

28th July 1943

TO

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

Volume III, 1943

*(26th July to 25th August, 1943)*

### EIGHTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

### FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1943



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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## *President:*

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

## *Deputy President:*

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

## *Panel of Chairmen:*

[From 27th July to 19th August, 1943.]

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Mr. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

Mr. HOOSEINBOY A. LALLJEE, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

[From 20th August, 1943.]

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Dr. P. N. BANERJEA, M.L.A.

Sir F. E. JAMES, M.L.A.

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## *Assistants of the Secretary:*

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Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

## *Marshal:*

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

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Mr. M. GHIASUDDIN, M.L.A.

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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

# CONTENTS

Volume III.—26th July to 25th August, 1943.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>MONDAY, 26TH JULY, 1943—</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY, 28TH JULY, 1943—</b>	
Members Sworn . . . . .	1	Member Sworn . . . . .	121
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	1—24	Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	121—50
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	24—36	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	121—54
Death of Mr. Naoroji Dumasai . . . . .	36—37	The Indian States (Protection against Disaffection) Amendment Bill—Motion to continue adopted . . . . .	154
Motions for Adjournment— Refusal of the Government of India to forward Mahatma Gandhi's Letter to Mr. M. A. Jinnah—Ruled out of order . . . . .	37—38	The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Motion to continue adopted . . . . .	154
Refusal of permission to Mr. W. Phillips to see Mahatma Gandhi—Disallowed by the Governor General . . . . .	38	The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Applica- tion (Second (Amendment)) Bill—Motion to continue adopted . . . . .	154
Depriving certain Local Governments of their Power to control Foodstuffs within their respective jurisdiction— Leave refused . . . . .	38, 39	The Usurious Loans (Amendment) Bill— Motion to continue adopted . . . . .	155
Failure of the Governor General's Council to protest against Legislation by Ordinances—Disallowed . . . . .	39	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amend- ment) Bill—Motion to continue adopted . . . . .	155
Misadministration in distribution of Wheat—Not moved . . . . .	39	The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amend- ment) Bill—Circulated . . . . .	155—58
Failure to bring in circulation sufficient number of small coins—Ruled out of order . . . . .	39—40	The Removal of Hindu Social Disabilities Bill—Introduced . . . . .	158—59
Failure to put into operation the Recip- rocity Act against the Colonial Africans residing in India—With- drawn . . . . .	40	The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill —Introduced . . . . .	159
Failure to supply First-Aid Equipment, medicines, etc., on the Mail Train which collided with goods Carriages at Borgaon near Akola—Negatived . . . . .	40—41, 42—58	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	159
<b>H. E. the Governor General's Assent to Bills . . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>	The Removal of Political Disabilities Bill —Introduced . . . . .	<b>159</b>
Amendment to the Insurance Rules . . . . .	41—42	The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill —Introduced . . . . .	159
Amendments to certain Motor Vehicles Rules . . . . .	42	The Members of the Central Legislature Payment of Salaries Bill—Introduced . . . . .	159—60
The War Injuries (Compensation Insur- ance) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . . .	42—43	The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill —Introduced . . . . .	160
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . . .	43	<b>THURSDAY, 29TH JULY, 1943—</b>	
The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill— Introduced . . . . .	43	Member Sworn . . . . .	161
The Public Debt (Central Government) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	43	Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	161—74
The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	43	Postponed Question and Answer . . . . .	174—76
The Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Amendment Bill—Introduced . . . . .	43	The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill— Passed . . . . .	176—77
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amend- ment) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	43	The Reciprocity (Amendment) Bill— Motion to consider adopted . . . . .	177—78, 181—90, 191—95
The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Amendment Bill—Introduced . . . . .	43—44		190—91
The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (Amendment) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	44	Statement of Business . . . . .	
The Reciprocity (Amendment) Bill— Introduced . . . . .	44	The Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Amendment Bill—Passed . . . . .	178—80
The Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill —Referred to Select Committee . . . . .	44—48	The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill—Passed . . . . .	180—81
<b>TUESDAY, 27TH JULY, 1943—</b>		The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amend- ment) Bill—Referred to Select Com- mittee . . . . .	196—97
Member Sworn . . . . .	59	The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Amendment Bill—Passed . . . . .	197—201
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	59—72	The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (Amendment) Bill—Passed . . . . .	201—02
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	72—81	<b>FRIDAY, 30TH JULY, 1943—</b>	
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	81	Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	203—10
Motions for Adjournment re— Deaths by starvation in Orissa—Dis- allowed . . . . .	82	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	211—14
Refusal to allot a day for discussing Government's Monetary Policy— Ruled out of order . . . . .	82	Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	214—16
Policy of the Railway Board in giving Dearness Allowance not by increasing salaries—Disallowed . . . . .	82	Condemnation of the cowardly attack on Mr. M. A. Jinnah . . . . .	216—21
Forfeiture of Security of the Hindustan Disallowed . . . . .	82—83	Motion re the recent Paggung Legislation in South Africa—Adopted as amended . . . . .	221—54
Failure to commit non-official opinion on the International Clearing Union Scheme—Ruled out of order . . . . .	83—85	<b>MONDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Judicial condemnation of the Bombay Government's method of dealing with the sabotage movement at Nandurbar —Ruled out of order . . . . .	85	His Excellency the Governor General's Address to the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly . . . . .	255—66
Excessive inflation of the Paper Cur- rency—Ruled out of order . . . . .	85—86	Member Sworn . . . . .	267
Nomination of the Panel of Chairmen Resolution re treatment of Political Prisoners and Detenus—Negatived . . . . .	86—120	Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	267—85
		Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	286—88
		Statement laid on the Table . . . . .	288
		Declaration of Exemption and Notifications under the Registration of Foreigners Act . . . . .	289—92
		Summary of Proceedings of the Third Meeting of the Standing Labour Com- mittee . . . . .	292
		The Reciprocity (Amendment) Bill—Dis- cussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	292—309
		<b>TUESDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
		Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	311—24
		Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	324—27
		The Reciprocity (Amendment) Bill— Passed as amended . . . . .	327—33
		The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill —Discussion on the motions to consider and to circulate not concluded . . . . .	333—68

	PAGES.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	359—74
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	374—78
Committee on Petitions . . . . .	378
Statement of Business . . . . .	379
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	379—414
<b>THURSDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	415—83
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	433—35
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> deaths due to starvation and famine condition in Bengal—Ruled out of order . . . . .	436
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	436—69
<b>FRIDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	471—83
Unstarred Question and Answer . . . . .	483
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> deaths due to starvation in Bengal . . . . .	483—85
Declaration of Exemption under the Regi- stration of Foreigners Act . . . . .	486
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	485—516
<b>MONDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Member Sworn . . . . .	517
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	517—27
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	527—29
Message from the Council of State . . . . .	529
Statement of Business . . . . .	529—30
Interim Report of the Railway Convention Committee . . . . .	530—33
Motion <i>re</i> the Food Situation—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	534—74
<b>TUESDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	575
Motions for Adjournment <i>re</i> — Loss of Life due to Floods in Ajmer— Disallowed . . . . .	575
Raid by the Delhi Police on the Premises of <i>The Hindustan Times</i> —Ruled out of order . . . . .	575—76
Motion <i>re</i> the Food Situation—Concluded . . . . .	576—621
<b>WEDNESDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Member Sworn . . . . .	623
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	623—31
Unstarred Question and Answer . . . . .	632
Message from the Council of State . . . . .	632
Secret Session . . . . .	633
<b>THURSDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Transferred Starred Questions and An- swers . . . . .	635—58
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	658—59
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> failure of Government to secure attendance of Government Members for constituting a quorum in the Assembly—Ruled out of order . . . . .	659—61
Resolution <i>re</i> — Pilgrimage to the Hedjas—Negatived . . . . .	661—82
Stabilization of Prices—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	682—97

	PAGES.
<b>FRIDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	699—701
The War Injuries (Compensation Insur- ance) Bill—Passed . . . . .	701—24
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	724—40
Statement of Business . . . . .	740
<b>TUESDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Member Sworn . . . . .	741
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	741
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> failure to prevent export of rice from Bengal— Ruled out of order . . . . .	742—43
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	743—80
<b>WEDNESDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	781—617
<b>THURSDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	819—58
<b>FRIDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	859—61
Nomination of the New Panel of Chairmen . . . . .	861
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	861—95
<b>SATURDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Motions for Adjournment <i>re</i> — Demolition of a Mosque on Asoka Road, New Delhi—Disallowed . . . . .	897
Non-release of Maulana Hafizul Bah- man detained in Moradabad Jail— Ruled out of order . . . . .	897—98
Message from the Council of State . . . . .	898
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded . . . . .	898—935
<b>TUESDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Member Sworn . . . . .	937
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Serious Food Situation in Bihar due to purchase of Foodgrains by Government for Export —Ruled out of order . . . . .	937—33
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Discussion on consideration of clauses concluded . . . . .	938—76
<b>WEDNESDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 1943—</b>	
Short Notice Questions and Answers . . . . .	979—81
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	981—83
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> failure to transport Government purchased Wheat from the Punjab to famine-stricken East- ern Provinces—Ruled out of order . . . . .	983—84
The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill— Passed as amended . . . . .	984—1018
The Public Debt (Central Government) Bill—Circulated . . . . .	1018—19

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 28th July, 1943.

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

## MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS.

#### CURRENT YEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE.

**54. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state if Government propose to make arrangements for pilgrimage to the Hedjaz this year? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Government communiqué, dated the 22nd July, 1943, on the subject which has been published in the press. I place a copy on the table.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANS OVERSEAS.  
New Delhi, the 22nd July, 1943.  
PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ.

The Government of India have seen statements in the press to the effect that it has been decided to permit a Haj pilgrimage this year from India. These statements are entirely without authority. While it is the desire of Government that a Haj should be arranged if at all possible the final decision must depend upon factors beyond Government control. No decision has yet been taken. The Muslim public may rest assured that as soon as a decision is reached it will be given wide publicity.

**Kunwer Hajee Ismaiel Ali Khan:** The Government communiqué is not very clear. Do the Government intend to send pilgrims this year?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Government have not taken any steps.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Will the Honourable Member be in a position to say when a definite opinion will be expressed by the Government, because the communiqué only says that the Government is trying to make some arrangement?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Very shortly.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** What are the difficulties anticipated by the Government with regard to the performance of the Haj? If there are certain secret things not to be divulged in the House, will the Government take the Haj Committee into confidence?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Yes, we will attempt to do so as far as we can.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Has any special officer been appointed by the Government? If not, who is being consulted in these matters?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Government has to consult various Departments.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has any officer been appointed, because we understood one was appointed?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No, Sir. Not yet appointed.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Do Government know that it is the general desire among Muslims that they should be allowed to perform the Haj and that there is a general resentment among the public in view of the present impasse?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Government are aware of it.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** What steps are Government going to take in order to remove the present state of feeling?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** They will issue a communiqué and explain the position as far as they think fit. They have not taken any decision yet.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Is there any truth in the report that as the Scindia Shipping Company is to take a share in the business of the Haj traffic, the Turner Morrison object to making any arrangements for the Haj? Have the shipping companies any say in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I want notice of that question. It does not arise.

#### CATTLE PURCHASED FOR SUPPLYING MEAT TO THE AMERICAN FORCES IN INDIA.

**55. \*Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:—

(a) the number of cows and bullocks required to be supplied to the American Forces stationed throughout India, monthly;

(b) whether the American Forces purchase food, meat etc., for themselves directly or through military contractors;

(c) if there is any specific condition for the supply of any particular kind of cattle to them for slaughter;

(d) if it is a fact that the American Forces insist on getting only such cows and bullocks as are young and in their prime;

(e) if it is a fact that certain regular cattle fairs, where agriculturists generally buy their cattle, have been abandoned by their organisers, because they were afraid that good cattle may be forcibly bought by the military contractors for purposes of slaughter; and

(f) if it is true that agriculturists are finding it difficult to buy good bullocks owing to the forcing up of prices by the heavy buying of the Forces of the United States of America at any price; and if this has not affected the "Grow more Food" campaign, due to the lack of the required number of good bulls in the hands of the agriculturists of the Punjab, the United Provinces and Bihar?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The information asked for by the Honourable Member cannot be published.

(b) American troops in India are supplied with meat by the Royal Indian Army Service Corps, who purchase through military contractors.

(c) No.

(d) The American Forces do not receive cows or bullocks, as such, but meat. Purchases of meat made for them by the Royal Indian Army Service Corps are made according to the instructions issued by the Government of India, whereby working cattle and cattle in their prime are not accepted or tendered for inspection.

(e) Government have made inquiries but have received no information of any cattle fairs having been abandoned for the reason mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(f) The agriculturists' difficulties are not attributable to the cause suggested by the Honourable Member. The prices of all livestock have increased in sympathy with the general trend of prices. Specific factors have been increased costs of feeding the brisk demand among the cultivators themselves who have a reduced range of commodities on which to spend their unusually abundant resources, transport difficulties and restrictions on movement and, in some areas, a shortage of stock following on a series of rainless seasons. The Governments of the Provinces mentioned by the Honourable Member consider that there is no general dearth of bullocks in those provinces now as compared with normal times and that the 'Grow More Food' campaign has not been affected by any bullock shortage except in a few localities in the United Provinces.

**Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Does the Secretary know that the prices of bullocks have gone up from Rs. 200 per pair to Rs. 1,200; and it is beyond the means of the agriculturist to buy them at this price? And if they cannot substitute

their cattle, then how can the 'Grow More Food' campaign be brought to a successful end?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I do not deny that the cost of cattle has gone up. At the same time that is to some extent met from the cultivators' point of view from the price he is getting for his produce.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether the Government will make any special effort to save the milch cattle, and whether milch cattle is included among the working cattle?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Milch cattle cannot be purchased by the Royal Indian Army Service Corps for slaughter.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Is the rise in the price of the bullocks from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,200 due to the general rise in prices, or is it due to the shortage of bullocks in the country? Because if there is a shortage in the country, that will continue after the war, and if it is due to the general rise of prices, it may decline as soon as the war is over.

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Our information is that there is no such shortage of bullocks. In those areas where there have been bad seasons, there is a shortage.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** May I know whether the supply of beef to the Military Department has been given to a Hindu Bengali at Calcutta?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member, please repeat his question.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that the supply of beef to the Military Department has been given to a Hindu contractor in Calcutta?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I do not think that arises.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Regarding part (f) of this question (because the first part is very general) have Government enquired from all the provinces regarding the difficulties of securing bullocks?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** No, Sir. We addressed the three provinces quoted in the question of the Honourable Member.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Did the Government enquire that in the Bombay Presidency there is a scarcity of bullocks?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** No, Sir. The question did not refer to the Bombay Presidency.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** The first part of this question is a general question. The latter is specific. Has Government made full enquiries from all the provinces?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** We enquired of the three provinces referred to in the latter part.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Government . . . . .

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

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member give the reasons for refusing to supply statistics asked for in part (a)?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Security reasons.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Well, does the Honourable Member realise that the replies so far given will go to confirm the apprehensions in the minds of the public, unless the statistics are furnished? Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a specific report which has appeared in a very respectable journal to the effect that in Gaya alone the number slaughtered is 4,000 a day?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I have not seen the report.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Is the Honourable Member aware that as a part of the publicity campaign carried on by the National War Front, the agriculturists are being advised to dispose of their surplus cattle?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I was not aware, but there is not much doubt that India has a surplus of cattle.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member give us statistics to show as to whether the present policy of the Government is to conserve the minimum

cattle necessary in the different areas, and is the Honourable Member going to satisfy this House that the policy referred to in this question will not in any way affect the minimum number of cattle that it is absolutely essential for carrying on agricultural operations?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I think that Mr. Neogy himself has a question on this point.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** But you will refuse to answer that by refusing to supply statistics.

**Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Have you fixed any control over price for purchase of cattle by the army people? Secondly, I would like to know what you call workable cattle and what you call unworkable cattle— have you fixed any age limit? Have you fixed any weight for the cattle, have you fixed any other indication by which it may be understood that these are workable cattle and these are not workable cattle? My information goes to show that cows which were giving milk, good cows, have been bought for slaughtering purposes . . . .

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

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** So far as prices go, this department is not responsible for them. So far as age goes, an age of ten years has been fixed.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member this? He is not definite as to by how much the price has increased. Does the Honourable Member admit that it is from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,200?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I was not asked by how much prices had increased and I have not got the information here.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Did Government receive any representation from any organised associations regarding the number of cattle slaughtered and scarcity of cattle or agricultural bullocks?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Yes. We have received one or possibly two such representations.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE PEGGING BILL.**

**56. \*Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas be pleased to place on the table the correspondence that passed between the Government of India and the Government of South Africa on the Pegging Bill which was recently passed in South Africa?

(b) Did the Government of India invite the attention of the British Government on the subject and request them to interfere on behalf of the Government of India? If not, why not?

(c) What retaliatory steps do Government propose to take against the Government of South Africa?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) The correspondence between the Government of India and the Union Government on the Pegging legislation recently passed in South Africa is confidential and cannot be published.

(b) His Majesty's Government were made aware of the correspondence with the Union Government and of Indian sentiment in the matter.

(c) The question is under consideration.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member if Mr. Amery has said that the British Government will not interfere in that matter?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I am not aware of it.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** In view of the fact that a discussion on this subject is to take place day after to-morrow, will Government be pleased to circulate the documents bearing on the subject to the Members of the Assembly?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether the Government of India does not want an intelligent discussion on this subject?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** They want discussion. That is why they have given a special day for it.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** If they want discussion, will they reconsider their attitude and circulate the documents for information of Members of this House before the debate takes place?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I regret that I am unable to do so as certain documents are confidential.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** They may not circulate documents which are confidential, but they may circulate documents which are not confidential.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** All are confidential.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Then how can any discussion take place?

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** We can hear neither the answer nor the question.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** How can we discuss if all documents are confidential?

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Do I take it that correspondence is still going on on this subject between the Government of India and the Union Government of South Africa, or has it ceased?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I regret I cannot answer that question.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** The latter part of (b) is, "Did the Government of India request the British Government to interfere on behalf of the Government of India?". Was any request made or not made?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** The reply specifically was, "His Majesty's Government were made aware of the Indian sentiment in the matter."

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Was this sentiment communicated to His Majesty's Government and was His Majesty's Government requested?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** It was communicated.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Will the Honourable Member give replies in such a manner that the other side may hear?

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** I think the Honourable Member ought to speak up.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** May I suggest that the Honourable Member may be permitted to occupy the Front Bench at least temporarily, so that we may hear his answers to questions?

(The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare then took his seat on the Front Bench.)

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will that make any difference to the answer?

#### RATIONED NEWSPRINT QUOTA OF THE WEEKLY AND DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

57. **\*Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the maximum and minimum quantity of newsprint allowed to a single weekly and daily newspaper under the rationing system?

(b) Is it a fact that to some of the newspapers even a full ream is not allowed?

(c) Has it been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member that a newspaper cannot continue its publication under this quota?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) The highest monthly ration of a single weekly newspaper is about 27 tons and of a single daily newspaper about 26 tons. The lowest monthly ration allotted to a newspaper is 10 lbs.

(b) Yes.

(c) The smaller newspapers were generously treated under the graduated scale of cut which was brought into force, with the agreement of newspapers' interests, with effect from April 1943. Under this graduated scale, bigger newspapers were allotted only 45 per cent. of their "basic consumption" while the smaller newspapers were allotted 100 per cent. of their "basic consumption".

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, why is the answer, Yes?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** Because, Sir, that is a fact.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Is it a fact that Government is not in possession of sufficient newsprint as to give the number that is asked for, or do the Government purposely not give the number required?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I should have expected after so many years of war that everybody could understand that position.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** But the point is whether Government is in possession of the quantity or not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** If Government were in possession, Government would not have stored newsprint with a view not to give it to the newspapers.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** In that case why is not a sufficient number given to the newspapers?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I am afraid, in spite of my loudest voice, the Honourable Member has not been able to catch my answer.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** With reference to the answer to (c), there are definite instances where vernacular papers are given less quota, say, about 60 per cent., but the Honourable Member has just said that 100 per cent. quota is allowed.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** As I have said, the principle is fair arrangement for all in accordance with certain arrangements which have been made with the newspapers concerned. It is difficult for me to answer a general point like this, but if any specific question is asked or I am written to about a specific newspaper, I promise to look into the whole matter.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Fair arrangement implies that quotas have been fixed. If so, what is the quota for this particular newspaper?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I do not know what newspaper the Honourable Member was referring to. I have said, a graduated scale of cut. For example, it stands to reason that a newspaper whose circulation is only 100 or a newspaper which is only consuming about 20 reams should not have its quota cut to the extent that a newspaper with a very large circulation in the country can have. We have therefore to go by certain fair standard, which is the graduated scale that has been introduced.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Is there any committee co-ordinating with the Controller who makes this allotment?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** There is no definite committee attached to the Controller as far as I am aware. But when these arrangements were made newspaper interests were consulted, and at every stage we are trying to consult the newspaper interests concerned.

#### SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARD CLOTH.

**58. \*Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the actual quantity of the Standard Cloth supplied to the different provinces?

(b) Has it been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member that the quantity supplied to the different provinces so far does not satisfy the public demand?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the methods adopted to distribute the Standard Cloth are very unsatisfactory?

(d) Do Government propose to increase the quantity of the Standard Cloth, and to revise the methods of its distribution?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) 28.6 million yards.

(b) Yes, but the quantities being supplied are rapidly increasing.

(c) No.

(d) Government have placed orders for the supply of 1,150 million yards for delivery in equal monthly instalments to be completed by January 1944. With the coming on the market of cloth hitherto hoarded, Government feel that substantial relief will be afforded to the people and therefore that no increase in the quantity of Standard Cloth ordered for the current six monthly period is necessary.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Has the Honourable Member fixed the time and place for the exhibition of this standard cloth?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** We have not fixed any place for exhibition but if it is the desire of any Member, I will be prepared to make some arrangement to give a demonstration of it.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I was given to understand by the Secretary that it will be exhibited in one of the rooms of the Council Chamber?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I was not aware of it but I will certainly take note of it and try to do my best accordingly.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** Have Government got any information about the quantity of the hoarded stocks?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** It is very difficult to make an estimate till the end of this month but in view of the fact that the wholesale dealers have repeatedly been not only making representation but carrying on propaganda as much as possible that they will not be able to sell within the time fixed, the only conclusion is that there is certainly a fair amount of hoarded stock.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** May we take it that in anticipation of a fair amount the mills have not been indented for?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** It is not a fact. We have given an order for the supply of 1,150 million yards to be delivered in six months, without taking note of the hoarded stock in the country. If the contingency mentioned by the Honourable Member arises, Government propose to take necessary action in the matter.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** What is the substantial relief by way of lower prices to which the Honourable Member refers?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** Prices of cloth have already come down 30 to 40 per cent. Increased relief is likely to be given when the standard cloth is put on the market.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Is the Honourable Member quite correct in his statement that the prices have come down or is it only his belief?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** It is not my belief but I am a victim of both the high and the low prices.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Are the Government aware that the cloth merchants and the mill owners are likely to form a combination to make your orders infructuous?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I do not anticipate that. The mill interests have been in the fullest co-operation with us but I can assure the Honourable Member that if any such contingency arises Government will be prepared to deal with that situation in as effective a manner as they can.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask the Honourable Member that on account of the fullest co-operation between the Government and the manufacturing interests of cloth, the poor consumers' interests are likely to suffer?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I categorically deny that. The whole attitude of Government has been to benefit the largest consumer interests in this country and a statistical study of the present position will convince any reasonable man that that conclusion is the only logical conclusion.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is the Honourable Member aware that on the Cotton Textile Control Board, out of 25 members of that Board 15 members represent the manufacturing interests and the consumers are represented, I think, by only two members?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I am aware of it but I certainly do not accept that simply because mill-owners' representatives are there, that will necessarily affect the consumers' interests. In fact, our whole attitude has been to keep control over that body and look to the interest of the consumers in the broadest possible manner.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Who represents labour on this committee?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I want notice of it.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Is it a fact that Mr. Joshi is on that committee?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** That is my impression.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Is not Mr. Joshi good enough for ten other representatives?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I have not yet had a trial of strength with Mr. Joshi.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Is it a fact that the representation of the Legislature on this body has now been curtailed?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I am not in a position to answer that question just now but if my friend will put down a question, I shall answer that.

#### RETALIATORY STEPS AGAINST THE PEGGING BILL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

**59. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas be pleased to make a statement on the floor of the Assembly regarding the Pegging Bill enacted by the Natal Government against the rights of the Indian population of Natal?

(b) Will he be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence that passed between the Natal Government and British Government in India?

(c) What are the damages to the properties of the Indian citizens of Natal caused by enacting this law, and how many Indians are affected by this Bill?

(d) What steps has the Honourable Member under his contemplation to force the hands of the Natal Government to withdraw this Pegging Bill, and when will such steps be taken?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (d). Government propose to initiate discussion of this question by means of a motion this Session.

(b) I regret again the correspondence referred to cannot be placed on the table of the House as it is confidential.

(c) The Act does not deprive any person of property already in his possession. It is designed to prevent further acquisition of property. It is therefore not possible to say how many Indians are affected in a material sense.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government circulate copies of the Pegging Act to Members of the Assembly before the discussion takes place, so that the discussion may be carried on in an intelligent manner?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Yes, Sir.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Does this Bill affect the inheritance of the people who are already in possession of the property?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I want notice of that question.

#### INDIANS REMAINING IN ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES IN FAR EAST AND BURMA EVACUEES.

**60. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas be pleased to state if any news about Indians in the enemy occupied countries in the Far East may be obtained through neutral or Red Cross Services?

(b) What is the number of the Indian civil population left in Burma, Malaya, Singapur and Java who could not be evacuated before the occupation of these places by the enemy?

(c) What is the total number of evacuees from Burma (i) who have been provided with occupation, and (ii) who have not been provided with any occupation in India? How many of these employed are Anglo-Indians and how many Indians?

(d) What amount has been earmarked by the Government of India for financial aid to the Burma Evacuees, and what amount has been spent?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) It is possible to obtain information about individuals in respect of the following countries only namely, Japan, Japanese occupied China, Indo-China and Siam through the agency of the Protecting Power *viz.*, Switzerland and the International Red Cross Committee. The responsibility for providing the information rests on the Japanese Government, the Protecting Power and the Red Cross services being only intermediaries. So far 7,662 enquiries have been forwarded and information has been obtained in 1,164 cases.

(b) The total number of the Indian civil population left behind in Burma and Malaya (including Singapore) is estimated to be approximately 5,00,000 and 7,45,000 respectively. Separate figures for Indians stranded in Singapore and Java are not available.

(c) It is regretted that accurate information is not available. The establishment of machinery to obtain it is now in hand.

(d) A sum of Rs. 1,43,00,000 approximately was spent during the last financial year in connection with the arrangements made for the reception, dispersal and maintenance of Indian evacuees; of this sum, nearly 70,00,000 was granted as financial assistance to evacuees and dependents of Indians stranded in enemy occupied countries. A sum of one crore has been provided in the budget for the current financial year to meet expenditure on the maintenance of Indian evacuees and dependents of Indians stranded in enemy occupied territories.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Would the Honourable Member correct his answer to part (c) of the question in the light of the answer which I myself got to a somewhat similar question some time ago in this House, giving quite adequate and full information as regards the employment of evacuees under Government and may I request the Honourable Member, after he has removed his misapprehension on the point, to bring that statement up to date?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I am not aware of the answer that the Honourable Member has got. It is not before me here. Unless an occupational census of these evacuees is taken, it is not possible to give any accurate information. That is why I gave the answer that the machinery for obtaining it is now in hand.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I wonder if the Honourable Member is in a position to state whether the Anglo-Indians referred to in part (c) of this question comprise Anglo-Burmans or Burmo-Anglians, if I may use the term; what is the process by which an Anglo-Burman or a Burmo-Anglian gets converted into an Anglo-Indian for the purpose of securing jobs under Government in India?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I think this question does not arise out of this. You had better give me notice.

#### UNSATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION OF MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY AT SIMLA.

61. **\*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is not the duty of the Estate Officer, Central Public Works Department, to arrange for the accommodation of the Members of the Assembly when they are wanted temporarily at Simla for attending Committee meetings?

(b) Is it not their duty to see that the Members are not put to any inconvenience on account of light or bad arrangements for accommodation?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the Cart Road quarters which were set apart for the Assembly Members *viz.*, 2, 3 and 11 during the Hindu Law Committee Sittings were more inconveniently arranged in comparison with No. 20? Is the Honourable Member prepared to enquire into the matter of selecting these quarters for the Assembly Members by the Estate Officer during Committee meetings in May and June?

(d) Will the Honourable Member consider changes in the arrangements in these quarters after proper enquiries?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) The Estate Officer's duty is to allot such accommodation to the Members of the Central Legislature as is specified by Government in consultation with the House Committee.

(b) All the quarters are planned so as to avoid, as far as possible, any inconvenience to Members.

(c) The quarters on the Cart Road were built according to approved plans. Quarters Nos. 2 and 3 are on the highest level and were reserved for the Members in consultation with the House Committee of the Legislature, as they were considered to be very conveniently situated. The arrangement of the rooms in Nos. 2 and 3 differs slightly from that of the rooms in No. 20. Some Members consider a particular arrangement of the rooms in a house convenient

irrespective of the level of the house, while others may prefer quarters at a higher level irrespective of the arrangement of the rooms. It cannot therefore be said that quarters Nos. 2 and 3 are more inconveniently arranged than No. 20. No. 11 was not occupied by any Member of the Legislature, as it was exchanged for No. 20. In the circumstances explained, no special enquiry is called for.

(d) As already stated, the quarters for the Members of the Legislature were reserved in consultation with the House Committee of the Legislature. No changes seem necessary unless the House Committee expresses a desire for them.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** May I ask if the Members who attended the Sub-Committee meetings in Simla were asked to deposit a sum of Rs. 75 as security before they could get electricity and water?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I must have notice of that question.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Does the Honourable Member know that Members have been asked to deposit money here in Delhi?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I have no idea.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I ask if there is any officer appointed to go round these quarters and look to the comforts of the Members?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I have no idea.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member then appoint some officer?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I will make inquiries in the matter.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** How many meetings of the House Committee are held during every Session?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is for the House Committee to decide how many times they should meet.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Have you any information on the subject?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I remember there was a meeting of the House Committee during the last Session.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if some of the Members of the House Committee have died and have they been replaced by some other Members?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am very sorry to hear the news, but I am sure the House will take such steps as are necessary to fill the vacancy.

#### PROVISION OF A RICKSHAW STAND AT THE CART ROAD QUARTERS, SIMLA.

**62. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state if Cart Road quarters in Simla are kept for occupation by the Members of the Central Legislature? If so, does he propose to ask the Municipal Committee of Simla (i) to set up a Rickshaw *Adda* near about the quarters for the convenience of the Members; and (ii) not to charge security deposit for temporary occupation of the quarters by the Assembly Members for electric light?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** As the Members occupy a very limited number of quarters on the Cart Road for short periods at a time, Government do not feel justified in approaching the Simla Municipal Committee for the provision of a rickshaw stand in the locality. The supply of electric energy in Simla is the concern of the Simla Municipal Committee and Government regret they are unable to interfere with the Municipal arrangements in this respect.

#### REMOVAL OF INTER-PROVINCIAL BAN ON FOODGRAINS IN THE NORTH AND EAST REGION.

**63. \*Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the reasons and necessity of removing the inter-provincial ban on food grains from Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Assam States;

(b) the reason for singling out the area newly created by him;

(c) whether Bihar is a deficit Province in matters of food grains and food stuffs since its creation; and

(d) the reason for not lifting the ban on food grains from Provinces other than the newly created North and East region?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press Communique dated the 18th May, 1948, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(c) Normally Bihar is deficit in respect of wheat and rice but the 1948 Bihar crops have been exceptionally good and Bihar was considered to have an exportable surplus during the current year.

(d) The policy appropriate to different areas in India is constantly under review by the Food Department, and at the time, the action taken was appropriate only to the Eastern Region.

**PRESS COMMUNIQUE.**

**NO RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS.**

As the rice situation in North East India shows little improvement despite a sufficiency of domestic supplies, the Central Government have decided to remove all restrictions on the free trading of all foodgrains and their products in Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the Eastern States except in respect of two areas concerning the first and last named. From May 18, therefore traders will be free to move and to sell stocks throughout this larger block of territory and no barriers to free trading will exist. The local administrations are taking parallel action to force stocks into consumption under the Foodgrains Control Order.

FOOD DEPARTMENT;

New Delhi, May 17, 1948.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Is the Honourable Member aware that since the ban was lifted from the market, the price of rice in Bihar shot up from Rs. 10-2-0 a maund to Rs. 20 a maund within one week?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I was in that one week in one district of Bihar and, while I admit that the price did rise, I do not admit the accuracy of the figures of the Honourable Member.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the quantity of rice that was taken away from Bihar, particularly during that period?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** No.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry and find out how it has affected the province?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** We have been making inquiries.

**Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury:** With reference to clause (a) of the question, may I know whether the ban was removed with the approval of the Governments concerned?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** A decision had to be taken on this question, but I wish to discuss this question in detail when the Food Resolution is brought before the House. It is impossible to discuss a question like this in reply to a supplementary question. All I can say is that whenever there is an emergency like food it is not always possible to consult all concerned. We had to take certain emergent steps as rescue measures. At the same time, there was a Conference held before this Press Communique was issued and as far as we can find out from the reports and the views of the Directors of Civil Supplies of the different Provinces, that was the method which was considered to be advisable in the circumstances.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Did the Honourable Member consult the Honourable the Home Member as regards the constitutional aspect of the question which involved the supersession of the authority of the Provincial Governments? We discussed this very point yesterday.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I do not think I admit that it is a supersession of the constitutional responsibility of the province, but all our difficulties are due to the constitutional disabilities from which we suffer.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Did the Bihar Government agree to the arrangement mentioned in this question?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** As I have said, it is not the Bihar Government. This decision was taken by the Department in view of the emergent situation that had arisen at the time. A Conference was held on the 10th of May in Calcutta in which the Adviser to the Bihar Government, if I mistake not was present and in which the Directors of Civil Supplies of the

other two Governments were also present. There is no doubt that they were in favour of certain other course of action. But if the situation was such that the Government of India considered that it could only be saved by free trade or by modified free trade, they were inclined in favour of the free trade.

**Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury:** May I ask whether the ban was removed merely as an experimental measure?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I do not think in the matter of civil supplies any Government can carry on experiments.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is the Honourable Member aware that as a result of this arrangement some capitalists from Calcutta went to Bihar to purchase rice at any price and in any quantity they could get and suddenly the price went up?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** My difficulty is that in order to reply either in the affirmative or in the negative I have to accept some of the facts which my Honourable friend has stated. It is undoubtedly true that a number of people were there, but these people were those who had a very large number of industrial labourers to feed and people who had to keep their municipalities and civil life in proper order. I do not deny that the price did rise, but for the time being there was no other escape from the course which we took. I can assure the House that in the opinion of the Government of India if that action had not been taken, we would have been in a complete paralytic condition.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Could not this action be taken a little earlier?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** We all may become wiser after the event.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to confine himself to answering the questions as concisely as possible as there is going to be a debate on this subject.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** If the Honourable Members will give me before the debate the points on which they want elucidation, I shall try my best to meet every question that has been raised.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Is it not a fact that this experiment has been reversed because it was found detrimental to the interests of the province?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I do not accept, first of all, that it is an experiment nor do I accept that it has been detrimental. I take a large view of the matter in the interests of India as a whole and therefore the decision which we took was the best in the circumstances.

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

#### RETALIATORY STEPS AGAINST THE PEGGING BILL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

**64. \*Mr. Lalchand Navakrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas be pleased to state whether he is aware that the recent discriminatory legislation passed by the South African Government has caused great unrest amongst the Indian Nationalists there and a great concern over it in India? If so, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to effectively afford relief to the Indians in South Africa?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that his predecessors in office have publicly stated that so far as questions connected with overseas are concerned, there is no difference of opinion between the Government of India and the people, but Government are helpless in the matter? If so, what new methods does the Honourable Member propose to take to overcome the existing obstacles in the way?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State for India, has stated in Parliament that His Majesty's Government have refused to interfere in this matter? If so, what alternative remedy does the Honourable Member propose to apply?

(d) Is the Honourable Member prepared to apply the Reciprocity Act and such economic and other sanctions as are open in this country to vindicate the Nation's self-respect against the racial discriminatory policy now statutorily recognised in Natal?

(e) Is it a fact that the Secretary of State has refused to take up India's case with Field Marshal Smuts and he has no intention of permitting the adoption of any economic sanctions by the Government of India? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to explain his policy on this very vexed question, and to put facts plainly before the House?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (d). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply already given to parts (a) and (d) of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya's question No. 59 this morning.

(b) It is correct to say that there is generally unanimity of opinion between the Government of India and the people on overseas questions. I am not aware what statements by my predecessors in office the Honourable Member has in mind. As regards future action I would ask the Honourable Member to await the discussion on this subject to be held this Session.

(c) and (e). I must refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by Mr. Amery to a question in the House of Commons on 22nd April, 1943.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is quietly following the former policy of the Government, which is "to do nothing", or is he following a new policy?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Wait and see.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** With reference to part (c), the Honourable Member referred us to the answer given by Mr. Amery in the House of Commons. We have to depend upon the version of such answers as appearing in the newspapers. Would he be pleased to place on the table of the House an authorised version of the answer? I dare say he has got an authorised version. Sometimes it is not quite safe to depend upon newspaper versions of answers on such important matters. Will the Honourable Member consider that?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I will consider that.

#### REGULATION OF EXPORTS OF FOODGRAINS AND RESTRICTIONS ON FORWARD CONTRACTS.

65. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Does the Honourable Member for Commerce propose to make a full statement on the policy of the Government of India regarding permission for imports into and exports from India?

(b) Which are the foreign countries to which exports of food grains and other commodities can be made from India? Are any permits granted for that purpose? If so, are they granted by the Central Government direct or through the Provincial Governments, and what officers have been entrusted with that work?

(c) Have any restrictions been placed on making forward contracts by the people in India? If so, in what parts of India, and on what food grains or other saleable commodities?

(d) Has any such restriction been put on the forward contracts of oil seeds and black pepper? If so, in which provinces, and since when, and for what reasons?

(e) Are Government aware that owing to the sudden restrictions imposed the prices of these articles are seriously affected and merchants suffer a very heavy loss?

(f) Do Government propose to reconsider their policy and to give sufficient previous notice to the public while imposing restrictions? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) It is not possible to make a full statement on export and import policy in answer to a question. Briefly, imports are regulated and confined to articles in essential demand to ensure the best utilisation of available shipping and to conserve difficult currency while exports of important commodities are regulated according to economic warfare considerations and to the supply position of each article in relation to our own civilian and war requirements.

(b) The broad position is that exports of certain goods are prohibited to all destinations, those of certain others are permitted to particular destinations, principally countries normally dependent on India for supplies, and other controlled goods are allowed to be exported to all allied and neutral countries subject to varying degrees of restrictions. All exports outside India are

controlled by the Central Government, licences being issued by the appropriate Departments of Government or by Export Trade Controllers at the ports.

(c) Yes. The Government of India have prohibited future trading in wheat, gram, raw cotton, cloth and yarn, bullion and the following classes of oilseeds, viz., groundnut, linseed, mustard seed and rapeseed or toria seed.

(d) On certain classes of oilseeds only but not on black pepper. The prohibition was imposed in order to eliminate speculative activity in the oilseeds market which had forced up prices to unprecedentedly high levels. It extends to the whole of British India, and came into effect after the close of business on 31st May, 1943.

(e) Government are aware that prices have come down.

(f) Wherever possible sufficient notice is given to the trade, but Government must retain the right to act swiftly when this is necessary in the interests of the economic stability of the country.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** With reference to part (a), may I know whether the question of imports and exports also will be considered and the facts put before the House during the discussion on food debate?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** If it relates to the question of export and import of food, I shall be prepared to answer that.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Has the Honourable Member considered this fact that the policy of asking the Agents to purchase these food grains at any price and in any quantity has really raised the price level and lowered the purchasing power of the rupee?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** A thesis can be written on the causes of any event in war conditions today. It is very difficult to answer this question in the form of a short answer. Anyhow, I shall be prepared to answer these questions during the food debate.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I challenge the Honourable Member's views on this and the previous question. He never consulted the Legislature on this important point.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I think it was Edmund Burke who said that challenges are serious things.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Is he banning the forward contract of black pepper also?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** That is a request for action. I do not know whether it arises at all.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member is not prepared to answer, he need not answer.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** If I am certainly asked to answer here and now, I will not be able to do so. If a question is put down, I will. We had to take immediate measures where the situation was such that without taking such steps, it would be impossible to keep the situation under control.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** With reference to the recent announcement that exports of rice will not be permitted hereafter, will the Honourable Member state the countries to which rice has been sent of late from India? Is he in a position to give an approximate idea of the quantities of rice so sent?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** That question does not arise. It is for you to decide, Sir. A point like this would be better pursued in the food debate.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** It is relevant to part (b).

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member is not prepared, he need not answer.

#### WATER SUPPLY IN NEW DELHI AND DELHI.

66. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the arrangements that have been made for the supply of sufficient water for all purposes in New Delhi and Delhi itself to remove the inconvenience caused by the scarcity of water in these very hot days?

(b) Is it a fact that the Jumna river-bed was being straightened to get water to the pumps? If so, how far has that scheme progressed, and will the water brought therefrom be sufficient for all purposes in both Delhi and New Delhi?

(c) What arrangements are proposed to be made to cool the water which in these summer days gets too hot in the pipes?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) In order to improve the supply of filtered water, five additional filters were installed this summer, and two large pumping sets have been ordered from England and are expected in India in October. The scarcity of unfiltered water was due to a sudden fall in the level of the Jumna. In order to raise the level of the water, a series of bunds was put up across the channel. The situation has since improved and there is now no shortage.

(b) Experiments for training the river so as to divert its dry weather channel along the right bank, on which the pumping station is situated, are being conducted at the Central Hydro-dynamic Research Station, Poona. A committee of experts recently appointed to investigate the matter have submitted their report which is being examined.

(c) No arrangements for cooling the water are feasible.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Why is it not feasible? Is it because it is too cold here?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The Honourable Member is entitled to draw his own conclusions.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Is it unusually cold here?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I leave my Honourable friend to draw his own conclusions.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Why don't you utilise the Defence of India Act for this purpose?

#### STEPS FOR REMOVING THE GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS AFFECTED BY THE PEGGING ACT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

67. \***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state:

(a) if he is aware of the public opinion in India expressed on the platform and in the press against what is known as the Pegging Act passed by the Government of South Africa;

(b) what steps have been taken to remove the grievances of the Indians affected by this Act; and

(c) if he is aware that this Act prevents indirectly as well as directly the carrying on of any trade or business by Indians in European quarters in the cities where this Act is made applicable?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Yes.

(b) The question what action should be taken by the Government of India is engaging their attention.

(c) It is not clear what the Honourable Member means by directly and indirectly. If he means that an Indian will not in future be able to carry on trade in premises situated in predominantly European areas but not already occupied by Indians the reply is in the affirmative, but the Act does not apply in the case of premises in such areas lawfully occupied by Indians before the 22nd March, 1943.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know whether the Government of India consulted the Standing Emigration Committee on this South African question?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Not yet.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Why?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** They will be consulted very shortly.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Standing Emigration Committee be consulted before the discussion or after the discussion of this question in the House?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Perhaps after the discussion.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** Is it a fact that Government only consulted those whom they considered important and kept out others whom they thought unimportant?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Not at all, Sir.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Who selected these worthy gentlemen who I understand came up to Delhi some time ago to tender advice to the Honourable Member in charge on this subject?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I selected them.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Did it ever occur to him that perhaps the Legislature would expect the Standing Emigration Committee to be given preference in such matters?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I have not decided that I will not invite them.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES ETC., IN INDIA.

68 **\*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state:

(a) if there are any South African Banks in India; if so, where;

(b) if there are any South African Insurance Companies in India, if so, where; what the extent of their business is; and

(c) if there are any South African firms in India doing import and export business; if so, where; and what the extent of the trade import as well as export,—between South Africa and India is?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (b). No.

(c) Government is not aware of any South African firm in India doing import and export business. According to the Joint Stock Companies' returns, there is only one South African Company in India which is located in Calcutta and is dealing in real estate business.

The total British Indian trade with the Union of South Africa in the year 1942-43 was:

	Rs.
Import . . . . .	2,24,96,969
Export . . . . .	10,34,99,175
Re-Export . . . . .	10,55,371

#### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY *re* PURCHASE AND MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS.

69. **\*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to Major General Wood's broadcast of the 16th April last, in which he announced that the Government of India intended to buy foodgrains to the value of something over 100 crores of rupees during the next 12 months, that the amount of foodgrains to be surrendered by provinces and States which had more than they required as well as amounts to be received by those in deficiency had been determined, and that the Central Government was going to buy foodgrains to move them from one place to another, and also to build up a reserve stock to establish and maintain an equilibrium of supplies and prices all over the country?

(b) What were the provinces in deficiency, and what were the quantities as determined upto the time of the announcement, that each of these provinces in deficiency was to get out of the 100 crores worth of grains or more to be purchased?

(c) What has been the total quantity of foodgrains purchased upto the 15th June, and how much of it (i) has gone to provinces other than Bengal, (ii) has been taken into the reserve stock, (iii) has been sent to Bengal prior to the 16th April; between the 17th April and 17th May; and between the 18th May and 15th June?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Press report that the Central Government will be lending 5½ crore rupees worth of grains to Bengal? What quantity of foodstuffs does this amount represent in tons? Is this quantity to be in excess of what was adjudged as Bengal's share as contemplated in the aforesaid announcement of the 16th April?

(e) Was the Central Government's responsibility for moving foodgrains from one place to another, as announced on the 16th April, affected in any way by the withdrawal of restrictions on inter-provincial transfers of foodgrains announced on the 17th May last?

(f) How has the said withdrawal of restrictions on the inter-provincial movement of foodgrains operated in practice, and how far has the situation in Bengal improved as a result thereof?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) Yes.

(b) The provinces which were considered to be in deficiency were Assam, Bengal, Bombay, Madras, N. W. F. P., Orissa, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi. It is not in the public interest to give the amounts of their estimated deficits.

(c) A statement is placed upon the table.

(d) The Government of India have seen the Press report in question. It is incorrect, since there was no question at any time of lending 5½ crore rupees worth of grains to Bengal.

(e) Yes, Sir, within the Eastern Region.

(f) The withdrawal of restrictions has resulted in a larger flow of supplies into Bengal.

*Statement.*

	Tons.
(i) Total quantity of foodgrains purchased upto the 15th June, 1943 . . . . .	9,97,400
(ii) Quantity despatched out of the above to Provinces other than Bengal up to 15th June, 1943 . . . . .	6,49,400
(iii) Quantity taken into reserve stock . . . . .	Nil
(iv) Quantity sent to Bengal prior to the 16th of April . . . . .	83,800
Between 17th April, 1943, and 17th May, 1943 . . . . .	11,900
Between 18th May, 1943 to 15th June, 1943 . . . . .	26,300
The balance represents quantities purchased but awaiting despatch or quantities despatched to States.	

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** May I know whether this promise made by Major-General Wood is going to be implemented?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** It has been the effort of the Food Department ever since the basic plan was started, and from even before, to try everything humanly possible to meet all commitments. But there are so many limiting factors, which I will explain to the House on the Resolution, that we have not been able to meet as much as we would ourselves wish to.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Then was this bombastic statement of Major-General Wood merely intended as propaganda?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I do not agree that it was bombastic. But it is a fact,—which might have given rise to this misapprehension,—that two loans, one of 1½ crore rupees and another of 4 crores, i.e., nearly 5 crores in all were made to the Bengal Government to enable them to purchase rice in Bengal. There was also a loan of 1½ crores to finance the purchase of wheat and millets. In addition there was a ways and means advance of 1½ crores but this was not solely for food purposes, and I apprehend that there was some misapprehension somewhere.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** How far have the pledges been implemented up till now?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I shall answer that question during the food debate.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Are Government aware that the total quantity of foodgrains produced in this country is not worth much more than Rs. 100 crores?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I personally have not calculated that, but I know my own province and there the total food production in rice is roughly about 8 to 10 million tons and a simple calculation will give a figure near to my Honourable friend's figure.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** But do the foodgrains at all total 100 crores in normal times, not at the inflated rates?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** It is very difficult now to enter into a statistical debate.

**Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether Major-General Wood's statement to the effect that Government proposed to purchase a 100 crores of rupees worth of grain was not an expression of an honest intention and whether or not when Government went into the market to buy the grain they found that most men's hands were against them and that the stocks had gone underground and whether among them were individuals who were men in authority, and if so, whether the Honourable Member is prepared to state the names of the individuals concerned?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** It is very difficult for me off-hand to calculate the value of foodgrains which we proposed under the basic plan not only to supply to Bengal but to all provinces of India. But I will have these figures calculated on the estimated price of that time and will place them before the House during the food debate. As regards the reason why that basic plan failed there is no doubt from facts which are well known that every form of obstruction was placed,—though not deliberately,—which made the plan ineffective. As to who did it and why, I would have been very glad to state, but at a time like this I do not like to discuss this and possibly to alienate the sympathies of people who may have obstructed us, because the problem is far too serious for me to tackle.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is it a fact that the production of rice in Bengal is practically equivalent to their consumption and that they allowed the rice to be exported outside at enormous profits to a few individuals?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** The Central Government's responsibility is not to sit in judgment over provincial acts. And even if there is any act of omission or commission on the part of Government, namely, that they exported food commodities before the present crisis came, the problem today is whether the Government of India would penalise that Government or help them now when they are in difficulty. I think that question is therefore immaterial.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Why does the Honourable Member hesitate to give the names of those who are obstructing and what co-operation does he expect from them?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** Supposing I have some provinces which are the only surplus provinces in the whole of India and from which foodgrains are to be supplied to the deficit areas. Any judgment on conduct which may or may not be right may, humanly speaking, be misunderstood. Of course, to a general extent I propose to give every fact to the House during the food debate. But I feel that it is not in the interest of the country as a whole that the question of responsibility or judgment should be discussed on this issue. We have to deal with established facts today.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I have no desire to embarrass the Honourable Member in the very difficult task which lies ahead of him, but is the Honourable Member aware of the statement made by responsible Ministers in Bengal charging the Government of India with failure to implement its promises?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** I am not yet aware. But I have been hearing every Government in the world being charged with all kinds of faults. But if true and if the Bengal Government would realise the extent to which this Government have tried to help that province and other provinces as well, they would not have said one thousandth part of what they may have said.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** It is not a question of helping Bengal, but in helping Bengal should we introduce misery in other provinces and raise the price level for all the consumers in India?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** That question cannot be discussed in reply to a question.

#### REPAIRS TO THE TAJ MAHAL, AGRA.

70. \***Mr. Nabi Baksh Ilahi Baksh Bhutto:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state why the dome of the Taj Mahal, Agra, is scaffolded?

(b) If it is for repair purposes, when will the repairs be completed; and what will be the estimated cost of the repairs?

(c) Why were the repairs necessitated?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The scaffolding has been erected to enable a detailed examination of the dome to be made in order to ascertain what repairs are necessary.

(b) and (c). The report of the Committee which examined the question of the necessity for repairs has been referred to an expanded committee of experienced engineers and architects as mentioned in my answer of 30th March, 1943, to starred question No. 435. The report of the committee is awaited.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know whether actual work has commenced or not?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Repairs that are obviously called for are being done.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know how much time will it take to do the necessary repairs completely?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** We have not received the Committee's report as to what has to be done.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Is the present scaffolding put up for a close examination of the dome or for its repairs?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** The scaffolding was erected for carrying out a close examination and it was hoped that whatever repairs were necessary would be done with the same scaffolding but now we propose to dismantle it after the examination is completed as it is likely to become unsafe.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

MUSLIM ASSISTANT ESTATE OFFICERS IN CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

71. **\*Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state the number of Assistant Estate Officers in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) How many of them are Musalmans?

(c) Is the ratio of Muslims maintained?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Four; one post being vacant at present.

(b) None.

(c) Not at present, but the ratio of Muslims will soon be adjusted as the Federal Public Service Commission has been asked to recruit a Muslim for the vacant post.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS AT GHAZIABAD.

72. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the leading article in *Dawn* of the 29th June, 1943, under the caption 'Thick Waste'? If so, what is the reason for building these houses at Ghaziabad and not near about New Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that, these houses will be temporary constructions for the period of war? If so, is he aware that accommodation for the Gazetted personnel of the Government of India is inadequate in New Delhi? If so, why do not Government propose to construct houses which may be of use to the Gazetted staff after the war?

(c) What use will Government make of the houses at Ghaziabad if these are not required by the Defence Department after the war?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes. But the facts stated in the article are not entirely correct.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration, and no definite decision has been reached.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST TONGA DRIVERS AND TAXI DRIVERS OF DELHI.

73. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that there is no control over tongas and tonga drivers in Delhi?

(b) Is he aware of the fact—

(i) that tonga drivers decline to hire their tongas on rates fixed by the Municipal Committee;

(ii) that no tonga is available on the hourly basis; and that the policemen controlling the tonga traffic decline to help passengers when appealed to?

(c) Are Government aware that the Delhi Administration has utterly failed in this respect? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remedy this inconvenience of the public?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that taxi drivers charge Rs. 30 a day for a journey of 30 miles in Delhi proper? If so, what are the scheduled rates, and how do Government propose to enforce them?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The licensing of tongas in Delhi is in the hands of the Delhi Municipal Committee, whose licences are by agreement accepted by the other municipal authorities as valid for the areas of their jurisdiction also.

(b) The rates have recently been under revision; a new set of rates has now been notified which will come into force on the 6th August. Pending the introduction of the new rates it is probable that tonga drivers have in some cases pressed their customers for higher fares than were permissible under the old schedule.

(ii) Traffic constables are not permitted to intervene in disputes between tonga drivers and customers regarding the fares payable by the latter, but all complaints of overcharging made to the municipal authorities are carefully investigated and appropriate action taken.

(c) No. If the special problems created by war conditions in Delhi and the present economic conditions are taken into account, the tonga arrangements are by no means unsatisfactory. In so far as abuses have occurred they are due largely to the fact that the number of tongas is insufficient to meet the present demand, increased as it is by motor spirit rationing. In March last year the Delhi Municipal Committee authorised the issue of licences for an additional 610 tongas, but owing to the expense of manufacturing new vehicles it has not yet been possible to complete this number.

(d) Copies of the old schedule of rates and the new schedule are laid on the table. Complaints of over charging in particular cases should be made to the Secretary of the Delhi Municipal Committee.

#### DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

##### SCHEDULE OF RATES.

(i) For any journey wholly within (a) City and Civil Lines, south of Ridge, (b) Civil Lines, south of Ridge and Kingsway, (c) New Delhi and Sunehri Bagh, (d) New Delhi and City, (e) City and Nizam-Uddin or Humayun's Tomb, (f) New Delhi and Nizam-Uddin or Humayun's Tomb, (g) Sunehri Bagh and Nizam-Uddin or Humayun's Tomb by time rates as below:—

Class.	1st hour.	Each subsequent		Whole day of
		hour or part of hour.	9 hours.	
II	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
Tonga	0 10	0 6	3 0	

(ii) For any journey as below (return fares as shown if return is within 3 hours.)

Distance.	Single.		Return.
	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	
New Delhi to Civil Lines, south of Ridge or <i>vice versa</i>	1 0	2 0	3 0
New Delhi to Kingsway, or <i>vice versa</i>	1 8	2 8	3 0
New Delhi to New Cantonment or <i>vice versa</i>	1 8	2 8	3 0
Sunehri Bagh to City, or <i>vice versa</i>	1 0	2 0	3 0
Sunehri Bagh to Civil Lines, south of Ridge or <i>vice versa</i>	1 8	2 8	3 0
Sunehri Bagh to Kingsway, or <i>vice versa</i>	2 0	3 0	4 0
Sunehri Bagh to New Cantonment, or <i>vice versa</i>	1 0	2 0	3 0
City to Kingsway, or <i>vice versa</i>	1 0	2 0	3 0

(iii) For any journey below, the rates including return, if return on the same day.

Distances.	Rs. As.
City, Civil Lines or Kingsway to New Cantonment, Okhla or Kalkaji	5 0
City, Civil Lines or Kingsway to Qutab	5 0
Civil Lines or Kingsway to Humayun's Tomb, Nizam-Uddin or Safdarjang	4 0
Sunehri Bagh or New Delhi to Qutab	4 0
Sunehri Bagh or New Delhi to Okhla	4 0

**NOTE.**—(1) New Delhi is the area in Imperial Delhi, north of Government House and Central Vista.

(2) Sunehri Bagh is the area in Imperial Delhi, south of Government House and Central Vista.

(3) Hirers are at liberty to make any private arrangements for less payments.

(4) Time shall begin to run from the moment of engagement and the time at which a licensed carriage is called from any public stand shall be considered as the moment of engagement.

DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

SCHEDULE OF RATES.

(i) For any journey wholly within (a) City and Civil Lines, south of Ridge, (b) Civil Lines south of Ridge and Kingsway, (c) New Delhi and Sunehri Bagh (d), New Delhi and City, (e) city and Nizam-Uddin or Humayun's Tomb, (f) New Delhi and Nizam-Uddin or Humayun's Tomb, (g) Sunehri Bagh and Nizam-Uddin or Humayun's Tomb by time rates as below :—

Class.	1st hour.		Each subsequent hour		Whole day of 9 hours.
	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	
IV					
Tonga, Tumtum	0	4	0	3	By arrangements.
(ii) For any journey as below (return fares as shown if return is within 3 hours.)					
	Distances.		Single.		Return.
			Rs. As.		
	New Delhi to Civil Lines south of Ridge or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		8
	New Delhi to Kingsway or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		10
	New Delhi to New Cantonment or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		8
	Sunehri Bagh to City or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		8
	Sunehri Bagh to Civil Lines south of Ridge or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		12
	Sunehri Bagh to Kingsway or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		12
	Sunehri Bagh to New Cantonment or <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		8
	City to Kingsway <i>vice versa</i>				
			0		8

By arrangements.

(iii) For any journey below, the rates including return, if return on the same day.

Distances.	Rs.	As.
City, Civil Lines or Kingsway to New-Cantonment, Okhla or Kalkaji	2	0
City, Civil Lines or Kingsway to Qutab	2	0
Civil Lines or Kingsway to Humayun's Tomb, Nizam-Uddin or Saf-darjang	1	8
Sunehri Bagh or New Delhi to Qutab	1	8
Sunehri Bagh or New Delhi to Okhla	1	8

NOTE.—(1) New Delhi is the area in Imperial Delhi, north of Government House and Central Vista.

(2) Sunehri Bagh is the area in Imperial Delhi, south of Government House and Central Vista.

(3) Hirers are at liberty to make any private arrangements for less payments.

(4) Time shall begin to run from the moment of engagement and the time at which a licensed carriage is called from any public stand shall be considered as the moment of engagement.

DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

SCHEDULES OF REVISED TONGA RATES FOR DURATION OF THE WAR OR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Schedule I.

For any journey wholly within Delhi, Civil Lines and New Delhi, the rates by time shall be as follows :—

No.	Class.	1st half hour		1st hour.		Each subsequent hour.		Whole day of 9 hours.					
		Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.				
1	II—Tongas	0	9	0	0	15	0	0	9	0	5	0	0
	IV—Tongas	0	6	0	0	10	0	0	6	0	3	8	0

NOTE.—In the event of a tonga being taken from one of these areas to the other or being engaged from the stand at the main entrance of Delhi main railway station, the minimum hire due shall be for one hour or according to Schedule II or III as the case may be.

Schedule II.—For any journey as below (return fares as shown if return is within three hours.)

Distances.	Single.		Return.	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
1. From Secretariat to Delhi City	1	8	3	0
2. From Secretariat to Civil Lines, south of Ridge	1	12	3	8
3. From Secretariat to Kingsway	3	0	6	0
4. From Secretariat to Delhi Cantt.	2	0	4	0
5. From Connaught Place to south end or other places south of Central Vista	1	0	..	..
6. From Connaught Place to Ajmere Gate	0	9	..	..
7. From Delhi City to Kingsway	1	8	3	0
8. From Delhi Railway Station to Pusa College	2	0	..	..
9. From Delhi Railway Station to New Delh North of Central Vista or <i>vice versa</i>	1	4	..	..
10. From Delhi to New Delhi south of Central Vista upto Lodi Road and <i>vice versa</i>	1	12	0	0
11. From Delhi Railway Station to south of Lodi Road upto N.D.M.C. boundary or <i>vice versa</i>	2	0	0	0

*Schedule III.*—For any journey as below the rates including return if return on the same day.

NOTE.—IV Class fare will be 3/4 of the above revised rates.

Distances.	Rates.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Delhi to Delhi Cantonment	6	0	0
2. Delhi to Okhla and Kalkaji	6	0	0
3. Delhi to Humayun Tomb and Nizamuddin and Safdarjang	4	0	0
4. Delhi to Qutab	6	0	0
5. New Delhi to Qutab	5	0	0
6. New Delhi to Okhla	5	0	0
7. Delhi to Shahdara	3	0	0
8. New Delhi to Shahdara	4	0	0

NOTE.—IV-Class Tonga Fares will be 3/4 of the above revised rates.

(Notes applicable to revised Schedule II and III).

1. Distances from Delhi shall be taken from the junction of Chandni Chowk and Elgin Road opposite the Red Fort. The time taken to reach this point shall be paid for at the rates mentioned above for hiring by time. Similarly rates fixed from New Delhi shall be taken from the Central Vista and the time taken in reaching there shall be paid for at the rates fixed for hiring by time. Nothing shall be added on this account to the fare for the tongas hired from any place in between. The term "in between" shall mean any place at a lesser distance from the destination than the places specified.

(Notes applicable to all revised schedules.)

- Hirer is at liberty to make any private arrangements for a lesser amount.
- Time shall begin to run from the moment of engagement and the time at which a licensed carriage is called from any public stand shall be considered as the moment of engagement.

By order.

NASRULLAH KHAN, P.C.S.,  
Secretary, Municipal Committee, Delhi.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA *re* FOOD ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA.

74. \*Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been invited to the statement made by the Secretary of State for India on July 1st regarding the Food Administration in India?

(b) Is this statement correct? If so, what officers are responsible for it and what action has the Government of India taken against those who were responsible for the plans being less successful?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque: (a) I have seen a Press summary of the statement which the Secretary of State is reported to have made about the difficulties of the food situation in India which have been mentioned by myself and my predecessor in office from time to time. I have not, however, seen any statement by the Secretary of State which purported to be a condemnation of the Food Administration in India.

(b) In view of what I have said the question does not arise.

GUILDHALL SPEECH OF MR. CHURCHILL AND REFERENCE TO INDIA.

75. \*Sardar Sant Singh: Has the attention of the Leader of the House been drawn to the Guildhall speech of Mr. Churchill referring to "the vast sub-continent of India which we trust will presently find full satisfaction within the British Commonwealth of Nations"? If so, were the Government of India consulted before or after the speech?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have seen Press reports of the speech referred to. The reply to the second part of the question is in the negative.

SCHEME FOR COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF MUSLIM EPIGRAPHICAL RECORDS.

76. \*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the article entitled 'Muslim Epigraphy' published in the Delhi edition of the *Dawn*, dated the 16th June, 1943, and the book entitled 'Revealing India's Past' published in 1939, have been brought to his notice?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that Epigraphia Indica was started for collecting and publishing epigraphical records, and that Muslim inscriptions formed a component part of the scheme?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that seven volumes of this publication were published for the period 1888 to 1893?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that out of these seven volumes only one volume contained only a few Muslim Epigraphs and the rest were devoted to the Hindu antiquities?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that the remedy for this defect was adopted, by creating the post of a part-time Epigraphist for Muslim inscriptions for publishing a record in a separate journal, to be called Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica?

(f) Is it or is it not a fact that the second volume of the latter publication dealt with the period 1909-10 and was published by Dr. Horowitz, a Professor of the M. A. O. College, Aligarh?

(g) Is it or is it not a fact that Dr. Horowitz conceived the idea of collecting and publishing the Muslim Epigraphs in accordance with the dynasties and rulers?

(h) Is it or is it not a fact that this scheme was pursued only in two volumes, in 1911-12 and 1913-14 and discontinued thereafter? If so, why?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No. Seven volumes were published for the period 1888 to 1906.

(d) and (e). Yes. The Muslim Epigraphs were published separately as part IX of the Epigraphia Indica in Volume III and eventually developed into the Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica.

(f) and (g). Yes.

(h) Yes. The scheme of publication of inscriptions according to dynasties was completed up to the Slave dynasty but was discontinued owing to want or sufficient material in hand.

#### SCHEME FOR COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF MUSLIM EPIGRAPHICAL RECORDS.

**77. \*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is or it is not a fact that since the inception in 1907 of the scheme for the collection of Muslim Epigraphs only 14 issues dealing with 495 inscriptions have been issued up to the present?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that out of these inscriptions the majority, i.e., about 284 deal with the Hyderabad State, and the other Provinces are poorly represented?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that since 1913-14 the post of the Muslim Epigraphist has been occupied by an official of the Hyderabad State who is given an allowance of Rs. 150 per mensem for this work? If not, what is the position?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that the said official has no staff or establishment to help him in the work? If not, what is the strength of his staff, and what are their expenses?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that while the Epigraphia Indica reserved for the Hindu Epigraphs publishes 4 issues in a year, the Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica publishes one issue almost of the same size once in two years with an average of 35 inscriptions? If not, what are the facts?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes, since 1915.

(d) The official has had with him a mechanic and a peon on Rs. 25 and Rs. 14 p.m., respectively.

(e) Eight parts of the Epigraphia Indica and one part of the Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica are published biennially.

#### ADVISABILITY OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF MUSLIM EPIGRAPHY.

**78. \*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is or it is not a fact that a sum of Rs. 60,000 is spent by Government on the Hindu Epigraphy while the amount spent on Muslim Epigraphy is not more than Rs. 1,800? If not, what are the correct figures?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that inscriptions on copper plates are receiving the attention of Epigraphia Indica, but no attention has yet been paid to the *Farmans* written on paper and which from the perishable nature of the record require greater and more immediate attention?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) In the year 1942-43 the expenditure in connection with Hindu Epigraphy including the office of the Government Epigraphist for India, and the Superintendent of South Indian Epigraphy was Rs. 56,763. The expenditure on Muslim Epigraphy, including publication charges, was Rs. 3,624.

(b) The articles published in the *Epigraphia Indica* include those on copper plate inscriptions as well as stone and rock inscriptions, while lithic records in Persian and Arabic are published in the *Epigraphia-Indo-Moslemica*. *Farmanas* are as a rule dealt with by the Imperial Record Department and other Record Offices.

#### ADVISABILITY OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF MUSLIM EPIGRAPHY.

79. \***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is or it is not a fact that the deplorable condition of Muslim Epigraphy was fully noticed in the book entitled 'Revealing India's Past' containing contributions from the present and past experts of the Archaeological Department?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that a scheme for bringing the Muslim Epigraphy to its proper standard was drawn up by the then Deputy Director General of Archaeology, Khan Bahadur Moulvi Zafar Hasan, in 1931-34? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to lay that scheme on the table of the House?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by Government for improving the condition of the Muslim Epigraphy in view of the scheme aforesaid and the observations in "Revealing India's Past"?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of improving the Muslim Epigraphy as suggested in the article by appointing two Gazetted Officers (Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent) and entrusting to them the epigraphical survey of all the Provinces in India; and publishing the results of their research in the *Epigraphica Indo-Moslemica* which should be brought out at least twice a year? If not, what is their scheme in this respect?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) It was suggested in the book referred to that more attention should be given to Muslim Epigraphy.

(b) and (c). The scheme was considered by the then Director General of Archaeology but was dropped owing to financial stringency. The reply to the latter half of part (b) is in the negative.

(d) Government do not propose to make any change in existing arrangements at present, but propose to examine the question when the financial situation improves.

#### PETITIONS OF PENSIONERS OF THE SURVEY OF INDIA, DEHRA DUN FOR DEARNESS ALLOWANCE OR RE-EMPLOYMENT.

80. \***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is or it is not a fact that the pensioners of the Survey of India, Dehra Dun, have applied to the Surveyor General of India, for a dearness allowance or in the alternative for being re-employed in their posts for the duration of the war?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of accepting either of the two suggestions mentioned above? If not, why not?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) Yes.

(b) The re-employment of retired officials otherwise than on public grounds is not permissible. The question of granting relief to small pensioners is under consideration.

#### PURCHASE OF CATTLE FOR SUPPLYING MEAT TO THE ARMED FORCES.

81. \***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the number of cattle slaughtered in India to supply meat to the army stationed in India, in the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43, separately?

(b) What is the number of cattle slaughtered in India for meat to be dehydrated and exported for the use of the armed forces outside India, in the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43, separately?

(c) What steps have Government taken to see that working cattle and the cattle in prime of life are not purchased on behalf of the military authorities, as well as sold by the people, in order to stop the destruction of the working cattle?

(d) What steps have Government taken to see that cattle are not withdrawn from the rural areas on account of the attractive prices offered for the purchase of cattle to meet the meat requirements of the fighting forces?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The required information is not readily available.

(b) No cattle are slaughtered in India for dehydration either for export or for consumption in India.

(c) The Government of India have issued instructions to all Armies and Central Commands, and a clause has been inserted in all military contracts for the supply of beef, that working cattle used for ploughing and transportation will not be accepted and should not be tendered for inspection.

(d) The instructions already issued by the Government of India in respect of working cattle used for ploughing and transportation also act as a safeguard against the sale of useful cattle at attractive prices to military contractors, as such cattle, even if tendered for inspection, would not be accepted by the latter. Government are, however, examining the necessity for a stricter enforcement of the instructions issued in this behalf.

**SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR DUE PAYMENT OF ELECTRIC AND WATER CHARGES FOR GOVERNMENT BUNGALOWS DEMANDED BY NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.**

**82. \*Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly say whether he is aware of the fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee have recently started the practice of demanding security deposits for the due payment of electric and water charges for all Government bungalows occupied by Government officers?

(b) Is this a new or old rule? If this rule was in existence before, why were such deposits not asked for?

(c) Has this rule been brought into force because some officers delayed payments of their bills owing to transfers on active service? If so, why have the Municipal Committee enforced this practice in the case of civilian officers who are permanently attached to the Government of India offices and who are not likely to be transferred anywhere?

(d) Is it not a fact that in the case of non-payment of dues the Committee can realise the amount through the department concerned?

(e) Is it a fact that some Electric Companies in the United Provinces pay interest on such deposits?

(f) Will the New Delhi Municipal Committee, if they consider such deposits essential, pay a reasonable interest on the deposits? If not, why not?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) and (b). The system of requiring a deposit has been in force in New Delhi for many years past, but until recently was not enforced against Government officials. It was recently decided by the Municipal Committee to enforce it against the latter, partly to secure uniformity of treatment and partly because a number of cases had occurred in which officials had left Delhi without settling their bills.

(c) It does not appear to be the case that all the officials in default have gone on active service and in any case it would not be practicable to discriminate in the way suggested between one set of officials and another.

(d) No. The debts being private, the departments have refused to accept responsibility for collecting them for the municipality.

(e) Information regarding the practice in the United Provinces is not available.

(f) The deposits, when paid in cash, are kept in a current account since they are refundable at any time and no interest accrues to the Municipal Committee. For this reason, interest is not paid to the depositor by the Municipal Committee.

**CANTEENS FOR DECK PILGRIMS.**

**83. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazi-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state whether the canteen (referred to in rule 81 of the Indian Pilgrim Ships Rules) for deck pilgrims is maintained on the upper or lower deck of pilgrim ships?

(b) If it is maintained on the upper deck, how much space is occupied by it?

(c) Is that space included in the airing space reserved for pilgrims? If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a), (b) and (c). The circumstances differ on different ships. I lay on the table a statement which gives the required information. I would refer the Honourable Member to sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 193 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for information how the airing space is to be determined.

*Statement showing the location of the canteen on pilgrim ships of the Mogul Line and the Scindia Steam Navigation Co., the space occupied by it on each ship and whether that space is included in the airing space reserved for pilgrims on upper deck.*

Name of the ship.	Location of canteen.	Space occupied by the canteen.	Whether the space referred to in column 3 is included in airing space reserved for pilgrims.
1	2	3	4
		Sq. Ft.	
<i>Mogul Line Ships.</i>			
1. S.S. "Alavi"	Upper deck	102	Originally it was not deducted from the airing space measurements while the use of restaurants in pilgrim ships was in the introductory stage. In the most recent measurements the space occupied by these restaurants is not included in the airing space reserved for pilgrims.
2. S.S. "Akbar"	Do.	102	
3. S.S. "Jehangir"	Do.	102	
4. "Khosrou"	Do.	102	
5. S.S. "Islami"	Do.	102	Not included.
6. S.S. "Rahmani"	Do.	112	Ditto.
7. S.S. "Rizwani"	Do.	187	Ditto.
<i>Scindia's ships.</i>			
8. S.S. "El-Madina"	Main deck	210	Ditto.
9. S.S. "El-Hind"	Do.	355	Ditto.
10. S.S. "Englestan"	Poop deck	325	Space (234 sq. ft.) occupied by benches and tables is included in the airing space.

#### OFFICERS AND SUBORDINATES ON PILGRIM SHIPS.

**84. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state the different kinds of officers and subordinates employed on pilgrim ships?

(b) What posts can be filled by Muslims without detriment to the navigation of ships?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (b). Information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

#### CURRENT YEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE.

**85. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state whether Government propose to permit Indians to proceed to the Hedjaz for the performance of Haj pilgrimage this year, and to provide a sufficient number of ships to meet the demand of the Indian Muslims?

(b) Does he propose to consult the Central Haj Committee at an early date?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to starred question No. 54.

(b) The Committee will be consulted if necessary.

#### APPOINTMENTS OF SOUTH INDIANS IN THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

**86. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that the Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute has since 1936 filled not less than 30 vacancies by South Indians, whether temporary, officiating or permanent? If not, what is the actual number of appointments in classes I and II and subordinate services which have been filled, and what is the number of South Indians as compared with Punjabees?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** A statement showing the distribution province by province of Indian officers appointed to Class I, Class II and subordinate services at

the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, is laid on the table of the House. The statement shows that Punjabees have secured more appointments, permanent or temporary, in each category than South Indians in the various services at the Institute.

*Statement showing the distribution province by province of Indian officers appointed to Class I Class II and subordinate services at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.*

	Madras.	Bombay.	Bengal.	U. P.	Punjab.	Bihar.	C. P.	Assam.	Delhi.	States.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total No. of appointments from January 1936 to date.										
<i>Class I—</i>										
(a) Substantive in permanent posts . . . . .	3	1			2		..			
(b) Temporary basis in permanent or temporary posts . . . . .	9	2	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	2
Total Class I . . . . .	12	3	1	..	2	4	..	..	..	2
<i>Class II—</i>										
(a) Substantive in permanent posts . . . . .	16	1	1	3	3	3				5
(b) Temporary basis in permanent or temporary posts . . . . .	27	4	3	3	4	10	..	1	1	1
Total Class II . . . . .	43	5	4	6	7	13	..	1	1	5
GRAND TOTAL OF GAZETTED POSTS . . . . .	55	8	5	6	9	17	..	1	1	7
<i>Subordinate—</i>										
(a) Substantive in permanent posts . . . . .	48	5		4	13	9	11	1	1	3
(b) Temporary basis in permanent or temporary posts . . . . .	152	25	7	15	22	52	16	3	1	6
Total Subordinate service . . . . .	200	30	7	19	35	61	27	4	2	9

**CONFIRMATION OF A SOUTH INDIAN CATTLE SUPERINTENDENT BY THE DIRECTOR, IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.**

**87. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons of the Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, for confirming a South Indian Cattle Superintendent in spite of the adverse opinion of his immediate officer?

(b) Is there any other case of a similar nature?

(c) Does he propose to state the facts of each of the cases?

(d) What are the powers of the Director and those of the heads of different sections?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) to (c). There have been two cases of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member, one of a South Indian and the other of a Bengali. In each case the adverse comments of the officer's immediate superior were found by the Director, after exhaustive inquiry, not to be borne out.

(d) Powers of appointment (including confirmation) and discipline with regard to Class II posts at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute vest in the Director.

**CASES OF IRREGULAR APPOINTMENTS IN THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.**

**88. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is regular and not objectionable to appoint any person to a permanent post, to confirm him without any probationary period and without asking for a medical certificate of fitness, etc., to give him lien and to relieve him all at once?

(b) Is he aware that such cases have occurred in the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute?

(c) What action does he propose to take in cases of such irregularities?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) to (c). There was no irregularity in the case referred to by the Honourable Member which relates to the appointment of an assistant who was an Associate of the Institute and had been in temporary service since September, 1936. As he had already put in over five years' service in a temporary post, no probationary period was considered necessary when he was appointed to a permanent post in March, 1942. He was permitted to accept service in His Majesty's Land Forces and, although proof of his physical fitness was available in the certificate of his suitability for military service, the medical examination was not dispensed with but took place at Dehra Dun where he reported for military training. As in other cases of permanent staff relieved for military duty, he has been given a lien on his post for the duration of the war.

#### APPOINTMENT OF A SOUTH INDIAN IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTION, IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

**89. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that the Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, appointed a South Indian, a relative of his, with Engineering qualifications in the Agricultural Section though he did not satisfy any of the conditions of the advertisement?

(b) What was the number of applications received, and how many applicants were there from the Punjab who actually satisfied the conditions of the advertisement?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The candidate appointed by the Director on the recommendation of the Imperial Agriculturist satisfied all the conditions of the advertisement including the possession of a Science degree and post-graduate training. He had certain Engineering qualifications also and experience which were considered a further recommendation in view of the duties of the post to be filled. The candidate is a South Indian but is not related to the Director.

(b) 141 applications were received from candidates with a degree either in Agriculture or Science, of which 20 were from the Punjab.

#### TEMPORARY AND OFFICIATING APPOINTMENTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

**90. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the number of all temporary and officiating appointments filled up in the Legislative Department in different grades since 1939?

(b) To which province does each of the persons appointed belong?

(c) How is it that no Sikh has so far been taken, and are the Home Department orders regarding communal proportion followed?

**Sir George Spence:** (a) 4 Assistants and 15 Clerks.

(b) Madras 3, Bengal 2, United Provinces 5, Punjab 5, North West Frontier Province 1, Delhi 2, Travancore 1.

(c) One of the persons appointed being a Sikh the first part does not arise. The answer to the second part is in the affirmative.

#### MOVEMENT AND PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN THE EASTERN ZONE.

**91. \*Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) why free trade was not introduced in the Eastern Zone before the 18th May, 1943;

(b) why the Provincial Governments in this Zone were allowed to introduce restrictions on the movement of foodstuff, specially of rice and in keeping down prices;

(c) why on the 18th May, 1943, all previous restrictions on the movement of foodstuff, and on the prices previously fixed were done away with and why the Notification No. 5-Dc/28/43 of the 18th May was issued; and

(d) why the orders of the Provincial Governments passed before the 18th May restricting the movement of foodstuff and prices were made null and void?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) to (d). Before the 18th May, 1943, the Government of India were working to a plan under which certain surplus Provinces were to despatch specified quotas of foodgrains to certain deficit Provinces. For the working of this plan it was necessary that Provincial Governments should have the power to control movements of food-stuffs and their prices. Before this plan could become fully effective in the Eastern Region (consisting of Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and the Eastern States Agency) a serious shortage of rice, accompanied by a steep rise in prices, was apparent in Bengal which made it necessary, as an immediate measure, to remove all restrictions on the movement of foodgrains and on prices in order to allow supplies and prices within the Region to find a more normal level.

**RICE PRICES IN BENGAL, BIHAR, ORISSA AND ASSAM.**

92. \***Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what the prices were of rice in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam before the Notification No. 5-Dc/28/43, was issued on the 18th May, and what the prices were at these places within a fortnight after the issue of the Notifications on the 18th May and 18th June 1943;

(b) the reason for an abnormal rise in prices of rice after the said Notification was issued;

(c) why no check was put on dealers and stockists of rice for raising prices prevailing before the restrictions were done away with on the 18th May last;

(d) the approximate amount of profit made by dealers and stockists in the Eastern Zone after the free trade was introduced; and

(e) if Government got any share of the profits?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) A statement is laid upon the table.

(b) Prices rose in Bihar, Orissa and Assam owing to pressure of competitive buying as soon as the statutory restrictions on trade movements and prices were removed, and did not fall substantially in Bengal owing to certain administrative restrictions imposed by neighbouring Provinces.

(c) It was hoped that with the removal of restrictions on movement, supplies, and in consequence prices, would find a more normal level.

(d) The Government of India have no information on this point.

(e) No.

*Statement.*

		Price of Rice.		
		On 13th May 1943.	On 1st June 1943.	On 18th June 1943.
(i)	Bengal . . . . .	From Rs. 27-15 to Rs. 31-4.	From Rs. 30 to Rs. 30-15.	From Rs. 31 to Rs. 31-4
(ii)	Bihar . . . . .	From Rs. 9-3 to Rs. 16	From Rs. 10-11 to Rs. 18.	From Rs. 10-11 to Rs. 23.
(iii)	Orissa . . . . .	From Rs. 6-8 to Rs. 11-7.	The lower figure is not available but prices ranged up to Rs. 17-12.	From Rs. 9-8 to Rs. 20.
(iv)	Assam . . . . .	Rs. 18	Rs. 25	Rs. 32

The prices prevailing on the 18th of May are not readily available. The prices indicated for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa are for two centres in each of these Provinces and the prices for Assam refer to Shillong.

**DEATHS DUE TO STARVATION IN ORISSA.**

93. \***Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made in the Orissa Legislative Assembly on the 3rd July, 1943, by Mr. Pyari Sankar Roy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Government of Orissa, on deaths due to starvation of some 70 persons in that Province (*vide* statement published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 5th July 1943)?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what action, if any, was taken to supply food to these victims?

(c) Is it not a fact that this number relates to only one district of Balasore?

(d) What is the total number of deaths due to starvation in Orissa after the 18th May, 1943?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Asizul Huque:** (a) I have not seen the actual statement of the Parliamentary Secretary but have seen only the Press report. The report of the Orissa Government just received in reply to our telegram says that those persons were generally old and infirm and that it was not known how many of the deaths were due to starvation. Previous to this, we had no report from the Orissa Government.

(b) The report of the Orissa Government states that relief measures have been in progress in Balasore district for some time, but that it is not known what specific steps were taken to feed the people referred to in the statement.

(c) Yes.

(d) No such cases have so far been reported to the Government of India.

#### INDIANS CONNECTED WITH INDIAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

**94. \*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state:

(a) if there are any Indians connected with the Indian Army, Navy and Air force in South Africa;

(b) the treatment they are having as regards their residence and travel;

(c) what amenities they are having; and

(d) what the expenses incurred on their maintenance are in South Africa, and who pays for these expenses?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** This question should have been addressed to the War Department.

#### REGULATION OF ACREAGE PRICES OF JUTE IN BENGAL.

**95. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to refer to my unstarred questions Nos. 14, 15 and 16, dated the 11th February, 1943, relating to regulation of jute acreage in Bengal and the influence exercised on behalf of the Government of India on the Government of Bengal for the cultivation of jute in excess of the desire of the representatives of cultivators on the Advisory Board on Jute Regulation, and the discussions on this subject, in its relation particularly to the "Grow More Food" movement, in the Bengal Legislature, and lay on the table a full statement in answer to the said questions?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a Press statement issued by the Chief Whip of the Bengal Congress Parliamentary Party in the first week of this month, alleging—

(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 of the Provincial Government and "possibly of the Central Government as well";

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

(iv) that there has been a tripartite understanding between the interests concerned in 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?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to lay on the table a full statement on the above allegations, and to explain what part, if any, has been played by the Government of India in this transaction?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Asizul Huque:** (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies to his unstarred questions Nos. 15 and 16 of the 11th February, 1943, laid on the table of the House on the 27th July, 1943.

(b) and (c). The question should be addressed to the Member representing Supply Department.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### INDIAN EXPORTS TO MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST THROUGH CERTAIN AGENCIES.

**17. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing exports from India during the last three years, year by year, to various countries in the Middle and Near East, as well as Turkey, through the agency of (i) the Indian exporters; (ii) the British exporters; and (iii) the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation?

(b) Does the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation operate in India as a principal agency as well as an agency of His Majesty's Government through its various Departments such as the Ministry of Supply, Ministry of Food, etc.?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) The figures asked for are not available as statistics of exports are not compiled according to the nationality of the exporters or according to the particular agency by which exports are effected. The statement below gives, however, an approximate indication of the percentage share of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation in the total export trade to the countries specified during 1942-43.

Country to which exported.	Percentage share of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation in the total export trade to the countries specified during 1942-43.
Saudi Arabia . . . . .	2.9
Egypt . . . . .	2.4
Palestine and Syria . . . . .	1.3
Iraq . . . . .	0.03
Persia . . . . .	5.7
Aden . . . . .	0.1
Port Sudan . . . . .	0.4
Turkey . . . . .	3.3
Other Middle East countries . . . . .	<i>Negligible (total value about Rs. 2.7 lakhs).</i>

(b) So far as the Government of India are aware, all buying operations of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation in India are conducted on their own account and not on behalf of departments of His Majesty's Government.

### AVERAGE PRICES PAID ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT FOR PURCHASE OF WHEAT, RICE AND OTHER FOODGRAINS.

**18. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to refer to my unstarred question No. 11, dated the 11th February, 1943, regarding exports, imports, etc., of foodgrains, and make a statement on the average prices paid on behalf of Government for the purchase of wheat, rice and other foodgrains, month by month in 1942, separately, and how these compare with the actual prevailing prices at which they were available to the public in the principal centres of consumption thereof?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to make a similar statement, month by month, in respect of the past months of 1943?

(c) Were any instructions definitely given to the purchasing agents of Government about the maximum prices payable?

(d) Is he aware of the wide-spread reports that the purchasing agents of Government operating in the districts of Bengal have actually purchased rice at prices much in excess of the prevailing rates, thus artificially forcing up the general level of prices and indirectly encouraging the dealers to withhold their stocks from the normal markets in the hope of obtaining higher prices from these agents?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). Statements are placed on the table in respect of the Punjab, where the Central Government's purchasing organisation was operative up to mid-April, 1943. In other Provinces purchases were controlled by the local Governments concerned.

(c) Yes, in the Punjab.

(d) The Government of India are not aware of any such reports. Purchasing Agents in Bengal are appointed by and act under the directions of the Bengal Government.

Statement showing the actual prices of wheat in principal markets for the 12 months of 1942.  
All figures in Rs. As. Ps. per md. of 82 2/7 lbs.

Name of Markets.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
<i>Punjab Province.</i>												
1. Lyallpur *	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	5 0 0	4 11 6	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
2. Okara	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 14 0	4 10 3	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
3. Amritsar	4 13 0	4 13 0	6 8 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 6 0	5 12 0	5 11 0	5 10 0	5 12 0	6 8 0	5 10 0
<i>United Provinces.</i>												
4. Hapur	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 15 6	4 14 9	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 14 9

Rice.—During the period rice prices were not controlled. Government purchases were made at the prevailing market rates.

\* Wheat prices at Lyallpur were controlled from the 10th December, 1942.

Statement showing average prices paid by Government's Purchasing Agents for wheat, rice and other foodgrains in the Punjab.  
(Per maund.)

	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Bajra.	Jowar.	Maize.	Barley.
	Rs. A. P.						
January 1943	8 9 0	9 12 0	..	7 6 0	7 4 0	..	..
February 1943	10 2 0	13 9 9	..	6 0 0	7 15 0	..	..
March 1943	9 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
April 1943	8 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
May 1943	11 0 6	18 4 6	10 5 3	8 11 9	..	8 11 6	7 12 0
June 1943	10 2 3	18 5 3	9 8 10	9 9 6	8 15 6	7 14 0	7 9 9

Statement showing the prices of Wheat, Rice, Grams, Jowar, Bajra, Maize and Barley prevailing in Abohar Market (Punjab) during the months January 1943 to June 1943.

(In Rupees per maund.)

Name of months.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Maize.	Barley.
January 1943	10 0 0	13 0 0	8 12 0	7 4 0	6 13 0	6 6 0	4 4 0
February 1943	9 14 6	13 0 0	7 12 0	7 4 0	5 3 0	6 0 0	6 4 0
March 1943	8 15 0	12 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	5 8 0	6 0 0	7 0 0
April 1943	8 8 0	13 0 0	8 3 0	9 4 0	6 12 0	6 0 0	7 8 0
May 1943	9 9 0	20 0 0	8 10 0	9 0 0	8 0 0	6 0 0	7 5 6
June 1943	10 0 0	20 0 0	8 8 0	9 0 0	8 0 0	N.a.	7 10 3

N.a.—Not available.  
N.B.—Wheat decontrolled since 24th January 1943.

Average price per maund of 36 2/7 lbs. paid by Government for their purchases during the 12 months of 1942.

Grain.	All figures in Rs. As. Pa.											
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Wheat	4 10 0	4 10 0	4 8 9	4 13 0	4 10 3	4 14 6	5 2 6	5 3 3	5 4 0	5 5 3	5 12 0	5 13 3
Rice	7 16 3	7 10 0	8 15 6	No purchases.	8 3 2	8 12 3	9 6 6	10 1 3	9 10 0	9 8 9	7 11 3	10 9 3
Bajra *												
Jowar *												

\* No purchases being made during 1943.

SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR MUSLIMS UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND EXPENDITURE THEREON.

**19. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the total number of special institutions for Muslims under the Central Government, and the expenditure incurred thereon?

(b) What amount is spent by the Central Government on Muslim education by way of scholarship, special institution, etc.?

(c) Do Government propose to spend a proportionate amount on education for Hindus?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) and (b). The Aligarh Muslim University which may, in a way, be regarded as an institution catering for the special needs of the Muslim community in the matter of University education, though it is open to all persons of whatever race, creed or class, receives an annual grant of Rs. 3 lakhs from Central Revenues. There are no special scholarships or special institutions for Muslims maintained or aided by Government in the Delhi Province or Baluchistan. Information in respect of Ajmer-Merwara has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House when available.

(c) The Benares Hindu University is already receiving the same financial assistance from Central Revenues as the Aligarh Muslim University. The general policy of the Government is to afford the same educational facilities to all communities.

THE INDIAN STATES (PROTECTION AGAINST DISAFFECTION) AMENDMENT BILL.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian States (Protection against Disaffection) Act, 1922, 12 NOON. for a certain purpose, be continued."

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

"That the Bill to amend the Indian States (Protection against Disaffection) Act, 1922, for a certain purpose, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 497 AND 498.)

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code for a certain purpose (*Amendment of sections 497 and 498*) be continued."

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code for a certain purpose (*Amendment of sections 497 and 498*) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW (SHARIAT) APPLICATION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Muslim Personal Law (*Shariat*) Application Act, 1937, be continued."

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Muslim Personal Law (*Shariat*) Application Act, 1937, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

## THE USURIOUS LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural):  
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to limit rates of interest and for that purpose further to amend the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, be continued."

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

"That the Bill to limit rates of interest and for that purpose further to amend the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

## THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 386 AND 539-B.]

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural):  
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (*Amendment of sections 386 and 539-B.*) be continued."

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (*Amendment of sections 386 and 539-B.*) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

## THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha** (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

Sir, as will appear from the Bill itself, it is very short, simple and non-controversial. It aims at nothing more than a slight increase of penalty money—from Re. 1 to Rs. 3 only—to be paid to the cabin pilgrims as compensation if they are detained at Jeddah and have to wait for a pilgrim ship for their return voyage. The Act at present provides the same scale of compensation, *viz.* Re. 1, for both deck and cabin passengers.

For the information of the House, I will read out the section in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act which is sought to be amended:

"Where any pilgrim who has been carried to the Hedjaz by a pilgrim ship with a return ticket issued in British India within the previous eighteen months is, owing to his inability to obtain accommodation on a ship for which the return ticket is available, detained at Jeddah for a longer period than twenty-five days from the day on which he presents his ticket to His Majesty's Representative at Jeddah, notifying his desire to embark for the return passage, the master, owner or agent of the ship in which such pilgrim was carried to the Hedjaz shall pay to the Governor General in Council in respect of such pilgrim such sum not exceeding double the whole sum received by such master, owner or agent in respect of the return ticket as the Governor General in Council claims as the cost of repatriating the pilgrim, together with a sum of one rupee for each day after the expiry of the twenty five days aforesaid during which the pilgrim has been detained at Jeddah."

Sir, when the cabin passengers pay much higher amount of money to the shipping companies for their steamer fare and food charges, it is simply unreasonable that they should be treated on the same footing as the deck passengers when they are detained at Jeddah for no fault of theirs, but on account of negligence or mismanagement on the part of shipping companies. Their standard of living is very high and if any compensation is to be given, it should be paid according to the status and position of the passengers and it should be commensurate to the fare charged from them by the shipping companies. It is not always that the companies have to pay this amount, as provided in the section sought to be amended. It is only a penalty clause provided to put a pressure on the shipping companies, so that they may make proper earlier arrangements for the convenience of pilgrim passengers. When there are so many other improvements to be made in the pilgrim voyage, which are under consideration of the Government, why should this very urgent and necessary amendment, aiming at early arrangements to be made for the return of pilgrims, should not be accepted by the Government.

The House will remember that during the last Session the Honourable the Leader of the House opposed the circulation of certain Bills on the ground of scarcity of paper. In view of that, I wonder why the Honourable Member

[Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha.]

in charge has tabled a motion for circulation of this Bill, especially when the Bill is a very simple one, to which, I think, there will be no opposition at all except perhaps from the interested shipping companies. I was, however, under the impression that the Government should have no objection to the consideration of this Bill.

Sir, I hope the Honourable Member in charge will be pleased to reconsider his motion for circulation and withdraw the same. But if for certain cogent reasons he is determined to move it, I would have no objection to accepting the same if he would change the final date for inviting the opinions from 30th November, proposed by him, to 15th October or some such other date, as would allow the opinions to be received in time for the Bill to be placed before the next Session of the Assembly, which, I understand, will be held sometime in November next. Sir, I move.

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare** (Member for Indians Overseas): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th November, 1943."

Sir, the Honourable Member who has moved this Bill has said that this is a very small measure and that Government should have no difficulty in accepting this right away. No doubt the raising of the detention fees from Re. 1 to Rs. 3 is a very small matter, but the principle involved is not small at all, because it implies a discrimination between the poor and the wealthy among the pilgrims. Besides, the wealthier passengers are able to take care of themselves. So there should be no differences made with regard to them. It was necessary to ascertain Muslim opinion as to whether it was justifiable to differentiate between the poor and the wealthy. I therefore press my amendment, Sir.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable Member has not given a reply to the proposal which has been put by the Mover of the Bill, viz., that he is prepared to accept the motion for circulation if the Honourable Member proposes to get the opinion by the 15th October to enable the Bill to be taken up in the next Session; but if the date remains at 30th November, then it means that the Bill cannot come before the next Session. Is the Honourable Member willing to accept this?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare**: I will accept that.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Instead of 30th November, it will be 15th October.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare**: Yes, Sir.

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

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th October, 1943."

**Mr. E. L. C. Gwillt** (Bombay: European): Sir, whilst I have no desire to oppose the amendment that this Bill be circulated, nevertheless there are a few remarks I wish to make. The Bill proposes to amend sub-section (1) of section 209A of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act of 1923, which provides that if a pilgrim holding a return ticket is, owing to his inability to obtain accommodation on a pilgrim ship detained at Jeddah for a longer period than 25 days, the shipping company concerned is bound to pay a sum of one rupee for each day after the expiry of 25 days.

The Bill before the House seeks to amend that sub-section to provide that in respect of a cabin class pilgrim the sum shall be increased to Rs. 8 a day. In my opinion, Sir, it is undesirable to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act during war time when conditions are abnormal, for as Government will realise there is no possibility of that particular sub-section being enforced under present conditions when the shipowner has very little control over his vessels, and cannot under any circumstances accept responsibility for delays

and detentions. I would mention, Sir, that in respect of pilgrimages allowed since the outbreak of the war, the Government of India have recognised that with the control of shipping, requisitionings, etc. section 209A is not possible of enforcement. I would also point out that as a result of the Report of the Special Haj Enquiry conducted by Mr. J. A. Rahim, it is generally anticipated that considerable amendments will be necessary to the Indian Merchant Shipping Act so far as it pertains to the pilgrim trade and to the Indian Pilgrim Ship's Rules.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** On a point of order I want to know whether the Honourable Member is opposing the consideration of the Bill or the amendment?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is no point of order. The Honourable Member may draw his own inference.

**Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt:** I said that I did not oppose the amendment. I am of the opinion that it would be advisable to leave the consideration of the amendment that this Bill seeks to make, until such time as the major amendments of the Act can be considered, which certainly will not be until some time after the cessation of hostilities. I am opposed to the increase to Rs. 8 a day in the case of cabin class pilgrims on principle. The original object of the section was to alleviate the distress in the case of pilgrims of the poorest class who might be stranded in Jeddah. Those pilgrims who can pay cabin class are not likely to be in distress, and there seems to be no reason why the shipowner should be penalised in respect of well-to-do people who can afford to pay cabin class and can easily afford to maintain themselves during any enforced delay at Jeddah. I think I am correct in saying that the shipping companies concerned have always opposed the principle of section 209A, unless it could be proved that the pilgrim was detained at Jeddah through a deliberate default on the part of the shipowner: and they have maintained that the section could not be enforced if, due to acts of God such as a marine casualty to a vessel, the shipowner was unable to place his vessel at Jeddah at the correct intervals to bring back returning pilgrims.

I would emphasize that the pilgrim shipowner is already over-burdened with various responsibilities and liabilities placed on him by part 4 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, and if this additional liability becomes law, there will be no alternative but for the shipowner to increase his fares to cover any such contingency. The effect then must necessarily be that those who will not benefit by the proposed amendment, if this Bill were ever put on the Statute-book, must pay for those who may.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang** (East Punjab: Muhammadan): I support the motion for circulation moved by Dr. Khare in view of the Mover's offer to abide by the circulation motion in case the last date in the motion for circulation for eliciting opinion be changed from 30th November to 15th October. Dr. Khare having agreed to change the date, there is no dispute about the Bill being circulated. I want to deal with the points raised by our Honourable friend, Mr. Gwilt. I really cannot understand how many necessary and desirable reforms can be postponed till the very illusory time when the war will come to an end, and how long we can afford to wait for pressing and necessary reforms to be introduced simply because the war is on. After listening to the reasons given by Mr. Gwilt, I think that the matter boils down to this, that the shipping companies as a result of war time duties and conditions are not in a position to observe punctually any programmes of ships coming to Jeddah for the purpose of repatriating pilgrims to the Hejaz, and that being the case and they being handicapped on account of war conditions, the proposed provision for increasing the penalty from one rupee to Rs. 8 per day in the case of cabin class passengers would not be just and fair. But I think that the Merchant Shipping Act as it stands provides for the levying of a penalty only in cases of any negligence or wilful neglect on the part of the shipping companies, and circumstances which may serve as an excuse for

[Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.]

the shipping companies are already in the contemplation of the law, and there will be no particular additional handicap for the shipping companies if this amendment is enacted into law. The excuse of circumstances over which they had no control and under which they failed to repatriate the pilgrims from Hejaz will still be available to them under the law. Mr. Gwilt, referred to a number of reforms which are in contemplation as a result of the Special Haj Enquiry held by Mr. J. A. Rahim and the consideration of his suggestions which is going on. But I think that we should enact an amendment of the kind before the House without keeping it pending and waiting till the whole bundle of reforms suggested by Mr. Rahim is decided upon. The very reasonable proposal made by Dr. Khare that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon, which is agreeable to the Honourable the Mover of the Bill, appears to me to meet all the requirements of the case. The public will have, including, of course, the shipping companies, an opportunity to offer their points of view. Opinions will come, they will be duly taken into consideration and then the House will finally consider the Bill. I submit that the reasons given by Mr. Gwilt are inadequate and we should not wait till the end of the war to enact a very small but evidently desirable amendment to the Shipping Act. I support the motion for circulation.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): This Bill was introduced in the last November Session and the Government have not yet made up their mind regarding the amount paid by the shipping companies as halting allowances to the pilgrims. The amendment proposed is a very trifling one, a very modest one, which requires no opinions of the public, because all those interested in the pilgrimage are unanimous on this point. The Government have been sleeping over the matter for about a year and now they have come with this plea of circulation. I do not think that this kind of motion should have been made by the Government Benches. However, the question is about halting allowances to pilgrims who had already purchased return tickets. They have paid their fares and due to the fault of the company they have to stay at Jeddah. And they are not going to be paid for each day just after their pilgrimage, but after a stay of 25 days continually if these companies do not manage to accommodate them in their steamers, then in that case the companies have to pay one rupee a day to each pilgrim. But no consideration has been given to the class of accommodation for which they held the ticket. All classes, whether first, or cabin class,—all used to get one rupee a day. Gold and silver and other materials have equal value in the market as allowances in cases of all classes of passengers. I think the Government should have made up their minds and come to the rescue of the pilgrims and taken up the consideration of this Bill instead of bringing in a dilatory motion. However, as the Honourable the Mover has accepted the circulation motion, I hope Government will see their way to it that the Bill comes up before the House during the next Session so that it may be enacted into law. As regards the plea of my friend from the European Group, I do not see that there is anything in what he said, namely, that we should wait till such time as all the amendments recommended by the Haj Enquiry Committee can be incorporated in a complete Bill and then this matter along with the other measures should be considered. I do not think that this suggestion can do any good. I support the motion moved by the Honourable Mover of the Bill.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th October, 1943."

The motion was adopted.

#### THE REMOVAL OF HINDU SOCIAL DISABILITIES BILL.

**Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of social disabilities among certain classes of Hindus.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of social disabilities among certain classes of Hindus."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894."

The motion was adopted.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

[AMENDMENT OF SECTION 60.]

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, (*Amendment of Section 60*).

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, (*Amendment of section 60*)."

The motion was adopted.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### THE REMOVAL OF POLITICAL DISABILITIES BILL.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of political disabilities among certain classes of the Indians in general and of the Hindus in particular and for the restoration of certain rights which they are deprived of.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of political disabilities among certain classes of the Indians in general and of the Hindus in particular and for the restoration of certain rights which they are deprived of."

The motion was adopted.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 34, ETC.]

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (*Amendment of sections 34, etc.*)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (*Amendment of sections 34, etc.*)."

The motion was adopted.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

### THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE PAYMENT OF SALARIES BILL.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of salaries to the Members of the Central Legislature.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of salaries to the Members of the Central Legislature."

The motion was adopted.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

[NEW SECTION 93A.]

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, (*New section 93A*).

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (*New section 93A*)."

The motion was adopted.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 29th July, 1948.