

12th August 1943

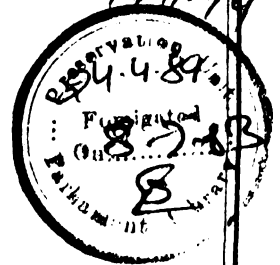
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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.

President:

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

Deputy President:

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

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

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

Mr. HOOSEINBHOY A. LALLJEE, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

[From 20th August, 1943.]

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 12th August, 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.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

DESIRABILITY OF APPOINTING A MUSLIM AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

262. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state when the present incumbent of the post of the Director General of Archæology is due to retire, and if it is proposed to appoint a Muslim to succeed him, in view of the fact that this post has never gone to a Muslim officer ever since the creation of the Department?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The present Director General of Archæology in India is due to retire on the 21st October, 1944. The post of Director General is filled by selection and communal considerations cannot be taken into account.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know who are the members of the Selection Board?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is no Selection Board.

DESIRABILITY OF APPOINTING A MUSLIM AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

263. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if it is a fact that the tenure of the present incumbent of the post of Deputy Director General of Archæology is due to expire in or about September 1943?

(b) Is it now proposed to appoint a Muslim officer to this post, in view of the fact that this post has been held by Hindus for about a decade? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. On the 2nd September, 1943.

(b) The post of Deputy Director General of Archæology is filled by selection. The claims of all officers, including Muslims, will be considered before a final selection is made.

DESIRABILITY OF APPOINTING A MUSLIM AS CONSERVATION ASSISTANT, ARCHÆO-LOGICAL DEPARTMENT AT DELHI.

264. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that the post of Conservation Assistant, Archæological Department at Delhi, fallen vacant by the demise of the permanent incumbent, has now been temporarily filled by a sub-overseer transferred from the office of the Archæological Superintendent, Agra?

(b) Is the sub-overseer temporarily appointed a qualified hand from any recognised Engineering College?

(c) Is he aware:

(i) that the work of the conservation of ancient monuments requires engineering training, skill and experience; and

(ii) that almost all the protected monuments in Delhi are Muslim ones including a large number of mosques and tombs, and owing to this fact does he propose to consider the desirability of appointing a Muslim subordinate to look after them?

†The question hour of the 10th August, 1943, having been dispensed with, these questions were transferred till to-day, vide page 575 of these Debates.—Ed. of D.

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

(b) The sub-overseer who has been appointed to officiate in the vacancy is a permanent hand with 15 years service.

(c) (i) Yes.

(ii) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given on the 25th March, 1941. to starred question No. 486 and the supplementary questions.

BREAKAGE OF GLASS SHEETS FIXED FOR PROTECTION OF MURAL PAINTINGS AT THE CENTRAL ASIAN ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM.

265. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware:

(i) that the plate glass sheets fixed for the protection of Mural paintings at the Central Asian Antiquities Museum were removed by the Archæological Department and buried underground; and

(ii) that almost all these glass sheets were broken to pieces due to the unscientific burial of them?

(b) Who are responsible for this treatment of the glass sheets, and what was the original price of these and their present market value?

(c) Are the glasses required for the protection of the paintings in future, and is it now possible to replace the broken glasses by new ones?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i). Yes; the glass sheets were buried on the advice of the A. R. P. authorities to avoid danger to the public from glass splinters.

(ii) Most of the glass sheets were broken, probably owing to seismic tremors.

(b) The Assistant Archæological Superintendent in charge of A. R. P. measures was primarily responsible. The original cost was Rs. 35,000. The present market value is not known.

(c) The glass is not essential for the protection of the paintings. It cannot be replaced at present as the glass is not available in the market.

REPAIRS OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS AT BIJAPUR.

266. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) which of the monuments at Bijapur are protected under the Protected Monuments Act;

(b) the expenditure incurred last year on their repairs;

(c) whether he is aware:

(i) that the Gol Gumbaz, the Ibrahim Rauza and the other monuments are in a most neglected condition today, that bits of plaster are falling down from the ceiling of the Gol Gumbaz, even endangering the lives of visitors, for whose protection the central portion of the floor of the Gumbaz has been fenced off, while nothing is done to repair or preserve the ceiling; and

(ii) that in the Ibrahim Rauza the unique perforated stone window panels of interlaced Arabic writings have been seriously damaged and some of them are missing; and

(d) if he proposes to issue orders immediately to effect necessary repairs for the better care of these monuments before further damage is done?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) There are 109 monuments in Bijapur and its suburbs which are protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.

(b) The allotment made last year for maintenance of and special repairs to the monuments in Bijapur was Rs. 9,308. The amount of expenditure actually incurred is not available at present.

(c) (i). It is true that small bits of plaster have fallen from certain portions of the ceiling of the Gol Gumbaz and that the central portion of the floor of the Gumbaz has been fenced for the safety of the public as these small fragments fall from a great height. The monuments of special importance mentioned in the question have not been neglected but have been receiving special attention during recent years. In particular, the structure of the dome of the Gol

Gumbaz is reported to be safe. Estimates and plans for repairs to the ceiling of the dome were prepared but the work had to be postponed on account of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary materials in war conditions.

(ii) The Honourable Member apparently refers to the ceiling panels of the verandah which, standing without support over a span of some 12 feet, were endangered by the deterioration of the concrete terrace above. Here again work had to be postponed as the materials required were not obtainable. No panels are missing.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With reference to the statement that repairs are postponed for want of materials, will the Honourable Member make inquiries whether this indefinite postponement is really doing very great harm to these valuable monuments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. We will do that. I understand it is not likely to do so but I will make further inquiry.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With reference to the reply to part (c) (ii) that no panels are missing, will the Honourable Member take it from me that one panel is missing. Will he make inquiries?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will make inquiries about it.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With reference to the final part of the answer, will the Honourable Member see that further damage is not done to these valuable monuments and that something is done to get the necessary materials?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If the immediate safety of the panels is involved, we will undoubtedly have to press for the necessary steel for these important monuments.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: They are stone panels, not steel.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, but I understand that the repairs will involve the use of a certain amount of steel rods.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can these materials be had in India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is very difficult to get steel at all except for war purposes.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: He is referring to the panels in stone?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think that the fixing of these things requires steel.

PROCEDURE OF PURCHASING INDIAN WOOL BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT.

267. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that His Majesty's Government are the only overseas buyer of Indian wool?

(b) Is the Honourable Member apprised of the unanimous opinion of the Indian wool producers and traders that the present system of shipment of Indian wool to Liverpool on consignment basis is prejudicial to the Indian wool trade interests, more so in the present emergent conditions inasmuch as the Indian sellers have to bear heavy commission charges of the local non-Indian commission houses, and further they get full payment for their goods after an unduly long time, i.e., after the disposal of their goods in Liverpool?

(c) Do Government propose, in consultation with the trade, to buy wool on behalf of His Majesty's Government in India themselves from the actual shippers, and pay for it at controlled prices fixed for Liverpool plus the subsidy less expenses up to destination?

(d) What are the reasons for not adopting the system of supplies to the United Kingdom mentioned in (c) above in place of the present system of shipment on consignment basis?

(e) Is it a fact that His Majesty's Government have agreed to purchase the entire wool clips plus one clip more of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa after the termination of the war?

(f) Is it a fact that His Majesty's Government are not agreeable to accord a similar treatment to Indian wool even on the face of the position in (e) above?

(g) What steps have the Government of India taken so far in persuading His Majesty's Government to accord equal treatment to Indian wool on par with the wool of the Dominions mentioned above in the matter of procedure of purchasing Indian wool?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Broadly speaking, the United Kingdom is now the only regular export market for Indian wool.

(b) Government are aware that some exporters are dissatisfied with the working of the present system of shipment of wool to Liverpool on a consignment basis through Commission Houses in India.

(c) and (d). The presumption that His Majesty's Government themselves buy Indian wool is incorrect. The trade is still conducted through private channels, and there can be no question therefore of the Government of India buying wool on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

(e) Yes.

(f) and (g). Indian wool is of a quality different from Australian and South African wool and His Majesty's Government do not require the entire exportable surplus of Indian wool.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know that there is great dissatisfaction among the sellers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the sellers send us a memorandum pointing out their grievances, I will certainly look into the matter.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDIAN WOOL TRADE INTERESTS.

268. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the deteriorated position of the Indian wool interests due to the curtailment of the annual quota of shipment of Indian wool to Liverpool to 36,000 bales, against the average annual shipment of about 1,25,000 bales?

(b) What steps have Government taken to represent the matter to His Majesty's Government, with a view to substantially raising the quota to the annual average shipment figure?

(c) Are Government aware that the present holders of the monopoly of the export of the Afghan wool to the United States of America were not in the trade prior to the war, and that this wool was handled by the established Indian wool exporters who have now been deprived of this trade?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, what measures have they taken to safeguard the Indian wool trade interests?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter was represented to His Majesty's Government but they have stated that demands in the United Kingdom requiring the use of Indian wool do not at present justify any increase in the quota of 35,000 bales for 1943, having regard to the need for conserving shipping space.

(c) and (d). Government have no information but are making enquiries.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table after making inquiries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At the next Session, if a question is put, I will certainly do so.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDIAN WOOL TRADE INTERESTS. .

269. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether Government are apprised of the fact that in the absence of the high priority of shipment of Indian wool to the United Kingdom even the small quota of Indian wool to Liverpool is finding serious difficulty in regard to shipping space?

(b) Are Government aware that the loss of the Liverpool market for Indian wool since the entry of the United States of America into the war has seriously aggravated the position of the Indian wool taking into consideration the fact that the United Kingdom who is now the only buyer of Indian wool have failed to take Indian wool even to the extent of its normal average annual off-take?

(c) Have Government represented to His Majesty's Government to safeguard the Indian wool trade interests against the precipitate fall in prices that generally result after the end of hostilities by calling upon the Wool Control Board in Liverpool to maintain the control rates *plus* the subsidy for Indian wool for at least two years after the termination of the war, and to apply these control rates and the subsidy also to the quotas in India which have not been shipped to Liverpool before the end of the war, and also to the quotas in transit to Liverpool before the end of the war?

(d) Are Government aware that, in view of the heavy stocks of Indian wool accumulated in the country, the importation of foreign wool (Australian, Iranian and Afghan) into India goes to worsen the situation and should be forthwith stopped?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Government are aware that actual shipments during the past few months have fallen short of expectations.

(c) His Majesty's Government's Wool Control do not themselves buy Indian wool but have merely fixed *maximum* prices. The maintenance of these prices will be dependent on the general policy of His Majesty's Government in regard to the measure of control which they may consider desirable or possible after the war but it is obvious that the continued maintenance of *maximum* prices cannot afford any protection to shippers, should there be a precipitate fall in prices after the war.

(d) Imports of Australian wool are of a quality not available in India and are restricted to the minimum required for Government purposes. Imports of Persian and Afghan wools are very small.

INDIAN WOOL TRADE.

270. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please give figures of Indian wool of the following qualities used by (A) Indian Mills, and (B) hand weaving looms, for (i) manufacturing cloth for wearing purposes, and (ii) for manufacturing blankets, etc.

1. Black and grey, and 2. White and yellow? (The figures may kindly be given of different types and different uses, separately).

(b) Were prices realised for Indian wool in Liverpool at recent distributions much below the control prices, and have Government taken any action urging the authorities in the United Kingdom for a careful examination of the parcels of Indian wool before assessment, with a view to ensuring for such Indian wool full control prices *plus* subsidy?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian wool recently exported to Basra for being delivered to Russia and other foreign countries fetched higher prices than the control prices *plus* subsidy for Indian wool in Liverpool? If so, why have Government not taken steps to distribute the excess over the control price to the dealers in India, as was done in the past in case of supplies to France?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (A). The estimated quantity of Indian wool used by the mills for manufacture of blankets for the requirements of the Defence Services is twenty million pounds per annum.

(B) The estimated quantity of wool utilised annually by the Hand-loom Industry is: (i) two million five hundred thousand pounds for the manufacture of cloth for the use of the Defence Services; and (ii) eight million pounds for the manufacture of blankets for the Defence Services.

It is not possible to give the figures asked for regarding the quantities of (i) black and grey and (ii) white and yellow wools used in the manufacture of the above, without making detailed enquiries from the manufacturers.

(b) No wools have been sold at other than scheduled prices *plus* appropriate subsidies.

(c) The reference is presumably to certain quantities of wool recently exported by Messrs. Cox & Kings Limited, but the position is not analogous to the sales to French buyers in the early stages of war. In the present instance, the wool

was offered by shippers as a direct sale to the purchasers in India and was not diverted from the Liverpool auctions under the authority of the U. K. Wool Control. The Government of India are therefore unable to interfere in the question of profits, if any, made by resale of the wool in question.

DAMAGE TO GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN'S GARDEN.

271. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is or it is not a fact that there are several complaints of excesses by the Land Acquisition Collector of the Improvement Trust, Delhi in respect of the zamindars' properties?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that an old historical Mughal garden known as Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan's Garden has been destroyed by the authorities of the Trust?

(c) Is it not a fact that the destruction of the said garden is partly due to the letter of the Superintendent of the Trust who has on behalf of the Chairman asked the police not to intervene, and to let the contractors cut down the valuable fruit-bearing trees?

(d) Was the Superintendent properly authorised by the Chairman to write such a letter? If so, why did he not first enquire about the facts stated by the owner of the garden?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No.

(b) A portion of the garden, which is a fruit garden of no special historical importance, was acquired lawfully for public purposes. Apart from the cutting down of trees there has been no destruction of any property.

(c) and (d). The letter, for which the Chairman of the Trust accepts responsibility, was quite properly written to the Police to inform them that certain people who had lawfully purchased in auction the right to cut and remove trees from the land acquired by the Trust should not be interfered with when they went to cut the trees. It was necessary to inform the Police of the facts because the previous owners had asked the Police to prevent the auction purchasers from removing the trees.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is it not a fact that at the first stage the contractor had the possession of about 2 *bighas* and later on he took over the possession of 11 *bighas* and removed the trees from the acquired land?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think if my Honourable friend will wait that question will come up automatically under question No. 279.

DAMAGE TO GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN'S GARDEN.

272. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to enlighten the House regarding the result of his enquiry about Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan's Garden as promised during the last session of the Assembly?

(b) Is it a fact that four months have elapsed but the authorities of the Delhi Improvement Trust and the Land Acquisition Collector have not so far redressed the grievances of the owner of the garden? If not, why not?

(c) Is it not unconstitutional that the Collector was authorised to acquire only two *bighas* and sixteen *biswas* of land according to the copy of the award while he has actually taken possession of more land than authorised? If so, under what law of the Land Acquisition Act has the Collector done so, and why did he order the cutting down of trees beyond the acquired area without any information of the owner?

(d) Who is responsible for it?

(e) What action do Government propose to take against those who are responsible for the loss and destruction of the garden in question?

(f) Is it not a fact that the Delhi Improvement Trust is not functioning well, and that there are several complaints of the zamindars and landlords against the Land Acquisition Collector as stated in the *Watan*, local Daily Vernacular Paper, of the 30th April, 1948?

(g) Do Government propose to make an impartial enquiry into the public grievances against the Land Acquisition Collector and the Delhi Improvement Trust, and to enlighten the House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (e). I understand that no land has been acquired in excess of the area which was from the beginning intended and notified for acquisition, and no trees were cut down from land not actually acquired. In the acquisition proceedings the area of 4 *bighas* was by mistake computed as 2 *bighas* 16 *biswas* and compensation was calculated on this incorrect figure. The owner of the land had ample opportunities to get the mistake rectified during the course of the enquiry, but he failed to attend in spite of notices issued by the land acquisition officer. He also failed to apply for the reference of the award to the court under section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act. When the error was discovered, the land acquisition officer made a supplementary award allowing compensation for the whole of the 4 *bighas*. In addition to this area of 4 *bighas* the owner claims an additional area 4 *bighas* 10 *biswas* which according to the revenue records is Government property. In order that a decision on this dispute may be obtained, land acquisition proceedings have been instituted in respect of this additional area.

(f) and (g). Government have no reason to think that the Delhi Improvement Trust is not functioning well. They see no grounds for instituting any special enquiry. If specific complaints are made to the authorities concerned they will be fully investigated and necessary action will be taken. As regards the allegations made in the *Watan* of the 30th April, it is understood that the Trust is submitting a report on the subject and the action to be taken will be considered when the report is received.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: May I know if it is not a fact that the owner of this garden has been in possession thereof for the last so many years?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think there is any dispute as to the ownership of the main bulk of the garden.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Including the portion in dispute?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The portion in dispute consists of a long strip including a water course. Part of that strip is recorded in the revenue records as "under Government" and part of it is recorded as "under the co-sharers of the garden".

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Is it not a fact that this water course itself is included in the said garden?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any litigation going on about it?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is a dispute as to the ownership of 4 *bighas* and 10 *biswas* and in order to clear that up, the Trust, though they believe it to be Government property, have instituted land acquisition proceedings and the matter of title will, therefore, be settled automatically.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Is it not a fact that the acquisition proceedings were started only recently and for the last 300 years the property was taken to be the property of the owner of the garden?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The revenue records show it as the property of Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The matter is being investigated in court?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it shown as Nazool property

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: It is a matter for the court to decide.

PROVISION FOR EXEMPTING FINE ON IMPRISONMENT SERVED IN LIEU THEREOF.

273. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (on behalf of **Mr. R. R. Gupta**): (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state if he has in view any amendment of the relevant provision of the Criminal Procedure Code so that when a criminal has served a sentence of imprisonment in lieu of fine he may be let off the fine?

(b) If he does not contemplate any such amendment, why not?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the proviso to sub-section (J) of section 386 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from which he will observe that under the existing law the offender not only may be let off, the fine if he has undergone the whole imprisonment awarded in default of payment of fine but that the Court is required not to issue a warrant for the recovery of the fine in such circumstances, unless for special reasons to be recorded in writing it considers it necessary to do so. No question therefore arises of promoting an amendment in the sense suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that there have been certain questions and Resolutions with regard to this amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code, namely, with regard to the fine after the imprisonment is suffered, and is the Honourable Member prepared to have this section amended?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am not prepared to have the section amended.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: What are the reasons for saying so?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Because I consider the amendment of the section is wholly unnecessary. I think the law as it exists is working quite satisfactorily and is not operating harshly.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Does the Honourable Member know that the public opinion is against it?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I am asking for the reasons

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

SURVEY OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC POSSIBILITIES IN INDIA.

274. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (on behalf of **Mr. R. R. Gupta**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state if Government have directed a survey of Hydro-electric possibilities in this country? If so, when was the survey last carried out, and by whom?

(b) Do not Government consider that, in view of the generally accepted policy of conservation of India's better class coal resources, hydro-electric developments should be actively encouraged, particularly in the United Provinces, the Punjab and the Central Indian States, which are situated away from the sources of India's coal supply? If so, in what form do Government propose to encourage such development?

(c) What is the installed generating capacity of the State Hydro-electric schemes developed by the United Provinces and the Punjab Governments, Native States like Mysore and Travancore, and the Tatas in Bombay, and what is the unabsorbed load available from these schemes at present?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to lay on the table a statement showing from their latest data the possible head works site of the new hydro-electric schemes in India, together with the power likely to be obtained from each of the generation schemes?

(e) Have Government thought out any possibility of converting Railways to be driven electrically in those localities where cheap power can be obtained?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A brief survey of major hydro-electric possibilities throughout India was made about the end of 1941 by the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India.

(b) Promotion of hydro-electric schemes is primarily the concern of Provincial Governments and States. The Central Government is, however, fully alive to the desirability of hydro-electric development and the post-war organisation of the electricity supply industry including hydro-electric development is engaging the attention of the Reconstruction Committee of Council.

(c) and (d). During war-time it is not in the public interest to publish the information asked for. In any case, as already stated, the promotion of hydro-electric schemes is primarily the concern of the Provincial Governments and States.

(e) Yes, the question has been considered from time to time and is always kept in view, but the availability of cheap power is only one of the factors which would determine the conversion of a particular section to electric traction.

TEA WAITING SHIPMENT UNDER CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AFTER THE BAN ON PRIVATE EXPORTS.

275. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the amount of tea waiting shipment under the contractual obligations entered into by Indian traders at the time of the imposition of ban on the private exports of tea in December 1942;

(b) whether special licences were given to such exporters whose contractual obligations were pending at the time of the imposition of restrictions on the private exports of tea; if so, what the amount of tea is which was thus allowed to be exported, and what the time given to them was to effect such exports;

(c) whether Government are aware that in case of those merchants who were not allowed to effect shipments under their contracts they have entered, into for exports, they have suffered enormous losses;

(d) the amount of tea which was loaded on ships before the imposition of ban on exports of tea under the contractual obligations, but was compelled to be unloaded by Government;

(e) what has happened to these quantities of frustrated shipments;

(f) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to give any relief to such exporters whose shipments are frustrated and who have thereby suffered losses; and

(g) whether Government propose to assure that private exports of tea to countries other than the United Kingdom will be allowed with a view to fulfilling the pending contractual obligations entered into by the Indian exporters of tea before the imposition of the ban on the private exports of tea?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Restrictions on exports to Iraq were imposed in April, 1942, to Persia in July, 1942 and to other countries on the 15th September, 1942. Concessions were granted to enable shipment of stocks held by shippers against pre-restriction contracts, and time for shipment was allowed until the 15th December, 1942. I am not in a position to disclose the actual quantities exported, as the information is treated as confidential, but for certain destinations, notably Iraq and Persia, the shipments permitted under the concessions were considerably in excess of the average annual exports to the respective countries.

(c) Government have received some representations on the subject.

(d) Information is not readily available. I should like to make it clear however, that the teas ordered to be unloaded were teas found on country craft in the Bombay harbour more than a month after the last date on which exports on private account could legally have been made.

(e) Government have no information.

(f) and (g). In view of the notice given to the trade of Government's intention to impose a prohibition on exports on private account and of the time given to complete shipments against pre-existing contracts and in view also of the very large quantities exported before the 15th December, 1942, Government consider there is little justification for a general concession of the nature suggested.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why was the private export of tea prohibited at all?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is a question which I am not prepared to answer in reply to a supplementary question. That is a question of general policy.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: May I ask, Sir, that when the tea is exported and loaded in the ship, the shipper has no responsibility for the goods leaving the port? When he has obtained bills of lading, that completes the shipment whether the ship leaves the port or not. That is not his concern

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the Honourable Member's question?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: The question is under what rules of law . . .

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

PROVISION OF STEAMERS FOR ENABLING THE SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY TO CARRY ITS COASTAL TRADE CARGO QUOTA.

276. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether one of the objects which the Government had in view in appointing the Indian Shipping Adviser was to ensure that each company is able to carry its allotted quota of the coastal trade according to the existing Tripartite Agreement? If so, did each of the three Lines, namely the British India, the Asiatic and the Scindia, forming the Conference Lines, carry cargo according to their respective quotas in the coastal trade in 1941 and 1942? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that both the British India and the Asiatic Steam Navigation Companies were able to carry cargo in the coastal trade, according to their quota, in the years 1941 and 1942, because the British Ministry of War Transport placed a number of steamers at their disposal to enable them to do so, while neither the Government of India, nor the British Ministry of War Transport supplied a single steamer to the Scindia Company to help that Company in carrying cargo, according to its quota in the coastal trade?

(c) Is it a fact that the British Ministry of War Transport supplied 158 steamers to the British India Steam Navigation Company since the outbreak of the war till the 18th September, 1941, to enable that Company to carry cargo, according to its quota, from Burma ports to India, while not a single steamer was given to the Scindia Company for that purpose?

(d) Is it a fact that the British Ministry of War Transport supplied 92 steamers to the British India, and 25 steamers to the Asiatic, during the year 1942, to enable those companies to carry cargo, according to their quotas in the coastal trade of India, while not a single steamer was given to the Scindia Company during that period?

(e) If the answer to (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to provide the Scindia Company with such number of steamers as might enable that Company to carry cargo, according to its quota, in the coastal trade?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). The reply to the first portion of part (a) is in the affirmative. In 1941, the quota carryings of the British India and Scindia Steam Navigation Companies were short of their respective shares by 28,480 tons and 916 tons, respectively, while those of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company were in excess of their share by 29,396 tons. In 1942, however, the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company carried 16,314 tons and the British India Steam Navigation Company 30,264 tons in excess of their respective share of quota carryings. While the two British Companies were allocated steamers by the Ministry of War Transport, the shortage of carryings by the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. was chiefly due to the requisitioning of a large number of their vessels by Government and also partly to the fact that Scindias did not after about May, 1942 insure their ships against war risks in the Bay of Bengal and preferred to employ their free ships exclusively on the West Coast.

(c) and (d). Government have no precise information regarding the number of ships allocated to the British India and Asiatic Steam Navigation Companies by the Ministry of War Transport for the purpose for which they were allocated. So far as they are aware, no ship has been allocated to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company.

(e) In view of the acute shortage of shipping, Government have not been able to secure any additional shipping for the Scindia Steam Navigation Company and in present circumstances it does not seem possible to ensure the carrying of cargo by the Company in accordance with the quota.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if any attempt has been made by Government to see that this disparity which the Honourable Member revealed is in any circumstances mitigated?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as I am aware the question was taken up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What steps have the Government taken for the purpose of securing the necessary additional shipping for this company?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is too general a question. As I have already explained, in one year they carried below quota, in another year they carried over the quota. There is the other factor that there was no insurance against Bay of Bengal risks.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (b), I merely want to know the kind of action that the Government have so far taken for the purpose of assisting this company?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will not be in a position to answer this question off-hand. I know that the question was taken up.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In view of the fact that Government have acquired quite a lot of ships belonging to this company, may I ask whether it is not an obligation on the part of the Government to see that the company's rights are really looked after?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are looking to the rights of the company quite well.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is it merely a categorical assertion in this House or is it backed up by actual facts? The House would like to have information on this point?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are doing something more than mere statement in the House.

STEPS FOR DEVELOPING INDIAN MERCHANT NAVY AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

277. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if Government have taken note of the following statement made by Mr. N. R. Sarker, when he presided as the Commerce Member of the Government of India at the Prize Day Function of the I. M. M. T. S. "Dufferin" in December last, namely:

"But one cannot help feeling that had adequate steps been taken in time to promote the development of an Indian mercantile marine and an Indian Navy, our country would have been in a position to play a much larger and a more effective part in overcoming Axis aggression. Whatever may have been the difficulties in the past, I hope the lessons of this war will not be lost upon us and that every effort will be made to help the development of Indian shipping and Indian shipbuilding industry?"

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken by Government to develop a merchant navy owned, controlled and managed by Indians, worthy of India's large maritime trade, in pursuance of Government's past promises and assurances in this connection?

(c) What steps have Government taken, or propose to take, to develop Indian shipbuilding industry for building ocean-going ships, and what help have Government given, or propose to give, to enable any Indian Company to build ocean-going ships in India, particularly in view of the admitted fact that there is a great dearth of shipping in India and India needs ships immediately for carrying on efficiently its war efforts in all directions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 545 by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan on the 28th March, 1940, and to part (b) of starred question No. 239 by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta on the 3rd March, 1941.

(c) Existing shipyards in India are given full assistance needed to maintain a full output of small naval craft etc. It is not possible in war conditions to develop the building of large merchant ships. The shipbuilding industry will be included in Government's consideration of plans for Post-War Industrial Reconstruction.

FAILURE TO INVITE FOOD COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THE FOOD CONFERENCE.

†278. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to place on the table the names of the individuals together with their designations who were invited to the Food Conference held in the month of July at Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that Members of the Central Assembly on the Commerce Department Committee, who are also members of the Food Committee, were not invited to this Conference?

(c) What is the reason for this elimination?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Conference was restricted to official representatives of the Central Government, the provinces and the States.

Third All-India Food Conference held in New Delhi, on 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th July, 1943.

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Government of India.

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir Azizul Huque, C.I.E., D.Litt., Chairman.
- (2) The Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.
- (3) The Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall.
- (4) The Hon'ble Sir Joginder Singh.
- (5) Major General E. Wood, C.I.E., M.C., Secretary to Government of India, Department of Food.
- (6) Mr. M. S. A. Hydari, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government of India, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.
- (7) Mr. J. D. Tyson, C.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands.
- (8) Mr. H. D. Vigor, O.B.E., Food Adviser, Department of Food.
- (9) Sir Theodore Gregory, D.Sc., Economic Adviser to Government of India.
- (10) Lt.-Genl T. J. Hutton, C.B., M.C., Secretary War Resources Committee.
- (11) Mr. N. C. Mehta, I.C.S., Sugar Controller for India, Department of Food.
- (12) Mr. J. V. Joshi, O.B.E., Deputy Economic Adviser to Government of India.
- (13) Lt.-Col. R. R. Burnett, O.B.E., Deputy Secretary, Political Department.
- (14) Col. R. H. Stubbs, Deputy Director, Supplies (Quarter Master General's Branch).
- (15) Mr. A. A. Phillips, V.D., Controller of Railway Priorities, War Transport Department.
- (15) Mr. W. H. J. Christie, O.B.E., I.C.S., Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Department of Food.
- (17) Mr. N. T. Mone, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Department of Food.
- (18) Mr. R. L. Gupta, I.C.S., Joint Financial Adviser (Food).
- (19) Mr. N. G. Abhyankar, M.Sc., Under Secretary, Government of India, Department of Food.
- (20) Mr. A. Hilaly, I.C.S., Under Secretary, Govt. of India, Department of Food.
- (21) Mr. A. R. Vyas, Information Officer, Government of India.

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

Regional Commissioners (Food).

- (1) Major General G. de-la P. Beresford, C.B., M.C.
- (2) Rai Bahadur Col. Dinanath, C.I.E.
- (3) The Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. B. L., Braund, Bar-at-Law.
- (4) Mr. J. B. Ross.
- (5) Khan Bahadur Sir Abdul Hamid, C.I.E., O.B.E.

Provinces and Administrations.

- (1) The Hon'ble Mr. H. N. Chakrabarty, Minister (Assam).
- (2) Mr. K. W. P. Marar, I.C.S., Director of Food Supplies (Assam).
- (3) The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Minister, Civil Supplies (Bengal).
- (4) Mr. N. M. Aiyar, C.I.E., I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies (Bengal).
- (5) Mr. E. C. Ansorage, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser (Bihar).
- (6) Mr. R. A. E. Williams, I.C.S., Secretary (Bihar).
- (7) Mr. H. F. Knight, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser (Bombay).
- (8) Mr. A. D. Gorwala, I.C.S., Supply Commissioner (Bombay).
- (9) Sir Geoffrey Burton, K.C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser (Central Provinces).
- (10) Mr. H. S. Kamath, I.C.S., Director of Food Supplies (Central Provinces).
- (11) Sir Hugh Hood, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser (Madras).
- (12) Mr. W. Scott-Brown, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Civil Supplies Commissioner (Madras).
- (13) Mr. J. H. Thompson, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, and
Director of Food Supplies (N. W. F. P.).
- (14) Mr. G. H. Emerson, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary (N. W. F. P.).
- (15) The Hon'ble Raja of Parlakimedi, Premier (Orissa).
- (16) Mr. C. S. Jha, I.C.S., Secretary, Supply Department (Orissa).
- (17) The Hon'ble Sir Chhotu Ram, Minister (Punjab).
- (18) The Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Minister (Punjab).
- (19) Sir William Roberts, C.I.E., M.L.A., Price Controller (Punjab).
- (20) Mr. N. M. Buch, O.B.E., I.C.S., Director of Food Supplies (Punjab).
- (21) Mr. E. N. Mengat Rai, I.C.S., Assistant Price Controller (Punjab).
- (22) Mr. J. C. Bolton, I.C.S., Secretary, Finance and Director of Civil Supplies (Sind).
- (23) Mr. R. F. Mudie, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary (United Provinces).
- (24) Mr. L. P. Hancox, O.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Civil Supplies (United Provinces).
- (25) Mr. S. Khurshid, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner (Ajmer-Merwara).
- (26) Rai Sahib Mr. Jawahar Lal Rawat, Director, Food Supplies (Ajmer-Merwara).
- (27) Capt. I. S. Chopra, I.P.S., Assistant Political Agent (Baluchistan).
- (28) Mr. K. Chengappa, B.A., Chief Commissioner (Coorg).

Indian States.

- (1) Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.I.E., Dewan (Travancore).
- (2) Mr. Narayana Iyer, Director, Food Supplies (Travancore).
- (3) Capt. H. C. Dhanda, Commerce Minister (Indore).
- (4) Rai Bahadur S. V. Kanungo, Assistant Director, Food Supplies (Indore).
- (5) Sir Joseph Bhore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.B.E., C.I.E., Economic Adviser (Bhopal).
- (6) Mr. H. Dayal, I.C.S., Under Secretary to the Resident (Kathiawar).
- (7) Lt.-Col. C. P. Hancock, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.C., Resident (Eastern States).
- (8) Capt. A. C. K. Maunsell, Assistant Resident, Eastern States (Eastern States).
- (9) Mr. W. V. Griegson, Revenue Minister (Hyderabad).
- (10) Mr. G. M. Qureishi, Secretary, Planning Department (Hyderabad).
- (11) Rajyaratna S. V. Mukerjee, Revenue Minister and Director of Food Supplies
(Cutch).
- (12) Mr. A. V. Mehta, Price Controller (Cutch).
- (13) Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, C.I.E., I.C.S., Dewan (Cochin).
- (14) Mr. M. A. Sreenivasan, Minister, Industries and Civil Supplies (Mysore).
- (15) Mr. R. S. Mane Patil, Revenue Member (Baroda).
- (16) Sir Frederic Anderson, Revenue Minister (Bahawalpur).

- (17) Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz, C.B.E., Chief Minister (Kapurthala).
 (18) Mr. R. G. Rajwade, Director of Food Supplies (Gwalior).
 (19) Khan Bahadur H. A. Hashim, Deputy Revenue Minister (Rampur).
 (20) Mr. Meredith Worth, I.C.S., Secretary to Resident, Rajputana States (Rajputana States).
 (21) Mr. A. V. Ramanathan, Dewan (Bharatpur).
 (22) Kunwar Gajendra Singhji, Secretary (Kotah).
 (23) Dr. M. S. Mehta, Revenue Minister (Marwar).
 (24) Major General Amar Singh, Army and Defence Minister (Jaipur).
 (25) Khan Sahib A. A. Kheri, Director of Supplies (Jaipur).
 (26) Mr. K. B. L. Seth, I.C.S., Chief Minister (Alwar).
 (27) Kunwar Raghubir Singh, Home Minister (Alwar).
 (28) Sir Donald Field Kt., C.I.E., Chief Minister (Jodhpur).
 (29) Mr. Udairaj, Price Controller (Jodhpur).
 (30) Kunwar Prem Singhji, Revenue Minister (Bikaner).
 (31) Mir Maqbool Mahmood, Secretary to H. H. The Chancellor (Chamber of Princes).

DAMAGE TO GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN'S GARDEN.

279. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether he made enquiry promised in reply to the supplementary questions under starred question No. 384, asked in the Assembly on the 25th March, 1943, on the subject of the Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan Garden, Delhi? If so, what was the result of that enquiry?

(b) Is the Honorable Member aware (i) that in the first instance the owner was paid compensation only for 2 *bighas* and 16 *biswas* even though the owner complained that trees were cut from more than 11 *bighas*, (ii) that subsequent to the question in the last Assembly the error was admitted to the extent of an additional area of 3 *bighas* and some *biswas*; (iii) that later in July this year a further error was admitted, the area now admitted to have been acquired being 4 *bighas* and 10 *biswas* over and above the original 2 *bighas* and 16 *biswas* for which compensation was paid; and (iv) that the complaint of the owner still continues that very valuable trees have been allowed to be cut by the contractor very much beyond the area which is now admitted to have been actually acquired?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to order a thorough enquiry into this whole matter by a competent independent officer not connected with the Delhi Improvement Trust?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my answer to question No. 272 just now given by me.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Will the Government place the report of the enquiry, whatever enquiry was held, on the table of the House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No enquiry is being held.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: The Honourable Member said in answer to a previous question that some enquiry is going on. He said that some enquiry was going on with regard to land acquisition.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will report the decision of the Tribunal to the House.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ADMINISTRATION OF THE DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

280. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether he has seen the article in the *Watan*, an Urdu Newspaper of Delhi, dated the 30th April and the *Dawn*, dated the 2nd July, dealing with the administration of the Delhi Improvement Trust and making grave allegations against certain officials of the Trust?

(b) In view of the detailed information given in support of the grave allegations of corruption and favouritism, etc., made in the article in the *Watan*, does the Honourable Member propose to order a thorough enquiry in this matter by some impartial judicial officer, and to lay the report on the table of the House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government have seen the press reports referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) Government do not propose to institute an enquiry. If there are grievances specific complaints can be made to the authorities concerned who will take such action as may be necessary.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): These matters ought to be investigated by the Court and not by the House.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: This is with regard to Press article. I heard my Honourable friend saying that an enquiry was being held with regard to what appeared in *Watan*.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We understand that a report on the allegations made in the paper *Watan* is being forwarded through the usual channels by the Trust.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I do not propose to ask Questions Nos. 281 and 282.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). If the Honourable Member's intention is, by withdrawing these two questions, he should be allowed to put questions Nos. 285 and 286, that cannot be allowed. It has been ruled that if an Honourable Member has more than five questions, he can only ask the first five questions and not the others.

BEEF SUPPLY TO THE MILITARY AT CALCUTTA AND MUZAFFARPORE.

281. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cattle slaughtered for the supply of beef for military purposes at Calcutta and at Muzaffarpore (Bihar), separately, daily or monthly as the case may be; and

(b) whether Hindu gentlemen are taking contracts for the supply of beef to the Military Department?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should have been addressed to the War Department.

BEEF SUPPLY TO THE MILITARY AT CALCUTTA AND MUZAFFARPORE.

282. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the names of contractors to whom contracts have been given for the supply of beef to the military at Calcutta and at Muzaffarpore (Bihar);

(b) the quantity of beef supplied by such contractors at Calcutta and at Muzaffarpore;

(c) the number of cattle slaughtered for such supply at each of the said centres; and

(d) whether such contracts have been given to Hindu gentlemen in other parts of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question should have been addressed to the War Department.

UNIVERSITY GRANTING CONCESSIONS TO STUDENTS JOINING WAR SERVICE.

283. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Universities in India which have consented to give certificates, degrees and diplomas to their students of final year classes to encourage suitable youths to join war service and the conditions of such certificates and degrees;

(b) whether the Aligarh and Benares Universities have done anything towards giving such encouragement to their youths; and

(c) the steps taken by Government regarding the introduction of the compartmental system of examination and the giving of permission to B.A. or B.Sc. plucked students to appear as non-collegiate students after their first failure as promised during the discussion of the last Supplementary Demands

on the 20th March, 1943, together with the results and progress hitherto made in that direction?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) So far as the Government of India are aware, the Punjab University only have framed "special regulations" to permit the award of "War degrees" and these regulations are printed on pages 422-428 of Part I of the Punjab University Calendar for 1941-42. It is understood that the Nagpur University also are considering a similar question. Most Universities have agreed to relax their regulations in favour of students whose courses have been interrupted by war service.

(b) The Aligarh Muslim University have under consideration the question of granting special facilities to candidates taking up war work; but the necessary ordinances have not yet been framed. The Government of India have no information regarding the action taken by the Benares Hindu University in the matter.

(c) As promised by me in March last, relevant extracts from the Debates of the Legislative Assembly dated the 20th March, 1943, relating to the system of compartmental examinations were forwarded to the Aligarh Muslim and the Benares Hindu Universities in May 1943. The system of compartmental examinations will also be referred, for consideration and opinion, to the Examinations Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education when it next meets.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware that the U.T.C. of the Benares Hindu University was stopped some months ago? If so, has it been restored or will it be restored?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I submit that has nothing to do with this question.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know how long the Aligarh Muslim University will take to frame these ordinances?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That question could be better addressed to the learned Vice-Chancellor of the University who, I see, is just entering the House.

TRANSPORT OF FOODGRAINS TO BENGAL FROM BIHAR, ORISSA AND ASSAM.

284. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of different food grains transported to Bengal from Bihar, Orissa and Assam and the component parts of the North and East Regions during the period since the food embargo has been removed;

(b) the prices of different foodgrains transported before the removal of the ban from every such part and the prices of different foodgrains before the 17th July, 1943;

(c) whether any protest or objection was made against the removal of the provincial ban on foodgrains, by Provincial Governments; if so, by which Government and the contents thereof; and

(d) whether Government are prepared to compensate the losses in payment of prices by the people of every such part? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The information required is not available.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Yes, by some Provincial Governments but as it has now been decided to restore control, it is not considered desirable to furnish details.

(d) The question of compensation by Government for variation in prices under free trade conditions does not arise.

Statement showing the wholesale prices of rice (which was the principal foodgrain moved from the Eastern Region into Bengal) prevailing in certain centres in Bihar, Orissa and Assam before the introduction of free trade in the Eastern Area and during the week ending the 14th July, 1943.

Week ending 12th of May, 1943.		(In rupees per maund).	
	Rs.	Week ending 14th of July, 1943.	Rs.
Bihar	8-12 to 9-4	Rs. 23-0	to 25-8
Orissa	6-8 to 13-5	" 11-0	to 26-12
Assam	20-0	" 30-8	

Statement showing the wholesale prices of foodgrains prevailing in certain centres in the Eastern Region before and after the free trade scheme was introduced.
(In rupees per maund.)

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Name of Centres.	Wheat (White (Punjab).	Rice (Coarse).	Jowar.	Bajra.	Gram.	Wheat (White (Punjab).	Rice (coarse).	Jowar.	Bajra.	Gram.

* Excluded from the free trade scheme, (M) Medium, (F) Fine, (R) Retail. (H) July quotation not available.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Government of Bihar made a protest?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not usual, Sir, for correspondence with the Provincial Governments to be disclosed.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I want to know whether it is a fact that they protested.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have absolutely steered clear of all such questions and I will do so even now.

LICENSEES FOR SUGAR SALE IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI.

†285. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons granted wholesale licenses for the sale of sugar in Delhi and New Delhi and the number of Muslim licensees;
- (b) the conditions on which such licenses are issued;
- (c) the penalties for breach of conditions by such licensees;
- (d) the number of licensees punished for breach of terms of licenses and the number of such Muslim licensees involved; and
- (e) the number of Ward shops licensed to sell sugar in Delhi and New Delhi, and the number of such shops run by Muslims?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Nine; none is a Muslim.

(b) A copy of the licence form ("Form A") is laid on the table which gives the information.

(c) Any contravention of the terms of the licence constitutes a contravention of the Delhi Sugar Dealers Licensing Order, 1942, and is an offence under sub-rule (4) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules.

(d) No wholesale licensee has been punished for breach of the terms of his licence; does not arise.

(e)

	Total number of licensed ward shops.	Muslims.
Delhi Urban Area, excluding New Delhi	400	157
New Delhi	112	2

SCHEDULE.

FORM A.

[See Clause iv (a).]

No. _____

Licence for purchase, sale or storage for sale in wholesale or retail quantities of Sugar.
(Free of all Fee.)

Subject to the provisions of the Sugar Control Order, 1942, and to the terms and conditions of this license,.....is/are hereby authorised to purchase, sell, or store for sale, in wholesale, quantities all or any of the undermentioned sugars :—

2. The licensee shall carry on the aforesaid business at the following place(s) :—

3. The licensee shall maintain a register of daily accounts for each of the sugars mentioned in paragraph 1 showing correctly—

- (a) The opening stock on each day;
- (b) the quantities received on each day showing the place of origin;
- (c) the quantities delivered or otherwise removed on each day showing the places of destination if consigned to places outside the district; and
- (d) the closing stock on each day.

4. The licensee shall, in respect of each of the quality or form of sugar mentioned in paragraph 1, submit to the Price Controller in Delhi so as to reach him not later than the fifteenth day of each month, a true return in Form C of the Schedule to this Order, of stocks, receipts and deliveries of the sugars during the preceding month.

5. The retail licensee shall not in any one transaction, sell any of the sugars mentioned in paragraph 1, in quantities exceeding one maund to any person who does not hold a licence under the Sugar Control Order, 1942, issued by the Price Controller in Delhi.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

6. The licensee shall issue to every customer a correct receipt or invoice as the case may be giving his own name, address and licence number, the name, address and licence number (if any) of the customer, the date of transaction, the quantity sold, the price per maund and the total amount charged, and shall keep a duplicate of the same to be available for inspection on demand by any authorised officer of Government.

7. The licensee shall prominently display at each of the places mentioned in paragraph 2 a correct list written in the language of the locality, of the prices of all sugars in which he deals.

8. The licensee shall give all facilities at all reasonable times to any authorised officer of the Government for the inspection of his stocks and accounts at any shop, godown or other place used by him for the storage or sale of any of the sugars mentioned in paragraph 1 and for the taking of samples of such sugars for examination.

9. The licensee shall comply with any directions that may be given to him by the Price Controller in Delhi in regard to the purchase, sale, or storage for sale, of any of the sugars mentioned in paragraph 1.

Signature of the Price Controller in Delhi

Dated the.....1942.

NOTE—(1) Both the wholesaler and retailer must obtain licences.

(2) The retailers shall be exempt from submitting the return in Form C. They shall also be exempt from the condition laid down in paragraph 6.

(3) (For issuing department only). Write across each licence the word—wholesale or retail—as the case may be in Red bold letters and sign underneath.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR EXHAUSTING HOARDED COTTON TEXTILES STOCKS.

+286. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the agitation of interested dealers in textile cotton goods for extension of time to exhaust their hoarded stocks of textile goods beyond 31st October, 1943; and

(b) whether Government have consulted the representatives of consumers regarding such extension?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

CONTEMPLATED RETURN OF CERTAIN LAND NEAR SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION BRIDGE TO FORMER OWNERS.

287. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands please state the date on which the Director, Public Health Department, visited last the building known as Harsaran Niwas, opposite the Terminal Tax Office, near Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway Goods Office, Shahdara, and with what result regarding its drainage?

(b) Who (Municipality or Central Public Works Department) is responsible for the healthy condition during rains of the land lying on both sides of the road connecting the Town of Shahdara with the Grand Trunk Road and leading to buildings?

(c) Is it a fact that the land lying west of the road from the Grand Trunk Road to the Railway Bridge, Shahdara is in the possession of the Central Public Works Department, who has planted and maintain trees on both sides of the said road?

(d) If the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative, will he please further state whether it is proposed to return the said land to the former owners and with this view some trees are cut down and uprooted? If so, why?

(e) Do Government intend to finally acquire the land or retain its possession till the end of the war? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 287 and 288 together.

The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

**CONTEMPLATED RETURN OF CERTAIN LAND NEAR SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION
BRIDGE TO FORMER OWNERS.**

†288. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the reasons for the uprooting of trees planted by the Central Public Works Department along the west side of the road connecting the Town of Shahdara with the Grand Trunk Road?

(b) Is it contemplated to return the land on the West side of the said road lying between the junction of the Grand Trunk Road and the boundary of the Shahdara Railway Station Bridge?

(c) What is the nature of the benefit the Government will derive from the said return of that land?

**INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DETAILS IN THE REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE
PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT.**

289. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state if it is a fact that the Report on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act on Railways does not indicate the particulars of the applications presented to and disposed of by the authorities appointed under the Payment of Wages Act?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, does he propose to take steps for the inclusion of the particulars of the applications with a review thereon in the next reports? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) At present what the Honourable Member suggests is a fact.

(b) I shall consider the suggestion.

**SULPHUR MINED IN BALUCHISTAN AND FIRMS SUPPLIED WITH SULPHURIC ACID
MANUFACTURING PLANTS.**

290. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (on behalf of **Mr. R. R. Gupta**): (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the quantity of sulphur mined in Baluchistan by the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India, and the total amount so far spent in such mining operations?

(b) Is it a fact that the deposit of sulphur in the present site of mining in Baluchistan, available for further exploration, is small? In any case, what is the estimated tonnage of the unworked deposit at the moment?

(c) Is it a fact that the Department of Supply has notified the sugar mill concerns in India that no supply of sulphur can be arranged for the mills in connection with the next crushing season? If so, what is the reason for such a notice being given to the sugar mills? If no such notice has been given, how were supplies of sulphur secured for the sugar mills in the last two crushing seasons, and how is it proposed to arrange the supply during the next?

(d) Is it a fact that a large quantity of sulphur dioxide (SO₂ gas is wasted as a by-product in connection with the operation of copper smelting furnace in India? If so, is it a fact that such gaseous waste can be easily converted into sulphuric acid? Did Government examine the possibility of such a source of supply of sulphuric acid, and, if so, with what result?

(e) Is it a fact that since the outbreak of the war, the Department of Supply imported a number of sulphuric acid manufacturing plants? If so, what is the number of such plants, and how have they been disposed of? Do Government propose to lay on the table a statement showing the firms to whom such plants, if any, have been made available, and the special reason for which the plants were supplied to them in each case?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) It is not in the public interest to state the quantity of sulphur mined. The total amount so far spent on Baluchistan Sulphur Operations is Rs. 11,85,000.

(b) No. It is not in the public interest to disclose the estimated tonnage of unworked deposits.

(c) No. Supplies of sulphur for the sugar industry during the last crushing season were met partly from American imports and partly by depletion of reserve stocks. Sugar mills are being supplied with Baluchistan sulphur ore which they will refine individually or alternatively have refined at a central plant set up with Government sanction and the resultant pure sulphur will be used in the sugar mills during the crushing season. Any deficit on estimated requirements will be met from American imports arranged by the Supply Department.

(d) Sulphur dioxide is produced as a by-product during the smelting of copper in India. It occurs in the flue gases in a highly diluted form with other gases and its efficient conversion into sulphuric acid is difficult. The possibility of using this source of supply for production of sulphuric acid and sulphur was examined very early in the war but was not proceeded with as the processes called for the import of complicated and expensive machinery with technical personnel and even then successful recovery was problematic.

(e) No. Full information regarding the proposed import of plants from America was given by the Honourable the Supply Member in answer to unstarred question No. 47 on 4th August, 1943.

LEAD MINE IN JAWAR IN UDAIPUR STATE.

291. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (on behalf of **Mr. R. R. Gupta**): (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that a lead mine is being worked in Jawar in the Udaipur State by the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India? If so, what is the amount of money spent so far in the working of this mine, and what is the average percentage of lead and zinc occurring in the ores extracted from this mine?

(b) Have Government any information of lead deposits occurring in any other part of India, and, if not, what fraction of India's lead requirements is likely to be met from Jawar source alone?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. A sum of Rs. 6½ lakhs has been spent up to the end of June 1943. The average percentage found in exploration up to date is 2 per cent. lead and 8 per cent zinc.

(b) Yes, the most likely occurrences known at present are at Chauth-ka-Barwara in Jaipur State.

WOLFRAM DEPOSITS DISCOVERED IN A BENGAL DISTRICT.

292. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (on behalf of **Mr. R. R. Gupta**): Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that some wolfram deposits have been discovered by the Geological Survey of India in a Bengal District? If so, what is the quantity of wolfram so far won from this source, and how has it been disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes. During war-time it is not in the public interests to disclose the quantity of wolfram won. The ore is disposed of through the Supply Department (Directorate-General, Munitions Production).

DESIRABILITY OF INSTALLING A SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT IN INDIA.

†293. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta**: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if, in view of the suspension of supply of mineral oil, specially motor spirit, from Burma, Government have considered the advisability of ensuring some supply of India's mineral oil from an Indian synthetic source? If so, what is the result of their examination?

(b) Are Government prepared to assist a private enterprise to install a synthetic oil plant in this country? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Supply Member.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

RESEARCH IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER PULP, PLASTICS AND ARTIFICIAL SILK.

†294. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state what the present position is of research undertaken by the relevant official agencies in regard to:

(i) the suitability of an Indian forest product as the basis of mechanical paper pulp;

(ii) the suitability of a cellulose material of Indian origin to serve as the basis for the manufacture of plastics in this country; and

(iii) the suitability of material of Indian origin to serve as the basis for the manufacture of artificial silk in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BY LICENCEES FOR EXPLORATION OF PROCESSES PATENTED BY DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

†295. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the quantity and value of various products manufactured by various firms holding licences from Government for the exploration of processes patented by the Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I lay a statement on the table, giving the information available. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that several other processes, in addition to those mentioned in the statement have been leased out to firms, but no mention is made of them in it because production not having commenced, or just commenced, no figures are available at this stage.

Statement showing the quantity and value of various products manufactured by firms holding licences for the exploitation of processes patented by the Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Serial No.	Process.	Quantity marketed.	Estimated value.
			Rs.
1. Air Foam Solution		50,000 gallons.	4,50,000
2. Anti-gas cloth		41,83,500 yards.	73,21,200
3. Barium Chloride		30 tons.	5,000
4. Bhilawan Stoving Enamel and allied products		1,800 gallons.	18,000
5. Glass substitute		2,20,000 sq. yds.	8,04,400
6. Identity discs		8,00,000 Nos.	16,000
7. Potassium Chlorate		25 tons.	2,79,500
8. Solid fuel		3,000 lbs.	3,000
9. Vegetable Oil Blends as Lubricants:			
(a) Lubricating oil		25,000 tons.	2,24,00,000*
(b) Army Gear oil		40,00,000 gallons.	1,20,00,000*
(c) Axle oil		24,000 tons.	43,20,000*
			4,76,17,100

*Estimated total value of blended oil.

SUPPLY OF QUININE AND MANUFACTURE OF OPIUM ALKOLOIDS.

296. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that a higher percentage of mortality has been recorded owing to malaria in Bengal for want of quinine?

(b) Are Government arranging for the import into India of Java quinine through some neutral country to cope with the present quinine shortage? If not, why not?

(c) Do Government contemplate allotting quinine to the quinine ampoule manufacturing concerns to be sold through public bodies and authorised dealers at a much lower rate? If so, when will the manufacturing concerns get the quinine from Government? If not, why not?

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

(d) Do Government also contemplate giving permission to the private manufacturing concerns to manufacture opium alkaloids under the supervision of the Excise Department, in view of the inability of the Government factory at Ghazipur to supply even an insignificant percentage of the demands of such concerns for medicinal purposes? If not, why not?

(e) Are Government aware that private manufacturing concerns in the United Kingdom are allowed to manufacture opium alkaloids in spite of the International convention?

(f) Are Government making arrangements for the import of codeine, morphine etc., from either the United Kingdom or the United States of America on behalf of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association for distribution amongst its members for medicinal preparations?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No.

(b) As Java is under enemy occupation it is not possible to arrange the import of quinine from that country.

(c) Arrangements are being made with manufacturers for the manufacture of quinine in injectable form from quinine supplies made available by the Government of Madras and for controlled distribution at controlled prices.

(d) and (f). The subject matter concerns the Finance Department and the question may be addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member.

(e) Government have no information.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghumnavi: Is it a fact that Government have sufficient quinine in reserve to meet India's requirements for the next five years?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir; not at the normal rate of consumption.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it the policy of the Government of India to try and make India self-supporting in the matter of quinine, having regard to experience?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall require notice of such a question as regards long-term policy.

FUNCTIONS OF THE LABOUR WELFARE ADVISERS AND LABOUR ADVISERS.

297. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the functions of the Labour Welfare Advisers and Labour Advisers appointed in the Labour Department?

(b) How many such officers have been appointed so far?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The functions of the Labour Welfare Adviser and his Deputy and Assistants are to report to Government and advise on all such matters relating to the welfare of industrial labour in India as Government may direct.

The duties of the Labour Adviser were to advise on all important matters of labour legislation and administration, and in particular the manner in which labour problems that were under consideration or might arise had been or were being dealt with in England.

(b) There is one Labour Welfare Adviser, one Deputy Labour Welfare Adviser and 7 Assistant Labour Welfare Officers.

One Labour Adviser was appointed from December 1942 to June 1943.

There is at present no Labour Adviser.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will they advise on dearness allowance?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, Sir.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Labour Adviser, of the Honourable Member, as distinct from the Labour Welfare Adviser, represent the employees' interests.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Not at all, Sir.

STEPS FOR ELIMINATING IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

298. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state what effective steps for eliminating the immediate causes of industrial disputes to ensure the unhampered war production have been taken so far, both in the Government's own war-factories and in private factories engaged wholly or partly on war-orders?

(b) Have Government decided to adopt an all round policy of having all disputes referred to the adjudication before workers are compelled to go on a strike?

(c) Do they propose to advise all Provincial Governments to do so?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government have attempted to secure fair conditions for labour both in their own factories and in private employment. Where disputes arise the methods of conciliation and adjudication are available.

(b) and (c). No. The general policy of Government is to resort to adjudication if and when the method of conciliation has failed. The present machinery for the settlement of disputes has been evolved in consultation with Provincial Governments and general uniformity of practice has already been achieved.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

HAVOC CAUSED BY RECENT FLOODS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether Government are aware of the great havoc caused by the recent floods in the district of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Are figures available of the loss of human life, property and cattle?

(c) What relief measures have Government taken or propose to take?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) Yes.

(b) The loss of life in Ajmer-Merwara is estimated to be about 3,000; no accurate estimate of loss of property is yet available but it is feared that the figure runs into several lakhs. The area affected is about 150 sq. miles. In that area cultivation has suffered severe damage, tanks have been breached, soil and cattle have in places been washed away and the crops have been destroyed. The figures of loss of cattle are not yet available.

(c) Food, clothing and lighting requisites have been provided for the sufferers; a scheme has been put into force under the direction of an officer on special duty to ensure regular supply to the affected areas. Depots equipped with one month's supply of food and clothing have been established in each affected village. Emergency shelters are being made by the provision of sirki huts. A Central Relief Committee has been constituted with necessary sub-committees to co-ordinate and conduct relief operations on an organised basis and to collect funds. A second officer has been placed on special duty to investigate the extent of loss of life and property and to report what measures are necessary to enable the sufferers to rehabilitate themselves. Prompt steps were taken to remove dead bodies of men and animals and to clean and disinfect wells. This work was practically completed within two days of the occurrence of the floods. As rotting grain in the shops was likely to endanger public health, Bijainagar town with a pre-flood population of about seven thousand which suffered very heavy damage in life and property was completely evacuated after arrangements had been made to provide accommodation for those who had no friends or relatives to go to, the Railway authorities having kindly agreed to permit the evacuees to travel free of charge. The Public Health Commissioner proceeded to the scene of floods to decide what further measures were necessary in the interest of public health. Arrangements are being made for the despatch of extra medical staff and drugs and medicines. The Government of India have authorised an expenditure of one lakh of rupees for immediate relief and will determine further financial assistance on receipt of full reports of requirements and detailed proposals from the Chief Commissioner.

I am sure the House will appreciate that in face of a calamity of these dimensions the energies of the local administration should first be concentrated on affording immediate relief to the stricken population rather than on furnishing a detailed picture of the damage caused and it will therefore not be possible for me at this stage to enlighten the House further either on the extent of damage or on the plans for relief. I may, however, assure the House that both the Government of India and the local administration are

keenly alive to the requirements of the situation and are determined to do their utmost to bring relief to the sufferers and to restore normal conditions. I also take this opportunity of thanking on behalf of the Government of India and, I am sure on behalf of this House, all those, both officials and non-officials, who assisted in the prompt and effective organisation and distribution of relief to the victims. In particular, I have it from authorities both official and non-official that the assistance rendered by the military authorities at Nasirabad and the Staff and students of the Mayo College has been invaluable and is deserving of the highest praise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what was the cause of these floods—was there a breach in the canal or the river? And what steps did the Government take to avert this calamity?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The floods were caused by rain.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: And what did the Government do?

(No answer was given.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO SECURE ATTENDANCE OF GOVERNMENT MEMBERS FOR CONSTITUTING A QUORUM IN THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received from Mr. Siddique Ali Khan a notice of a motion for the adjournment of the House in order to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the failure of Government to secure the attendance of Government Members in time to help in constituting a quorum to hold the afternoon meeting of the Secret Session on the 11th August, 1943, thereby depriving the House of the most valuable privilege of eliciting full information about the war situation and discussing the same.

I understand that 21 members were actually present. Is that correct?

Some Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

An Honourable Member: Eighteen.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). I understand 21 members were present, and contrary to the usual practice no bell was rung.

As regards this motion, is it the case of the Honourable Member that it is the duty only of Government Members to attend the House in time, or is it not equally the duty of elected Members?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Elected members were present.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Were all elected Members present?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Twenty of them were present; that is to say all, except one, were elected Members.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I point out that on a similar occasion, Mr. President Patel once gave his ruling that on an occasion when it is an official business before the House, it is the duty of the Official Benches to keep up the quorum.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Was there any adjournment motion moved?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No, Sir. When he was adjourning the House because of inadequate quorum, the official Members said that it was the duty of the non-official Members to be present and Mr. Patel then ruled that it was the duty of the Government Benches to keep up the quorum because the business before the House was official.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think the House would like me to hold that it is the duty of Government Members and Members nominated by Government alone to attend the House regularly and in proper time, and that an equal duty does not devolve on the Members who have been elected by constituencies. If I were to lay down any such

[Mr. President.]

ruling it would mean that the constituencies need not look to their elected Members to attend the Assembly and carry on the business of the House. I should be very loath to lay down any such ruling. I hold that the motion is out of order.

The next motion is to the same effect. Therefore that is also out of order.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I have to say . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You are not required to say anything in this connection. I have given my ruling.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Without hearing.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I know if the House will have a chance to discuss this matter on some other official day?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, if there is a general desire of the House that it should be done I will get into touch with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and if he is free, there will be no difficulty.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): When?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I cannot answer that question without consulting the Commander-in-Chief.

(Several Honourable Members interrupted.)

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

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Nobody regrets more than we do that the House was deprived of an opportunity of continuing the debate on the war situation.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Whose fault was it?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is the fault of some one who did not ask the bell to be rung.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): There is no provision for the ringing of the bell.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That is not obligatory.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I was in the company of Sir Yamin Khan, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Sir Henry Richardson, and others.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: You had no business to be away as the Leader of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The only question now is whether Government should provide another opportunity to the House to continue the discussion.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If there is a general desire of the House to do it I will get into touch with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: We do not want any debate. We do not want any further insult and indignity to the House.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If that is so, then there is no need to go any further.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask for your ruling on a point. It is the duty of the person who is in the Chair to see that the proceedings are properly conducted, and when it is said that somebody did not ask for the bell to ring, is it not a reflection on the Chair?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Why should there be any reflection on the Chair?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has always been the practice so far as I have been in this House and in the Chair to have the bell rung. But it is not obligatory on the Chair.

(Opposition Benches: Hear, hear.)

But it is the practice.

(Government Benches: Hear, hear.)

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I would have acted illegally if I had not adjourned the meeting when a counting was demanded by a Member. The

Standing Order is peremptory. It does not give any discretion to the Chair. Therefore, the question of ringing the bell does not arise at all. It was an official day. The motion was a Government motion. The Leader of the House was not present: the Mover was not present: none of the Government Members were present. The whole thing is unfortunate.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: The Leader of the House owes an explanation to the House and he owes an apology to the Chair. It was he who suggested that the luncheon hour should be extended.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: There was discourtesy on the part of the officials to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I am only concerned with the adjournment motion. That I have held is not in order.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I was raising a point of order. When the Leader of the House was making his statement he cast a reflection on the man occupying the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is impossible for me to follow what the Honourable Member is saying.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In answering my friend here, the Honourable the Leader of the House said that the fault was with the gentleman who occupied the Chair. (*Government Benches*: "No, No.") He said that the fault was on the gentleman who did not order the ringing of the bell.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will the Leader of the House make clear what he did say?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He did not say that it was the fault of the Chair. I heard what he said.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: What I said was this: That if there is a general desire of the House to have a continuation of the debate on the war situation I will get into touch with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and if he is free that can be arranged. Then the question was put to me: Whose fault was it? I said that it was certainly not ours. It was due to the failure of the bell not having been rung.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: He must withdraw it. Withdraw.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I will not

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The Leader of the House should know the Standing Orders on the subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will proceed with the Resolutions.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Unless the Leader of the House apologises for the language used by him, we are not going to be here.

(Mr. K. C. Neogy and Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra were then seen to walk out of the Chamber.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolution No. 1. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I do not want to move the Resolution.

RESOLUTION RE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that arrangements for pilgrimage to the Hedjaz may be made for the year 1943, in the same manner as it was done in previous years, and that shipping should not be the monopoly of one company."

Sir, I am sure that the Honourable Members of this House know that the performance of the Haj is a sacred religious duty incumbent upon those Muslims who are able to undertake the journey. Sir, there are two routes from India to Hedjaz: one is the sea route and the other is the land route. The pilgrims from India prefer to go by sea route as it is most convenient and much cheaper than the land route. The number of Hajis visiting Hedjaz is

[Nawab Siddique Ali Khan.]

always fluctuating. From the statistics which are in my possession I can say, Sir, that the average number of Hajis per year comes to about 14,000, and the record number of Hajis visiting Hedjaz in the year 1927 was 26,500. As the House is well aware, war broke out in the year 1939. In the years 1939, 1940, and 1941 ships were provided for the transport of Hajis to Hedjaz.

12 NOON. It must be remembered that during this period the allied nations were facing disaster after disaster. Last year the Government issued a communique saying that in view of the danger from enemy action by sea and land no ships could be provided for the Hajis. In the previous years also the danger existed, but facilities were given to Hajis to perform the Haj. Last year a deputation of the All-India Muslim League under the leadership of Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan, M.L.A. of Madras waited on the predecessor of the present Honourable Member in charge of Indians Overseas. The Honourable Member said that there were four difficulties which could not be surmounted. The first one was shipping difficulty, the second one was transport difficulty on the land route, the third difficulty was the high cost, and the fourth one was the shortness of time as the Haj was to be performed after six weeks. So long as the war lasts there is bound to be danger on seas and land, but due to the splendid victories gained in the Middle East, North Africa, Sicily, the South Pacific and other fronts, the danger is not so much as it was in the previous years. The four pleas which were raised last year could not be raised this year, as by the kindness of the United States of America under the Lease-Lend Bill 200 ships have been given on loan as the Premier of England stated the other day in the House of Commons, and motor cars and motor accessories are also supplied in plenty under the same contract.

A communique which was issued yesterday by the Government of India is before me. I believe that some prominent Muslims and Members of the Haj Committee were invited by the Honourable Member to advise him with regard to the Haj question. The words of the communique which was issued yesterday are: "The Government of India have again decided this year that they cannot permit Haj sailings". Here I must say with due respect to my Honourable friend, that the House was shabbily treated by issuing this communique one day before the discussion of the same question in this House. Before giving us a chance to express our views on this most important subject which directly concerns the Muslims of India he issued this communique. I understand that the Honourable Mr. Guzdar, Minister of Sind, moved a resolution which was unanimously adopted by the non-official Muslims present at the Conference. I understand that he moved that arrangements for at least 4000 pilgrims should be made and that convoys be provided for the protection of the pilgrim boats as is done in the case of steamers carrying prisoners of war for exchange and wounded persons in Red Cross steamers. He emphasised that convoys should be provided as was done in the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 for the protection of pilgrim ships. I have every reason to believe that the Government have made up their mind not to permit the Hajis to perform pilgrimage this year. I must say that this decision is most disappointing, hasty and regrettable. Sir, if it is feared that there are enemy submarines in the Arabian Sea, I will ask the Government to give adequate protection to the pilgrim ships, as was done in the past years. The Axis radio stations have repeatedly said year after year that the pilgrim ships can go to Hedjaz without any fear of molestation from them. The Doctor may laugh but that is a fact. I am quite sure that they dare not touch the pilgrim ships. If they do so, the entire Muslim world will rise against them and the British Government or the Government of India will get an opportunity of canvassing Muslim opinion against the Axis powers.

Before I conclude my speech I wish to ask Government, (1) as to whether it is prepared in view of the unanimous advice given day before yesterday by the distinguished Muslims of India who came from different provinces and the unanimous demand of the Muslim Members of the Haj Committee and the

unanimous demand of the Muslim Members of this House—whether they are prepared to reconsider their decision. The second question is as to when the Government will appoint a Special Haj Officer to look after the interests of the Hajis. The third question is, as to when the Government will act on the recommendation of Mr. Rahim with regard to the working of the Port Haj Committees. Finally, I will ask the Government to reconsider their decision and warn them not to play with the religious sentiments of 100 million Mussulmans of India for whom we the Muslim Leaguers have every right to speak and that right has once again been established beyond a shadow of doubt very recently by the smashing victories which we won in the stronghold of the Frontier Gandhi.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that arrangements for pilgrimage to the Hedjaz may be made for the year 1943, in the same manner as it was done in previous years, and that shipping should not be the monopoly of one company."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Essak Sait.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I am not moving it.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Nawab Siddique Ali Khan. It is really lamentable that, being fully cognisant of the fact that this Resolution was coming on before the House for consideration today, the Government of India acted, as it seems to me, in indecent haste in issuing the Press Communique which appeared in the papers today, announcing not only their apprehension that they may not be in a position to make the necessary arrangements for the Haj sailings this year but giving it out as a decision of the Government of India not to permit Haj sailings. I do not know who drafted this most unhappily and unfortunately worded communique on behalf of the Government. One could understand an announcement by the Government of India of the apprehensions which they entertain in view of certain circumstances which were within their knowledge but not within the knowledge of the public or in view of certain unwelcome developments which they fear might exist later on. One could understand it if they meant merely to prepare the public mind for something unsavoury but something which may be looked upon as inevitable under the circumstances. Nothing of the sort. They announced an autocratic decision and that too after there had been a conference called by the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas day before yesterday. He was informed definitely what Muslim sentiment and Muslim desire on the subject was. He was told in unmistakable terms that the stoppage of the Haj traffic last year had caused the deepest resentment throughout Muslim India and that the thing should not be repeated this year. He was also told that, on the basis of so many items of news appearing in the Press from day to day under Government censorship, the public believed, unless, of course, reports in the Press to that effect were false, that the Allies were gaining victory after victory in all theatres of war, that Britain was regaining the temporarily disturbed supremacy in the seas, that the submarine danger was almost entirely a thing of the past. All these items of news appearing in the press from day to day have led the public to believe that the Government of India is most certainly in a position to make the necessary arrangements for the Haj traffic this year and let me say, Sir, that their belief and contention is that it is one of the duties of the Government to make those arrangements. They cannot shirk their duty. They cannot absolve themselves of their responsibility by saying 'we have decided not to permit the Haj'. Standing in the way of the Haj traffic in that way is most unwarrantable and, I may say, most unwise and unstatesmanlike. It conveys a very bad impression to the entire Muslim public of the scanty regard this Government has for the most delicate religious susceptibilities of the vast Muslim community in India. It shows their neglect of the duty which they owe to all sections of the Indian community. What is it that stands in their way if they are asked to arrange for, say, just 4 steamers to ply from the ports of Bombay and Karachi (Leave

[Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.]

alone Calcutta, for the Bay of Bengal is infested by Japanese submarines) to take the pilgrims to Jeddah and bring them back, under proper convoy protection if necessary. We are told, and it is a fact, that thousands and thousands of troops are transported every day across the seas; that hundreds of thousands of tons of munitions and other essential war supplies are transported across the sea every day. Mishaps do occur now and then but they are rare and do not occur every day. If all that can be arranged and if the entire sea traffic is not held up, where is the difficulty in arranging for four pilgrim steamers to cope with the very modest number of pilgrims which was proposed in the Resolution of the non-official Members handed to the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas day before yesterday? It was said in that Resolution that at least 4,000 pilgrims should be allowed to proceed for the Haj. This is a very modest number looking at the very large number of pilgrims who proceed to the Hedjaz for their Haj in normal times. If an arrangement could be made for them in the earlier years of this war—1939, 1940 and 1941—, where is the difficulty in making arrangements now? Surely, in those years the war conditions were very much worse than they are now. We are informed from all quarters that the war situation is now definitely favourable to the Allies and surely the necessary arrangements can be made.

On certain occasions in putting forward excuses on behalf of Government, we are told that it would be against the injunctions of the Islamic law itself to embark on a pilgrimage to the Hedjaz under the existing circumstances. We are treated to quotations from the Holy Quran and told that the Holy Quran itself says:

Wa lá tulgú bi aidikum ilattahluka

which standing by itself and without reference to the context means: Do not throw yourself with your own hands towards destruction. That is the literal translation. But this text is torn from the context. The entire *Ayat* is:

*Wa anfiqú fi sabillilláhi wa lá tulgú bi aidikum
ilattahlukati wa aheinu. Innálláha yuhibbulmuheinin.*

And it will be interesting to know what it really means. The most authoritative commentaries on the Holy Quran which I had the advantage of consulting this morning give the meaning of that text which is very different from that which is assigned to it in discussions of this kind. Now, this is a text which enjoins on the Musalmans the necessity of making monetary contributions to the cause of Jihad. The meaning of the *Ayat* is: Spend your money in the way of Allah and do not throw yourself with your own hands in the way of destruction, and do good, for Allah loves those who do good. All the ancient and modern commentators—the most ancient commentator is Ibni Abbas, who learnt the Holy Quran at the feet of the Holy Prophet himself, and then we have Huzaifa, Ikrama and Hasan—agree that this means spending of money for purposes of Jihad and conveys a warning that if money is withheld on such occasions, it amounts to rushing with open eyes towards destruction because, unless the Muslim nation and Islam are protected by carrying on Jihad, the community will be destroyed and that is self-destruction. That is the meaning of it. But now we are told that this means that you must not rush towards destruction and you must not expose yourself to danger. If such a meaning were imported and read into this text, it would mean that we should carry on, on the basis of this text, a propaganda against enlisting in the army, because that is also exposing oneself to death and danger. We can say: Do not enter the army because the enemy is very fatally armed and you will expose yourself to the certainty of being killed; avoid enlisting in the army. To quote such texts and read into them such meanings is really absurd. The position remains that this text does not apply to the case of Hajis; it applies to the case of Jihad. It really means, do not grudge spending money on the cause of Jihad, otherwise you will be guilty of committing national suicide. This is exactly what we say today. Make your monetary contributions to the

war effort because you have to save your country and your hearth and home. If you do not do so, you will be rushing towards destruction and the enemy will come upon you and destroy you. That is the meaning.

Anyhow, what I want to say is that there is no excuse for the Government of India which can be accepted for their decision not to permit the Haj in the light of the information which the public is constantly receiving about the Allied victories and their command of the seas. By standing in the way of the Haj in that way, the Government is exposing itself to the very serious charge that it is interfering with the religion of Mussalmans. I hope better sense will prevail and wisdom will dawn on the Government of India and it will withdraw, re-consider and revise the so-called decision which has been announced in the press communiqué. I hope the Government will accept this Resolution and try its very best to make all necessary arrangements for the Haj.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution just moved by my Honourable friend Nawab Siddique Ali Khan. The performance of Haj is one of the most essential obligations enjoined upon every Muslim capable of undertaking the journey and we would be failing in our duty to the Mussalmans in general and to the Mussalmans of India in particular if we do not give full and true expression to the ideas that are agitating their minds at this time. The Resolution under consideration is a very simple one and in our view it is absolutely non-controversial. We had entertained the hope that it would receive the unanimous support of all sections of the House, but the attitude of the Government leaves us sadly disappointed.

Sir, I was astonished to see in yesterday's *Statesman* a communiqué purporting to have been issued on behalf of the Government of India expressing their inability to make arrangements for the Haj in the current year. Sir, the issue of this communiqué on the eve of today's debate is nothing but a direct insult to this Honourable House. Government had ample notice of this Resolution, for it appeared on the Agenda paper as far back as the 6th of August. The indecent haste which Government have shown in publishing their decision can only mean that they were not anxious to hear the views of, or to be influenced by the wishes expressed by, this Legislative Assembly. In their Press communiqué the Government have been at pains to point out that they had explained their difficulties and had conveyed their decision to the Standing Haj Committee and other representatives of the Muslim community who were specially called into consultation on this problem. They have deliberately refrained from telling the public the advice that they received from the Standing Haj Committee and the other Muslim representatives invited by them. I think I am disclosing no state secret when I say that it was the unanimous opinion and keen desire of all non-official members present that arrangements should be made for the Haj in the current year at any cost. The members of the Committee were clearly given to understand that their recommendation would receive the most careful consideration. But it is quite obvious now that Government had no such intention for their communiqué must have gone to the Press sometime before the Standing Haj Committee concluded its deliberations at 6-30 P.M., on the 10th of August.

As far as arrangements for the Haj are concerned, this is not the first occasion that Government have flouted Muslim public opinion and made a farce of the discussions both in this House and in the Standing Haj Committee. I have been a Member of this Honourable House and of the Standing Haj Committee for the last 13 years but I can recollect no occasion on which Government have implemented the Resolutions passed by this House or by the Standing Haj Committee itself in making arrangements for the Haj regular, comfortable and inexpensive. Even the recommendations made by the Haj Enquiry Committee in the year 1929 and by the Special Haj Officer in the year 1942 remain unfulfilled. To give an example, a Resolution was moved in 1940 in this Honourable House to appoint a Haj officer in the Government

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

Secretariat to attend to the complaints of Hajis and to supervise the arrangements for the Haj, and was accepted by the Government. Two years have elapsed but the Resolution has not been implemented so far, even when a strong recommendation was made by Mr. Rahim in his Special Haj Enquiry Report. So is the case with many other recommendations about which I dealt with at length in my speech at the time of the consideration of the Special Haj Enquiry report on 12th of April last. There has been a repeated demand of the Muslim Members of this House against the unjustified Kamran dues charged from the Hajis every year and of an enquiry into it, but that was never cared for. Sir, arrangement for the Haj is the only religious matter affecting the Muslims of India for which Government has assumed responsibility. I must say that it has failed miserably in carrying it out. The lame excuses given in the Government Press communique yesterday are in line with the excuses they have been making on previous occasions. It is public knowledge that the war situation has shown a marked improvement during the last twelve months. The Allied Fleets are in complete control of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea route to India. We seldom hear these days of the appearance of Japanese or German submarines in the Western Indian ocean. In fact no sinkings of ships in this region have been announced in the Press during the last six months or more. Large convoys of ships carrying stores and men have been coming in and going out from the ports of India. In the face of these facts, it is hard to believe that the sailing of three or four ships to the Red Sea for the Haj pilgrimage would be attended by extraordinary dangers. But even if dangers existed, the Muslims who have died in thousands fighting for their King and country would not hesitate to risk their lives for performing their religious obligations to the Almighty God. If this is the only reason for the Government's decision, it is high time they disabused themselves of these ideas. If arrangements for the Haj are made in spite of any dangers and difficulties that exist, the Muslims of India would be too thankful to the Government rather than to blame them, and the Hajis would accept all the consequences that a journey to the Hedjaz might entail. The improvement in the war situation and the large ship building programme of the Allies should have relieved a good deal of shipping for the Indian ocean. Surely it is not beyond the resources of the Government of India to release three or four small ships to carry the Haj pilgrims to Jeddah. I understand that the Scindia Steam Navigation company are prepared to make arrangements for the Haj if Government would only release some of their ships for this purpose. Will the Honourable Member in charge please tell this House why this generous offer cannot and has not been accepted. If the sea route is not safe, cannot arrangements be made for the pilgrims to travel overland through Iran and Iraq which countries are quite safe at present, as far as the war is concerned. I have come to know from a reliable source that a large number of lorries are available at Karachi, in Iraq and Iran which owing to the past successes of war in North Africa and elsewhere are there without any transport business of the Government. These lorries can very well be used for the Haj traffic to carry Haj pilgrims for some days at least.

The Government of India are in duty bound to make every effort to arrange for the Haj pilgrimage for the Muslims of India. They cannot fulfill this duty by keeping Saudi Arabia quiet by means of financial subsidies and economic assistance, however justified these steps may be in themselves. War or peace can make no difference to the belief and the religious obligations of a Muslim. In fact, the greater the danger the more meritorious is the performance of the Haj pilgrimage. Let not the Muslims of India feel that their dearest wishes are ignored and their religious susceptibilities wounded by the callous indifference of Government towards their demand for regular arrangements for the Haj.

Sir, the history of Islam shows that a *jihad* is permissible to enforce this right and in fact the Crusades were fought to secure access to the Holy Places.

I am sure the Government will realise the seriousness of the situation and will retrace their steps and avert the great ill feeling among the Muslims of India that their decision not to make arrangements for the Haj in the current year is bound to arouse.

Sir, I think I have said enough to convince the House of the urgent necessity for making arrangements for the Haj pilgrimage. I would now crave their indulgence for a minute or two regarding the other aspects of the Resolution. The step-motherly treatment shown by the Government towards Indian owned shipping companies working on the Haj line is well known to this House and requires no repetition. Suffice it to say that by encouraging cut throat competition and by discriminatory treatment all the Indian owned companies except the Scindia Steam Navigation Company have been driven out of the trade and even in the case of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, they were placed at a disadvantage in being allowed to carry a smaller percentage of pilgrims on the occasion of the last Haj in comparison with the British owned Mughal line in spite of the fact that their pilgrim ships are far better than those of the Moghul line for the convenience and comforts of the pilgrims. Sir, I would urge that in future Government will be pleased to allow and encourage the Indian shipping companies to come forward and enter the Haj pilgrim carrying business to the best interest and comfort of the pilgrims. This matter has always been the subject of discussion on the floor of this House and I do hope that the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas will take this into consideration.

Before I sit down, Sir, I would once more commend to the House and to Government the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Nawab Siddique Ali Khan and to revise their decision.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am the Chairman of the Port Haj Committee of Calcutta. I received a notice to attend a meeting of the Haj Committee some time in the beginning of this month, and the meeting was fixed by the Honourable Member in charge for the afternoon of the 10th instant. It was an urgent meeting and I was asked to be present. In that meeting I found that similar invitations had been issued to the Chairmen of the Port Haj Committees at Karachi and Bombay, who were also present. The members of the Central Port Haj Committee were also present and, in addition to these, several other influential Muslims were invited also and they were present. We had a long discussion and it was the unanimous view of all Muslims present that Government should arrange for the Haj this year. The Honourable Member Dr. Khare in winding up the debate said that after getting the unanimous views expressed in the Committee meeting, they would now decide what to do. This was on the evening of the 10th. In addition to that you have to remember that this Resolution was tabled for the 6th August but could not be taken up on that day. Still in spite of all this the Honourable Member issued a communique which was certainly prepared long before this meeting was held; it went to the press even before we have been sitting and discussing the position. I consider this an insult to the Committee,—calling them and discussing a matter on which they had already made up their minds. We discussed the matter till 6 o'clock on the evening of the 10th; early next morning we read this communique in the papers. There was no mention even of the conference; they only said that they had decided to give up the Haj this year. What was the harm if the communique was issued on the 18th after hearing our views here, instead of on the 11th? Why could they not say to us then that Government had already made up their mind? Did they consider our views in the brief time that they had after that meeting? Surely that is absurd; and so it is clear that all these meetings and our views, etc., end only in a farce. If they had decided not to give us the privilege of the Haj this year it was no use sending for us and asking for our views. But if on the other hand they had really a mind to listen to our views they should have consulted

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.]

the departments concerned whether they could change their mind and give us the one or two boats that we asked for. After all we only asked for four thousand pilgrims being taken this year. As the Honourable Member must be aware, so far as Muslims are concerned, death or no death they are prepared to go to the Haj; it is incumbent on them to perform it even once during their lifetime.

Then, Sir, I will state what happened last year. Mr. Aney, the then Member in charge sent for us but most of us could not come. I was here by mere accident and attended the meeting. He explained to us the difficulties and we all agreed that the Haj should be postponed. But when we went back to our own places, we were severely taken to task by the Muslims. They said: "What right had you to say that there should be no Haj? Your duty was to tell Government that there must be sailing for Haj; it is for the pilgrims to go or not, but that you should have told them that they must arrange for Haj sailing. If they decide that even death is preferable, they will go and face it". Sir, after agreeing not to have the Haj last year we later found that there was no trouble whatever in the Red Sea or in the Indian Ocean although we were given such long stories that owing to the Japanese menace the ships could not go safely. Why cannot you take these ships in convoys which you are doing in other cases every day? You must arrange anyhow to have the Haj; otherwise I give you a warning that the Muslim community will never forgive you for not allowing it.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): I am afraid the most deplorable decision of the Government to stop the Haj this season has placed them in a very desperate predicament. All sorts of arguments have been put forward by the Honourable Members who have spoken on this Resolution up to the present moment showing that the Government in stopping the Haj this season has disregarded the feelings of the Mussalmans of India and has done a very impolitic and unstatesmanlike thing. I should like to tell them that the plea that the sea-route is unsafe and the Mussalman pilgrims—men, women and children—might lose their lives is untenable. It is very kind of the Government to show so much solicitude for the lives of the pilgrims, but it does not lie in their mouth to say so when hundreds of people are dying of starvation in Bengal and they have done nothing for them. The Government ought to know, they must remember and they must realize that to stop the pilgrimage this season on the plea of danger leads definitely to the conclusion that they have made up their mind to stop the Haj so long as the war lasts. A most responsible person—the Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Forces of America—has reminded us that the war might go on till 1949. So does the Government mean that all this time there will be no Haj. Evidently they are so inclined. In 1939, 1940 and 1941 the seas were considered safe enough for pilgrimage while disaster upon disaster was raining upon the Allies, but now that the Pacific Sea according to the Government is comparatively safe, the Atlantic is safe from the attacks of U-Boats, and the Mediterranean Sea is no longer what it was in the early stages of the war, when the whole of Northern Africa is in the grip of the Allies, when Sicily has been very nearly captured, you cannot allow even 4,000 pilgrims to go from Karachi to Jadda. When it is possible for the Government to land safely hundreds of thousands of troops on enemy territory, how cannot it be possible for four thousand men to be transported from here to the Hedjaz. It is possible. It is their duty to find means for the transport of these Hajis. My Honourable friend Nawab Budaque Ali Khan referred to an alternative route to the Hedjaz over land by means of lorries. There is another alternative: by air. You spend millions and millions of rupees on war propaganda, and if in order to earn the goodwill of the Mussalmans of India you spend a few lakhs of rupees on transporting four thousand Hajis to Jadda, what will you lose? You will earn the gratitude of the Mussalmans of India. But I feel you don't mean to earn the goodwill

and gratitude of the Mussalmans of India. You are irresponsible, autocratic. You speak of freedom and freedom for all humanity and you act like this. I do not know what to think of you and by what terms to talk of your conduct. Sir, Dr. Khare is laughing.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why should not he laugh?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: But he laughs long who laughs last. Don't you interfere in the religion of the Mussalmans. They can bear everything but they cannot bear this. Everybody tells us that there are two millions of soldiers fighting for the honour of Great Britain in North Africa, in Sicily, in Middle East and of these two million nearly one million are Mussalmans of India. What are they fighting for and shedding their rich blood? For British Imperialism?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Arrangements have been made to take them there.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: If you have made arrangements for them, how cannot it be possible for you to take four thousand people there. Where there is a will there is a way. You can do what you like if you really want to do it. Evidently you don't mean to do it and you don't want to do it. But let me warn you that when ten crores of Mussalmans—and I hope and trust that 30 crores of other Indians will join them—will call upon you to have some respect for their feelings and if still you persist in refusing, to meet their wishes the consequences of that refusal will be tremendous. Sir, I end my speech with these words and I hope it is not yet too late for the Government to withdraw from the decision that they have taken.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I move that the question be now put.

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

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am one of those who had the honour of attending that confidential Conference the invitations for which were sent by the department under sealed covers and marked 'confidential'. We thought probably the Government had got something very serious to tell us and they were going to take us into confidence in the matter. Sir, I have been seeing the methods of this Government and I think that the methods of Government cannot be improved even under the administration of Dr. Khare. Whoever is the gentleman put in charge, the old methods continue. What was the confidential information which was communicated to us in that Conference? Probably I may have been charged with divulging that confidential communication, but I am pleased to find that that confidential communication has been given out by the Government themselves in that communiqué. There was nothing more than that. The matter had been decided prior to the holding of the Conference and the poor president of the Conference appeared to be as helpless as ourselves regarding the decision. That meeting was not at all intended to ascertain our opinion or to get the benefit of our consultation on behalf of the Mussalmans of India, but was only intended to communicate the decisions which the Government had arrived at and to persuade us to help the Government in supporting those decisions. This exactly was the position. What happened at the Conference was that when we came to a unanimous decision that arrangements should be made for the Mussalman public for going to the pilgrimage, the Conference was regarded as a failure and the President in a note of despair said: "We have heard you and now we will decide". He did not want to be worried any more with the observations of the enthusiastic members who thought that they were being taken into confidence by the Government. This attitude of the Government reminds me of the story of a gentleman who was once stopping at my house. He had nothing to talk about with the owner of the house but he wanted to show that he had something to talk. He told the owner of the house: Sir, I

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi]

want to talk something very confidential to you. The owner of the house thought he may have something confidential. He was taken ten

1 P.M. paces from the gathering and then the guest brought his mouth quite near the ears of the host and spoke in a voice which was audible to all the gathering. He said: "I am very thankful to you for inviting me to your place. The latrine in your house is a very nice one". After having communicated that he said that that was the only thing he wanted to say. This is the sort of confidential information that is imparted to us and very often the public will find that the Governor General takes the trouble of issuing ordinances to the effect that these bits of information should not be communicated to anyone. What has really happened is the same as occurred in the last year when I happened to be one of those gentlemen who attended that confidential Conference, we were given exactly the same information. We told the Government that we were not in the know of things and it is for the Government to decide. This time again the same thing was repeated and to our utter astonishment, the Government members appeared to be as little aware of the real situation as we were. They only acted upon the advice and information given to them by somebody who could not be cross-examined. They had to abide by the decision of some person not a party to the Conference. Isn't it a fact that even now merchant shipping is engaged in the transport of goods from this place to Arabia? Isn't it a fact that even today we are sending goods other than war materials to those countries? Have the Government really considered the situation? We asked whether they had enquired of the companies as to whether they would be able to give any boats to carry the pilgrims. The answer was that they had not. Obviously they could not, because all the boats that used to be employed for the conveyance of pilgrims have been taken over by the military. Now are the military prepared to relieve one or two of those boats for the pilgrimage for a short time? That was the concession that ought to have been asked of the military authorities. Isn't it a fact that all of them are in the custody and under the control of the military authorities? They are not being used on land but on sea which is said to be infested with submarines. I want to tell them that it is not by alleging that Government took some persons into confidence and then publishing a communiqué that Muslim public opinion will be satisfied.

In this connection, I would just ask the Honourable Member responsible for this communiqué as to the exact meaning of one of the words used. He said: "They have informed Muslim leaders and the Members of the Standing Haj Committee of the circumstances and considerations which have weighed with them". Now, to whom does the word "them" refer to—the Members of the Committee or to Government? If to the Members of the Committee then it is incorrect. I say that the considerations and reasons given by Government did not weigh with the Committee Members at all. I say that that Conference and the debate in this Assembly becomes a simple farce if that is the fact that everything had been decided prior to that, and I think it is only in the fitness of things that the Government should even now reconsider their position and not abide by the communiqué and their decision already arrived at, but once more try to get some arrangements made for the pilgrims.

Maulvi Syed Murtaza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): It happened to be one of those Members who had the honour of being invited to the Conference just made mention of. Not only this, Sir, but we had the occasion of having been invited to another conference held by Mr. Aney. We got very short notice last year. Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and myself were a little late. Some decisions had already been taken by the conference. When we got home we were pounced upon by the Muslim public as to how it was that we signified our consent to a mischievous decision arrived at by the Government. Sir, we were placed in a very awkward position. Then we had to

explain the circumstances under which we were not in a position to reach the conference in time because of short notice.

Now, Sir, with regard to the Conference which was held under the presidency of the present Member for Indians Overseas, much has been said by previous speakers. There were also present Muslim representatives of the Government. Their position we fully realize. They are not really speaking as the representatives of the Muslim community. They are the representatives of the Government. They had to echo the same view as the Member in charge. We were not convinced. Even now, Sir, we are of the strong opinion that these dangers are only sentimental. They are not real. Even granting that they are real, when the Muslim public, because of their religious fervour, are prepared to risk their lives for this act, I do not see any justification on the part of the Government to stand in their way. Sir, Dr. Khare, as a non-Official Member was on a previous occasion our colleague. He was then moving very closely with us. Even now we are friends, but the treatment meted out to us by holding that Conference only the day before yesterday, and receiving the communiqué to the effect that Muslims could not have the Haj this year has been rightly stressed upon by my Honourable friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan. Are we to be under the impression that because this war continues, as has been anticipated by some experts, Muslims should lose their Haj which is incumbent on those who are financially and physically able to perform the journey? Are they to be prevented by the Government? Is it not interference in religious duties of Mussalmans by the Government? It cannot but be resented from the bottom of our heart. In these circumstances we are obliged to observe that the recommendation made by Mr. Rahim, I.C.S., in his splendid report has been ignored by the Government. If such things which are incumbent on us are to be interfered with and if our demands are to be ignored in this way, can they expect anything like contentment or affection from the Muslim community? I warn them that they cannot and should not. So, the Government, particularly the Member in charge assisted by the Muslim Members, should see their way to prevail upon other Members of the Government to revise their so-called decision which has been arrived at hastily and unconstitutionally also, I may say. With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhanmadan): I rise to support this Resolution. In supporting it I do urge upon the Government that it is an innocent one. It simply says that the Muslims should be allowed to go on Haj just as they used to go in previous years. I have heard that a communiqué has been issued by the Government that this year perhaps there will be no Haj performance by the Mussalmans. I do not know what the reasons are, because I have not seen the communiqué myself . . .

An Honourable Member: It may be the war!

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Yes, it may be the dangers of the war, or scarcity in shipping arrangements due to war. In either case, when those who are bent upon performing the Haj think that it is a religious duty there ought to be no objection on the part of the Government. Besides, in advancing my reasons I beg to remind the Government that we have no other training except only in religious performances. You cannot expect from us any other standard of life than we are habituated to. It comes very ill from your mouth to say, the whole world is in the throes of a struggle, the whole world is engaged in the factories producing war materials and thinking of war and engaging in war and we are simply thinking of performing the Haj. But what else have you taught us to do? Even those of us who are eager to take part in this war or those who have declared their intention are rotting in jail. I may tell you from my own personal experience. While I was in jail I was simply counting beads of Rama and reading Ramayana and Gita, and there cannot be any other thought uppermost in our minds. So far as industries are concerned, so far as any other kind of activity is concerned there has been no scope for us excepting taking the name of God and thinking of God and scriptures, or

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reading scriptures and thinking of performing this Haj or that pilgrimage. We are habituated to that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resume his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Had I been given two minutes more, I would have finished my speech before Lunch but I shall now continue for a few minutes more and press my points further. As I was saying, we in this country think that life is of no use unless we take to religious persuasion and we find the same idea in this Resolution, namely, carrying out the religious persuasion. There is nothing else besides that. The Government objection, as I have already stated, may be due to the dangers of war or the scarcity of shipping arrangements of what use we have been left to be? If it be the dangers of war, we see that those who want to perform the Haj are prepared to face them and we do not know how far the shipping companies are prepared to take the risk.

I am told by some of my friends that the second part of the Resolution which deals with the point that shipping should not be the monopoly of one company is specially meant to give a hint that because some company has been practically getting the monopoly and they want to preserve their monopoly that this device has been made out by the Government I cannot vouch for this presumption but there may be some truth in it. I am informed that there is an Indian shipping company which is prepared to take the responsibility for carrying the pilgrims. Now, so far as scarcity of shipping is concerned, as I have already said, we cannot think in terms of what other people in the world are thinking and so we can be excused if we think of asking for air ships even for the performance of the Haj. If there be some objection to that, then I may be reluctantly obliged to observe that there is interference with the religious performance of the communities in India. In this matter, I may console my Muslim brethren also. They have seen the fate of their Hindu brethren in regard to the Kumbh Mela and Sonapur fair. They must also be prepared to take their fair percentage in this matter. In that sense, I am prepared to support this Resolution and tell the Government that their policy is not the right one on the grounds I have suggested. I would also like to tell my Muslim brethren that they should draw a lesson from such incidents.

The other day my friend Maulana Zafar Ali Khan was suggesting that the Government of India was composed of communal elements. There are four Knighted Muslims on the Government Benches. The Government consists of a fair number of Muslim representatives. Now, can they not draw a lesson that this point has been thoroughly discussed from the Muhammadan point of view. If not, are they prepared to revise their opinion that there is a communal element in the Government of India. However, I do not wish to press this point further. It is only by way of pointing out to my Muslim brethren what the position is. It may be in the interest of human life that Government have been obliged to take this step. We have yet to hear from the Government representative what their motive is in stopping the Haj. If it is due only to the dangers of war, it does not stand to reason. If the pilgrims are prepared to face the dangers of war, they should be given the option because after all people who go for religious performances think of God and God alone. They do not think of the safety of their lives. If they think of performing Haj, there should be no objection on the part of the Government to giving them that privilege of reaching God, even if they lose their lives in the sea. With these words, I support the Resolution.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): I rise to give my support to the Resolution which has been moved. In supporting this Resolution, I associate myself with the remarks which have been made by the Honourable the Mover

of this Resolution. The position is a very simple one. Every Muslim, if he is able-bodied and if he can afford the expense to the Haj is required by his religion to pay a visit to the Holy place once in his life time. I can very well understand the sentiments of my Muslim brethren because in my religion also I am required at least once in my life to pay a visit to the Holy place of my Guru. (An Honourable Member: "Which is that place?" It is in Hyderabad. That being the position, I think it should not be difficult for Government to accept this Resolution.

What is the case of the Government, I have read the communique which has been issued by the Overseas Department. Their case is that owing to war difficulties they cannot arrange a passage for a few thousands of pilgrims to the Hedjaz. I understand that that is their case. Pilgrimages to Haj were performed in 1939, 1940, 1941 if you please

An Honourable Member: Not 1942.

Sardar Mangal Singh: not 1942. The war situation has definitely improved since 1941. In 1941 the Germans were nearly in Egypt, in Iran, and the other Middle East countries, and the war situation was much more dangerous in 1941 than it is to-day. That being the position it should not be difficult for the Government to arrange the passage of a few thousands of pilgrims.

There is another consideration. The Mussalmans all over India, as I understand, are agitated over this issue. I want to assure the House that the non-Muslim opinion will be behind the Muslims in this matter. There are 100 million Muslims in this country. They are my countrymen and if their religion is attacked, my religion will also be attacked. If they are prevented from performing this pilgrimage, I may be prevented to-morrow from performing my religious duties. I therefore in my own interest will support the position taken up by my Muslim friends. Moreover, my community have not forgotten the services rendered by the great leaders of the great Muslim community during the Gurdwara reform movement. Their leaders came to our help. My Honourable friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, with his great pen, gave his valuable support to our movement. Dr. Kichlew and other Punjab Muslim leaders came to our help. Above all,—the Leader of the Muslim League is not here, and very few people know it, but I know it personally—the Honourable the Leader of the Muslim League at great personal inconvenience and sacrifice stayed here for several days in Delhi in order to help us during those days, and we are grateful for the services of the Muslim community at that time. Of course, if the Government in their folly persist in the position which they have wrongly taken up, then it is up to the Muslim community, the leaders of the Muslim community to decide the next step. But I can assure them in this House that whatever step they may take in their own interest the Sikh community will be behind them in this matter. With these few words I support the Resolution.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Let the question be now put.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhaimmadan Urban): I rise to give my support to this Resolution. Sir, it is a question of the performance of religious rites of a particular community, and as such it should receive the fullest consideration from the Government. Sir, it is known or ought to be known to Government Benches how keenly Indians feel over the observance of their religious rites. If any difficulty is placed in the way of their performing their religious rites, the whole community feels wounded, and in order that such wound may not be inflicted on the Muslim community I hope and trust that the Government will accept this Resolution. Sir, some of the previous speakers have spoken about the rights of other communities. If the rights of one community are infringed, there is the fear that the rights of other communities may also be infringed in future. From that point of view also it should be considered by the Government whether it is not the right course on their part to accept the Resolution. The whole of the Opposition is united in demanding that this Resolution should be accepted by the Government.

An Honourable Member: Let the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Honourable Dr. Khare.

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

(There was thumping of tables in the Opposition Benches.)

Some Members on the Opposition Benches: No. Withdraw.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (After a pause) Sir

(There was thumping of tables again in the Opposition Benches and there were cries of "No" from the Opposition Benches.)

Some Members on the Opposition Benches: Withdraw. Sit down.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Let the Leader of the House withdraw.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (After a pause again): Sir

(There was again thumping of tables in the Opposition Benches and there were cries of "No" and "Withdraw" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Let the Leader of the House withdraw.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (After a pause again) Sir, on a point of order, is this thumping in order?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: No order. Everything is in disorder.

(There was thumping of tables in the Opposition Benches again and there were cries of "No" and "Withdraw".)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): May I know what the Members of the Opposition want? What is this demonstration about?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What we on this side of the House want is an unconditional withdrawal on the part of the Leader of the House of remarks which constituted a reflection on the Deputy President.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: On the Chair.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Yes, on the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I am sorry I am put in a rather awkward position.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: You may vacate the Chair if you feel like that.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: It is not a matter personal to the Deputy President. It is a reflection on the Chair, whoever may be the occupant.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): I do not withdraw one word from the statement that I made, but I assure the House that no reflection was meant on the Chair.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: What does it mean?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Because I had said nothing. All that I want to explain is that no reflection was meant on the Chair in the statement that I made and therefore there is nothing to withdraw.

The Honourable Sir M. Azimul Haque (Member for Commerce, Food and Industries and Civil Supplies): That should be accepted. That is the parliamentary convention.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, in the course of the debate on this Resolution, I am afraid the debate has tended to assume a personal tone. I hope I am under a misapprehension. Anyway, it is my duty to clear my position. I am a Hindu and my religion enjoins equal respect for all religions. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure and greater satisfaction for having performed my duty than to have been able to arrange for the Haj sailing this year. There was no pleasure at all either to me or to the Government to have arrived at this decision after deep, deliberate and mature consideration. Honourable Members have referred to the press communique but not the whole of it. They have referred to a sentence here and a sentence there and have tried to make fun out of it. That is not fair, I am bound to say. Therefore, it is necessary for me to read the whole communique dated the 11th August, 1943. It reads:

The Government of India have again decided this year that they cannot permit Haj sailing. This decision has been reached only after the most anxious consideration and has caused them the deepest concern. They are well aware of the great importance attached by millions of Muslims to the performance of this sacred obligation. It was their earnest hope that the dangers which influenced their decision last year would by this time have been removed. Unhappily that is not so. The enemy, to whose action this decision is directly attributable, is a brutal and savage aggressor. To him the deaths of thousands

of pilgrims bent solely upon a task of deep religious significance would count for nothing, but the responsibility resting upon the Government of India in this matter is most grave. They have informed Muslim leaders and members of the Standing Haj Committee confidentially of the circumstances and considerations which have weighed with them. It is with profound regret that they are forced to the conclusion that their responsibility can only be properly discharged by the decision they have reached."

Sir, we have been charged with flouting the public opinion. I repudiate that charge. We called this Haj Committee and also certain other Muslim leaders of repute and renown and placed all facts before them. We took them into our full confidence and told them certain things which cannot be disclosed to this House. After doing that, we arrived at a decision. Now, Sir, as the decision has been published, may I ask if it is flouting the public opinion or taking it into our confidence or showing regard to the public? We have also been charged that we came prepared with the decision and were simply making a *tamasha* of the members. This is not a fact. If we had not placed all the facts before them, they could have charged us like that. But when we placed all the facts before them, which are unpleasant, unfortunate and to nobody's liking, then they say: Why did you call us? This thing I cannot understand and I cannot compliment them at all on their mentality. The communique is clear enough. If we publish the communique, we are charged with slighting them. Had we not done so, they would have said that the Government has burked the issue. This is very unfortunate.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, but the charge was that the Government of India sent their decision to the press before the meeting took place.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is wrong. The communique was sent to the press long after the meeting had taken place.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): What about this? If those reasons are really good reasons, was there any difficulty in the way of the Government of India for waiting for a debate on this Resolution, which is the subject of discussion today and listen to all the arguments that were to be brought forward by the Members here, if the Government of India really had an open mind on the subject? On the other hand, if they had come to a decision a week or 10 days ago, no amount of argument will prevail with the Government of India. What is the answer to this: Why did you not wait for the arguments that had been brought forward before you today?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It is the same argument and there is no use repeating it.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, may I ask what does the word "same" mean according to the Honourable Member?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member does not give way. Order, order.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, a reference has been made to the victories of the Allies in the war of which we are proud, satisfied and joyful, but those victories have not yet eased the situation in that portion of the sea through which the ships have to pass, namely, between Bombay and Jeddah. More than that, I cannot say. We are told that we permitted the Haj in 1939 and 1940 and what has happened now?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I request you, Sir, to ask the Honourable Member to come to the front bench so that we may be able to hear him better?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will the Honourable Member speak up?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am speaking quite loudly.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask you to inform the Honourable Member that, while addressing the Chair, it is not necessary that his face should be towards the Chair. He is really addressing the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): These are such fundamental matters on which it is rather difficult to give a ruling. The speaker should no doubt address the chair but in such an audible manner that the whole House may be able to hear him.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: But they forget, Sir, that Japan entered the war in 1941 and since then the situation has worsened; it has now become dangerous. We were informed by the Departments concerned that the situation there is more dangerous than it was last year when the Haj was prohibited. We cannot help it. It is not a matter of argument or a matter of conjecture. It is a matter of fact. Facts are there.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: What are the facts?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have told you that the sea is more dangerous this year than it was last year.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: This is your conclusion.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: From those facts we have arrived at our conclusion. These are facts.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Which is a fact and which is a conclusion?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The fact is that the sea is dangerous and the conclusion is that it is not possible to allow Haj this year.

Then, Sir, they said that the entire Muslim world will rise against Japan. I echo those sentiments. Let them do so. The responsibility for preventing the Haj this year is not ours but it is that of Japan. I quite echo those sentiments. Let them rise against Japan.

Then, Sir, they said, why not provide convoys. Quite right. But experience shows that it is difficult for pilgrims to follow the rules and the discipline necessary for safety of passengers proceeding under the escort of convoys. From experience gained in the past, the Government think that convoy system is not possible. I quite respect the sentiments of my Muslim friends that they would rather die in the attempt than give up the pilgrimage. I share their respect for the sentiments. All honour to them. But I hope my Honourable friends will appreciate that in ships, there are not pilgrims alone. There is the crew also. If the pilgrims are prepared to die, what about the crew? They say, you are carrying goods even when war goes on, why not carry pilgrims. But my Honourable friends seem to forget the fact that the case of pilgrims and that of goods are quite different, they are two different things.

Then, Sir, reference was made to the step-motherly treatment. I may assure my Honourable friends that the Government's policy is to see that the rules regarding Haj sailing are observed, that all comforts are provided for the pilgrims and that the Indian mercantile marine is encouraged. The Government do not make any difference between community and community or between company and company in these matters. I think, Sir, I have answered all the material points.

There is one point which is not relevant to the issue, but since it has been raised, I will answer that. It is that the recommendations of the Rahim Committee have not been carried out. Sir, I may tell the House here that out of 82 recommendations made by the Rahim Committee, 24 have been accepted and orders have issued; 14 more have been accepted, but orders have not yet been issued for various reasons. 43 are still being considered, and one has been rejected.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: What is the date of the Rahim Committee report?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think about two years ago.

Then, Sir, a pointed question has been raised about a whole-time Haj Pilgrim Officer. Before arriving at a decision, the Indian Overseas Department has been taking all the necessary preliminary steps to arrange for Haj sailing. The Government also regret that all their labour has been lost and it is of no avail. They regret this along with the House. About the appointment of a Pilgrim Officer, that matter also is under consideration and a decision will

soon be taken. I am sorry Sir, that in spite of our best efforts, we have this painful necessity of cancelling and countermanding this year also the Haj sailing. We have not countermanded the Haj pilgrimage at all. It is for the Muslims themselves to decide on this question. Government do not want any interference in religious matters. The Government still think that it is their incumbent duty to arrange these sailings. But they are helpless and they cannot do so on account of the exigencies of the war situation. That is all I can say.

I am forced to oppose this Resolution moved by my Honourable friend who comes from the same City as myself. He knows me well, and I know him very well. I am quite sure he will not misunderstand me. I hope I have answered all the points raised in the debate.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: There is one vital point which the Honourable Member has not touched. May I know whether the Government of India have made up their minds to stop Haj till the cessation of the war?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not at all. It is only for this year, that the Government have decided that they cannot arrange for Haj sailings. The Government review the position every year and reconsider the whole situation.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): May I know if the Government are willing to permit Haj if the Honourable Members of the Haj Committee, elected by this House, are willing to pilot that ship?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, I am sorry I am put to the painful necessity of opposing this Resolution moved by my Honourable friend.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, I am afraid I cannot congratulate my Honourable friend Dr. Khare on the speech which he has just made. Sir, luck plays a very great part in human affairs. While I firmly believe that my Honourable friend does not yield in patriotism to any one of his colleagues on the Treasury Benches, it is indeed unfortunate that he should be supplied with weak briefs by the Government of India in the performance of his duties. We know that in spite of his good wishes, he did not come out well in this House on the question of Reciprocity Bill or on the general discussion that we had on the affairs of South Africa.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: What has that got to do with this debate?

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I am saying that consistently ill luck is dogging the course of my Honourable friend in this House. I want to help him. I am blaming bad luck. I am not blaming my Honourable friend. Of course, I am sure he appreciates the difference. After all this question raises two very important issues, the one issue is that in which the Muslim community is vitally interested, namely, that the pilgrimage to Mecca should be performed by the Muslims unhampered by any action either of the Government of India or of any Government which the Muslims can possibly prevent. The second issue involved relates to the attitude of the Government of India towards this House and the constitution set up by the Acts of 1919 and of 1935. These are two vital issues, so far as I can see that arises out of this question.

As a Muslim, I need hardly say that I resent the action of the Government in putting a ban on the Haj pilgrim to Mecca because we are convinced that the reasons adduced by my Honourable friend and the Government are all poor reasons and lame excuses. There is one thing that is inherent in a bureaucratic Government and it is this. Once action has been taken by way of a short cut, then the Government has a tendency to persist in that action and not to care for public sentiments and public feelings on that question. Rightly or wrongly, according to me wrongly rather than rightly, action was taken by the Government of India last year of putting a ban on Haj pilgrimage. Here is this precedent and why should not the Government of India take the convenient course of following that precedent and make no fresh efforts this year than they did last year. As far as I remember, and I am speaking from memory, most of the facts that have been read out by my Honourable friend from the communique

[Sir Syed Raza Ali.]

issued by the Government of India yesterday are facts to which pointed reference was made in last year's communique. I do not think there is any additional fact. What does that show? That clearly betrays the bureaucratic mind of the Government of India which moves along a particular groove and refuses to swerve right or left even by an inch from the prescribed course. It is really unfortunate that my Honourable friend has not been able to raise even a ray of hope about the intention of the Government of India to reconsider this question at any future time this year. Let me tell my Honourable friend,—I do not know if he has been told this fact,—that today is the 9th Shaban 1362 Hijri and the Haj will take place on the 9th of Zilhaj. Therefore there are still four clear months between now and the date of the Haj. How does my Honourable friend claim to be a prophet? How does he know that the situation in the Arabian Sea will not improve to this extent that with proper precautions the Government of India may be able to send a ship properly convoyed? I find my Honourable friend makes faces; I did not know that was an argument.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I was not making faces; my face was made by God.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I thought faces were made by two agencies, one being the higher agency and the other the agency of doctors.

The point is this. I do not want to read a homily, but if all the Members of this House were elected Members including my Honourable friend Dr. Khare, and Members of the Cabinet represented this House, would he have given the same kind of reply as he has chosen to give this afternoon? I say, no. I find my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar says an emphatic "yes". I am not surprised at this emphatic affirmative. Sir, Muslims will not be satisfied by Dr. Khare's reply. It is the old stereotyped reply that is brought out from the pigeon-holes of the Government of India on such occasions from time to time.

Then I will come to the next question, i.e., the constitutional question in which the whole House is interested. What are the facts? Does my Honourable friend remember the date on which the decision to ban the pilgrimage to Mecca was taken? It was not the 11th August 1948 but my impression is,—I am subject to correction,—that the decision was taken some time before he called the unfortunate conference to assist him. The point is that certain forms have to be complied with. Let the complexion of Government be what it is but formalities have to be observed. My Honourable friend knew that this Resolution was coming up today, and where was the hurry in issuing this communique post-haste without waiting for the result of the debate on this Resolution today? After all it is a constitutional point. It is so important that if any democratic ministry defied the opinion of the country and of the legislature to this extent in any democratic country that Government would not be occupying the Treasury Benches one hour longer after the decision was taken. I do not say they are a democratic Government but at times they pretend to be so and take cover behind the rules which are applicable to a democratic Government. If that is so, they ought at least to observe the formalities.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Don't make faces?

Sir Syed Raza Ali: My Honourable friend only repeats my joke like a parrot. If there is to be a joke let there be some novelty in it.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): It may be true in the case of both.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: My friend is an intervener but generally all interveners have some ulterior motive.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member should come back to the subject under discussion.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, I must say that it has been a very wrong thing to do on the part of my Honourable friend; it is wrong on the part of the Executive Council if it was at all their decision.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I am finishing, Sir. Sir, I suggest that when important religious and political questions are raised, the best thing is to have suggestions from the non-Official Benches and from this House, consider them in the Executive Council or have them considered individually by Honourable Members and then come to a decision. Already the Government's reputation is not too high, why deal another blow at it? Sir, I conclude by requesting my Honourable friend not to close the door but to say that if the situation in the Arabian Sea improves Government would be prepared to reconsider the question on its own merits. It is their duty to say that.

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon (Defence Member): Sir I had no intention of speaking on this Resolution, but the incident of yesterday—our absence after lunch—is perhaps one of the main reasons why I rise to speak. Sir, I, for one, as a Member offer the House my unreserved apology for that. I shall not go into reasons—they are perhaps known to you—but in spite of those reasons, I know that it was my duty to be here and therefore I am sorry that I was absent. I am sure the feelings of my colleagues in this matter are also the same.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Leader of the House also is included in that. Do you include yourself?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, I don't.

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon: The other point on which I wish to speak is this question of Haj. One request I wish to make to the House is: please consider this question on merits and do not allow the sins of omission or commission of the Government in other respects to influence you one way or the other. The only guiding idea in this case should be the religious sentiments of the Muslim community and the personal safety of the Hajis.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Cannot it be arranged?

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon: I wish to say this to the House that in this matter the Member for Indians Overseas is not the only person responsible for coming to that decision. I, for one, fully share that decision with him and share the responsibility. We, as a Government, considered this matter at great length and I hope I am not transgressing any laws about secrecy of Government decision but I feel at this stage that I must take the House into confidence and say that the Government came to a unanimous decision that it was in the interest of the Hajis themselves not to be taken to Haj this year in view of the danger to their life. And in that decision I, for one, your humble servant, agreed completely. We did not come to that decision light heartedly. We went into all the pros and cons of that question and we called upon the Commander-in-Chief to give us the latest situation with regard to this. I am afraid I cannot go beyond this because these things are secret on which depend the lives of many hundreds of thousands of soldiers and other passengers on sea. Therefore, please do not ask me the reasons that were advanced, but I can assure you, particularly my Muslim brothers, that every one of you if you had been there, would have acted in exactly the same way as I did, namely, that it was not right to risk the lives of the Hajis.

This decision is only for this Haj and I can give you this assurance that I shall not be worthy of the seat that I occupy on the Government if, should I know that the route is safe, I do not raise this question anew and demand that Haj should be opened to the Hajis.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Do you mean this year?

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon: Yes, this year if the route becomes safe and the lives of Hajis are not in danger. I give my promise that I shall be the first person to raise this question in the Executive Council and with the Member for Indians Overseas. And there is no question of future.

I assure you that every one in the Executive Council, particularly the non-Muslim Members, was very careful about the sentiments of the Mussalmans,

[**Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon.**]

and nobody knows more than I do, what the sentiments of my community in this respect are. It was the extreme necessity, and in view of our duty for the safety of the lives of these Hajis that we could not but accept the position put forward to us by those who were competent to speak regarding this matter.

There is only one other point on which I wish to say one word. It was suggested when did the Government come to a decision and why did they come to a decision before this case had come up before this Legislative Assembly. Of course that is one way of criticising. If you had passed this Resolution and then we had not been able to carry out your mandate

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That you do everyday; rather twice a day.

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon: Now I am speaking as a constitutional servant of you people and, therefore, I feel that then you would have argued that Government have disobeyed the Assembly orders; my Muslim brothers would have come heavy on me as to why I had not done my duty. Therefore, a clever lawyer like my Honourable friend Sir Raza Ali can argue both ways: In one way we are guilty, and in the other way we also are guilty. But if you consider we are guilty it is because we acted with the best intention in the world and only with a view to making the lives of Hajis safe. Therefore, while requesting you not to press the Resolution I give you an assurance that the moment the sea route is safe I will raise this question in the Executive Council.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: When was the practical decision taken on this question?

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon: Don't try to trip me. I am trying to win over your goodwill, and not to creating difficulties for myself.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, my Honourable friend, the Honourable Member for Defence, is responsible for my taking a little time of this Honourable House. Had it not been for his speech I would not have considered it necessary to take part in this debate. He has appealed to us from all considerations: as a Muslim brother, as a Member of the Government, as a man in charge of army, as one who was not able to be here in time yesterday. But the point is this: He has not really been able to justify the action of the Government in ignoring this House completely. His confession that if we had passed the Resolution and the Government had taken this decision which they had already taken it would have been very bad for them constitutionally constituted as they are, I think, will not hold water. I am afraid that this kind of argument may be all right for little children, but

The Honourable Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon: May I withdraw that argument to save further speaking?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: but not for Members of this Honourable House. The Government really have no legitimate excuse in not having waited till they had heard the views of the Honourable Members of this House on this very important question. There is a feeling, a feeling which I think is perfectly justified, that the convening of the Conference on the 10th and all that was a sham, it was a put-up show, it was to deceive people. What was the use of the Honourable Member for Overseas inviting Muslims from all over the country to come to Delhi and undergo all that trouble when the Government had already taken this decision. I make bold to say that it cannot be denied that the Government had already arrived at this decision and this Conference, that was convened, was a mere eye-wash.

Sir, may I submit to this Government, to use the language of my Honourable friend, Sir Feroze Khan Noon, humbly and respectfully, not to behave in this manner, not to treat this House as if the Honourable Members were really little children who did not understand things. We understand things very well. It was a deliberate and premeditated move on the part of the Government to have issued that communique without waiting for the decision of

this Honourable House. Sir, not one single argument has been advanced by the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas which has really refuted the case that was put forward by this side. My Honourable friend stated: "Yes, the Hajis may be willing to die; but what about those crews who will be on these boats?" Well, those crews are prepared to die to carry material, but they are not prepared to take the risk to carry human lives! There is danger, but the ships are going through these seas every day. That everybody knows. It is not a secret. Are not the lives of those crews in danger? No. But we have such wonderful crews on these ships that they will lay down their lives for brick and mortar and stone and steel: but they will not be prepared to risk their lives to take people who want to go to perform this sacred duty. This is another argument which is really very feeble.

My Honourable friend, Sir Firoz Khan Noon, has assured us that he and I take it that the other Honourable Muslim Members in the Cabinet, with the help of their colleagues, will see to it that whenever the situation is safe arrangements for pilgrims will be made. As far as we are concerned, Sir, we believe that arrangements can be made, and if the Government were really anxious and went a little out of their way to make arrangements, they could do so.

The Honourable Member, Sir Firoze Khan Noon, has appealed to the Mover of this Resolution to withdraw it and not to press it. May I make a counter-appeal: do not oppose it; let it be passed. What is the harm? It will not only be a moral pressure on you, but if you attach any importance to the decisions of this House then it might act as a material pressure also. So, I do not see any reason why this motion should be opposed by the Government. We have heard their case. Their case is that arrangements cannot be made. They think that it will not be safe in the interests of the lives of those poor Hajis who may want to go on this pilgrimage. They think that they are unable to make arrangements this time. We know what their decision is. If this resolution is passed it is not going to change their mind and take Hajis on this pilgrimage at great risk to the lives of these people. But as I have said, we on this side of the House, and not only in this House but also in the country, do believe that the Government if they wished could make arrangements for the pilgrims to go to Mecca this year, and I hope, Sir, that the Government, and the Muslim Members of the Executive Council particularly, will see to it that the true feelings of the Muslims on this question are reflected in the deliberations of the Government.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Sir, I am sorry to say that the reply by my Honourable friend in charge of Indians Overseas is not at all satisfactory, because we on this side of the House could not hear a word of what he said.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Nor can I hear you.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Sir, only one Member in this Honourable House seemed to be satisfied, and that was the Honourable Member himself, because he was speaking in a low voice and he seemed to be enjoying what he was saying. Sir, the honourable gentleman has said that he comes from the same city where I live. I wish the honourable gentleman had been the same Dr. Khare who used to live about two months back in Nagpur. If he had been the same Dr. Khare, I am quite sure, Sir, that he would have given sympathetic and favourable consideration to the unanimous demand on this side of the House, which includes my Hindu and Sikh friends also. I am grateful to all the elected non-official Members who have supported this Resolution and I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that arrangements for pilgrimage to the Hedjaz may be made for the year 1943, in the same manner as it was done in previous years, and that shipping should not be the monopoly of one company."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—28.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur
 Shaikh.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
 Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.

Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad
 Muhammad.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—32.

Ahnad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Aiyar, Mr. T. S. Sankara.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Chatterji, Mr. S. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sir.
 Joshi, Mr. D. S.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
 Mackeown, Mr. J. A.
 Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.

Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Noon, The Honourable Malik Sir Feros
 Khan.
 Pai, Mr. A. V.
 Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka Kumar.
 Sargent, Mr. J. P.
 Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
 Spear, Dr. T. G. P.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Thakur Singh, Major.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE STABILIZATION OF PRICES.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am authorised by Mr. Ahsan to move the next Resolution on his behalf. In fact I sent this Resolution to him and asked him to send it on to the Secretary and at the same time send me the authority if he was not coming. I have got the authority from him as well as his letter to the Secretary, to move his motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got the authority with you?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Yes, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to modify their currency policy, and to concentrate their attention more on the stability of prices than on the stability of the bank rate of interest."

Sir, after moving this Resolution, I have got another amendment in my name. I wonder whether, when I am moving the Resolution, I can move my amendment as well

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): On a point of order, Sir; it was ruled by the President when Mr. Abdul Ghani was moving his Bill that the Mover of a Bill can move an amendment also to his own Bill. It has been ruled and therefore on that analogy I suggest that the Doctor Sahib may be allowed to move his amendment as well.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Standing Order is this: "After a Resolution has been moved, any Member may, subject to the Rules and Standing Orders, move an amendment to the Resolution."

According to my reading of this Standing Order, 'any member' means a member other than the Member who has moved the Resolution. That is how I read the Standing Order.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to modify their currency policy, and to concentrate their attention more on the stability of prices than on the stability of the bank rate of interest."

On the 16th February 1932 I moved a Resolution recommending to the Governor General in Council to concentrate their efforts on stabilising the prices and not on exchange and bank rate of interest. Eleven years have passed away and I think the urgency of this Resolution is much greater today than it was about eleven years ago. Prices on that occasion were too low and we had to raise them. Prices at the present movement are too high and we have to lower them. I quoted on that occasion McMillan's report which is really the last word on this particular subject even up to the present moment. At one time the economists gave us to understand that the prosperity of every country depends upon the favourable balance of trade. If our trade is favourable, the country is prosperous but the condition of Middle Europe soon after the Great War clearly showed that this theory was wrong. They had favourable balance of trade. Yet they had misery in the country. Then the economists came forward with a second theory and that theory was that we ought not really to consider the balance of trade but we should stabilise the exchange and they said that the prosperity of the country depends upon the stability of exchange. We lost 113 crores in attempt to stabilise our exchange. Now, this theory was also exploded and was given up. On that occasion, when the country was in a chaotic condition, the British Government appointed a special committee called the McMillan's Committee and their report is really the last word on the subject up to this moment. I shall quote some passages from the report of McMillan. They said:

"Thus, our objective should be, so far as lies within the power of this country, to influence the international price level, first of all, to raise prices a long way above the present level and then to maintain them at the level thus reached with such stability as can be managed.

We recommend that this objective be accepted as the guiding aim of the monetary policy of this country. The acceptance of such an objective will represent in itself a great and notable change. For before the war scarcely any one considered that the price level could or ought to be the care and pre-occupation, far less a main objective of policy, on the part of the Bank of England or any other Central Bank."

This was the recommendation of the McMillan Committee. In India at that time, the Government was the currency authority. The Reserve Bank was not established at that time. While discussing this particular subject, I referred to Mr. Keynes' second volume of his book on Money, page 251, to which reference was also made in the course of the debate. Looking into the recommendations of Mr. Keynes, who is one of the greatest living authorities on economic problems and considering the report of McMillan which is really the last word on this particular subject, I hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will accept that the guiding principle of the monetary policy of the Government of India ought to be the stabilization of prices. We are not very much affected by the bank rate of interest. A man in the street is not much affected by the credit which we have in the foreign countries but the thing which affects the common people of India is what is the purchasing power of the paper rupee in his pocket, which is really a token coin. This is the one thing on which comforts of every body depend and that really ought to be the guiding principle of the monetary policy of the Government of India. I emphasize that paper rupee has no intrinsic value. It is a token currency. Its value cannot be regulated by market or by Government. There is no currency reserve behind it. The prestige of the Government and the Ordinances are the chief support of the paper rupee. Now, where is the credit of the Government behind paper rupee, when I find that I can purchase 5½ seers of wheat for a rupee paid in silver, I can get 5 seers if I buy in small coins and only 8 seers of wheat if I pay the money in terms of paper rupee. This being the fact, where is the credit of the Government. It may be due to mismanagement, it may be due to other circumstances but if the credit of the Government is the only reserve behind the rupee, then the credit is certainly not there. These are the facts.

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

On this occasion I would like to mention about the address of Sir T. Gavin Jones.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

In that address he gave certain quotations from Sir Digby Drake-Brockman. He said:

"The disappearance of the silver rupee from currency. This reason is a most important one. The villager is commodity minded, not money, or shall I say currency minded. In good times, he puts his surplus or profit into goods (Gold and silver) not currency. Today no gold or silver is available and the rupee is worth intrinsically two annas. So, the villager, having no confidence in the security edge rupee, and being unable to buy gold and silver with it, prefers to hold and store a certain portion of his grain, especially wheat, commodities which he knows will always have a market value and in which he has confidence."

Later on, Sir T. Gavin Jones said:

"All attempts at price control and the release of hoarded grain will be frustrated if prices are permitted to continue to rise and inflation to develop as it is doing now."

This remark and other remarks of Sir T. Gavin Jones bring me to the question of inflation. I have often heard people saying that the root cause of the rise of prices is inflation and that once inflation is done away with, prices will come down. I do not agree with this argument. This theory is advanced by persons who themselves want to raise the prices with the object of profiteering. I think it is the reverse. There is inflation because there is rise in prices, so that the inflation is the effect and not the cause of the rise in prices. Fortunately or unfortunately, I did not study Political Economy in my college days and my friend the Finance Member is also in the same boat. We learn all our things practically from our experience and reports of Economic Committees and we studied books later on. I have read the books by Keynes, Marshall and other standard authors on Economics but I did not read them in the college but I did when I came to this Assembly.

Sir, when you talk that a thing is greater or less, there must be some position from which greater begins. If it is more, you call it greater; if it is less, you call it smaller. When you use the word inflation, what is your standard? What is the standard of the currency notes which you circulate? If they are above it, it is inflation; if they are below it, it is deflation. I think no such standard, or origin, to use the mathematical word, or the starting point was ever given by any economist. Will a sum of 300 crores of rupees be an inflation or deflation? Tell me the limit where the inflation begins. This is a thing which is absolutely difficult to define. We require as much paper currency as we need to meet the daily transactions. We remember that at one time there was a shortage of rupees. My friend, the Finance Member, against all theories of the then Political Economy went out of the way and invented his token rupee and printed it on paper and he called it a rupee. These notes very much relieved the economic troubles which existed then and everybody appreciated his efforts. So, the number of currency notes depends upon what we particularly require. In my opinion the notes in circulation are not much more than what we require under the present conditions. In this connection I would like to quote from another practical economist. He is not an academic economist but a practical man, I mean Mr. Birla. I will read a passage from his book called 'India's War Finance'. This is a very remarkable passage. He says:

"Assuming that the velocity of bank deposits is a fair index of the velocity of currency circulation, the figures show that in 1939/40, (when the velocity was 16.7), 179 crores in circulation functioned as $179 \times 16.7 = 2989.3$ crores, but that recently (when the velocity had come to be about 5), 590 crores functioned as only $590 \times 5 = 2950$ crores."

Therefore, we find that the momentum, which is the real test and the measurement of currency, was the same when Birla wrote about five months ago as it was in 1939. Therefore, the amount of currency which we require depends not only upon the quantum of bank notes but it depends upon how many times it circulates in a year. Nowadays, we find that the circulation has gone down from 12.5 to only 5. That is an important point which people who talk of inflation and deflation entirely overlook. My point is that the circulation has become so slow that the bank notes are frozen and they are not being

circulated as quickly as they used to be before the war. There are several reasons for this and we must explore them.

The first thing is that the villagers have got plenty of the currency notes because they sell their grains at enormous profits. They are not bank-minded and they always keep their money in their own homes, and there is no way of hoarding the money except in terms of bank notes or grains themselves. Therefore, whenever they sell wheat, they get bank notes and they hoard them. That is one channel leading to the hoarding of bank notes and stopping them from circulation. The second channel is the black market. We have now got black markets all over the country for almost all articles. Those people who sell these articles at enormous profits in bank notes do not show them in their books. They cannot deposit their income in the banks, otherwise they will be caught by the income-tax officer. So, they keep their bank notes in safety and they are thus frozen with these persons, who really get their money in black markets.

Now, the third potential factor for freezing these notes is the enormous corruption which is now going on in the country. People who have got what you call untaxable income from corrupt practices cannot deposit their money in the banks and they cannot take it wherever they want. They really keep this money frozen in terms of bank notes and they contribute another important factor which really stops the circulation of these notes and lower the speed. In view of these and various other causes the circulation has become very slow and people do require more currency notes on account of the fact that they are being hoarded.

We have noticed the same thing in the case of small coins. There are plenty of small coins in the country but as they are all frozen, people are suffering so much so that private individuals are issuing four annas notes to supply the need of the people.

Sir, there is one other point to which I would like to draw emphatically the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member. Unfortunately, in the country we have got two prices—one I call the export price and the other is the internal price for the civil population of India. These two prices are really exceedingly inconvenient and they are the root cause of enormous troubles and of black markets. The export price is fixed by the Supply Department of the Government of India and the internal prices are fixed by the black markets which are really found in every town and village and for every conceivable article. I can understand if we have got a certain stock in the country then the requirements of the army should be met first and if nothing is left, then the people should go without it. But this I cannot understand that you purchase certain articles and allow the people to sell them at any price they like in the black markets. This is a thing on which the Finance Member must put his foot down and ask the co-operation of the Supply Member and his other colleagues that they must have the same price for the people of India as a whole. You should not have two prices. The Government of India purchase articles at a cheap rate and send them to foreign countries and ask the people of this country to pay higher prices to the producers through the black markets. This is very unfair to the people of this country. Let one price be fixed and it should be the same for all. If the Supply Department asks for it, it must get it at the same price as the public. If I want it as a private individual, I must be able to get it at the same price. This disparity in prices must disappear because it is the root cause of enormous troubles in this country.

Sir, I am laying very great stress on this Resolution that the stabilisation of prices should be the first and foremost aim in the monetary policy of the Government of India. The public are not interested in the bank rate. They are not bank-minded. They are not interested in the high value of the securities. They have none. It is so unfair to me that if I deposit money in the bank, I get only 3 per cent. on it, but if I deposit my money with any of these industrial concerns who are supplying their articles to black markets, then I can get anything from 15 per cent. to 150 per cent.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): What about the minus 100 per cent. in some cases where they lose even their principal?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My Honourable friend reminds me about minus 100 per cent. I quoted recently the case of some businessmen here who really cheat the shareholders and they really pawn their companies to other companies at the expense of the shareholders. I am not talking of this class of people. I am talking about persons who are really carrying on business in a moderately honest manner.

It is very desirable that we should have stabilisation of price. When McMillan Committee wrote the report, the price level had gone down. They recommended that it should be raised to a certain extent and afterwards stabilised. Here the price level today is very high and I suggest it should be brought to a certain level and then it should be stabilised at that level. If we take 100 as the index price level, just before the war, then the price level today should be fixed at between 125 and 150, but in no case there should be a rise beyond 150. I will just give you some commodities in which the price has gone up very rapidly in the first few months of this year. In January this year, the price of silver was Rs. 96 per 100 tolas, in February, it went up to 105 Rs., in March it went up to Rs. 112. When you come to the price level, there are three commodities about which the Honourable the Finance Member should concentrate his mind and these three articles are (1) silver, (2) cotton piece goods and cotton, (3) wheat and rice. These are the three key commodities on which he should concentrate his attention and I am sure the price of other articles will move in sympathy with these three articles. Take silver first. The value of silver will fix the value of your token rupee. One thing by which every one would judge the value of the rupee is the amount of silver which it can purchase. You should take the price of silver in 1939 as the index and you increase the then price by 50 per cent and fix the price of silver now. There may be some difficulty in fixing the price of silver. It may be that the Government may have to control the market and go to this extent that they will have to be the sole purchaser of silver and sole seller. Silver may be sold either through Banks or through licensed dealers. The price of silver should be fixed and it should not be allowed to go beyond that level, so that there may be no speculation in the price of silver. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member has already taken some steps to stop this enormous gambling and speculation in silver. By special steps taken two or three months ago, he has checked further abnormal rise in price of silver. We very much appreciate those steps, but they do not go far enough. I think the Government should have a monopoly in the purchase and sale of silver, and the price should be fixed at 50 per cent. higher than what was ruling in 1939.

The next article to which he should concentrate his attention is cotton and cotton piecegoods. In January the price of cotton was 400 Rs. per candy, in February, Rs. 450, and in March it went up to Rs. 640, a very heavy rise in price. About cloth, it was Rs. 2-12-0 per lb. in January; in February it was Rs. 3-4-0 and it rose to Rs. 3-10-0 in March, so that in the early months of the present year, the prices were moving very fast. The same was the case with wheat. It was Rs. 5 per maund in January in February it was Rs. 10-8-0 and in March it was Rs. 13 and in some places it went up to Rs. 19 or Rs. 20 as was revealed during the food debate. These prices are moving very fast, and it really means that the rupee is being depreciated rapidly in value.

The point which the Government ought to take into consideration when we are dealing with these articles is that we should not consider the price level of these articles purely as an economic problem. We do not consider it merely as a problem for the comfort of the people, we must also consider it as a problem for the maintenance and stability of the monetary policy of the country. I quoted the McMillan report as saying that the stability of price should be the first aim of the monetary policy of the Government of India and this being so, the Honourable the Finance Member should in every case step in and see that the purchasing power of the rupee should not rise abnormally as it has been

doing in the first four or five months of the present year. A certain rise is indispensable. He can allow a rise of from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. as normal on account of war conditions, but anything above 50 per cent. in any case whatsoever is not excusable and should be stopped by the Finance Member.

I beseech the Government of India that they should always take the monetary view point in the value of the rupee when they consider the question of price level. If the purchasing power of the rupee is very much lowered, then I ask the Honourable the Finance Member to take the budget of an employee who gets only Rs. 20. I put this specific point to him and asked him to prepare the budget for him. The budget at present is Rs. 59. This figure was supplied by the Association of Dafftries, Peons, etc. With such an abnormal rise in prices, it is impossible for these poor people to make both ends meet. The salaries were very much reduced when there was a boom. Now the tide is going the other way round. Is it not high time that the Government should again revise the scale of salaries of its employees in view of the purchasing power of the token rupee? Why not double the salary of every person in the Government of India because you are now paying him a token rupee, whose value is not more than two annas as just quoted. We are now in a whirlwind. Prices rise up, more currency notes are required; there will be more inflation. We ought to put down this and fix the purchasing power of the rupee at such a level as the silver content would represent and would purchase. Never mind whether there is paper currency reserve or not, never mind whether there are sterling balances or not, never mind about anything else so long as the purchasing power of the rupee remains within a certain limit of what it was reasonably in 1939 and then people will have some confidence in your currency.

Now, Sir, coming to cloth. In this particular case the Commerce Member has taken some action which has really produced some good results. But in order to achieve permanent results, we must adopt a different policy. Now, in the case of wheat you have to fix the price level.

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

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I will finish within two or three minutes. In the case of wheat, you should lower the price level. You should force the growers to sell their articles within a certain time. Then when this has been done, when you have controlled the entire stock, then the time will come to fix the prices. As I have already said the price should be fixed at not more than 50 per cent. of the 1939 price level. That will be a fair price. There are some persons in the Punjab who favour and preach the raising of the price level as much as they like. From my personal talk during my tour in the Punjab, I found that about 95 per cent. of the cultivators and growers are persons who grow their own wheat and consume them and send very little to the market. It is only about 5 per cent. who grow wheat which is saleable in the market. For this 5 per cent. of people we have to sacrifice the interests of 95 per cent. And if you take the vote of the common people in the Punjab you will find that they are bitter against these people; they do not want that the price level should be raised to unlimited extent. It is against their interest and you will get their support. You should get hold of the stock and then fix the price. My Honourable friend Dewan Bahadur Mudaliar when he was Commerce Member fixed it at Rs. 4-10-0 or 5-0-0 and that was the true price level of the rupee provided you first control the stock and then fix it. If you do not control the stock and allow it to be sold in the black market nothing can be done. Therefore I ask you to control the stock in the manner I outlined in the food debate and then you should fix the price. Otherwise your purpose will be defeated and you will not gain your object. I will not have the Supply Member or the Commerce Member or the Food Member to have it their own way because their action will affect the monetary policy of the Finance Member. That will come in at every stage because if the purchasing power

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of the rupee is less he will have no alternative but to raise the salaries of all people, not only those getting Rs. 60 but those who draw thousands.

Sir, I move.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to modify their currency policy and to concentrate their attention more on the stability of prices than on the stability of the bank rate of interest."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, with the first part of the Resolution moved by the Honourable and gallant Member I think no one can have any difference of opinion. I doubt very much if even the Finance Member will say 'No' to it, because I daresay he will modify his currency policy if it were possible. But it is the rider to this part of the Resolution which gives rise to some difference of opinion. The Honourable the Mover has asked Government to concentrate their attention "more on the stability of prices than on the stability of the bank rate of interest". It was unfortunate, Sir, that the Honourable and gallant Mover was not able to move his amendment which would have put the Resolution in its proper perspective. But as he has stressed on the unimportance, so far as the lay public are concerned, of the question of the bank rate of interest, I will have to say a few words about it. To begin with, no one in this House will say that prices should not be stabilised; that is another part of the resolution which will command universal support. But it need not be that the bank rate of interest should go up in order that the prices should be stabilised. I feel, with the little knowledge of monetary economics that I possess, that the two propositions are not mutually exclusive. Prices can be stabilised and the bank rate can be maintained at the same level, and I find the Mover agrees. I therefore feel that such remarks as have fallen from him, namely, that the people of India are not interested in depositing in banks because the rate of interest is low, need not be taken very seriously. I shall not dilate very much on this point because it is well known amongst economists and amongst administrators of banks and other institutions that cheap money and high prices really do not go together. Even the old theory, the quantitative theory of money, of an increase in the quantity of money in an economy where the supply of goods remain stationary making prices go up, no longer holds good in the absolute sense in a controlled economy like the one in which we live and a higher bank rate will not help to raise the price levels. And surely, placed as this Government is, wanting to borrow more and more for their needs and wanting to extend their loan programme, none of us can say that they should pay out more by way of interest. And for that matter it seems very unlikely that, as it is today, with the banks already having somewhere between 50 and 60 per cent of their liquid resources in Government securities, any appreciable improvement in the position will result by a mere increase in the rate of interest. What the Honourable Mover had in mind, which perhaps he wanted not to stress, would cause real disaster, and I hope that that is not a point which will be considered at length by anybody seriously in this country. I am sure Government will not consider it because they are interested in keeping the bank rate of interest at the present level, and such other Members of Government who are interested in postwar reconstruction will also be interested in seeing that the bank rate of interest remains low. Because, no real prosperity can be attained in this country during postwar times unless the bank rate of interest is kept low at its present level. It is perhaps one of the very few things which this Government and the Reserve Bank have done for which they merit congratulation. And I should like the House to remember that there is very little relation, practically no relation, as things stand today, between the question of the bank rate of interest and the stability of prices.

On the larger issue that Government should modify their currency policy I have something to say. There is not much use at this hour in indulging in

a policy of recrimination; there is no use my cataloguing the various sins of omission and commission of the Finance Department. We are today in a position which, monetarily and so far as prices are concerned, is really serious. As I said while speaking on the food debate, the food problem is not an isolated problem; it has a close relation to the financial and monetary problem of this country. And much as I would like, as an opponent of this Government and one who would not like to give them any help ordinarily merely to indulge in pointing out their difficulties, I feel the position is like this. If the present position continues and if it does happen that there is a body of our own people willing to take up the reins of Government later, they will be saddled with a position which will be terrific and much beyond repair. Currency goes on mounting at a rapid rate; and the House well knows that so far as the note issue on the 23rd July 1943 is concerned, the total note issue was 748 crores and 24 lakhs odd, and the process has necessarily to continue because the Finance Member told us during the budget debate that there are certain obligations which he has to carry out. His obligations, placed as he is, make it necessary for him to find finance in this country for the stores and other purchases made on behalf of the Allies and the United Kingdom, for reciprocal lease-lend aid and for paying the United Kingdom's armies in this country, and so on. In fact, answering a question the other day in the other House the Finance Secretary gave us some colossal figures with regard to the stores that have been purchased by the Indian Government which have been charged to the British Government. Commencing with about 8 crores in the first financial year of the war, it rose to 45 crores next year, 124 crores in 1941-42 and 225 crores in 1942-43. And other obligations are there which make it necessary for the Finance Member to find money; and, as it happens, since money is not forthcoming as liberally as one would wish so far as the Government of India loans are concerned, the Finance Member automatically has to turn to the only course that is left to him, namely, to go on increasing the note issue. I do not say it is right and I do not say I agree with him, but I do feel that since he has stated that this is the position in which he is placed and since that position holds good today we had better proceed on that basis. And if that is the position, Sir, it does not help anybody merely to lie low and allow the Finance Member to do what he likes. What he wishes to do he does it. I think it is a matter of national interest. I think it is a matter which rises beyond ordinary levels of party and personal politics because the ultimate effect of all this is going to be borne by this country without any doubt. Sir, that is why some of us in the House felt that the Honourable the Finance Member should review the position at this stage, since five months have elapsed after he last spoke on this matter. There is a lot of talk going on in the country; there is a lot of agitation too, and the agitation has got to be soothened somehow and people have got to be told that the Government are alive to the situation and that they are doing their best. Otherwise the panic will increase, the loan policy of the Government would progressively fail and the note issue will progressively increase. And it is not a question of relating those sterling balances to the insecurity of our assets in a foreign land, but it is really the ultimate result of all this. If note issue goes on increasing, surely the result wanted by the Honourable the Finance Member is not going to be achieved. Sir, it is here that the Finance Member could enlighten us as to what he proposes to do.

Since the House has not had the benefit of knowing his mind I would like to ask him: Have the Government explored other possibilities of raising money for their war needs besides augmenting currency. Surely we know that between the last Session of the House and this the Finance Department have brought in many measures intended to have deflationary effect as some economists say, at any rate, to arrest inflation and check it. But are these enough? It is true, Sir, that the Excess Profit Tax Summary Assessment Ordinance would bring in some amount of money, the compulsory contribution, which from the point of view of the ordinary layman is merely a gift

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to the industrialists, might bring in some more money, but is that enough? Has your loan position improved? These are questions which necessarily arise.

But I might be asked what are your own constructive suggestions. My suggestions would be to arrest this increase in currency by some means or other. Indian economists have put forward this proposition. I am asking the Honourable the Finance Member to consider it not from a political point of view, not even as though it has been put forward from a racial point of view, but merely as one which will help to ease a situation which we all agree wants easing. The other day in answering a question with regard to capitation of sterling pensions, he said that question of buying the British investments in this country is being examined.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What I said was that all methods of dealing with the sterling balances had come under review and had been under consideration. I did not exactly use the words which the Honourable Member has just used.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sorry, if I have misunderstood the Honourable Member; but I had asked him if that found a place in the list that he drew up and what order of priority was it given.

Any way that is one method of solving the problem; that is one method of raising money in this country. As I have already said, do not look at it from the racial point of view. We do not want to dispossess those people who are in possession of these interests since they can float Indian companies with a Rupee capital. And that will not only ease sterling position in England but will also give you a large amount of money in this country.

The other question is no matter what you do, no matter what are the number of rules that you add to the Defence of India Rules, you must not fail to realise that the mischief is caused not by the increased money that is in the country, but because there is a lot of money in the hands of people who dare not bring it out. For one thing, there is a lot of money with people who have no confidence in investments in recognized channels; there is quite a lot of money which would not find its way to the Banks. For one thing, this is money made by various devious ways: money made by profiteers; money made by contractors; money made by many ways which if it comes to the Bank would be got hold of by the Income-tax Department. There is plenty of such money. Let me say that I am not casting any slur on the Income-tax Department. It is this free money that is playing havoc in the black market. I feel at this stage that there is one remark I have to make with regard to the Income-tax Department. I am afraid the Honourable the Finance Member has not given adequate attention to the enlargement of the staff of this department considering that there is chance of making more money probably ten times more money than the outlay will cost. But the fact is that it is this type of money that is playing havoc in this country and so long as that money is allowed to play havoc, the prices will be where they are. It is primarily the man who really cannot invest the money anywhere, cannot bring it to the bank, cannot invest it in Government loans who go to the black market. And I cannot see how black markets can be stamped out. No indications of what steps the Government was going to do in this matter was given in the Food debate and I do not know what contribution the Honourable the Finance Member will make so far as this is concerned.

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

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am finishing, Sir, but I would like here once again to say that the position is serious, and with your permission, Sir, draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to one unhappy resemblance. I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member knows about it. The position of inflation in this country to lay so far as currency is concerned—I won't talk about price inflation—is this: The index of money circulation today compares

rather curiously enough with the index of money circulation in Germany during the last war. After the first four years of the war in Germany, the index of money circulation was 245. After the first four years of war in this country it was 241, and from April to July 1943 it has gone up to 324. Statistics, haphazardly related, might be deceptive. I agree, but the similarity has got its own lessons. I would like to say that the matter has got to be considered sufficiently seriously and I would like to add there is a large body of opinion in this country which, notwithstanding our differences with you, would like to help in this matter, because ultimately it is a legacy that you are going to hand over to this country. I, therefore, trust that the Finance Member will make a detailed statement on this question and that when we come back again to this discussion steps would have been taken which will indicate that we have turned the corner.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I would not have risen to speak at this early stage in the discussion of this Resolution because I would very much prefer to have heard the various points which, I have no doubt, will be brought forward by different speakers at later stages. But I have deliberately got up now, because I feel that certain remarks which fell from the last speaker betrayed a considerable misunderstanding of the position in this country, and that their dissemination in the press would be liable to cause unnecessary alarm and despondency.

There is always the difficulty that in discussing matters of this kind, you have to take into account both the psychological and the real elements in the situation, and it frequently happens that the psychological elements are more important and are more influential than the real elements. For the same reason it is not always possible for Government to state their policy or programme with complete openness. There are so many sections, or rather there are so many individuals in the country who, rightly or wrongly, conceive that they can exploit the position if they know what the next move is going to be. I quite realise that my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, regards certain tendencies and certain features of the present position as serious from the point of view of the country as a whole, and I entirely agree with him that this is a matter in which there should be no question of ordinary party politics or of the ordinary alignments, because it is a matter which in the fullest sense affects the national well-being and, as he rightly points out, it is a matter which will affect the heritage of any Government which has to administer this country.

Well, Sir, one has to speak under many limitations in dealing with a subject of this kind, but I want to take up immediately the last words which he uttered when he drew the analogy with Germany in the fourth year of the last war; and I want to mention to him certain very notable differences. At the end of the last war, or in the fourth year of the last war, Germany's currency was expanded no doubt, but that was a comparatively minor feature of her economic position. It was not the expansion of Germany's currency in 1918 that led to the downfall of the German mark. The position was that at that time Germany had no resources of foreign exchange whatsoever. There was nothing behind the mark. Secondly, Germany proceeded to lose the war. There was not only nothing behind the mark then, but certain very heavy burdens were due to be laid upon Germany thereafter. Germany realized this and she began to pursue deliberately a certain currency policy, a policy designed to prove, when the Reparations discussions came along, that she would be quite incapable of making the payments which the allies obviously were going to demand. I merely say that by way of entirely distinguishing the position in India from the position in Central Europe at the end of the last war.

After all, at this moment, India has enormous resources of foreign exchange. A country which is in a dangerous inflationary position has to prevent its nationals from obtaining foreign exchange. In fact, when it is in the position in which Germany was, (they are all trying) to get out of the national currency into any other currency they can. If Germany had anything

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

corresponding to India's sterling assets in the fourth year of the last war, then those assets would have vanished over night, because the mark would have been converted into foreign exchange as rapidly as the banks could make the necessary remittance. 'Nobody in Germany wanted to hold marks if they could hold anything else. I admit that this means that it is the value of the sterling assets which is in question in judging of the difference of the position. But I think I may here refer to some of the remarks made by my friend, Sir Henry Richardson, in the course of the discussions on the last budget which passed with undue notice at that time. He then referred to the value of sterling and many Members in this House no doubt attributed his confidence to a form of what I may call economic patriotism. But I think the development of events since that time has amply proved that if there is any currency in the world today in which it is justifiable to have confidence, it is sterling. The country of which sterling is the currency shows at the present moment the greatest capacity to maintain the stability of prices, that is the value of its currency, and also I think, I may say, shows as great a likelihood as any of being on the victorious side at the end of the war: and those are the two things that matter.

The Prime Minister of England, the Right Honourable Mr. Winston Churchill, made a very important speech some months ago in the course of which he dealt with this question of the value of sterling—and Mr. Winston Churchill does not often, and has not often in the course of this war touched on economic subjects: but in the course of that speech he went out of his way to dispel a kind of lighthearted conversation that was going around about the inevitability of a certain measure of depreciation of sterling after the war. Mr. Winston Churchill pointed out that in England today many millions—I forget the exact number—but a very large section of the population which comprised the working classes and the lower middle classes, were the creditors of the Government. They had sterling claims upon the Government, and he indicated that in that position he could not conceive how the Government of England could embark on a policy which would reduce the value of the savings of so many of the working people of England. Now, that was a very significant remark. It was not made without full consideration, and it is, as a matter of fact, an indication of a prime feature, a most important feature, in the policy of His Majesty's Government. Well, Sir, what they have indicated to be their object, they have also shown their ability to achieve, because in spite of the extreme strains and stresses of war, they have maintained the purchasing power of sterling at a strikingly constant level.

Well, I must pass on from that point, but I felt that it was extremely important to emphasise it because of the danger that the questions asked by Mr. Krishnamachari, if left unanswered, might produce undesirable feelings of, as I said before, alarm and despondency in the public.

With the same object in view I would take up now another point which he made. He quoted certain figures about the expansion of our currency, and he quoted the increase that has taken place in the last few months. In reply to certain questions in the House the other day, I observed that the rate of expansion of currency had considerably decreased of late and I also. . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): But the volume has increased.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, but the point about the decrease in the rate of expansion is very important. If you make a study of inflationary conditions, you will find that the state of affairs which existed in this country up to about the beginning of May was capable of being construed as leading to uncontrolled inflation; and various markets were beginning to act on that hypothesis and themselves suited their actions to contribute to that very result. The Government, I am free to admit, has had some very anxious moments over the tendencies which were apparent at that time. But I will also say that we have now satisfied ourselves of our ability to deal with that

situation. There is no feeling of defeatism. There is a feeling of the necessity for extreme vigilance, but there is no reason whatever for pessimism. I am afraid I shall not have time to go, one by one, into the particular controls on which we embarked, and to explain why the reactions of the situation in the country lead us to entertain reasonable confidence for the future

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Please say a few words about the stabilisation of prices, which is the main object of the Resolution.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am coming to that; and I quite sympathise with my Honourable friend. I agree with him that commodity controls are just as important, if not more important, than purely monetary factors in this situation. It is my own belief that the problem has to be tackled from both sides at the same time,—that you have to employ both monetary remedies in order to mop up surplus purchasing power, and that you also have to control the prices of commodities. In fact, the central problem of war time economy is to prevent the inevitable excess of purchasing power from having what would otherwise be its inevitable effect on the price level. That is the central problem. The problem is not, as some critics seem to think, merely to prevent the excess of that purchasing power, because no Government at war can completely prevent that. I am afraid I should require considerable time to explain that, but there is no question whatever to my mind that a Government at war must get on with the war and not watch first its currency statistics. Its first business is to take the steps which are necessary for the efficient prosecution of the war. It then has to see what is happening about the volume of currency and what is happening about prices in the country. If possible, the ideal thing would be to freeze the levels of prices on the very first day of the war, to freeze wages too—if they can succeed in doing that, it does not matter how much extra currency flows out, because it cannot be used and it must find its way back to the Government. That in simple terms is the mechanism which should be employed in a war economy, in a highly developed country where all the levers are at your hand, so that you can produce the desired effects just as in a highly intricate machine. In such an economy, then, you can hope to achieve that object to a great extent. We are in this war this much better off than in the last, that we do understand how the thing works and we do know what ought to be done. The difficulty is, particularly in a large country with a large and not very instructed population, a large scattered population, with an administrative machine which is very thin in relation to the size of the country—the difficulty is to carry out the policies which are known to be necessary. I have not a word to quarrel with many of the things which Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad lays down should be the object of our policy; but what I would like to know is exactly how he would go about to achieve them.

I was saying that the important thing in war time is to ensure that, even though currency and bank deposits may expand, they do not have their automatic effect on the level of prices; and this is the extreme value of what has happened in the last two or three months. We have satisfied ourselves that it is not necessary to submit to an automatic advance in prices because of an advance in the volume of currency. That is a tremendously important thing. I was not sure of that myself three months ago. I am quite sure of it today. I am quite sure that the Government of this country can stop this nonsense whereby people who themselves put away large wads of currency notes into safe deposits tell us that because new notes have got to be issued to replace those immobilised notes, therefore the price indices must go up, and therefore they can demand higher prices for the goods on to which they hold. That is the process that was happening in this country; that was what was happening in Bombay; and that was what I meant when I said that they were talking themselves into inflation. But that was not merely a theoretical conversation. It all worked in with a practical scheme. They had a very material object in view. They took up the words of the economists; they looked at certain figures and they said "There you are; our prices must go up by 2 per cent., 3 per cent., 5 per cent. this week. The Government cannot stop that. The

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more we hold on to our stuff, the less we invest in Government loans, the more necessary we make it for more money to come out; the more money must flow into our coffers." It was perfectly simple, and it was the greatest racket that ever took place in this country. (*An Honourable Member*: "Why don't you arrest them?") I have spent a considerable amount of time in the last few months in studying how to stop it and I believe that it can be stopped but it requires drastic action. It requires vigilance not only

5 P.M. on the part of the Government but on the part of the people of this country and it requires the fullest measure of support for the action that has to be taken. In that connection, Sir, whilst I have been greatly encouraged by the reception that has been received by such measures as we have already put into effect. I must admit that I have been disappointed by forms of criticism which have sprung up. This is an omelette which cannot be made without breaking eggs. You cannot deal with inflation if you are going to be tender, if you are going to make sure that you do not tread on the smallest corn of any sectional interest whatsoever. You cannot do it. You will find that you have to hit out fairly vigorously and fairly suddenly and it is possible that at times you may cause effects which you do not deliberately desire but nevertheless you have to move determinedly in a certain direction.

Now, to confirm what I was saying a few moments ago and the reasons why I think we may have confidence in the position. I would draw my friend Mr. Krishnamachari's attention to the remarkable success of the Government loans in the last few weeks. Now, it is not merely that we have picked up that amount of money which in itself is extremely helpful to the position but the volume of money which flowed in to the Government coffers during those weeks was a definite indication of a swing back from the previous psychology. There was a move back from commodities to money. Now, what was alarming in the previous situation was a definite tendency to move from money into commodities and whilst that was happening it was natural that we could not be very successful with our Government loans, because a Government loan after all is only a money claim. If you lend the Government Rs. 97 now and you are going to get Rs. 100 back in a few years' time, it matters very much to you what that Rs. 100 will buy at that time. Now, during the time of loss of confidence, during the time when the influences were at work which were undermining confidence in the general situation and which were tending to aggravate it, there was quite clear evidence of a flight from money into goods. In the last few weeks I am very glad to say, thanks to the reactions which our measures have provoked, that there has been a flight in the opposite direction. And I would say to Mr. Krishnamachari that in a vast country like this there is nothing to be alarmed at intrinsically merely in a figure of 750 crores of rupees of currency, nor even in a thousand crores. There is nothing alarming in that fact. On the contrary, the important thing is to ensure that the economic situation is sound. After all, there is no reason why in due course that purchasing power should not be utilised to the great advantage of this country, none whatever. There is great danger in the existence of that purchasing power at large in the hands of uninstructed individuals, if it is flung into competition for the small amount of goods which is available at the present time. But in regard to the figure itself, there is nothing which need cause alarm; in relation to the population of this country and in relation to other countries, it will be found that that figure is not intrinsically an excessive figure. But it is vitally important to check the tendencies which the figure seemed to indicate and that is the point to which I would direct my Honourable friend's attention.

There is one other thing which I would like to say at this moment and which seems to me important. We naturally look always at the conditions of India and if we don't look at the conditions of India, we look at the position in Britain or the position in America, for those are the two countries from which newspapers most constantly give us information. Now, the position of India

ought really to be compared with countries which are less advanced, less highly organised than either Britain or America. I myself have taken pains to study the situation in countries like Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Syria and so on, which are countries adjoining India. I will not talk of the position in China because there the situation is so abnormal, owing to the complete cutting off of the country from the outside world that conditions of extreme inflation have supervened which cannot be corrected until contact with the outside world is restored but in these, what are called, the Middle Eastern countries the position is that they have been exposed to very much the same factors as India. The position there has been worse than it is in India—considerably worse, and they have had great difficulty in dealing with this problem. The main reasons why they have such difficulty is that they have not got as well organised a system of public finance, they have not got so elaborate a machinery of taxation, they have not got a system of public borrowing, a regular market for internal loans and generally they were deprived of what I called a moment ago all levers whereby the mechanism has got to be controlled in times such as this. What is interesting is to see that India occupies a middle position between countries which are less organised, as might be expected, and the ideal position which obtains in this respect in Britain. One of our difficulties, for instance, is that our income-tax system does not apply to all types of income. If it applied to agricultural incomes as well as to business and other incomes, then obviously our income-tax measures would have a much greater effect on the monetary conditions in the country at any time. Again, of course, we are in the position that the Government of India cannot by itself legislate for the whole of this country. We have not got fiscal jurisdiction over the Indian States. If we wish to obtain salutary action in that part of the country, we have to approach them and to persuade them to fall into line with us. That is a matter which takes time, though there also I may say that there have been most encouraging responses to the steps which the Government of India has taken. But if you are completely unable to deal with inflation in so large a section of your currency union as the Indian States, then you could not deal with it effectively in any part of the country at all, because that chain could not be stronger than its weakest link. There are other factors which make it more difficult to produce in India the effects which are desirable and which of course have been produced so well in highly developed countries.

Now, the commodity controls, which the Mover of this Resolution is particularly concerned to bring to our notice, are the ones which are most difficult to administer. But there also we have had in the last few months extremely encouraging experiences. In the matter of the textile control I have always taken the closest interest because it is obvious that if you cannot deal with food and clothing which are the two main essentials, then you cannot control the price level. Now, cloth is a thing which I always felt should be easier to deal with because the number of producers is more limited. You can put your hands on that commodity at its source and I felt that if the Government were determined enough it could do something to deal with the cloth situation. At the same time, it was equally true that you were dealing with one of the most powerful and most organised industries in this country and that if you were to proceed to deal with it by methods purely of hostility and force, then you might defeat your own object. Therefore, it was of the utmost importance to secure the co-operation of the industry which produces so large a proportion of the requirements of this country.

Now, I know that certain critics and certain Honourable Members have thought that Government suffered a defeat when it handed over part of the control to the Indian textile industry. I consider that to be a mistake. I consider that the situation should be judged in terms of public opinion and the manifest desire of Government on the one hand, and the position of the industry on the other. The soundest thing to do was to say to the industry: Well, if you really think that you can deal with this situation and if you can produce the objects which Government desires and which the public demands, then work

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the scheme yourself. We are prepared to see you in the position of working the scheme provided always that you can produce the required results.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): If the experiment fails.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the experiment fails, then in my opinion it will be the duty of this Government to attend to the resultant situation without further regard for the sentiments of any particular interest. But I do not believe the experiment will fail. I believe that the leaders of the textile industry have realised that the position which existed a few months ago could not possibly continue. I believe that they have realised their duty to this country and that they are prepared to help the Government to secure cheap cloth for the masses of this country, and I shall not believe otherwise until I see that the experiment has actually failed. Now, Sir, that is the position in regard to cloth.

In regard to food, I cannot touch on the matter now because we have had a long debate, except to say that I have always regarded that also from the point of view of the larger picture. It was quite obvious to me that we could not embark on free trade for the whole of this country in the present inflationary conditions. You could not allow the price of food to find its own level in circumstances in which there was so much free purchasing power, because food would naturally tend to go to the longest purse and not to the places where it was most needed. And that is why the Government had to come to the decision that control must continue in regard to food.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Can you say something about sugar and silver?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In regard to sugar, I would say that in the circumstances of the present time that is an example of a control which, in spite of initial difficulties, is on the whole working satisfactorily. There are parts of the country, it is true, where the price is still not what it should be. But, speaking generally, the sugar control has worked satisfactorily. In fact, it was the final success of the sugar control that encouraged me and encouraged the Government to feel that the textile industry could also be successfully brought under a scheme.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): But the Chairman of the Sugar Syndicate thought otherwise in his speech at the annual general meeting.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I know there are members of the textile industry who think that the control would not work. One must remember that in matters of control in the interests of the community, the interests of the producer and those of the large body of consuming public are not identical and expressions of opinion from the producer must not be taken as fatal to the objects of Government. In fact, we have been too much deterred in the past. We have in the past been too disposed to capitulate when an important body of producers said, "This cannot be done". We have found that it can be done and we are determined to proceed with various forms of control. In this respect I shall have no difficulty in accepting the Resolution of my Honourable friend, particularly the amended Resolution, which does not deal with so obsolete and archaic a matter as the bank rate of interest, because it is the intention of the Government of India in the light of its experience to proceed further with commodity control and to endeavour to bring all commodities which are necessary for the life of the country to a reasonable price level.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will you say something about silver?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend has asked me to speak about silver. That is a subject which I shall find it difficult to be precise about. It is a matter which is engaging the attention of Government and we hope to be in a position to deal with that commodity also before very long. I cannot say anything precise on the subject because it is to some extent dependent on factors which are beyond the control of the Government of India

and when I make statements in regard to the intentions or the programme of Government; I like to know exactly what I shall be able to do.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I hope the Honourable Member will not say anything which will have a bearish effect on the market.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: On the contrary, it would not worry me in the least to have a bearish effect on the market.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The bears already consider the Honourable Member to be their friend.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: When this emergency is over if I wished to adopt a coat-of-arms for any reason, it would be that of a bear savaging a bull! I should like at the end of this to be considered the patron saint of bears simply because my object is to keep down the price level during the present emergency. Because of the monetary factors which are so difficult to control, I regard as my enemy every man who tries to produce a rise in the prices of any commodity, and so I am a friend of the bears. I hug them to my bosom and I only wish that I could give them more satisfaction than I have been able to do. It has not been too easy. However, I regret that I cannot say more on this subject at the present moment.

I would answer one question finally of Mr. Krishnamachari. I entirely agree with him that in view of the importance of taxation at the present time, we should expand our taxation staff to be able to deal with the present necessities. But unfortunately we cannot grow Excess Profits Tax officers and Income-tax officers within three months or six months. Our tax law has become very elaborate. This House has from time to time demanded various limitations and safeguards and all that has meant that the duties of the staff have become more complicated and difficult, and although it has been one of my chief endeavours to expand the staff, I have not been able to do so to more than a moderate extent. But I am always on the look out and I may say, I shall be happy to receive competent assistance from any quarter and if my Honourable friend knows of any well qualified individuals who would like to join the gallant band of tax officials, I shall be very glad to consider their claims.

Before I sit down, I would like to utter again a word of encouragement as against the defeatists. I believe that it is possible to deal effectively with inflation in this country. It requires determination on the part of the Government, it requires the fullest support from the people. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend that it is a cause which admits of no distinction, it is a cause which goes deep down to the national well-being and everybody can assist in this matter without feeling that he is doing damage to any of his political principles. There is nobody in this country except possibly a very small body of extremely rich men who can possibly derive any advantage from uncontrolled inflation.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, as regards the business tomorrow, it is the general desire of the House and of Party Leaders who have been consulted that the War Injuries Compensation Bill may be given priority over the Delhi University Bill and I would request that you will give directions to the same effect.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does that meet with the general wishes of the House?

Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, the War Injuries Compensation Bill will be taken up first tomorrow. The Assembly stands adjourned till tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 13th August, 1943.