

8th November 1943

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume IV, 1943

(8th to 19th November, 1943)

NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1943



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.)

VOLUME IV—1943

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 8th November, 1943.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Nineteenth Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D (2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.S.I.) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava, K.B.E. (Food Member);
Mr. Zahid Husain, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Govt. of India: Nominated Official);
Sir Gurunath Venkatesh Bewoor, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Posts and Air Department);
Mr. John Dawson Tyson, C.B.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands);
Mr. Leonard John Dean Wakely, M.B.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and
Mr. Narhar Ganesh Abhyankar, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS,

PERSONS DETAINED FOR REASONS OF STATE.

1. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) the number of persons detained in British India for reasons of state connected with external affairs;

(b) the amount of family and maintenance allowances paid to every one of them;

(c) whether their cases are reviewed from time to time; and

(d) when the case of Sayad Habib of Lahore was reviewed last time?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) 15; of whom 14 are foreigners;

(b) 9 of these persons (including the one British Indian detenu) receive allowances varying between Rs. 300 p.m. and Rs. 100 p.m. according to their circumstances. The remaining 6 receive no allowances.

(c) Yes; when circumstances so suggest;

(d) May 1942.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (b) of the answer, could I know what provinces the British Indian detenus come from?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know why these remaining six people did not get any maintenance?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Because I understand they had no income before.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then should they starve like in Calcutta? Will any arrangements be made to give them some allowances for their families now that you have locked them up?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I understand that this matter had been considered. They had no families.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Government what is their policy in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: They considered the circumstances of the detenus and gave the maintenance allowances accordingly.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if in view of the abnormal rise in prices the allowance to detenus have also been raised?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government considered their allowance to be quite sufficient.

Sardar Mangal Singh: When the case of Sayed Habib was reviewed, was he informed?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has any case been reviewed so far?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, cases are reviewed and if no action is thought necessary, no action is taken.

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

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

2. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether Government adhere to the communal formula for recruitment in the Supply Department?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what is the number of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Parsis, separately?

(c) How did the recruitment take place? Was it made through the Federal Public Service Commission or through the departmental boards?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The communal formula for recruitment is adhered to as far as possible.

(b) A statement showing the position as on 1st September 1943 is placed on the table.

(c) Recruitment has been made in the majority of cases through the Departmental Selection Committees.

Statement showing the number of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, etc., employed in the Supply Department in posts outside the Ordnance, H. & S. and Clothing Factories on 1st September 1943.

Particulars of Communities.

Serial No.	Name of office.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Parsis.
<i>Gazetted Officers.</i>						
1	Supply Dept. (Main Sectt.)	11	9	1	..	..
2	D. G. S.	133	33	8	5	1
3	D. G. M. P.	86	5	2	..	1
4	D. G. S. R.	..	..	..	1	1
5	Electrical Commissioner	9	..	..	..	..
6	Iron and Steel Controller	23	1	1	1	5
7	C. A. O. (P.)	120	53	6	2	6
8	Controllers of Supplies	17	8	..	1	5
TOTAL		399	109	18	10	19
<i>Non-Gazetted Staff.</i>						
1	Supply Dept. (Main Sectt.)	168	64	7	6	..
2	D. G. S.	2,988	1,350	63	120	8
3	D. G. M. P.	2,129	301	19	86	7
4	D. G. S. R.	84	11	5	47	..
5	Electrical Commissioner	56	10	6	1	..
6	Iron & Steel Controller	495	11	6	11	5
7	C. A. O. (P.)	1,646	585	63	97	4
8	Controllers of Supplies	372	99	3	24	5
TOTAL		7,938	2,431	172	392	30

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if recruitment in India is still going on for the Supply Department, and if there is any necessity?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is still going on and there is a necessity, otherwise there would not be any recruitment.

* Includes Anglo-Indi

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: The Honourable Member has said that the communal formula for recruitment is adhered to as far as possible. But under how many heads of communities?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities.

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

PROGRESS AS REGARDS ABOLITION OF LOWER GAZETTED SERVICES ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

3. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to make a short statement on the progress made to settle finally the question of the abolition of the Lower Gazetted Service on Indian Railways, and on the main features of the scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The proposal of Government to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service has been discussed with the Standing Finance Committee for Railways on several occasions and the matter is still under the consideration of Government in the light of these discussions. As regards the second part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways beginning with that for the meeting held on 3rd and 4th July, 1942, and ending with that held on 31st July, 1943.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: At what stage are these proceedings and why are they being delayed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The delay was due to the discussions of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are the discussions at such a stage that this matter will come to an end?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer is. Yes, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I would like to know what still remains to be done?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government will shortly make up its mind.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: While considering this particular question the Government should not attempt to evade the Resolution of 1934 about communal representation by backdoor methods.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government will take all facts into consideration.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Government know that the Standing Finance Committee for Railways has rejected the proposal for abolishing, because originally the scheme was to involve only about two lakhs of rupees whereas now it was found that it is going to be more than six lakhs of rupees without serving any adequate purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The advice tendered by the Standing Finance Committee was contrary to the proposals which Government put up; that is why the matter is requiring such careful consideration.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: On the ground that it is costing much more than originally thought?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already mentioned that.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RAILWAY POLICE AT SUKKUR.

4. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Railway quarters for accommodating the Railway police at Sukkur Station of the North Western Railway is insufficient;

(b) if it is a fact that the Sind Government and the Police officers have requested for the construction of quarters for their staff; if so, what action has been taken in the matter;

(c) how many units of quarters are required, and what will be the cost of their construction;

(d) whether the cost will be borne by the Railway, or shared with the Sind Government; and

(e) when Government are likely to consider the demand for the construction of quarters referred to in part (b) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of Railway quarters for accommodating the Railway Police at Sukkur station is considered sufficient.

(b) As far as Government are aware, no such request has been made.

(c), (d) and (e). Do not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How many are there?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has no complaint been received from the Sind Government with regard to this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Not by the Police Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I rise to a point of order on this? The question raises some point that has appeared in some obscure postal magazine called the *Postal Sentinel*, and Honourable Members have no means of knowing what has appeared there, nor has the Honourable Member mentioned what the matter refers to—he speaks something about Urdu pamphlets and this and that—we do not know what the matter is?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is question No. 4.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I now raise the point

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Government reply; there is no point of order.

ISSUE OF OBJECTIONABLE PAMPHLETS BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

5. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the Editorial in *The Postal Sentinel*, dated September, 1943, under the heading "A sad state of affairs" regarding certain postal employees issuing objectionable pamphlets?

(b) Is it a fact that for many years past there has persisted a tendency to issue pamphlets by certain postal employees, with a view to making the postal authorities follow a certain course of conduct desired by those employees by that means? If so, what have the authorities been doing for such a long time to checkmate the conduct of such employees?

(c) Is it a fact that about June 1943 a pamphlet in Urdu was issued in Sind under the signatures of those mentioned in the aforesaid *Sentinel* with a view to forcing the hands of the authorities to do what they wanted?

(d) Are the signatories of the pamphlet postal employees? If so, what action has been taken against them? If none, why?

(e) Are these pamphlets of an inflammatory nature which is likely to foment communal trouble? If so, what immediate steps do Government propose to take against the signatories under the Government Servants Conduct Rules, or under the administrative orders? If none, why?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) I have seen the editorial referred to.

(b) Some pamphlets have been issued from time to time by certain employees of the Post Office at Karachi, who are members of one or the other of the two recognised Service Unions of postal employees at that place. The object of such pamphlets has usually been criticism of the action of members of the rival Union and no notice is generally taken of them, although the authorities have for a long time endeavoured to promote feelings of amity and co-operation between the members of the two Unions.

(c) Yes. There is, however, nothing in the pamphlet to indicate that it was intended to force the hands of the authorities to do what the signatories of the pamphlet wanted.

(d) The signatories of the pamphlets are postal employees. No action has been taken against them because it was not considered that such action would be appropriate.

(e) Though the language used in the pamphlets is of an exaggerated and undesirable character Government do not consider that they are likely to foment communal trouble as such and do not, therefore, propose to take any action upon them.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member received a copy of the *Sentinel* which I sent along with the question?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member think that if the object of such pamphlets from time to time has not been to force the hands of the Government, what was the intention of this particular pamphlet?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Honourable Member must ask that question of the signatories of the pamphlet.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: They are employées of the Postal Department; therefore I am asking the Government whether they have made inquiries or are only assuming in that way?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The signatories issued the pamphlets, not to Government, but among their own members; all I intended to convey was that so far as Government is concerned, by reading the pamphlet we do not think the intention was to force the hands of the authorities to do anything which the signatories wanted. In any case, they would have been disappointed.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I know whether those who issued the pamphlet were all Muslims?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No; pamphlets have been issued from all sides. The particular pamphlet which the Honourable Member is referring to was, however, issued by Muslims.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maïtra: What are these two rival postal unions?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Provincial Branch of the All India Postal and Telegraph Union and the Provincial Branch of the All India Postal and R. M. S. Union?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Are they communal unions?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No; they are not.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: This question which has now been discussed deals with a matter which appeared in some obscure postal journal . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards that, I have laid down what the procedure should be: that the Member who is the questioner should furnish a copy of the paper to the Assembly Department; it cannot be circulated to all the members.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: The question itself might contain the gist of what has appeared in the papers . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We looked into that.

INADEQUACY OF PLATFORM SHEDS AT MUTTRA JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION.

6. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that at Muttra Junction Railway Station there is a shed on only one of the platforms for the protection of passengers from rain during the monsoon and heat in summer?

(b) Is he aware that in monsoon the passengers waiting for trains on the other platforms where there are no sheds to protect them get drenched with rain?

(c) Is he prepared to do anything for these passengers to protect them from rain and heat and consequent illness?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The provision of such facilities is within the competence of the Railway Administration and the matter could suitably be brought to the notice of the General Manager, G.I.P. Railway, either direct or through the Local Advisory Committee. However, I shall send him a copy of this question and answer for his consideration.

RECRUITMENT OF GAZETTED OFFICERS IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

7. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state in detail, the total number of gazetted officers appointed in the Supply Department since its inception upto September 15, 1943, in all Centres, *viz.*, Delhi, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Bombay, Madras, Lahore and others?

(b) What is the number of such gazetted officers, province by province, *i.e.*, how many persons have been appointed gazetted officers from different provinces, *viz.*, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Madras, Sindh, Central Provinces, United Provinces and the Punjab, and how many have been appointed from the centrally administered provinces and States?

(c) Is it a fact that Heads of European Commercial Houses at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras have been appointed at the top position in the Departments of Supply in different Presidencies who are not salaried officers? If so, why?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that those Commercial Houses of which the Heads are honorary employees of the Supply Department are given open orders and tenders from outside suppliers are not called for?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to lay on the table the orders for supply issued by the Supply Department in Calcutta on open orders, when tendered suppliers offered lower rates? Why were such preferences given to parties who offered higher rates during 1942 and 1943?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that there has been discontent and dissatisfaction in the Calcutta office under the administration of the Assistant Controller of Purchase? How many subordinate officers were transferred, and how many have resigned in 1942 in this office?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DESIRABILITY OF STOPPING SALE OF BALUCHI WOMEN.

†8. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state, with reference to starred question No. 302 asked in this House on the 15th March 1943, what information has been received in respect of the enquiries made in connection with the memorial submitted to the Commissioner, Multan Division, Multan, on the 25th October 1941, in respect of relief to Baluchi girls?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that decrees for the price of the person of a Baluchi widow in favour of the relatives of her former husband are passed against her second husband under the Frontier Crimes Regulation?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that a divorced Baluchi woman after divorce is sold against her consent to any other man by her former husband, and that if the woman does not marry the purchaser and marries another person, then money decrees for her price are passed by the Courts against the husband of her own choice in favour of the unsuccessful purchaser under the said Regulation?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that if a Baluchi girl after the appearance of signs of puberty gets her infant age *Nikah* cancelled under the law through a civil court by the exercise of her option of puberty, and that the husband gets decrees for the price of her person in his favour passed by Political Courts against her second husband as well as guardian and also gets a decree for damages for the breach of custom, and that orders for expulsion (*Jila Watani*) from the city of the girl and her husband are passed?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that even before the birth of a Baluchi girl, which is termed as *Lafi Bazu* by Baluchis, many agreements of her sale and purchase take place, and that the Political Courts legalising such sale and purchase agreements pass decrees of the price of their persons?

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

(f) If the answers to (b), (c), (d) and (e) or to any of them be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of stopping these practices as contrary to good conscience and public policy under section 9 of the Frontier Crimes Regulation?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) A copy of the memorial referred to by the Honourable member, and of the reply that was returned to it, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) to (f). It is a fact that the practices akin to those mentioned, do exist. They are in accordance with Baluchi custom, and decisions given under the Frontier Crimes Regulation are merely enforcements of long-standing Baluch tribal custom, which is well understood and accepted by the persons principally concerned, although by modern standards and amongst more advanced communities they might be reprobated. But it is also a fact that although the woman's consent is not necessary to these transactions they are not normally performed against her will. In the opinion of the local authorities much ill feeling and unrest would be caused amongst the Baluchis by any attempt on the part of Government to impose any sudden change of their old established tribal customs. Persuasion and education are the only effective means of liberalising the outlook of the Baluchis to their womenfolk, and local officers miss no opportunity of pressing for modifications of Baluchi tribal law to secure this end. One of the results so achieved is that in several Tumans now the Jirgas no longer recommend the enforcement of pre-natal contract of marriage.

Copy of the Memorial to the Commissioner, Multan Division, Multan.

SUBJECT:—Application requesting that after consulting Legal Remembrancer to Government, Punjab, the following kind of decrees which are being passed and executed by the Political Courts, Dera Ghazi Khan, under section 8 of the Frontier Crimes Regulation No. III of 1901, and which are totally against the spirit of the the Frontier Law should be stopped:—

- (1) The decrees of the price of the person of a Baloch widow in favour of the relations of her former husband against her second husband.
- (2) A divorced Baloch woman after divorce is sold against her consent. If she disagrees with her sale and consequently does not marry with her purchaser but marries another person according to her own choice, then money decree of her price is passed by courts against the husband of her own choice in favour of the original unsuccessful purchaser.
- (3) If a Baloch girl after the appearance of the signs of puberty, gets her infant age *nikah* cancelled under the law through a civil Court exercising her option of puberty, the Political Courts then pass a decree of the price of her person in favour of her earlier unlawful husband against her lawful husband who marries her after the cancellation of her first *nikah*.
- (4) Even before the birth of a Baloch girl (which is termed as *Lafi Bazu* by Baluchis) many agreements of her sale and purchase take place. The Political courts legalizing such sale and purchase agreements pass decrees of the price of her person.

RESPECTED SIR,

It is an established fact that the attitude of Baloches has been antagonistic towards their innocent girls and women since many decades. Selling the girls like animals, selling them before their birth; considering the widows as cattle and as movable property of their families and dividing them like other, inherited property etc., are the chief features of the savage and barbarious traditions of the Baloch nation, which are in vogue till this day. Irrespective of the fact that we live under the benevolent rule of justice and equity loving British Government, the unhumanly treatment of Baloches towards their females prevail undiminished and unchanged. The main reason for this is the fact that the fate of the females lies *in toto* in the merciless hands of their males (Muqqadims and Tumandars) in the form of the Frontier Crimes Regulation, who serve their personal ends in preference to the interests of Baluch girls through Frontier Crimes Regulation. The Baloches make illegal use of the Frontier Law to establish their unlawful mentality which can safely be said to be far from humanity. The Political Courts, Dera Ghazi Khan are solely and mainly responsible for such irregularities or at least carry the lion's share of responsibilities for this, by awarding decrees for the sale of Balochi women under section 8 of Frontier Crimes Regulation. It is a matter for surprise that they order decrees of the value of several millions of rupees every year, and these decrees are totally detrimental and contradictory to the intentions of the law.

2. Sir, the above cited decrees are illegal and void and they are effected through the misuse and misinterpretation of the law.

It may be made known to your goodself that we do humbly request for the declaration of these Baluch *Riwajes* as quite illegal and immoral if the Baluch *Riwajes* be relied upon for passing these decrees. We also humbly submit that the Frontier Crimes Regulation

does not permit the passing of such decrees and if in the learned opinion of the Legal Remembrancer such decrees can be passed under the Frontier Crimes Regulation, we humbly pray for the amendment of such law.

A. In the eyes of law there should be no bar or hinderance in the liberty of Baluch women (except sexual limitations which are common to them and the women of the other communities). The Baluch women equally deserve civil liberty as do the other British subjects enjoy.

B. It is an admitted fact that the Civil Courts do never entertain the type of claims noted above as they consider them illegal and think them as prohibited by law. They neither allow such cases to be filed with them, nor do they award decrees of the above type. This prohibition they do not base on any special law. They take legitimate advantage of the provisions of section 23 of Contract Act which lays down that no agreement, should be given effect to which is "opposed to public policy". It is a matter for gratification that exactly the same provisions exist in the Frontier Crimes Regulation too; the favour of attention is invited to section 9. It is a matter for amazement that when Civil Courts do not entertain the above cited sort of cases, why should the Political Courts, Dera Ghazi Khan do, especially when the provisions of law are the same for both. Moreover section 3 clearly states that Frontier Crimes Regulation does not supersede any of the Civil and Judicial Law, and if the political courts welcome the above cited cases under Frontier Crimes Regulation and the civil courts do not, under Civil Law, then it may be concluded that Frontier Crimes Regulation supersedes the Civil Law.

It will now be clear that the Political Courts order and execute illegal and unlawful decrees of the cost of Baluch girls, noted as subject which are at one and the same time contradictory to the Civil Law, irrespective of the fact that they are no less prohibited by the Frontier Crimes Regulation than are restricted by the Civil Law.

3. There prevails a feeling of displeasure and discontentment among the public against the abuses of the Frontier Law in the shape of the above noted decrees, and the people are giving vent to their feelings through press also. This can somewhat be gauged from the enclosed pamphlet.

Sir, it is the time of reformations, equity and freedom. Now, the time is ripe to put a stop to the policy of offering partial and preferential treatment to the Baluch males. On the other hand it is high time to have the Baluch women their claims and rights in their cases. No effort should be spared to shower upon them full liberty of which the British benign Government can rightly boast of. The Law should be correctly applied in cases of females and in future, there be no hitch or hinderance in their way, except the sexual restrictions incumbent upon them as imposed by other communities on their women.

4. The Political Courts, Dera Ghazi Khan, do neither allow the appearance of lawyers nor any appeal lies in cases decided by them. Under these circumstances we beg your kindness to consult the Legal Remembrancer to Government, Punjab, and then issue orders to the Political Courts, Dera Ghazi Khan, to discontinue awarding and executing the decrees cited in the subject, and if in the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer to Government, Punjab, such decrees can be passed, we would then humbly pray for the cancellation of such law.

5. This application is being made not for the benefit of a particular section, but this is submitted in order to do away with the wrong doings done to an innocent, weak and oppressed class of human beings. As this request is based upon the human, sympathy, we, the representatives of every class and nationality of the respectable citizens, make a joint request, and would humbly invite your unparalleled, unique and impartial justice to pay a heedful and favourable consideration to the matter.

6. All correspondence may kindly be made at the following address :

AHMAD KHAN, PITAFI BALUCH,
President, Central Anjuman Islamia,
Jampur, District Dera Ghazi Khan.

Praying for the justice at your gracious hands.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Sd. :—

1. SARDAR AHMAD KHAN, PITAFI, BALUCH,
President Central Anjuman Islamia, Jampur.
2. DEWAN JHANGI RAM,
President, Arya Samaj, Jampur.
3. MOHAMMAD MASSU KHAN, KHOSA BALUCH,
Zamindar, Jampur.
4. President, District Congress Committee,
Dera Ghazi Khan.
5. L. GIRDHARI LAL,
Hony. Secretary, District Sanatan Dharam
Sabha, D. G. Khan.
6. JAM MARMUD, KACHHELA, Lambardar,
Mauza Nawan, Tahsil D. G. Khan.
7. ALLAH BAKHSH KHAN,
Khetran, Baluch, B.A.

8. MAULVI ZAFFAR MOHAMMAD, NUTKANI,
Baluch H.P., H.A. of Mundrani,
Tahsil Sanghar, Dera Ghazi Khan District.
9. DOST MOHAMMAD HAJANA,
Editor, Muhib-i-Wattan Series, Dera Ghazi Khan.

Copy of a memorandum No. 1970, dated the 19th February, 1942, from the Commissioner, Multan Division, to the President, Central Anjuman Islamia, Jampur, District Dera Ghazi Khan.

Reference petition signed by you and others complaining about the enforcement of the Baluch rivaj with regard to women.

2. My enquiries into the petition show that the system, which you complain of, is exactly in accordance with the long established rivaj of the Baluch Tumans, and Government is reluctant to interfere with that rivaj until the tumandars and their people themselves adopt an amendment. I therefore regret that no further action can be taken by me in the matter. I would, however, advise you to represent your case to the Tumandars direct.

PROMOTION OF NON-TECHNICAL HANDS AS CHARGEMEN ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†9. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is or it is not a fact that an assurance was given on the floor of the Assembly that since the amalgamation of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway with the East Indian Railway, the promotion of non-technical hands such as mistries, etc., to the post of Chargemen, had been discontinued and the posts were now kept reserved for the ex-apprentice mechanics of Jamalpur Technical School?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that it has been assured that after the amalgamation of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway with the East Indian Railway the non-technical hands, such as mistries, are eligible for promotion to the posts carrying pay up to Rs. 140 in the old scales and Rs. 120 in the new scales?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that the posts of Improvers in the Running Sheds and Mechanical Workshops of the East Indian Railway are higher than those of the mistries?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that some posts of non-technical Chargemen have recently been created on the East Indian Railway, and that non-technical hands, such as mistries, have been promoted to the above posts in the grade of Rs. 90—20—250, although better qualified technically trained apprentices on probation as Improvers are available and are employed in lower grades than that of the Chargemen? If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of—

(i) taking immediate steps against those Railway Administrations who are acting in contravention of the policy laid down by them;

(ii) replacing the new appointees by better qualified ex-apprentice Mechanics who are in a lower grade than that of a Chargeman, and issuing necessary orders to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, to this effect; and

(iii) issuing instructions to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, to stop such practice in all future cases in accordance with the assurance given? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The posts referred to are those of non-technically trained chargemen and as such have rightly been reserved for the promotion of deserving mistries, etc. No harm has been done to the prospects of ex-apprentices, and no action is called for.

PROMOTION OF NON-TECHNICAL HANDS AS CHARGEMEN ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†10. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is or it is not a fact that the Deputy General Manager (P), East Indian Railway, admitted in his Minute Sheet No. ME 86/87(I) of 6th April, 1942, in reply to appeals from non-technical hands, that they could

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

not be treated equally with the technically trained hands as this would mean the negation of progress for the better training of mechanics to improve the quality of their work and knowledge, by which means alone the increasing demand for better work necessary to cope with the greater demands made on the machines and plants of to-day could be met, and because by such improved systems only could the quality of work in India be raised to compete with industrial standards in other countries?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for promoting the non-technical hands, such as mistries to the posts of Chargemen (Rs. 250 old and Rs. 180 new scales) in preference to the better qualified technically trained Improvers, which are higher posts than those of mistries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The grade was specially created for the promotion of mistries, etc., whose channel of promotion is ordinarily distinct from that of trained mechanics; there was thus no contradiction between what was done and what was stated in the reply referred to in part (a) of the question.

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY (MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT)
AS REGARDS TRANSFER OF SUBORDINATE SUPERVISING STAFF ON MEDICAL GROUNDS.**

* 11. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is or it is not a fact that racial discrimination is being maintained on the East Indian Railway in the matter of transfer of Subordinate Supervising staff on medical grounds in the Mechanical Department?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that Europeans and Anglo-Indians are transferred on medical grounds due to sickness of their family members, whereas Indians are not transferred even on account of their own illness, and in some cases, the applications of Indians are not even entertained by the Railway Administration in spite of the recommendations of the Railway District Medical Officers and Chief Medical Officer?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative, does the Honourable Member propose to enquire into the matter, and to lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars:—

(i) the number of the subordinate supervising staff to the Mechanical Departments, East Indian Railway, who have been transferred on medical grounds, since 1939;

(ii) the particulars of their transfers; and

(iii) the number of those whose transfers have been refused showing the percentage of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians; in both cases?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of issuing necessary orders to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, to transfer without any racial prejudice such persons who are recommended by the District Medical Officers and Chief Medical Officer on account of their own sickness?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have no reason to suppose that the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) I regret I cannot undertake to collect and compile such information under present circumstances.

(d) Government do not consider such orders are necessary as all Administrations are aware of Government's policy not to countenance racial discrimination. I am, however, sending a copy of the question and answer to the East Indian Railway for such action as they may deem necessary.

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN COMPILATION OF COMBINED SENIORITY LIST OF
SUBORDINATE SUPERVISING STAFF AND DRAFTSMEN ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY
(MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT).**

* 12. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is or it is not a fact that racial discrimination has been maintained in the compilation of the Combined Seniority List of the

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

Subordinate Supervising staff and Draftsmen of the Mechanical Department, East Indian Railway, as preambled in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Minute Sheet No. ME 86/37, dated the 1st November 1937?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that Europeans and Anglo-Indians who do not possess the requisite qualifications of technically trained hands as laid down by the Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway, in his Minute Sheet No. ME 323/20, dated the 24th July, 1937, have been included in the Combined Seniority List mentioned in (a) above, while Indians have not been included in the said list?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that one European who received only six months vocational training after military service has been classified as a technically trained hand and his name has been maintained in the said Combined Seniority List mentioned in (a) above for further promotion? If so, why?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that the name of one Anglo-Indian who did not possess the requisite qualifications of the technically trained hand has been maintained in the said Combined Seniority List referred to in (a) above and he has been subsequently promoted as Progress and Planning Superintendent in the Mechanical Department, East Indian Railway, and is now working in the Lower Gazetted Service as Production Engineer, thus superseding the claims of the several technically trained seniors?

(e) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative, do Government propose to enquire into the matter, with particular reference to the Paint and Trimming Shop Foreman and the Progress and Planning Superintendent, now working as Production Engineer in the Carriage and Wagon Shops, East Indian Railway? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of maintaining the Combined Seniority List of the technically trained subordinate supervising staff and draftsmen of the Mechanical Department, East Indian Railway, in accordance with the assurance given in reply to starred question No. 252 (a) and (c) of the 9th September, 1936 and as per Chief Mechanical Engineer's Minute Sheet No. ME 323/20 of the 24th July, 1937, without racial discrimination, and also issuing necessary orders to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, to rectify the anomaly with immediate effect? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have no reason to suppose that the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) The Railway has been unable to identify the case referred to.

(d) and (e). I have called for information and a further reply will be laid on the table of the House.

(f) Government have no reason to believe that the lists are not being properly maintained but I am forwarding a copy of the question and the answer to the East Indian Railway for whatever action may be deemed necessary.

ADVERTISEMENTS AS REGARDS ARRIVALS OF FOODGRAINS AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS VIA BENGAL NAGPUR AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

13. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) With reference to the advertisements that have appeared from time to time in the Press, giving statistics of the arrivals of foodgrains and other foodstuffs through the Bengal Nagpur and East Indian Railway systems, under the heading "Is Railway Transport to blame", will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the following statement made in the Bengal Legislative Council (Upper House) on the 24th September, 1943, by the Minister for Civil Supplies:

"It was a matter of regret that only one side of the picture had been drawn. The Minister did not know why the Railways had put up the advertisement, except probably to exculpate themselves at the bar of public opinion, or perhaps still higher authorities. It was decided between the Railways and ourselves that there would be no such further talk in future and that no opportunity would be given to create an atmosphere either against the Railways or against the Government. It is a pity that the Railways have broken the agreement which was arrived at between us."

(b) What was the agreement referred to above by the Minister, and who were the parties to it?

(c) Why were such advertisements considered to be necessary, and on how many occasions did they appear? Have they been stopped? If so, with effect from what date, and why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The agreement referred to by the Honourable Minister arose out of a discussion between me and the Honourable Minister in Delhi, at which the desirability was accepted of any details published being known and agreed beforehand between the Central and Provincial Governments. Unfortunately the Railways in Calcutta did not receive instructions before the dates on which the information was published.

(c) The advertisements were inserted with the object of informing the public of the facts and of giving them confidence in the ability of the Railways to meet essential requirements. I understand they appeared in the *Statesman* and the *Star of India* on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th September and in the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*, *Hindustan Standard* and the *Ananda Basar Patrika* on the 23rd, 24th and 25th September. They automatically ceased on completion of the insertions originally ordered, and steps have been taken to co-ordinate similar statements with the Director of Civil Supplies of the Bengal Government in future.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to the statement that no such further attacks would take place in future, will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the nature of the mutual recriminations or charges and counter charges that were brought either by the railways, or on behalf of the Government of Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There were no recriminations.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: There were charges and counter-charges?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: The Honourable Member stated that there was an impression created that sufficient stocks of food were not going to Bengal: was any countercharge brought by the railways against the Government of Bengal by the Honourable Member himself, for instance?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; there were no charges or counter-charges. I merely stressed to the Honourable Minister the desirability of co-ordinating statements that were to be put out to the public.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it not a fact that a very responsible official made this statement, that the Government of Bengal had failed to make adequate arrangements for handling the consignments of food that were for reaching Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is rather a vague statement. What I said and am saying here is that before similar statements on quantities of foodstuffs moved to Calcutta or anywhere else are made public, arrangements should be made that so far as possible there will be co-ordination between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I have a recollection that the Honourable Member himself or some other responsible official made a statement explaining or trying to explain the difficulties that had arisen in Calcutta by a statement that the Government of Bengal had failed to make adequate arrangements for taking prompt delivery of the food articles that had been sent to Bengal.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Such statements have, I think, been made from time to time.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: That is what I meant. Is it also a fact that in one instance the Government of Bengal thought that the despatching instructions of the railway authorities were defective with the result that while rice wagons went to the wheat siding, the wheat wagons went to the rice siding and the wagons took a long time to be rearranged?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Despatching instructions were not given by the railways but I would like to inform the Honourable Member that so far as I am aware things are now moving quite satisfactorily.

Mr. Latchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the food stock in the Punjab is being held up before it is transported by rail, and

in the same manner it is being delayed at the destination until delivery is taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not appear to arise out of this question.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that the statement which is alleged to have been made by a responsible official of the Government that the Government of Bengal were not able to handle or clear off the stock that was being sent there was denied by the Government of Bengal?

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Certainly, it was.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I expect it was.

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

DOMESTIC COKE SUPPLY IN CALCUTTA.

14. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport been drawn to an advertisement that appeared in the Press on certain dates under the heading "Is there a shortage of domestic coke in Calcutta? The answer is definitely—No", giving certain statistics of domestic coke in stock at the Railway depots and the arrivals of wagons containing domestic coke in Calcutta during certain periods?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a statement made in the Bengal Legislative Council (Upper House) on the 28th September, 1943, by the Minister for Civil Supplies to the following effect:

"With great difficulty but with the co-operation of the Coal Controller and the authorities of various Railways, the Government of Bengal were able to arrange for the delivery of 25 wagons of coal per day to Calcutta. But all on a sudden other persons who ought to have looked after themselves in a different manner stepped in and took away 20 wagons leaving 5 wagons to be distributed in Calcutta."

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to make a comprehensive statement explaining the whole position, with particular reference to (i) the supply of domestic coke to Calcutta month by month since July last, and (ii) the diversion of a large number of coal wagons by an undisclosed party referred to above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) (i). Against an average daily requirement of 25 wagons. Calcutta received the following quantities in July onwards.

July	18 wagons per day
August	23 " " "
September	36 " " "
October up to 22nd	35 " " "

(ii) During the serious situation caused by the breaches on the E. I. Railway when all essential consumers had to be rationed, 25 wagons a day were allotted for meeting the requirements of Calcutta for domestic requirements. At the request of the Bengal Government and on their agreeing to receive and ferry coal across to Jaijung for on carriage by the B. and A. Railway, the Controller of Coal Distribution and the Railways arranged to send a further 25 wagons a day to Azimgunj via the Kiul Sahebgunj loop. Later, as a result of further interruptions of traffic on the B. N. R. the coal stock position of the B. and A. Railway was reduced to a dangerously low level. As it was not possible to supply all the requirements of this railway by the direct route via Calcutta, that Railway was asked to take 10 wagons a day via Azimgunj and a further 10 wagons a day by this route were given to the Eastern Army at Sahebgunj. As only 25 wagons per day could be moved over this route and as supplies were being despatched by the direct route to meet the daily consumption in Calcutta, the quota for Calcutta by the Azimgunj route was reduced to 5.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member throw light on this statement made by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons that 37,000 maunds a day were sent during September and October?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This relates to coal.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I want to know whether the railways sent 37,000 maunds of food every day to Bengal during the two months?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This question relates to coal.

COAL SUPPLIES TO VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

15. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to make a statement showing the improvement, if any, in the position of coal supplies to industries as referred to in my starred questions Nos. 121 and 124 of the 30th July, 1943?

(b) When was the process of building up Railway stocks up to 45 days, as referred to by the Honourable Member in reply to the aforesaid question No. 121, completed, and how were the demands of the industries for coal met up to that date?

(c) What were the "comprehensive proposals" for relieving the industries, that were referred to in the Honourable Member's reply to the said question No. 121, and have they been given effect to in their various aspects?

(d) As regards the use of alternative fuel, to what extent is wood fuel being utilised by the industries in different areas, and what action have the Railways taken towards the encouragement of the development of traffic of the alternative fuel of different characters? Has the Honourable Member considered the possibility of adequately developing the river transport in Bengal for the purpose, particularly, of carrying wood fuel from the Sunderban areas? If so, has any action in that behalf been taken, or suggested to be taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The floods in the river Damodar and the consequent breaches in the East Indian Railway in July last seriously interrupted rail traffic, particularly to the Calcutta area and there was in consequence a deterioration, instead of an improvement, in the supplies to that area and to consumers in Southern India. Concerns in Northern and North-Western India obtained better supplies but not their full requirements owing to a drop in output. This was due to a shortage of labour and to flooding of some of the mines in July and August. Railways are now able to carry all the coal at present offering, but the shortage of labour continues to be acute. Steps are being taken to deal with the situation.

(b) In view of the reduced output and the adverse effect on industries of the loco coal stocking programme at a 45 days target, it has been decided to slow down the building up of railway stocks for the present to a target of 30 days. By the end of September stocks did not exceed 26 days' consumption.

(c) The proposals referred to in my answer to part (d) of the Honourable Member's starred question No. 121 on the 30th July 1943, consisted in the main of the Coal Rationing Scheme which was alluded to in my answer to part (a) of his starred question No. 124 on the same day. This scheme has now been put into operation. To prepare the scheme it was necessary in the first instance to estimate, as closely as possible, the total quantity of coal that could be raised and delivered, taking into account the wagon supply and rail capacity on the E. I. and B. N. Railways and the maximum assistance that transport of coal by sea round the coast could afford to the railways. With the resumption of traffic after the breaches—and thanks to a considerable measure of assistance given by His Majesty's Government in providing shipping for the carriage of coal by sea in return for supplies of coal for bunkers and shipments—the E. I. and B. N. Railways expect to be able to provide 2,700 wagons a day for coal. On this basis and taking account of the various measures to maintain and increase output in the coalfields, a total of 25.64 million tons per annum has been adopted as a reasonable figure which can be made available for distribution. Rations have been fixed on the basis of actual supplies made during the 12 months' period from August 1942 to July 1943, and take into account estimated increases in consumption of essential services. The total allotment for industries and domestic supplies has been fixed at 1,024,587 tons a month, which represents an increase of 20 per cent. on actual supplies made between August 1942 and July 1943. The scheme is in essence a compromise between conflicting interests made possible only by the pooling of resources between India and

the United Kingdom. It is proposed to watch its working very closely making internal adjustments whenever required and to review the position again early next year.

(d) It is understood that some industries in various parts of the country have been making extensive use of firewood. Full information is not available as to the extent to which this is being done except in regard to the Ahmedabad area where the textile mills are reported to have used 1,27,319 tons of firewood during the year ending 30th June 1943. In view of the seriousness of the coal situation a circular letter was addressed on 30th August 1943 to Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners, who are responsible for forests, and for supplies of timber and wood fuel asking them to encourage the use of firewood for industrial as well as domestic consumption to the maximum possible extent and to remove local restrictions, if any, on its movement. A Combustion Engineer has been appointed and attached to the Office of the Controller of Coal Distribution, one of whose functions will be to advise industries regarding the utilisation of alternative fuels. The development of the transport of wood fuel from the Sundarbans by country craft falls within the sphere of the Provincial Governments but we are doing what we can to assist that Government in the development of country craft traffic generally.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the coal rationing scheme to which the Honourable Member has just made reference, may I know whether it was drawn up in consultation with non-official opinion, opinion particularly of the trade and the industries concerned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As regards the coal raising trade I think there were consultations with the trade from time to time; certainly the liaison between the technical officers in Calcutta and the trade is close and to that fact I can personally testify. As regards consultation with the industries, the Departments of Government concerned kept in close touch with the industries and the point of view of those industries has been very carefully considered in drawing up the scheme.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What will be the composition of the controlling organisations for the purpose of administering this scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Departments of Government concerned.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member supply the same facilities, as he is doing for Bengal, to other provinces by providing alternative fuels?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My answer referred to the question of country craft in Bengal and particularly the movement of firewood from the Sundarbans. All provinces do not, of course, have the same water facilities as the province of Bengal.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With reference to the shortage of labour, which has been mentioned by the Honourable Member in his reply, may I ask whether that shortage of labour is not due to the unsatisfactory conditions under which the coal miners are working, namely, their wages are inadequate, the dearness allowance is very small, the housing conditions are not good, and, may I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that Mr. Hughes, the Commissioner of Labour, has made a report regarding the conditions of miners in the coal areas

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am finishing my question. May I ask whether the Government of India is going to improve those conditions immediately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has posed a rather lengthy question. I will answer by saying that all the conditions likely to result in an increase of coal raising are under the careful consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I did not quite follow the Honourable Member when he mentioned that the departments of Government concerned would be the controlling authorities. Would the Honourable Member care to explain the position further? Who would really be the controlling agency for administering this scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As regards coal raising, the Labour Department is responsible. As regards the distribution of coal, the War Transport Department is responsible.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will mention certain respects in which the labour conditions in mining areas have been improved?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be addressed to my Honourable Colleague in the Labour Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member in his reply mentioned shortage of labour as one of the causes for the shortage of coal. He has asked me to address my question to his Honourable Colleague in the Labour Department. He is present here. Why should he not reply?

(No reply.)

POST-WAR EMPIRE AND INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY.

16. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department be pleased to make a statement, bringing available information up-to-date on the subject of Post-war Empire and Inter-National Aviation policy, in continuation of his reply to my starred question No. 40 of the 27th July, 1943?

(b) Who were the representatives of India at the Empire Air Conference which is reported to have opened in London on the 11th October, last? Were they nominated by the Government of India, or the Secretary of State for India, or by the former in consultation with the latter? Was the question of including representatives of the Indian commercial and industrial interests in this delegation considered by Government? When was invitation received by the Government of India, to participate in the Empire Air Conference, and when was the delegation chosen?

(c) What were the terms of reference of the said Conference? Were Government previously consulted in regard to the said terms? What were the views communicated by Government to the British authorities in the course of the "exchange of views", referred to by Sir Gurunath Bewoor in answer to a supplementary question arising out of the said starred question, No. 40?

(d) Have Government given any instructions to the delegation which is said to represent India? To what extent, if at all, will the delegation be expected to receive instructions from the India Office?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Since I replied to the Honourable Member's question on the 27th July 1943, a Conference of official representatives of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and of the Governments of the Dominions and India has met in London from the 11th to the 13th October.

(b) The High Commissioner for India represented India at the Conference. The nomination was made by the Government of India. As the Conference consisted of official representatives only, the question of representation of the Indian commercial and industrial interests did not arise. Intimation regarding the Conference was received in September 1943 and the delegate was nominated in the same month.

(c) The Conference was convened for the purpose of oral exchange of views on the subject of development of post-war civil aviation. The discussions were of a confidential, informal and exploratory character. The Government of India was aware of the object of the Conference and of the nature of discussions intended. Government are not prepared to communicate the contents of correspondence which has taken place between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government.

(d) In view of the fact that the discussions were to be of an informal and exploratory nature, no question arose of giving any instructions to our representatives. If any instructions had to be given, they would have been given by the Government of India.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that Lord Beaverbrook, the Lord Privy Seal, speaking in the House of Lords, observed that the conclusions reached at the Empire Air Conference were unanimous and that they would now go forward with the talks with the United States on that subject? Is the Honourable Member in a position to indicate very generally the nature of the conclusions arrived at, and whether the Government of India had any chance of considering the proposals before getting their representative to agree to the conclusions there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As Lord Beaverbrook himself observed, these conclusions are subject to confirmation by the Governments concerned. The proceedings of the Conference have not yet been received and I am not therefore in a position to reply to the Honourable Member.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Legislature have any part to play before any final agreement is signified by the Government to any proposal of this kind?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As I have said, these conferences are of an exploratory character. There is no question of arriving at any final agreement at present.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will the Central Assembly have an opportunity of considering this question?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Central Assembly has the matter in its own hands. It can bring up this subject for discussion, if it so desires.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: For the purpose of securing a fruitful discussion, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of supplying the available information to the Members?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If any Honourable Member desires to raise the question, he can do so in the form of a Resolution.

AGREEMENT FOR FIXATION OF MAXIMA PRICES OF JUTE BY INDIAN JUTE MILLS ASSOCIATION.

17. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a full statement relating to the reports that have appeared in the Press from time to time on the following points:—

(i) that an agreement has been entered into by the Indian Jute Mills Association for fixing certain maxima prices of jute for the coming season;

(ii) that this has been done with the full knowledge and concurrence of the Government of Bengal and the Central Government;

(iii) that the prices have been fixed in view of the expectation that the United States of America would place large orders for the supply of hessian, provided its price does not exceed a particular figure;

(iv) that there has been a tripartite understanding between the interests concerned, between the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Indian Jute Mills Association in this connection; and

(v) that the prices fixed are lower than what could be legitimately expected by the cultivator in view of the war orders from different parts of the world coupled with the internal demand?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (i) and (ii). The Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association has informed the Government of India that member mills have agreed among themselves not to pay above certain maxima prices for raw jute and the Committee has passed a bye-law to that effect.

(iii) It is understood that the fixation of maximum prices for raw jute by the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association was the outcome of the acceptance by the mills of an order for hessian for export to the United States of America.

(iv) and (v). No, Sir.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: When was it that this Committee communicated to the Government of India their proposal or decision in this matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand it was sometime in July.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Was any requirement laid down by any rule or understanding that in all such matters the Committee would be expected to inform the Government of India or obtain its concurrence?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is no question of obtaining the concurrence of the Government of India. As the Honourable Member knows, the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association is also an officer of the Government in another capacity and it is usual for him in that capacity to acquaint the Government as to what is going on in the Indian Jute Mills Association from time to time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Have the Government satisfied themselves that the interests of the jute growers have not been adversely affected by this agreement among the capitalists?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I can say that I have personally satisfied myself that up to now it has not been affected because when the maximum price is about 17, I understand the present prices are very much below that.

ACCUMULATION OF STEEL SUPPLIES BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

18. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have accumulated considerable supplies of steel to meet the requirements of the Government and of the Allied Governments, for at least a year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the stocks of steel with the Steel Companies are so large that a part of these are being disposed of by the manufacturers as "rejected material"; and

(c) if the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of releasing a part of the stocks for civilian consumption in order to mitigate the difficulties which the civilian population is experiencing in obtaining necessary requirements of such goods?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No, Sir.
(b) No.

(c) The Government of India are considering the possibility of increasing the allotment of steel for civilian consumption in the light of the total demands for steel as compared with the total amount of steel likely to be available from Indian production, imports and stocks. Increased allotments of some categories for civilian consumption in the first quarter of 1944 have already been approved.

REVIEW BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF THE PURCHASE PROGRAMME OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

19. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether the Government of India have reviewed the purchase programme of the Supply Department?

(b) Are the stocks of all materials so far purchased by Government more than necessary to meet their requirements as well as of the Allied Governments?

(c) Is it necessary to continue purchasing materials in the same quantities as hitherto?

(d) Is it possible to reduce the purchases of the Supply Department in order to allow larger quantities of these materials for the civilian consumption?

(e) Is it possible to release a portion of the stock in the hands of the Supply Department for civilian consumption in order to mitigate the difficulties of the civilians?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) to (e). The Government of India have had under review, particularly during the last few months, the question of what stocks of materials are required for war purposes, whether they can be reduced, and how much can be released for civilian

consumption. It is not advisable to mention any figures in this connection but from time to time certain materials have been released for civilian consumption in order to mitigate the difficulties of the civilian consumer.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has any steel been actually released for the use of the agriculturists?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It will be released in the first quarter of 1944. The quantity of steel for the first quarter of 1944 for the civilian consumer has been approved and the Iron and Steel Controller will give effect to that proposal.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will the Honourable Member tell us what proportion will be released for civilian consumption?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I would like to have notice of the question. I can say that no definite proportion can be fixed for any length of time.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Government in contemplation any progressive policy for increasing the quantity of release of steel and of other commodities for civilian consumption? Have they got any definite policy in the matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is exactly the idea that I intended to convey, perhaps unsuccessfully, by the answer that I have given. It is the definite policy of the Government to release in increasing quantities available articles of consumption for civil use.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it that in fixing the quota which they will release they will take into consideration the civilian needs, say, the average for the last three years before the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They would certainly take the needs of the civilian population, particularly the needs as ascertained by the average consumption during the last three years, but that does not imply, I would like to say even at this stage, that they will be in a position to supply any large percentage of the actual needs. They will try to do their best.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask whether the Government while considering the question of releasing steel and other articles for civil population will pay proper attention to the needs of the rural population as well?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Agricultural implements is one of the first things that is under the consideration of the Government. The proposal is to release the steel to the Provincial Governments, if possible, so that they may themselves see that the agricultural implements are manufactured and properly distributed at a fair price.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In view of the fact that that is one of the steps which Government propose to take as a measure against inflation, do Government propose to fix those quotas from time to time in accordance with civilian needs?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is the idea. It must have some proportion or some bearing on the actual war needs, of course, but the idea is to fix from time to time proportions by taking into consideration the needs of the civilian population and the war needs.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it that Government adopts this as one of their anti-inflationary measures?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is certainly one of the anti-inflationary measures also.

MEASURE FOR SYNTHETIC PREPARATION OF MINERAL OIL.

20. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (on behalf of **Mr. R. R. Gupta**): (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if, in view of the suspension of supply of mineral oil, specially of motor spirit, from Burma, Government have considered the advisability of ensuring some supply of India's requirements of mineral oil from an Indian synthetic source? If so, what is the result of Government's examination?

(b) Are Government prepared to assist a private enterprise for the installation of a plant for hydrogenation of coal? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand that this proposal was considered by the Commerce and Industries Department some time back. The question may be addressed to my Honourable colleague, the member for Industries and Civil Supplies.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member in a position to indicate if there is any plan for this?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I was able to give this answer because previously in my capacity as the Commerce Member I had an opportunity to deal with it. There is no plan for the production of alcohol by synthetic process from coal.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that the Government does not stand in need of a synthetic product?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Certainly it stands in need of it, but whether the process suggested, the quantity of coal that should be absorbed by the process and the amount of alcohol which will be released are all matters which have to be taken into consideration before the issue is settled whether this plan is an economic and effective plan.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA AT THE EMPIRE AIR CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

21. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department please state:

(a) if India was represented at the Empire Air Conference held in London; if so, whether by an official or a non-official member; if by an official, what the reasons were for not securing non-official representation;

(b) if the Conference reached an agreement on general principles; if so, what those agreed principles are; and

(c) if Government have any proposals to advance India's interests in the post-war civil aviation; if so, what these are?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have just given to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. Neogy's question.

(b) It is understood that the Conference arrived at certain unanimous decisions. These decisions are not binding on the Governments concerned until they are confirmed by them. The proceedings of the Conference and the decisions have not yet been received.

(c) Government have in hand the preparation of plans for the development of civil aviation in India after the war, but these are not yet complete.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The plans may not be complete, but can I not have an idea of the plans which exist at the present moment?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The plans are being prepared at present. When I say that they are not complete I do not mean to say that they are complete in some particulars and not in others. The whole scheme has to be taken as one and as Honourable Members are aware the whole scheme will be placed before the Reconstruction Policy Committee, on which we have got representatives of the Provinces and of the Indian States and of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Then, may I take it that so long as the Reconstruction Policy is not complete, this Department has got no plan and no idea?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Department itself is preparing the plans for the Committee.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Government representative at this Conference went with a completely blank mind and had nothing to say there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Of course not. He went there with an open mind.

CURRENT LUGGAGE RULES ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

22. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the current Luggage Rules on all the State-managed Railways; and

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the latest revised Luggage Rules of the North Western Railway, published in column 4 of page 5 of the *Dawn* dated the 21st October, 1948?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The current rules for the carriage of luggage on all State-managed Railways are, as far as I am aware, substantially the same as those published in the *Dawn*. Although Railways publish their luggage rules in their Time Tables or Coaching Tariffs, the preparation of a comprehensive statement is being undertaken and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) Yes.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Luggage rules of the East Indian Railway differ from the Luggage rules just published by the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that the rules of all Railways are now uniform but that will appear when the statement to which I have referred is laid on the table.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Honourable Member referred to the time-table. Is any time-table for the East Indian Railway in preparation at the present moment?

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

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware that the time-tables of the East Indian Railway are framed only for the benefit of the persons leaving Calcutta without considering the convenience of the intermediate stations and the arrival of the trains in Delhi? Will the Honourable Member consider the suggestion which I made to the General Manager that there should be an expert to prepare the time-table?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member appears to have taken action in referring himself to the General Manager. That will doubtless bear fruit in due course.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that there is a great inconvenience to passengers due to present timing. Inappropriate timing is due to the fact that they have got no expert in the office of the General Manager?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I venture to suggest that that is incorrect.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I challenge the Honourable Member's statement. My statement is quite correct.

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

METHOD OF RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

23. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the method of recruitment to the posts of Inspectors and Superintendents in the Posts and Telegraphs Department; and

(b) whether direct recruitments are made to the said posts; if so, in what proportion; and with what qualifications?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to posts of Inspectors and Superintendents of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service.

Recruitment to the posts of Inspectors of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service is made by selection from amongst departmental officials who have passed the prescribed examination. No direct recruitment is made to these posts.

Recruitment to the posts of Superintendents of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service is made 50 per cent. by promotion of selected Inspectors of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service and 50 per cent. by direct recruitment on the results of a combined competitive examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission for recruitment to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and certain other Services. The main qualifications required of a candidate for admission to the competitive examination are that he must be a graduate or the holder of the Chiefs Colleges Higher Diploma (Final) and that he must be over 21 years of age and below 24 years of age, or below 27 years of age in the case of those already in Government service.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know if the efficiency of the Department suffers on account of the recruitment of low qualified people from the clerical staff to the post of Inspectors?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir; on the contrary, it is considered that men of experience, who have actually worked in the Department, would make better Inspectors.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that there was a rule of direct recruitment to the Inspector's grade before? If so, why has it been stopped?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: So far as I remember, it might have existed some 20 years ago, but it was changed as long ago as that. I cannot say now why it was changed unless I look up the old papers.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the experience only counts towards the efficiency or the educational qualifications too?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is an examination prescribed before the clerks are promoted as Inspectors and their ability is thus tested.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO STATION MASTERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the names of stations on the North Western Railway where Personal Assistants to Station Masters and Station Superintendents are employed, and their grades of pay?

(b) What duties are allotted to these Personal Assistants?

(c) Who sanctioned the creation of these appointments? If the General Manager, is he competent to do so? If so, under what rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Station Superintendent, Keamari, has a Personal Assistant in the grade Rs. 320—15—350; at Delhi an Assistant Station Master in the grade Rs. 200—10—250 is utilized as Personal Assistant to the Station Superintendent.

(b) Their duties are generally to assist the Station Superintendents in the disposal of their work.

(c) The Senior Assistant Personnel at the Headquarters of the N. W. Railway. The General Manager has powers to create non-gazetted posts within certain limits by virtue of Appendix X of the State Railway General Code, and to delegate his powers in this respect to lower authorities.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Unstarred Question No. 49, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 11th March, 1942.

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF LARGER QUANTITY OF GOOD QUALITY COAL FOR RAILWAYS.

(b) No. The total quantity ordered for delivery before 31st March, 1942 was 236,000 tons but only 184,158 tons were delivered and paid for. The balance could not be despatched due to shortage of wagons.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 99, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani on the 16th February, 1943.

EXPORT OF SUGAR, WHEAT AND RICE AND THE PRODUCTION OF PETROL FROM MOLASSES.
Statement showing the total production of motor fuel (power alcohol and/or rectified spirit) from molasses during the period 1st September 1939 to 31st December 1942 in India.

Name of the Province or Indian State.	Quantity (in tons) of power alcohol and/or rectified spirit produced for use as motor fuel during 1st September 1939 to 31st December 1942.	Remarks.
1. United Provinces	797.58 (power alcohol)	No production in 1939-40.
2. C. P. and Berar	Nil.	
3. Punjab	251.7 (rectified spirit)	Produced only during 1st September 1942 to 31st December 1942.
4. N.-W. F. P.	Nil.	
5. Orissa	Nil.	
6. Madras	Nil.	
7. Sind	Nil.	
8. Bengal	5.24 (rectified spirit)	Only during 1942.
9. Bihar	Nil.	
10. Bombay	Nil.	
11. Assam	Nil.	
12. Coorg	Nil.	
13. Travancore (State)	517.16 (rectified spirit)	No production during 1st September 1942 to 31st December 1942.
14. Jaora State (C. I.)	Nil.	
15. Bhopal State (C. I.)	72.9 (rectified spirit)	June 1942 to December 1942.
16. Mysore State	64.772 (power alcohol)	September 1939 to December 1942.
17. Hyderabad State	3,66,186 gallons (power alcohol)	1939 to 1942.

Information promised in reply to parts (a), (c) and (d) of Starred Question No. 390 and Starred Question No. 391, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Ahsan) on the 29th March 1943.

MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM APPRENTICE PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 390.—(a) 3 and 8 respectively in 1935 and 2 and 4 in 1942. There was no recruitment from 1936 to 1941.

(c) No.

(d) Of those apprentices appointed in 1935 who have so far been absorbed permanently, two Hindus completed their training on 15th March, 1938 and 23rd May 1938 and were appointed permanently on 26th May 1938 and 1st August 1940, respectively; two Muslims completed their training on 28th November 1938 and 7th February 1939 and were appointed permanently on 23rd December 1938 and 18th June, 1942, respectively.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF QUOTA OF ASSISTANT PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON THE BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 391.—(a) Only posts of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors are filled by the promotion of Head Mates.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Yes, through a misunderstanding on the part of the Railway Administration who have now been instructed to apply the rules regarding reservation for minority communities in making appointments of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 25, asked by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi on the 26th July, 1943.

DESIRABILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A MOSQUE IN THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, DEHRA DUN.

(a) So far as can be ascertained, no sum was ever allotted for the construction of a mosque or other religious building at the Indian Military Academy.

(b) No mosque exists at present in the Academy and no representation has been received from Muslims regarding difficulty in offering prayers.

(c) The nearest places of worship for all communities are in Dehra Dun which is five miles distant, and every cadet has an opportunity of visiting a place of worship at least.

once a week if he wishes to do so. In the circumstances, Government do not propose at present to undertake the special construction of religious buildings within the Academy.

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 41, asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto on the 27th July, 1943.

LETTER-BOXES REMOVED BY RIOTERS AND POSTAL AUTHORITIES DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES.

Letter-boxes removed by rioters and those withdrawn by Postal authorities during the recent disturbances in the Provinces of Bihar and Orissa :

Number of letter-boxes damaged or removed by rioters ...	235.
Number of letter-boxes withdrawn by the Postal authorities. ...	24.
Number of letter-boxes replaced by the Department so far ...	126.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 120, asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 30th July, 1943.

COMPLAINT AGAINST DEPUTY CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER FROM THE SUB-HEADS IN TRAFFIC ACCOUNTS BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

It is understood that a telegram alleged to have been sent by the Sub-heads in September, 1941, contained the complaint referred to by the Honourable Member. As regards the second part the reply is in the affirmative. As regards the last part, the complaint was baseless.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 122, asked by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, on the 30th July, 1943.

CASH AND SMALL COINS RECEIVED FROM SALE OF PASSENGER TICKETS BY EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

(a) Cash receipts by the East Indian Railway from the Booking Offices selling passenger tickets under the account "Railway Fares" were as under :—

June 1941.	June 1943.
Rs. 54,31,932	Rs. 75,17,041

(b) It is not possible to give correct figures of small coins received under the heading referred to in (a) above as the small coins received at stations are not recorded separately for passenger and goods traffic. However, the value of small coins received on all accounts is given below :—

June 1941.	June 1943.
Rs. 1,54,560-9-0.	Rs. 12,102-0-0.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 168, 169, 170 and 171, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon on the 3rd August, 1943.

DUTY-FREE INDUSTRIAL COLOURED SALT AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN SIND.

No. 168.—(a) No. No monopoly was given to any particular salt works at Maurypur. All the salt works there were free to manufacture coloured salt and to apply for the concession. Only one firm claimed it as they alone at that time had evolved a process for manufacturing such salt for the purpose of curing or preserving fish.

(b) One other Company entered the field in February, 1940 but the salt manufactured by them was sold at a low rate only from November, 1941.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) Does not arise.

DUTY-FREE INDUSTRIAL COLOURED SALT, AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN SIND.

No. 169.—(a) The rules were revised in the light of the experience gained of the scheme and with a view to guarding against abuse of the concession and in the interests of Government revenue.

(b) A few representations to this effect have been received.

(c) Government have no information on the point.

(d) There are natural deposits of salt in certain areas on the Sind Coast but the Customs Launch patrolling the coast does not guard or exercise any control over these deposits.

(e) No complaints have been received from any fishermen that there has been any harassment by the Customs Preventive Staff on patrol duty nor has any action been taken by the Customs Preventive Staff against any fishermen for attempted smuggling of natural or white salt. The scheme is still in the nature of an experiment and the question of making it permanent will be considered in due course.

(f) Yes.

(g) The matter is under consideration.

DUTY-FREE INDUSTRIAL COLOURED SALT AND HIDES AND SKIN MERCHANTS IN SIND.

No. 170.—(a) Yes. The issue of coloured duty-free salt has been agreed to recently with a view to assisting poor fishermen. Issues of salt for industrial purposes are governed by separate rules and the issue of salt to hide and skin merchants is governed by these rules.

(b) No. All indents of January or February 1943 put in by local salt merchants have been complied with.

DUTY-FREE INDUSTRIAL COLOURED SALT AND HIDES AND SKIN MERCHANTS IN SIND.

No. 171.—No.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 178, and Starred Question No. 179, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 4th August, 1943.

MUSLIM DEMAND OF REGULATING PROMOTIONS ON COMMUNAL BASIS.

No. 178.—(d) Government have seen the letter referred to, which has been correctly quoted.

(e) Government understand that in the Watch and Ward Department of the E. I. Railway the practice was in vogue of adjusting promotions by communities in order to maintain discipline in this semi-military force. The practice has now been abandoned and promotions are made without regard to communal considerations. The particular promotion complained of has been reviewed and no change is considered necessary.

GRANT OF INCREMENTS FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE CONFIRMATION TO A STATE RAILWAY NON-GAZETTED SERVANT.

No. 179.—(b) The rules at present followed on the Allahabad and Lucknow Divisions are the same. During the years 1936—1941, however, owing to a misapprehension, the Lucknow Division continued to follow an earlier rule which permitted guards to be placed on the incremental scale only on the occurrence of permanent vacancies; the Railway is considering whether any adjustment in the position of staff dealt with in the Lucknow Division during this period is possible.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 232, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 6th August, 1943.

DESIRABILITY OF STOPPING THE PUBLICATION OF THE INDIAN INFORMATION.

Average monthly expenditure incurred on Indian information.

	Rs.
1. Printing	4,108
2. Despatching	2,046

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 250, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 9th August, 1943.

TEMPORARY TRACERS IN THE OFFICE OF DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, KARACHI.

(a) Nine in all: 2 since 1934, 3 since 1939 and 4 since 1942.

(b) There have not been permanent posts against which these men could be confirmed.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government do not propose to do anything in the matter, since there is no necessity for increasing the number of permanent posts.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 254, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman on the 9th August, 1943.

PERSONS RECRUITED IN INTERMEDIATE GRADE ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

(a) Information as to the number of persons recruited to intermediate grades on the East Indian Railway between January 1942 and June 1943 is not readily available. The number of persons recruited to intermediate grades during the period from 1st October, 1941 to 31st March, 1943, was 24, of whom 18 were appointed temporarily.

(b) Out of these twenty-four, three were Muslims, 3 Hirdus and 10 Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans.

(c) and (d). Ten posts were filled after advertisement in the newspapers and in accordance with the rules for direct recruitment. 13 ex-employees of the Burma, E. I., G. I. P. and O. & R. Railways were absorbed; and one specialist's post was filled on the recommendation of the Director-General, Munitions Production.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 257 and 260, asked by Hujee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 9th August, 1943.

REDUCING OF TICKET COLLECTORS TO LETTER DELIVERY CLERKS BY THE
DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, MORADABAD.

No. 257.—(a) (ii) and (iii). The letter of 25th March, 1935 referred to by the Honourable Member is not traceable. In 1935 and 1936 six Ticket Collectors who failed to pass the periodical test for the fourth time were reduced to the post of Letter Sorter in the grade of Rs. 18-1-27 and not to the post of Letter Delivery Clerk in the grade of Rs. 26-2-40, as the latter posts had been abolished. Subsequently, some posts of Letter Delivery Clerk were revived and the pay of the ex-Ticket Collectors was re-fixed in those posts with effect from 1st October 1938.

(b) Government do not propose to take any action as the staff have suffered no wrong.

CONTRACTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF GRAINS TO EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SERVANTS.

No. 360.—The terms of the contract with Messrs. Ballabhdas Eswardas and other contractors for selling commodities in Grain Shops on the East Indian Railway are:—

(1) The contractors are responsible for all handling and cartage charges from reserve grain depots to grain shops or Railway siding to grain shops if taken direct, or local *mandi* to grain shops if purchases are made locally.

(2) The contractors are responsible for the salaries of the staff.

(3) The contractors bear liability for wastage, etc., during the time they transport the commodities and during sales.

(4) The contractors are required to pay for the goods on delivery, to return empty containers and furnish grain shop accounts to the administration.

The selling commission is As. 8 per maund for all contractors except Messrs. Ballabhdas Eswardas who are paid As. 10 per maund for the reason given in the reply to unstarred question No. 53 asked on the 9th August 1943.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a message from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General to be communicated to the Legislative Assembly. The message runs thus:

“Members of the Assembly,

It is customary for a new Viceroy to address both Houses of the Indian Legislature at the first opportunity. I have decided to depart from precedent, and shall deliver no address during the November Session. My reasons for this decision are first that whereas my predecessors assumed office in April and were able to devote several months to the study of the Indian situation before an opportunity of addressing the Legislature occurred, I assumed office in October, less than three weeks before the opening of the November Session; and secondly that for the time being my energies must be very largely devoted to the study and treatment of the food problem—a matter upon which I do not feel that I could make a comprehensive statement in the immediate future. It is my intention to address both Chambers at an early stage of the Budget Session of 1944.

(Sd.) WAVELL,

Viceroy and Governor General.”

STATEMENT RE METHOD OF TAKING VOTES BY DIVISION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question was raised again by more than one Member at the last Session whether the President when he is of the opinion that the Division is unnecessarily claimed and decides to take the votes by asking the Members who are for ‘Aye’ or for ‘No’ to rise in their places, should have the names recorded of those who vote one way or the other. I have, therefore, considered the matter once more. Standing Order No. 30 (2) leaves the method of taking the votes by Division to the discretion of the President and, as is usual in such cases, the Presidents of the Assembly beginning with Sir Frederick Whyte have followed closely the practice of the British House of Commons in the matter. There, if the Speaker or the Chairman is of the opinion that the Division is unnecessarily claimed, he takes the vote of the House or the Committee by calling upon the Members who support and who challenge his decision to rise in their places and thereupon as he thinks

fit, either declares the determination of the House or the Committee or names tellers for a Division (House of Commons Standing Order 31). The number of the voters is not even announced to the House by the Speaker who simply announces the decision. In the Assembly, however, some Members have at times shown a keen desire in such cases to have the names taken down of those who voted for them or against them and on two or three occasions the President acceded to the demand. But on investigating the matter further in 1939, I found that the practice generally in the Assembly was in accordance with that of the House of Commons, that is, not to record the names of voters and I have ever since acted accordingly. It is obvious that otherwise the very object of this method of taking votes would be frustrated. The President would not depart from the ordinary method of having votes recorded in the Division Lobbies unless he was satisfied in any particular case that there was a clear preponderance of opinion in support of his declaration and against the challengers.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SPEAK ON INDIA'S WAR EFFORT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice of motion for adjournment of the House from Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. He wants that the "business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unwise decision of the Government of India to send non-official gentlemen selected by it to undertake a tour abroad in Great Britain and United States to speak on the War effort".

I should like to know what the facts are.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): This question arose after the last Assembly Session. It appears from the proceedings of the Council of State that this question was casually referred to in answer to the reply to Question No. 2, in the other House put by Pandit Kunzru.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What has happened?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What I know is this: that some gentlemen whose names were announced were selected to go round the world. They are now undergoing training in the Secretariat where nobody seems to take any notice of them, as I understand from newspaper reports. I suppose they are undergoing some sort of training as to how to lecture and so on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But what is the objection?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The objection is so far as selection and also as regards the time when this tour is undertaken. If Government wanted propaganda to be carried on as regards war efforts of India, they could have done it long before. Now the whole world knows about India's war efforts. The Secretary of State referred to it the other day. Even His Excellency Lord Wavell referred to it. Where is the necessity to send these gentlemen abroad and thus waste taxpayer's money on a propaganda which is not necessary at present. As regards selection, they have taken up some gentlemen at random. It was pointedly asked whether several organisations would be asked to nominate persons who should be sent, and the reply was that the whole matter was under consideration. Further question was asked whether the members of the delegation would make comments and defend the actions of the Government of India, the reply was that the whole matter was under consideration. Now, Sir, these gentlemen are supposed to go round and speak on war efforts, and they are at liberty to make comments and defend the actions of the Government of India, they may be repressive actions or all sorts of actions at present taking place in this country.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, the motion is so vague that it is very difficult to deal with it. We do not know whether the objection is as regards the selection of non-official gentlemen or selection by the Government or against the decision to send them to speak on war efforts. In either case the position is perfectly clear. It is for the executive to take action, as it has done. This is not a new policy that we have enunciated. This has been done from time immemorial. Such selections have been made by the Government and they are entirely responsible for sending this delegation out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The contention is that it is a waste of money to send them out now.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I submit the war is going on now and the Government are satisfied that there is a tremendous lot of information with regard to war efforts which has to be placed before the public of America and England.

An Honourable Member: This is on the merits of the question.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Because this point was raised, I have to meet that point. I submit the question whether the decision is wise or not cannot be the subject matter of a motion for adjournment. It is a matter purely of opinion. What I submit is this. It is not a matter of urgent public importance because we have simply followed the policy which we have followed in the past. When Government decide to send people abroad, they have to make the selection themselves.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are not the Members of this House entitled to say that the selection was not rightly made or the step taken was not the right one? Are not these matters of public importance to be discussed in this House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I submit respectfully, not, because we have simply followed a procedure which has already been followed in the past. This is nothing new. We have arranged tours for various purposes and it is for the Government of India to decide whether these tours are necessary or not. They have done nothing new which may form the subject matter of a motion for adjournment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the motion is in order. If selection of this character has been made before by the Government without consulting any public bodies, it does not conclude the question. The question that has been raised is that in this instance, the sending of any nominees of the Government to speak on war efforts is not justified and that the selections have not been properly made. I hold the motion in order. The motion will be taken up at four of the clock, or earlier, if the business of the House is finished.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, intimation has been received that the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the 12 Noon. Indian Legislature during the Monsoon Session, 1948, have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935:

1. The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1948.
2. The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1948.
3. The Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Amendment Act, 1948.
4. The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Amendment Act, 1948.
5. The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (Amendment) Act, 1948.
6. The Reciprocity (Amendment) Act, 1948.
7. The War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1948.
8. The Delhi University (Amendment) Act, 1948.

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION).

PETITIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, under Standing Order 78, I have to report that fifteen petitions as per statement laid on the table have been received relating to the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd March, 1943, by the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed.

Petitions relating to the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd March, 1943, by the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed.

Number of signature.	District or Town.	Province.
15	Nagpur	Central Provinces.
13	Benares	United Provinces.
3	Nagpur	Central Provinces.
265	Durbhanga, Purnea and Monghyr	Bihar.
45	Muttra	United Provinces.
168	Calcutta	Bengal.
170	Gauhati	Assam.
1	Calcutta	Bengal.
184	Lyallpur	Punjab.
130	Burdwan	Bengal.
160	Calcutta	Bengal.
9	Gonda	United Provinces.
31	Muzaffarnagar	United Provinces.
44	Mangalore	Madras.
72	Calcutta	Bengal.
1,310	Total	

AMENDMENTS TO THE BRITISH BALUCHISTAN MOTOR VEHICLES RULES.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of notification No. 1525/35-40/M.V., dated the 24th July, 1943, issued by the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan under section 21 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (VI of 1939).

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BALUCHISTAN.

NOTIFICATION.

Quetta, the 24th July 1943.

No. 1525/35-40/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 21 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (VI of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules 1940, published in the Notification No. 347/M. V., dated the 1st April, 1940, printed at pages 841 to 982 of the *Gazette of India* Part II-A, dated the 27th April 1940:—

1. After Rule 2.4(c) the following shall be added:—

"(d) No fee shall be charged for the test if the applicant satisfies the licensing Authority that he previously held a license granted or renewed under any provision of law which was in force in British India at the time it was granted or last renewed, to drive a vehicle of the class to which the application refers and was prevented, by reason of absence out of India on service connected with the present war, from obtaining or renewing a license in accordance with the provisions of the Act, on the expiry of the previous license."

2. After Rule 2.19 add the following as Rule 2.20:—

"2.20. A refund of Rs. 2 out of the license fee of Rs. 5 shall be granted if the applicant satisfies the Licensing Authority that he previously held a license granted or renewed under any provision of law which was in force in British India at the time it was granted or last renewed and was prevented, by reason of absence out of India on service connected with the present war, from obtaining or renewing a license in accordance with the Act, on the expiry of the previous license."

By order,

H. D. RUSHTON,

Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan.

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION).

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, I present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to make certain provision for appeals in criminal cases tried by a High Court exercising original criminal jurisdiction.

THE INDIAN TEA CONTROL (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938 (*Second Amendment*).

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938 (*Second Amendment*)."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (*Second Amendment*).

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (*Second Amendment*)."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell (Home Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN COMPANIES. (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913.

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

• "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DELHI UNIVERSITY COURT.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):

Sir, I move:

"That the elected members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, a further four persons from among their own number to be members of the Court of the University of Delhi in pursuance of clause (xiv) of sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Delhi University Act, 1922 (VIII of 1922), as amended by the Delhi University (Amendment) Act, 1943 (XXIV of 1943), read with clause (5) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University set out in the Schedule to the latter Act."

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

"That the elected members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, a further four persons from among their own number to be members of the Court of the University of Delhi in pursuance of clause (xiv) of sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Delhi University Act, 1922 (VIII of 1922), as amended by the Delhi University (Amendment) Act, 1943 (XXIV of 1943), read with clause (5) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University set out in the Schedule to the latter Act."

The Motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Court of the Delhi University the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 noon on Wednesday the 10th November and that the election, if necessary, will take place on Saturday, the 13th November, 1943. The election which will be held between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M. in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, New Delhi, will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SPEAK ON INDIA'S WAR EFFORT.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn for the purposes of my motion. I propose to read just a few lines from the Questions and Answers in the Council of State

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I might remind the House that the debate will not exceed two hours.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I will be very brief and I will only read such portions as are necessary to follow the debate and which will help the Members who propose to take part in this discussion.

Sir, the following Questions and Answers were exchanged in the other House:

The first reply to a question was:

"Government are considering the question of inviting a few non-official gentlemen to undertake a tour abroad to speak on the war effort.

Q. Will they be expected to defend the policy of His Majesty's Government towards India and the actions of the Government of India?

A. I have stated what their functions will be. They are going to speak on the war effort.

Q. So they will not be expected to speak on any other question or they will not be permitted to speak on any other question?

A. That is my information at present.

Q. May I take it that they will not be permitted to speak on any other question than the war effort of India?

A. The whole question is under consideration.

Q. Will they be expected to speak on the war efforts of India in accordance with any brief that might be prepared for them by the Government of India in this connection?

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

A. I do not see any harm in that.

Q. It is not a question of harm. I want to have the reply on a question of fact—whether that is the intention of the Government of India.

A. As regards the war effort, I suppose facts and figures will be supplied by the Government of India.

Q. Will they be expected to state only the facts supplied by Government or will they after stating the facts be at liberty to comment on them?

A. They will certainly be at liberty to make comments. The persons chosen will be absolutely reliable from the point of view of the war effort.

Q. How is the selection going to be made.

A. As I said, the whole question is under consideration."

What has happened is this: We gather from the newspaper reports that the Government itself have selected a few persons and those gentlemen are being trained for the purposes of this tour abroad to speak on war effort. To all intents and purposes they will speak according to the wishes of the Government but they will be at liberty to say what they like while making comments. Those remarks may not be only restricted to war efforts, but they may be advanced in justification of the actions of the Government of India. We know what the actions of the Government of India are and what is going on in this country. Will they justify the repressive measures adopted by the Government, the ill-treatment, at times the most inhuman treatment that is meted out to the political prisoners? Perhaps they will try. There is nothing to prevent them from doing so; there are no restrictions that they should not speak on these subjects.

Having made these preliminary remarks, I come to another point: Where is the necessity at this stage of sending these gentlemen abroad for broadcasting the war efforts of India? Has anybody denied that India has made no war effort? Has anybody ever said that India did not rise up to the occasion and did not do what was expected of her? So far as my information goes everybody has said that the efforts made by India are more than sufficient. Persons who have come from foreign countries—whether Americans or British—have all said the same thing. The M. P. who came here sometime ago used to say openly at the time of interviews that the sacrifices of India in the matter of war efforts were terrific. What other certificate could this country have so far as the war efforts are concerned? Mr. Amery has several times praised the war efforts of India, and similarly the present Viceroy during his public speeches in London has always said that the war efforts of India were excellent and nothing better could be expected. When everybody has praised and nobody has ever said in Great Britain or in the United States of America that India has made no war effort or the efforts made by her are not up to the mark, is there any necessity of sending these gentlemen for propaganda abroad.

Then, Sir, may I ask whether any other country has sent out delegations like the one we propose to do? Has any delegation, say, from the United States of America, come here to advertise their war efforts? Did Great Britain do so? No. they did not. The whole world knows what each country is doing. In the absence of anybody denying our war efforts and in the absence of any such example of any other country, I am of the opinion that there is no necessity for a group of persons from India to carry on this propaganda.

Sir, as I have said, these gentlemen will not merely speak on war efforts. The ostensible purpose given out is of course 'speeches on war efforts', but from the Questions and Answers which I have just read out it is apparent that the real purpose of the Government of India is to justify its actions before the outside world. They think that because the whole world is not with them and because some people in some countries, like the United States of America and others, are pressing for better rights and for a better constitution for this country, these gentlemen should go abroad and carry on propaganda. A few gentlemen were sent sometime ago also. They were not sent to carry on any cultural education or to enlighten other countries about the Indian civilization, but, I suppose, they were sent to speak about war effort. We know very well that those gentlemen not only

carried on the propaganda of the Government, but communal propaganda also. One of them said that so far as the constitution of this country was concerned, it was just as good as the American constitution:

• There is another aspect which we have to see. It would be interesting to know whether these gentlemen who would be going abroad would be speaking to open gatherings or would they be addressing a limited audience collected by invitation. Let them not forget that in every part of the world—be it Great Britain or the United States of America—there are Indians—I do not wish to say anything about the abilities and capacities of the members of the delegation; they may be very good—who are more able than these gentlemen, and if they are allowed to address public meetings they will find themselves in a very hot place; they will not feel comfortable to answer the questions. As a matter of fact I have heard that one of the gentlemen, who is an Executive Councilor now, when he was going about in America saying that India had the same constitution as America, a lady, who is very well known—Mrs. Kamla Devi Chattopadhyaya—addressed one of the meetings. Afterwards the result was that she was not allowed to speak at any of the meetings which was addressed by any of these gentlemen who had gone abroad.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): Who is the Executive Councilor you are referring to?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I do not know whether it would be fair, but I could let you know privately.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Neither is the Executive Councilor.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: If you are insistent I will tell you. It was Sir Firoz Khan Noon. He said that the constitution of India was as good as the American constitution. So let us take this fact into consideration. (An Honourable Member: "You are wrong. We have a better constitution.") That part of the Act which provides for repression and suspension is better.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Where is the constitution? It will be coming after this war.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am confining myself to the remarks of that Executive Councilor. I am merely saying that if these gentlemen want to educate they should be thoroughly prepared to answer these questions that will be put not only by Indians but by Americans who have seen this country and gone abroad and by the Englishmen who have come and seen things for themselves. Therefore, I say, that there is no necessity why we should be spending, as I have read in the newspapers I think, Rs. 60,000 on each person. I suppose he gets it or the money is spent on him.

Sir, we have an Information and Broadcasting Department which is in the hands of a very able person, who is expanding the Department in all its sections, male as well as female, and the lady at the head happens to be a very capable person who has also toured the country once. Now why cannot this Department send literature? Have you got no literature which can speak for the war efforts of this country?

Recently there was a cry all over this country and the American journalists carried the news of the scarcity prevalent in Bengal and the mortality that prevailed there to America. This Information and Broadcasting Department issued a statement saying that India was making every effort to provide Indians in that part with food. If they think that the United States or other countries may think that the Government of India is not managing things properly and that things are so bad that the sympathies of other countries may naturally be drawn to India, which thing very likely they do not like, then why don't they follow the policy which they themselves are following in the case of food. Why don't they issue communiques or pamphlets or literature for the purpose of broadcasting? I submit that it would be a better thing, if your purpose is merely to carry on the war propaganda, to send pamphlets or literature giving only the idea of the war efforts of this country which has been repeatedly done in England and America. I can tell my friends that the Indian Army and

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

Indian Air Force pilots particularly receive more publicity in American magazines than in any advertisement given by the Department concerned here.

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I move:

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind): Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I rise to support this motion. The main question is whether it was necessary to send any deputation to countries outside and America in particular so that the people there might know whether India was doing her war effort or not. By this time it is fully known, not only to America but even to our enemies also that India is doing its utmost in the war effort.

The next question is whether this war effort is being properly advertised or published. I submit that there are several ways by which it is being done. America and every country is being kept informed of what is happening here. It is done by pamphlets, by papers and especially by the All India Radio and by the B. B. C. Therefore, there was no necessity for this deputation. On the contrary if the money that is being spent on it had been kept for food for famine-stricken Bengal, it would have been money well spent. But this is the governmental way of doing things, which however is not on behalf of the public but on behalf of Government and countries should know that what is being done is not according to the dictates of the representative Government of the country.

Then, Sir, the question was put in the Council of State whether these gentlemen would be propagating the war effort or any other matter also. The first answer was that it was under consideration. Of course it was, but meanwhile Government had not consulted any public body, nor even the Legislature nor any responsible people who could have given them advice on the point.

It went under consideration and what happened? The second answer was that they are left at liberty to say anything. That prejudices the case of India. They may be packed off from here to go and say that everything is all right in India. There is no discontent, no food scarcity and no deadlock in India. The people in America will be inclined to believe this deputation because they will say that it is from India, unless there is counter-propaganda there, which you have not allowed. Propagandists may say the truth on behalf of the Government and not on behalf of the public. Therefore that is a wrong way of doing it. Further, if they are at liberty, they may go and say anything they like; the information that is now going there may be countered and the people there may say "Here are these men from India who say that everything is all right there". People there will thus be misled. If at all any one had to be sent, they should be sent after consultation with public bodies or at least with the legislature. But here they select their own men and call them reliable persons. Reliable how? We do not know; a person may be reliable from the Government point of view but not according to the public point of view. From that point of view the selection is very bad and it prejudices India. It brings India into contempt with those people there who do not know the truth about India. Therefore, it is condemnable.

First of all they said that the nominations were under consideration; but did you consult anybody at all? We know your methods of consideration. You consider things in your own light and for your own purposes, not for the purposes of the public. In that way also, the nominations are not right and proper. I have no information as to why these people have been selected, but perhaps the Honourable Member on the other side will tell us if any Members of this House and the other House have been selected or not. If they have been so selected, then the case is much worse against the Government. They may have selected our members; very good; but who are they? Are they reliable persons from our point of view? Have they got any instructions from us? They can go and speak for themselves, but what right have they to speak for this

Legislature? What can they say? They may say "I am a Member of the Council of State or of the Legislative Assembly". Then the people there will say "These are people who can be believed". Is that a proper way of doing things? I think the Government is adding fuel to fire by such actions, and the country will say that the Government is not only not responsible but it is doing things which are most condemnable and reprehensible. If these people had to be sent at all, it would have been wise, or at any rate, commendable to some extent, if they were told "Speak on no other matter except the war front". But they may go and say anything there—for instance, the constitution, the matter which is under deadlock now. If they were to speak on that, do you not think that we will be wholly prejudiced in the eyes of those people? If that liberty is given to them, there may be certain backdoor instructions to go and say other things also. Do you not think that if they were to speak at this critical moment, when people are dying in thousands and thousands and more are destitute, and Government is not able to give them food, if they were to go and say "It is all right now; food is coming from this side and that", it would not be proper at all. Therefore I would ask the Leader of the House whether this is the time to do these things. If they must send any one, they must have sent proper representatives so that the people there may know what things are like here, and any thing else is merely propaganda. I need not say more. At this critical moment Government should not have blundered like this. I support the motion.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, the proposition before the House is that this motion seeks to condemn the Government of India for sending three or four people abroad, obviously to whitewash the sins of omission and commission of the Government of India. The only justification which the Honourable the Leader of the House can put forward is that the executive has been doing it from time immemorial. Is that the only justification for sending these gentlemen abroad? What will they say? If you want to say anything, the press correspondents of the world are next door here; tell them, and they will send out whatever you want to say; but if you want to say anything which is questionable, that you dare not say in India, then, all right, send these people who will whisper and who will tell the American people that the Government of India is a people's representative government, that Mahatma Gandhi was sent to jail by a Government composed of Indians. Will they say this? Will they say that the Indian Press is all muzzled, that the leaders of India are shut up in jails? Will they say that the country is governed by Ordinances, that the present Government of India does not enjoy the confidence of the public? If they say that, then send a delegation elected by the elected Members of the Central Legislature. If you are prepared to face that sort of propaganda, then send a duly constituted delegation which can really be the voice of India. I have nothing against these gentlemen personally; but I presume these gentlemen will be the agents of the perjured publicity organisation of the present enlarged Government of India. What will they say? Will they tell the world outside that Lord Linlithgow and the Governor of Bengal are responsible for the deaths of thousands of Indians? They dare not say that. Will they tell the world that Lord Linlithgow and the Governor of Bengal should be publicly impeached before the bar of public opinion for making this muddle, for bungling like this in Indian politics? They are responsible for these deaths of thousands; they are responsible for this deadlock which is continuing, and for this mistrust in the country. Will they tell all these things? Or will they tell them that there are Indians on the Viceroy's Executive Council, that the country is governed by Indians themselves? If they say that, they will be lies and white lies by which they want to mislead the world outside. . . (*An Honourable Member*: "Black lies!") Whether it is black lies or white lies I do not mind. (*An Honourable Member*: "Brown lies!") What is the position in the country? I welcome this opportunity that the Government of India is prepared to face the glare of publicity. Come along, select proper representatives of India. Let the representatives of the people go abroad and tell how this country is being governed, how this country is being misgoverned, how the Government has bungled in every sphere, how

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they bungled in the food crisis, how they bungled in the handling of the political situation,—how they have bungled in every sphere of Governmental activity. Are the Government prepared to face public opinion? Can the Government of India tell that they enjoy the confidence of any section of public opinion in this country? During the last twenty-five years of public life I have never seen so much mistrust, so much irritation and so much dissatisfaction in this country as is now found to-day against the Government of India. If the Government of India are prepared to send a delegation outside and if they have to tell the world what will do any credit to them, by all means send a delegation composed of representatives of the real people of India. Otherwise, there is no use sending such a delegation as will simply carry on a propaganda against the people of India, as will spread lies, as will tell different stories that the people of India are quarrelling amongst themselves, that the people of India are being governed by the Government of India which is representative and so forth. Will they tell the world how ex-Premiers, ex-Ministers, and Members of Legislatures are being treated in jails? Will they tell the world how the greatest man of the world, Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion under consideration relates to war effort.

Sardar Mangal Singh: This is part of the war effort. They have shut up Mahatma Gandhi as part of the war effort. Will they tell the world that Indian leaders are not even allowed to come together to discuss and settle their political and communal differences? Will they tell the world how villages after villages have been destroyed during the last year when they began to suppress the Congress movement? Will they tell the world how thousands and thousands of our countrymen are shut up in jails without trial and how they are being treated? Will they tell these things? I am sure they are going there to throw dust into the eyes of the world and to praise the Government of India—that they are nice people, they are very good gentlemen, they can make after-dinner speeches and so on? This will amount to defamation of my country. I cannot approve of such an act on the part of the Government of India and I therefore support this motion. I hope and trust that all elected Members at least will vote for this motion and condemn this action of the Government of India. Sir, I support the motion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): May I suggest that the House may sit till this motion is finished instead of adjourning for lunch at quarter past one? I have consulted Leaders and they are agreeable.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is the general desire of the House, the House will sit till this adjournment motion is finished.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I feel happy that I have got an opportunity to clear up a few misconceptions which seem to surround this lecture tour. I have got another satisfaction. After I listened to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's speech I felt happy that the war efforts of India were fully appreciated by all sections of people in this House. But I would like to tell the House how the question of sending a delegation to the United Kingdom and America arose.

Late in 1942 we received an intimation from our Agent General in America that it was necessary to send a delegation of people, who had actually seen the war efforts in munitions production factories and other factories, to go over and give a first hand view of the position of war efforts in this country.

An Honourable Member: Why?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: In 1943 the Ministry of Information in England, made a proposal to the same effect and we could not possibly tell both of them that we would not send any delegation from here to explain our war efforts. That would have been an impossible position for any Government to take. We therefore decided after full consultation with His Majesty's Government through the Secretary of State and with our Agent General in America to send this delegation.

The misapprehension that this delegation will go and lecture on politics must be cleared up. The lecturers have been definitely instructed not to utter one word about politics, and if they are asked to say anything they must say, that they have come there only to explain the war effort.

An Honourable Member: What are the instructions?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The instructions are that they must go and tell them what has been done in the shipyards, in the munitions factories, in the textile factories, about recruitment and so on. These things will have to be explained and explained fully. Instructions have been given to them to this effect, and indeed one of the members of the delegation, when speaking at a function in Bombay, made it perfectly clear—his speech was reported in the press—that the delegation was going there simply to explain war efforts and no more. They are expressly asked to avoid politics and not to give any expression to their views in public or in the press.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is the question of food scarcity excluded from politics?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Let the Honourable Member go on with his speech.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question also arose as regards expenses and I am happy to inform the House that the expenses of their tour in England will be borne completely by His Majesty's Government. As regards the question of expenses of travel from here to the United Kingdom and the United States of America, it has yet to be settled. As to expenses incurred in India in order to gain a knowledge of the various things which are being done—the question of apportionment of those expenses is still under consideration. I, therefore, submit that the Government of India had no alternative but to send this delegation when they were told that it was necessary that India's war effort should be explained more fully and more specifically by people who had first hand knowledge of these efforts. They had no choice and they would have failed in their duty if they had refused to comply with the request made. (Interruption.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Let the Honourable Member make his speech.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The delegation consists of four people, all of them according to us are men who are competent to speak. They have received three weeks instructions if you may so call it, three weeks experience, they paid visits to different factories in Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and other places. I have absolutely no doubt that they are men of experience, they are men of knowledge, and they will not go and say anything which they are definitely asked and prohibited from saying. It has been said that they are receiving instructions from various departments in the Government of India. The four men had been here only for the last 3 or 4 days and they are leaving tomorrow night. I do not think they can get much instruction from various departments except two or three departments like the Supply Department or the Commerce Department and my own Department of Information and Broadcasting. I do respectfully submit that considering the position that we were in, we had to comply with the request of the two Governments.

I may also mention that the field of selection was very limited. Whatever may be said here on the floor of the House as regards the participation of certain sections of the people of this country in war efforts, I am sure the House will recognise that it was difficult for the Government to have a very wide selection. We have done the best that we could and I submit that we are fully justified. I hope that by their action, by their speeches and by their conduct in England they will raise the status of India and they will not in any way compromise the position of this country. I submit that this motion may be rejected.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I listened to the Honourable Member defending his case. As far as I know, I do not think that anybody has ever doubted the great war efforts which India has made during this war. They have been reiterated on many occasions by responsible persons in the House of

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Commons, by the Commanders-in-Chief, and different personalities and by the Viceroy in his speeches. There is no doubt whatsoever about India's war efforts. When it is said that two million people have been recruited in a short time, that shows clearly what efforts India has made. The only thing which my Honourable friend has emphasized is that enlightenment in America was to be made in regard to what has been done in munition factories, textiles and ship-yards. I think if public speeches are made in America on these subjects and broadcasted, they will do great harm by giving information to the enemy, instead of serving any useful purpose. These are things which ought to be kept secret, even from those people who have no internal knowledge.

Then, Sir, if the idea was to enlighten the factory owners and the industrialists in America and the proceedings were to be kept confidential, then the best thing to do would have been to select some mechanical engineers for this purpose. If your idea is to select politicians whose business had been to edit certain newspapers or certain people who have got no other experience except this that they have no many occasions differed from public opinion and sided with the Government—if this is the only qualification—then I think it is sheer waste of money and the selection of these men, by reason of their character and their antecedents, is going to result in the greatest misrepresentation of India. I know that there is a strong public opinion in America, in England and other countries that India's war effort would have been far greater than what it has been up to now, if the Government had taken into confidence those parties who were willing to co-operate with the Government but they have been excluded for certain political reasons. There is a suspicion on this side that the Government has chosen to send those very people who have been speaking against public opinion to whitewash all these things. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by this delegation and I do not think it will be wise to send any messengers from here, as demanded by the Agent General of India in America. The Agent General has seen these very places. He has been Executive Councillor and Secretary to Government for many many years. He has got first hand knowledge of India's war efforts. He can speak with better authority than the people who have been allowed to peep into the factories for three weeks, as to how many labourers are there and so on. These people had a joy ride for three weeks in India and then they will have a joy ride to England and America. This will be meaningless. They will have to face public opinion there and when public questions are put to them, they will fail and that will be the greatest blow to India's war efforts and India's claims. We wanted that India's claims should be represented by people with first hand knowledge, as the Honourable Member has himself admitted but he destroyed his very case by saying that he has selected these people who have no first hand knowledge at all and who are going to be trained now. This is not first hand knowledge. If he had chosen Sir Guthrie Russell or somebody else, then one can understand Government's case that they have selected men with first hand knowledge but the men chosen by the Government are not the men who, he can say, possess first hand knowledge.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member said that the expenses will be borne to a great extent by the British Government and that certain expenses will be borne by this Government. Well, I do not see what was the necessity for the British Government to bear all these expenses of four persons going to lecture on behalf of India, as to what war efforts India is making. We want to show the British and the American peoples that India would have contributed far greater efforts if the Government had chosen to accept the co-operation of those who were willing to give their co-operation and whose co-operation was not accepted.

Another point I could not understand is this. The Honourable Member, after receiving this demand from the Agent General in America, at once consulted the Ministry of Information in England. Why did the Honourable Member ignore this House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We did not consult the Ministry of Information. I did not say that. What I said was that we received requests both from the Agent General in America and the Ministry of Information through the Secretary of State.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am sorry I understood him to mean that he consulted the Ministry of Information on receiving this request. Anyhow, it was the first duty of the Government members, when they receive requests like this, that they must place the matter before this House, which is the House of the representatives of Indian opinion. Even if a section of the House is absent, there are others. As long as this Assembly is carrying on its work as it has been constitutionally framed, it is the duty of the Government to place this matter before this House and get their opinion. If they had appointed these people after getting the sanction of this House, then there could be no objection but the Government has acted in different manner and we are sorry we cannot support the action that has been adopted by Government. Even if the people would not talk on politics, we do not think it will serve any useful purpose. We think that will create lot of misapprehension in the minds of the people whom they are going to address on India's war efforts. We therefore cannot support this action of the Government and we support this motion.

Honourable Members: The question be now put.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Mr. President, the question before the House is whether it is necessary to
 1 P. M. publicise the war effort of India in the two countries, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The minor question thereafter is whether the delegation that has been chosen is the proper delegation.

Let me deal first with the minor question. It is impossible for any Government at any time, whatever the nature of the Government may be, to justify the personnel of any delegation that an Executive chooses. The only kind of delegation that may stand justified, at least so far as criticism on the floor of the House is concerned, is the delegation which is elected by the House itself. If it is a question of an Executive constituting a delegation, then I have no doubt that my friends will realise that there will always be criticism from one point of view or another, criticism of one person or another as not being properly chosen. I have, therefore, characterised the question of the personnel of the delegation as a very minor issue indeed. My Honourable friend the Leader of the House has also pointed out the restrictions and inhibitions under which the Government of India had to choose the delegation. He referred to the fact that the choice was necessarily limited owing to considerations beyond the scope of the Government itself. Into that I need not enter.

Honourable Members: What are those limitations?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have had the opportunity to a certain extent of being responsible for recommending the choice of a delegation only a few months back and I am aware of the limitations under which I had to work and the restrictions under which those gentlemen who were invited to serve on the delegation had to work.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it a fact that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai actually sent a cable asking the Government of India not to send such a delegation?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Which delegation is the Honourable Member referring to?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The delegation which is under consideration now.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not correct and it is hardly necessary for me to say that. My Honourable friend cannot have sources of information which are not available by Radio or Cable-gram or any method of communication that may exist between Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and the Government of India.

Let me come to the major question. Honourable Members take the line that there is no need at all to publicise the war effort of this country either in

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the United Kingdom or in the United States of America because our war effort is widely well-known and because everybody realises that India has made a great war effort. In fact, according to my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, India has made as great a war effort as could have been made in any circumstances whatsoever. (*Honourable Members*: "No, No.") that is what the Honourable Member said. Now, Sir, I do not think it is fair for Honourable Members who have had no opportunities, due to no fault of theirs, of understanding the position either in the United Kingdom or in the United States of America to suggest that the war effort of this country is widely well-known. If for a moment they concede that it is necessary in the interests of this country and of the Government of India that the actual amount of war effort that has been made by this country should be known in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, then the question whether it is now widely known there or whether there is still so much of ignorance in those two countries that they do not properly appreciate it, is a matter which the Government of India with the sources of information at its disposal is better competent to judge than Honourable Members who, as I said through no fault of their own, are not in a position to judge how much is known in these two countries. Mails, correspondence, newspapers are all too scarce. You cannot get a newspaper from England today. Only a few have got that privilege of reading some of the rare newspapers that come. Air communications are very limited. Sea communications are even more precarious and a question here and there by a Mr. Sorensen or a Mr. Cook is not, I venture to say, the real test of the public opinion of the United Kingdom. Much less is known of the opinion in the United States of America. I have ventured to rise in this debate because I have felt from personal experience the need for propaganda on behalf of the Indian war effort, particularly in the United States of America. Little is known of what India has done and let me assure the House that it is necessary that the United States of America should know of the war effort not because it will bring credit to the Government of India and not because the Government of India wants to advertise its part in this war effort, but I venture to state and I hope Honourable Members will agree, if not openly at least tacitly, that it is of the utmost importance that the part that this country has played and the part the labourers and workers of this country have played in the production of the munitions and the contribution which the capitalists and industrialists have made to help the war effort and also the part played by gentlemen belonging to all classes of people irrespective of their political discontent or dissatisfaction, should be known for the good of the country itself. At the Peace Conference various countries will come forward boasting of the efforts that they have made in this great war. At the Peace Conference many nations and their delegates will talk of what they have done in this war. I venture to say that this country has done at least as much as the United Kingdom or the United States of America taking into consideration its resources, its manpower, the facilities that were available at the beginning of the war and the facilities that could possibly have been developed during the years of the war. This country has done at least as much as any other country or any other people who are fighting on the side of the Allies. That is a fact of tremendous importance for the good of the country and not for the prestige of any Government. That is a fact that is going to stand in good stead when decisions are going to be made at the Peace Conference. Some Honourable Members may ridicule the idea because according to them nothing good is going to come out of any International Conference. I realise that pessimistic frame of mind that some Honourable Members have. I realise that that is an obsession with some who feel that nothing good will come out of any war efforts. I personally do not take that view. I, therefore, think as an Indian we ought to express what we have been able to do and we should tell the people of other countries what this country has been able to achieve.

I have found in my recent tour in America the greatest amount of ignorance of the scope and activities of the Indian war effort. From place to place, from

audience to audience, I have gone about and was amazed at the ignorance. Even so is the case with the United Kingdom whose people say they have a direct responsibility for the Government of this country. They have shown almost equal ignorance in matters connected with India and the Indian war effort. It is the realisation of this fact that has made the Governments of the two countries ask that through Indians themselves they should know the part that India has played in the war effort. What is the good of sending Sir Guthrie Russell as my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, suggested? What is the good of sending any official who will be suspect of putting forth only the views of the officials or putting forward the views on behalf of the officials? Let the gentlemen who know the conditions in the country and who have been able to study the conditions in the country—and it does not require them to go about from factory to factory, though it may be the finale of their education but as gentlemen who have played their part in industrial efforts, as one or two of these delegates have done, in politics as one or two of these have done, in journalistic and other ventures, as one or two of them have done,—let these gentlemen go forward and tell from their personal knowledge, not gathered in three weeks, but gathered in as many years after the war has broken out what they feel about this war effort what India has done and is doing, how much it has strained its resources, how much its people have responded to the call of the Allied Nations and to the call of democracy for which we are supposed to fight this war. I venture to think that this is of inestimable value to the cause of India and it is from that point of view that the delegation has been chosen. I came to the conclusion myself when I was in America that repeated delegations ought to go from time to time from the Government of India, of the people of India and of Indians only so that they will tell the people of America what is being done. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend may ridicule the whole idea. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan just suggested seriously that men like Sir Guthrie Russell could be sent. My Honourable friend does not realise that Indians should really speak for India's war effort. I have already said that the question of selection of personnel of any delegation is a very difficult question. Will Honourable Members at least agree with me that it is a matter of such importance that the Government of India should send some delegation?

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Elected by this House, if necessary.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If Honourable Members do not agree on the first fundamental question, then the question of personnel need not bother any of us at all. I have been trying to show, from my own experience, from the experience of others, from the knowledge and experience of our own Agent General in Washington, that it is necessary that there should be publication of the war effort of this country in America. Honourable Members say that they are satisfied that all publicity is there and that they need not bother about it. When I turn round and see that some of my Honourable friends in this House have not got an adequate appreciation of what has been done in this country, either on the industrial side or on the military side, that our own countrymen have not got a proper realisation of what has been done in this country, then I venture to think that they are not the proper judges of what Americans know or what the Britishers know in these matters. If therefore it is conceded, as I hope it will be conceded by some at least that there is need for publicising the part that India has played in this great war, the stresses and strains through which India is passing—somebody referred to the food situation—well, that may be part of the case for war effort which has been going on in this country and I can easily visualise its connection with war effort itself, or as a consequence of some kind of war effort that has been going on in this country. This morning there was a question of the need for greater release of consumers goods to the civilian population, again an indirect by-product of war effort that this country

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is making. These are matters which will have to be placed before other countries who are thinking that they alone are making the greatest sacrifices and that others are not making the same amount of sacrifices.

An Honourable Member: Who is concealing all these facts from us?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not a question of this being concealed. It is a question of being revealed in proper terms, in adequate measures to those who have no knowledge and those who have no idea of what is going on here. Has any one here any idea of what is going on in America? Does any Englishman know here, has he any idea of what is happening in his own country during the war? If that is so, do you mean to suggest that Americans, most of whom have never visited this country, or that Englishmen, most of whom have had no opportunity of coming to this country during the war, know exactly what is happening in India. It is merely a question of trying to convey first hand knowledge through some people of what is actually happening in this country, and how far war effort is being carried on by the industries themselves. Somebody said why not avail of the American correspondents in this country and ask them to put before their countrymen all these matters.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Or cinema films.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I know we can use a great many artists both from within and outside this House, but they are not all available, at any rate they are not at the disposal of the Government of India. Anyhow we have to use only those artists who are available to us either from this House or from outside.

Somebody said why not rely on American correspondents to send news from this country about war efforts of India. I would only like to have that question put to any journalist whether any journalist is prepared to be used, particularly by the Government. When a matter is given by the Government, surely there will be the greatest objection for any journalist to use it as such. After all the American journalists have got their own ideas of what to send and what not. They have their own views as to how much should be communicated to their countrymen having regard to the difficulties about cable and so on. If I know anything about American gentlemen, they would have nothing except hot news gathered on the spot. But these are more mundane matters of long policy, matters, comparatively speaking, which will interest only certain classes of people and it is necessary that these matters should be conveyed by our own representatives directly. I therefore suggest that the House should come to the conclusion that the idea of giving publicity to the war effort of India in America and in England is of vital need to this country and that the Government of India have done the right thing in taking an opportunity to send delegates to convey the facts to those wider audiences.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, the arguments advanced by the two Honourable Members of the Government of India leave us absolutely unconvinced. While the Honourable Member for Information was pleased to tell us that part of the expenses which will be incurred in connection with this delegation in Great Britain will be borne by the Government of the United Kingdom, he was careful enough, not to tell us as to who will bear their expenses when they are actually travelling in America for which country they are primarily meant. I have been informed, and I hope I have been correctly informed that when these gentlemen are travelling in America, it will be given out that they are travelling at their own expense and not at the expense of the Government of India, and that they are non-official representatives of Indian public opinion

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: May I know who gave this information? I do not know where my Honourable friend got this information. It is not in fact correct.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable Member himself knows that it is not correct.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member himself admitted if I heard him correctly that it has not yet been decided as to who would bear that part of the expenses of the delegation which relates to America. However, this was the information which I received from somebody who was closely connected with the delegation, and it would not be politic to name that gentleman. They were expected to give out that they were travelling at their own expense. If the Government of India had been a responsible Government like the ones we have in other Allied countries, we would not have objected to their sending out a delegation to America to throw light on the war efforts of this country. But we notice that in this country we have an irresponsible executive. Therefore it is the duty of the representatives of the people to see that they are not allowed to do things without open and timely criticism, which would in any way convey some wrong idea about the feelings of the people of India. Now, Sir, the greatest objection to the sending out of this delegation is that it would not represent the true state of feelings in this country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not a question of feeling, but war effort.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: As regards war effort, they would deliberately misrepresent facts, suppress facts, and give expression only to half truths. If the Government are very anxious that the delegation should visit America to inform them about our war efforts, has it ever occurred to Honourable Members of this Government that so far other free countries like America, Russia, China, England, have never thought of sending out any delegation to this country to inform us about their war efforts or tell us what they have been doing in the cause of the United Nations. If these free countries do not think it necessary or proper to send a delegation to this country, why should the Government of India be so anxious to advertise their war efforts in the United States of America? Sir, I should like this Government to do one thing, and it is a suggestion which I make in all seriousness, that instead of sending out this delegation send out an invitation to the United States of America, to the Russian Soviet Union, to the Chinese Government, to send out delegations to this country with absolute freedom and full facilities to see things for themselves, to see what the Government of India and the Government of Great Britain have done in this country which has resulted in the frustration of the maximum war efforts which this country could have put forth. If such delegations were invited, and allowed to go round to see things for themselves, they would find out the many acts of omission and commission on the part of this Government which have been really responsible for the frustration of the genuine war effort of this country. They should be taken to the prisons of India where the elected representatives of the people are kept behind the prison bars without any trial, at least most of them; and even now in my province the Government of India refuse to release 12 Members of the Assembly who have been put in prison, while they have thought it proper to release a number of other prisoners. If they are allowed to go to Bengal which is behind the fighting line they would see that people are dying of starvation as a result of the maladministration of the British Government, and of their agents in India who are sitting here right opposite,—that thousands and thousands of people are dying of hunger in a province which is the richest and the most fertile in this country and where excellent means of communication exist in the shape of waterways to take round food from one place to another. It is the gravest example of maladministration, that behind the firing line, and in close proximity to the place where the actual battle is going on, there should rage a famine and hundreds and thousands of people die of starvation. Is not this a case of frustration of real war effort? Will you allow people from outside to come and see this aspect of your activities? I have been informed that certain orders have been passed under the Ordinance on newspapers in Calcutta not to publish reports about the famine and not to send out information to other parts of India or abroad as

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]
to what is happening in that province. If people are allowed to come with these delegations they will see for themselves that these arrests of people, and detention of thousands of people without trial, the shootings and bombing of innocent crowds from the air, affairs which have blackened the name of Government like the affair of Chimur in the C. P. where the honour of our womenfolk was violated

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell (Home Member): Sir, I deny that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: You may deny it but we are not going to take our instructions from you.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is diverting to all sorts of subjects. He must confine himself to the war effort.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: These are things which cause resentment in the minds of our people and if these delegations are invited to this country they will see things for themselves.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no such question now before the House. The Honourable Member should confine his remarks to the subject of this motion.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I submit that it is absolutely wrong and monstrous on the part of this Government to send out a delegation of people who are not known in this country, who do not represent anybody,—like the present Government of India, to misrepresent facts when they have already got an Agent General there whom they can supply with facts and figures. The radio is there and the American press is there. After all it is not asserted that India is cut off and that there is no communication between here and Washington. They can send out all the information they want; but they want to send out Indians and they have selected people who can be counted upon not to state the truth or at least to state things which the Government of India want them to state. The Honourable the Leader of the House would have us believe that they have given instructions to these gentlemen not to say anything about politics. But while these people who have received some money or will receive some money and will go and speak on the war effort may be loyal enough to carry out the instructions issued by my Honourable friend opposite, may I know whether the Government of India have got power to enforce those instructions on the American people? Do the Government of India take it for granted that the American audiences will be absolutely blank and will not ask any questions about politics—which is the burning topic of the day? Certainly questions will be asked and answers will be given and no one in this country, because of censorship, will know anything as to the activities of these so-called representatives who are being sent out from this country.

Therefore, Sir, I and my Party support this motion and we condemn the action of the Government of India in sending out a delegation of people who represent nobody, in order to misrepresent facts about this country.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

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

“That the question be now put.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I have heard all the arguments and I have very little to say in reply. I was trying to get some of the cuttings which I had arranged but which were not available to me because of the time at which the discussion of this motion has been taken up. I casually referred in my opening remarks to certain Members of Parliament from England who came over here and who said that there were terrific sacrifices on the part of India in the war effort. I think it was the Conservative M.P. Mr. Stillwell who reported to this effect. Then we have reports of speeches in London given by *Reuter*, and it was Major-General Molesworth who said that India's

efforts are prodigious. What more sacrifice do you want? We are already told that India's efforts are terrific and prodigious. Is anything more wanted? Then I referred to certain efforts which can be made by the Agent-General as well as the Broadcasting Department, and I referred in my opening speech to a certain effort made in the matter of food. I said that the Americans were certainly under the impression that the Government of India were doing nothing to solve this food problem and the press said all sorts of things against the Government of India and their mismanagement of things. There was a message from Washington dated October 29 that the Government of India through the British Information Service have issued a statement that efforts to help Bengal by sending food from surplus areas is already bearing fruit, etc. In other words, they can issue statements like this to dispel any wrong impression which may be there. This they did because they saw that American sympathies were strongly drawn towards India, that they were saying that the people's cooperation should be enlisted and the only way to seek that cooperation was to have a sort of national Government or a Government representative of the people. The Government here issued a statement before; why cannot they issue another statement in this case too? Why cannot their Agent-General and other persons either in America or in Great Britain do it? They can send literature, and all sorts of statements. These gentlemen will make speeches and attend social functions but when questions about Indian politics are asked they will say that they cannot say anything about politics. What impression will these winged but muzzled people create there? Think of your own men going to other countries and saying, when questions are put to them, "our Government has asked us not to say anything even in social functions; we are tied down." What is the earthy good of sending such people abroad? In reply to a question in the Council of State it was stated that these gentlemen will be free to comment and they would be free to make any speeches. If they are invited to speak on the political subject, they should do so. They cannot say, "We cannot speak on this matter". Think of these people—representatives of India—not answering questions of which they are expected to have full knowledge. If they are unable to address those meetings, what will the people think of such representatives—not of us, but of the Government of India? Sir, I strongly condemn this action of the Government of India and I hope the House will support me in my adjournment motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—43.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.

Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.

Abdullah, Mr. H. M.

Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.

Banerjea, Dr. P. N.

Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.

Choudhury, Mr. Abdur Rasheed.

Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.

Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.

Das, Pandit Nilakantha.

Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.

Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.

Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.

Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.

Gupta, Mr. K. S.

Habibar Rahman, Dr.

Hans Raj, Raizada.

Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.

Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.

Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr.

Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.

Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.

Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.

Mangal Singh, Sardar.

Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.

Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.

Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.

Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.

Neogy, Mr. K. C.

Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.

Parma Nand, Bhai.

Ramayan Prasad, Mr.

Raza Ali, Sir Syed.

Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.

Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.

Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.

Umar Aly Shah, Mr.

Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.

Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.

Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—39.

Abhyankar, Mr. N. G.	Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.	Piarc Lall Kureel, Mr.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy,
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.	Richardson, Sir Henry.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.	Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.	Spear, Dr. T. G. P.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.	Spence, Sir George.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.	Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
• Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.	Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Habibur-Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.	Thakur Singh, Major.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shampuddin.	Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
• Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.	Tyson, Mr. J. D.
• Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer-Hajee.	Wakely, Mr. L. J. D.
• Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.	Zahid Husain, Mr.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.	Zaman, Mr. S. R.
Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.	
Miller, Mr. C. C.	
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.	

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 9th November, 1948.