

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

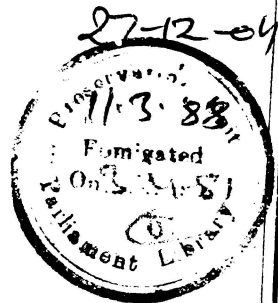
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(18th February to 2nd April, 1942)

ELEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1942



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 31st March, 1942.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RATIONING OF SUPPLIES.

159. **THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH :** (a) Is there any scheme that as a result of closing of certain Far Eastern sources of supply, the Government will impose rationing of the supplies of certain goods for consumption by the civil population of this country, and conserve them for Defence services ?

(b) Is there no scheme before Government for increased production both with regard to agricultural commodities and indigenous industrial products ? Will Government make a statement with regard to their future plans in this connection ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : (a) There is at present no proposal before the Government of India to impose rationing in respect of any commodity except motor spirit which has been rationed since August, 1941.

(b) The need for increased production exists in respect of some agricultural commodities, *e.g.*, foodgrains and fodder, while in the case of others which have lost their export markets, *e.g.*, short staple cotton, jute and groundnuts, a curtailment of production has become necessary. The Government of India have under active consideration measures to stimulate the production of foodgrains and fodder and a Conference of Provincial and States' Ministers of Agriculture has been convened for the 6th April, 1942 to discuss these measures. In these cases in which a curtailment of production has become necessary the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are taking various measures to achieve that end. In the case of short staple cotton, in particular, the Government of India have constituted a fund, one of the objects of which is to finance measures designed to bring about a diversion of the acreage under short staple cotton to other crops such as long staple cotton or foodgrains. The question of further encouraging the production of indigenous industrial products is also constantly before the Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is this Conference to be held under the aegis of the Commerce Department or Agricultural Department of the Government of India ?

Questions against the Hon. Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Hon. Mr. V. V. Kalikar.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : It is to be held by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What are the foodgrains that Government have in view ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Well, the grains which are ordinarily used as food, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Does the Honourable Member mean to say that any shortage has been experienced of *jowar*, *bajra* and barley ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Sir, a shortage has, as the House is well aware, recently been experienced in the matter of wheat and we are certainly faced with a shortage in the matter of rice. Foodgrains are not exclusive. It is a well known fact that in this country when there is a shortage of wheat or rice the deficiency is made up from *bajra*, *jowar*, barley, and so forth. What we aim at doing is to increase the total supply of foodgrains, so that if we are unable to make up the shortage of rice, for example, there will at least be *bajra*, *jowar*, and so forth, available.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : In view of the fact that in many of the Provinces section 93 is in operation has the Government considered the desirability of associating non-official opinion with this Conference ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : I would suggest that that question should be put to the representative of the Education, Health and Lands Department.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Are Government aware of the complaints due to the people having to use *bajra*, *jowar* and barley in place of wheat ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Sir, it is quite obvious that people who are accustomed to one kind of food do not take kindly to substitute foods but circumstances may be too strong for them.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Do Government mean to extend the cultivation of wheat or not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : So far as is possible the cultivation of wheat will be expanded but even to my amateur knowledge of agriculture there are lands which are capable of producing the millets such as *bajra* and *jowar* which are not capable of producing wheat.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Education, Health and Lands Department enlighten us, Sir, on this proposal to associate non-official opinion ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : That is a question which should be put to my Honourable colleague who represents the Education, Health and Lands Department and I do not think he has had notice of it.

NUMBER OF QUARTERS BUILT FOR MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE.

160. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Will Government state how many quarters were built for the residence of Honourable members of the Council of State and of the Legislative Assembly in New Delhi. And how many of them have been assigned for the residence of members of the two Houses ?

(b) Out of those quarters which have been assigned for the accommodation of the members of the Council of State, how many quarters, if any, have been given to non-members this Budget session, and why ?

(c) Is it a fact that these quarters were built primarily for the residence of members of the Central Legislature who have to come here for attending meetings of the Legislature ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : (a) 95 regular quarters and 69 suites in the Western Court were originally built for members of the Central Legislature. As the demand for suites in the Western Court by the members was much less than the number provided 44 suites have been set aside for Government officers, leaving 25 suites for members. The regular quarters are all assigned for residence of the members during the session period.

(b) Only one quarter of the chummy type was given to a non-member because it was not applied for by any Honourable Member.

(c) Yes.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AND BUILDINGS IN DEHRA DUN, ETC.

161. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is it a fact that Government have acquired, and are acquiring, lands and buildings in Dehra Dun, Hardwar, and in certain hilly districts of the Punjab, for the removal of their General Headquarters, and other offices, in case of emergency ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : No, Sir.

RELAXATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE INDIAN ARMS ACT.

162. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : In view of the imminent threat to India of external attack and possible internal disorder, do Government propose to relax the operation of the Indian Arms Act so as to allow respectable local Indians to bear arms, such as rifles and pistols, in defence of their own lives and properties and also those of their neighbours ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : No, since Government do not consider that the policy indicated by the Honourable Member would be the best method of securing the objects which he has in view.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact, Sir, that rifle ammunition has been purchased by the Government from the ammunition dealers and that they have not even been paid for it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I do not think that arises, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : It arises from the fact that people who have got licences cannot get rifle ammunition because there is nothing available in the ammunition shops.

(No answer.)

MISCONDUCT OF TROOPS IN BOMBAY.

163. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Are Government aware that there is a great deal of uneasiness in Bombay with regard to the misconduct of soldiers stationed there and that a special meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation discussed on or about the 5th March, 1942 a resolution requesting the Mayor to invite the attention of Government, and request them to take at an early date steps to allay the fears of the public in regard to certain reports current in the City of Bombay about the misbehaviour of members of the combatant forces moving in the city? What are the facts of the case, and what steps have Government taken, or propose to take, in this connection?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY : The reply to the first and second parts is in the affirmative. As regards the last part, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to question No. 110 by the Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal on the 6th March, 1942.

STEPS TAKEN TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS AND OF FODDER.

164. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state what steps they have taken, or propose to take, to launch a vigorous drive to persuade the cultivators to grow more foodgrains and fodder crops, and to secure regional self-sufficiency in respect of foodstuffs as between different areas as a safeguard against any possible interruption in the transport system due to war situation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. D. TYSON : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press note issued on the 14th March, 1942, announcing that a conference of representatives of provinces and of certain Indian States is being convened at New Delhi on the 6th April, 1942, to consider the question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I will put that question now, Sir. In view of the fact that section 93 regime applies to seven Provinces, have Government considered the advisability of associating non-official opinion in this conference?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. D. TYSON : Certain non-officials have been invited, Sir.

DESPATCH OF LOCOMOTIVES, WAGONS, ETC., OVERSEAS.

165. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : In view of the serious war situation developing in India, do Government propose immediately to stop the despatch of locomotives, wagons, dismantled railway track and equipment outside this country?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : The matter is under the constant examination of General Headquarters and the Railway Department

(Certain reductions in the programme of despatches have already been made. Complete cessation of despatch of railway material is not feasible, but all demands are being, and will be, carefully examined in the light of India's requirements.

INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES ON LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

166. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Have Government increased the ordinary letter rate from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas, and the minimum rate for an ordinary telegram from 10 annas to 12 annas, and have they reduced the rate for airgraph letters to the United Kingdom from 14 annas to 8 annas, with effect from 1st April, 1942 ? If so, are Government aware that the increase will adversely affect the poorer classes in this country, and the reduction in airgraph rate will affect only a small class of comparatively well-to-do persons ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Government do not subscribe to the view that the increase in letter postage will have a specially adverse effect upon the poorer classes for whom the postcard is available at the same rate as before. Eight annas was the original postage proposed for the airgraph, and the Empire Air Mail letter rate of fourteen annas was adopted only as a temporary measure pending agreement of the Secretary of State to the eight anna rate.

AMERICAN TECHNICAL MISSION.

167. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government make a statement regarding the exact scope and nature of the work of the proposed American Mission to India, and do they propose to give a categorical assurance that no foreign vested interests will be created in this country under the cloak of technical help for the strengthening of industrial war effort ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : The general object of the American Technical Mission to India is to develop as fully and as rapidly as possible the industrial resources of India, which is now a most important base for the armed forces of the United Nations in the Middle and Far East. The Mission will deal with a number of specific problems, and there is no reason whatever to suppose that it will attempt to create new vested interests. Any such suggestion is to be strongly deprecated.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact, Sir, that the United States are stationing now an Air Force in India ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I require notice of that question, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Does my Honourable friend General Hartley also require notice of that question ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : The question was put to me.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is it not competent to my Honourable friend to answer it.

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : It may not be in the public interest to give that information.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Say so, then.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Do Government propose to associate Indian industrialists with this Mission ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : That presupposes that they have come here to start industries. I never said that they have come here to start industries.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : May not the co-operation of the Indian industrialists be very helpful ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : You can rest assured that nothing in this country can proceed without the assistance and advice of people who know something about their business.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO CEYLON.

168. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state whether as a result of the visit to India of the Minister of Agriculture, Ceylon, arrangements are being made by the Government of India to send out foodstuffs from this country to Ceylon ? If so, how much ? Have Government taken all possible steps to assure themselves that there will be no shortage of foodstuffs for consumption in India as a result of the war situation ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : The Government of India have agreed to facilitate exports to the extent necessary for the satisfaction of Ceylon's primary food requirements, subject to the condition that Ceylon cannot expect to be in proportionately better position than India herself, if supplies available in India fall below the full figure of the requirements of the two countries taken together. It is not possible to give exact figures but the Government of India are keeping a close watch over the situation and propose to regulate the quantities exported from different areas with due regard to the varying conditions of supply in those areas. Active measures are in hand to ensure the increase of the production of foodstuffs in India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May we know what are the foodstuffs which Ceylon imports from India ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Rice is the principal one and also such things as *jowar* and *bajra*.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact that India is on balance an importer, to the tune of about 800,000 tons, of rice ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : I cannot give exact figures but it is a fact that India is on balance an importer of rice.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS IN AND FROM MALAYA.

169. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following statements made by

Mr. Rajabali Jumabhoy, President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, at the meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, recently held in Delhi (*vide* the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 9th March, 1942, page 5) :—

- (i) “ Penang fell into enemy hands all of a sudden. No Indian was given any chance to leave Penang. Only the white population left ” ;
- (ii) “ Some ships were provided, but at our expense. We had to pay our passages, whilst non-Indians and non-Ceylonese were provided with free passages and better ships. The result was that most of the families, specially of the middle and the poorer classes, were left behind ” ;
- (iii) “ Only a limited amount of 1st and 2nd class passages were given. Most of the 1st and 2nd class passages went to non-Indians ” ;
- (iv) “ Indians were allowed to evacuate to India only ; Europeans, Chinese, Jews, can go anywhere, but not Indians ” ?

(b) Will Government take immediate steps to investigate into the above allegations, and also into the following points made in the speech above referred to :—

- (i) the evacuees were provided with an unseaworthy boat,
- (ii) the obstinacy of the captain in not allowing their luggage, and
- (iii) they were packed a thousand people in a river boat to Batavia, with no doctor, no sanitation, no cooking facilities, no utensils, etc. ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. BOZMAN : (a) Yes.

(b) Those complaints susceptible of investigation are already the subject of examination and inquiry. As I have already informed the House the other matters upon which it is not possible to obtain further evidence, have been reported to the proper quarters with a statement that in the opinion of the Government of India they call for a thorough examination when circumstances permit.

SCORCHED EARTH POLICY.

170. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Have Government formulated any scheme with regard to what has been called the “ scorched earth policy ” to be pursued in this country in certain emergency ; and has their attention been drawn to the proceedings of the meeting of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce, recently held in Delhi, in which this policy has been described as unsuitable for India ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn in this connection to the statement publicly made by Dr. Van Mook, the Governor General of the Netherlands East Indies, on his arrival in Australia, after the disaster in Java, that “ there should be an end to destroying and retreating ” (*vide* the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 10th March, 1942, page 8) ?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY : (a) As regards the first part, the question of the measures to be adopted to deny to the enemy all materials and facilities of immediate military value to him is under the careful consideration of Government and it is hoped to issue a statement on

the subject shortly. I may add, however, that there is no intention whatsoever to follow a policy of general destruction which is what is generally understood by the term "scorched earth".

The reply to the second part is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes.

KHAN SAHEB S. A. ASHRAF, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

171. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Will Government state the facts and circumstances relating to the alleged acceptance of bribe by Khan Saheb S. A. Ashraf, Assistant Director in the Supply Department; and the steps taken in that connection?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: As the matter on which information is sought is still under consideration, Government consider that it will not be in the public interest to give this information.

NUMBER OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

172. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Will Government state the total number of Italian prisoners of war in India, and the kind of work on which they are employed?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY: The answer to the first part of the question is 67,000 approximately. As regards the latter part, a statement has been laid on the table.

List of works on which prisoners of war are employed.

1. Cooks.
2. Bakers.
3. Laundries.
4. Carpenters.
5. Shoemakers.
6. Home industries.
7. Gardens.
8. Construction work.
9. Barbers.
10. Tailors.
11. Clerks.
12. Camp canteens.
13. Butchers.
14. Waiters.
15. Prisoners of war officers' servants—batmen.
16. Blacksmiths.
17. Sanitary orderlies.
18. Brick making.
19. Road construction in vicinity of camps.
20. Anti-malarial drainage.
21. Unskilled labour for cleaning and levelling sites.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE COLLECTION OF TAXES ON INCOME THAT HAS ACCRUED OR ARISEN IN BURMA, ETC.

173. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government make a statement regarding the steps which they have taken, or propose to take, in connection with the proceedings for assessment and suspension of collection of income-tax from firms or individuals doing business in Burma, Malaya and the Far East, who had to close down their business in those parts due to war ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : Government have already issued telegraphic instructions that further collection of taxes on all income—remitted or unremitted—that has accrued or arisen in Burma, Malaya or Indo-China in the previous year for the 1941-42 assessment should be postponed for the duration of the war. Commissioners of Income-tax have also been asked to consider sympathetically any case of an assessment prior to 1941-42 with a view to hardship being avoided. A further circular clarifying these points and extending the scope of these instructions to other enemy occupied territories in the Far East has also been issued.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member lay that circular on the table of the House ? It will be very helpful.

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : I am quite prepared to do so, Sir.

INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA CIRCLE.

174. THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : Will Government say (a) how many Income-tax officers were appointed since two such officers in Bihar and Orissa Circle were retrenched in 1933 ; and

(b) Whether the case of these retrenched Income-tax officers came up for consideration when new officers were being appointed ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : Do Government propose to inquire into the cases of these retrenched officers and remedy any injustice that has been done to them ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : I have already stated in this House, Sir, that Government do not admit that any injustice has been done.

LEASES FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SALT.

175. THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : (a) Will Government state whether they have any definite and settled policy in the matter of settlement of salt licences or leases or contracts ?

- (b) (i) Is it one of giving a monopoly to one or a group of persons ? or
- (ii) Is it one of settlement from year to year or period to period ? or
- (iii) Is it one of settlement with the highest bidder or tenderer ?

(c) Why and how does it differ from their policy in respect of excise contracts, leases or licences ?

(d) Does the excise and salt licence settlement policy of Government vary from province to province and from area to area ?

(e) If the answer to part (d) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to lay down one uniform policy in respect of excise and salt licences throughout India ? If so, how soon ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : (a) and (b). The grant of salt leases and licences where this rests with the Central Government is regulated by rules laid down in the Manuals of the Salt Department. The right to manufacture salt in such cases is not necessarily put up to auction and the Collector is empowered to make assignments. Generally the licence is renewed in favour of the ex-licensee if the factory has been satisfactorily run and his financial position is satisfactory. The leases normally run for a period of 25 years.

(c), (d) and (e). Government are not aware of the policy followed in the various provinces with regard to excise contracts, licences, etc., since this is a matter which is exclusively within the cognizance of the Provincial Governments.

THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : Is the Government aware that a certain person in Orissa has been enjoying a lease for 30 years and that it has now been proposed after the expiry of the lease this year to extend his lease for another 30 years ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : It may quite possibly be so, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : Do Government realise that it may fetch them better revenue if that salt area were settled with more than one person instead of one ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : I do not think so, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact that in other places the contracts are for a lesser period than 25 years ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : Contracts are normally given for 25 years. It is the normal period. A considerable amount of capital has to be sunk in the development of these salt fields.

EFFECT OF THE RATIONING OF PETROL ON TRANSPORT SERVICES.

176. THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : (a) Are Government aware that very useful passenger, goods and mail conveyance services in motor buses in the rural and urban areas in many of the provinces have greatly suffered due to the drastic cutting down of the ration of petrol, which now stands at one-quarter of the basic ration ?

(b) How do Government propose to remedy the inconveniences and hardships thus caused ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : (a) Government realise that the unavoidable reduction of the total consumption of petrol by 40 per cent. cannot fail to be reflected in the reduction of transport services, but, as far as is possible, rations are adjusted so as to preserve essential services.

I am not aware of any case in which the ration now stands at one-quarter of the basic ration, but if the Honourable Member will let me have particulars of any such case, I will look into it.

(b) By reducing non-essential uses of petrol and developing alternative fuels—producer gas and power alcohol.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Has any step been taken to popularise the manufacture of power alcohol ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : Steps are being taken.

EFFECT OF THE RATIONING OF PETROL ON TRANSPORT SERVICES.

177. **THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS :** (a) Do Government propose to advance money to bus owners keeping up services referred to in the preceding question to enable them to purchase and instal coal-gas equipments in their buses ?

(b) If so, what are the terms of repayment of these advances and what amount has been sanctioned or proposed to be made available to each of the Provinces ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : (a) and (b). The administration of motor transport is a provincial matter. I understand that the Government of Bombay have under consideration proposals for the grant of advances for the purchase of producer gas plants, repayable in instalments, but I have no information as to the terms of the advances and repayments. I have no information as to what is being done in other Provinces.

AREA OF RECRUITMENT ASSIGNED TO THE CALCUTTA CUSTOMS HOUSE.

178. **THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS :** (a) Will Government say whether Calcutta is the centre of recruitment for the Provinces of Bihar, Bengal, Assam and Orissa, for officers employed in the Customs Department of the Government of India ?

(b) If not, for what Province or Provinces is Calcutta the recruiting centre for Customs officers ?

(c) If so, will Government lay on the table a list of officers recruited at Calcutta as Appraising officers from each of the provinces above-named ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member wants to know the area of recruitment assigned to the Calcutta Customs House. If so, it comprises the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being obtained and will be furnished to him when received.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May I ask, Sir, that it be laid on the table of the House ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : Yes, Sir.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND FILMS OF OPERATIONS OF WAR.

179. THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS : (a) Will Government state whether any photographs and films have been taken or received of operations of war in European countries and of Eastern and Western theatres of war in the East ? If so, will they be shown to members of the Legislature ?

(b) How many Indian journalists have been permitted or sent to accompany army units in active operations on the various war fronts ?

(c) What arrangements are made for journalists and photographers to accompany army units on active operations against the enemy ; and whether any procedure is adopted similar to that employed by the German army whereby journalists and photographers are incorporated in the ranks of the army for the purpose of recording operations, either to be utilised in instruction of troops in tactics or by way of making documentary films for release to the general public ?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY : (a) A very large number of photographs and films of operations of war have been taken in the various theatres of war and received in India. The photographs are regularly released to, and published in the Press, in *Indian Information* and in *War and Pictures* and the films have been regularly exhibited in Indian cinemas, either in the form of news-reels or "shorts", with commentaries in Indian languages. It would be impossible to show them all to Members of the Legislature but the Director of Public Relations, Defence Department, and the Department of Information and Broadcasting can arrange for a showing of selected films and an exhibition of photographs if there is a general desire for it.

(b) Only one Indian newspaper has hitherto asked to be allowed to send a representative to accompany units of the Indian Army on active service.

Two parties of editors and special representatives of Indian newspapers have visited the Middle East and Malaya respectively. Further tours have been under consideration but the difficulties of transport, particularly by air, have recently been acute and it has therefore not been possible to arrange them.

(c) Correspondents of newspapers can be accredited and accompany fighting forces if newspapers wish it and apply to the Director of Public Relations. A skeleton Conducting Branch of the Public Relations Directorate has recently been organised, on the lines of that now operating in the Middle East under the War Office, to control all correspondents, Indian, British and foreign, in the event of active operations in India, and to deal with the special correspondents who have recently arrived from overseas. Correspondents are not permitted to accompany fighting troops without a Conducting Officer.

Commissioned officers are serving as Official Observers, Cinematographers and Photographers with the Indian Army in all theatres of war. They accompany the troops into action for the purpose of recording operations. This organization is under the Director of Public Relations, Defence Department.

SENDING OF SOLDIERS, WHO ARE UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE, OVERSEAS.

180. **THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS :** (a) Is there any Regulation as in England, that no member of Indian forces under 20 years of age is to be sent overseas ?

(b) How many sepoys under 20 years of age have been sent out of India for war purposes ?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY : (a) The Regulations both in India and in England provide for soldiers under 20 years of age being sent overseas.

(b) The information is not readily available and cannot be collected without an undue expenditure of time and labour.

INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

181. **THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS :** Has any report been received from the International Red Cross Committee, regarding the condition of Indian prisoners in various places ?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY : Information has so far been received from the International Red Cross Committee only in respect of prisoners in Germany. As regards those in Italy, information has been received through the Protecting Power. No information has been received in respect of prisoners of war captured by Japan.

SETTING UP OF EVACUATION AND RECEPTION AREAS.

182. **THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS :** Will Government state whether they have arranged in view of the proximity of danger of war, to set up evacuation and reception areas as has been done in England ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. RAGHAVENDRA RAO : This matter is really one for Provincial Governments to consider, but I have every reason to believe that adequate arrangements have been made in accordance with the general instructions issued by the Government of India, which drew attention to the need for preparation of evacuation schemes and such reception areas.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS FROM HONG KONG.

183. **THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS :** (a) Is it a fact that 950 British women and 400 children were compulsorily evacuated from Hong Kong, but the Indian residents were not similarly evacuated ?

(b) Is it a fact that they were positively prevented from going over to the ships ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. BOZMAN : I regret I have no information.

LOOTING OF ORANGES BY SOLDIERS AT KATOL.

184. **THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter from Mr. A. G. Sheorey,

appearing in the *Hitavada* of Nagpur, dated the 8th March, regarding the looting of oranges by soldiers at Katol, a railway station between Betul and Nagpur ?

(b) Is it a fact that but for the timely intervention of Mr. Sheorey and Mr. A. G. F. Farquhar, Civil Defence Officer, Central Provinces, the looting of oranges would have gone on unchecked ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the matter was brought to the notice of the military officer who was travelling in the same train ?

(d) What action has been taken against the offending soldiers and what do Government propose to do to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in future ?

THE HONOURABLE GENERAL SIR ALAN HARTLEY : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). From the letter of Mr. Sheorey it appears that prompt action was taken.

(d) Inquiry is being made and the information will be laid on the table in due course.

DISCOURTESY SHOWN TO MR. G. S. KHARE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER A FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENT.

185. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the telegram published in column 2 of page 8 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 15th March, under the heading "Indian Officer pushed out—European passenger's behaviour—Mailtrain detained for 45 minutes" ?

(b) Is it a fact that a European passenger pushed Mr. G. S. Khare, I. C. S., Director of Industries, United Provinces, out of a first class compartment and then bolted the door of the compartment ?

(c) What is the name of the European passenger referred to above and what is the position that he occupies ?

(d) What action have Government taken against him ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : (a) Yes.

(b) I understand that admission was at first refused and the door bolted. On explanation by the Station Staff that berth reservations did not apply during the hours of daylight, the door was opened and the gentleman was accommodated.

(c) The name of the European passenger referred to is Mr. T. L. Catling. He is an officer of the Far Eastern Bureau of the British Ministry of Information.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to an extract from Mr. Catling's communication which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 19th March, 1942, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House. Mr. Catling apparently genuinely believed that the reservation of four berths entitled his party to the exclusive use of the carriage. An Indian gentleman was already a member of the party in the carriage and had been one of the party from Colombo. Mr. Catling has publicly expressed his regret of any offence he may have given to Mr. Khare. The Government of India do not propose to pursue the matter.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Where has Mr. Catling expressed his regret ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : In the *Hindustan Times* of which a copy has been laid on the table.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is the Honourable Member aware that in that letter he has justified his action ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : At the end he has said :—

“ I hasten to add that if the Allahabad passenger is genuinely under the impression that I have in any way insulted him, I wish to offer my heartfelt apology ”.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is it a fact, Sir, that that passenger was driven out of the compartment by Mr. Catling ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : He was not admitted as Mr. Catling was under the impression that the reservation applied to the day.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Was he not admitted or was he driven out of the compartment when he went in ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : I have answered that. Admission was at first refused and the door bolted.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Admission was at first refused, but afterwards when the passenger went in was he pushed out ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : I have no information, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will Government inquire ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. TRIVEDI : I will find out, Sir.

Extract from Hindustan Times, dated 19th March, 1942.

With reference to the news “ Indian Officer Pushed out. European Passenger's Behaviour ”, sent by our Allahabad correspondent and published in the *Hindustan Times*, March 15, 1942 (Town Edition), Mr. Thos. Catling of the Far Eastern Bureau, British Ministry of Information, who was concerned in the reported incident, has sent us a communication in the course of which he writes :—

“ On the assumption that the compartment in which all four sleeping berths had been reserved for me and my party was ours for the journey and especially as our beds were still down and a lady in the party—who is the widow of a Wing Commander recently killed in Java and who herself was injured before escaping from that island—was lying down, I declined to admit a number of passengers. One, however, insisted that he was entitled to enter the compartment during the hours of daylight. This being contrary to what I believed and had previously experienced in travelling from Colombo to Calcutta, I insisted on having confirmation from the station officials. The Station Master did not give a clear confirmation of this, but asked me ‘ as a favour to him ’ to admit the passenger and I did so. The lady was present during the whole discussion. The other members of my party were Mr. T. G. Donovan Bayley and Sardar Shah Nawaz Khan. Both are members of the Far Eastern Bureau of the British Ministry of Information.

“ To make of this minor affair an issue of ‘ racial arrogance ’ would, if it were not extremely malicious, be vastly absurd, since at no time did the question of nationality arise and since one of my party was an Indian gentleman who travelled the whole journey with me.

“ I hasten to add that if the Allahabad passenger is genuinely under the impression that I have in any way insulted him, I wish to offer my heartfelt apology ”.

PUBLICITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

186. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : (a) Was an Advisory Committee attached to the Information and Broadcasting Department in November last ?

(b) Has it met since then ? If not, why not ? Is it proposed to convene a meeting of it now ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is probably thinking of the Publicity Advisory Committee, which the late Sir Akbar Hydari had decided to constitute to advise his Department. The membership of that Committee was completed just before his death and it was his intention to call a meeting in February. No action has been taken in this direction pending the appointment of his successor.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is there anybody who is carrying on the work of that Department or not ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : The Secretary of the Department is carrying on.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Why is it not possible for the Secretary to convene a meeting of this Committee ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : He certainly could call it, but since the Member is not there he probably thinks it is advisable to wait and let the Member have the privilege and pleasure of presiding over the first meeting.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We do not know when the Member will be appointed, but will the Government ask the Secretary in the meanwhile to convene a meeting of this Committee ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I shall convey to him the wishes of the Honourable Member to see if he has any items which he can place straightaway before the Committee and he might consider it.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is the Honourable Member aware that Sir Akbar Hydari intended to convene a meeting of this Committee at a very early date ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Yes, I have said that in my answer.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Why does the Honourable Member suppose then that there is no business to be laid before this Committee ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Perhaps there may be ; I am not aware.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Why was not a Standing Committee of the two Houses formed for this Department ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : It is a new Department and I am sure that the regular procedure will be put into force regarding this Department too, but it is very unfortunate that the first Member should have left us so quickly. Be a little patient and you will get everything.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : In this Session, not in the last Session, Sir.

(No answer.)

INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH (Home Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 57, asked by the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh on the 13th November, 1941.

EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IN THE "SIMLA EXODUS", 1941.

The total approximate expenditure for the Civil Departments and Attached Offices, Defence Department, the General Headquarters and the Air Headquarters was Rs. 14,23,000.

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 55, asked by the Honourable Haji Syed Muhammad Husain on the 24th February, 1942.

INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

Three Income-tax Officers in the United Provinces were held up at the efficiency bar during the past four years and their cases have been reviewed by the Commissioner of Income-tax from time to time, though not at regular intervals of a year. As the result of such reviews the bar was removed in one case. The results of the Commissioner's reviews were communicated to the officers concerned but were not reported to Government as they do not examine such cases except in appeal. Government do not propose to depart from this practice.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : With reference to the announcement made by me on the 23rd March regarding nominations to the three Committees, I have to announce that the following members have been nominated for election to the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned :—

1. The Honourable Sir Ramunni Menon.
2. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.

There are two candidates for two seats and I declare them duly elected.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The following Honourable Members have been nominated for election to the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Civil Defence :—

1. The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú.
2. The Honourable Haji Syed Muhammad Husain.

There are two candidates for two seats and I declare them duly elected

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal has been nominated for election to the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India.

There is one candidate for one seat and I declare him duly elected.

WEEKLY HOLIDAYS BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (Labour Member) : Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That the Bill to provide for the grant of weekly holidays to persons employed in shops, restaurants and theatres, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, it is a very simple measure and the Statement of Objects and Reasons has already been printed with the copy which has been circulated to Honourable Members. Certain amendments have been moved and carried in the other House and I feel that the Bill is not all that could be desired, but it is all that can practically be pushed through at the moment with as much consensus of opinion and as little opposition as possible. Commercial concerns have been omitted from the purview of this Bill because of war ; certain Provinces are ready to grant so many exemptions for war purposes that the other House felt that it was better to leave out commercial concerns altogether.

With these few remarks, Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I welcome this Bill though it is of a limited character. It is after a great deal of agitation that the provisions embodied in the Bill will be laid in the Statute-book. I hope, however, that at no distant date the provisions will be made wider and that the Bill will cease to be as restrictive as it is. My Honourable friend Sir Firoz Khan Noon said that Government had gone as far as they could consistently with public opinion and the opposition of the industrialists—

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I never mentioned industrialists.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Whose opposition did you mean ?

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I did not mean any opposition at all.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The Honourable Member referred to the opposition of some class. I am quite certain of that.

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I did not mention any particular class. Criticism was made against certain provisions of the Bill in the Select Committee and also in the Reports from Provincial Governments and we have had to abide by the general consensus of opinion in this matter.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : All that I can say is that public opinion would have favoured a bolder Bill and the Government will find when they bring forward a wider Bill that it will have the fullest support of public opinion.

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Sir, I move :—

“ That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

The Motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS BILL.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I move :—

“ That the Bill to facilitate the collection of statistics of certain kinds relating to industries, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

The subject-matter of this Bill, Sir, may be said to fall into two parts. The object is to facilitate the collection of statistics (a) as will be seen from clause 3 (1) (a) in respect of any matters relating to factories and (b) in respect of certain specified matters so far as they relate to the welfare of labour and conditions of labour. The discussions which have led to the drafting of this Bill began with the first of these two objects. Shortly after my Honourable friend, who is in charge of the Department in which I am privileged to serve, assumed office he was impressed with the unsatisfactory position of the collection of statistics relating to industries in India. I do not suggest that the field was bare. There were already in existence two publications issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics : one a biennial publication entitled *Large Industrial Establishments in India* and another a monthly publication showing the production of certain selected industries in India. There is also a similar monthly publication dealing with the production of cotton textile mills. These publications were by no means adequate to meet the needs of Government and of the public at a time of increased diversification and development of industries. Their very limits confined them to the major industries which were already well established in the country but we had even before the outbreak of the war reached an era in which a very large number of small industries had sprung up in the country and of these no statistical material was collected. We in the Commerce Department felt the need for such material whenever any questions relating to tariff matters and their reaction upon industries came before us. Since the war broke out the tariff aspect of the matter has, for obvious reasons, temporarily diminished in importance but we have still felt even more impatient with our lack of material for certain other purposes ; for example when we have had to consider restrictions on imports in order to conserve our supply of difficult currencies we have not had that assistance that we might have had from the knowledge whether there was an Indian industry which could fill the gap to be created by such restrictions. Again the Supply Department have had to make *ad hoc* inquiries into a very large number of

[Sir Alan Lloyd.]

matters which would have been facilitated if there had been a regular and complete collection of the statistics relating to the production of goods in factories in India. Those inquiries were *ad hoc* and of course because of the fact that the Army and the Eastern Group and so forth do not require the products of all industries in the country, their results also had been incomplete. That explains why we have from the Commerce Department point of view been anxious to introduce a system which will enable us to collect statistics relating to the output of all industrial factories. The proposal was put before the Eleventh Industries Conference which was held in December, 1939 and was welcomed by them. It was recognised that it was a convenient moment if we were going to introduce an Industrial Statistics Bill to take up also matters relating to the interests of the Labour Department.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: On a point of order, Sir. There is no quorum in the House.

(The bell was rung and a quorum obtained.)

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD: After this revelation that I am no spell-binder, I will resume where I left off. Those responsible for administration of matters connected with labour had long been discussing the possibility of improving statistics on matters that relate to the welfare of labour and its conditions, such matters as are listed in clause 3 (1) (b) to which I would invite the particular attention of Honourable Members. It was decided that these two requirements should be dealt with together in a single Bill. The proposal was therefore also put before the Conference of Labour Ministers which was held in January, 1940 and it was welcomed by them. Since then we have had to go through the usual, rather tedious, procedure of consulting Provincial Governments, examining constitutional aspects of the matter departmentally and so forth, but now at last we are able to present to the House the Bill which is before it. I feel certain that the progress in the acquisition of useful knowledge for the assistance of the administration and of the Legislature which will result from the operation of this Bill will be a matter that will be cordially welcomed by all Members.

Sir, I move.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhamadan) : Mr. President, we welcome this measure, but we find that it does not meet our wishes fully. In the first place, the very necessity of bringing in Central legislation was the fact that it was necessary that statistics should be collected for industry in all parts of the country and on a similar basis but giving the power to the Provinces to apply the Act or not will take away the very usefulness of this Bill. I appreciate the fact that it may be necessary in the field of concurrent jurisdiction to have a provision of this nature. But I do hope that this provision is only nominal and that an assurance has been taken from all the Governments that they will co-operate and that statistics will be collected on an all-India basis for all the industries in which we want statistics to be taken.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Then why do you say that the provision is nominal?

*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : In order that any Province may not hold out. Then we will not have an all-India statistics. Secondly, Sir, I find that so far as statistics of production, price, raw materials and other things are concerned, the provision is very cryptic. "Any matter relating to factories" is the only provision in the Bill. Does it cover all these things? We want not only labour statistics. We want also statistics on the subject of the prices paid for raw materials, sources of supply through which they get their raw materials and other things which would facilitate the compilation of records. A reference was made in the Legislative Assembly to a lacuna found in the Cotton Industry Statistics Act, 1926, and an assurance was given that this Bill would be so comprehensive that the lacuna will not exist now and that the lacuna will be filled by this omnibus Bill. I should like to hear from the Honourable Sir Alan Lloyd how this is going to be done.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Will the Honourable Member kindly just explain what exactly the lacuna is?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : You will find it in the speech of the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar on page 713 of the Legislative Assembly Debates for the 5th March, 1942.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : I regret to say that I have not got that volume with me here.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I will read it out :—

"I may say that with reference to the Cotton Statistics Act itself there was a lacuna found by the Education, Health and Lands Department. It was anxious to estimate the amount of imported raw cotton used in the various mills as against indigenous raw cotton used by them. Under that Act there was no power to compel that information being provided, and that Department was considering the drafting of a Bill to enable them to do that. Now that a more comprehensive legislation has been taken all that information can be collected and it has been found not necessary to utilise the powers under that Bill. In fact, the Cotton Industry Statistics Act of 1926 may well be repealed now when this Bill becomes law".

Secondly, Sir, I refer to the fact that the Central Government has the power to give directions but the Provincial Governments have the power to make rules. These two powers may clash with each other. Would it not be better if we had a provision that these two may be correlated either by means of a convention or by having similar rules in all the provinces or by any other method that the Government may adopt so that the rules would not differ materially? For instance, in one province, the penalty may be very light while in another province a very heavy penalty might be imposed for a wrong information. These are the things which would, as the Act is worked, show how this divided responsibility, this divided control, can mitigate against the whole structure. I would, therefore, request my Honourable friend to try a little bit of centralisation here with the consent of the Provinces, and if that is not possible, it would not serve any useful purpose.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Sir, my Honourable friend has literally taken the words out of my mouth by referring in his closing remarks to clause 11 of the Bill which gives a complete answer to his earlier remarks regarding the alleged absence of provision for securing a uniform basis for the collection of statistics. It is quite obvious that the Central Government may well find it desirable to give certain directions which will ensure at least a minimum degree of uniformity.

[Sir Alan Lloyd.]

As regards my Honourable friend's second point, I think he has perhaps failed to realise quite clearly the very marked differentiation between clause 3 (I) (a) and clause 3 (I) (b) of the Bill. Clause 3 (I) (a) has the widest possible scope, by referring to "any matter relating to factories", and it will undoubtedly enable us to collect information as to the sources of supply of the raw material used in factories where such information is necessary. It was only because we had this Bill on the anvil that a Bill which was under preparation by the Education, Health and Lands Department to enable them to find out how much foreign cotton and how much Indian cotton was used in textile mills was not proceeded with. I can give the Honourable Member the assurance that my Honourable colleague, if he were here, would certainly not allow me to let the collection of these statistics go into abeyance.

As regards the last part, I really do not think I can usefully do better than invite my Honourable friend's attention to the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as regards the extent of the executive authority which that Act imposes upon Provincial Governments in the administration of subjects in the concurrent Legislative Lists and as to the way in which chaotic results of the division of responsibility between Provincial Governments can be avoided by the existence in the Central Act of a power of direction such as that contained in clause 11 of the Bill. I think the particular reference, Sir, speaking from memory, is to section 126, sub-section (2) of the Government of India Act. I can assure the Honourable Member that our object is that to the extent that we in the Centre think it necessary that statistics should be collected on a satisfactory and uniform basis, this should be done by giving direction to Provincial Governments. There may also be cases where we may not think it quite necessary to make these inquiries universal throughout India, and there we leave the room open to the Provincial Governments to introduce them provincially if they think fit. But these will certainly be matters of minor importance. Perhaps I might refer to what the Honourable Member said about penalties. Penalties will not be prescribed in rules. Penalties are dealt with in clause 8 of this very Bill.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Motion made :—

"That the Bill to facilitate the collection of statistics of certain kinds relating to industries, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

Question put and Motion adopted.

Clauses 2 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Sir, I move :—

"That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* MANUFACTURE OF WAR MATERIAL—*contd.*

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : We will now proceed with the non-official business which has been fixed for today and which was taken up on the last non-official day. The

12 NOON.
Honourable Mr. Kalikar.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces : Non-Muhammadan) : Should I read my Motion* again, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Did you read it on the last occasion ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Yes, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Then you can begin your speech.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, I owe an explanation to the House as to why I should table a Resolution of this nature about the convening of a conference of labour and industrial leaders to expedite and expand the manufacture of war materials in India. The statement made by the Commander-in-Chief the other day in this House on the Resolution of my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru that the Defence Department is not in a position even to supply sufficient rifles for their soldiers forced me to the conclusion that there was something wrong in the industrial policy of the Government of India and therefore industrialists must associate with the Government of India in laying down certain plans, bringing those plans into execution and expedite the manufacture of equipment which is absolutely necessary at this juncture for the defence forces for keeping India free from foreign aggression. I know conferences have been held in the past, but to my great surprise I find that the requirements of the Defence Department are not sufficiently met and therefore we have to face this grave situation. National defence is not only the concern of those in charge of defence. It is also the concern of industrialists. If you want to keep a first class army and navy and air force in India or in any country, you must be able to mobilise the industrial resources in a speedy manner, to take all the help the industrialists can give you in producing your war material and to expedite the plans to that end. The position in India is quite different. In other self-governing countries the interests of the country are considered first in the matter of production and no heed is paid to the vested interests of foreign countries. Unfortunately we in India are labouring under the disadvantage that we have a Government which is not responsible to us but to Whitehall. That has worked not only to the detriment of industrialists here before the war but even during the war the necessary requirements of the defence forces are not met because the vested interests of foreign countries are taken into consideration and Indian industrialists are not taken into the confidence of the Government in power at the present day. Therefore we find we are short of equipment for our defence forces. Sir, I may be told that after the outbreak of war many new industries have been established, that old industries have been expanded and that we are manufacturing articles like brushes and goggles and other things. But I want to know what attempts have been made to expand the basic heavy industries in India. Sir Muhammad Zafrulla, the then Supply Member, gave us the information last July that Indian ordnance factories are being assisted by 250 trade workshops and 23 railway workshops, that these auxiliary establishments have undertaken the manufacture of 700 different types of munitions involving the production of so many individual articles. Fifty-four firms in India are manufacturing machine tools. The output of field guns is already 24 times the pre-war output and is expected to rise in two stages to 90 times. That is all right, but if the Government is not in

*“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to convene a conference of industrial and labour leaders to expand and expedite the manufacture of war materials in India and to secure such machinery as may not be available in India for this purpose from abroad.”

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar.]

a position to help the development of basic and strategic industry, no country can win a war in the face of an invasion by a country which has developed its industry according to plan within a very short period. India knows that its industrialists tried their level best to manufacture automobiles in India, and we know not only the obstructions but positive attempts made by the Government of India in discouraging a State which wanted to give concessions to the promoters of that industry for starting the industry in Bangalore and how the plan ultimately failed. Sir M. Visvesvaraya in his pamphlet said that it was due to the Government of India's obstructive attitude that the promoters could not establish the industry, not only in British India but even in a State which wanted to give some concessions. Their attempts were frustrated by the obstructive tactics played by the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : What does the Honourable Member mean by obstructive tactics ? What positive act did the Government of India do ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : As I have been challenged, I will read a portion from Sir M. Visvesvaraya's Pamphlet " Indian Automobile Factory Scheme. Government of India's obstructive attitude ".

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That may be his view. Is that also your view ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : It is my view also, because the industry has not been established in India. My view is based on the ground that in countries like Canada and Australia where experts had decided before war that they would not be in a position to manufacture motor engines they have been able to manufacture engines of even 1,000 horse power and therefore, Sir, unless Government lay before us certain facts which are not contradicted, we cannot deny the correctness of the statement made by Sir M. Visvesvaraya. He says :—

" Baulked in their efforts to get the support which they had expected from the Bombay Government, the promoters opened negotiations, in April, 1941, with the Government of Mysore, who at first expressed themselves willing to render liberal assistance if the promoters undertook to establish the industry within that State. But the Government of India interfered and discouraged its establishment on the ground that the starting of the factory would impede war effort. The unusual character of this interference first led to a protest by Sir Mirza M. Ismail, Dewan of that State, and later to his resignation of his high office.

" The Government of India deny that they interfered with the discretion of the Mysore Government but I am personally aware that on behalf of the Government of India letters were written by their representative advising the Diwan of that State to agree to the abandonment of the scheme ".

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Assuming all that is true, does that mean obstructive tactics ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Then I will have to read the whole book if I have to answer your question. Members are at a disadvantage in arguing with the Chair. Kindly allow me to finish my speech.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Will you please proceed ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Will you give me ten minutes more, Sir ? Some time has been taken in this discussion.?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It has taken only two minutes, not ten.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : That is the fate of the automobile industry which the Indian industrialist wanted to establish in India and which the Government did not like to be established. Perhaps the Government were keen about the vested interests of foreign industrialists.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Yes, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : No, Sir. I must at once deny the statement that the Government of India had any concern for vested interests in dealing with this industry.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : It is no use shouting on the floor of the House. If my Honourable friend shouts, I can equally shout.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : Yes, Sir ; but I shall be speaking the truth.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The Honourable the Commerce Secretary was very ill recently. I am afraid he has not completely got over the effects of that illness ; otherwise he would not have been half as excited as he is today.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, it is no crime to tell the truth on the floor of the House. I have placed before the House the material that is with me on the basis of which I have made the statement. If bad temper is exhibited in this House, that does not prove at all the case of the other side.

I will now proceed with my arguments. What was done in Australia ? In Australia before the war broke out, experts declared that Australia could not build even motor car engines, yet she has turned out 150 horse power and 600 horse power aero engines in considerable numbers and now she is about to produce 1200 horse power aero engines. I fail to understand, Sir, if in Australia, which is short of raw materials and labour as compared with India could achieve this thing within such a short period of two and a half years, why should India be not able to achieve that very thing. Here we know that experts have always said that in some matters if the project is undertaken it will not be economic. We know all these things for a very long time. Take the case of locomotives. Before long we were told that it would not be possible to manufacture locomotive engines in India. After that when the Government appointed a Committee to inquire, that Committee, the House knows, gave its verdict that locomotives can be manufactured in India economically. So, it is no use deciding these things on the advice of foreign experts. Sir, as I have just now told the House, even in Australia the same case happened in the case of manufacture of engines. Then, let us take the case of the manufacture of aeroplanes. Here also the industrialists were faced with a lot of difficulties and not encouragement on the part of the Government of India in starting a factory here. Ultimately they had to establish that factory somewhere. Our mouths are gagged, because we are expected not to tell the place. And what are they doing ? They are doing only assemblage work and not manufacture. Indian industrialists were faced with the difficulty, or so-called difficulty, of getting plant, technical labour and

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar.]

many other things which according to their own view they could solve and they could have established those factories and manufactured aeroplanes within two and a half years. In Australia before the outbreak of war, in January, 1939, a United Kingdom Air Mission arrived for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of aircraft production.

They reported in March of the same year that Australia had the capacity for aircraft production and recommended the construction of Beaufort torpedo bombers. Was any such thing done, Sir, so far as India was concerned by her trustees? We were told—we are even now told—that we need not care or be anxious about our defence; it is our rulers who will defend us. The world knows, and the country knows, Sir, how far their claims are justified, but I fail to understand, when I find that we are asked to give all possible help in resisting the foreign invasion and to prosecute the war efforts to our utmost capacity, why should not the Government, either the British Government or the Government of India, come to the help of the Indian industrialists. Give them a lead in these matters and see that the army requirements are manufactured on a large extent in India so that India should be self-sufficient in this matter. Sir, I am told and I have no doubt about the information that I have got, that in Australia upto last October they manufactured about 1,100 aeroplanes. They are now manufacturing a very large number and their programme is to manufacture 1,000 or over that in this year. Why should we not be able to do so? Sir, so many Commissions have come to this country. The Roger Mission had come to this country but we are kept in dark about the Report of the Roger Mission. It might be true that the Roger Mission must have recommended some plans which might be of use to the enemy and therefore the whole Report was not placed before the public, but, Sir, I fail to understand why the public should be kept in the dark about the nature of plans that they have recommended and the plans that have been accepted by the Government of India. What we are told in the Finance Member's speech is that there was a capital outlay of about Rs. 12 crores for bringing the plans recommended by the Roger Mission into existence, but, Sir, when the plans are to be executed; when we are told that factories have been established, new factories have come into being why should we fall short of equipment for our defence purposes?

Sir, let us take the case of Canada. In Canada they are manufacturing about 41 planes per week. Their shipyards have been extended to such an extent that before the war only 1,500 people were working, now about 20,000 people are working there.

Sir, then let us take the case of the manufacture of automobiles in Canada. I am told that a large number of automobiles required for the use of the army have been manufactured recently in Canada, but, Sir, here we in India only assemble certain parts of the automobiles and we have to supply the assembled article for our army purposes. My whole point is this. If Canada and Australia can develop their heavy and basic industries within two and a half years time why should India fail to develop her industries, and especially manufactured articles and equipment, that is required for the defence of India?

Sir, the whole story that is told to us by the industrialists amounts to this: that the Government of the land does not give a lead in these matters and if the industrialists want to embark on a new enterprise, then the Government put obstacles in their way. Mr. Gaganvihari Mehta in his famous article in *Roy's*

Weekly has stated definitely that there are obstructions at work in New Delhi. He says :—

“ At the very commencement of the Eastern Group Conference in October, 1940 we were warned about the dangers of duplication and overlapping as between the different units of the Empire, a point which I regret to say has also recently been emphasised in a speech by the Government of India's Agent in the United States. The fact is that the outlook and policy of the Government towards the establishment of key industries in India remains fundamentally unchanged. At every stage there is obstruction on one ground or the other—the Fiscal Commission's criteria, or lack of technical personnel or restriction of machinery or duplication with other Commonwealth units and so forth. This attitude is in striking contrast to that of the Dominion Governments which are wide awake to the opportunities afforded by the war to establish industries that will endure after the war ”.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Do you accuse the Fiscal Commission of obstruction ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : I do not accuse the Fiscal Commission of obstruction. I am putting before the House the obstructions that are, according to Mr. Mehta, placed by the Government.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You read from Mr. Mehta's article in which he says that the Fiscal Commission also on one ground or the other put obstructions.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : One of the grounds is that the Fiscal Commission criteria is applied very strictly in starting new industries.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : This is perfectly wrong. I was a Member of the Fiscal Commission and I say it is absolutely untrue.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR.: I know, Sir. It may be wrong, but a statement made by such an influential industrialist that obstructions are placed by the Government of India on the enterprise is to be considered very seriously by the public in India. If there are no obstructions, we do not understand why the industries do not come into existence in spite of the efforts made by the Indian industrialists. After all, the question is whether we want India to be self-sufficient or not, at least during the period of the war, so far as defence requirements are concerned. If we want India to be self-sufficient, we must take courage in both our hands and develop industries in such a way that the interests of the Defence Department so far as their requirements are concerned will not in any way be subordinated to the interests of foreign industrialists. The fact that the automobile industry could not be started in India, the fact that the shipbuilding industry had to be driven away from the Hooghly to Vizagapatana the fact mentioned by Mr. Gandy of Tatas—that fact was mentioned in November, 1940—that it was because imports from foreign countries were stopped that he could get orders for tyres, wheels and axles—all these facts go to show, Sir, that there is something wrong with the Government of India so far as their attitude about industrialisation of India is concerned—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Please bring your remarks to a close.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : You took about ten minutes more than your time, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You took two minutes with your discussion with Sir Alan Lloyd and I have made allowance for that.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : You took two minutes and the Honourable Sir Alan Lloyd took about six minutes. So I must get eight minutes more, Sir.

All these things clearly prove that the industrialists not only do not get help but they are faced with obstruction. On account of the past action of the Government of India, we have come to the conclusion that the Government of India take orders from the British Government who is responsible for this state of affairs. The American Mission is coming to India. The industrialists in India are afraid that this Mission will again create vested interests. I therefore put this morning a definite question whether the Indian industrialists will be associated with this Mission and I was told that the Mission is not coming to India for starting industries. I do not know what they are coming here for if they are not coming to give advice for starting the new industries that are required for the defence of India. If Indian industrialists are not to be associated with them, the public of India is perfectly justified in thinking that foreign vested interests will be created as a result of the visit of this Mission—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Do you urge that the Americans are going to put in capital here ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : I do not know, but they have started an assemblage plant at Sind, and that clearly shows what they are going to do. I find from a statement made by my Honourable friend the Supply Member in the other House that—

“ The visit of the Mission would do a great deal to remedy the glaring defects in the industrial organisation of India and to put India even more largely on the war map of the world ”.

I hope, Sir, that with this assurance he has given in the other House, he will be able to bring pressure on the present Government to allow the Indian industrialists to take part in the discussion of the plans that will be made by the Mission and to see that the plans are executed immediately. My object in moving this Resolution is that Indian industrialists must be made to feel that they are also taken into confidence by the Government of the country in manufacturing articles which are quite necessary at this juncture for the defence of India. It should not be only the concern of the Government but it should also be the concern of the Indian industrialists, and if they are encouraged, I hope we will not have to face the same situation of shortage of equipment and other things that we are facing now. I am not myself an industrialist. I am an agriculturist. But, Sir, even an agriculturist can understand the situation correctly. I therefore hope that my Honourable friend the Supply Member, who was an Indian industrialist for a very long time before he came to the Government benches, will give his earnest consideration to this point and see that Indian industrialists are associated in starting the new factories that are required for giving the Army, Navy and Air Force the necessary equipment that is needed at this juncture.

With these words, Sir, I move the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, it is not my duty to answer this debate and I do not propose to deal at any length

with the speech made by the Honourable the mover of this Resolution. I merely wish to take the opportunity of saying one word about the point which led me to interrupt him just now. I can assure my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru that my state of health is not such as to make it impossible for me to stand up patiently—perhaps more patiently than others—to personal attacks. But what did upset me was to find my Honourable friend making what I can only call a poisonous insinuation against the Government which I am privileged to serve, and in particular against the Honourable Member of the Executive Council with whom I work. That Member has in this House explained the position regarding the automobile industry at very great length in a debate in an earlier session. I think my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru has heard him even at greater length in another place. And it is attributing to him dishonourable and disingenuous motives if the explanations, rightly or wrongly, which he gave of Government's action are brushed aside and instead the Honourable Member attributes all that has happened to a wish to respect foreign vested interests. It was that statement and that statement alone that I wish to dispute. I can assure the Honourable Member and the rest of the House,—I believe the Honourable Member will probably be in a minority of one,—in disbelieving me when I say that I have been associated with these discussions for nearly three years now and there has never been one word either written or spoken of doing anything for the sake of protecting foreign vested interests.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MODY (Supply Member): Mr. President, I have listened with very great attention to the speech made by the Honourable the mover of the Resolution, but I regret I am unable to accept the Resolution. My Honourable friend has advanced really no arguments in support of the main point of his Resolution, namely, that industrial and labour leaders ought to be associated with the Supply Department with a view to expedite production and to give a stimulus to the war effort. He dealt as a matter of fact very largely with the past, with the failure as he called it of the Government of India in not equipping the country with a proper industrial structure. I am not going to be drawn into a controversy over the inadequate industrial structure of this country as it existed before the war, or with regard to the causes which brought it about. I am only concerned with dealing with the situation as it has existed since the outbreak of the war.

The assumption underlying my Honourable friend's Resolution is that there is a great deal of industrial potential in this country which could be brought out, so to speak, if labour and industrial leaders were called to a conference with Government. The facts I am afraid do not bear that out. Industry in my opinion has been all out since the outbreak of the war, and while I am not prepared to argue with my Honourable friend when he sets up comparisons with Australia, Canada and the other Dominions, I can say this with confidence that India's effort has been something outstanding. Take the field of armaments production. A great many people seem to appraise the achievements of India by the facts which are known to the public at large that we cannot manufacture aeroplanes, we cannot manufacture certain types of guns, we cannot manufacture tanks and the like. Critics who approach the problem from that angle forget that, while this may be true, it is also true that there are an enormous number of other things which are required for the purpose of equipping a fighting army, and if you take into consideration the achievements of the Government in the field of armaments production and civil production I think you are bound to come to the conclusion that India's effort has been no whit behind the effort put forward by any other Dominion. Even in the

[Sir Homi Mody.]

field of armaments production, while I do not feel myself at liberty to give exact figures, I can give some indication of the real situation. We are, for instance, today manufacturing millions of rounds of ammunition. We are manufacturing perhaps 25 times the number of shells which we did before the war. We have ordnance factories which are engaged on production which is giving employment to several times the number of people who were engaged in them before the war. My Honourable friend referred to the Roger Mission and the Chatfield Commission. All I can say is that of the 30 or more projects which were recommended by those two Commissions all but two have been launched, and many of them have been actually completed. They have involved an enormous outlay of expenditure which has been largely borne by His Majesty's Government.

In the matter of civil production the performance has been even more striking. I am not going to detain the House with instances of what we have been able to do, but I think I ought to give the House an opportunity of appreciating the magnitude of the task that confronts us. Take, for instance, the case of timber, which forms so large a part in the equipment of motor vehicles, huttings, bridges and so many other things. As against a pre-war use by the army of something like seven to eight thousand tons of timber in this country, this year we are going to be asked to produce a million tons. When you consider this figure of a million tons and relate it to the pre-war effort you are bound to appreciate that a great deal of planning would be required in order to achieve these figures. Take the case of leather manufactures. We are going to produce something like ten million pairs of shoes and army boots, as against a pre-war output of a few thousands. Take the case of textiles. This year our requirements of cotton textiles alone are in the neighbourhood of 700 million yards. The fact that the Supply Department has been able to meet all these demands upon its resources shows first of all that the structure of the Department is sound, and secondly, that the industrial resources of the country are being fully exploited. When you take into consideration the fact that we are now making demands upon Indian industry and Indian production to the tune of something like Rs. 20 crores every month, it will be easily understood that India is putting its right foot forward in the prosecution of the war. How has this been achieved? It will be foolish to say that it has been achieved simply because the Supply Department is a well integrated department with its various sides, the purchase, the planning, the supply all very carefully thought out. It would be foolish to assume that it is the work of merely one Department of Government. The results have been achieved largely because Indian industrialists have come forward in a spirit of closest co-operation with the Government in the task of prosecuting this war. Taking the cotton textile industry—and I am now confining myself to the terms of the Resolution, which asks me to associate industrialists and labour leaders more closely with the Department—my Honourable friend must know that very recently an arrangement was arrived at by which the industry promised not only to meet the existing requirements of Government for this year, which as I have pointed out are as much as 700 million yards, but have also agreed to supply on a fixed price basis the requirements of the Department for the duration of the war. Considering that only a little while ago great difficulties were experienced in obtaining from the textile industry the requirements of the army, the progress that has been made through the co-operation of the industry must be regarded as something which is of credit both to the Department and to the industry. The jute industry works through an organization of its own and we have not the slightest difficulty in placing all our requirements on that industry. The

woollen industry is one hundred per cent. out on war work, and surely no more than one hundred per cent. can be expected out of any industry, whether you obtain it by way of co-operation or by way of compulsion. The engineering industry works through a panel, and it has produced a great many articles which were never produced before in this country ; its resources are fully at the disposal of the Government. With regard to many other industries, while it may be that there is no control exercised over them, frequent meetings are held with the representatives of those industries and in that way contact is established and maintained. I want to ask my Honourable friend in what other way would he like the association of industry with the Department to be. Then on the top of all that, there are advisory committees attached to the various Departments. There is the Advisory Committee of leading industrialists attached to the Director General of Munitions Production Department at Calcutta and these are advisory committees in Bombay, Madras, Lahore and other places. Sir, I think I am right in maintaining that if it is necessary to associate industry with the war effort, that that has been achieved with a great measure of success in this country and nothing more requires to be done. As regards labour, it is not my province, but I want to know what exactly is meant by associating labour leaders with the activities of the Supply Department. The best that one can get out of labour is not by inviting a few labour leaders to a conference, but by giving labour a square deal and by having a contented labour force to work in the factories. My Honourable friend has referred to ship-building. He knows very well that there was no ship-building in this country at the outbreak of the war, but I am sure he will be glad to know that since September, 1939 our ship-building yards have produced or are producing something like 300 small ships. They are mostly lifeboats, mine-sweepers, tugs, trawlers and the like. Reference has been made to the American Mission. I am sorry that industrialists in this country should view the appointment of this Mission with such a measure of suspicion. The Mission is a recognition on the part of the United States of the part that India plays in the war effort. It is a practical recognition of the fact that a great deal more can be done by India than has been possible in the past ; America is trying to help this country to see if it cannot produce some of those things which only American equipment and technical personnel can help the country to produce. I venture to think that there is not the slightest justification for any degree of suspicion to attach itself to the establishment of this Mission. I for one am looking forward to its coming out to this country and its association with India's war effort. I expect nothing but good to emerge from it, and as for any threat to industrial interests here, all I can say is that surely even in the much despised Government of India there are some people who may be expected and trusted to look after Indian interests. I do not think that I have anything more to say. It would be foolish of me to say that I am a hundred per cent. satisfied with India's war effort. But at least I am satisfied to this extent that everything possible is being done with the comparatively limited resources which India has, and that, by and large, even with such limitations, India has nothing to fear by way of comparison with Australia, Canada or any other Dominion.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I should like to give my support to the Resolution that has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar. As my Honourable friend the Supply Member proceeded, I wondered how he of all people could be satisfied with the progress that has been made in India either in respect of the growth of industries or in respect of the production of munitions. What he said in the first part of his speech

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

created the impression that he thought that nothing more was required to be done. In fact I think he said that so far as the growth of industries was concerned, everything that was possible had been done and that nothing more was required to be done. It was therefore a great relief to me to learn from him at the end of his speech that he too was not satisfied with the way things were going on and that he feels that something more has to be done. I hope, Sir, that the note on which he ended is more indicative of his spirit and outlook than the remarks which he made during the course of the speech.

Sir, I should like in dealing with this Resolution to point out briefly how deficient we are in respect of heavy industries and what is the progress that other countries in the Empire have made since the war broke out in regard to the production of the essentials of war. So far as this country is concerned I am sure nobody will dispute our deficiency with regard to heavy engineering industries and such things as ship-building, manufacture of aeroplanes, automobile construction, and so on. This is not a thing certainly that my Honourable friend Sir Homi Mody will deny. Why is it, Sir, that we are not in a position yet to have these industries in our own country? If one studies the industrial history of this country, one would find that the remark made by my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar which excited the Commerce Secretary so much is perfectly true. The charge that Government have stood in the way of the industrialisation of this country is one of the commonplaces of political and economic discussion here, and if my Honourable friend the Commerce Secretary is not acquainted with it —

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : I was referring to the charge made in connection with the automobile industry.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I have mentioned the automobile industry myself. It is one of those industries in regard to which the charge mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar can well be brought against Government.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN LLOYD : I have already said that it cannot be brought against this Government in the case of that particular industry.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What the Honourable Member means by saying "against this Government" I find it somewhat difficult to understand. Perhaps he is thinking of himself and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. But my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar was not speaking of these two individuals. He was dealing with the subject from a much wider standpoint and I am sure that even the Commerce Secretary with his indubitable partiality for the existing Government, will admit that the Government of India's policy in regard to the industrialisation of the country is in painful contrast to the policy followed in regard to the same matter in other and freer countries, for instance, Japan, Australia and Canada.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend went so far as to call Mr. Kalikar's
 1 P.M. remark poisonous and directed personally against Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. He did not have the slightest justification for suspecting my Honourable friend of making a personal attack on Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. I do not think there was anything

in his speech to show that he doubted the honesty of purpose of Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. He was speaking generally of the Government of India and there is no doubt that public opinion in the country, generally speaking, has condemned the Government of India for not helping actively in the establishment of the automobile industry and the expansion of ship-building to a much greater extent than has so far taken place. In order to drive the point home I would refer, Sir, to a statement made by the Honourable the Commerce Secretary himself in this House in regard to ship-building last year. I think he said, and I believe the Commerce Member also has said, that it is very difficult to expand the ship-building industry as it will require 18 months from the time the construction of a shipyard is taken in hand to turn out a ship and for this reason either my Honourable friend opposite himself or Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar stated here that shipbuilding could not be regarded by the Government of India as a part of the war effort. Now this discussion took place in this House about a year ago. Had the Government of India taken a more adequate view of their responsibilities than they did we would have been much nearer the aim that we have in view than we are today. Almost every country as soon as the war began planned its production on the basis that it would last for several years. The Government of India alone thought perhaps that it would come to an end very soon and that such an industry as the ship-building industry, which required 18 months from its inception to turn out the finished product, should not, therefore, be encouraged more than it had already been. Can anything show more eloquently the unwillingness of the Government of India or their inability to move forward in accordance with the times ?

Take again, Sir, the question of the manufacture of munitions, to which my Honourable friend the Supply Member referred so eloquently. He talked of the greater production of shells and certain other things but he omitted to refer to the production of rifles. We are getting recruits at the rate of 50,000 a month but we are unable to provide rifles even for the people whom we have already trained. Is not this a scandalous state of things ? And what is this due to ? It is in part, I feel, due to the failure of the Government of India to carry out the recommendations of the Roger Commission much earlier. The Finance Member told us the other day that twenty projects recommended by this Commission were now being given effect to. It has taken the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India acting in consultation 12 months to decide on the projects which were recommended by the Roger Commission. Does not this again show that the Government of India are still under the influence of old ideas and do not yet realise the pace at which things are moving and the vigour with which they must act if they mean to do anything adequate for the safety of this country ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MODY : May I just point out to my Honourable friend that so far as the Government of India is concerned they made up their minds about the recommendations of the Roger Mission within a week or two of the receipt of their Report and submitted their recommendations by cable to His Majesty's Government ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I was, therefore, careful to say, Sir, that the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India, acting in consultation with one another, took about a year to approve of some of the urgent recommendations of the Roger Commission. Even so, it is understood that some of the most important recommendations have not been carried out yet. We are asked today, Sir, to leave Defence again entirely in the hands of His Majesty's Government. I am surprised, Sir,

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

that anybody forgetting the record of this Government in regard to the protection of this country from outside aggression should have the audacity to ask us to continue to trust it in so vital a matter as Defence and to leave everything connected with it entirely in its hands.

I can give other illustrations, Sir, to point out the truth of the simple remark made by Mr. Kalikar which my Honourable friend the Commerce Secretary found so unpalatable, but it is needless to do so. I should, however, like to draw his attention to a quotation made in the course of a speech delivered recently by the new President of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry regarding the attitude of one of the Members of the Roger Commission about the industrial development of this country. He quoted, Sir, an article contributed to a British paper or magazine by one of Sir Alexander Roger's colleagues, which assured the British public that he had taken care that no such industries were started in India at the present time which would interfere with the post-war industrial reconstruction and rehabilitation of England. I should have thought, Sir, that it was that quotation which would make my Honourable friend opposite indignant and not the absolutely true remark made by my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Homi Mody has said more than once that he is not dissatisfied with the progress that this country has made in respect of the production of articles of war and that he feels that it is not behind any other country in this matter. I shall read out to him, Sir, in this connection some of the remarks made by the Chairman of the Australian Steel Works, The Brokenhill Proprietary Limited, in a speech delivered at the Company's Annual General Meeting on the 29th August, 1941, in which he said :—

“ Industry in Australia was not equipped for the manufacture of guns and other war-like material. Employees had to learn and learn quickly in the space of two years. Australia from possessing virtually no capacity for the production of munitions has been turned into a veritable arsenal ”.

Apart from this, Sir, we have learnt from the articles contributed to various papers in this country by the Australian representative on the Eastern Group Supply Council that Australia has made a great deal of progress in recent years in respect of those vital industries to which I have drawn the attention of the House. I know, Sir, that a statement appeared in one of the papers which appeared to to be inspired or semi-inspired making out that the progress in Australia had not been as rapid as people in this country supposed. That statement was replied to, by the Australian whom I have already referred to and I trust that the reply that was given will prevent any member of this House from thinking that the progress that Australia has made regarding the industries of which I have spoken has not been of a substantial character.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : You referred, Sir, to the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission. I am sure, Sir, you cannot be unaware of the fact that the recommendations of the Commission have not given full satisfaction—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That may be, but the Honourable Member said that the Fiscal Commission had their own axe to grind. The only axe to grind they had was the good of India and nothing else.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I should be the last person to throw any aspersions on the majority report of the Fiscal Commission. But I think it is necessary to point out that the majority recommendations of that Commission have not given full satisfaction either to Indian business-men or to Indian public men and economists. If I am not far wrong, I believe my Honourable friend Sir Homi Mody is one of those Indian industrialists who have not been satisfied with the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission. I, at any rate, Sir, am not, and in order to illustrate what I mean I shall refer only to one recommendation of the Commission. That recommendation relates to the sufficiency of the raw materials required in this country before any industry can be started—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You forget that that Report was written 22 years ago.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I remember that, Sir, and I hope that its defenders too will remember this fact which they are not always inclined to do. That Report is an old report. Government should not, therefore, swear by it. They should recognise that the time has come for departing from its recommendations. My Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar said last year or the year before last that the Government had in view certain modifications of policy which would give satisfaction to the country. But while assurances have been given to certain industries which have been established at the instance of Government that they will not be allowed to languish after the war, I am not aware that any wide departure has been made from the proposals of the Fiscal Commission.

Sir, I do not want to prolong this debate further. I should only like to point out that the proposal which my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar has made deserves the support of Government. After all, what has he asked for? He only wishes that the Government of India should formulate a plan bearing in mind the deficiencies that exist in this country and should take steps to execute it as rapidly and vigorously as possible. What is the best way now of achieving this? It is found that in other countries, for instance, in America and England, conferences with business-men and with the workers have been useful in expanding production and in making the interests realise the vital necessity of producing essential goods in larger quantities in the interests of the safety of the countries concerned. We hope that the same policy will be followed in this country. I do not think, in spite of what my Honourable friend Sir Homi Mody said with regard to the establishment of certain Advisory Committees and other Committees, that any comprehensive step of the kind such as that suggested by my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar has been taken by Government up to the present time. Nobody doubts the sincerity of my Honourable friend Sir Homi Mody. The example he gave of complete co-operation between the textile industry and the Government is a very pertinent one—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You have already exceeded your time by six minutes.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : But I am sure he will recognise equally with all of us that the same cannot be said of other industries. Indeed, his concluding remarks show that he too feels that something more has to be done and the best way of achieving the purpose that he has in view is to accept the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Kalikar.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, I think my Honourable friend Sir Alan Lloyd has misunderstood the whole of my speech. I am constrained to make these remarks because he said that I attributed motives to the Commerce Member or to the Commerce Secretary. Nothing has been farther from my mind than to attribute motives to any individual of the Government. I challenge my Honourable friend who has been with me here for so many years to show any sentence in any of those speeches that I have made on the floor of this House where I have attributed motives to any Member or Secretary of the Government. My attack is always on the system of the Government and not on the individuals who form the Government. I say, Sir,—and I repeat it,—that this Government is an agent of a foreign Government and they have to carry out the policy dictated by that foreign Government, and therefore I challenge the system of the Government and not any particular individual of the Government. I yield to none in my respect to Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and in spite of the shouting and exhibition of bad temper on the part of my Honourable friend I have got the same respect for him. But shouting and showing of bad temper won't substantiate your case. You have failed and failed very miserably. If you want to prove your case by shouting that won't do. Sir, we on this side of the House do our duty and give suggestions to the Government knowing full well that we are not in a position to bring pressure on the Government to modify their policy according to our needs. But as elected representatives of the people it is our duty to give suggestions to them and if they do not follow and modify their policies according to the needs of the time it is also our duty to register our protest against them. Therefore we make moves in that direction by moving resolutions and making suggestions so that our war effort should be on a par with the war effort made in other Dominions.

Sir, my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru has already referred to Mr. Locock's statement about foreign vested interests. I do not think I need cover that point. It has been told us that so many advisory committees are there, conferences were held, conferences are being held. I understand that a conference is being held of the Directors of Industries of the various Provinces for producing articles on the basis of cottage industries. I had also stated at another time on the floor of this House that if we could not get sufficient rifles from the big factories then we should start the manufacture of rifles on a very small basis such as we have in some parts of India, I mean on a cottage industry basis. It is no use telling us that we have done so many things, that we are manufacturing hair brushes and tooth brushes and hair pins. We know all that, and for that purpose I quoted Sir Muhammad Zafrulla's statement in the very beginning. I want to know what have you done so far as heavy industries are concerned, so far as strategic industries are concerned? You have completely failed to give a fillip to the efficient development of strategic industries in this country. I may bring to the notice of my Honourable friend the statement made by Vice-Admiral Sir Herbert FitzHerbert. He said, "I wanted a big ship-building industry in India. Now, thank goodness, we have got one yard started. I have had a great fight for it". That was a statement made by your own officer. He was asked the question, "With whom?" He said, "Fighting, let us say, with general lack of enterprise and lack of courage, although both are present in India if approached from the right angle. Government have not been as enthusiastic as they might have been". I do not want to put the testimony of any other man to substantiate my conclusions than the testimony of this gentleman. It is not Indian industrialists who charge you with having failed in your duty; it is your own men, the Army, Navy and Air Force men, who say that the policy that has been followed by the Government of India up till now has completely failed to give a fillip to the

manufacture of heavy articles. It is not within our power to force our decision on the Government. We know that. But it is our duty to bring home to the Government that they have failed during the last two and a half years completely. But better late than never. The enemy is at your very door ; he has entered it ; and it is time now for you to brush aside any instructions that may come to you from Whitehall and take into consideration the interests of India and not subordinate those interests so far as defence requirements are concerned.

Sir, I am very sorry that my Honourable friend said that he is not in a position to accept the Resolution. Particularly in respect of labour, I wanted the labour leaders to be associated for the very purpose which my Honourable friend has in view, namely, the contentment of labour for expediting and expanding of manufacture of war materials. Labour ought to be kept contented. We had strikes in Madras, resulting in firing and shooting. Unless you take labour leaders and the industrial community into your confidence you will not be able to improve the situation. I am very sorry to hear from my Honourable friend that a modest Resolution like this is not going to be accepted by the Government. However, I hope that I shall get support from this part of the House and this side will have the satisfaction that it is bringing matters to the notice of the Government, but the Government is so obdurate, so obstructionist, that it won't listen to the suggestions made by this side of the House.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MODY : Sir, my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru referred to a statement I made at the end of my speech to the effect that I was not one hundred per cent satisfied with the war effort of this country. All that I intended to convey was that if more equipment was available and more technical personnel, India could certainly do a great deal more, and the efforts of the Government of India have for a long time been directed towards trying to obtain from the United States and the United Kingdom the equipment which is required if India is to produce new types of munitions.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : But you are not getting that equipment on account of shipping difficulties.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MODY : We are not getting that equipment not merely on account of shipping difficulties, which are there, but also because of the fact that other countries are also engaged in a life and death struggle, and they want their own equipment, and it is all a question of where the equipment is most required.

My Honourable friend said also that I had taken up a certain attitude with regard to the Fiscal Commission which indicated that I was not satisfied with what it had accomplished. The position that I have taken up with regard to the Fiscal Commission's Report for several years now has been that the time had arrived, on account of the greatly altered circumstances of the country, when the machinery should be made more flexible. But I have always maintained that the Fiscal Commission by its well considered report had rendered a very great service to the country.

My Honourable friend the mover of the Resolution expressed his disappointment that I was not accepting this Resolution. Well, I am not turning down this Resolution out of any false sense of prestige or out of any obduracy. I am not accepting the Resolution for the very good and sufficient reason that I am satisfied that the closest possible contact exists between Government and industrialists in this country ; and it is because of that close association that I fail to see how a mere conference of labour leaders and industrialists gathered

[Sir Homi Mody.]

round a table for a few hours could hope to accomplish what the day-to-day contact which we have established with industry in this country has failed to accomplish. It is for that reason and that reason alone that I am not in a position to accept this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Resolution moved :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to convene a conference of industrial and labour leaders to expand and expedite the manufacture of war materials in India and to secure such machinery as may not be available in India for this purpose from abroad.”

Question put and Motion negatived.

BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, in pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table copies of the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, which has been passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held today.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE MALIK SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (Leader of the House) : Sir, I suggest that, with your permission, we meet again on Thursday, the 2nd April, to consider and pass the Bill laid on the table today.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It will be necessary to suspend the operation of the Standing Orders. I do not think there is any objection on the part of Honourable Members. (No objection was raised.) I will suspend the Standing Orders. The Council will now adjourn.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 2nd April, 1942.
