that it has delegated to that body some of the powers which it possessed and to that extent it is undesirable that they should interfere unduly with the administration or the exercise of the powers which they themselves have delegated to such a body.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): That may be true but

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot argue now.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of the 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 52—BROADCASTING.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 54—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 56—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 57—CENSUS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Census'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Census'."

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member to inform me whether this amount of Rs. 2,000 includes the supplying of extracts from the last census to the Members of the Assembly. So far, the Members of the Assembly have not received any extract from the last census, which is a very important reference book to the Members. I would like to know whether this sum or sums were spent for the purpose of supplying copies of extracts to the Members of the Assembly.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell (Home Member): Sir, the note below the demand, as printed, explains exactly how this demand has arisen. It says:

"The excess is due to a contribution made to the Lucknow University in connection with the publication of a monograph by Dr. D. N. Majumdar of that University entitled 'Monographic studies of six primitive tribes in the U. P.'"

Sardar Sant Singh: But what about my question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 58—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 59—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 60—CURRENCY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Currency'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 61—MINT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Mint'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Mint'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I want to make a submission regarding this demand. Although much agitation was made in this House and the Government were also prepared to mitigate the inconvenience of the public regarding small coins

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All this has been discussed threadbare.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I simply want to draw the attention of the Finance Member that although he gave us an assurance that that inconvenience will be removed, we are still feeling the pinch in the matter of small coins. When we, the Members of the Assembly, go to cash our bills and if we want change for a few rupees, we are given change only for Rs. 8 and not a single pice more. In the market also we are not getting small coins. This inconvenience should be removed by the Finance Department.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, as I explained in the House the other day, we are doing everything we can within the capacity of the Mints. The situation is improving in certain parts of the country and I hope that before very much longer the situation will be better throughout the country as a whole. But in any case I would submit that in order to improve the situation, it is necessary to vote more money for the increased manufacture of coins.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member know that pice coins are being used as washers?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I also raised this question and drew the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the Standing Finance Committee should have an opportunity to discuss this particular question because we know from our personal experience the grievances of the public. I

think it is very desirable that the Finance Member should know the extent of the difficulties and miseries which we find in the country on account of the absence of small coins. The Honourable Member will, I hope, give a chance to the Standing Finance Committee to discuss this matter and attempt to remove the sufferings of the public.

(Maulana Zafar Ali Khan rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow the Honourable Member to speak. The Government Member has already replied.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 62—CIVIL WORKS

The Honourable Sir Jérémy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): May I ask a question, Sir? I see that a sum of Rs. 32,70,000 has been spent at Dehra Dun. What has happened to the buildings in Calcutta? How is the Government going to use the buildings in Calcutta? That is one point. It means that 37 lakhs worth of construction must have been left in Calcutta and something must have been done to those buildings. Have they been sold or have they been given to the Government of Bengal? If so, what amount has been received by the Government of India? Then, there is another item of Rs. 2,36,000 for temporary office accommodation for the Supply Department. Will these temporary buildings be pulled down after the war? Then, there is a provision of Rs. 4,45,000 for the office accommodation for the D. G. Supply in Bharatpur, Jamnagar plot. What will happen to it after the war? Then, there is a Mess for 150 officers. Is that also a temporary building?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): These are all temporary buildings and certainly the Reconstruction Committee will deal with the question as to what is to be done with these buildings.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, if I might refer to the first point raised by my Honourable friend, I am afraid there is a slip in the printed note placed before the House. The Survey Buildings at Dehra Dun are not entirely "non-residential" buildings. There are some residential buildings also. The fact is that at the time the Japanese came into the war about 50 per cent. of our map reproduction machinery and highly trained establishment was in areas—I do not wish to particularise—which were liable to be affected by enemy action, and we were advised by the General Staff to make provision for them as quickly as possible elsewhere. This is not merely a matter of setting up buildings to house map production machinery and for administration in what is regarded as a safe area, but it was also very much a matter of keeping together a highly trained staff who, we feared, might disappear to their villages and towns in various provinces if they were subjected to continuous bombing in the areas where they were. So we brought them together at Dehra Dun and we had to bring their families too and that accounts for this very large figure spent on buildings there. A reference has been made to Calcutta and some of this establishment has undoubtedly moved from Calcutta. But the building there was already very much congested. It is still in partial occupation by the Mathematical Instruments Office which used to be under the Survey of India but is now under the Supply Department. I am afraid I am not in a position to say whether they have expanded into the part that we have vacated to the full extent, but I can find out.

The point however is that here at Dehra Dun we have had to provide both residential and office accommodation.

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

Those members of the staff have to be provided with accommodation who lived in their own houses in Calcutta.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Do you charge rent?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, we are charging rent.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: When does the Honourable Member propose to ask for another big grant to build similar buildings?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall not ask for any grant, because if the staff go back to Calcutta they will go to their own homes there.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 64—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 65—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 48,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 48,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 66—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 69—CIVIL DEFENCE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

New Appointments and Representation of Muslims.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000 in respect of 'Civil Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

This sum which is going to be granted consists almost of the amount of salaries for the additional appointments in this Department. In reply to a question put in this House, we came to know that 72 officers, who are called experts

Mr. N. V. H. Symons (Government of India: Nominated Official): May I interrupt the Honourable Member for a moment to say that I think he is under misapprehension. He seems to be considering that we are still dis-

cussing demand No. 16. We are actually discussing No. 69 in which the salary of the staff forms a small part of the grant.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Let me compare. On page 22 of the Schedule, I find:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Pay of officers | 2,09,500 |
| Pay of Establishment | 1,33,500 |
| Again under A. 3. | |
| Pay of officers | 1,24,300 |
| Pay of Establishment | 28,600 |
| Allowances, etc. | 51,000 |
| Again under A. 4. | |
| Pay of Establishment | 20,900 |
| Other charges | 2,35,800 |

So, a lot of money is going to be provided for pay of officers and establishment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can go on with his argument.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: The other day the demand which was moved was in connection with the Department controlling these appointments and I wanted to draw their attention and here I want to draw the attention of appointing authority who has paid no regard in this matter of appointments to the suitability of persons who have been appointed. In reply to a question put in this House we came to know that persons having no qualifications or persons from outside India, say, Burma and other places, many of them happen to be evacuees—their case is given preference over the cases of those who are sons of the soil. Not only this, but those people who come from outside some of whom have no requisite qualifications also. That being the case, we have got legitimate grounds against such appointments. I think, if there are people who possess equally requisite qualifications in this country, they should be given preference. In certain cases persons having no qualifications have been given preference over the people of this country. The only plea of the Government is that there was no time to consult and no time to advertise, but I say this plea does not hold good at least in the case of this Department. What the Department has done, I do not say that Government should undo that, but what I say is that they should bear in mind that in future these things should not be repeated and due regard and due advertisement in respect of all vacancies should be given and these vacancies should be filled in by the people of the country, if they are competent. If Government is going to take incompetent people, then why not take incompetent people of this country. Sir, you will find from the reply given in this House that out of 72 higher appointments only 37 persons have blitz qualifications. But if we count the numbers correctly, the number comes to 33 and not 37. Out of these 72, twenty-nine happen to be Indians, and out of these 29, the poor Muslims got only three. So, in all the higher posts or lower posts or intermediate posts, whatever it may be, this Department has no regard at all for the minorities, particularly the Muslims. I thought it proper to urge this point through this cut motion because all the demand relates to new appointments and we are justified in putting forward the grievances of the people of this country in matters of appointment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000 in respect of 'Civil Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, in connection with this grant, I find on page 8 of the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on 13th March, 1943, item (ii) deals with increased expenditure on civic guards necessitated by increase in the strength of these in the Provinces in order to supplement regular police forces for maintaining peace and tranquillity amongst the civil population with a consequential increase in the Central Government's share of the same. May I know from the Honourable the Finance Member if this is a second attempt to enter by the back door the domain of the provincial Government sphere of activity? He was pleased to explain to my first objection that additional money was provided to the Provinces for the purpose of strengthening the police, that a certain arrangement had been arrived at

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

after consultation with the Provincial Governments by which the Government of India agreed to advance more money for strengthening the police. May I ask him now under what provisions of law he takes his stand now by offering money through the civil defence organisation which I suppose is the primary concern of the Government of India? If it is so, how is it that the Government of India interferes with the police arrangements of the Provinces for the purpose of maintenance of law and order? How can the Government of India justify the conversion of civic guards organisation which is under the Civil Defence Department, and as such controlled by the Central Government, into a supplementary police force provided for the Provinces? They say that civic guards have been provided not for that but for civil defence which is necessitated on account of war conditions in India. Civil Defence Department is under the direct control of the Government of India. It has a separate function relating to war measures. But herein money is provided for civic guards as a supplementary police force for the Provinces. So, there comes into existence two police forces, the first which is directly under the control and discipline of the Provincial Government and the second which is directly under the control probably of the Provincial Governments but subsidised and paid for by the Central Government. May I ask him how does he justify this expenditure, how does he ask for a grant for this purpose? This is the first point. In this connection, I want to say one word to my newly created Lieutenant Colonel of the army. I am sure he considered this when he passed the grant, and that is in order to avoid the military being called for suppression of civil disturbance in the Provinces. May I ask him why he takes it so lightly that the military should be called for quelling civil disturbances? That should be the only exceptional use of the military. The military is provided for the purpose of defending the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does it come under the demand?

Sardar Sant Singh: Because it is additional police, it comes under this demand. My Honourable friend gave the reason for the grant of this money as for the purpose of avoiding the expenses of calling the military to suppress civil disturbances. Probably in order to avoid the calling of the military for suppressing civil disturbance, my Honourable friend, the Lieut.-Col. of the Army was generous enough to grant this big sum to the Provinces so that his inconveniences may be saved.

Sir, in this connection, I want to draw attention to another point about this grant. On page 23 of the Supplementary Demands for Grants under head 'D', charges in England, the following items are given:

D.1. Secretary of State for India.

D.1(2). Miscellaneous.

D.2. High Commissioner for India.

D.2(1). Leave and Deputation salaries and sterling overseas pay.

D.2(2). Family allotments of pay of officers.

D.2(3). Other charges.

The House would like to know how these items come under Civil Defence Department expenditure, because no light is thrown in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. Nothing is given to show how they are connected with the Civil Defence Department. Are these allowances given to the Officers of the Civil Defence Department? I should like to know the details of these.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, the last speaker made a passing reference to me. May I just remind him that he has been elected here by my votes and therefore he will have to speak very carefully when he makes any reference to me. He will need my votes in future also.

As regards this particular question. I drew the attention of the Department last time that they should not be extravagant in their expenditure on this Department. There ought to be some economy. We see in Delhi that we spent money in constructing air raid shelters, ditches and so on, and then money

is spent in demolishing them. At Aligarh station, we spent a lot of money in erecting baffle walls in the railway station, now additional sums were spent in removing those walls. Of course, in these days, it is very desirable to economise money as much as possible. We should clearly think out before launching on any scheme of expenditure on a large scale. I dare say they have got only the experience of the United Kingdom before them. They try to imitate that experience in this country. But the situation here is quite different from that in the United Kingdom. I am not opposed to Civil Defence Department, but I object to the manner in which the Department spends money lavishly, first in constructing a building and then in demolishing the same within a short time. Money is required for the successful prosecution of the war and not in frittering away on useless expenditure.

As regards the point raised by my Honourable friend, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, I already said that the Civil Defence Department is an asylum for Burma evacuees. They get all the employment in this Department. That is the general impression in some quarters. We are led to believe that the posts are not necessary for the efficient carrying on of the administration, but it is simply to provide berths for these persons that these posts are created. Though we are in favour of this particular Department, yet we do beseech that the money should be carefully spent, on well thought out schemes, and the schemes should be launched only after carefully considering the cost.

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani, has raised a general charge against us of appointing a lot of incompetents who had no qualifications for the posts mainly people from outside India, when there were plenty of incompetents in India who could have been appointed. Sir, I will not take up the time of the House to explain in detail what we have done. We gave a good deal of information in answer to Starred Question No. 125 on the 17th of February and I will say this that we are prepared to explain fully and justify every individual appointment we have made at any time and at any place that the House desires, and if the House desires it this is a matter which can very suitably be taken up in our Standing Committee which is going to be constituted. There is no substance whatsoever in the rumour that we created posts in order to accommodate certain persons. We were not interested in the evacuees from Burma. There is no truth whatsoever that we have ever appointed anybody who was not qualified for the post with a qualification of one sort or another, or that we appointed anybody who was not the best man available at the time.

Sardar Sant Singh: Out of how many applicants for that post?

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: At the time when most of these appointments were made, the Member in Charge of the Department was the late Dr. Raghavendra Rao and having read the eulogies in the press on him after he died, I think, it ill becomes the people of this country to say that he discriminated against Indians. He approved of every one of these appointments and we are prepared to justify them.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan: Rural): It is not a fair argument.

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: I am very sorry if it is not a fair argument, but it happens to be a fact. . . .

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: It cannot be.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is not a fair argument.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): You have to go to the dead for testimony!

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: . . . And if we are to be particularly stigmatized for not having appointed enough Muslims, then, in our turn, we say to the Muslims 'Why don't you ask for appointments?'. When there are vacancies, Muslims simply do not apply, and if rumours are going to be bandied about, I may say that there is a rumour that owing to the general attitude of the Muslim League towards Civil Defence and the activities of the Muslim League Committee which toured India to set up a parallel Muslim organization, Muslims

[Mr. N. V. H. Symons.]

with an eye on the future are afraid of offending the Muslim League and so do not apply.

The position in our Department at the moment is that we have registers of applications for officers' posts and clerical posts separately. There are 67 names registered for officers' posts out of whom 8 are Muslims, and for clerical posts there are 54 names registered in all out of whom only 5 are Muslims.

Sardar Sant Singh: How many Sikhs?

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: I cannot say. And it does not even follow that all those 8 and 5 candidates respectively are in any way suited for appointment, so that our difficulty is extremely great, and if the Muslim League does want to see that Muslims are getting their proper share, instead of boycotting our Standing Committee let them nominate somebody to look after the interests of Muslims. Let them see that names of good Muslims who can be appointed for civil defence in their own country are sent to this Department for employment, and we shall be very grateful.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. President. If there was any doubt regarding the incompetency in the Civil Defence Department, the speech that has just been made by the Honourable Member must have confirmed every Member of this House in his opinion. He had to go to the dead to get the testimony for the work of his department. Unfortunately, Dr. Raghavendra Rao cannot come forward and say what he did.

Sir, the Honourable Member has levelled a charge against the Muslim League saying that the Muslims do not come forward to join his department because of the policy of the All-India Muslim League. I wonder if when he was making that statement he realized that he was paying the greatest compliment to the solidarity and the influence of the All-India Muslim League and he was giving by his speech a direct lie to the claim that is made by the Government that in spite of the Muslim League the Mussalmans are helping them wholeheartedly in this war effort. Mr. President, it is not the policy of the Muslim League to prevent individuals from joining the various services in the Departments of the Government of India, or, for the matter of that, of any Government, and I am afraid the argument which the Honourable Member has advanced is indeed a very poor one. If that were so, then there would not have been any Muslims in the Army, there would not have been any Muslims in so many other departments that have been set up for the prosecution of this war. Therefore, the reason is not that the Muslims do not come forward. The reason is that the Civil Defence Department do not take Muslims in their services. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend, Mr. Nairang, just tells us that he could give a number of names of Muslims who have been rejected by the Department and who had applied and who were highly qualified. Therefore, Sir, I am afraid that the Honourable Member has failed to make out a case for the paucity of Mussalmans in the Civil Defence Department and it would not do for any spokesman of the Government to come forward before this Honourable House and make such lame excuses.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I merely wish to deal very briefly with the points raised by my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh. The head of 'Civil Defence' is merely an accounting head and the grants in respect of civic guards have been put under the general head of 'Civil Defence', but that does not mean that civic guards are part of the Central organization for civil defence.

There is one other point which I would like to make and that is that civil defence is not necessarily a Central subject at all. In fact, on the contrary many of the activities which fall under Civil Defence are purely provincial subjects, and, therefore, in this sphere, as in the case of the Police, there is scope for grants from the Central Government to the Provinces in order to supplement their resources in carrying out their own duties. There is no question of under-mining their independence. I do not think the Honourable Member feels that his independence is undermined if he receives some remuneration for services which he considers it is his duty to perform.

Sardar Sant Singh: For political purposes?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000, in respect of 'Civil Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—17.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Bhutto, Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh.
Choudhury, Moulvi Muhammad Hossain.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Ghiasuddin Mr. M.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muham-
mad.
Kameluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Laljee, Mr. Hooseinbhy A.

Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muham-
mad.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali, Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—40.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Aiyar, Mr. T. S. Sankara.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Ambegaonkar, Mr. K. G.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Caroe, Mr. O. K.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Gray, Mr. B. L.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwar Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar
Sir.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
Maxwell The Honourable Sir Reginald.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Pai, Mr. A. V.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Pillay, Mr. T. S.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam
Kadir Muhammad.
Spear, Dr. T. G. P.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Symons, Mr. N. V. H.
Thakur Singh, Major.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was negatived.

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. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Transport of Hospital Train.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000, in respect of 'Civil Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Under this demand I find there is mention of a hospital train. But I am told that it is only for the provision of a few carriages. This will not do. If the idea is to help the injured people, a sufficient number of carriages should be provided: one or two carriages will not do. Therefore, I thought it proper to draw the attention of the authorities through this cut motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000, in respect of 'Civil Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: Sir, I think I can in a very few words remove the misapprehensions of my Honourable friend. We are not relying on one hospital train to cope with the whole of the possible air raid casualties in India. We have made this one Civil Defence Department hospital train, which will carry 202 people at one time.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How many carriages?

Mr. N. V. H. Symons: The important thing from your point of view is that it can carry 202 patients—injured people. I cannot tell you the exact number of carriages: it includes, in addition to the wards, a dispensary, kitchen, carriages for doctors and staff and all that sort of thing. But we entered into a reciprocal arrangement with the military authorities for the use of military

[Mr. N. V. H. Symons.]

hospital trains too, if they were not at any moment being used for military casualties; and in addition to that, we have worked out arrangements by which special rakes—as they are called—of upper class carriages will be assembled quickly; and except that you have not got the doctors and the nursing staff and the dispensary, these, for carrying casualties, are as good as a hospital train. Not only that, but arrangements have been made by which in the guard's van of every train there will be a number of canvas slings; and these slings can be used so that stretchers can be brought on a train and slung in the train, so that any train can be used as a hospital train. These will be the emergency arrangements for taking patients for short distances; but with these arrangements for the more lightly wounded, I think that the Honourable Member will perhaps agree that we have gone rather further than is suggested by this mere one hospital train.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In view of the explanation given, I want to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw his motion?

(Voices: "Yes, yes.")

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

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,70,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 70—DELHI.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Delhi'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Delhi'."

Supervision and Re-organisation of Education.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000, in respect of 'Delhi' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I find from the schedule that this demand includes an amount for the re-organisation of secondary education and also for primary education. It is a matter for pleasure, no doubt, that Government is going to take steps to re-organise secondary as well as primary education here; but I think in such re-organisation certain things are required; as for instance, development of languages and the mode of imparting the education and religious instruction to the pupil students. Here in Delhi which has a population of over 2 lakhs of Muslims who are all Urdu-knowing, and in the whole of this province here there is only one Urdu-knowing officer, a Muslim; the other day I learnt that that only officer is going to be transferred and his place is not going to be filled up by another Muslim officer—I say here Muslims only because you know that the Muslims have their own culture, religion and their affinity for a particular language; and during recent years attention was being paid by the local administration towards the reorganisation of secondary as well as of primary education of Muslims. But it was under the supervision of this particular officer, and it will be very difficult to make progress regarding education of the sons and daughters of Muslims. I, therefore, think it is proper that if the transfer is required I do not like to stand in the way at all, but I will suggest that some Muslim officer from somewhere should be had to look after the interests of Muslims boys and girls and safeguard their interests relating to educational matters. The second thing I hear, subject to correction, is that the administration here in Delhi wants to curtail the period of giving a degree from four years to three years, and they want to make certain arrangements at the matriculation stage. I am not certain by what period they are going to increase the

pre-matriculation course. It is a good thing to curtail the period for giving a degree diploma, and this will be welcomed by other universities as well. I thank the Secretary of the Department for taking steps to introduce such a thing, which will be a guide to other universities also.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000 in respect of 'Delhi' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am glad to have the approval of my Honourable friend to our proposal to improve both the university and school education in Delhi, and this is one of the reasons for which we have had to ask for an extra grant. I understand that his cut motion was moved really on the first point raised in his speech. I am afraid that I am not in a position either to confirm or to deny what he has said about the Muslim officer in question. These appointments are made by the Chief Commissioner. The officer in question, I happen to know, belongs to the Punjab cadre and it may well be that he has reached the end of his time with us. But I will certainly undertake to pass on to the Chief Commissioner what my Honourable friend has said. I hope that in view of that he will withdraw his cut motion.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In view of the assurance given I beg leave to withdraw my cut motion. The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Non-appreciation of Police Services.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000 in respect of 'Delhi' be reduced by Rs. 100."

This sum is required in connection with the additional expenditure borne on account of police establishment during the last disturbance. I was here at that time i.e., in Delhi. I found that one officer of the police department, a Sub-Inspector, hurried to save the Accounts Clearing Office which was being burnt, with the result that he lost his life. The Chief Commissioner and his lady very much sympathised with the loss and wrote letters to the widow and sons of the deceased Sub-Inspector. It was expected that the Government would come to aid such people as an encouragement to others to do the duty entrusted to them by Government with unflinching courage. But it is an irony of fate that, though the Chief Commissioner recommended strongly for the appointment of the two sons,—one of them was reading at the time in the fourth year class and the other had passed the I. A. examination in the second division—in spite of that recommendation the police department turned a deaf ear. This is very regrettable and that is why I have thought it proper to urge this for the consideration of the Honourable the Home Member who is in charge of the portfolio here. May I add that the son who had passed the I. A. examination got a letter of appointment that he had been appointed from the 1st April, 1941, but his misfortune knew no bounds when he received another letter saying that he would have to appear before a selection board. When he went there, the recommendation had been ignored and he was not taken in for a small job, say, of an assistant sub-inspector carrying a salary of Rs. 30 or 40 a month, especially for a son of a father who gave his life in the defence of Government property. His claim was turned down on the plea that he was too young, although he had attained the minimum age required for entering the service. That was no excuse at all. The second son was also recommended, but he was not entertained only because he was one-fourth of an inch too short in the height. You may judge very well what will be the shortness of one-fourth of an inch, and that, for the appointment of an assistant sub-inspector carrying Rs. 30 to 40 a month, and with the qualification of a fourth year class student, and he might have received a degree had his father not died at the time? It is very regrettable that such a thing should happen here where the Central Government is situated. I hope that sympathetic consideration will be given to this case and that these two sons and the poor widow who are expected to get only Rs. 13-8-0 a month each—they are not getting it now, but they will get Rs. 13-8-0 a month as pension, and that will not suffice for a family of two widows and four sons and

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.]

two daughters. I move my cut motion and hope that what I have stated will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000 in respect of 'Delhi' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I have listened with much interest to my Honourable friend's account of the incident in question, and, of course, I am in general sympathy with his object in raising the question. I cannot naturally be expected to possess full details of the case now, but if my Honourable friend will supply me with particulars I shall certainly go into the details of the case.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

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

Defective Control of Price Control Staff.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000 in respect of 'Delhi' be reduced by Rs. 100."

By this motion, I want to raise the question of defective control of price control staff. I understand the staff which controls the prices of articles of food and other necessities is going to be strengthened. There is lot of complaint against this department and the less said about it the better. I submit that the staff which is in charge of price control should be reformed in a way which will remove the inconveniences felt by the public. When we came here in the beginning of the Session, there was no coal, no rice and no wheat flour and the black market was going on. We had lot of inconveniences.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): All this has been discussed on many occasions.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: But this is the proper place, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to these complaints.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000, in respect of 'Delhi' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. T. S. Pillay: We shall gladly bear in mind the suggestions made and shall convey them to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi who is in charge of the Price Control Department, so far as Delhi is concerned and I am sure he will give every consideration to the remarks made.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I beg to withdraw my motion.

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

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 75—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE).

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 28,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not charged to Revenue)'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 28,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not charged to Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND NO. 78—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,23,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,23,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 80—INTEREST FREE ADVANCES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Interest Free Advances'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Interest Free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 81—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,74,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,74,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, under the stress of this war budget, we are likely to overlook some of the important items of the supplementary demands. I was cursorily going through some of them during the last two or three days, this last item is not the least; it is very nearly equal in amount to almost all the preceding 47 items. When looking further into it, I feel that some observations made here by me might perhaps be of some use to the Honourable the Finance Member in his short term loan policy. I find that complaint has been frequently made—and some of it is quite justifiable—that the Reserve Bank of India and the Imperial Bank of India who enjoy our patronage are not always sufficiently helpful to us in our short term policy, sometimes not only are they not helpful but consciously or unconsciously they combine with other banks, in raising the market rate against us, with the result that when we have a big portfolio of the treasury bills, a difference in the interest rates of even an anna might make a substantial total difference at the end of the year. I have before me the rates of interest on the Treasury Bills during the six months from the month of April, 1942, to September, 1942. I find that, although in the month of March and April, perhaps on account of the brisk season and the greater demand for commercial, industrial and other purposes, the rate for temporary borrowings in the market was somewhat stiffer even when the brisk season was over, for instance, in May and even in June, the rate for temporary borrowing continued to be, to my mind, somewhat stiffer than it should have been. I would not expect that for three months Treasury Bills, we should be required to pay more than 12 annas even in the best of seasons; the internal bank rate is usually not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ or, it may be 2. If one bank can lend to another at that rate, it is only right that the State should be expected to borrow

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: At what rate does one bank lend to another?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2. At least that is my information. You are more directly connected with a big bank and if you correct me I shall accept the correction. Therefore, the wonder is that along with the slack season the borrowing rate did not decline as much as it should have.

3 P. M. In particular, in the month of September after a fair decline it again became stiffer at a time when all the circumstances pointed to the need and the possibility of a lower rate of borrowing. Sir, you will find that in the month of September the treasury bill rate was 6 annas and 6 pies per

[Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta.]

year per hundred. It went up next week to 7 annas and 9 pies and 7 annas and 10 pies and then, I understand, it went up to 9 annas and 10 pies. Therefore, in the course of 15 days the interest rate against us was raised by 50 per cent. by the banks. For temporary borrowing the banks charged us 50 per cent. more than they charged on the 1st September which requires a good deal of explanation. I am told that at that time the Government of England had paid a large amount to the Government of India and, therefore, they must have got a large number of currency notes against those payments. I understand further that the Government deposits in the Reserve Bank were also very large. If that was so, could not the Reserve Bank, which has such an elaborate machinery and which is our banker and, therefore, responsible to the taxpayer, indirectly though it may be, come to our assistance when there is plethora of money in the Banks? Banks themselves do not know what to do with their money. As everybody knows, the demand liabilities of the Scheduled Banks in December, November and October, 1942 and earlier consisted of a huge amount of something between 300 crores to 340 crores, which means that the demand liabilities of the Scheduled Banks has really increased by 250 per cent. since the war began. It was 140 crores before the war; it was 340 crores in December, 1942. So, they have got as much as 200 crores of rupees more in the course of three years to lend by way of temporary advance to Government. But in spite of the huge payments by the Government of England to this country, and this 200 crores of increase in the temporary demand liabilities of the Scheduled Banks and other means of ready finance on the 15th September or so the banks did raise the rates by 50 per cent. over the previous fortnight. From 6 annas and 6 pies it became 9 annas and 10 pies. Now, that was a small amount, but look at our portfolio of the treasury bills? We have 182 crores in the Government of India securities in the assets of the Reserve Bank (Issue Branch). I am not sure that the whole of it are treasury bills but a large part must be. Then we must have further large amounts issued to the banks held by them. Rs. 36 lakhs, I find, were held by the Reserve Bank itself; it may have been more. Altogether, the Reserve Bank's net issues are estimated to be 137 crores at the end of the year in this Budget itself against Rs. 29 crores budgeted for. And when we are having such large issues, and when the banks which are bulging out with money, the banks which are especially established to act on our behalf do not come to our help in the market. The Imperial Bank at one time took 3 crores of treasury bills at 50 per cent. higher rate and the Reserve Bank must have encouraged it. These are some of the features of the short time borrowing of the Government of India in the current year.

There is one more feature which I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member. The Provincial Governments need to resort to borrowing off and on. The Reserve Bank is there to see that they borrow as cheap and to obtain par value for the scrip. But what happens? In the current year the Reserve Bank allowed the private brokers when these Provincial Governments wanted loans. And the private financiers would give you as much less than Rs. 100 as they can for a scrip of Rs. 100 face value. In addition, they will charge you commission. This will have the effect of adversely affecting the Government of India securities. Why all these things are allowed to go on, I would like to understand? If we take into account all the treasury bills and the higher rate of interest, referred to by me I am not sure that we have not paid something like 30 lakhs of rupees extra, by way of interest. If the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank had been behind us, as they should be, we might perhaps have avoided that. But here the market is dictating to the Government instead of the Government dictating to the market; Government have not got that firmness of borrowing policy which will refuse to be dictated by the profiteers. Government is such a powerful body in this country that they should not surrender to this private interest because ultimately it is the taxpayer who has to pay this excess amount of

interest. I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member will tell us how far these observations represent facts and how far, if at all, he was bullied by the banks in the course of the year.

That is all I had to say. A casual study of this short term borrowing loan during the last three days has shown to me some flaws in the short term borrowing policy of Government and I expect that my Honourable friend will be able to tell me what steps, if any, he wishes to take to prevent the dictation by the banking interests in this country if not with the active connivance at least with a quiet acquiescence of the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I find that the demand includes two items of expenditure. One is a loan of one crore of rupees to the Port Commissioners of Calcutta and the other is a loan to the Canteen Stores Department of the Canteen Services for the purchase of stores in connection with the provision of amenities to troops. In connection with the first, that is, loans to the Port Commissioners, I will say that though this is an autonomous body governed under certain Act and as such we should not interfere in their daily routine work, they stand in need of some grant from us and I think it proper to say to them through the Government of India that they should not ignore the claims of minorities particularly Muslims, and should not show their entire sympathy to their own kith and kins while making appointments.

The second item is to give amenities to troops. This loan is given to the Canteen Stores Department. I do not exactly know what this Department is but I happened to see somewhere, say, at Calcutta and other Railway stations a small wood cabin erected upon which it is written 'Canteen'. I have seen this in some other places also. It is said that wines are supplied free to British soldiers and other amenities are also given to British soldiers whenever they happen to be there. If the money is going to be used for such kind of amenities to troops, then we certainly object to it and we should not be a party to this sort of expenditure.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I must confess that I was not prepared with the material for defence of Treasury Bill policy, because the loans and advances which are covered by this supplementary demand are not loans and advances to the Central Government, but loans and advances by the Central Government, which is entirely a different matter from our borrowing in the market. I listened with interest to what my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, had to say. Of course, I am not unfamiliar with this sort of criticism because it has been made from time to time. I would remind him that the basis of our Treasury Bill system is a method of open tender. My Honourable friend pointed out that there is a plethora of money in the banks. Well, why do not they come forward and offer to take up Treasury Bills at lower rates. The Reserve Bank is our agent for the purposes of raising Treasury Bills. The Reserve Bank, of course, does not make offers in response to any tenders put out by the Government. I know my Honourable friend would suggest that the Reserve Bank should somehow obtain such control over the tendering banks that they would tender at lower rates. That is a question—you may take the horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The horse is always thirsty.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: After all the water is there. If he does not drink under certain conditions, we must assume that something is not really to his liking. I entirely deny that we are at the mercy of the market in this respect, or that we allow them to dictate to us. At the same time I am sure my Honourable friend realises that it is important that we should obtain the funds we require from time to time. The general effect, I would suggest, of our borrowing is by no means unsatisfactory. Our average borrowing rate for three months is about one per cent. It compares favourably with the borrowing rate of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. My Honourable friend himself said the other day when referring to the sterling balances that nobody could be expected to lend such large sums of money at such a low rate. I then informed my Honourable friend that we are ourselves

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

raising large sums of money at a similar rate, as a matter of fact, at a rate which is somewhat lower than that.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I said that nobody would invest his money at such a low rate.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I know my Honourable friend like every body wishes to sell at as high a rate and buy at as cheap a rate as he can.

Now, he made a point that variations have taken place at certain times in the rates, sudden variations, but there is nothing new in that. Treasury Bill rates in India as far as I am aware have always moved in a marked way at certain times, when additional demands are made. Of course, in the past and to some extent even today they are related to the movement of crops. When crops are coming to market the rates increase. Money is like every other commodity which is regulated by supply and demand. It is quite a familiar fact that the rate should move from below half per cent. at one time to one per cent. or higher within quite a few weeks or even less than a month in accordance with trade conditions. I would suggest to my Honourable friend that on the whole the Government have been very successful in the pursuit of cheap money policy, and that the Reserve Bank has been of the greatest value to the Government in maintaining such a policy. One of the most remarkable features of the economic situation in India has been the extraordinary steadiness of the gilt-edged security market in war condition and in spite of the severe shock which at the time has been administered by the developments of the war. If he will compare the present conditions with what was the case during the last war, (and I have mentioned this point in my Budget speech) he will be surprised at the remarkable advance which has been achieved in the technique of control and the satisfactory results in economy to the general tax payer.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Don't you think the world has progressed by 25 years?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has not replied to the very serious allegation that Mr. Mehta made. So far as I understood him the allegation was that there was a combination of the banks to lend Government money through treasury bills at higher rates than was justified and that the Reserve Bank was a party to it. That is the allegation of the Honourable Member and the Finance Member did not reply to it. May I just point out that the Honourable Member said that these borrowings are done by open tender.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I know all that. These are elementary things.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But the Honourable Member's speech indicates that he does not understand elementary things. In the first place he brings up the issue upon a question where Government are lending money and not borrowing money. He makes a mistake in some other facts also. The allegation he made is a serious one. I do not think it is correct. I do not think it is possible for Banks to combine while tendering for treasury bills. It is most probably due to the money market at the time prevailing when the treasury bills were tendered for that Government may have to pay a higher rate at one time or a lower rate at another time of the year. The Honourable the Finance Member should reply to this serious allegation

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable the Finance Member has already spoken once.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If it is merely a point requiring explanation, I have already made all the points which my Honourable friend has enumerated, namely, that this is an open tender system, that when Banks have a plethora of money, they can obviously tender at lower rates, that the Reserve Bank acts on our behalf and not on behalf of the Banks and, therefore, the prices thrown up must be regarded by us as a genuine market price.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,74,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN TEA CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. T. S. Pillay (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I have not come before this House to make any new proposal. The objects of tea control, the methods devised by the tea industry to gain those objects and the general principles which the Government endeavoured to adopt in giving legislative sanction to those methods, have all been stated in 1933, and again restated in 1938, and accepted by the Central Legislature. To restate them briefly the object of tea control is to try to achieve a sort of equilibrium between supply and demand in a commodity where it was well established that there was no such equilibrium. It was sought to achieve this object by two methods, firstly by voluntarily trying to restrict exports of tea to all those markets where exports are usually made, and, secondly, also by restricting the extension of cultivation of tea. These two methods, Government tried to give sanction to, through the legislature, by introducing an Act in 1933 and again in 1938, as I explained above. At the time of such legislation, they kept in mind three principles; firstly that the industry should provide for the administration, and also find expenses for the control, subject always to the general superintendence and control of the Central Government; secondly that there should be a sort of agency which would take into account and try to adjust the interests equitably, both large and small, Indian and European; and thirdly that India being a party to this agreement should not suffer compared to other parties to the agreement that were the Dutch East Indies and also Ceylon. All these principles and methods have been maintained in the Bill which I have now the honour to ask for consideration.

Further, Sir, in the light of experience gained and also on account of war conditions, we have endeavoured to improve the Bill in certain respects, or rather to improve the scheme of tea control in certain respects. We have avoided, as is natural under war conditions, all questions that are likely to be debated and those points that are likely to arouse controversy as of doubtful benefit to the consumer or to the industry. We have adopted those measures which have commanded, if I may so put it, a large measure of common acceptance by those interested in the industry. We have endeavoured to improve the drafting and also the scope of the Schedule to the Act. We have also listened to the grievances of small growers who have asked that we should take power to extend the validity of export quotas from one year to another. We have endeavoured to do so in the Bill before the House by clause 14. We have also come across cases in the course of actual administration where the revision of what is known as crop basis is to be corrected in the light of certain facts brought to notice but which were not already before the Licensing Committee. In these limited cases, we found that it may be useful to take power just to review these cases in the light of facts presented. We have made necessary provision in clause 11 of the Bill.

On account of war conditions, it may be found necessary that a control Act of this type may have to be suspended either wholly or in part to meet certain cases of emergency. We have decided not to use powers under the Defence of India Rules as far as possible and have taken powers under the Bill to suspend the Act either wholly or partly. These are the main directions in which we have tried to improve the Indian Tea Control Act by this amending Bill.

At this stage, I may state, and my Honourable friend, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, will be interested to hear, that we did not manufacture all these things from the archives of the Secretariat, but that we did take the precaution to consult public opinion, to consult all interests concerned and try to achieve

[Mr. T. S. Pillay.]

a measure of common agreement and embody it in this amending Bill. In 1941, the Indian Tea Association and other interests saw Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and told him that tea control was proving to be of great benefit to the industry and that efforts should be made to make the international agreement, an agreement between Governments, and that early steps should be taken to extend the life of Tea Control Act beyond 1943. Sir Ramaswami said that the Tea Association should ascertain the opinions of all interests concerned. The international committee, the committee which administers the control scheme took immediate steps and asked the Tea Association to consult all the interests concerned. They consulted all the interests, not only their own members, but all interests, owning tea estates. The result was that about 92 per cent. of the industry unanimously supported the view that the Indian Tea Control Act should be extended for another period and that as far as possible the main purport of the scheme should be maintained. I may add that as far as I know the remaining eight per cent. did not object to tea control. We did not rest content with this. After Government got their recommendation, a conference of all interests concerned was convened when I say interests concerned, it is not interests of the industry alone; we asked the Provincial Governments to send their representatives who would represent the interests of the consumers also. In November, 1942, and at this conference it was unanimously agreed, I think I am right in saying, that it was unanimously agreed, that the Indian Tea Control Act should be extended for a further period and that as far as possible certain improvements should be effected in the Indian Tea Control Act. These proposals were again very carefully considered by Government; they were circulated to all the interests concerned, the Provincial Governments were consulted and the results of all these extensive consultation and consideration, I venture to submit, have now been embodied in the Bill before the House.

I may now briefly state the proposals that are embodied in the Bill and what are the recommendations of November Conference that Government have considered not necessary to embody in the Bill. Briefly the conference recommended, I mean the Conference of November, 1942, where all the tea interests and the representatives of all the Provincial Governments were present, that first and foremost whatever happens the Indian Tea control scheme should be extended beyond 1943. Secondly, if possible, an important section of the industry pointed out that provision should be made to enable fresh estates to apply for getting what is known as 'export quotas'. The point is, Sir, that under the 1938 Act, they were given one year to apply to the Indian Tea Licencing Committee for the right to obtain export tea. That year had expired and they said it might be valuable to give further time to the industry to make representations. This recommendation was carefully examined by the Government of India and we found that the industry had already been given six years time to make applications. There were no real hard cases that we came across which were turned down because of lack of time. It was, therefore, decided by the Government of India that it was not desirable at this time to grant this request.

The second point which they made was that we should endeavour to get some sort of concession from the International Committee to enable the industry to extend its plantations by 1 per cent. of the acreage as on April, 1943. This we have been able to achieve. Actually, you will find from clause 20 of the Bill that power has been taken to extend tea plantation by a percentage which in working amounts to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This is an advance on the recommendation made by the November Conference.

The third and an important recommendation was that we must take power to review the determination of crop basis. This is an extremely technical matter. It was pointed out to us that there were several hard cases which in the terms of the Act, as they stand now, do preclude the consideration of certain types of cases. What we have done is to take certain power, as I have already explained, in clause 11 of the Bill to revise crop basis in certain circumstances, but in other hard cases, according to certain sections of the industry, we have come to the conclusion that it is better to provide for those cases under the rule-

making powers. It was considered I repeat that we have got ample powers to make provision and to provide, if necessary, for all such cases under the rule-making powers of Government. It is my intention to go to Calcutta as soon as possible and hold consultations with the industry and try and endeavour to provide, after such consultation, for hard cases as have been brought to our notice. In the light of this advice and the conclusion that these sort of cases could be met by rule-making powers, we have decided that that recommendation need not be accepted for the purposes of this Bill.

Sir, I have so far outlined the points which I have included in the Indian Tea Control Amendment Bill and the reasons why I am seeking power for the continuance of this tea control. I may add, Sir, that it has often been said against the Commerce Department that it is a department which always champions the cause of the industry. I do plead guilty to that charge. I have worked and my duty it is to work for the welfare of the Industry, but may I suggest, Sir, that it need not necessarily be at the expense of the consumer. As an example, I may say—and it is very apt—that we have retained power to see that ample tea is left in India for consumption in this country. It will be well for the House to remember that the Indian tea produce is about five hundred and odd million pounds. Even at our best year now when we are having a high wage income, when all labour particularly industrial labour is receiving high rates of wages, our Indian population cannot consume more than 25 per cent. of our crop. We have to depend on export markets for 75 per cent., and that is the reason why we have sought to introduce this tea control. As I have explained just now, we have at the same time retained the right to retain as much tea as we consider necessary at any time for consumption in this country. Any export which the industry may make can only be after the Indian demand is fully and adequately satisfied.

Further, Sir, Government have provided for complete control over the action of the Committee which administers this Act. By these two methods I claim that we have endeavoured to secure the interests of the consumer which, as I have said need not necessarily clash with the interests of the industry.

Sir, before I conclude, I may say a word or two in regard to the amendments I have received. In view of what I have said of, I hope Maulvi Abdul Ghani will not have realized that we have taken all precautions to satisfy public opinion and that he will, therefore, not press the amendments of which he has given notice. As regards his motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee, I will say that the amended Bill has not introduced any fresh or complicated matters. It is a very simple Bill though it has about 25 clauses, and there is nothing which, I submit, a Select Committee can usefully add or scrutinize.

As regards the amendments put down in the names of Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. K. C. Neogy, and Babu Amarendranath Chattopadhyaya, I had the honour of having consultations with these gentlemen outside the House and I hope that the explanations I have given will satisfy them and a large number of amendments of which they have given notice, will not be moved. I, however, agree that amendment No. 6, as it stands in the consolidated list, may be moved and on behalf of Government I may say that I am prepared to accept it. As for amendment No. 9, I am told that there is some misunderstanding in regard to the interpretation of the word 'land' and the Honourable Member would like to have an authoritative statement on the floor of the House. If that is the view, Sir, I have no objection myself for the amendment to be moved and I shall state what we understand to be the position.

Sir, I have got only one more word to say before I sit down. As I have said, Sir, we do not offer any apology for bringing forward a measure which is intended to be in the interest of an important industry in this country. All I wish to suggest once again is, that the welfare of this industry is very closely connected with the welfare of the consumer and both are inter-connected. In India's tea industry alone—the Honourable Members will be interested to learn that—as many as 9,18,354 labourers are employed and everybody—be he rich or poor, Indian or European.—looks forward to his or her morning cup and the evening one that cheers. •

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1943."

Sir, I could not get any information regarding the utility of entering into agreement with the Governments of Netherlands East Indies and Ceylon. Nowadays when tea is required in large quantities in our own country and there is no practical existence of Netherlands I do not think that for the sake of agreement we should adopt this amendment. If any protection is required for the development of industry in this country, I can understand that very well. For that any piece of legislation will be quite welcome. As regards the agreement with the Government of Ceylon, we have, during recent years, known the views of that Government and of their attitude towards Indians. They want everything from the people of this country. They want to be benefited in all possible ways, but they are not going to give way to anything which is beneficial for the Indians. The other day they asked for 23,000 more labourers. We objected on account of their attitude towards the labourers living in Ceylon. I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by passing this piece of legislation. We want a legislation which can protect the industry of the country and that should be on a different basis from that suggested in the Bill. I, therefore, think it proper that we should have the views of the outside public, i.e., the consumers. No doubt the Honourable Member in charge has collected opinions from the different Provincial Governments and the Tea Associations: but after all, consumers are also a party to such a piece of legislation, and in their interests it would be proper that the Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion from that group of people, and if this piece of legislation is not adopted by 31st March, 1943, I do not think there will be any harm done to any of the interests concerned with the tea industry. I hope the Honourable Member will reconsider the matter and support my amendment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1943."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it was said of Lord Curzon that his greatest enemy was the First Person singular. The greatest enemy of the Opposition is the rule-making power of the Government of India. You passed the other day a measure relating to the Defence of India, but we never contemplated for a single moment that this would develop into a position which is equivalent to all the Acts combined and all the Ordinances combined. In the same way the greatest enemy of the Commerce Department is control. My friend does not realise how unpopular the Commerce Department is among the people of this country on account of the word "control". One person told me that the propaganda of Berlin or the propaganda of Saigon has not done so much harm to the British Government; they also told me that all the propaganda of Congress has not done so much harm as the control of the Commerce Department. This has been exercised so badly that the people have become very restless about the word 'control'. Whenever anything happens they say "Saheb, control ho gia" and therefore things will be had at a higher price. So, my friend, if you really want to do the propaganda of the enemy—and I warn my friend—then the greatest propaganda you can do for the enemy country is to use the word control and use control in everything except in the speeches in the Assembly.

We again hear a good deal about the propaganda of Mr. Griffiths' "Grow More Food". But the control of the Commerce Department goes in the reverse direction—"Grow Less tea". If a tea plantation is superseded and is replaced by food, it has some meaning, but if the area is left over without tea, and does not produce any tea on account of the action of the control of

my friends representing the Commerce Department then I cannot understand the whole meaning of this control. In every case, wherever there is a protection, we have a definite rule that this thing should be examined by the Tariff Board before we can extend the period of protection. Now if you have a period of control, it ought to be examined by some authoritative body, or at least by public opinion, as is demanded by my friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani, before we give the extension to this particular Act for another period of two years.

Now you know very well that the price of tea has gone up three times the original price during the last twelve months. What are the reasons? My friend is an economist and probably he will apply the principle of supply and demand. Then either the demand has enormously increased or supply must have diminished. Now, the thing is that if you take great care in reducing the supply, naturally the prices will go up. Some people argue that the prices have gone up because the purchasing power of the rupee has gone down. I do not believe it, yet I would request, and I would appeal to, my Honourable friend that he should not restrict the plantation of tea. This system of restriction of plantation of tea has done very great harm in the past. You may say that in 1931-32 this restriction saved a number of tea-planters. It may be in one or two cases, but I know of a number of cases in which such restrictions have done enormous harm.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Tell us about some cases.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I can give you the name of Tafazul Husain Hazarika of Titabar, Assam. He had several tea plantations and at one time he was in such a difficult position that if he could get permission to grow a little more tea in one of his tea gardens he would wipe out all his debt. This permission was not given with the result that he lost two of his very important tea gardens on account of this restriction of tea. This restriction of tea has not been of any use to the tea industry. My friend the representative of the Commerce Department just said that this is done in the interests of the consumers, that this control of tea plantation is in the interests of the consumers. This reminds me of the story, that the lion always told the person he was devouring that he was doing it in the interest of the person himself, that he was going to relieve him from all the miseries of the world! This is the kind of sympathy that my friend is having for the poor consumers. The price of tea has gone up three times and still the restriction is maintained in the interests of the consumer. This is an argument which I really cannot understand—it is the argument of the lion who said it was in the interest of the man himself and not in the lion's own interest.

I cannot understand in these days when the prices are going up, when there is a shortage of this commodity, you make a programme and carry on propaganda, not by means of propaganda alone, but by the Legislature and reduce the plantation of this commodity. If my friend believes in the theory of supply and demand, he must support the production of larger quantities of tea. The restriction on plantation of tea at this moment when the price has gone up three times is not justifiable by any theory of political economy.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

The objections which I, therefore, have are—one, when you extend the period of this particular Act with slight modifications for another two years, it is very desirable that its working ought to have been examined by a responsible committee, similar to the Tariff Board, or that you should invite public opinion before extending the period; two, for goodness' sake, do not tell us that it is really in the interests of the consumers. It is certainly not in the interests of the consumers, if you believe in the law of supply and demand; three, this word "control"—I do beseech my friend, if he has really at heart the winning of the war and support of the Allies, and if he wishes to support the propaganda department of Mr. Griffiths, that he should do away with the word "control", because he is doing more harm to his side than all the good work that is being done; because the

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

control of any foodstuff, whether it is wheat or whether it is coal or whether it is of anything else is doing very great harm to the country. So much so that this thing ought to be removed altogether. We were hearing all along of free trade and no restrictions, no interference from the Government; I can understand interference when it is needed for war purposes; but when it is not needed why do you intervene and interfere with these matters? Let the development of the country go on in its natural manner; let the trade expand naturally; it is quite unnecessary to have these restrictions. We have got misery in Delhi not on account of shortage of food but on account of the mismanagement of the administration of Delhi province. I am afraid if you continue this thing, we shall continue to have trouble. We used to get good tea before at very reasonable prices. Now, the greater the control you are exercising, the more will be the miseries of the consumers. With these words, I oppose the motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, in 1938, when the original Bill which gave effect to the agreement on the subject of tea control was given effect to, I had criticised the Bill from several points of view. But my main point of criticism was that this was a one-sided agreement. It was an agreement between the producers only. The consumers of tea and the labour employed on tea plantations had no part in arriving at that agreement. I, therefore, felt that it was wrong for the Government of India to give effect to such a one-sided agreement. The Government of India again seeks this afternoon to continue that measure with a few modifications; and it is my unfortunate duty to point out that the Government of India, in amending the Act have not done anything to remove the objections which I took in 1938. The interests of the consumers were not taken into consideration in coming to that agreement. The interests of labour were not taken into consideration in arriving at that agreement. The Honourable Member in charge of the Bill stated only a few minutes back that the interests of the producers and consumers were the same. My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, has pointed out that they were not the same. The interests of the producers were to make money, and the interest of the consumers is to get tea as cheap as possible; and I am very doubtful whether the two points of view can be easily reconciled. Moreover, the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill stated that there was a conference held and all the interests were consulted. He did not tell us who represented the consumers at that conference . . .

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: The Provincial Governments.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Commerce Department never consulted the consumers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He did not tell us who represented the labour on plantations in that conference. I, therefore, feel that the Government of India have done a wrong thing in not consulting these important interests, namely, the interests of consumers and the interests of labour. My Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani, and my friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, have spoken about the interests of the consumers. I shall, therefore, make a few remarks as regards the interests of plantation labour, as affected by this agreement.

Any agreement restricting the production of tea is bound to affect the employment of labour on plantations, and, therefore, is bound also to affect the other conditions of work of plantation labour. In 1938, when the original Bill was being discussed, several speakers and I myself also pointed out how bad were the conditions of plantations in India. Take for instance wages. The wages on Indian plantations, tea especially, are the lowest of the wages of industrial labour in India. A man working on plantations gets about seven to eight rupees a month; a woman gets between five and six rupees and a child between four and five rupees. I claim that these are the lowest wages in this country for industrial labour.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): This rate obtains at present?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes; these rates obtain at present. In any case these are the rates given in the latest report available—the Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act for the year ending 30th September, 1940. Later figures are not available, because a later report is not yet published. But I have no doubt that these wages have not undergone much change. It may be said that plantation labour gets certain concessions by way of some land for tilling. But the land for tilling is given only to a few and the average land given to one plantation labourer is about one-fifth of an acre, which is not likely to give much of an income per year per head. Then the plantation labour is supposed to get some fuel and some wood for building his hut or sometimes some kind of hut or a room with tin roof or some kind of thatch. The conditions of labour on plantations are very bad. The conditions were considered by the Royal Commission on Indian Labour and one

4 P.M. of the main recommendations of that Commission was that there should be some machinery created for fixing the minimum wages in the plantation industry. It is now more than 12 years since that recommendation was made and nothing has been done. There were several other recommendations made. The plantation labour suffered from many difficulties. Their freedom is restricted. Labour lives on very large plantations and these plantations cannot be approached by public roads; they can be approached only by private roads, and this imposes a restriction on their freedom of movement. Then, the several kinds of legislation which have been passed for the protection of labour in India have not yet been made applicable to plantation industry. The Payment of Wages Act, for instance, is not yet applied to plantation labour. There is no maternity benefit Act at all as applied to Assam plantations. I know that the employers may say that they give some kind of maternity benefit, but that is not enough. We want legislation on some of these points. We want the Payment of Wages Act to be applied to plantation labour; we want legislation for maternity benefit. As I have said, it is now more than 12 years since these recommendations were made, and still very little has been done. The Government of India gave effect to one of the recommendations when the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act was passed to provide for some kind of repatriation for the workers. Other reforms were to be made by the Provincial Governments but the Provincial Government in Assam is completely in the hands of the planters. In Assam there is no British Government; there is planters' Government. The Assam Government tried once to investigate this matter by appointing a committee. These are days of sabotage and I am told that the Assam planters sabotaged this committee.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: That is untrue.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This is my information. I am quite prepared to listen to my Honourable friend as to facts. So, nothing was done. Conditions for improvement are very favourable. The Royal Commission after considering all the points of view made the recommendation 12 years ago. To-day the industry is very prosperous. They are making crores of rupees. The planters are making crores of rupees. The Government is making crores of rupees by excess profits tax. From the economic point of view the planters can bear some burden of the reforms; the Government of India can afford to bear some burden of the reforms.

Then other conditions too are favourable. At present in Assam the Governor's position is occupied by Sir Andrew Clow, a man who has given a number of years of his life for considering labour problems. Not only that, but he is a man who has committed himself to the reforms suggested by the Royal Commission on Indian Labour, as a member of that Commission. Fortunately for us in the Government of India too we have a Member in charge of this department, from whom we expect a great deal and I feel that he not only ought to do something but if he applies his mind and exercises his influence with his other colleagues, may be able to do a great deal in this matter. The reform is overdue, the recommendations of the Royal Commission were made, I again repeat, 12 years ago. Nothing has been done so long. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government of India to undertake this reform very seriously. I was glad to

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see in a newspaper some report that the Honourable Member in charge of Labour has taken some interest in this matter and he has been making some effort to secure reform in labour conditions in Assam. I shall be glad to hear from the Honourable Member what he has done and what is the result of the efforts which he has made. I would like to tell the Honourable Member one thing. Whenever we talk of reforms we are generally told that we are living in war times and reforms must wait till the war is over. Some reforms may wait till the war is over but there are some other reforms which cannot wait on account of the existence of the war. On account of the existence of war, conditions have so changed that reforms have become easier, and they have become more necessary. Reforms have become easier because there is enough money with planters, and there is enough money with the Government. Government do not know what to do with the money which they get. As regards planters, I do not know what they do; they do not cultivate all the lands which they possess. It is a patent fact that the planters hold much more land than they cultivate. If they have more money they can produce more tea, give more employment and improve the conditions of labour.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is travelling very wide.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am now towards the end of my speech, Sir. One word I would like to say to the Government of India. When we considered the question of labour in Ceylon, and when we used to consider the question of Malayan labour, the Government of India tried to do something. But I have always felt that our hands were very much weakened when we asked the Ceylon Government to do something, when we asked the Malayan Government to do something for labour on plantations in Malaya, our hands were very much weakened by the very fact that conditions in Assam were worse than those in Ceylon and Malaya.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not relevant.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Very well, Sir. I am not now saying anything more than this that the Government of India should bear this point of view in mind. If we insist upon reforms in Ceylon I think it is due to labour in India that we should do something for improving the conditions in India. I, therefore, hope that the Government of India will consider this question very seriously and take very early and vigorous steps to improve the labour conditions on tea plantations in Assam and elsewhere.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Mr. President I do not propose to speak in detail regarding this Bill for, in spite of what has been said by my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, the Bill is essentially a non-controversial one, and has in principle been accepted twice by this House within the past ten years. I must however make it clear that the Bill has behind it practically the entire support of the tea industry of this country and that it is recognised by everybody connected with that industry that control, in spite of the Honourable Doctor's dislike of control, has for the tea industry meant salvation and that the continuance of that control during the war period has prevented us from falling once again into the grievous mistakes made during the last war—mistakes from which it took this important industry many years to recover. I do not suppose my Honourable friend, the Doctor, has the faintest idea of the parlous condition to which the tea industry was reduced shortly after the last war. He has told us a touching story of a friend of his who could not pay off his debts, because the crucial Indian Tea Licencing Committee would not allow him to expand his cultivation. But he has not told us how that friend would have paid off his debts if the price of tea had remained what it was in 1929 and if his estates had gone on making not profits but losses. It is all very well for my Honourable friend to shake his head. He knows that his head shaking cannot alter the plain economic fact that a man can only pay off his debt by making a profit out of his business. If you find after a considerable number of years that you cannot make a profit, then if you are a wise man, you give that business up and I may tell my Honourable friend, the Doctor, as emphatically as I can that

before the tea control scheme was introduced, the tea industry was on the very brink of ruin. That is not a matter open to dispute. It is a fact admitted by everybody who has the least knowledge of conditions of the tea industry at that time. My Honourable friend will have to go far and wide before he will find people, with financial interest in the tea industry, who will deny that fact. I am speaking at the moment about the interests of the producers. I will come presently to the consumer and to labour. As far as producers are concerned, even including the Doctor's poor, wretched, indebted friend, I can assure him that that friend would have been far more hopelessly in debt if Tea Control had not been brought in to give stability and equilibrium and prosperity to one of India's largest industries.

Then again, my friend, the Doctor, seems to labour under another delusion. My friend is a great mathematician and I have great respect for his mathematical capacity but it is a very curious thing that whenever he strays away from the technical field of mathematics he becomes not merely unmathematical—he is not even arithmetical. My Honourable friend told us or at any rate he suggested that owing to the control scheme there is a shortage of tea for sale in this country and that because of that shortage prices have gone up and so he argues from that that the main effect of tea control has been to make things more difficult for the consumer. I will not ask my Honourable friend if he has the faintest idea of how much tea is consumed in India. I will not ask him if he knows how much tea is produced and, therefore, I need not ask him how he arrives at the conclusion that there is shortage of tea in this country today. Instead of asking him, I will just tell him two facts. I will tell him that the figure of tea production this year is a record, that the approximate figure of Indian tea production this year is 568 million pounds and that the total quantity of tea exported from India to the Ministry of Food is only 421 million pounds. He will be able to calculate from that the balance remaining in India—147 million pounds—I will then go on to tell my Honourable friend that the highest estimate which has ever been made by anybody of the total annual consumption of tea in India is slightly less than 130 million pounds. In other words, as far as the balance between consumption and production is concerned, there is no cause whatsoever for the rise in the price of tea. There are many other reasons for that rise just as there are many other reasons for the rise in prices of other commodities but whatever else the reason might be, shortage of tea crop on account of the control scheme—is in no sense one of them. I should like Honourable Members to disabuse themselves once and for all of the idea that the control scheme is either intended to or does, in fact, keep down the quantity of tea available for sale in India in such a way as to force up prices. Let me tell my Honourable friends, on behalf of the tea interests, that the one thing which we do not want at the present time is high prices of tea. That is not because we are philanthropists—God forbid—it is because we are plain businessmen and we know that at a time when our main job is to expand the Indian market for tea, when we know that the strength of the industry depends very largely on tea becoming a popular beverage in this country it would be sheer lunacy on our part to want to see prices soar. Speaking on behalf of the Indian Tea Association I say here categorically that we welcome every fall in the price of tea at this moment.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Will my Honourable friend explain why prices have shot up three or four times?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: If my Honourable friend will tell me why the prices of paddy has gone up, I can tell him why the price of tea has gone up. It has not gone up because of shortage. That is another popular misconception. If my Honourable friend labours under the delusion that the reason for the high price of paddy is a real shortage of paddy, then it is high time that he got rid of that delusion. But certainly as far as tea is concerned, there is not merely sufficient tea but more than sufficient tea for sale in this country. Let me go further and tell my Honourable friend that the Indian tea industry, through its various associations, has constantly pressed this view on the Government of

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India, that at no time must we allow exports to go so high as to leave insufficient tea for consumption in this country. I can assure my Honourable friend that if we ever get to a stage when we shall not have sufficient tea left for consumption in India, I shall be the first person to go along to the Commerce Department and complain on behalf of the section of the industry which I represent. The talk of short production is baseless; the facts are quite otherwise. Control rescued the industry from a most precarious position, but that control has not brought about shortage of tea and, whatever the other causes may be, control is not responsible for the fact that the prices of tea have risen. But even when he talks about tea prices having risen, I find once again that my Honourable friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, is out of date. He evidently does not follow market fluctuations sufficiently closely to realise that there has been a tremendous fall of something like 6 annas a pound in the price of tea during the last three weeks. I do trust that in future before my Honourable friend makes statements of this nature, which might be damaging to a great industry, he will take the trouble to verify his facts.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask one question of my Honourable friend? He may be in a fortunate position to buy tea at a discount of 6 annas per pound. We cannot purchase it at less than four times the price that we used to pay last year.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: My Honourable friend has again fallen into an inaccuracy. I did not say that tea was being sold at 6 annas a pound. I said that the price of tea had fallen by 6 annas a pound during the last three weeks.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My Honourable friend has not followed my argument. The price today is four times what it was two years ago. What is the explanation of that? My friend is supporting the interests of the industry all right but he is absolutely disregarding the consumers.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: My Honourable friend is doing his best to drag me into irrelevancy. We are not discussing, in this particular debate, the economic or other factors which might or might not affect the price of tea. We are discussing the one question as to whether the scheme of tea control has brought about any shortage of tea for sale in this country and I say categorically that, if you have a production of 568 million pounds and you export 421 million pounds, you are left with a balance of 147 million pounds or 17 million pounds more than the highest estimate of India's annual tea consumption. Whatever else you may say, you cannot argue that tea control is responsible for the price of tea. There may be other reasons and we will discuss them at the appropriate occasion. (An Honourable Member: "When will that occasion come? Why not now?"). There were ten days available for this purpose during the discussion of the Budget and Finance Bill and my Honourable friend did not take advantage of those opportunities. At the present time, we are talking about tea control and I emphatically challenge the statement that tea control is responsible for keeping down the available stocks of tea. I do not see how it can possibly be argued that it has harmed the consumer, when there are ample stocks of tea in India today. Various points have been made by those who have spoken and I propose to refer briefly to one or two of them.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, suggested that there ought to be some procedure comparable to that of a Tariff Board. Just as when an industry goes to the State and asks the State to give it protection, there ought to be some similar inquiry and procedure when the tea industry comes and asks for a different kind of protection. As a matter of fact, it could not worry me a scrap if you had a Board of that kind, but I cannot for myself conceive what facts that Board would have to ascertain. At the same time, I must point out that there is no analogy whatsoever between a measure like the Tea Control Bill and tariff protection. In the one case, the industry is getting something, it is getting protection at the expense of the general public. In our case, the tea industry is simply carrying out into effect a self-denying scheme. It is asking Government to give legislative form to what is virtually an agreement amongst producers themselves that they will behave in a certain way with regard to their

production and with regard to their planting. It is not comparable in any sense to the kind of tariff scheme to which my Honourable friend referred.

I come, then, to a curious argument used by my Honourable friend, Maulvi Abdul Ghani, who seemed to suggest, as far as I could follow him, that because Ceylon had behaved badly as she has undoubtedly behaved badly, to India in certain important aspects, we, therefore, have no right to be a party to an agreement with Ceylon. I must confess that I have never heard a worse example of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. Ceylon has behaved badly, but because Ceylon has behaved badly am I going to deny myself the benefit which I can get by ensuring that the tea available in the markets of the world bears some relation to the world demand? Does my Honourable friend suggest that India will benefit if we in India embark on a restriction scheme and then say that because Ceylon has behaved badly, we do not mind how much it over-produces and that it won't worry us because Ceylon had behaved badly in various other respects. Is there any logic of any kind in that argument?

And, finally, I pass on to my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and here I must speak with the greatest possible respect. When Mr. Joshi speaks on labour matters, whether we agree with him or disagree with him, we must listen with the respect to which his long service in the cause of labour has entitled him. But I do suggest that it is perhaps unfortunate for this particular question that Mr. Joshi's main experience of labour has been, not on the plantations of Assam but in quite different fields of labour where different conditions altogether prevail. I feel certain that if my friend, Mr. Joshi, would give me the pleasure of taking him on a long tour of the tea districts of Assam—as I hope he will in a not very distant future—I will guarantee that he will leave those plantations, as everybody who visits them with an open mind does, with a very different conception of the relations that exist between the labour and the employers and the way in which our tea garden managers treat those who are under them. Conditions are wholly different in tea estates from what they are in factories and other forms of employment. It is all very well to say slightly that "they get a little land, they get a small hut and they get a few more simple perquisites". If my Honourable friend will go to the tea districts, he will see that in some cases the money equivalent of these perquisites which the labourer gets amounts to even more than his pay. When my Honourable friend talks, perfectly sincerely, of the low wages paid to labourers on plantations, he forgets the other side of the picture. He forgets the steps taken, the infinite pains taken, by the tea industry to see that even at times of high prices, labour on tea estates is able to buy grain at reasonable rates. How many industries in this country are there, let me ask my friend, Mr. Joshi, where the labourer today is buying his grain at Rs. 5 a maund? And let me tell my friend, Mr. Joshi, that this policy of making grain available at cheap rates is not a policy adopted just during the last two or three months by the tea industry. It is a policy which was considered before the war had been in progress for more than three or four months. It was introduced gradually as circumstances required and it has been in full swing over a very considerable portion of the tea industry for a very considerable number of months. We accept it as our responsibility to see that labour is able to buy its food at a reasonable price and we believe, and I believe many Members of this House believe, that, even apart from the plantation question, from the general economic point of view this is a wiser policy than doubling the wages and trebling the food prices. (Interruption.) Let my Honourable friend not jump to conclusions. What I said was that conditions on plantations are so radically different from any other labour conditions that it would be rash, it would be most unwise, for Government or anybody else to put forward legislation or proposals with regard to labour on plantations except on the basis of a full and careful inquiry as to what conditions on tea estates really are. The Associations for whom I speak have no fear of any such inquiry. We know that in general our labour is well treated. But, if there are estates where labour is not well treated, we should be the first to welcome steps taken to compel good treatment of that labour. Every good planter, every good tea producer and every good tea agency knows that in the last resort it depends on the

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contentment and the prosperity of its labour. If there are gardens below the general standard, for reasons of their own making, let those gardens be brought up to the general standard. We are not afraid of action of that kind. Our only demand is that there should be no action and no legislation except on the basis of a report by people who themselves know something and have seen something of conditions on tea estates. We do not want legislation or measures of any kind framed in an office by people who have never been on a tea estate in their life. (A voice: "Bureaucrats!") I do not mind whether they are bureaucrats or Members of the Assembly. But we do not want legislation by people to whom there is no difference between a tea garden labourer and a factory labourer. That is all I have to say. We in the tea industry admit our responsibility for looking after our labour. We believe that by the large we are discharging that responsibility and we are not in the least afraid of any enquiry. In fact, we welcome such a step taken at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way. Let Government satisfy themselves that we are, in fact, discharging that responsibility.

Sir, I support the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, in view of the observations which fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, it is only proper that I should rise to state the position of Government on the points that he has made. In a certain sense, the remarks of Mr. Joshi might appear to be irrelevant. We are discussing the Tea Control Act and obviously any provisions dealing with conditions of labour would be entirely out of place therein. But looking at it from a larger point of view, it must be admitted that when the State is asked to suspend the laws of supply and demand with regard to any industry, it is fair that those who are interested in labour should ask that their interests should be protected. And it is from this point of view that I say that a reply from Government is necessary.

Sir, the first point which Mr. Joshi made was that it is now more than 12 years since the Royal Commission on Labour reported and that the Government of India has practically done nothing with regard to the recommendations of that Commission. Sir, I agree that 12 years is a long period for any Government to take in order to deal with the recommendations made by a Royal Commission which was appointed to investigate into this matter. But I think on the facts to which I propose to refer in the brief remarks that I am making Mr. Joshi will realise and the House will also realise that much serious blame would not be laid at the door of the Government of India. As the Honourable Member will remember, the Royal Commission on Labour made five recommendations with regard to the tea plantation. First was that the Assam Labour Emigrant Act should be repealed and another Act permitting very much greater fluidity to the labour should be enacted. The second recommendation was to establish a wage board for fixing wages of labourers there. Third recommendation dealt with the appointment of a Board of Health for the welfare of labour in convenient areas with power to make regulations relating to the drinking water, sanitation, drainage, medical facilities and housing. The fourth recommendation was that provisions relating to the regular and prompt payment of wages and deductions to be made for advances made to labour should be applied to plantation labour. The last recommendation was that provision should be made in order that access to public should be provided to gardens.

Now, when the recommendations were made it is important to bear in mind that the Government of India without loss of time examined these recommendations in order to find out which was the proper authority to deal with them, and they came to the conclusion that except the first recommendation which dealt with the repeal of the Emigration Act and substitution of another, all these would legitimately be regarded as fundamentally of local concern. I do not think anybody could contend that the attitude taken by the Government of India in the matter of dividing responsibility with regard to these recom-

mendations was incorrect. I submit that it was. In pursuance of the decision that the Government of India took on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour they immediately addressed a despatch to the Assam Government informing them that liberty was given to the Local Government to deal with other recommendations, and the Government of India without loss of time, as the Honourable Members know, proceeded to pass the Act which is now on the Statute Book and which covers the first recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour. Sir, unfortunately, for reasons of which I know very little, the Local Government of Assam did not move in the matter: and if I may say so my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi also, although he has been in the House right from the date when the recommendations were made, did not or does not appear to me to have taken up the question at all. But, Sir, if I may claim credit for the Government of India the Government of India did move in the matter. I would like to inform the House that in 1938 when the Tea Control Act came up for extension in the Legislature the Government of India did take initiative and approached the planting industry with a proposal for making enquiry into the conditions of labour in plantation. As my Honourable friends, Mr. Griffiths and Sir Frederick James, will recall even a Conference was held between representatives of the Labour Department and the representatives of Planters.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Why did not the Government of India take to task the Assam Government for not moving in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question may have been answered better by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department at that time. I came only yesterday and I know very little about it. The Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, referred to the question. I am not prepared to say were being carried as to whether time had not arrived for making enquiries into the terms of the recommendations. Sir, I find that almost at a time when matters were heading for a decision the new Assam Government, which was the Congress Government, thought it fit to step into the matter and by a Resolution appointed a Committee on the 23rd May, 1939. It is quite natural that as a result of the step taken by the Assam Government the Government of India was bound to withdraw from the field which by the terms of original despatch they had assigned to the Local Government for being dealt with. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, referred to the question, I am not prepared to say what exactly was the reason, but somehow there was a clash between the members who were on the Committee and the clash developed almost to a conflict with the result that the work of the Committee was suspended. Ultimately the Government of Assam took no action. All that they did was to issue a notification as to what happened and why the Committee was suspended. That brought matters to the end of July, 1939. Obviously every one knows, a few months after that war was declared, and it is impossible for anybody, either the Local Government or the Central Government, to have initiated an enquiry into the matter. I am sure these circumstances will convince Mr. Joshi that the Government of India is really not liable to be taken to task for any kind of inactivity on its part.

With regard to the main question as to whether Government does or does not consider the necessity of protecting the interests of labour, I would straight-away begin by saying that Government does regard this question as of paramount importance. I do not wish to go into the question as to the conditions of labour on the plantation. We hear in newspapers various figures given; figures relating to wages in Ceylon, figures given relating to wages on the Assam plantation. I am not prepared to give the imprimatur of Government to either sets of figures as to wages, etc. We have no exact data for the simple reason that so far no investigation has been made in the matter. But I do say one thing that the conditions on tea plantations are unregulated, that they vary enormously from one place to another. There is no common, uniform standard in the conditions of work and the Government of India does think that that is a state of affairs which it can tolerate. It is also clear that we cannot enter

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

upon any legislation unless we have sufficient material brought before us by an impartial enquiry. This is not a condition which the Government of India can be said to have strutted out in order to block any move that may be made in the interests of protecting labour on the plantation. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, himself will recollect that this was one of the riders that was put by the Royal Commission on Labour themselves. The Royal Commission, while making the recommendation, added a proviso that before these recommendations will be put into operation, specific enquiry ought to be made on the conditions in plantations. Now, Sir, the Government of India has no doubt that this enquiry must be made. Speaking for Government I am prepared to say that Government thinks that proper standards of welfare must be imposed on the plantations. There is no escape. What my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, said, I entirely support. It is not open for the Government of India to impose fair conditions of wages on Ceylon as a condition precedent and not applying the same standards of labour in India. The Government of India by the various Ordinances has laid down that wherever any restriction has been imposed upon labour, the Government of India will see that fair conditions of labour are granted to labour. These are the things which the Government of India considers it is bound to apply in the case of plantation labour. Nor can it be denied that whatever may have been the condition of the plantations in the long past, at present the condition of plantations is such that they can bear the weight of such wage standards as a Board may impose upon them.

Now, therefore, the only question that arises is this: can we institute an enquiry at the present moment? There is no difference between my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi and myself as representing the Government of India on the two issues, namely, that proper standards must be imposed, and secondly, there must be an enquiry. The only question that is troubling us is whether this is the proper time when an enquiry could be initiated. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and other Honourable Members of the House know very well, a large part of the tea-estates are situated in the Eastern corner of India, Assam and Bengal. It is quite obvious that those areas are greatly exposed to enemy action. It is quite likely that any enquiry that may be started in that corner may have a very disturbing effect. Therefore, the only question that remains is whether we can begin that enquiry on the plantations which are situated in Southern India. I should like to tell the House how the plantations are divided between Northern and Southern India. The figures which I have and which relate to 1941 show that, so far as acreage of the tea plantations is concerned, in Northern India the acreage is 607,000, in Southern India the acreage is only 163,132. So far as labour employed on plantations is concerned, in Northern India the labour employed is 773,969 while in Southern India the labour employed is only 144,385.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): That only refers to tea.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, we are only talking about tea. It is obvious from the figures which I have given that the plantations in Southern India form a very small portion of the Tea Planting Industry in India.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What is the acreage in Assam?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am taking the North and South. I am not taking Assam separately. Assam is included in Northern India. It is obvious from these figures that the plantations in Southern India form a very small portion of the total population working in tea gardens in this country. It seems to the Government of India that no kind of gain can arise either to the country or to the labourers by undertaking such a partial and limited inquiry. It is not possible to begin an enquiry which by the situation in which this war finds itself, must necessarily be limited to so microscopic an area of the total plantations.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member to realise that the labour question arises only incidentally on this motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have nothing more to say.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the owners of gardens were paid substantial sums of money for not growing tea at all and that was at the expense of the consumers?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is a matter which the Commerce Secretary will deal with.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. T. S. Pillay: Sir, the main motion which was moved now by Mr. Abdul Ghani relates to circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion. Sir, in my opening speech, I explained that the Government of India took all possible steps to consult public opinion and then only come forward with the measure that they have now brought forward. I submit, Sir, that nothing of value will be gained by postponing this legislation by again calling for public opinion. If at all it is calculated to do considerable harm to the industry. My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, made much of the point when I said that the interests of the industry and the consumer in this case need not necessarily be contrary to each other. I do maintain that in the case of the Indian tea industry, if steps are not taken to see that the industry is put on an even keel, that it is put on a condition on which many plantations will go completely out of crop, then the interests of the consumer will also suffer. It is a common point that the industry came very near a complete collapse and but for this control, we would not have, I venture to say, an Indian tea industry in this country at all. In that broad sense, Sir, I maintain that this control is absolutely necessary not only in the interests of the industry but also in the interests of the Indian tea consumers. Sir, the word 'control' is obnoxious to my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, and so it is to me. During war times, we do realise that price control measures have brought certain troubles which Government have not been entirely successful in combating with. This control, may I submit, has nothing to do with the control of prices. My Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, has already pointed out that the control, if at all, it could be proved that the tea which is left for Indian consumption is in any sense short of the demand for internal consumption, then we can grouse against this control. It has been abundantly demonstrated, I submit, that the control is exercised in such a manner that it cannot interfere with allowing sufficient quantities of tea for Indian consumption. The scope of the Bill is very limited, it is limited to ensure that the supply of tea to external markets is so arranged as not to upset the equilibrium of supply and demand with the result that untold distress will befall on the industry.

As regards labour, the Honourable the Labour Member has given a complete answer. I have nothing more to say. I have answered. I hope, fully the point that nothing of value will be gained if the Bill is circulated for public opinion. Therefore, Sir, I oppose the motion 'that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1943'.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1943."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—26.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Bhutto, Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.

Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Zafar Ali, Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—35.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.
 Aiyar, Mr. T. S. Sankara.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Ambegaonkar, Mr. K. G.
 Benthali, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.
 Caroe, Mr. O. K.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Gray, Mr. B. L.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 James, Sir F. E.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shamsul-Ulema.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another amendment in the names of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani and Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. But no names have been supplied for the Select Committee and, therefore, it cannot be moved.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—36.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.
 Aiyar, Mr. T. S. Sankara.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Ambegaonkar, Mr. K. G.
 Benthali, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.
 Caroe, Mr. O. K.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Gray, Mr. B. L.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 James, Sir F. E.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shamsul-Ulema.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Laljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.

Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
 Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Pai, Mr. A. V.
 Pillay, Mr. T. S.
 Raismen, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
 Spear, Dr. T. G. P.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.
 Thakur Singh, Major.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
 Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Pai, Mr. A. V.
 Pillay, Mr. T. S.
 Raismen, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
 Spear, Dr. T. G. P.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.
 Thakur Singh, Major.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—25.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Bhutto, Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh.
 Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Gupta, Mr. R. R.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
 Mehta, Mr. Jumnadas M.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi, Syed.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Parma Nand, Bhai.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 24th March, 1943.