

23rd September 1942

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume III, 1942

(14th September to 24th September, 1942)

## SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 1942

Chamber Fumigated... 18/X/23



PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI  
PRINTED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA

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1942

# Legislative Assembly

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MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 23rd September, 1942.

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.

## TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.†

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS.

#### STEPS FOR CONSERVATION, ETC., OF PETROL SUPPLIES.

**73. \*Sir F. E. James** (on behalf of Mr. J. Ramsay Scott): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and War Transport be pleased to state what steps have been taken or are in contemplation:

- (i) to conserve petrol supplies;
- (ii) to prevent wastage and leakage to the black market of petrol; and
- (iii) to ensure that conditions of supply of petrol are the same in all parts of India?

(b) Why has there been an inability to supply petrol against petrol coupons in the United Provinces but not in Delhi?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) (i). The Honourable Member is referred to the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941. In addition, such supplementary instructions as have appeared necessary from time to time, have been issued to rationing authorities.

(a) (ii). Every effort is made to prevent wastage and leakage to the black market. The Honourable Member is referred for example to the Coloured Motor Spirit Control Order, 1942, published in the Government of India Gazette dated the 11th July, 1942.

(a) (iii) and (b). Such inequalities in the distribution of petrol for civil consumption in different parts of India as have occurred, have been due to difficulties of transport, which in turn depend upon the routes over which petrol has to be railed.

**Kunwar Hajee Ismaiel Ali Khan:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether the supply of petrol has been suspended temporarily or permanently in the United Provinces?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** So far as I know, temporarily.

**Sir F. E. James:** May I ask whether the Honourable Member would take special steps to inaugurate a publicity campaign for something perhaps connected with the national front whereby the public is kept much better informed as to the real problem underlying the supply and distribution of petrol?

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†The question hour of the 17th September, 1942, having been dispensed with these questions were transferred till today, vide page 233 of these debates.—Ed. of D.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir. I am very anxious that public should be kept informed of the Regulations and of the various measures which they themselves can take to assist in the economizing of petrol and also in the use of motor transport, and I am actually considering the steps which we can take in order to give effect to such publicity.

#### CHARCOAL GAS-PRODUCER PLANTS.

**74. \*Sir F. E. James** (on behalf of Mr. J. Ramsay Scott): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and War Transport please give:

(i) the number of charcoal gas-producer plants in use and on order for use in India; and

(ii) the number of manufacturers of these plants in India and their output per month?

(b) Is it a fact that steel priorities for 12,000 such plants have been arranged or given to manufacturers for the period April to September?

(c) Will Government please state how much steel has been delivered against these priorities?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) (i). According to the latest returns, up to the end of July (in some cases, June) in others the total number of vehicles fitted with producer gas plants in British India was 5,377. I regret I have no information regarding the number of orders placed by vehicle owners for plants.

(ii) About 70 manufacturers have been approved by different Provincial Governments. The manufacturing capacity of 50 of these, in the aggregate, is believed to be nearly 3,300 plants per month. We have no particulars of the capacity of the remainder. I regret I have no figures of the actual output of these manufacturers in any recent month.

(b) Yes.

(c) I regret that I cannot give precise information. The arrangement we have made is that steel is distributed from the mills to various controlled stockholders at suitable centres throughout the country, and the licensees are to draw their supplies from the stockholders. Against a total of nearly 3,500 tons of steel for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the year approximately 1,400 tons have been delivered to the stockholders. The bulk of this material, is, however, of one type only and, until more complete supplies of all types are available with the stockholders, licensees are not able to take advantage of this material. Every effort is being made to place complete stocks with the stockholders with the least possible delay.

**Sir F. E. James:** Has the Honourable Member's Department or any of the Provincial Governments taken steps to control the prices at which these charcoal gas-producer plants are actually sold by the manufacturers?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Sir, I am dealing with that in my next question.

## CHARCOAL GAS-PRODUCER PLANTS.

75. \*Sir F. E. James (on behalf of Mr. J. Ramsay Scott): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and War Transport please state if it is a fact that some Provincial Governments have issued orders that buses and lorries must be fitted with Gas-producer Plants?

(b) What steps have Government taken in conjunction with Provincial and Centrally administered areas to see that these plants are supplied at reasonable rates and that charcoal supplies are readily obtainable and at reasonable rates?

(c) What steps are Government taking to see that all Gas-producer Plants comply with specifications before being sold to the public? If this is done provincially, what is the procedure in the centrally administered areas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have no knowledge of any specific order of the kind referred to. It is, of course, the policy of the Government of India that the maximum number of buses and lorries should be converted as rapidly as possible to producer gas.

(b) The control of prices of plants was recently considered by the Transport Advisory Council, and the conclusion was that competition would tend to keep down prices and that when the supply of controlled steel reaches manufacturers in sufficient quantities the conditions attached to the supply will enable the authorities to ensure that prices of plants are reasonable.

The position regarding the supply of charcoal at reasonable rates is, I understand, on the whole satisfactory.

(c) My Department has issued model specifications and rules on the subject, which have already in practice been generally enforced and which were recently accepted by the Transport Advisory Council as satisfactory. The Rules provide that manufacturers' designs and specifications shall be approved by competent officers of the Provincial Government. In the case of Chief Commissioners' Provinces, Rules to this effect have been made in the case of Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi, and also, I believe, in the case of Coorg. There are as yet no producer gas plants in Baluchistan.

## ORGANISATION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES FOR MEETING WAR SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS.

76. \*Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the main categories or classes of goods supplied by his Department for War requirements, the volume of such supplies and their value?

(b) Will the Honourable Member briefly state the steps taken to organise the industry in this country to meet war supply requirements and what assistance, if any, has been given to industry in this connection?

(c) What are the cottage industries, if any, that have been organized or helped to compete for war supply requirements? In what shape and to what extent has assistance been rendered to such industries?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please state the volume of supplies drawn from the cottage industries in this country and the total approximate value of such supplies?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** (a) I place a statement on the table.

(b) Industry has been organised by the appointment of advisers; by the establishment of industrial panels; by close contacts between the Production Directorates and the Controllers of Supplies on the one hand and industrialists on the other; by the provision of new factories and/or new plant; and by a great deal of development work in which Government and industry have both played their part.

Industry has been assisted with finance to accelerate the completion of plant; by the installation of new factories or independent new items of plant at Government expense; by the installation of balancing plant at Government expense; by the grant of special facilities for the import of raw materials and equipment; by the placing of educational or guaranteed orders; and in various other ways.

(c) Small scale industry, both urban and rural, has been organised to produce a large number of items including items made wholly or mainly of wood such as shelves for tools, tent mallets, folding *Charpoy*s and racks, signalling flags, tent poles, and furniture; textiles items such as blankets and camouflage nets; minor metal manufactures such as cutlery and padlocks; leather goods such as *Chaplis* and sandals; and miscellaneous goods such as ambulance stretchers.

Small scale industry is organised through the Provincial Governments which establish "official agencies"—normally their Directors of Industries and/or Registrars of Co-operative Societies to take and distribute contracts, and to supervise the work on behalf of the Central Government. Samples are supplied by the Central Government and if necessary working capital is provided.

(d) During 1941-42 orders on small scale industry were valued at Rs. 4.98 crores. The main items were camouflage nets Rs. 1.82 crores, blankets Rs. 1.18 crores, leather goods Rs. 96 lakhs, and pith hats Rs. 43 lakhs. During 1942-43 to date orders totalling about Rs. 7 crores have been placed with the "official agencies" for allocation to small scale industry. I place on the table a statement giving particulars of the main orders placed.

*Statement showing purchases made by the purchase organisations of the Department of Supply from the commencement of the war upto 31st July 1942.*

Articles.	Value in Rs. 000.
1. Cotton goods . . . . .	80,42,10
2. Woollen goods . . . . .	28,47,75
3. Other textile goods . . . . .	40,88,03
4. Leather materials . . . . .	17,04,92
5. Timber and woodware . . . . .	19,20,47
6. Foodstuffs . . . . .	29,99,13
7. Engineering, miscellaneous and hardware . . . . .	151,80,07
Total . . . . .	367,82,47

NOTE.—The statement includes all purchases made for indentors in India whether the indentors themselves are in India or overseas. It excludes (a) the value of goods manufactured in Government factories and (b) purchases made through commercial channels without the intervention of the Supply Department. It is not possible to show the volume of the purchases in each category owing to the diversity of the goods.

*Statement showing orders placed on official agencies in 1942-43 for allocation to small-scale industry.*

Nomenclature.	Quantity ordered.	Value of order.
1	2	3
Charpoys folding . . . . .	8,000	92,000
Helves Pick Axe . . . . .	16,05,000	14,86,796
Axes Pick Helves . . . . .		
Knives Table . . . . .	3,72,650	2,17,296
Clasp, 1939, with marline spike tin opener and screw Driver . . . . .	2,89,625	5,79,250
Padlocks, I. G., 1 1/4" . . . . .	3,45,825	3,02,596
Padlocks, I. G., 2" . . . . .	71,750	1,77,375
Gloves, M. T., Size 8 1/2 . . . . .		
Gloves, M. T., Size 9 . . . . .	1,14,075	3,06,571
Gloves, M. T., Size 9 1/2 . . . . .		
Sandals P. O. W. (pairs) . . . . .	8,00,000	34,00,000
Chaplis, Frontier Pattern . . . . .	4,00,000	13,00,000
Boots, Gilgit (Pairs) . . . . .	1,60,000	26,00,000
Blankets 90" x 60" . . . . .	2,40,000	1,56,00,000
Pith Hats . . . . .	44,46,600	88,93,200
Camouflage nets—		
14 x 14 . . . . .	4,89,460	14,68,380
14 x 7 . . . . .	59,380	1,09,482
24 x 24 . . . . .	3,32,893	19,55,746
29 x 29 . . . . .	14,428	1,87,564
35 x 35 . . . . .	9,932	1,76,293
35 x 35 G. S. . . . .	58,332	
35 x 35 Artillery . . . . .	622	
29 x 14 . . . . .	21,968	1,46,911
35 x 15 . . . . .	46,868	25,30,872
25 x 12 . . . . .	34,935	13,92,595
Brass Buckles . . . . .	20,00,000	40,00,000
Brass Slides . . . . .	18,00,000	1,12,500
Dees Steel . . . . .	1,71,000	3,42,000
Textiles . . . . .		35,42,149
Miscellaneous items foodstuffs etc. . . . .		2,29,00,149
Total		7,37,99,725

NOTE.—The orders for 1942-43 are not complete.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** With regard to part (c), may I know from the Honourable Member whether any industries have been organized for war purposes in the province of Sind?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** It is up to the Sindhis to do this. I cannot answer the question off-hand, but I am certain that the resources of Sind are being utilized to the fullest possible extent. As I said, this is an arrangement of the Provincial Governments, and I am certain that the Sind Government has set up the necessary agency for executing Government orders, but I shall be glad to give my Honourable friend fuller information after obtaining it.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** With regard to part (c), the Honourable Member said that the Government were, in most cases, prepared to advance capital for the establishment of small industries for the manufacture of articles for the Supply Department. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what is the amount of the capital, that has so far been advanced for starting new cottage industries?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** I cannot answer offhand. I would have to get those figures.

#### DAMAGE CAUSED TO POSTAL DEPARTMENT PROPERTY DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES.

**77. \*Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Will the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department be pleased to make a comprehensive statement about the nature and extent of the damage and destruction caused to the buildings, lines, cables, etc., and other properties of the Postal Department in the recent disturbances? Have telegraph and telephone lines been fully restored to their normal conditions?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 14th instant to starred question No. 5 put by Mr. K. C. Neogy.

#### POSITION OF THE INLAND AIRMAIL SERVICE.

**78. \*Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department be pleased to make a detailed statement about the present position of the Inland Airmail Service in India, with special reference to Airmail Service from Delhi to Calcutta, Bombay and Madras?

(b) Is the Airmail Service run by Government Agency? If not, by which Company or Companies is it run?

(c) Is it a daily and regular service?

(d) Since when has it been introduced?

(e) What is the expenditure involved in the maintenance of this service?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** Sir, I lay on the table a statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member.

#### *Statement showing the internal air mail services operating at present in India.*

Serial No.	Service.	Frequency.	Date of commencement.	Operating concern.	Expenditure involved.
1.	Karachi-Rajasamand-Madho Sagar-Allahabad-Calcutta.	Twice weekly.	1932	British Overseas Airways Corporation.	Service forms part of the arrangements under the Empire Air Mail Scheme.
2.	Karachi-Bombay-Hyderabad-Madras-Trichinopoly-Columbo.	Four times a week.	1932	Tata Sons Limited.	Do.
3.	Delhi-Cawnpore-Allahabad-Gaya-Calcutta.	Four times a week.	13th April 1942.	Indian National Airways Ltd.	A standing payment of Rs. 37,200 per month plus cost of operation on actual mileage operated.
4.	Calcutta-Tezpur-Dinjan (temporary service).	Twice weekly.	10th Aug. 1942.	Do.	
5.	Lahore-Multan-Jacobabad-Quetta (temporary service).	Daily.	17th Aug. 1942.	Do.	

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** May I know if there is a daily regular airmail service from Delhi to Calcutta?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The statement which I am laying on the table gives the names of the services and the frequency of the services. The statement shows how the different services are working. Some are twice weekly, some are four times.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I take it that there is no regular daily service from Delhi to Calcutta?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** When was this service introduced?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** You are referring to (d)?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** The airmail service from Delhi to Calcutta.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The statement gives the service from Delhi to Calcutta. We have a B. O. A. C. service and we have also another service which has been working between Delhi and Calcutta four times a week since 15th April, 1942.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Are they Government agencies or private companies which have been subsidized by the Government of India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** These are private companies. The statement gives the names of the operating concerns.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** They are not Government agencies but private companies employed to carry on the service?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The Companies are paid for the service they render.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Did the Honourable Member say that at the initiative of the Government these Companies were brought into existence, or that they had been functioning before, but that they approached Government for help and Government advanced them the money?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I said it is not a Government agency.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has said that it is not a Government agency.

#### DAMAGE CAUSED TO RAILWAY PROPERTY DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES.

**79. \*Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to make a comprehensive statement about the nature and extent of the damage and destruction caused in the recent disturbances to the different Railways in India with special reference to:

- (i) stations, yards, sheds or cabins or other railway buildings,
- (ii) Railway tracks, bridges and signalling apparatus, and
- (iii) Locomotives and rolling stocks?



(b) Which of the Railways have suffered the heaviest damage and destruction?

(c) Was there any large scale dislocation of traffic, goods and passenger, on any railway? If so, where?

(d) Has through communication been since restored?

(e) What precautionary measures, if any, have been adopted for the future?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) to (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies already given on the 14th to Mr. A. N. Chattopadhyaya's starred questions Nos. 11 and 12. I would add that the East Indian and the Bengal and North Western Railways have suffered the most severely and that there has been damage done to some engines, repairs to most of which have already been completed.

#### **DAMAGE DUE TO FIRE IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI**

**80. \*Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the nature and extent of the loss sustained by the Railway Board by the fire in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in Delhi? Has there been a large scale destruction of documents? Is it likely to affect seriously the administration of the Railway Board?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Railway Clearing Accounts Office was accommodated in five buildings, of which only two (*viz.*, the Clive Building and the Jatia House) were destroyed by the fire. The capital cost of the Clive Building, owned by the North Western Railway Administration, including electric installations, was Rs. 3,94,885. The Jatia House belonged to a private owner on whose behalf notice of a claim of Rs. 1 lakh as compensation has been received. The estimated value of furniture, books, stationery, forms and records (treated as waste-paper for valuation) destroyed by the fire in the two buildings is Rs. 1,50,225.

All the documents in the two buildings were completely destroyed.

The reply to the last part of the question is in the negative.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Do I understand from the Honourable Member that the papers destroyed were not valuable documents but waste paper?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The valuation was made at the waste paper rate.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Is Government considering the question of compensation for Jatia House?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes. Government has unfortunately to consider it.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Has the work of the railway administration been affected by the destruction of this waste paper?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It has of course been affected; but the question was whether it had been seriously affected. Arrangements are being made for reconstructing a portion of the accounts for July 1942 and most of the documents can be obtained from stations and other offices. There will be difficulties in compiling accounts but by co-operation between the railways affected, we hope to get over them.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Were those buildings insured against fire?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Not in the case of the railway building.

#### REPORT OF THE AMERICAN TECHNICAL MISSION.

**81. \*Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Report submitted by the American Technical Mission which visited India during the year?

(b) Will he be pleased to indicate, with reference to each recommendation made in the said report, as to what action has been, or is proposed to be, taken thereon?

(c) Is it a fact that Government are in negotiation with the Government of the United States of America for the services of certain American technical experts in India, and for the establishment of certain war industries in India? If so, what are these industries, and what are the intentions of Government as regards the organisation and control of such industries?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** (a) and (b). The Government of India regret they cannot lay on the table a copy of the Report of the American Technical Mission. The Report contains matter, the publication of which would not be in the public interest, and the Mission themselves have expressed the desire that it be treated as confidential. A summary faithfully recording all the recommendations has, however, been published and presents a correct picture of the measures suggested by the Mission for the purpose of accelerating India's war effort.

(c) The Report includes recommendations for the expansion of certain existing and the establishment of certain new industrial concerns. In connection with these developments it is hoped to make use of technical experts whose services have been offered by the Government of the United States. Broadly speaking, these experts will fall into two groups—first, leading industrialists, who, in an honorary capacity so far as India is concerned, may pay short visits to India for periods not exceeding, say, three months to advise the Government of India on industrial problems; and secondly experts who will be engaged by the Government of India, or in some cases by the firms concerned, on short term contracts. For reasons already explained in my reply to parts (a) and (b) of this question, I regret I cannot give details of the developments that the Government of India have in mind, but I can assure the Honourable Member that the American Technical Mission did not recommend the establishment in India of industries controlled by American interests or American personnel. The Mission made it clear that, as a general rule, the Government of India must limit themselves to short term contracts in engaging salaried personnel, e.g., contracts for periods of approximately one year.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** With regard to the new industrial concerns which are likely to be established as a result of these recommendations, do they relate to the establishment of any key industry in any case?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** Well, all I can say is that a second report has just come through, and until we are in a position to give consideration to that report, I am not able to say anything to my Honourable friend, but perhaps a little later I will be able to.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Will the second report be published?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** No.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know from the Honourable Member if the Mission has recommended any investment of American capital for the development of Indian industry?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** No question of American finances at all.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Will the Honourable Member supply a copy of this report to the Members of this House for their personal use?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** I regret I am not in a position to do that.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Is it a fact that the Honourable Member is not in agreement with certain main recommendations of this American Technical Mission?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** I think it would be too premature to say anything.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** We have seen published in the papers the comments of the Honourable Member on those recommendations and they vary very much from the report of this Mission.

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** I am afraid I was grossly misunderstood.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Will you clarify the position?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** I may inform the Honourable Members, if they really wish to know, that every effort has been made to implement as many of the recommendations of the American Technical Mission as possible. I may say that practically all recommendations are being sought to be given effect to. A sort of War Cabinet, such as was recommended by the Mission, was set up, known as the War Resources Committee, and that Committee apart from dealing with questions of co-ordination of the activities of the different departments related to the war effort, is dealing systematically and seriatim with every recommendation of the American Technical Mission.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** As regards the experts that are to come out from America, can we expect that properly qualified Indians will be placed for training under them so as to be able to replace them whenever necessary?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** There is no question of their employment on any long term basis. It is not as if the necessary personnel are not here. But in order to find out whether in the methods which are being employed in, say, the ordnance factories or in our steel or other plants any special technical assistance would be useful, assistance was sought and it has been freely placed at our disposal by the American administration. The intention is to make the best use of these men and then to send them back.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** With regard to part (c) of this question, I should like to know whether England could not spare such experts and why it is necessary to get them from America?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** Experts are not as readily available from the United Kingdom as from the United States, and since we are following up the main lines of the recommendations of the American Technical Mission, the United States are in the best position to supply the sort of technical personnel which we need.

#### COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF OFFICERS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**82. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state what is the total cadre of officers in the Stores Department on the North Western Railway and what is its communal composition?

(b) Is it a fact that there has not been a single Muslim Officer in this Department for the last two years?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India have laid down the principle that they will prevent the preponderance of any one community in any branch of service under their control?

(d) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take to ensure equitable representation of Muslims in this branch?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The total cadre is nine; the communal composition on the 1st April, was three Hindus, one Sikh, two Europeans and three Anglo-Indians and Domestic Europeans.

(b) Yes.

(c) A declaration to the effect that Government would attempt to prevent the preponderance of any one class or community in the services under their direct control was made in 1928. Since then Government have of course decided to allot quotas for the representation of minority communities but the declaration still remains valid.

(d) Government do not consider that any special steps are necessary.

#### MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM CANDIDATES ON THE WAITING LIST OF STOCK VERIFIERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**83. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim candidates on the waiting list of Stock Verifiers on the North Western Railway?

(b) Why is the number of Muslim candidates smaller than that of the non-Muslims?

(c) Why were all the Muslim qualified men not allowed to appear before the Selection Board?

(d) Is it a fact that two Hindus have recently been appointed Stock Verifiers but their names neither appeared on the current nor on the previous waiting lists?

(e) Is it a fact that one of them was reverted from this post on the charge of claiming false travelling allowance, and was permanently debarred for appointment as a Verifier?

(f) Is it a fact that his appeal was also rejected?

(g) Is it a fact that the other person was previously found unfit for this post?

(h) What are the grounds for their special promotions from outside the list?

(i) Why were the selected candidates not appointed as Verifiers or why could not a selection be arranged at the time?

(j) Who are the persons responsible for such recommendations?

(k) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to set right matters?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) to (j). Government have no information on these matters of detailed administration which are within the competence of the General Manager.

(k) Does not arise.

#### INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**84. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state what instructions have the Railway Board issued from time to time to Railway Administrations in connection with the representation of Muslims in Establishment Sections?

(b) What has been the effect of the issue of these instructions as regards increase in the representation of Muslims:

(i) in the clerical cadre,

(ii) in the posts of Head Clerks,

(iii) in the posts of Superintendents, and

(iv) in the posts of Gazetted Officers

on the North Western Railway, comparing the position on 1st April, 1930, with that on 1st April, 1942?

(c) Is it a fact that the representation of Muslims in the Establishment Section of the Headquarters Office has decreased considerably since the present Deputy General Manager (Personnel) has taken over charge of the North Western Railway?

(d) What instructions, if any, do Government propose to issue to ensure the strict observance of their orders in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to question No. 146 asked in the Council of State by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra (on behalf

of the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam) on the 6th September, 1933. Railways were subsequently reminded of these orders.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's unstarred question No. 106 asked on the 10th March, 1941.

(c) No; the number has diminished by one.

(d) None, as they do not consider such instructions necessary.

#### PROMOTIONS IN THE LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**85. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state how many promotions were made by the North Western Railway Administration in the Lower Gazetted Service in the various branches separately during the calendar year 1941 and up to date in 1942?

(b) Will Government please state the communal distribution of the promotions made to this service during this period separately?

(c) How many subordinates are at present officiating in the Lower Gazetted Service and what communities do they belong to?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

*Statements showing the communal composition of officers (I) promoted to the L. G. S. on the North Western Railway during the calendar year 1941 and up to date in 1942 and (II) officiating in the L. G. S. on North Western Railway.*

#### STATEMENT I.

(a) and (b).

Department.	Europeans.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Anglo-Indians & Domiciled Europeans.
Civil Engineering	..	1	2	1	1
Traffic and Commercial	1	1	1	..	..
Power and Mechanical	2	..	..	..	4
Signal	..	..	1	..	..
Medical	..	2	..	..	..
Printing	1	..	..	..	..
Accounts	..	1	..	1	..
Total	4	5	4	2	5

#### STATEMENT II.

(c) *(Communal composition of officers now officiating in the L. G. S. on North Western Railway.)*

Europeans and Anglo-Indians	43
Hindus	24
Muslims	6
Sikhs	5
Indian Christians	3
Others	1

#### PAUCITY OF MUSLIM STENOGRAPHERS IN HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

**86. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that posts of stenographers in the Headquarters Office of the North Western Railway used to be filled by

direct recruitment prior to the July 1934 Resolution of the Government of India in regard to reservation of posts for minority communities in direct recruitment?

(b) Is it a fact that no direct recruitment whatsoever is being made in this category except in the case of lady stenographers belonging to the Anglo-Indian community?

(c) Is it a fact that there is not a single permanent Muslim stenographer in the entire Headquarters Office of the North Western Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that direct recruitment is being made to the category of stenographers to a certain extent in respect of vacancies in the Divisional Offices of the North Western Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that the number of Muslims promoted as stenographers is negligible as compared with the number of non-Muslims during the last ten years?

(f) What action do Government propose to take to set right this injustice to the Muslim community?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, due to the transfer of two Muslim Stenographers and two Muslim Typists to the office of the Railway Board.

(d) and (e) Information is not readily available.

(f) Government do not consider that any injustice has been done to Muslims in this connection.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** With regard to parts (d) and (e), when will the information be available?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The collection of the information will, I think, take a considerable time, and I am not sure that we should be justified in the present war conditions in throwing that burden on the railways; but I will consider that question further.

#### MONOPOLISTIC SUPPLY AGENCIES OF THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

**87. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state if there are any commodities supplied by monopolists? If so, which commodities and who are the monopolists? Does the Honourable Member propose to continue such "sole agency" of supply? In case such monopoly agencies are to continue, is the Honourable Member prepared to distribute the agency on the same terms to at least a dozen suppliers?

(b) What is the total quantity of rice, wheat, ghee, gur and sugar supplied during 1941 and upto the 31st August, 1942, and what was the value of such quantities supplied?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** (a) Certain Army foodstuffs are purchased through Purchasing Agents. The commodities are:

(1) Wheat, dals and animal food grains.

(2) Tea.

(3) Ghee.

The Purchasing Agents are for (1) Messrs. Owen Roberts and Co., Ltd., Lahore; for (2) Messrs. Harrison and Crossfield, Calcutta, and for (3) Messrs. Alopi Pershad and Sons, Delhi.

Arrangements are under consideration to appoint additional purchasing agents for the purchase of wheat. Tea is at present purchased through Messrs. Harrison and Crossfield, but it is probable that the Tea Controller will take over the supply of tea for the Defence Services, and this would dispense with the necessity for utilising a purchasing agent. In regard to ghee, a second purchasing agent, viz., The Ghee Supply Co., Ltd., Calcutta, has recently been appointed, and it is proposed to appoint two or three more ghee purchasing agents for the 1942-43 ghee season. It is not proposed to distribute agencies on the same terms to a dozen suppliers, because it would have the effect of intensifying competition in purchasing which would tend to raise prices.

(b) A statement is laid on the table. Rice is purchased on the open tender system.

Sugar is purchased direct from the sugar mills under allotment advices received from the Sugar Controller.

The Supply Department does not purchase gur.

*Statement showing the total quantities and values of rice, wheat, ghee and sugar supplied during 1941 and up to 31st August, 1942.*

	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	Rs.
Rice . . . . .	74,470	1,60,33,000
Wheat . . . . .	3,70,843	4,54,51,964
Ghee . . . . .	24,079	3,42,11,500
Sugar . . . . .	50,950	1,45,78,500

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** What is the commission paid for wheat?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** So far as the wheat purchasing agents are concerned, it is on a sliding scale depending on the value of the orders placed.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Will it not be advantageous for the Government to have separate agencies in separate provinces for each commodity?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** Not separate agencies in separate provinces, but the employment of more agencies is being considered and a decision will be reached very shortly.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** After the war?

**The Honourable Sir Homi Mody:** Very shortly, I said; unless you expect the war to end next week.



**REPAIRING OF THE RECENT DAMAGE CAUSED ON VARIOUS RAILWAYS.**

**88. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and War Transport be pleased to state if all the railways meeting at Delhi Main Station have become safe for travelling of passengers, mails and for goods transport? What arrangements have been made to guard the lines against further damage? Has reconstruction work of all damaged stations and telegraph posts and cables been taken up? How long will it take to complete the reconstruction work and when will normal work be started? Have all impediments to war transports been overcome by this time?

(b) Has the damage done to railways passing through Bihar, *vis.*, Bengal and North-Western Railway, Gaya-Kiul Loop—been repaired and normal transit and transport been set up?

(c) Is it a fact that due to want of adequate supply of coal, locomotives have to be left inactive in sheds and for this all through trains are not being run? If so, how long is this condition expected to continue?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Normal running has not yet been restored throughout the East Indian Railway though conditions are greatly improved. On the other railways connecting at Delhi, the position may be regarded as satisfactory. The security of Railways is a matter which is receiving the closest attention of Provincial authorities with whom Railways are co-operating fully. The work of restoration and reconstruction is proceeding as rapidly as possible. I would prefer not to suggest when this work may be completed, but I would assure the Honourable Member that no avoidable delay will be allowed to occur.

(b) Not completely.

(c) The Honourable Member is perhaps referring to trains having been cancelled in order to conserve coal stocks. Goods services are being restored as fully as possible but the passenger services will not be restored until the coal position has been further improved.

**Dr. F. X. DeSouza:** Will the Honourable Member be surprised to hear that it took me eleven days to perform the journey that normally takes two?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am sure he is not blaming the railways for that state of affairs.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Has the main line from Calcutta to Delhi, *via* Patna been declared open and is there through running of passenger trains on that line?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Trains are running over that line.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Passenger trains, I mean?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes; passenger trains are running but with restricted services.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Which trains?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I should require notice of that question.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Is it not a fact that there is only one mail train running from Calcutta to Delhi and that is the Delhi Mail *via* the Grand Chord and there is no passenger service by the main line?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There is only one through passenger train, running between Delhi and Calcutta. There are, however, one or more local trains running between Delhi and Moghal Serai, Moghal Serai and Gaya and so on and that should effect some relief. As to when additional through trains will be put on, I cannot yet say. We have at present, as I said, to concentrate upon goods traffic and there is a good deal of leeway to make up in goods traffic, and until that is made up, I am afraid there will still be inconvenience to the travelling public.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know if 5 Up and 6 Down—the Punjab Mail—is going over Patna between Saharanpur and Calcutta?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I require notice of that; I am not certain whether it is going through or not.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Is the Honourable Member aware that there is no through train or through carriage between Delhi and Lucknow and that it takes about twenty-four hours to go there?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** The railways do not want you to travel.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Mr. Joshi has given the answer. We are not particularly anxious that the public should travel, and I hope that Mr. Bajoria will be able to cut out his trip to Lucknow.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** The Honourable the Home Member the other day in discussing the present situation pointed out that on the main lines from Madras to Calcutta and from Delhi to Calcutta not a day went without acts of sabotage occurring. Have those acts stopped now and has the condition become normal?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The condition on those lines is approaching normal.

**Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** How many hours does it take to go from Calcutta to Delhi, is the Honourable Member aware? Is it a fact that it takes 51 hours?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think the Honourable Member must have been unlucky if it took 51 hours. It usually takes about 44 hours now.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** With reference to the Honourable Member's advice that people should not travel generally between Delhi and Lucknow, is he prepared to advise me not to go to Lucknow to attend a meeting of the Provincial War Committee which may be held very soon there?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Certainly not.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** What route would he like me to take in that case if there is no through carriage running between Delhi and Lucknow?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Bullock cart!

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** In the United Kingdom there is a notice put up in all stations which reads, "Is your journey really necessary?" In the case of the Honourable Member I am quite certain that the journey is necessary. As to other necessary journeys, I am sorry for any inconvenience which he and the rest of the travelling public suffer, but the Honourable Member will, I am sure, be aware that the inconvenience is not the fault of the railway administration.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Shall we be able to get back to our headquarters?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Certainly.

#### DAMAGE CAUSED TO RAILWAY PROPERTY DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES.

†89. **\*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please give value of the damage done to the Railways by rioters in destroying the track, breaking the bridges, burning Railway property and destroying material and stock loaded in carriages?

(b) On whom will the burden of replacement fall?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to reply already given on the 14th to Mr. A. N. Chattopadhyaya's starred questions Nos. 11 and 12.

(b) On the tax payers.

#### RESISTANCE TO RIOTERS SETTING FIRE TO THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

†90. **\*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please mention the number of persons who were working at the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in Delhi at the time it was burnt by the rioters?

(b) How many such rioters actually came to burn the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(c) What resistance, if any, did the peons and the clerks of the Clearing Accounts Office offer to save the building from destructions?

(d) Did the Railway Board make any enquiry and what disciplinary action have Government taken in this connection?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Railway Clearing Accounts Office was accommodated in five different buildings of which two, situated adjacent to each other on the Queens Road, (*viz.*, the Clive Building and the Jatia House) were set fire to by a mob. The number of persons working in these two buildings was 885.

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

(b), (c) and (d). A departmental enquiry was held by the officers in charge of the Clearing Accounts Office from which it appears that a mob of about 800 to 1,000 persons attacked the offices and that though the staff and peons attempted to save the building, they were unable to do so owing to the violence of the mob and the speed with which the fire spread. An enquiry by the police is now in progress.

#### PRECAUTIONARY STEPS AGAINST DAMAGE BY RECENT MOB VIOLENCE.

†91. \*Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please mention what precautionary steps he had taken to save the line and poles from destruction by rioters soon after the arrests of the members of the Congress Working Committee?

(b) Was the Railway Member familiar with the programme of violence of the rioters?

(c) Was he informed by the Intelligence Department of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) As stated in reply to part (d) to Mr. A. N. Chattopadhyaya's starred question No. 12, preventive measures are primarily the responsibility of Provincial Governments.

(b) and (c). Those responsible for the programme of violence did not communicate an advance copy of it to the authorities.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### THE SPECIAL HAJ INQUIRY REPORT.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state when Government propose to place Mr. Rahim's report regarding the Haj Pilgrimage before the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the House and before the Central Haj Committee? What action has so far been taken on the recommendations made by Mr. Rahim?

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney: The opinions of all the bodies consulted on Mr. Rahim's Report have not yet been received. Government propose to call a meeting of the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz as soon as possible after they are received—when its advice will be sought on certain recommendations. It is hoped to call this meeting about the end of next month. Thereafter an opportunity will be given as early as convenient to the House to consider the matter. The examination of the recommendations together with the comments so far received from various sources has been taken up.

Mr. Huseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Are Government aware that Mr. Rahim's report has met with universal approbation from a large number of bodies who are really interested in the Haj traffic?

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney: We have received the opinions of some bodies and are awaiting the opinions of others.

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

**Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee:** A large body directly interested in the matter have gone through the report and have expressed a favourable opinion.

**The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney:** I am again saying that there are still bodies which are interested, whose opinions have not yet been received.

**NATURE OF GUARANTEE TO HAJ SHIPPING COMPANIES AND ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR NEXT HAJ SEASON.**

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fasil-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state the nature of guarantee given to the Shipping Companies at the time of fixing fares for the last Haj season?

(b) How much money has been paid to the Shipping Companies on account of that undertaking? If no payment was made, did the Shipping Companies make any profit? If so, how much?

(c) Will the profit be taken into consideration in fixing fares for the next Haj season?

(d) How many shipping companies participated in the last Haj traffic?

(e) Was the Scindia Navigation Company consulted? If so, why did they not like to ply pilgrim ships? Will they be consulted for the next Haj season?

(f) Do Government propose to make shipping arrangements for the next Haj season? If so, will they consult the Central Haj Committee as to the arrangements they propose to make?

**The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) His Majesty's Government and the Government of India had agreed to guarantee the shipowners against loss to the extent of their expenditure on elements of the fare which are the creation of war conditions, such as the cost of war risk insurance on pilgrim ships and expenditure on account of any abnormal detention of pilgrim ships. They had also agreed to consider sympathetically claims by the shipping company if heavy loss is sustained through release of vessels from requisition at inopportune times which make it impossible for ships to be employed pending use as pilgrim ships; to consider sympathetically any claim if vessels have to be diverted from the pilgrim trade at short notice on account of insufficient number of pilgrims coming forward; and to meet the whole cost of the additional life-saving appliances that had to be carried on board pilgrim ships in accordance with the Indian Pilgrim Ships (Additional Life-Saving Appliances) Rules, 1941.

(b) The Mogul Line have intimated that they do not claim any amount from Government in respect of the transport of pilgrims to and from Jeddah during the last pilgrim season except the cost of providing certain life-saving appliances. On receipt of their final bill for the cost of those life-saving appliances, one-third of the amount will be paid by the Government of India and the balance by His Majesty's Government. Government are not aware whether the Mogul Line have made any profit from the pilgrim traffic.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) One Company, namely, the Mogul Line.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative; the answer to the second part is that the Scindia Steam Navigation Company considered that they could not provide adequate tonnage unless some of their requisitioned ships employed on the essential defence work were released. The answer to the last part is in the affirmative.

(f) The question is at present under careful examination of the Government of India.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** During the last two years we have heard the Government say that guarantees have been given for any loss that the company might sustain. But the latest reports of both years show that the company have made enormous profits; not only that, but they have got a monopoly of taking cargoes during the Haj season. In the circumstances, is it any more necessary for guaranteeing them any loss on their traffic, or is it ever going to be possible that they will make any loss?

**The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney:** Government will carefully consider the suggestion implied.

#### BEVIN BOYS SELECTED FROM INDIA FOR TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what is the total number of Bevin Boys selected by the Government of India for training in the United Kingdom? In how many batches were they sent? How many of those were (i) Muslims, (ii) persons belonging to scheduled caste, in each batch, separately? (b) What minimum qualifications did the Government prescribe for selection? Were they all manual labourers in the factories?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) 304 Bevin trainees have so far been selected for training in the United Kingdom. Five batches have actually been sent so far, one of 54 and four of 50 each. A tabular table is given below, showing the communal composition of the five batches already sent and the sixth batch now selected. It shows that 50 Muslims were sent out of 304.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total.
Hindus	21	25	27	29	26	34	162
Muslims	13	9	8	8	8	4	50
Anglo-Indians	4	5	4	3	7	3	26
Indian-Christians	4	7	6	8	4	4	33
Parsis	6	3	3	3	1	3	19
Sikhs	2	1	2	3	4	2	14
	50	50	50	54	50	50	304

No information is available as to the number of Scheduled caste trainees in the first 5 batches. Particulars in the case of the 6th batch are awaited.

(b) The following are the minimum qualifications required. Candidates—

- (1) must be young and healthy but not below the age of eighteen;
- (2) must be intelligent, able to read, write and do simple calculations, and possess manual dexterity and a sufficient knowledge of English to understand and make themselves understood;
- (3) must belong to one of the engineering trades preferably fitting, turning or machining;
- (4) must have had a minimum of three years' experience of factory work and have given proof of intelligence and adaptability; and
- (5) must be medically fit and free from all traces of tuberculosis.

A limited number of students were included in the first two batches, but it was then decided to restrict the Scheme to men of the working classes and that rule has since been enforced.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Is it a fact that some of these young boys have not found employment?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** My information is that a great many have found employment.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** How many have returned?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** 149, I believe.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** What is the test of intelligence to which the Honourable Member has referred?

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Is it a fact that some of these boys have been offered less wages than they were earning before they left for this training?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Not to my knowledge.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Will the Honourable Member inquire as to how many are unemployed?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Very few, to my knowledge, are unemployed.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Were they sent under a guarantee of employment?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** No guarantee of employment.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** Will Government consider the employment of Bevin boys for training as war technicians?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I will consider that.

**RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTE BOYS UNDER THE BEVIN SCHEME.**

**Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of scheduled castes boys recruited under the Bevin Scheme?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to secure adequate representation of these castes?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) No particulars were kept in respect of the first five batches. Particulars are being collected about the sixth batch which will sail shortly, and statistics will be kept of all future batches.

(b) Candidates for training under the scheme are selected by the National Service Tribunals and Government have suggested to the Chairmen of these Tribunals that when making their selections they should associate with the Tribunal non-officials of influence belonging to the Scheduled Castes preferably members of the local Legislature.

**APPROVED CONTRACTORS OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.**

**Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the total number of contractors on the approved list of the Central Public Works Department according to classes?

(b) How many of them belong to scheduled castes?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) The total number of contractors on the approved list of the Central Public Works Department is 1,171, according to the classification given below:

**1. Building contractors.**

Class I (No limit)	115
Class II (below Rs. 50,000)	236
Class III (below Rs. 20,000)	620
Total	971

**2. Electrical contractors.**

Class I (above Rs. 20,000)	28
Class II (below Rs. 20,000)	42
Total	70

Furniture and Sanitary contractors (no classification)	130
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(b) It is regretted that no information is available because the names of Hindus and of the members of scheduled castes are indistinguishable. Moreover, it has not been the practice to enquire from contractors about their community.



**Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj:** With reference to the last part of the Honourable Member's reply, will the Honourable Member make the necessary inquiries and get full information on the subject?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I will.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Do the Government appoint contractors also on a communal basis?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am only answering a question which calls for information.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** I want a reply to my question. Is it the intention of Government to appoint contractors on a communal basis, so many Muslims, so many Europeans, so many scheduled castes and so on?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** That is not a question that arises now. I am only giving information.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Are building materials also produced and purchased on a communal basis?

(No answer.)

#### MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

#### DURBAN CITY COUNCILS MOVE FOR EXPROPRIATION OF INDIAN-OWNED LANDS.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I received notice of an adjournment motion yesterday from Mr. G. V. Deshmukh. He wants to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the move of the Durban City Council to expropriate Indian-owned lands in Durban to be allocated for European or Coloured Housing schemes to be definitely sanctioned by the Union Government. It is difficult to follow the last part of the motion. What are the facts? When did this take place?

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I do not propose to move the adjournment motion, but I would request the Honourable Member in charge to bear in mind the apprehensions of the Indians in Durban whose lands are going to be expropriated and the fears of the Indian High Commissioner in South Africa because of what the minister said in regard to this expropriation and to intervene in the matter before it becomes an accomplished fact.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON MAULANA HUSAIN AHMED MADANI, DR. K. N. KATJU AND DETENUS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The notice of next motion is from Mr. Kazmi. He wants to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the bad treatment meted out to Maulana Husain Ahmad Madani, a political prisoner kept in 'A' Class.

at Moradabad and Dr. K. N. Katju, an ex-Minister of the United Provinces, a detenus, at Allahabad and other detenus in the United Provinces who are not allowed to correspond, to have interviews, to receive newspapers or supplement diet allowance and in fact about whom little is known since these restrictions. Is not this a Provincial matter and the concern of the Provincial Government?

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural): Dr. Katju has been detained under the Defence of India Rules of the Government of India. If they have been arrested under the orders of the Government of India, then the Government of India is responsible for them.

**Sir Richard Tottenham** (Home Secretary): These persons have not been arrested under the orders of the Government of India. The action against them has been taken by the Provincial Government. The Government of India have no information and the matter is within the competence of the Provincial Government.

#### MALTREATMENT TO POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETENUS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is also of the same character.\* It runs thus:

"That the House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the creation of a 'third class' for detenus in the United Provinces with a diet allowance of annas four and the reduction in Sharanpur jail of most of the political detenus to that class after beating them on the night of 31st August, in which Babu Ajit Prasada Jain, ex-Parliamentary Secretary, United Provinces, and Thakur Phool Singh, M.L.A., ex-Chairman, District Board, Saharanpur, were included, and the withdrawal of the right of correspondence, interviews, newspapers, supplementing diet, etc., from political prisoners and detenus."

What has the Government to say in this matter?

**Sir Richard Tottenham**: We have no information on this subject either. None of these people were detained under the orders of the Government of India.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**: So far as this motion is concerned, my submission is that there have been assurances given by this Government, time and again, that the detenus will be classed as Class I and Class II. Any departure from that practice which goes to reduce the position of the detenus and decreases their allowances will have to be objected in view of the assurances of the Government of India.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that these men were detained under the orders of the Provincial Government and that it is the concern of the Provincial Government to look after them while they are in detention. It is not the concern of the Government of India.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MR. E. L. C. GWILT TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRAVELLING AND OTHER ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE.

**The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney** (Leader of the House): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt be appointed to the Committee constituted for the purpose of considering the amendment of the rules governing the grant of travelling and other allowances to Members of the Indian Legislature vice Sir Frederick James."

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

"That Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt be appointed to the Committee constituted for the purpose of considering the amendment of the rules governing the grant of travelling and other allowances to Members of the Indian Legislature *vice* Sir Frederick James."

The motion was adopted.

## RESOLUTION *RE* BAN ON THE KHAKSAR MOVEMENT—*concl'd.*

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolutions. Sir Syed Raza Ali will continue his speech.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali** (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, when the House rose yesterday at 2 o'clock I was dealing with the changes that have taken place in the political and military conditions of the country since action was taken against the Khaksars by Government. To complete that chain, let me refer Honourable Members of this House to the action that has been taken by Government with reference to certain other political parties. Let me make it quite clear that when I mention the action that the Government have taken, I do not mean to blame the Government in any way. Change of circumstances always justifies a change in policy. I believe it was the late Pandit Motilal Nehru who led the Opposition in this House so ably about 18 years ago who said "consistency is the virtue of an ass". He was taken to task by the Press for that remark, but, after all, when one considers the question dispassionately one must admit that there is lot of force in that observation. A change of policy as I pointed out, is always justified by changed circumstances.

We know that a number of communists were put under lock and key after the outbreak of the present war. We also know that action was taken by Government against certain Congressmen in 1941. I believe one case that would readily occur to the minds of Honourable Members is the case of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was prosecuted at Gorakhpur, I believe, in 1941, and who was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. The changes are these. Practically, all the communists have been set at liberty—I speak subject to correction—but I do not think there is any communist against whom action was taken under the rules made by the Government under the Defence of India Act who is under incarceration today. It is also important to recall that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and other Congress leaders, who were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, have been released. In fact, they were released some time ago. Let me repeat lest there be any misunderstanding that I do not object to the action taken by Government with reference to these people. I think the Government were quite justified in releasing the communists. I also consider that the Government were quite right in setting at liberty Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and other Congress leaders who had been sentenced to imprisonment after trial. All that I would say is this: Is there any reason when you have released all the communists who, according to you, were at one time, your enemies and also when you have released these Congress leaders, to continue the ban against the Khaksar movement?

Sir, in this world, as a rule, the future is more important than the past, and the present is more important than the future. I do not want to take up the time of the House in describing as to what the present position is. The point is this. Can the Government reasonably justify the present

ban against the Khaksars continuing in spite of the liberal action they have taken with reference to the communists and those who were convicted for various offences by courts of law. Let me here inform the House that Allama Mashriqi, a couple of months before he was arrested, wrote an article in his journal *The Islah* published at Lahore, offering 50,000 recruits from his organization. A question was also put on that point in this House, and the cold reply of the Government, if I may say so, was that no such offer was made to Government by Allama Mashriqi. It may be that no such offer was made direct to Government. I do not say that the Government statement was not right. But, after all, is there any reason why in the midst of this struggle you should insist on formalities being complied with and should not take advantage of a generous, liberal and loyal offer made by the leader of a very important party? I know this much that I do not think that that offer was in any way an over-estimate of the number of Khaksars offered for enlistment by Allama Mashriqi. The number of Khaksars is very large. I believe their numbers run into lakhs and lakhs. Fifty-thousand recruits was by no means a number to be despised. Unfortunately the Government did not take advantage of it.

12 Noon. We know how these practical men do constructive valuable work, we know how their minds work. I believe that in all likelihood Allama Mashriqi never put himself in touch or in communication with either the Defence Secretary or the Home Member or even the Premier of his own Province. It is none the less true that the offer was there, and if the Government wanted to take advantage of that, they could have put themselves in communication with him. Anyway they did not do that. The point is this. This is the man whose liberty is still restricted under the rules made under the Defence of India Act and who is not allowed to leave the confines of Madras Presidency.

I will now come to our relations with the Khaksar party. I believe some of my Honourable colleagues would like to know perhaps how the Muslim League viewed this question after the trouble that occurred in Lahore on the 19th March, 1940. I would invite the attention of Honourable Members to the resolution that was passed by the all India Muslim League at its Lahore session. Let me further point out that this resolution was not only passed unanimously but it was moved from the chair. Indeed, there was such a strong unanimity at the session that the resolution was moved from the chair. That resolution was moved by Mr. Jinnah himself. The resolution is a short one, the constructive portion being at the end. But in order to give a complete picture to the House, I will read out the whole resolution:

"This session of the all India Muslim League places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the unfortunate and tragic occurrence on the 19th March, 1940, owing to a clash between the Khaksars and the Police resulting in the loss of a large number of lives and injuries to many more, and sincerely sympathises with those who have suffered and with their families and dependants."

"This session calls upon the Government to forthwith appoint an independent and impartial committee of inquiry, the personnel of which would command perfect confidence of the people with instructions to them to make full and complete investigation and inquiry into the whole affair and make their report as soon as possible."

"This session authorises the Working Committee to take such action in the matter as they may consider proper immediately after the publication of the report of the Committee."

Now, I would invite the attention of Honourable Members to the last portion which runs as follows:

"This session urges upon the various Governments that the order declaring the Khaksar organisation unlawful should be removed as soon as possible."

[Sir Syed Raza Ali]

This is what was done on the 24th March, 1940. The committee that was appointed consisted of two members who enquired into the circumstances of the disturbance that occurred at Lahore on the 19th March, 1940. The members were Sir Douglas Young, the Chief Justice of Lahore and Chaudhri Niamatullah, Retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court. I understand that both these gentlemen went into the whole question carefully. They recorded statements, took evidence and made their report in the fulness of time. Strange to say that report was never allowed to see the light of day. It is rather an important matter. Here a disturbance takes place, in which there was considerable loss of life. A committee is appointed which enquires and makes its report. As a result of that disturbance a ban is placed on a very important organisation. Yet the report is not published. May I enquire from the Honourable Member as to how it was that this report was suppressed and has not been published up to this day? The point is this. So far as the Khaksars are concerned, I myself yesterday said in this House candidly that it may be that the Khaksars used their discretion in a wrong manner up to a point on March 19. But surely it cannot be claimed that the Government were infallible. There must have been mistakes made on the side of Government also. What is there to show that what the Government did as regards matters which led up to the disturbance on the 19th March, 1940, was right. If the Government wanted to justify their position, it was the clear duty, it was the plain duty of Government to publish the report. I belong to the legal profession, and I am proud to belong to it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** If the Government suppress evidence which is in their possession, the fair conclusion that one can draw is that that evidence is unfavourable to them. I should like to know what the position is. I do hope the Government would give careful consideration to this question and not attach too much importance to their prestige, because we know what is happening in the country today. Let the Government have imagination, let them act with imagination and if they do so, I have no doubt that they will have no hesitation in accepting this Resolution. I would wait for a reply from the spokesman on behalf of the Government. Sir, I move.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the ban on the Khaksar movement be lifted and Allama Inayatullah, Mashriqi and all other Khaksars interned under Regulation III of 1818 or the rules made under the Defence of India Act be immediately released."

There are two amendments. They should be moved now.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'lifted and Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi and' the following be substituted:

'lifted, the restrictions placed on the liberty of Allama Mashriqi be immediately withdrawn, and that.'

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

"That for the words 'lifted and Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi and' the following be substituted:

"lifted, the restrictions placed on the liberty of Allama Mashriqi be immediately withdrawn, and that'."

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur** (South Madras; Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi and all other Khaksars interned under Regulation III of 1818, or the rules made under the Defence of India Act be immediately released' the words 'the restrictions placed on the liberty of Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi be immediately withdrawn' be substituted."

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

"That for the words 'Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi and all other Khaksars interned under Regulation III of 1818, or the rules made under the Defence of India Act be immediately released' the words 'the restrictions placed on the liberty of Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi be immediately withdrawn' be substituted."

Now, there will be debate on the original motion as well as the two amendments.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad**: Sir, I would like to clear few points as a background of my arguments. There was an allegation at one time that the Khaksars were fifth columnists and that they were in touch with the Nazi organisation. If this thing is established, I have no hesitation in saying that the Muslim League will have no sympathy with them. If the Honourable the Home Secretary has got good documentary evidence I would request him to show it to two or three Members of the Muslim League Party, and if they are convinced, the question would be dropped. When I heard of such an allegation, I made a searching enquiry and I was convinced that this allegation was absolutely untrue. They are as much against absolute Axis dictatorship as any member of the Muslim League. Had they been fifth columnists this was the right opportunity for them to join the Congress and help in dislocation of administration, but we actually find that they are at present as staunch supporters of law and order as any loyal citizen of India.

At the present time, there are two criteria by which we should judge the *bona fide* of any organization: (a) Is that organization helping or obstructing war efforts? (b) Is the organization likely to create communal riots and widen differences between the Hindus and Muslims?

As regards the first point, the leader of the Khaksar movement, Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi, offered to give fifty thousand volunteers for the British Army to fight against the Axis powers. The offer of 1939 was repeated in 1940 and again in 1941, and it is still there. I know definitely that about 3,000 Khaksars have actually joined the ranks of the Indian Army and about 50 of them are in officers grade. They did not join as Khaksars but they took their chance as the citizens of the country. Some of them have already done good work. They are not in any way against the war efforts and they are willing to give as much help as the Government may require, in any direction connected directly or indirectly with war efforts.

With regard to the second point, I would like to mention that non-Muslims can become Khaksars. In fact, there are several Hindus and Sikhs in this movement. It is an organization for social service and not to spread bitterness amongst the different sects of Indians. There is not

[Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.]

a single case of communal riots on record which was created by the Khaksars. They want to do social service to all and not to create communal troubles. They came in conflict on two occasions: Once with the Congress Government of the United Provinces when Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi indiscreetly went to Lucknow with the object of solving an insoluble problem, i.e., of conflict between Shias and Sunnis which time alone could solve. I say this because Sir Raza Ali, myself and other made some efforts but without success. The Congress Government instigated the Ahrars to shout slogans against them. Allama Mashriqi was then arrested but he was subsequently released at the suggestion of Mr. Jinnah. The ban on Khaksars continued and many other Khaksars were still in jails. I went to Lucknow and approached the Ministers to draft any conditions for lifting up the ban. One of the Muslim Ministers agreed to the draft but his other colleagues did not agree. The Congress Government of the United Provinces were not prepared to lift the ban, but the moment the Congress Ministers resigned their offices, the Chief Secretary, Mr. Mudie, accepted the conditions drafted by one of the Congress Ministers. The ban was removed, and all the Khaksars left Lucknow the same evening.

The second time they came in conflict with the Punjab Government which objected to the use of shovels and military formations. The Sikhs were allowed to use Kirpans but the Khaksars were not allowed to use the shovels which was the emblem of labourers. This was resented not only by the Khaksars but by the Mussalmans in general. It was expected that Mr. Jinnah and other leaders of the Muslim League would settle the affair when they went to Lahore in March, 1940, but the trouble was precipitated by the Khaksars by open defiance of the orders of the Government. I never favoured such defiance which resulted in loss of life. The only other case I am familiar with is that of Ehlullah of Bhopal, who, in his eccentric frenzy issued a circular in Peshawar which Khaksars themselves condemned and Mr. Ehlullah was removed from the office. Some persons made capital use of this eccentric notification. I do not defend the indiscreet incident in Lahore in which the Khaksars suffered most heavily and paid disproportionately heavy tax, but what I press is that this incident should not be made the occasion of perpetual ban on the Khaksars. The Khaksars never disobeyed the orders of any District Magistrate and of Local Governments at any other place in any other province.

The Government have released persons who committed dacoity with arms from the arsenal of Chittagong. They have released all the communists, and they have lifted the ban from the communist society although some of them committed acts of violence. Why should the Khaksars be singled out at the present moment for the perpetuation of the ban when it has been lifted elsewhere in much worse cases. I think the rules and regulations of the Khaksars are in the hands of the Government and the Honourable Members of this House and the Honourable the Home Secretary is well familiar with them. I would like him to point out any rule to which he takes objection and we will make an attempt to get the rule modified if the Home Secretary undertakes that he would remove the ban.

I have heard some persons saying that the methods adopted by Allama Mashriqi are the Nazi methods and these are the chief grounds for suspecting connection with the Nazi movement. I would like to point out that Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi

draw up the constitution of the Khaksars in the year 1924. He asked me to join the movement as we were old friends, but I was in the middle of the non-co-operation trouble, as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the Aligarh Muslim University and I refused to join it. Hitler at that time was not heard of and he did not at that time draw up any scheme of Nazi organization. In case there is any similarity, it is a pure accident. If anyone copied the other, it must be Hitler who copied Allama Mashriqi as the constitution of the Khaksars was drawn up long before anyone heard of Nazi movement.

Now, I am making a very simple request which no reasonable person responsible for law and order will refuse and it is this: Let the restrictions on the movement of Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi be withdrawn and he may be invited to Delhi. In case the Government of India feel hesitation in taking responsibility for removing the ban from whole of India, they may at least remove the ban from the areas centrally administered and recommend to the Provincial Governments to settle the matter according to the local conditions. I venture to press it on the ground that during war time the Government must necessarily proceed with caution. It is wisdom to widen the circle of friends to meet both internal and external troubles and it is unwise to hammer friends to become enemies. There is a popular body who will stand by you in all your troubles. Don't bang the door on account of previous prejudices. Sir, I support the Resolution.

**Mr. Hoeseinbhooy A. Lalljee** (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the amendment which has been moved. Sir, in connection with this matter I wish to draw the attention of the House to three important questions. In the first place, the Resolution has come from one of the most important Parties of this House, and as such I do feel, Sir, that a very great consideration, if not acceptance of the Resolution, ought to be given by this House. The second point is that from the speeches we have just heard and from the information that we have received it is quite apparent that so far as the Khaksar movement is concerned and so far as the leader of this movement is concerned, there is not a single instance in which they could be blamed for creating communal riots. During the last three years that we have watched this movement nobody has levelled any allegation against them for being a party to any Hindu-Muslim riot. This is the very first consideration that we have to keep in view in these days. Furthermore, the Government stand in need of full co-operation from the people in the war effort, and here we have a body of people well disciplined and who are out to offer their services.

I do not think, Sir, how their offer, as it stands, and as many of us believe it to be sincere, could be refused by Government. Then, Sir, the third thing to which I should certainly point the attention of the House is that we have invariably seen that sometimes due to religious fervour a little strife has taken place. But those who have watched these strifes will admit that they have been found always short-lived. In this respect, Sir, I must admit and tell the House, which I probably believe the whole House knows, with all the emphasis that I have at my command that we are proud Mr. Jinnah belongs to our community and we have found in Mr. Jinnah, the Leader of the Muslim League, a great person who has always kept aloof from, not only kept aloof from but never encouraged, those who were connected with any communal riots. (Interruption.) I may tell my friend, Mr. Jammadas Mehta, who just interrupted, that during the last ten years we have had in our own city Hindu-Muslim riots and



[Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee.]

many people have gone to ask his advice and help, but on this principle that, with regard to Hindus and Muslims there should be no riot: there should be no strife so far as communal questions are concerned; I can say that he has kept up his principle and kept away from them. When a Party, which is led by him, has tabled this Resolution certainly with his consent, I, Sir, do believe and take it that so far as this Hindu-Muslim question is concerned, this release will not affect adversely but probably be helpful to create a better atmosphere. Certain things have happened about which they were blamed and for which I must admit I know very little, but from the statement that has just been read out by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, and from what my friend, Sir Raza Ali, has said, we do feel that even if there was anything that has passed away; and from what has been said over and over again and very recently by Allama Mashriqi we have only to consider whether it is not yet high time for Government to either tell us that all these declarations are unreliable; and if not, why should not they be taken as honest and sincere and why should we not immediately release them.

My friends have rightly pointed out the incident that has happened with regard to the Communist party. I am glad that the Government have realized that people for some reason or other had taken some actions which later Government had to condone, because, I will say, full co-operation of all the people is necessary. Under these circumstances, Sir, I ask the Government kindly to consider very seriously the two important aspects: that they are prepared to help the war, not as a bargain, but they are prepared to help the war effort to defend their hearths and homes; and the second thing is, Sir, to my mind, they are not at all to be considered as doing the least to create any internal disturbance between Hindus and Muslims, which we all do not like but hate to see.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha** (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): In moving the Resolution under discussion my Honourable colleague, Sir Raza Ali, has voiced the feelings not only of the Members of this House, but that of the whole of Muslim India and of many other people who are conversant with the Khaksar movement, its basic principles, aims and objects.

Sir, as in the past, there has been a lot of propaganda against the Khaksars made by the interested parties, and as many prejudicial reports and statements have been published in the Press I deem it necessary to acquaint the House with the real facts in the short time at my disposal.

The Khaksar movement was started by Inayatullah Khan, known as Allama Mashriqi, in the year 1931. The Allama is a renowned personality of the Punjab, and is a retired officer of the Indian Educational Service. He was an Under Secretary of the Government of India. He is a Wrangler and a scholar of the Christ College, Cambridge and a member of the Congress of Orientalists.

The motto of this movement is discipline, its line of action social service, and its aim peace—the essence of Islam and every other religion. The organisation has been a non-political and a non-communal one, and has among its votaries a large number of non-Muslims. Its principles are betterment of physical and spiritual health, development of individual and collective character, the ending of all controversies through extensive social service, strict discipline and all-embracing love. Every one

who believes in one God can be its member. Perhaps this is the only organisation in which no subscriptions are collected. Every member and worker meets his own expenses and does not depend on public collections. Every one works, toils, serves and strives to bring man and man together.

With the above aims and objects of the organisation, the Khaksar movement has not been confined to India alone but it has a considerable following in Burma, Ceylon, Bahrain, South Africa, etc. It is, however, in India, and particularly among the Muslim masses, that it has won most adherents. The reason for its phenomenal success is not far to seek. For the dispirited and disorganised Mussalmans of India, the Khaksar movement had many of the attractive features characteristic of early Islam—simplicity, discipline, self-sacrifice and a burning desire to serve the Community in all walks of life. The military drill and uniform were also typical of early Islam, for every Mussalman is a soldier in the service of Allah and his community. Under Muslim rule every Muslim is required to bear arms and undergo military training.

Sir, I would like to impress this point on the House as quite an unjustified prejudice has been created in the popular mind, as well as in the mind of the Government of India, by the fact that the Khaksar movement has some characteristics of a military movement. In the midst of a world-wide conflict in which the fate of India and of all freedom loving countries is at stake, it seems astonishing that any one should condemn an organisation that seeks to arouse the masses to their responsibilities and once more to instil in them those martial instincts which were responsible for their great success in past ages.

Mr. President, this is not only a laudable object. The Khaksars share this programme with other organizations, e.g., The Hindu Mahasabha, the Sikhs, etc., to whose activities no objection has been taken either by the Government or by the various political parties in India. The attitude of the Government of India about the Khaksars has been far from clear. My Honourable colleague, Sir Raza Ali, has already asked, and I repeat his request, that Government should clarify their policy and place before the House their reasons for putting a ban on the Khaksar organization and keeping its followers in detention without trial for several years.

Perhaps we will be told that the Khaksars are a menace to the public peace, and that they are a fifth column organization, but I am sure the Government have no tangible proof for that. Being a fifth column and having connections with the enemy countries may appear to be a serious crime, but why are the Allama and his followers connected with his mission not sent up for trial and why are they not given a chance to defend themselves in a court of law? Let the Government come forward with the evidence in their possession to establish their charge against them. In any case they should not fight shy of taking the Legislature into their confidence. I would earnestly suggest to the House that for such charges there is no justification. The Khaksars, in general, and Allama Mashriqi, in particular, are essentially peaceful. They have no desire to fight the authorities or any other community as long as there is no interference with their faith and their programme of social service. The clash at Lahore in March, 1940, does not disprove this argument, and any fair-minded man who cares to examine all the evidence will be satisfied that this was the work of youthful hot heads and that Allama Mashriqi and the central organisation were not responsible for it. At

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that time the Allama was trying to negotiate a peaceful settlement at Delhi. If he had really intended a trial of strength with the Government, is it reasonable to believe that he and his lieutenants would not have been at Lahore to organise the movement? But whatever the responsibilities for the clash may have been, the Khaksars have paid heavily for their folly. How the Khaksars were ruthlessly killed in the streets of Lahore is too tragic a tale to be told. I would not give currency to the many allegations of police excesses on that occasion which are still heard in the Punjab, but it is significant that so far Government have refused to publish the report of the Young Niamatullah Inquiry Committee, which inquired into all the incidents. This is sufficient proof to show that the Honourable Judges were satisfied that the Khaksars were not to be blamed and they were dealt with absolutely unjustified severity. Such was also the case when there was a Shia-Sunni clash in Lucknow over a very minor difference. The trouble increased and many lives were lost, not less than 20,000 Muslims were locked up in jail, hundreds were wounded, and thousands of families were starved. The untold misery spread; slowly the commotion began to spread and clashes were imminent in different places. The Khaksars who stood for peace and love had to come forward. The Congress Ministry could not tolerate this interference and Allama Mashriqi who had come for mediation among the two sections was arrested and the Khaksars camp was broken up. A ban was placed on the organisation. Soon after, the Congress Ministry resigned and the United Provinces Government lifted the ban and the Shia-Sunni dispute also vanished.

Mr. President, my desire is not to rake up past controversies. It is about the future of the Khaksars and about the Government of India's policy towards them that we are deeply concerned. Both the Allama and his lieutenants have most emphatically disavowed any intention to fight the administration. They are even willing to give up their drill, their uniform and the carrying of their spades. They have offered to produce thousands of volunteers for the armed forces. They only want to live in freedom and in peace. They have been much misunderstood and grievously injured in the past. Is it too much to hope that the Government of India will give up their ideas of false prestige and revise their policy and come to a generous and honourable settlement with the Khaksars, when they have come to an agreement with even the Communist Party? Before that the Government came to a settlement with the Bengal terrorists and also with the Akalis in the Punjab.

Sir, it is surmised that the Government of India are not keeping their promise with Allama Mashriqi of making a satisfactory settlement and are going against their declared policy. In their evasiveness they are trying to while away the time, expecting that the fervour of the Khaksars and the sympathy of the general public will settle down in the meanwhile, and thereby to crush the movement. If this is the reason I may warn the Government that they are mistaken. It signifies that they intend to emasculate subject nations and to kill their sense of life. It means that the subject nations have no right to organise themselves even in a most innocent way, as the Khaksars have done, no right to strive for a disciplined brotherhood, no right to love and serve their brotherhood. Sir, with these words, I support the motion.

**Sir Richard Tottenham** (Home Secretary): Sir, I think it may help if I intervene at this stage and explain the policy of Government regarding this Resolution. The subject of the Resolution,—the Khaksars,—have always presented a difficult and rather baffling problem. Some people have regarded them as a communal or political organisation; others describe them as the adherents of a new creed or mode of life; while others again look upon their activities as a movement designed to win temporal power. All those different views could be supported by the writings of the Khaksars themselves; but from the Government point of view, it is obvious that they must judge the Khaksars, not by what they say or by what they write, or even, if I may be permitted to say so, by what Honourable Members of this House say about them, but purely by what they do and how they act. Sir, judged by that criterion the Government of India and other Governments in this country have been compelled in the past to regard the Khaksars as for all practical purposes the nearest approach to a private army in India, an association organised on military lines under military discipline, armed with lethal weapons, and prepared on occasion to use those weapons in order to achieve their objects. In declaring drilling to be illegal and the wearing of semi-military uniforms, as they have done, and in setting their face resolutely against private armies as such, with the experience of many countries behind them, the Government of India believe that they are on unassailable ground; and if there are any people who say that this description does not apply to the Khaksars, the answer surely is that it is the Khaksars themselves, by their own action, who have earned for themselves the reputation under which they are now suffering.

The Honourable the Mover of this Resolution has already referred to the lamentable events in the United Provinces in 1939 and again in the Punjab in 1940. On these occasions the Khaksars did come into violent conflict with the authorities, and they must accept responsibility for serious breaches of the peace and loss of human life. Nor does it make the slightest difference what the objects of the Khaksars were on either of those occasions, whether on the first occasion it was a Congress Government they were up against or on the second occasion a Government of quite a different nature. The only relevant fact was that on each occasion serious disorders did take place of a kind that no Government can permit. In Lahore it was not simply a matter of one procession on March 19, which came into conflict with the police. The trouble in that part of India continued for weeks after March 19th, and was not finally overcome until, I think I am right in saying, the end of June or the beginning of July, not without further loss of life; and it was as a result of the disturbances that at that time, in March, 1940, the Government of the Punjab and the Government of Delhi declared the Khaksars to be an unlawful association. But those two Governments removed the ban on the Khaksars after peace had been restored, at the end of August, 1940; and from that date onwards the Khaksars were not an unlawful association in any part of India for a considerable period of time.

It was also as a result of the disturbances in Lahore that the leader of the movement, Allama Mashriqi, and several other important Khaksars were detained under the Defence of India rules, and a large number of other Khaksars were prosecuted and convicted of offences, more or less serious. As regards Allama Mashriqi I shall have more to say later, but

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as regards those persons who were convicted, after the settlement had been reached and the ban was withdrawn on the Khaksars in August, 1940, quite a considerable number were released. At this point I should like to make it clear, with reference to what the Honourable the Mover said, that no Khaksar leader has ever been detained under the State Prisoners Regulation, nor is any Khaksar at the present moment in custody of any kind, except those—and I gather that they are not very large in number—those who were convicted of crimes of serious violence in 1940 and who are still serving their sentences.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Cannot the Honourable Member tell us what the number would be approximately?

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** I am afraid I cannot say, but I imagine 20, 30 or 40 or something of that nature. I must make it clear that there can be no question, of course, of releasing such persons, and as reference has been made to other releases, such as of Communists, I should make it clear that no Communist who has been convicted of any crime of violence has been released.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** What about the Chittagong prisoners? Were they not released? Were they not convicted of very violent crimes?

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** As far as I know, no Chittagong prisoner has been released. (Interruption.) No prisoner who has been convicted of crimes of violence has been released as far as I know.

The next landmark in Khaksar history, and one to which no Honourable Member has so far referred, was in May, 1941. The House will remember that in August, 1940 the ban was removed on the Khaksar association in the Punjab and Delhi and this continued until May, 1941, for a period of about ten months. In that month the Government received reliable information that the Khaksars were contemplating concerted action to bring pressure to bear on Government to secure the release of their leader and that they proposed to adopt the same tactics as they had adopted in Lahore,—entering into mosques armed with their *belchas* and making those mosques the bases of operations or demonstrations. A representative gathering of leading Khaksars took place in Peshawar to discuss this plan and that gathering was officially warned not to proceed with it, but they decided to ignore the warning and the result was that the Khaksars were declared to be an unlawful association by all Provincial Governments in India at the beginning of June, 1941. Here again, I submit that the Khaksars had put themselves in the wrong and they had only themselves to blame for the consequences. The action of Government was, I think, generally regarded as necessary at that time, and, in fact, an adjournment motion in this House was defeated on that subject in October, 1941. About the middle of October, 1941, Allama Mashriqi, who was still in custody in Madras, started a hunger strike and he continued to fast in jail until the end of 1941. Early in January, 1942, that is, January of this year, he informed us that he was prepared to issue instructions to his followers to abandon the military side of the movement, entirely, for the period of the war. He issued that instruction: it appeared in the press; and he was immediately released and was allowed full freedom to meet other Khaksar leaders. He was, however, not allowed

to leave the Madras Presidency—not the Madras City, but the Madras Presidency—and a further condition of his freedom was that he would not make communications to the press. He was also told quite clearly at that time that there could be no question of negotiations between himself and the Government as between two parties to a dispute, but that if he wished to secure the removal of the ban on the Khaksar association it was for him to convince the Government and the authorities responsible for law and order that there would be no danger in that step and no risk whatever of a repetition of the events which had necessitated the imposition of the ban in June, 1941. From that day up to this, I am sorry to say, Allama Mashriqi has been trying to bargain with the Government of India, instead of trying to convince them by a direct statement of his intentions and of his ability to see that his instructions are obeyed.

Last May he sent us a draft statement on which we went so far as to consult all Provincial Governments, but opinion at that time was by no means unanimous. Moreover, while this consultation was actually going on, it came to our notice that Allama Mashriqi had been saying one thing to us and something very different to his own followers. In contravention of the condition about communications to the press, he had secured, through others, the publication of certain statements and he had also been issuing to his followers circular instructions which, to say the least of it, did not tally with the spirit of what he had said to us. We have, for instance, in our possession a circular which clearly enjoins that everything possible must be done to maintain the military spirit of the Khaksars although the outward forms of drilling, wearing uniforms and the use of arms must be suspended temporarily. We also have another circular in which he said that it was only necessary to recruit a large number of Khaksars and give them a thorough military training in order to bring the Government to terms. On being confronted with these circulars, Allama Mashriqi himself did not deny that they had been issued, but he sent us a long letter of an argumentative nature, the result of which, I am afraid, was merely to confirm our opinion that Allama Mashriqi is not a very easy person to do business with. I should also mention that on August 6th of this year I received a telegram from him in which he said that he would divest himself of all responsibility for Khaksar participation in the Congress movement unless a settlement was reached with him by a particular date. There the matter might have rested, and nothing more might have been done; but since then we have received a further approach from Allama Mashriqi which in our opinion does represent a considerable advance on anything that he had said to us before, and while this was actually under consideration we received notice of this Resolution. I have now given the House a full, and I hope fair, account of the background of this matter. I have done so because I do want the House to realise that we have not proceeded in this matter unreasonably or arbitrarily but that we have had good reasons for every step that we have taken.

Before concluding, there are some special points to which I must devote a few minutes. In the first place, I want to emphasise most strongly that the Government regard the whole of this matter as essentially a law and order problem. Reference has been made to the charge that the Khaksars are, or may be, a fifth column acting under enemy agency. All I need say about that is that the Government of India have never made this charge against the Khaksars nor do they make it now. But this

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being a law and order problem, it follows that the Government of India must act in the closest possible consultation and co-operation with the Provincial Governments, for, after all, it is they and not we who are directly responsible for the maintenance of law and order. This is essentially not a matter in which either for political or sentimental or any other reasons we could think of trying to persuade any Provincial Government against its will.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad:** What about the Centrally Administered Areas?

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** I would go on to say, in the second place, that I think we should have great difficulty in agreeing to withdraw the ban on the Khaksars in certain parts of India and not in others. Whatever else the Khaksars may be, they are an All-India organisation, with common aims and objects, and if the pursuit of those aims and objects is held to be likely to cause trouble in one particular area or two particular areas, it would obviously be extremely embarrassing and difficult for the Governments of those areas, if the Khaksars were allowed full freedom of action elsewhere.

The third point to which I should like to make special reference is the offer of help—so many thousand Khaksars to help in the war—to which a reference has been made by more than one Honourable Member. Put in that way, it sounds an offer which it would be wrong to reject. But as I understand the matter, what the offer meant was that the Khaksars wished to be allowed to contribute a contingent to the army to fight, no doubt, under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, but still to retain its own identity, if not to serve under its own officers. That is a very different matter. An offer of that kind could hardly be accepted. If that was not what was meant, well, I suggest that the offer did not mean a great deal. After all, there are ample opportunities for those who wish to join the Army or the Police forces as individuals, provided they are prepared to accept the rules governing the recruitment to those bodies. Therefore, strictly speaking, an offer of this kind is not necessary.

Now, Sir, I have said enough to give the House a sufficient indication of Government's attitude to this Resolution. The results of our dealings with Allama Mashriqi have not been such as to inspire a very great deal of confidence and we do regard this, as I have said, as primarily a law and order matter and, therefore, we should find it impossible to accept the Resolution here and now without further consultation with Provincial Governments. On the other hand, Government do wish to keep an open mind on this matter as far as possible and they are fully prepared to take into consideration the views that may be expressed, or have already been expressed, by Honourable Members this morning, and to reconsider the whole matter in the light of those views and in consultation with Provincial Governments. I can promise that we shall proceed with this reconsideration as quickly as possible. If on that assurance, the Honourable Member is prepared to withdraw his Resolution, I personally think that that would probably be the best conclusion of this debate. If on the other hand, the Honourable the Mover wishes to press his Resolution to a division, then the Government will not vote for it and they will not vote against it. We shall remain neutral.



**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I have just heard one point in the Honourable the Home Secretary's speech, to which I must reply at once and that is he dragged the case of those Khaksars who have been convicted. This Resolution has specifically avoided any reference to those Khaksars who have been found guilty of any offence under the Indian Penal Code or any other law.

**Sir Richard Tottenham** (Home Secretary): I merely referred to that because the Mover of the Resolution himself asked whether the people who had been convicted would be released.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan**: We do not interfere with that. The Resolution wants that the ban should be lifted from the Khaksars—not those persons who have been found guilty. About the other case, I would refer to my Honourable friend, the Law Member. He is very well aware of that. There are two very well-known cases in common law in England: *Beaty v. Beaty* and *Beaty v. Gilbanks*. These are the two cases which have been referred to several times in criminal law. In England, they have laid down one great principle and that principle is that if anybody is doing a lawful act and somebody else wants to do an unlawful act on account of that lawful act, this man cannot be held guilty. The question was that some lawful act was being done by the Khaksars and they took out some kind of procession without giving any annoyance to anybody else or to any other community and if it was considered that they were doing this as an unlawful act, because as a matter of protest they walked in the streets they should not on that account be taken so seriously as to condemn them for ever from becoming a lawful association. I happened to be in Lahore at the time when the Muslim League was held in 1940. We knew that the Khaksars at that time suffered a lot and the Allama was in Delhi at that time and it was pointed out by many responsible persons who had to deal with the situation that it was not the Allama who asked the Khaksars to take the law into their own hands but there were certain persons who in order to achieve their own ends. . . .

**Sir Richard Tottenham**: He was the leader of the movement.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan**: No. There were some other people who wanted to achieve their own ends and it was through their mischief that a conflict was brought about between the Khaksars and the Police. There are many Honourable Members here who will support me in this and no less a person than the Premier of the Punjab will support me in this statement. The Premier of the Punjab said before the Muslim League Party that it was not the Allama or any of his responsible people who were responsible but it was the action of certain members of his own Legislature who wanted to bring about a conflict between the Khaksars and the Police and they manœuvred to that end. When the Muslim League heard the statement of the Premier of the Punjab, the Muslim League demanded that he should constitute an inquiry by two judges, consisting of the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court and a judge from the United Provinces. They were nominated and their report was promised. This solemn promise was made before me, and I can bear testimony to that, and before many other Honourable Members. It was promised that when this report is ready it will be placed before the



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Qaid-i-Azam himself for his verdict but the report has never seen the light of day. We do not know who was really responsible for all this trouble and unless we know definitely whether the Khaksars were really at fault or not, we cannot take this incident seriously.

I would like here to mention that the Khaksars were repentent and are honest people. They are only protesting for calling them guilty persons when they have not taken the law into their own hands. If you want to kill them, you can do so. But if you want to kill them, they can defend themselves. They have not got a non-violent creed like Mr. Gandhi. They will not lie down in front of a motor car. That is not their creed. Theirs is the Islamic law, which is that if anybody gives a slap on your face, you are also entitled to give a slap on his face. But you are not to take precedence in giving a slap. In the right of self-defence, however, you can do that. This was the basis of their creed. My Honourable friend said that up to August, 1940, they lived peacefully and the ban was removed from their movement, but in August, 1940, they began to march on the streets of Lahore and began to live in the mosque. May I ask him what demonstration they wanted to make? Let me explain what action they were taking and why they marched on the streets of Lahore. They simply said that they would march on the streets of Lahore simply to show that they were not guilty and if they had no other place to live in, they said they would live in the mosque, which is open to anybody. A mosque is open not only to every Musalman but it is also open to Hindus, Christians and others. A mosque is the House of God and not the house of men.

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** Why, Sir, did they wish to take their *Belchas* with them into the mosque?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** They were marching with the *Belchas* not with the object of committing an offence but to show, that it was such an innocent thing, and yet a ban was being placed on it. They wanted to demonstrate that they were peaceful people and were absolutely innocent. They wanted to prove that they were not offenders which the Government were trying to make them out. They were walking with the *Belchas* in order to show that they were meant to help the suffering people. Lot of prejudice has been created in the mind of the Government that these *Belchas* were the sign of Hitlerism. This point has been very well explained by my other Honourable friends and, therefore, I need not go into this matter in detail. But I would like to say this that long before Hitler's name was even heard of Allama Mashriqi had started the *Belcha* and the uniform. Allama Mashriqi started the drill because he found that the Musalmans were getting degenerated. They were not saying their prayers five times a day as they are required by the Islamic law. He said that he would take only those Musalmans who took a solemn promise that they would say their prayers five times daily and would also abide by the other rules and regulations of Islam. He was even prepared to take anybody else who was not even a Muslim but who believed in the unity of God and also observed daily what was enjoined by his religion. So, it is a very broad principle. In other words, all his efforts were directed to regenerate the Musalmans whom he considered to be very much degenerated. There was no other idea behind this movement. This

movement found favour in the minds of the villagers and it became very attractive to the mobs. Naturally, those organisations which had been thinking that the masses should be their monopoly and they should be their followers did not like this movement. How could they speak on behalf of the whole of India if another movement like this which consisted of the masses had come into being?

**Raja T. Manavedan** (Madras: Landholders): May I ask how many Hindus are in that Party?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I do not know the list of members; but I will let my friend know after making the inquiry. But it is a fact that this party is open to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and everybody else.

**Raja T. Manavedan:** Could you give us the percentage of the Hindus? Will they be, say, ten per cent.?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I do not know the exact figure but there are some Hindus.

I am very glad that the Home Secretary in his speech today has cleared a great deal the position of the Khaksars because it had been given out by some people who had motives behind them that the Khaksars were the Fifth Columnists and they were receiving their inspiration from Germany. This has been denied by my Honourable friend, Sir Richard Tottenham. This has cleared their position and I am sure the Honourable Members of this House will not be persuaded now to believe what had been given out in the Press by certain Associations and certain persons who were interested to condemn the Khaksar movement.

Now, another thing which my Honourable friend, the Home Secretary, said, was that the offer of 50,000 Khaksars for the enlistment in the British Army could not be accepted because the Allama wanted that these should be raised as an army by itself. I am not contesting this; but my contention is that Allama Mashriqi showed clearly that he was not against the war effort irrespective of the fact whether his offer was practicable or not. It shows clearly that he was ready to give to the extent of 50,000 men to fight against Germany and against Japan. I think it has been admitted that they have been misrepresented for a long time and I hope all the Parties and all the other Members of this House—if the Government remain neutral—will vote for the Resolution so that the ban may be taken away from all those people who are found to be the real patriotic people.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir, the Resolution before the House places us in a predicament. It asks for a recommendation of the House to remove the ban on the Khaksar movement and to remove all restrictions put on Allama Mashriqi's movements. I want to tell the House at once that I am one of those who always stand for civil liberty. I believe in civil liberty. I believe in fighting for civil liberty. I believe that liberty of speech, liberty of movement, liberty of association are valued rights which should be jealously guarded against invasion by anybody. Unless there is justification for it, unless it is demanded by special circumstances prevailing at a particular time, I will never support their curtailment in any shape or form.

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

Sir, this Resolution resolves itself into two main parts, but at the present moment, we are mainly concerned with one important part of it. My Honourable friend the Mover, clearly explained that after tabling the Resolution he came to know that there were no Khaksars detained under Regulation III of 1818 or under the rules made under the Defence of India Act. This has been corroborated by the Honourable the Home Secretary. Now, therefore, there remains only two points for consideration. The first is whether the ban at present resting on Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi the Leader of the Khaksars should be removed, that is, whether he should be allowed to have freedom of movement throughout India. The second and the more important point is whether the ban of this Khaksar movement should be removed now.

Sir, I did not take part in the debate earlier, because I wanted to know the exact position of the Government of India in this respect. I wanted to know the attitude of the Government of India. Because, today, after all, it is this Government that claim responsibility for law and order in this land. They are never tired of reminding us that this is their sole responsibility which they refuse to share with the representatives of the public. Sir, in such circumstances we have got to consider very carefully the statement which has just been made by the Honourable the Home Secretary and the speech which the Honourable the Home Member made about ten months back when a debate on the imposition of ban on Khaksar volunteers was raised in October, 1941, in this House. The Home Secretary has given no argument in support of the removal of the ban, but has given every argument for its continuance.

Sir, from the printed pamphlet that has been circulated to us today and from the speech of the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution, I have no doubt that the founder of the Khaksar movement is a great scholar, a learned man and I am even prepared to go further and say that he is fired with high idealism. I concede all that. But the point really is not the greatness or the profundity of scholarship of the man, but the potency for mischief of any organisation which he undertakes to sponsor. That has also been the stand taken by the Government in this matter. Sir, long before imposing any ban on the Khaksar movement, the Government of India imposed a ban on all manner of volunteer organisations of this country. Let this fact not be forgotten. The Congress wanted to start a volunteer organisation and the Congress had the creed of non-violence: don't be carried away by the happenings after that fateful day,—the 9th August last. Let that not be a nightmare to my friends opposite. Before that the Congress was co-operating with the Government. They had been running the administration of seven Provinces in this country and from every quarter in this country and from abroad there was all praise for the manner in which the Congress carried on the administration of these Provinces. Do not forget that. Now, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi is a world figure. The Congress under his guidance wanted to render service to the country in the event of civil commotion. But why did Government ban that volunteer organisation which was proposed to be started by the Congress?

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** When was that organisation banned?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Under the Defence of India Act, the Government banned all volunteer organisations which wanted to drill in uniform. An Ordinance was issued to that effect.

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** I deny that any such order or ordinance was issued against any volunteer organisation or against volunteers as such. Orders were issued against the activities of drilling and of wearing military uniforms; no association as such was banned.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Were not their activities banned?

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** The wearing of military uniforms, and drilling.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Route march. Then what remains of volunteer organisation?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** The Honourable the Home Secretary is indulging in a bit of quibbling. However, I am not going to devote any more time to this. The country knows that all attempts to organise volunteers on the part of the Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha were nipped in the bud by issue of circulars which emanated from the Department which my Honourable friend, Sir Richard Tottenham, has come to fill now.

Then, Sir, I want the House to bear in mind that this ban was imposed by the Punjab Government in February, 1940, and, thereafter, the ban was withdrawn under certain assurances. The ban came to be finally imposed on this organisation by the Government of India on the 18th May, 1941. Sir, I have every sympathy with a movement or with an organisation which has for its professed aim spiritual uplift or social service or serving the country at this time of stress and strain when the police force of the land have got to be strengthened and supplemented. But when all other all-India political organisations are not given equal opportunities for rendering that service, I shall be very reluctant to make a discrimination in this respect. Now, Sir, the Khaksar organisation may be a perfectly good organisation as has been claimed by the sponsors of this Resolution, but I will ask the House to bear in mind what the Honourable the Home Member said ten months ago with regard to this. I will read a few extracts from the debate in this Assembly on 28th October, 1941:

"I need only remind the House very briefly of the history of this movement. It was started in 1931, and it was in 1939, that it first came into conflict with the authorities of the United Provinces then under a Congress Government. After considerable trouble there which necessitated firing on one occasion, we come to the well known Punjab disturbances of 1940, were again, it proceeded to attack a popularly elected Government. The offence of this Government was that it had prohibited military drill by non-official bodies and the carrying of arms in processions of certain descriptions and therefore Khaksars set themselves to intimidate their own Government in order to get this order withdrawn."

Proceeding further, the Honourable the Home Member said with reference to the deplorable incidents at Lahore resulting in considerable loss of life:

"Then the Khaksars took refuge in the mosques in Lahore and proceeded to make them bases for marching out in small parties armed with spades and attacking the police who came to arrest them. As a result of these proceedings, the Association

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

was declared unlawful in the Punjab and Delhi. After a while the Government were prepared to give another chance to this Association on certain assurances which they had received and the ban was withdrawn. Agitation, however, continued for the release of their leader who remained under detention until Government were satisfied that there was no further danger of such disturbances arising. In pursuance of this agitation on the 23rd May, 1941, the organ of the Khaksars, the *Al-Islah* issued an order directing that the Khaksars should proceed to the mosques in five different centres—Delhi, Lahore, Peshawar, Hyderabad (Sind) and Nagpur."

Proceeding further, the Honourable the Home Member told the House what the professed aims of Khaksars were at that time. There were four items given about the aims and objects of the Khaksar movement as published in their own organ, the *Al-Islah*:

"Khaksar soldiers consider it the religious right of every Muslim to act in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Prophet, and are prepared to make every sacrifice to prevent the Government of the time from exercising political or legal control in this respect. The goal of the Khaksar soldier is the Kingdom of the World and the collective and political domination of the community."

Then the Honourable the Home Member further said:

"Khaksars are deadly enemies of treacherous leaders, hostile editors and newspapers and communal mischief-mongers and desire to wreak vengeance on them even if this involves sacrifices."

The Honourable the Home Member also pointed out that from the press all over the country there was a demand that a ban should be immediately imposed on Khaksar movement. The ban was thus imposed on the Khaksar movement in response to the demand made by the public and the Press. The Home Member said:

"When the ban was placed on the Khaksar movement the public and the Press generally supported the action of the Government, including a number of Congress papers."

Now, I ask, has there been a real change in the policy and programme of the Khaksars today? I find that the pamphlet that has been recently circulated by them does not refer to "that domination" or all those methods of violence to which reference was made by the Home Member. But I ask the attention of the House to one or two things that appear in this little pamphlet. First, on page 5, I find that the Khaksars must always wear khaki dress or uniform . . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): What is wrong in it?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra**: Nothing wrong. And the second is that "the Khaksars must always carry a shovel, or a *Belcha*. The Khaksars of the same locality should, under their commander, parade, march and exercise, for at least fifteen minutes every day to keep them fit, trained, and ready for service. He must develop within himself martial qualities and soldierly attributes."

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan**: What is the harm in it?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra**: I do not object if you give the same liberty to all the other volunteer organizations in the country. If that liberty is given to all others. I shall support this motion along with you. But if that right is denied to other volunteer organizations of my country, then do you expect that I will support a discrimination in this respect? If the Honourable the Home Secretary is faltering in his attitude at the

last moment, let me tell him that he has a great responsibility in this respect. If as a result of removal of this ban on Khaksars there is a recrudescence of trouble and there is bloodshed, the blood of the victims will be on the Government. We want the Government to bear that in mind. If they want to take responsibility for it, let them do it, but knowing, as we do, their activities in the past, contained in the official reports and documents published from time to time, it does not encourage us to hope that there would be a change for the better. As the Honourable the Home Secretary has told us, the great Khaksar leader is a difficult person to negotiate with and that approach so far made has not been very encouraging. If so, where is the case for the removal of the ban?

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Allama Mashriqi is not the only difficult leader to deal with in India.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I did not say that.

Sir, my Honourable friend, the Mover of the Resolution, brought to the notice of this House that this was a social and spiritual organization. I do not agree with him in this description at all.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Are these people in khaki uniforms, carrying *Belchas* and parading about the country going to minister to the spiritual needs of the people? If the clergymen in this country were dressed in khaki kits, and with bayonets in their hands paraded about the country, it would be rather difficult to believe that they were really out for spiritual ministration of people.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I would say, Sir, that if the Government want to take the responsibility, let them do so. If Government are prepared to remove the ban, by all means they may do so; but they should apply the same principle to other volunteer organisations. If Government are not prepared to do that, I would certainly protest against this discrimination. Sir, I have stated the views of my Party and I would ask the Mover to withdraw his Resolution; but if, however, he decides to press it to vote and the Government want to play the game by keeping neutral, let them do it. We wash our hands clean in the matter.

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** Mr. President, before proceeding with the motion, I want to explain what the term 'Khaksar' connotes. 'Khaksar' is a compound Persian word: 'Khak' plus 'sar'. 'Khak' is dust and 'sar' is life; that is to say, one who is a Khaksar must be just like dust, meaning thereby that he must be as humble as dust itself. So the founder of this movement has named this movement after this word 'Khaksar'. From the creed of Khaksars we are led to believe that all Khaksars should regard themselves as dust. So you cannot expect any violent action from them.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Are they as non-violent as the Congress?

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur**: They are not violent. But their position is:

*"Tang amad ba jung amad."*

meaning, when one is driven to the necessity of resorting to violence, he will take to it. By creed, they are not violent. That is what I meant.

Though there may be very few who know Persian, I will refer to one Persian couplet on this occasion, and of which my old friend, Mr. Joshi, is very fond:

*"Khaksaran-i-jahan ra ba hiquat benigur,  
Tu cheh dani keh darin gard samare bashad."*

Don't you look down upon Khaksars; there may be an occasion now to find out a real master rider from that dust.

So I would appeal to the Government not to look down upon these Khaksars as mischief-mongers. Had the Government taken the trouble to publish the report of the Committee referred to by the previous speakers, of course, they would have been justified to say that Khaksars have gone beyond their creed. Now, inasmuch as that report, which was drawn up by the Justice of Lahore—Retired Mr. Justice Niamatullah—has been suppressed—if not suppressed, at least not published in the interest of Government—you cannot say that they have gone beyond their creed, that their action is not in conformity to their saying and to their writings. That is what the remark of the Honourable the Home Secretary was.

Sir, in this connection, I have to enlighten the House on two points. It was on the 4th of April last that a deputation consisting of the Honourable Sir Muhammad Pasha Sahib, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, and myself waited upon the Honourable the Home Member in this connection. Of course, he received us very sympathetically—I am sorry to miss him today—but he did not hold out any assurance to us to the effect that our request would find favour with him. What he said was "Allama Mashriqi is always fond of making long correspondence which the Government Members do not find it convenient to go through." That may be true. He is a good writer, an able writer, and, of course, he does not observe ambiguity; but on that account he cannot remain interned.

Sir, Madras is a place which is not out of danger. When this point was brought to the notice of the Home Member he said, he is not confined to the city of Madras; he can move about. Sir, one should realise the difficulty of an internee; his family cannot be moving about from place to place throughout the Presidency of Madras which covers long distances. It is almost next to impossible. The gentleman remains there in custody. I should say interned. He cannot remove himself from Madras Presidency.

As regards the last speaker, my Honourable friend of the Nationalist Party, who happens to be my particular friend, said that when bans are imposed on volunteers of other communities, Mussalmans do not come forward to espouse their cause. How is it that they have now come forward with this motion? That is the chief reason why his own Party is not prepared to support this. Sir, let me ask him if he has brought any similar Resolution before this House. Can he single out any instance.

when such a motion was placed before the House and when the Members of the Muslim Party did not support him? In the absence of any such instance how can he level any such charge against the Muslim community? If they do not want to support us, of course, let them not; but not on their present excuse that because the Muslims have remained neutral before we are not prepared to support them now. This is very bad logic which no reasonable man can put up with. Sir, these are days of *Ramzan* and this is the time when, with fasting, a man can get himself excited. Before concluding, I have to say that though an amendment was tabled by me, after the speech of my Honourable friend, Sir Richard Tottenham, I am not prepared to press my amendment; on the other hand I will support the original proposition, whatever fate it may have in the end.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): The motion before the House has been discussed at full length, threadbare, in all its aspects and very little has been left to me to add to the discussion. But there are one or two points on which I should like to place my views before the House.

In the first place, this Resolution which was moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Raza Ali, is not in his own name: it is in the name of the Muslim League Party, i.e., in the name of ten crores of Mussalmans, who demand that Allama Mashriqi should be released, the restrictions put upon him removed at once, and that the ban on all the Khaksars, throughout the length and breadth of India, who are either interned or imprisoned for no offence whatever except that they happen to be Khaksars should be removed. We demand this now. From whom? From the British Government, which has assured us from time to time that after this war is over: 'We will hand over India to you and we will go away'. So when complete independence is coming after one or two years, why not in the meantime show a small mercy to us? The Home Secretary says government will consider it, but are not going to adopt this Resolution. Perhaps he thinks that because Pandit Maitra is against it the whole House will not support it. To Pandit Maitra I say: 'Panditji, if you had, in the words of my friend, Syed Murtuza, placed a similar motion before the House, I would have been the first to support it. I want liberty not only for the Mussalmans but the whole of India: independence not only for Mussalmans, but Hindus, Christians, Jews, Parsis, etc.'

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra**: If the Honourable Member had consulted me before tabling this motion, we would have submitted a joint motion for removal of bans on all volunteer organisations.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan**: I am grateful to the Home Secretary because for the first time he has disclosed a very interesting piece of information. For two years the Khaksars were under suspicion, grave suspicion, of being hand in glove with Adolph Hitler, and as such being fifth columnists. That impression I gathered when I saw the Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell with my friends, the Honourable Syed Murtuza and the Honourable Syed Mahmud Padshah from the Council of State. We had a long talk and he was under the impression that these Khaksars were in league with the Nazis. It is some consolation to find that after two years, we are assured that the Government do not look upon them as fifth columnists or as having anything to do with the Nazis. Well, if that is so, what else



[Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.]

have they done that this ban should not be removed from them at once? What have they done? They have not done any act of sabotage: they have not looted. No charge of arson can be levelled against them. They are not a purely communal body. I know them. I have every sympathy with them. They believe in Hindu-Muslim unity. A friend of mine was asking whether there were any Hindus among them. I know that an influential Hindu of Multan (whose name I can tell him afterwards) is one of the Khaksars. There are many other non-Muslims who are Khaksars.

The Khaksar movement and its activities are not limited to Mussalmans alone. It embraces all. It is dedicated to the service of mankind. It is dedicated to social service with just a touch of spiritual activity to give it force. So, having said all this, I only want to tell the Honourable the Home Member that he released Allama Mashriqi from the Vellore Jail, sent him to Madras and kept him there in internment for some time; later on, after thousands of resolutions were passed throughout the length and breadth of India and from the platform of the Muslim League, with a resolution sponsored by Mr. Jinnah himself, he condescended to give him greater liberty of movement throughout the length and breadth of Madras Presidency.

When I pointed out to the Honourable the Home Member that Madras was in danger and that the Japanese are abroad and they may bombard Madras and, therefore, it was not safe, he said that if Madras was not safe the Allama could go to the Nilgiris as Madras Presidency is such an extensive Presidency. So, when you do not put any restriction upon his movements in the Madras Presidency, why can you not allow him in Heaven's name to cross the Nerbudda and go to the Punjab and to Lahore? Will the Heavens fall down or will the British Government tumble down? Why cannot you do it? It is a simple question. Can't you answer it?

The Khaksars are a peaceful body; they even go to the length of offering you their assistance and co-operation in the successful prosecution of the war by placing the services of fifty thousand Khaksars at your disposal. You pooh-pooh the idea simply because you do not want them to have a certain dignity, a distinct martial self-respect, which you think is only for the British Government to enjoy; and simply because they want to maintain their self-respect you spurn their offer. I think, if you reconsider the whole question dispassionately and calmly, you will not find it difficult to accept the Resolution, a very simple one, placed before you by Sir Syed Raza Ali, as amended by Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when I heard the debate on this motion I felt in a strange predicament. Today the whole world is militarising; we are hearing country after country saying that every person must be prepared for warfare; in Russia there is the cry that every person capable of holding a rifle should go to the front and should fight for the safety of the country. But in India we are told that every one of us should be pacifists and that no one must have arms, that every one must avoid military uniform, there should be no drills and no parades and no military training. Is this the time for pacifists or a time when everybody should be militarised in India? Is it a time when any one can come and plead that militarisation of the country is a bad thing? Is it possible for the present government or for

any government to infuse a spirit of militarisation in any population without giving them sufficient voluntary organisations for that purpose? We know that they say they are getting recruits at the rate of 50,000 per month; but will that 50,000 per month be sufficient for the purposes of the defence of India? Have we not heard off and on that Indians must be prepared for guerilla warfare? Will this 50,000 who are being prepared for the defence of the country be sufficient for that purpose? Our position is that Indians cannot be able to defend themselves in that fashion unless they have got private military associations. Every nation is like that, but what about India? India is being governed by foreign masters; and every activity every military trend is being suspected by them as a revolution against the Government. Is this not the time for the Government to reconsider that policy? Is this not the time for the Government to consider that some of these forty crores, with the exception of this 50,000, that are being recruited by them on payment of money, are also in favour of the defence of this country, or, at least, if not for the retention of this Government, for fighting any invader whose slavery is no less contemptuous than the slavery of the British? Have you not imagination enough to understand that we are not prepared to have any invader from outside, either Japan or Germany, and that we must have military training as communities, as a nation, as inhabitants of India, to fight all those who come in? We cannot depend on the present administration and the present military forces to protect our hearths and homes. So, the first thing in this connection that I want to impress upon the Government is that really any organisation having military drill as its object should never be banned; whether it is a Congress organisation or a Muslim National Guards organisation or whether it is the Khaksars or anybody else, it should not be banned because it has got military drill and military training as its object. It is a thing which ought to be encouraged by the Government. The Government ought to take care that the organisations that do this thing are properly and sufficiently under their control. I have no hesitation in accepting that; but I say that this is a time when voluntary organisations should be allowed to give help in military warfare and should be allowed to train people in guerilla warfare and for defending their country; and they should be encouraged to organise, and they should be supported by the Government. This is not the time to say that because I have got khaki clothing on, I am bad. Why do you think that every Indian who is in khaki is an enemy of the Government? Do not have that policy of distrust. Alter that policy. You have by this time learnt what it is to suffer humiliation at the hands of your enemies. Do not humiliate Indians any further. Do not distrust them; do not consider them to be absolutely against your rule. They want reforms in that rule. You say you will give us Dominion Status; you will give independence; but is this the preparation for independence that every Indian should disarm himself?

I would appeal to my friends on my right not to consider this from a narrow point of view. They must not consider it from this point of view, that if the Muslim community succeeds in getting hold of a few persons who have got military spirit, these persons would crush Hindus. This is a vicious circle of the same old cry of Pakistan and Anti-Pakistan. If we cannot co-operate on general principles, if we cannot appreciate that every Indian, whether he be Muslim or Hindu, who has to receive military training, who is going to defend and protect our country, our hearth and home from the enemy, is a person to be respected and to be released and from

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad, Kazmi.]

whom the ban must be removed, then it only means that we do not want to encourage any sort of military training. I disagree with the Government on that point. Of course, it is for the Government and for the Khaksars to come to an agreement; but, personally, I would again appeal to the Government that now is the time, when the enemy is at our gates, that they must take courage in both the hands and learn to trust Indians and help us to develop indigenous and voluntary military organisations, so that they may be prepared for the defence of India.

**Honourable Members:** The question may now be put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** I must say that the speech of my Honourable friend, Sir Richard Tottenham, was, so far as I could see, meant to be conciliatory, but I wish he had analysed the position a little more carefully and endeavoured to come to a definite decision. The position really, Sir, is this. One of the points that I mentioned in my speech was that it was strange that the report of the two judicial officers, namely, the Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court and a retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court, was not allowed to see the light of day, and no reasonable justification has been given by the Government why it has been withheld.

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** I can say that I have not seen the document myself.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** May I offer my heartfelt sympathy to the Honourable Member? Things have come to such a pass that even the Home Secretary whose business it is reply to a very important Resolution on behalf of the Government is not allowed to see that blessed document.

**Sir Richard Tottenham:** The document belongs to the Punjab Government and not to the Government of India.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** I say this is not a Punjab affair. If my Honourable friend is under the impression that this is solely a Punjab affair, let me disabuse his mind by saying that he is hopelessly mistaken. He himself admitted that this was an all-India question, and it was not a question which only concerned the Punjab Government. I won't say anything more.

There is a saying that the best way of hanging a dog is to give it a bad name. The best way of hanging the Khaksars in the counsels of the Government was considered to be this, heap up two charges against them, one that they are Hitlerites or fifth columnists, and secondly, that they are a military organisation and you want to save the Government established by law in British India from them. I am quoting the phrase well-known among lawyers. I am very glad, and let me congratulate Sir Richard Tottenham that he has had the courage and fairness to say that there was nothing to show that the Khaksars had anything to do

with either Germany or the other Axis powers, or that they were fifth columnists. A great load has been taken off the minds of all just, honest and liberty loving people by that statement made by my Honourable friend. But the second charge yet remains, namely, that they are a military organisation. I was surprised that my Honourable friend, Sir Richard Tottenham, objected to this movement because it was designed to win temporal power. I believe my Honourable friend has been in the country for some time, I believe he has spent the whole of his life in this country. Is there any political movement which is not keen on acquiring temporal power in this country? The Honourable Member has made a discovery in this case! Is there any objection if any movement has that as its ideal and wants to organise itself? As a matter of fact, only the other day, when proposals were made by Sir Stafford Cripps to transfer temporal power into Indian hands provided we could accept it by agreement among ourselves it became evident that it was the duty of the Indian people to prepare themselves for holding supreme political power. The real crux of the matter is this. I won't be long, I want to finish as soon as possible. What is the use of making a bugbear of this organization and calling it a military or semi-military army and using expressions of that character? One of the definitions of man is that he is a social being. Man is a creature who can associate with his fellow beings, who can organise, who can put himself under discipline in order to achieve progress in this world. If men associate together, if they organise if they want to do anything which is likely to accustom them to discipline, can there be any objection? And now I want to say a few words to my Honourable friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra. So far as Sir Richard Tottenham is concerned, . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must tell the Honourable Member that I am not going to detain the House beyond 2 o'clock for him to conclude his speech.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: I will finish within six minutes. My Honourable friend took objection on the ground that it was not possible for the Government of India to agree to have the movement subjected to ban in some of the provinces and not in others. Is there a single Government outside the Punjab, other than the Punjab Government, that is opposed to the removal of this ban? I put this question categorically to the Honourable Member.

**Sir Richard Tottenham**: Yes.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: In addition to the Punjab Government?

**Sir Richard Tottenham**: Yes.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: I hope that that Government is not the Government of the United Provinces. So far as this is concerned, I have a quotation from the speech of the Premier of the Punjab Government. I do not want to read the whole of it because there is not enough time. What he said is this:

"But if I find later that that organisation is no longer violent and does not intend to defy law and order, and restricts its activities to social service, I shall certainly give sympathetic consideration to that particular part of the resolution also which was passed by the All-India Muslim League."

[Sir Syed Raza Ali]

I have already referred to this resolution of the All-India Muslim League. That is all I have got to say.

So far as Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra is concerned, I am afraid, there was more heat than light in his speech and I was rather disappointed. I do not want the Khaksar movement to be placed on a level which cannot be attained by other voluntary organisations in India. My complaint is this that the rights which are enjoyed for instance, by the Congress volunteers, the Seva Samiti volunteers, the Hindu Mahasabha volunteers are denied to the Khaksar organization. I want to put the Khaksars on the same level as those other volunteers. Sir Richard Tottenham asked me to drop the Resolution. I do not see how I can possibly do it without betraying a trust. It is the duty of the Government to withdraw the ban. I must press this Resolution and I hope that the House will agree with me that it is time that this ban was removed.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will put the first amendment, that is, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad's amendment. The question is:

"That for the words 'lifted and Allama Inayatullah Mashriqi and' the following be substituted:

'lifted, the restrictions placed on the liberty of Allama Mashriqi be immediately withdrawn, and that'."

The motion was adopted.

**Some Honourable Members:** Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur is not pressing his amendment.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then I will put the Resolution, as amended, to the House. The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the  
 27. a. ban on the Khaksar movement be lifted, the restrictions placed on  
 the liberty of Allama Mashriqi be immediately withdrawn, and that  
 all other Khaksars interned under Regulation III of 1918 or the rules made under  
 the Defence of India Act be immediately released."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 24th September, 1942.