

18th February 1942

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume I, 1942

(11th February to 10th March, 1942)

FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1942



NEW DELHI. PRINTED BY THE MANAGER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS: 1942

CORRIGENDA

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Budget Session, 1942,—

- (1) Volume I, No. 1, dated the 11th February, 1942, page 31, line 20, *for* "Muslims" *read* "Muslim";
- (2) Volume I, No. 15, dated the 5th March, 1942, page 708, line 20 from the bottom, *for* "Suppression" *read* "Supersession";
- (3) Volume II, No. 5, dated the 17th March, 1942,—
 - (i) page 1207, line 4, *delete* the full stop *after* the word "statement"; and
 - (ii) page 1265, lines 5 and 22, *for* "The Honourable Sir Homi Modi" *read* "The Honourable Sir Homi Mody";
- (4) Volume II, No. 7, dated the 19th March, 1942, page 1357, line 15 from the bottom, *for* "The Economist news" *read* "The Economist news-";
- (5) Volume II, No. 8, dated the 20th March, 1942, page 1422, line 13 from the bottom, *delete* the second "that" at the end of the line;

- (6) Volume II, No. 9, dated the 23rd March, 1942,—
 - (i) page 1429, line 1, *insert* the word "is" *after* the word "blood"; and
 - (ii) page 1457, line 8 from the bottom, *read* "are" *for* the word "they";
- (7) Volume II, No. 11, dated the 25th March, 1942, page 1539, line 18 from the bottom, *for* the word "who" *read* "why";
- (8) Volume II, No. 13, dated the 1st April, 1942, page 1651, line 21, *for* the word "attacks" *read* "attack";
- (9) Volume II, No. 14, dated the 2nd April, 1942,—
 - (i) page 1688, line 17, *for* "It is given to C class" *read* "I said that A and B class";
 - (ii) page 1693, line 22, *for* "Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur" *read* "Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur"; and
 - (iii) page 1729, line 19 and page 1730, line 9 *for* "Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar" *read* "The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar".

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

President:

The Honourable Sir ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President:

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen:

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Sir COWASJI JEHangIR, Bart., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A.

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Marshal:

Captain Haji Sardar NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

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Mr. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, M.L.A.

Sir ABDUL HALIM GHUZZAKVI M.L.A.

Mr. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 18th February, 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.

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. John Hugh Francis Raper, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

RAID ON A VILLAGE IN KARACHI DISTRICT BY MILITARY MEN.

48. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that a row took place between military men and villagers at the Fakir-jo-Goth near Tatta in the Karachi district?

(b) Is it a fact that the military men raided the village in order to avenge an alleged insult to one of their officers by the villagers?

(c) Is it a fact that the Honourable the Law Minister of the Sind Government visited the village to obtain first hand information? If so, what statement did he make regarding the same in the Sind Assembly or elsewhere?

(d) Have Government taken any steps against the military men concerned departmentally? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) to (d). Sir, as the incident to which the Honourable Member refers has attracted considerable public attention in the press and elsewhere, I propose, with your permission, to make a somewhat lengthy statement in reply.

Under the orders of the Government of Sind, a special investigation has been made personally by the Superintendent of Police, Karachi and Tatta Districts, and the facts ascertained are as follows.

Some officers of the armoured division at Malir went out to a pig-sticking camp at Hira Bagh, about four miles from Fakir-jo-Goth, in Tatta Taluka. Captain Ingham of the Royal Deccan Horse, who had been detained at Malir, set out at about 9-30 P.M. on the 13th December, 1941, to join his brother officers in camp. He was accompanied by three other ranks of his unit and each of these took it in turn to drive the motor truck in order to acquire experience of driving by night. Neither Captain Ingham nor the men who accompanied him had been to the site, where the camp was located, prior to December 18th.

The party arrived at Tatta between 1 A.M. and 2 A.M. on December 14th and took the road leading to the ferry. They appear to have turned down the road leading to Chach Soomarki, but missed the turning leading to Hira Bagh and appear to have driven straight on to the "bund" where

they turned left. They proceeded along the "bund" for six or seven miles after which they concluded that they had lost their way and decided to return along the "bund". As they approached Fakir-jo-Goth, they heard dogs barking and Captain Ingham halted near the old P. W. D. hut in order to enquire the way to the camp.

Leaving one of the men, in charge of the truck, he and the remaining two men entered the village and approached the nearest house which happened to be that of Amoo son of Haji. They shouted to the inmates, who, it seems, mistook them for thieves or dacoits and straightaway attacked them with 'lathis' and other similar weapons. One of the men was felled by a 'lathi' blow on the head and it was fortunate that he was wearing an army *safa* which prevented him from suffering a severe injury. Captain Ingham struck out with his fist and punched Amoo in the jaw, dislocating two of his teeth. The second man seems to have fled in panic, while the first who was knocked down also beat a hasty retreat and rejoined his comrades. Captain Ingham struggled with his assailants and eventually tried to shake them off and seek assistance in the main part of the village, but he was pursued and overtaken. His captors beat him further and brought him back to a bush close to Amoo's house where they secured him with ropes. At this stage the villagers appear to have realised their mistake and found that their captive was a military officer. They consulted Pir Maluk Shah, a prominent villager, who advised them to set him at liberty and after some considerable hesitation Captain Ingham was taken in the direction of the camp. Meanwhile, the three men had proceeded along the 'bund' in the truck and had met some people about half a mile further on and had been shown the way to the camp. On arriving there, they reported the events of the night, so far as was within their knowledge, to their officers, who immediately set out to rescue Captain Ingham. Seeing the headlights of the approaching vehicles Captain Ingham shouted to attract their attention, and two villagers, who claim to have been accompanying him, made themselves scarce. Captain Ingham was picked up by the rescue party and they all returned to the camp.

Captain Ingham and the three men who had set out with him from Malir then went to Tatta, where they arrived at about 7-30 A.M., and reported the incident to the Police.

Captain Harper of the Royal Deccan Horse, who was the senior military officer present in the camp, set out at the same time, with four other officers, seven orderlies, three syces and a 'shikari' in two trucks for Pir-jo-Goth. On arrival there he told off three parties to place a cordon round the village. He then endeavoured to find some responsible person in the village in order to get a complete narrative of the happenings of the early hours of the morning. Thereafter, he conducted a house-to-house search in order to collect all the able-bodied men of the village. Captain Harper and Captain Hook did enter six or seven houses in order to ascertain if any men had concealed themselves. All the men of the village were collected in an open space in the village and shortly after this was completed, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate arrived and commenced enquiries. Captain Harper's sole object was to prevent any of Captain Ingham's assailants from escaping and there was no intention or attempt on his part or of any of the officers and men who were with him to beat or injure any villager in retaliation for what Captain Ingham had suffered. The villagers complained that their houses were broken open, that some of them, including

an old woman, were roughly handled and that their pots and pans were broken by the intruders. A few broken earthen vessels and chatties were shown to the Superintendent of Police and an inventory was made. The total value of the damage is almost negligible. Under instructions from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, the Police registered offences under sections 324 and 342, Indian Penal Code, on the information given by Captain Ingham. The Police also registered an offence under section 325, Indian Penal Code, on the complaint of Amoo, and a further offence under sections 147/342/448 of the Indian Penal Code. The allegation that a woman was beaten is, according to the District Superintendent of Police, entirely unfounded.

The report of the Superintendent of Police is at present under the consideration of the Government of Sind with a view to decide the action to be taken.

It will be seen from what I have stated, Sir, that there is no basis whatsoever for the many alarming reports and grossly incorrect and misleading allegations to which currency has been given by certain sections of the press. The Honourable the Law Minister of the Sind Government visited the village and I lay on the table a copy of the statement made by him in the Sind Assembly. As the matter has been the subject of police investigation and is at present under the consideration of the Sind Government, there are no grounds for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Statement.

“THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER: Now the Honourable Minister for Law and Order will make a statement with regard to the adjournment motion.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH: Sir, I will request the honourable members of this House to consider my statement dispassionately. I visited the place, met the villagers and saw several houses. The people told me that about 30 or 40 military people came there after the first incident. I am sorry I cannot refer to the first incident as it is *sub judice*.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: Is the case challaned?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH: Yes, it has been challaned to Court.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: When was it challaned?

THE HONOURABLE K. B. ALLAH BAKSH: Before the adjournment motion came.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH: The people told me that about 30-40 Military people came there after the first incident, collected all the males and kept them on one side. They tried to search several houses. Women concealed themselves. I found some damage done in the house. Earthen-pots, cots and doors were broken and also a box. An old woman complained to me that she had been beaten. There were no women there except the old woman and two others. I asked the policemen to give them police protection so that the other women might return to their houses.

Now, Sir, there are two alternatives, either the villagers or any aggrieved party amongst the villagers might lodge a complaint before the Magistrate as the other side has done. . . .

MR. M. A. KHOSO: Interruption.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH: That is the legal position. It is not a mass message as is the mentality of the honourable member.

MR. ISSARDAS VARINDMAL: What is the second alternative?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH : Either they must lodge a complaint before a Magistrate or I am prepared to make an enquiry by a responsible Police officer. Why I say 'Police officer', because he will also get a report and he can call the Military people. Otherwise military people would not come before a private individual or anybody else. These are the two alternatives. Either the villagers must lodge a complaint as the other side has done or if the honourable members prefer I am prepared to have an inquiry held by a responsible Police officer. The Military authorities are also holding a Court of Inquiry into the matter. There are no other legal courts left open. Either they should complain to the Magistrate there or if the Honourable House wants, I might depute an independent responsible Police Officer because he will be able to summon them as he has to make an inquiry into the offence, otherwise they won't come. As I said, the Military authorities are also holding a Court of Inquiry into the matter. These are the two legal courses.

MR. M. H. GAZDAR : How will villagers give names of Military people who came?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH : The officer will requisition them.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA : How will they recognise?

THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER : Have Government moved the Military authorities?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATULLAH : We have moved. They have also replied to us. This is what the District Commander has written :

"To prevent the troops of 1 armed division from entering villages an order had already been issued by them putting out of bounds all villages within 5 miles of Malir Camp boundary. When troops have moved beyond that radius they are on exercises and their movements are controlled in formal bodies by their officer. There is no danger of molestation of villagers in this case."

We have no further information to place before the House or to collect. If the House is not satisfied with it and wishes to discuss further, then the best thing is to discuss it to-day and let the debate go on till 7 o'clock because there is no time for its discussion tomorrow."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member if these military men who went there were with uniforms and were such as could be recognised as military men or not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor : I am sorry that the report does not mention whether they were in military uniform or not, but even if they were, I may mention that the time was 2 A.M. and it would have been difficult for anybody to see whether they were in uniform or not. But if the Honourable Member desires, I am prepared to obtain information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the Honourable Member has got any information that at that time it was dark, or whether the military people announced to these villagers that they were not thieves but were military people?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor : It is naturally expected that it is dark at 2 A.M.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : In view of the fact that there is to be a judicial enquiry into this affair, may I ask whether it was right for the Honourable Member to make a long statement giving his version at the best of the affair and prejudicing the judicial enquiry?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor : Yes, Sir. With the permission of the Sind Government I have given the report of the District Superintendent of Police, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, asked for information regarding the incident at Fakir-jo-Goth.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): A question was put to elicit information and therefore the Honourable Member was perfectly entitled to give as much information as he possessed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I want to know whether after the incident Captain Ingham reported this matter to the police or any officers at Tatta, which is also a headquarters station.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I mentioned in my reply that Captain Ingham and the three men who had set out with him from Malir then went to Tatta, where they arrived at about 7-30 A.M. and reported the incident to the police.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Did the police accompany them and take up the investigation or these military officers took it upon themselves?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The matter is under judicial investigation.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I said that the Sub-Divisional Magistrate arrived and commenced inquiries.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, according to the Honourable Member. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better attend the inquiry and elicit all the facts.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the cordon round the village was made after the report to the police had been made or before the report was made to the police?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I have stated that these officers proceeded direct to the village and the cordon was made before the police had arrived. I may mention in this connection that the number of people who made the cordon round the village were seven orderlies, three syces and a shikari, whereas it was stated in some of the reports in the Press that the number was 600.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know whether the cordon was made before the police report or after the police report?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I have said that the cordon was made before the police had arrived. Captain Ingham went to Tatta to make a report to the police and his brother officers came in order to prevent any of the able-bodied men from escaping.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The matter is under inquiry. It ought not to be discussed any further.

Sardar Sant Singh: The point I wish to bring out is this, that the Army tried to terrify the people and take the law in their own hands.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is a matter for the judicial authorities who are inquiring into this matter. Next question.

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN DELIBERATIONS ON PACIFIC OCEAN WAR STRATEGY.

49. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Defence Secretary please state if Government contemplate sending naval and military officers from India to Washington for participation in the discussions of war strategy in the Pacific Ocean?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: On the civil side India is already fully represented at Washington and there is ample opportunity to place India's views and needs before the American authorities. On the Military and Naval side, General Wavell, who is fully aware of India's strategic needs, is now in supreme command of the south-west Pacific and there is, for the time being, no need to depute any military or naval officers from India to Washington.

JOINT DELIBERATIONS ON WAR STRATEGY AMONGST ALLIED NATIONS.

50. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Defence Secretary please state if joint deliberations regarding war strategy are contemplated amongst the twenty-six nations, of whom India is one, who signed the joint declaration in Washington against the Axis Powers on 1st January, 1942?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: The Government of India have no information of any such discussions taking place. Should they do, there is no doubt that India's position would be kept clearly in view and the need, if any, for India's representation will be fully considered.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the Government is aware that recently a Pacific War Council has been established in London and the talks will take place regarding the war situation in the Pacific?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: This question refers to a different matter. The Honourable Member asked if joint deliberations regarding war strategy are contemplated amongst the 26 nations, of whom India is one, who signed the joint declaration in Washington against the Axis Powers on 1st January, 1942. Our information is that there is no such joint discussion among the 26 nations contemplated. The Pacific War Council is a different thing and the Honourable Member must have read in the papers that India has been invited to be represented in the War Council.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I take it that in the Council, as it is established there, representatives of other nations like America, excepting Australia, Canada and India, will not take part?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: That question should be addressed to the Leader of the House.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: To what extent are the Government of India treated as a free agent in these matters and to what extent are the Government of India treated as a subordinate branch of the British administration?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: That question does not arise. The question asked was whether joint deliberations amongst the 26 nations took place.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: It does arise in this way. The Honourable Member said that there has been no joint discussion. Are the Government of India expected to be informed directly about such deliberations, or are they informed only when it suits their masters in England to inform them about such things? That is how the question arises.

Sardar Sant Singh: The Honourable Member is new to these things. He does not know.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I want notice.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these 26 nations, including India, are free or not?

(No reply.)

Sir, I want an answer to my question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not apparently in a position to give an answer.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know if India is treated as a free nation only for the purpose of signing agreements or also for other purposes as well?

(No reply.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is apparently not in a position to answer.

DIPLOMA IN MILITARY STUDIES BY THE BOMBAY UNIVERSITY.

51. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state if he is aware that the Bombay University recently decided to institute a diploma in military studies?

(b) Was there a request by the Bombay Government for officers as lecturers in these studies? If so, when?

(c) Was the request granted? If not, why not?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was no specific request for lecturers as such, but an enquiry was made by the Government of Bombay as to whether the Government of India would be in a position to extend any appreciable measure of assistance in organizing the proposed Department of the University and in maintaining it with efficiency.

(c) The Government of Bombay was informed that in view of the present situation it would be extremely difficult to spare any serving officers for providing lecturers for the Diploma Course or for the Department of Military Studies as all available personnel was urgently required and is being utilised elsewhere.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know when the request was made and when the reply was sent?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The request was received through the Government of Bombay and not direct from the University. The communication was received in April 1941 and the reply was sent in November 1941.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if he is prepared to say that there was not even one or two military officers who could be given to them for giving training?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: They were at Davico's.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: They asked us if we could give them any lecturers and we pointed out that our instructional staff is now fully employed in the officers' training schools which we have now got in Mhow, Bangalore and Dehra Dun and that we would not be in a position to spare any of them for the University Course.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Could not a retired officer go there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We have no objection to any retired officer going there.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I take it that the Government of India cannot spare any military men to training people during this war?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We are training people. It is open to any student of any University to apply for an emergency commission when we shall train him ourselves at Mhow, Bangalore or other stations.

Sardar Sant Singh: Suppose the University wants to open a training class. Is it not the duty of the Defence Department to co-operate and co-ordinate with the University for the purpose of obtaining people for military duties?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Certainly. You have to consider the comparative importance of the two matters. We want officers for active service and we cannot spare any instructors from this important work for lecturing at a university.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask if any inquiry was made before giving the reply that you could not spare any officials?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Certainly, Sir.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: When was this inquiry made?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: During period from April to November 1941.

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullabhai Laljee: Why did it take six months to make that inquiry?

(No answer.)

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask if the Honourable Member has read the scheme of military education prepared by the Bombay University?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: What does he think about it? I am asking this question because I read it very carefully with the object of introducing it in the Aligarh University. I found that I could not accept it.

(No answer.)

PROVISION FOR CIVIL DEFENCE OF INDIA.

52. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Member for Civil Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of money allotted to the "Civil Defence" of India;
- (b) the total number of men already appointed for Air Raid Precautions and Civic Guards, Province by Province; and
- (c) the total amount allotted to Civic Guards, Province by Province, and to the Air Raid Precautions, Province by Province?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) and (c). I must request the Honourable Member to await the presentation of the Budget Estimates.

(b) The recruitment to Air Raid Precautions and Civic Guards' services is made by the Provincial Governments. I lay, however, a statement on the table of the House showing the latest information available.

Statement.

(b) The total number of men already appointed as Civic Guards is furnished below, Province by Province :—

Province, etc.	No. of Civic Guards recruited.	
Madras . . .	10,218	} Recruited upto 1-2-41.
Bombay . . .	5,090	
Bengal . . .	14,198	
United Provinces	5,240	
Punjab . . .	22,980	
Bihaar . . .	1,468	
C. P. . . .	3,391	
Coorg . . .	114	
Delhi . . .	166	
Ajmer-Merwara	91	
Quetta . . .	33	
Assam . . .	427	} Recruited upto 1-11-41.
N.-W. F. P. . .	1,397	
Orissa . . .	145	
Sind . . .	671	

As regards the Air Raid Precautions personnel the total number of men already employed is furnished below, province by province so far as information is available :—

Province, etc.	No. of A. R. P. personnel employed.	
N.-W. F. P.	2,244	} Employed upto 31-12-41.
U. P.	43,642	
Bihar	9,230	
Assam	67	
Madras	8,261	
Bombay	8,496	
Baluchistan	531	
Punjab	15,517	
Sind	498	
Orissa	304	
Bengal	25,235	
Delhi	2,693	Employed upto 31-10-41.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether any men of the A. R. P. or Civic Guards are provided with military equipment?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: What does the Honourable Member mean by 'military equipment'?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I mean either rifles, guns or any such armament.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: No, Sir. So far as my information goes, they have not been armed in this manner.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the Honourable Member's reply, will he consider the advisability of calling in the rifles and guns that for years have been given to civilians under the Arms Act with a view of supplying the A.R.P. and Civic Guards especially in the Bengal Presidency with some form of military armament to use in case of the Japanese invading Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I ask what sort of training is being given to the members of the A. R. P. and the Civic Guards, particularly in Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The training is in the hands of the Provincial authorities.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Member kindly enlighten the House whether the Civil Defence Member is ultimately responsible for the Civic Guards organisation in the country?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: No, Sir, he is not ultimately responsible. The provinces are responsible for their own Civic Guards.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand that the Civil Defence Member has not got authority over these organisations in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: That is covered by another question.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What is the relationship between the Civil Defence Member and the provincial civil authorities?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Quite cordial, I hope.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Who is the subordinate authority and who is the superior authority?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Government of India have washed their hands off this matter and have left the protection to be given by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: No, Sir; but that is covered by another question which I have to answer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: No protection is given?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I ask if the perfect amity that exists between the Provincial Governments and the Civic Guards and the Civil Defence Member is due to complete inaction on the part of both?

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

REPORT ON WORKING OF PROVINCIAL CIVIL DEFENCE BODIES.

53. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Civil Defence be pleased to state if he is in touch with the working of the Air Raid Precautions and Civic Guards in Provinces? If so, will he be pleased to lay on the table a report on the working of Civil Defence bodies received from Provinces?

(b) Considering the present position of Bengal, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if sufficient number of hands have been employed in Bengal for Civil Defence, and air raid relief?

(c) Is he in possession of a complete report of the two organisations, and does he think that the arrangement is quite adequate? If not, what steps does he intend to take for completing the arrangement to its fullest measure?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) The Government of India exercise co-ordinating and advisory functions as regards Civil Defence in the Provinces which, however, is a Provincial responsibility. It is scarcely practicable to lay on the table a report on the working of Civil Defence bodies in all Provinces, if by this the Honourable Member means a report of all the multitudinous activities which are grouped together under the term Civil Defence. The compilation of such a report would involve an expenditure of time and labour which had better be devoted at this juncture to the urgent work that is necessarily being carried on at high pressure.

If the Honourable Member will let me know any specific points on which he desires information, I shall be happy to give such information as is available.

A statement showing the proposed and actual strength of the Civic Guards up to the 1st December, 1941, is laid on the table.

(b) The position regarding the Civic Guards in Bengal appears to be satisfactory but a great many more volunteers are required for Air Raid Precautions Services.

(c) The Government of India prescribe the frame work of the organisation to be set up for Civil Defence and it is for the Provinces to fill it in. The Government of India are satisfied that the organisation itself is adequate and have no doubt that the Provincial Governments have taken and are taking all possible steps for the full development of the Services in question. The results however must inevitably depend to a very great extent on the response made by the public.

Statement showing the number of Civic Guards in the various Provinces.

Provinces.	Total number proposed to be recruited.	No. recruited up to 1-12-41.
Madras	14,472	10,218
Bombay	9,700	5,090
Bengal	14,063	14,198
United Provinces	9,586	5,240
Punjab	28,150	22,980
Bihar	2,097	1,468
Central Provinces	4,500	3,391
	(Maximum).	
Assam	427
		(Till 1-11-41.)
N.-W. F. P.	3,021	1,519
Orissa	175	145
Sind	2,300	643
Coorg		114
Delhi	252	166
Ajmer-Merwara	227	91
Quetta	200	33

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Honourable Member did not say anything about the air raid relief, which is covered by part (b) of the question. May I ask what arrangements have been taken for air raid relief and whether the Central Government is paying that amount from the Central Exchequer or the Provincial Government has been asked to meet it from its own resources?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The payment is made by the Central Government.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What is the amount of expenditure incurred by the Government of Bengal for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: For which purpose?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: For the civil defence?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The Honourable Member can get the information from the Budget speech of the Bengal Minister.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: And what is the contribution made by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: That is still under discussion.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask if the Honourable Member is aware that for the purpose of spending money on the air raid precautions and Civic Guards the Punjab Government has asked the local bodies to contribute something towards it and to bear some expenses?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I shall ask notice of that question.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Does the air raid relief include air raid precautions which are financed by the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Relief is one of the heads of the air raid precautions, which cover a number of heads.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What does the term 'air raid relief' mean? Does it involve monetary aid to persons who suffer?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: What I was referring to is the war risk injury scheme.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: If any attempt is made for air raid precautions, may I ask whether the Government of India would be prepared to assist such precautions financially?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: We are already doing it to a very large extent.

Mr. Umar Aly Shah: May I ask at how many places arrangements have been made for air raid precautions?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I shall require notice of such a detailed question as that.

PERSONNEL OF THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT.

54. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the number of the personnel of the Department as on the 1st February, 1942; and

(b) their pay?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) and (b). The required information is given in the statement laid on the table.

Statement showing the Personnel and their pay, of the Department of Information and Broadcasting, as on February 1, 1942.

Name.	Designation.	Pay (Per month.) Rs.
(i) <i>Gazetted.</i>		
Mr. F. H. Puckle, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.	Secretary	4,000
Mr. P. N. Thapar, I.C.S.	Deputy Secretary	2,100
Mr. M. Khurshid, I.C.S.	Under Secretary	1,425
Mr. P. J. Griffiths, M. L. A., I.C.S. (Retd.)	Controller of Film Publicity	Honorary.
Dr. K. T. Behanan, Ph.D.	Officer on Special Duty	800
Mr. Peter Johnson	Advertising Consultant	900
K. S. Abulasar Hafiz Jallundari	Song Publicity Organiser	780
H. P. Kaul	Superintendent	640
Mr. Mohd. Sabir	Superintendent	600
(ii) <i>Non-Gazetted.</i>		
Mr. H. C. Akhtar	Assistant Song Publicity Organiser	300
Mr. Bashir Ahmad	Assistant	160
Mr. Rameshwar Dayal	Assistant	230
Mr. K. Sachhidanandan	Assistant	230
Mr. D. Krishna Aiyar	Assistant	140
Mr. S. Bannerji	Assistant	140
Mr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi	Assistant	100
Mr. K. K. Sethi	Assistant	160
Mr. R. K. Sharma	Clerk	220
Mr. Rullia Ram	Clerk	151
Mr. B. D. Seth	Clerk	70
Mr. Zahir Hassan	Clerk	64
Mr. C. D. Sharma	Clerk	64
Mr. Ram Behari	Clerk	60
Mr. K. S. Monga	Clerk	64
Mr. Hakumat Rai	Clerk	62
Mr. Sahur-ud-Din	Clerk	62
Mr. Man Mohan	Clerk	60
Mr. Basheshar Nath Chadha	Clerk	60
Mr. Abdul Hamid	Clerk	60
Mr. Bishan Das	Clerk	60
Mr. Ghafoor Ahmad	Clerk	60
Mr. Raj Kishan Chadha	Clerk	60
Mr. Tarlok Singh	Clerk	60
Mr. Raj Kumar Vadera	Clerk	60
Mr. M. A. Hamid	P. A. to H. M.	462½
Bawa Ishar Singh	P. A. to Secretary	375
Mr. Ram Lal Kalra	Stenographer	187½
Mr. D. R. Khana	Stenographer	140

Ident.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether there is an effective co-operation between the Department of Broadcasting and Information and the Public Relations Department in the Army?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: That is an interesting question, but it does not seem to arise out of the question that has been answered.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the number of the personnel of the Department has been increased since the war? If so, to what extent?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I shall require notice of that question. It is not covered by the original question.

GAZETTED OFFICERS IN SUBORDINATE OFFICES OF THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT.

55. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

- (a) the names of persons holding gazetted appointments in the—
 - (i) Bureau of Public Information,
 - (ii) Film Publicity,
 - (iii) Office of the Chief Press Adviser, and
 - (iv) Directorate of Counter Propaganda; and
- (b) their pay?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) and (b). The required information is given in the statement laid out on the table.

Statement showing the names of persons holding gazetted appointments in the (i) Bureau of Public Information, (ii) Office of the Film Advisory Board, (iii) Office of the Chief Press Adviser and (iv) Counter Propaganda Directorate, together with their designations and pay.

<i>Bureau of Public Information.</i>				
Serial No.	Name.	Designation.		Pay. (Per month.) Rs.
1	Mr. J. Natarajan	Principal Information Officer		1,650
2	Mr. S. A. Jawad	Deputy Principal Information Officer		1,100
3	Mr. B. L. Sharma	Information Officer		750
4	Mr. B. Fonseca	Do. . . .		640
5	Mr. F. D. Douglas. . . .	Do. . . .		700
6	Miss C. Leslie	Do. . . .		850
7	Mr. O. Rahman	Do. . . .		700
8	Mr. M. L. Bhardwaj	Do. . . .		700
9	Mr. S. R. S. Raghavan	Do. . . .		800
10	R. S. C. N. Sen	Administrative Officer		760
11	Mr. N. Millicans	Chief Superintendent		520
12	Mr. R. L. Handa	Assistant Information Officer		440

Bureau of Public Information—contd.

Serial No.	Name.	Designation.	Pay. (Per month.) Rs.
13	Mr. V. Kriahnaswami . . .	Assistant Information Officer . .	420
14	Mr. B. B. Kapasi . . .	Do. . .	420
15	Mr. J. A. Kidwai . . .	Do. . .	420
16	Mr. B. Mukhopadhyay . . .	Do. . .	420
17	Mr. Madho Prasad . . .	Do. . .	420
18	Mr. Binod U. Rao . . .	Do. . .	400

Office of the Film Advisory Board.

1	Mr. V. Shantaram . . .	Officer-in-Charge of Production . .	2,500
2	Mr. L. T. Shivdasani . . .	Business Manager . . .	800
3	Rao Bahadur A. K. Patankar . . .	Financial Adviser . . .	200

Office of the Chief Press Adviser.

1	Mr. B. J. Kirchner . . .	Chief Press Adviser . . .	2,250
2	Mr. R. I. Hall . . .	Assistant Press Adviser . . .	1,150

Counter Propaganda Directorate.

1	Mr. F. Watson . . .	Director . . .	1,200
2	Dr. T. G. P. Spear . . .	Deputy Director . . .	750+
		S. P.	100
3	Mr. H. S. Sibthorp . . .	Monitoring Officer . . .	850+
		S. P.	100
4	Mr. G. E. Addicott . . .	Counter Propaganda Officer . . .	700
5	Mr. Salman A. Ali . . .	Do. . .	700
6	Mr. K. R. Purna . . .	Assistant Counter Propaganda Officer . . .	600
7	Mr. Surjeet Singh . . .	Do. . .	550
8	Mr. N. P. Dube . . .	Do. . .	400
9	Mrs. M. K. Barrington . . .	Deputy Monitoring Officer . . .	500

DUTIES OF THE PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER, ETC., AND COST OF ISSUE OF THE INDIAN INFORMATION SERIES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

56. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the nature of duty assigned to—

- (i) the Principal Information Officer;
- (ii) the Deputy Principal Information Officer; and
- (iii) other Gazetted Officers;

(b) the cost of the issue of—

- (i) the *Indian Information Series*,
- (ii) the *Bhartia Samachar*,
- (iii) the *Markersi Itilayath*, and
- (iv) other cyclostyle or printed matters; and their quantity of print and publication;

(c) if it is a fact that the *Indian Information Series* is distributed free amongst the public of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom; if so, what the number of copies so distributed is in the two countries; and

(d) the number of copies of the *Indian Information Series* distributed free amongst the public of India?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) to (d). The required information is given in the statement laid on the table.

Statement.

(a) Nature of duties assigned to the Officers of the Bureau of Public Information.

P. I. O. Direction of policy.

Maintenance of contact with Hon'ble Members of Council and general supervision of the work entrusted to each Information Officer.

Publicity for the offices of the Private and Military Secretaries to H. E. the Viceroy.

Correspondence and exchange of material with Publicity Officers in Provinces and abroad.

Contact with the Department of Information and Broadcasting and its attached offices.

Administration of Office.

D. P. I. O. Administration of Office.

Supervision of publicity in the Urdu language.

Questions of policy regarding publicity in the other four Indian languages.

Advertisement policy and the supervision of the list of newspapers considered suitable to receive Government of India advertisements.

Organisation of War publicity.

Contact with the Department of Information and Broadcasting and its attached offices.

Liaison with the Defence Department, the Office of the Financial Adviser, Military Finance and the office of the Military Accountant-General.

Information Officers (8).

Five are employed on the publicity of the activities of the various Departments of the Government of India and their attached and subordinate offices.

One is in charge of all matters (except administrative) relating to the printing and publication of the English edition of "Indian Information".

One is employed on war publicity work.

One is in charge of publicity in the Urdu language.

Assistant Information Officers (8).

Five are employed on publicity work in the five Indian languages, viz., Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Gujarati, and Bengali.

One is in charge of the Newspaper and Analysis Sections of the Bureau.

One assists the Information Officer for War Publicity. One to assist the Information Officer in charge of the production of "Indian Information."

Administrative Officer.

In charge of all work relating to administration, establishment, discipline, budget, expenditure, etc.

Chief Superintendent,

Deals with smaller cases relating to administration, establishment, expenditure, etc.

(b) During the nine months ending December 31, 1941, the expenditure on distribution (postage and freight charges) was:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Indian Information	23,254	2	3
Bharatiya Samachar	2,315	4	0
Markazi Ittelaat	1,963	11	9
Cost of Staff	10,350	0	0

Information about the expenditure incurred during this period on paper, printing and blocks is being ascertained and will be furnished in due course.

It is not quite clear what the Honourable Member means by "quantity of print and publication". If he desires to know the number of copies printed, figures for the latest issues dated February 15, 1942, are given below:—

Indian Information	35,200 copies.
Bharatiya Samachar	10,500 copies.
Markazi Ittelaat	12,250 copies.

Without the expenditure of an inordinate amount of time and labour, which would not be justified by the result, it is not possible to give the cost and the number of copies of other publicity material cyclostyled or printed which varies according to the subject of each item.

(c) "Indian Information" in the three editions is distributed free. 5,759 copies of the English edition, 24 of the Hindi and 14 of the Urdu are now sent to the United States of America. 690 copies of the English edition are sent to the United Kingdom; no copies of the Urdu and Hindi editions are sent to that country.

(d) 17,339 copies of "Indian Information", 6,226 copies of "Bharatiya Samachar" and 3,590 copies of "Markazi Ittelaat" are distributed free to the public in India.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

UNITED PROVINCES SUBORDINATE MEDICAL SERVICE MEN DECLARED UNFIT BUT ORDERED FOR OVERSEAS MILITARY DUTY.

22. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state whether it is or it is not a fact that under the orders of the United Provinces Government some members of the Provincial Subordinate Medical Service of the United Provinces were examined in August 1940, by the Civil Surgeon, Jaunpur, for their fitness for military duty and were declared to be unfit for it?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that these persons were subsequently ordered to appear before the Provincial Medical Board held on the 14th August 1940, at Lucknow and were similarly declared unfit for military duty?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that these persons were again in October or November 1940, examined by the Civil Surgeon, Jaunpur, and were again declared unfit for military duty?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that the Inspector General, Civil Hospitals, United Provinces, in letter No. 1216-E., dated January 20, 1941, declared these persons fit for military duty in category "C"?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that category "C" is prescribed for military duty in India only?

(f) Is it or is it not a fact that these persons consequently joined the military duty at Rawalpindi on 1st September, 1941, in category "C"?

(g) Is it or is it not a fact that the Officer Commanding, Indian Military Hospital, Jullundur Cantonment, on the 12th January, 1942, invited the opinion of the Dermatological Specialist, Lahore, as to the fitness of these persons (who were placed in category "C" when they joined the Army) for service in the Army? If so, what was the opinion expressed by the Dermatological Specialist?

(h) Is it or is it not a fact that these persons were found to be suffering from various chronic diseases for periods varying from 3 months to 2½ years in duration? •

(i) Is it or is it not a fact that these persons are now being detailed to proceed with units to the Fields Overseas?

(j) If the replies to parts (a) to (i) be in the affirmative, have Government considered the advisability of pressing upon the authorities concerned the enforcement of the category in which they joined for military duty? If not, why not?

(k) If the replies to parts (a) to (i) be in the negative, what are the real facts?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

CONDITION OF THE DEFENCES OF INDIA.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is a motion for adjournment. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi has given notice of a motion to adjourn the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the condition of the defences of India in view of the recent happenings at Singapore.

This seems to be a very wide subject. By the expression 'condition of the defences of India', I suppose the Honourable Member wants information as to the state of defences of India at present. That ought to be done by means of an interpellation and it cannot be obtained by means of a motion for adjournment. The Government might perhaps, in that case, like to make a statement as to what is the exact condition of the defences of India. The motion is ruled out of order.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Will they do it at an early date?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better put down a short notice question subject to acceptance by the Government.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I just make one submission? So far as the position of India is concerned . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a speech.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I am not making a speech. I am making a submission.

MESSAGE FROM H. E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, Order. I have to read out to the House a Message that I have received in connection with the Railway Budget from His Excellency the Governor-General. The Message reads :

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 2 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Victor Alexander John, Marquess of Linlithgow, hereby appoint the Honourable Sir Andrew Clow to perform the functions assigned to the Finance Member under Rule 46 of the said rules on the occasion of the General Discussion appointed for Monday, the 23rd February, 1942, of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor-General in Council in respect of Railways.

(Sd.) LINLITHGOW.

Viceroy and Governor General."

NEW DELHI,

The 24th January, 1942.

RAILWAY BUDGET FOR 1942-43.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow (Member for Railways and Communications): Sir, I have the honour to present the Railway Budget for 1942-43. It would, I think, be true to say that on the railways, as on the leading industries of this country, the most obvious effects of the war have hitherto been beneficial. They have earned phenomenal profits and to the public eye, their gains have been more apparent than their difficulties. If in some quarters there were complaints of insufficient facilities, that was not an entirely new phenomenon, particularly in more prosperous times, and many felt that better organization would overcome the hardships involved. The war was regarded by too many as something so remote from India that we were immune from its direct effects; business and politics could go on as usual, but with their tempo heightened by the indirect effects with which the first two years of war had made us familiar.

The present position.

2. To those who shared this view, recent events have come as a rude awakening, a fact which was reflected in our passenger traffic from Calcutta a few weeks ago. Actually, the difficulties which the war has created and is bound to create for transport have increased steadily throughout the year, and I trust that the figures which I present later will not lead any to view the prospects with complacency. Until fairly recently, it seemed that the railways, if given time, could discharge most of the demands made on them. There was a serious lag in the cold weather, but the slack season could be relied on to overtake the arrears. The present position is that the slack season has disappeared; traffic this summer remained at about the level of the previous winter and far above that of a normal winter, while this winter has brought a further increase in demands which it is impossible to meet in full. Military traffic has been on an unprecedented scale, supplies have been produced at an ever-increasing speed, other industries have expanded steadily, and alternative means of transport have contracted to an embarrassing extent.

3. Simultaneously the railways have had to face increasing handicaps. Rolling stock and rails have had to be given up to meet the requirements

of defence, replacements are difficult or impossible to obtain, and experienced personnel, in growing numbers, have gone on military or ancillary services. The signs point to an increasingly difficult situation. The rising intensity of the war effort, with all its direct and indirect effects is likely to have cramping effects on the general public. There is little prospect at present of the railways meeting more than a proportion of the demands made upon them, even if the tide of battle comes no nearer our shores.

4. There is likely, therefore, to be hardship on an increasing scale, but those running the railways will do as much as lies in their capacity to eliminate unnecessary hardship by meeting demands as far as is possible. They have already important achievements to their credit in this direction. Comparing our estimates of traffic in the current year with the figures for 1938-39, the last pre-war year, there is a rise of 30 per cent in the ton miles of goods carried and of over 16 per cent in passenger miles. This means an increase of nearly three thousand million passenger miles and of 6½ thousand million ton miles. Included in these figures is a large military traffic; for example, about 2,000 special trains were provided in the first nine months of this year. The handling of military traffic gives rise to peculiar difficulties and tends to leave an aftermath of arrears of other traffic which is disproportionate to its volume. So that the increase in the amount of traffic carried has involved greater efforts than its bare proportion, large though that is, would suggest.

5. This has only been rendered possible by steady improvement in operating services and constant attention to maintenance. The extent of the achievement is illustrated by the fact that on the broad gauge system the average daily task of each locomotive on the line has risen from 15,000 freight ton miles in 1938-39 to 17,000 freight ton miles and the wagon's daily tale of freight ton miles has been raised from 551 to 392. The public, in judging of railway capacity, is apt to think in terms of wagons, but the supply of wagons is only one of the factors which may impose limitations, and in many cases shortage of supply is due to limited operating capacity or inadequate power. Despite difficulties in respect of steel, works have been carried out which have enlarged the operating capacity on critical sections. All this has, of course, meant a big increase of work, which has fallen on a system which, owing to the difficulty of replacement, must suffer some deterioration. Most railway officers have shared the experience of their locomotives in having much harder tasks while their years increase. I am afraid that the average speed of the rolling stock must fall somewhat; that of the officials will not if they can help it.

Accounts for 1940-41.

6. Let me turn from this brief mention of the work done to the financial reflection of that work. In introducing the budget last year I expected a surplus of 14.59 crores. Although this estimate had been substantially raised at the last moment, it proved under the mark by no less than 8.87 crores. The last two months of the year gave exceptional traffic returns; we earned in that period 86 lakhs per day as against 30 lakhs per day in the preceding ten months, so that the gross traffic receipts for the year came to 111.94 crores instead of 100.25 crores. At the same time expenditure was less than the estimate by 1.06 crores. The largest

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item in this consisted of provision for enhanced dearness allowances to the staff which was not actually disbursed until the financial year had closed. Of the surplus of 18.46 crores, 12.16 crores went to general revenues and 6.80 crores to the railway reserve.

Revised Estimates for 1941-42.

7. For the current year the original estimate of revenue, including miscellaneous receipts, was 110.49 crores. This and indeed all previous figures have been greatly exceeded, and we now estimate the receipts at 129.57 crores. Throughout the greater part of the year both goods and passengers have shown substantial increases; latterly there has been a slight slackening in goods traffic, but passenger traffic has tended to show a further increase. The expenditure was put originally at 98.66 crores, but our present estimate is 103.37 crores. This increase is in the main due to an adjustment in respect of dismantled lines and abandoned assets and to the transfer of expenditure on ballast renewals from the depreciation fund to revenue. The net value of the assets lost in respect of dismantled lines amounts to 2.91 crores, 1.30 crores in respect of those dismantled last year and 1.61 crores in respect of those dismantled this year. A sum of 70 lakhs is available in the depreciation fund in respect of them, leaving an uncovered balance of 221 lakhs. When I presented the current year's budget, it was decided to debit such uncovered loss to the railway reserve, and this was actually done in 1940-41. On re-examination it has been found that technically it will be sounder to charge the amount to working expenses instead of adopting the round about method of putting the money first into the general reserve and then withdrawing it in the same year. It has therefore been decided with the concurrence of the Auditor General to adopt this course from the current financial year.

8. Last year I explained in some detail the system on which it was proposed to divide the surplus between general and railway revenues. The present position is that a moratorium is in force in respect of past debts to the depreciation fund and to general revenues. But we felt and still feel that despite this moratorium railways ought to make a substantially larger contribution to general revenues at this juncture than could be claimed under the Convention governing this matter. Actually what we attempted to do was to calculate how the surplus would be divisible under the Convention if there were no outstanding debts and then to make an arbitrary deduction from the amount assigned by this system to the railways. But subsequent examination has led to the conclusion which has the concurrence of the Auditor General, that technically no surplus accrues until the arrears of debt have been paid off. As the system adopted, although founded in part on a mistaken impression, had been made to yield, by means of the arbitrary deduction, an equitable result, we propose to leave the allocation undisturbed, and to utilize the same method for dividing any surplus that may accrue next year. The sums so assigned to general revenues will, after meeting the 1 per cent contribution for each year, go towards liquidating the arrears of that contribution for past years. Our present estimate for the current year is that the surplus will be 26.20 crores, of which the share of general revenues will be 19.12 crores and that of the railways 7.08 crores.

9. We propose to devote this last sum not to the railway reserve fund but towards repaying part of the debt to the depreciation fund. That fund should also receive a net accretion of about 7½ crores this year and of 5½ crores in 1942-43 representing the difference between the contribution made each year and the probable expenditure. Thus, if our estimates are fulfilled, the fund should have to its credit on 31st March, 1943, a sum of over 64½ crores. The position of this fund has been the subject of long and earnest consideration during the past year and I would like to acknowledge here the assistance given by the valuable work done on this subject by one who had made it his special study. I refer to Sir Raghavendra Rau whose untiring work for the railways both outside and inside this House will long be remembered and whose death we deeply regret. The result of these inquiries has satisfied us that, even if we are able to repay the whole amount abstracted from the fund in the lean years, we shall still have a defective rather than an excessive provision there. As a later opportunity will doubtless present itself of discussing the subject in detail, I do not propose to enter on such a discussion now. I would merely stress the importance of doing all that we reasonably and legitimately can to ensure that after the war the railways are in a position to play a full part in the reconstruction of the State.

Fares and freights.

10. Before giving the actual estimates for next year, I propose to deal with certain changes which are contemplated in fares and freight. In the present situation there are strong arguments for a substantial increase in passenger fares. The demand for passenger traffic has already reached a level which we have been unable to meet and so far from being able to increase our capacity here, we may have to make a substantial diminution almost at once. This is likely to be rendered necessary by the paramount importance of providing further capacity for goods and of meeting the military and supply demands. We have, with the co-operation of the press, issued an appeal to the public to avoid unnecessary travel, but the effect of this is likely to be small compared with the effect that would be produced by an enhancement of the fares. Such an enhancement, moreover, would recoup us for the traffic which is lost and it would also tend to counterbalance the increased costs which road transport is having to face. Finally, the bulk of the increased revenue would go under present arrangements to the taxpayers and thus permit them to be relieved in other directions.

11. We have weighed these arguments with the attention they deserve but have come to the conclusion that we should stay our hands in the matter of imposing a general increase. The need for this may become more apparent as time goes on, but we are anxious to avoid any undue increase of cost to the railway users. If railways followed the practice of many industrial and commercial firms, they could at the present moment secure very large increases in revenue and at the same time ease their own difficulties considerably by imposing increases which would effectively curtail the demand. But we are satisfied that this would not be in the public interest, and I hope that if in the future railways may again have to face financial stringency, the moderation that has been shown will not be forgotten. All that we propose to do for the present is to make certain enhancements on two railways, the East Indian and the North Western. Passenger fares on these railways are substantially

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below the level prevailing on the other State-managed lines, and there is no sufficient ground for continuing to give passengers on those railways particularly cheap rates. A schedule of the enhancements is being distributed with the papers which will be placed in your hands, but I may say that on the East Indian Railway, except for an increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ pie per mile or 5 per cent in the Intermediate class, there will be no enhancement at all on a journey up to 50 miles and the enhancement in the fares for the two lower classes on the N. W. and E. I. for a journey of any distance will not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ pie per mile. Even after these enhancements the general scales will still remain somewhat below those prevailing on other important lines. These enhancements will not be brought into force until the 1st of May and the total estimated accession of revenue is in the neighbourhood of half a crore.

12. In respect of freights, we propose to make two changes, both of which are dictated largely by traffic considerations. In the first place, we propose to increase the rate for parcels. If this is not done, there will be an increasing tendency to send goods as parcels and thus to increase the strain on our passenger trains which are already having to be curtailed. The present rate for parcels is two annas per rupee above the pre-war rate, and it will be increased by another two annas. A similar enhancement will apply to excess luggage, but there will be no enhancement on articles which were exempted from the former increase, such as newspapers. The extra revenue from this change next year is estimated at half a crore.

13. In respect of food-grains we have made no change since the war began. We have followed this policy mainly in order to avoid as far as possible contributing to the extra cost of living; but it is clear now that even if we had imposed an increase its effect would have been insignificant compared to the enhancement of prices which others have secured. Wheat, for example, has been selling in important markets at 100 per cent over the pre-war price. In spite of this we do not propose to bring food-grains into line with other commodities, but intend merely to impose an extra charge of two annas in the rupee on consignments of less than a wagon-load. Full wagons would continue to be charged at the existing rates. This is being done in order to ensure a better use of wagon supplies at a time when they are badly wanted. The revenue effect is likely to be small. We also propose to withdraw the rebate on wheat exported west of Aden, as there are no grounds at present for encouraging the export of wheat. The payments this year are likely to be of the order of three lakhs. None of these changes will be operative till the 1st of May.

Estimates for 1942-43.

14. Our estimate of the receipts for next year can be little more than a guess. Estimates of this kind are necessarily based on tendencies already apparent, coupled with changes that can be foreseen. But a war of the present intensity cannot be resolved into tendencies nor can we foresee with any accuracy the changes it may bring. We have, in the light of our imperfect knowledge, taken the estimated figure for the current year and subjected it to minor adjustments to allow for such factors as are apparent—the tendency to move from more paying to less paying traffic, the loss of a number of branch lines and a certain quantity of rolling

stock, the minor alterations in our charges. This has given us a revenue figure of 128.47 crores. The estimate of expenditure may also prove wide of the mark but we cannot allow for possible new factors which are at present quite speculative and have taken a figure of 100.52 crores. This is 2.85 crores less than the revised estimate for the current year, but that estimate includes non-recurring adjustments and expenditure of 8.44 crores. We have allowed for an increase in ordinary working expenses of 1.11 crore. In the result the surplus is put at 27.95 crores.

15. I must warn the House that this figure is highly speculative, and is more likely to prove too high than too low. We face an extremely uncertain future, and there are various possible happenings any one of which might add greatly to our expenditure or injure our revenue or produce both effects at once. It is, on the whole, unlikely that no such events will disturb our calculations. If I were not obliged to place before the House detailed estimates of the expenditure that can be foreseen, and could make an arbitrary reduction from the revenue figure to cover incalculable risks, I should present a lower estimate. But we cannot, in budgeting, allow for contingencies of varying degrees of probability and of incalculable force. We must proceed on the basis of the factors which are apparent and which lend themselves to analysis. No one can allow for an earthquake and war tends to be a series of convulsions. My own view is that if the estimated surplus is realized, the nation is likely to be able to congratulate itself on more than that achievement.

16. If the surplus of 27.95 crores is realized, it is clear that we cannot allow the provisions of the Separation Convention to take its ordinary course next year. To do that would involve denying to the general taxpayer that measure of relief which he can legitimately claim, having regard to the strain he is asked to bear and to the fact that the railways' surpluses are being greatly swollen by expenditure on defence. It is, therefore, necessary that there should be a renewal of the moratorium, and a resolution to this effect will be placed before the House shortly. The surplus for 1942-43 can then be disposed of on the same system as before. If the estimates are realized, the railways' share will be 7.82 crores to be devoted to the repayment of debt to the depreciation fund. The share of general revenues will be 20.13 crores, and this payment would not only wipe out the arrears of the one per cent. contribution but involve an additional payment of over a crore. The realization of this extra amount is, however, so speculative that it seems hardly necessary to reach a decision at this stage regarding its treatment. I would merely say provisionally that it might be treated as an advance payment on account of the one per cent contributions due in future.

17. If the present conditions appear likely to continue after 1942-43, a new situation will be created. For the taxpayer will still have a strong claim in equity to substantial relief from railway revenues, but there will be no debt against which any payments outside the Convention can be set. We are therefore asking the House to renew the moratorium for only one year. This will make it necessary to put before you in the course of the year proposals involving a revised arrangement regarding a division of the surplus. Whether these arrangements will involve a general revision of the existing Convention, or merely further interim arrangements to meet the war situation only, must depend on further consideration in the light of the position reached by the autumn.

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Capital position.

18. I deal now with the more important changes in our assets. On the debit side, we have a further reduction in the mileage, due to the dismantlement of lines. The rails set free are being utilized for purposes of defence, both within India and overseas. Those taken this year may amount to rather over 500 miles, of which about 70 miles were a forest tramway. The total represents only a fraction of the rails supplied, as rails from stock, rails set free by relaying and new rolling have been used to the utmost extent possible. The capital cost of the lines dismantled this year is 219 lakhs. A sum of 30 lakhs has accumulated against them in the depreciation fund, which also receives 58 lakhs for released materials, so that 88 lakhs will be debited to that fund and 131 lakhs to working expenses. We have also surrendered certain quantities of rolling stock. We deeply regret the necessity of doing anything to curtail the railways' capacity for service to the public at a time when alternative means of transport are so restricted, but it is a necessity, and some of the material has already proved of much more benefit to the country than it was in its original location.

19. On the credit side the most important change made during the year has been the acquisition of the capital of certain companies with the transfer of their lines to State management. On the 1st January we took over the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway involving 1260 miles of broad gauge line, 2025 miles of metre gauge line and 172 miles of narrow gauge line. We also took over the Assam Bengal Railway which had 1806 miles of metre gauge line and have amalgamated it with the Eastern Bengal Railway in what is now the Bengal and Assam Railway. These changes have involved an addition of 4.88 crores to our capital, which at the end of this year should stand at 758 crores.

20. An even bigger addition to our capital will be made in 1942-43 when we take over the Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon lines. The B. & N. W. Railway at present works 824 miles of our lines and owns 1274 miles of its own. The R. & K. Railway works 311 miles of State-owned line and 259 miles of its own. The total capital cost is estimated at 18.15 crores. We propose to work these systems including the Tirhoot Railway, as a single unit. In addition we are acquiring the Tapti Valley Railway, a branch line of 156 miles worked by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, at a cost of 166 lakhs and the Mirpurkhas Khadro Railway, a branch line of about 50 miles, worked by the Jodhpur Railway, at a cost of 12 lakhs. We estimate that the capital at charge will have risen by the end of next year to 781½ crores.

21. Thus, with the exception of unimportant light railways and some lines owned by Indian States, the whole of the railway system of Northern India and the extensions of this system in the western half of the peninsula as far south as the Kistna will be both State-owned and State-managed, and Company management will be confined to the lines in the east and south of the peninsula. The combined mileage of the State-managed railways which stood a couple of months ago at 17,000 miles will be increased to 24,000 miles, and the State railway employees will have risen from 8,90,000 to over half a million men.

Conclusion.

22. The fact that after a fairly long experience of State-management public opinion is, on the whole, strongly in favour of further enlargement of its scope is a compliment to those responsible for State railways which it would be ungracious to pass over in silence. I referred in my speech last year to the advantages which State-management offers and the difficulties which it tends to create and do not propose to repeat what I then said. It is my earnest hope that the big decisions we have taken will yield all that the public expects from them.

23. At the same time I would record my personal opinion that if State management on this immense scale is to achieve success in a parliamentary State, both Government and the Legislature must acquiesce in a large devolution of responsibility. I am occasionally reminded by those who are anxious that I should use my personal influence in the matter of the promotion of an assistant station-master or the appointment of a clerk or the assignment of some minor contract, that the Moghal Emperors allowed all subjects to approach them personally with petitions on any matter. It is suggested that I or the Chief Commissioner, in our more limited and less august spheres, should emulate them. What happened to the bulk of these petitions, history does not record; but I am convinced that to-day no great Department of State would long work if those at the top attempted to deal personally with all the matters that might be put before them. This is not because we regard detailed administration as unimportant; it is most important and personal cases may be of great moment to those whom they affect. It is simply because a great organization can only be carried on efficiently if there is a genuine sharing of responsibility and if those in less prominent positions are regarded not as mere agents or subordinates—a word I dislike—whose every act is subject to revision, but as co-workers who are carrying on the struggle in different parts of the field. We should strive constantly that, as far as possible, all concerned get fair dealing and, more than that, get the feeling that there has been fair dealing. But this is not going to be ensured by constant interference by Government in individual cases any more than efficiency can be secured by attempting to concentrate all authority at headquarters. We must be prepared to trust, over a large field of administration, those filling responsible posts, and do our utmost to select men who merit that trust.

24. Speaking after three years' close acquaintance, I can affirm that the House and the public have reason to feel general confidence in those holding responsible posts on our railways. They are not good at advertising their own merits, even when they have the time to do so; and the public is too often left with inadequate information of their difficulties and their efforts. But they and the host of others in the various grades of the service have been facing increasingly arduous and complex tasks with devotion and skill, and I do not believe that the general standard of efficiency has ever been higher than it is to-day. I would acknowledge specially the inspiring lead given by Sir Leonard Wilson and his officers here in a more exacting time than the railways have ever had to face.

25. The impossibility of meeting all the calls upon the railways has resulted not merely in serious inconvenience to many of the public, but in real hardships in a number of cases. As I suggested earlier, such hardships are more likely to increase than to decrease as our war effort grows

[Sir Andrew Clow.]

in intensity. No one regrets this more than the railway administrations, who are themselves undergoing a considerable strain. I would acknowledge the forbearance shown by most sections of the public under present conditions, and ask for the fullest measure of co-operation in any trials that lie ahead. They will thus enable railwaymen in all ranks of the service to give of their best for the public welfare in every way they can and, in particular, by striving for that victory on which depends greatly the welfare of India for generations to come.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Legislative Business. Further consideration of the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code. I believe clause 2 was under discussion.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, with respect to my amendment, it was proposed yesterday that the Government might consider if they could not move an amendment themselves. Since then

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : No amendment was moved as a matter of fact?

Mr. Lalchand Navarai : No. None was moved. It is a question whether I am going to move my own or to accept theirs. I am very thankful to the Honourable the Law Member for being so frank and reasonable in regard to my amendment

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Is the Honourable Member going to move his amendment?

Mr. Lalchand Navarai : I just wish to say a word or two. I am also thankful to Sir George Spence for having helped in bringing out an amendment, which will be presently moved, which covers my amendment; therefore I will not move mine, but shall give way to the Government to move their own.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It was not necessary for the Honourable Member to make such a speech in that case.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai : I had to express my thanks.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) : Sir, I move : 'That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed section 52A before the words "The word 'harbour' " the following be inserted :

"Except in section 157, and in section 130 in the case in which the harbour is given by the wife or husband of the person harboured,"'

I gather that this amendment is generally acceptable. The Honourable the Law Member has already made it clear that for their own part the Government would not have seen any necessity for moving an amendment in this sense, but in deference to the strong wishes manifested in other

quarters of the House they have put forward this amendment in the hope that the Bill will now go through without further controversy. Sir, I move.

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

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed section 52-A before the words 'The word 'harbour' ' the following be inserted:

"Except in section 157, and in section 130 in the case in which the harbour is given by the wife or husband of the person harboured,".

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

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed section 52-A before the words 'The word 'harbour' ' the following be inserted:

"Except in section 157, and in section 130 in the case in which the harbour is given by the wife or husband of the person harboured,".

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to speak on the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When I put the amendment I paused to see whether there was any Honourable Member wishing to speak, and nobody stood up. I am putting the question now. The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed section 52A before the words 'The word 'harbour' ' the following be inserted:

"Except in section 157, and in section 130 in the case in which the harbour is given by the wife or husband of the person harboured,".

The motion was adopted.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: I would like to speak on the section itself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot do that; the amendment has been accepted by the House; and you cannot criticise the verdict of the House. The Honourable Member ought to know that.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: I want to speak on the whole section. The amendment has been decided upon by the House, but not the section yet. The section has yet to be put to the House.

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

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

Does the Honourable Member wish to speak on that?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Yes, Sir. At the very outset I submitted that it was time that we revised the definition of the word 'harbour'; and instead of including some further things, we ought to have excluded something. The Government have seen their way to bring an amendment by which they have incorporated in the section something which was already there, and which they omitted to incorporate at the time when they brought this Bill. But the chief objection that I raised to it still continues. The question is what right we have got to increase the scope of

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

the section in view of the fact that we have found by actual experience that certain words that exist in the section itself are liable to great misuse and have actually been misused by the persons who have the power to prosecute under this section. I laid before the House the example of offering fruit and other things to prisoners of war. Now, in spite of the fullest sympathy with the Government, I am afraid that this section is very likely to be very greatly misused in the present days. The Honourable the Law Member said that the question of prisoners of war was a very important one. I perfectly agree and I also agree with him that the question of deserters is still more important—which was not raised by him. We do not want in any way to encourage any deserting, and we are prepared to agree to any kind of punishment that the Government may think fit to impose on deserters; but at the same time, at the present time, we do not want to embarrass the whole of the public by having ambiguous laws. Who is a deserter? A person comes back home or to his village and says that he has been discharged. How are the people of the village to know that this man has actually been discharged and that he is not a deserter? How are the people of the place to know that he has not been discharged but has actually deserted. Now, such a person comes back and lives in a village. Any person who offers food and drink or in any way helps him will be liable under the provisions of this law. Not only that, Sir

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already said all that while considering the Bill.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Not the whole of it, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member made a long speech.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I merely want to point out that we have also to take into consideration the courts which have to enforce this law. It may be said, and it is sometimes said, as was pointed out by the Honourable the Law Member, it is necessary to do away with legal quibbles, but the difficulty is that, though I am not in favour of legal quibbles, they are always there. I do not want them, the legislator does not want them, but you must also consider the mentality of the people who will actually administer this law. In this connection I will just state to the House one of my own personal experiences as to how the people who administer the law interpret.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not go into general questions like that. The Honourable Member has got a lot of experience no doubt of administration of law, but he need not go into all that.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: No, Sir, I don't want to say anything from general experience, but I want to mention a specific instance, and the House will find that we cannot leave the words of the section itself ambiguous and leave it to the mercy of the courts, the appellate courts and

the highest appellate courts, and it is the duty and function of the Legislature to save persons from being embarrassed by the authorities who prosecute them for offences. In this connection I will just relate how the courts interpret this section. I know, Sir, there was a case at Mussoorie in which a big State was making an application

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That has nothing to do with this question of harbouring.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi : Of course, it is a question of harbouring.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member must not go on talking about matters which are not relevant.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi : Then I will only say that the word 'harbour' is very extensive. Something has been added to it, and I oppose that addition. Before I finished, Sir, there is one thing more that I want to say, and it is this

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney (Leader of the House) : The Honourable Member cannot oppose the addition because it has been already accepted by the House. You can oppose the amended section if you like.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi : Sir, I want to point out one irregularity in this connection. Now, Sir, the Government have agreed to exempt certain sections from the operation of this law. Is it proper for them to place the section under Chapter II? Because by so doing, they would make it applicable to every other section in which the word 'harbour' is used in the future. The intention of the Legislature is specifically to confine the definition of 'harbour' to the three sections that are already there, and one more is added, because they have specifically exempted section 157 from the operation of the definition of the word 'harbour'. Now that you have created a new position by exempting certain sections, my submission is that the proper place for this section is not 52A, but it must be as an exemption and it may continue to be 216B, and only one more section 130 should be added to it. So, from the point of view of legislation after you have accepted the exemption, the proper place goes away from Chapter II to the old section 216B. I hope the Honourable the Law Member will consider this position carefully and not make the word 'harbour' so comprehensive, because if any further amendment is made in the Indian Penal Code and the word 'harbour' is used, it will be necessary for the Legislature to consider the word 'harbour' in its full significance as defined in the Indian Penal Code, and not in the ordinary sense. With these words, I oppose this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is : "That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

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

Clause 3, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Law Member) : Sir, I move :
 "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :
 "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, the amendment as passed has only exempted husband and wife. It is quite surprising that the Government should think that a family in India consists only of a husband and wife. Indian homes, Sir, Indian families consist of parents, brothers and others. Does the Honourable Member, the author of this Bill, mean to suggest that if a father or mother happens to give a glass of water to a thirsty son who has absconded, he or she becomes a criminal? Is the mother to be penalised for having offered a glass of water to her thirsty son who has been away from his home under certain circumstances? I am afraid, Sir, the whole law has been drafted in a hurry

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The House has accepted the clauses of the Bill.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : Yes, Sir, I know it has been accepted, and there is no way out of it, but in reading this clause it seems that the meaning of the word 'harbour' has been stretched so widely that it is impossible for any man to be hospitable to any man in the street . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member is going beyond the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : I am speaking on the third reading.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : This is not a third reading speech which the Honourable Member is making. The House has come to a decision so far as the clauses are concerned.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : It has been decided so far as this clause is concerned. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Member once again to give consideration to this Bill. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable the Law Member cannot alter a decision of the House.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : I ask him to give further consideration to this Bill and bring forward a better Bill in future, in this very Session if possible. Only on account of the majority he has got with him he could have this Bill passed, otherwise he could not have it passed into an Act. Therefore, I request him to bring in a new Bill and a better Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :
 "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney (Leader of the House) : Sir, the only business which we would be in a position to place before the House on Friday would be the consideration and passing of the two small Bills introduced on Monday. In the circumstances, I suggest that it would meet the general convenience if you cancelled the meeting fixed for that day with the effect of leaving it free for the meeting of Select Committees on some or all of the private Bills referred to Select Committee on Saturday last.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : We could not follow you at all.

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney : We suggest that the meeting for Friday might be cancelled.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : As Government have no sufficient business to place before the Assembly on Friday next, I should like to know whether it will meet the general convenience of Members if I cancel the sitting for that day.

Several Members : Yes.

An Honourable Member : There is an election fixed for that day.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : There are some meetings of Select Committees and some Honourable Members will have to attend them. There will be no meeting of the Assembly on that day, that is, Friday next. I ought to mention that election of Members of some Standing Committees has been fixed for next Friday. That will go on and will not be affected by the Assembly not sitting on that day.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : It will be an inconvenience to Members to come here on that day only for that purpose. Why not have the election tomorrow?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 19th February, 1942.