

25th March, 1947

**THE**  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**  
**Official Report**

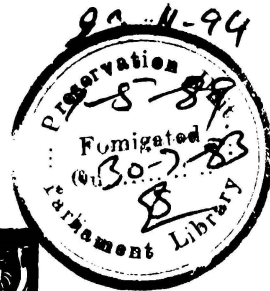


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**Volume IV, 1947**

*(25th March, 1947 to 9th April, 1947)*

**THIRD SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY .**  
**1947**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### ASSETS IN INDIA BELONGING TO NON-INDIANS

**1139. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if Government have secured any information, directly or through the Reserve Bank of India, with regard to the assets belonging to non-Indians in this country?

(b) Are Government aware of the recent transfers of some of these assets from non-Indians to Indians?

(c) Have Government any information about these transactions?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above is in the affirmative, what is the volume of such transactions?

(e) Have Government any information of the moneys realised by such sales and transmitted abroad and, if so, what is the amount of such remittances?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take in order to collect such information in future?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) Government have no reliable information on the subject.

(b), (c) and (e). Government are aware that, in recent years, some foreign-owned assets have been transferred to Indians but they are not aware of the total amounts involved nor of the total amounts which have been transmitted abroad as a result of these transfers.

(d) Does not arise.

(f) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Having regard to the levy of capital gains in which Government have got a direct interest in these monies, will not Government consider expeditiously the desirability of checking up every remittance which takes place from this country and the monies realised by those who have sold to Indians?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I have said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. So far we have not been able to get any figures because there are no restrictions on transfers within the sterling area and therefore the figures are not available. But the matter is one which will certainly receive the attention of the Government and is receiving the attention of the Government.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Having regard to the powers which Government recently got under the Foreign Exchange Control which not merely gives every power to restrict remittances but also power to receive information, will the Government direct the Reserve Bank to gather this information from the Banks through whom remittances of sterling take place?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I have already stated that the matter is under consideration.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Will the Government give us the information which they may have and which they used in the negotiations with U. K. on the sterling balances regarding foreign assets in this country?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** My Honourable friend seems to know more about negotiations than what I do.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member has got some kind of information about the assets of foreigners in this country?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** Perhaps my Honourable friend did not listen to the reply I gave to part (a). I said that the Government have no reliable information on the subject. I am not prepared to mislead the House by giving them unreliable information.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Is it not a fact that these things were discussed in the negotiations and he put up some figures before those people who came from U. K. to negotiate with us?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I have stated more than once that the matter of negotiations is confidential and I am not going to be dragged into divulging information by means of supplementary questions.

#### DUTY ON GOLD AND SILVER

1140. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state when the duty on gold and silver was imposed and what changes have been effected in such duty?

(b) What amount have Government realised from this duty during the course of this year, upto the last date for which figures are available?

(c) Has gold any official value in India either for purchase or for sale?

(d) In which countries in the world is gold freely available at an official selling price?

(e) What is the import parity on gold in India, including the existing duty, from (i) England and (ii) the U.S.A. on the basis of the official price and on the assumption that these countries release gold for export to India at the official prices?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) The amount realised as duty from gold and silver for the period from March 1946 to February 1947, both inclusive, is Rs. 34,14,295 and Rs. 97,86,170 respectively.

(c) The official value of gold in India, as fixed for purposes of India's membership of the International Monetary Fund is 4.14514 grains troy of fine gold per rupee. This however does not impose any obligation to buy or sell gold at this price.

(d) As far as information is available, the only country in which gold is available at an official selling price is the U. S. A. Sales of gold are, however, restricted in that country to foreign Central Banks and Treasuries and there is no free offering of gold to the public by the U. S. Treasury at the official price.

(e) The import parities inclusive of duty, freight and insurance are (i) Rs. 56-3-6 per tola, and (ii) Rs. 56-9-3 per tola.

#### Statement

(a) Gold was for the first time subjected to an import duty of Rs. 25 per tola by the Indian Finance Act, 1946. This was reduced to Rs. 12-8-0 with effect from the 12th August 1946.

2. The following rates of duty have been levied on *silver* from time to time :

Year	Rate of duty
1894	5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
1910	4 annas per ounce.
1920	Duty removed.
1930	4 annas per ounce.
1931	6 annas per ounce, and later during the same year increased to 7½ annas per ounce as a result of surcharge.
1934	5 annas per ounce.
1935	Reduced to 2 annas per ounce.
1937	3 annas per ounce.
1942	3 annas 7 1/5 pies per ounce as a result of general surcharge.
1946	8 annas per ounce which was subsequently reduced to 4 annas per ounce with effect from 12th August 1946—the rate prevailing at present.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government give some information to this House with regard to the recent restrictions on import of gold and silver by private parties and will Government consider the desirability, having regard to the very high prices in India and the low price abroad, of acquiring such stocks of gold and silver which may be available in the world and of benefitting the treasury by the difference?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I would request the Honourable Member to put down a question and I shall be glad to answer the same.

#### PURCHASE OF NICKEL FOR COINAGE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1141. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many 4-anna and 8-anna nickel coins have been issued and how many have been used?

(b) How much nickel have the Government of India purchased for coinage purposes, from whom and at what prices?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) 2.91 crores pure nickel half-rupee coins and 4.98 crores of pure nickel quarter-rupee coins were issued, and approximately 1.11 crores of half-rupee and 1.92 crores of quarter rupee nickel coins were put into circulation, upto 31st December 1946.

(b) Approximately 1,300 tons of nickel was purchased from the 1st April, 1946 to the 31st January, 1947 from the Mond Nickel Coy., United Kingdom and from Australia. The price was about £190 per ton for nickel supplied in the form of pellets and £450 per ton for nickel supplied in the form of manufactured nickel blanks.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What has happened to the metal from the old coins which these nickel coins have replaced?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** So far very few coins have been put in circulation and very few coins have returned up to this time. I am not really in a position to give exact figures of the silver that we have received in this connection.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know that when the nickel coins replace the small change of which there was very heavy activity during the war period in the issue of small change, and this metal has come back or may be coming back hereafter, what do Government propose to do with the return of metal other than silver?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I am sorry I am not in a position to give answer to that now. If my Honourable friend would put down a question to that effect, I shall give the answer.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it a fact that Government are contemplating the issue of rupee coins in nickel?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I have already introduced a Bill in this House with regard to that matter.

## ACCRUING OF SILVER FROM THE ISSUE OF NICKEL COINS.

1142. \***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of silver, which has already accrued to Government from the issue of 4-anna and 8-anna nickel coins and how much more is expected under this head?

(b) What do Government propose to do with the silver, which they have received on account of this substitution?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) The return of the quaternary half and quarter rupees has scarcely started yet and it is too early to make an estimate of the amount of silver likely to accrue to Government.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose Government's policy in this respect.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have not Government got any material information with regard to the amount of quarter-rupee and eight-anna coins of silver which are in circulation?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** We have information with regard to the coins that are in circulation, but I cannot say at this stage how much silver we will get because it will depend on how many of the coins are returned. And that information will not be available till such time as Government have put these nickel coins in circulation in sufficient numbers and have fixed a date by which all the coins must be returned and beyond which they cease to be legal tender.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government examine the question of acquiring silver wherever it is available in the world, because the world price is low, and of selling some of this silver in India in order to prevent a further rise in the price of silver?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** That is a matter that is under Examination.

**Diwan Chaman Lal:** May I know what is the quantity of silver ounce by ounce that the Government of India have agreed to return to the U. S. A. and whether any portion of this silver is going to be used for that purpose?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I am sorry I cannot give the exact amount. I think I did give a reply to this question in which I gave the exact amount of silver that we had borrowed from the U. S. A. I am informed that it is 226 million ounces of silver that we had taken from the U. S. A. and which we have got to return to them in the form of silver.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it a fact that it is to be returned within five years? If so, what is the last date by which this silver must be returned?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** The date from which the five years are to begin has not yet been fixed by the President of the U. S. A.

**Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Does the Honourable Member propose to release some of the silver in order to check the speculative prices which are rising every day in the Bombay market?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I shall require notice.

**Seth Govind Das:** What effort are Government making to stop this speculation in the bullion markets of Bombay and Calcutta?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** One of the efforts is the capital gains tax.

**Seth Govind Das:** Any other effort?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** With regard to other efforts the matter is being examined and if it is possible to take some action which will stop this, Government will only be too glad to do it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have Government considered the desirability of introducing small silver bars for the consumption of small people and thus cut out the bullion market dealers altogether, and make available silver from Government stock for the small user in 10 tolas and 40 tolas and 50 tolas?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** The suggestions will be examined but I am not in a position to say anything definitely at this stage.

TRANSFER OF MINT FROM LAHORE TO CALCUTTA.

**1143. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if Government have taken any final decision with regard to the transfer of the Mint, that was built in Lahore, back to Calcutta?

(b) Why was it necessary to do this?

(c) What is the total amount of Mint equipment and machinery on order since the war and how much of it has been received so far?

(d) What is the destination of the equipment and machinery thus ordered and how much by value will be distributed at various centres?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on 8th November 1946 to starred question No. 318 asked by Sardar Mangal Singh.

(c) and (d). I lay on the table of the House a statement which gives the information required by the Honourable Member.

*Statement showing amount of Mint equipment and machinery ordered and received since the War, with distribution of value by centres*

S. No.	Name of the centre	Total amount of Mint equipment and machinery on order since the War	Total amount of Mint equipment and machinery received so far	Destination of the equipment and machinery thus ordered and distribution of value by centres
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	Lahore	30,44,615	30,44,615	All the machinery that has been installed in the Lahore Mint will be transferred to Alipore in due course. None of the plant and equipment is for distribution elsewhere.
2	New Alipore Mint	47,08,009	15,026	All the equipment and machinery will be installed in the New Alipore Mint.
3	Calcutta Mint	48,432	27,942	All the equipment and machinery so far received has been installed in the Calcutta Mint, as will the balance, when received. When the Calcutta Mint finally closes down, this equipment and machinery will be transferred to the New Alipore Mint.
4	Bombay Mint	39,23,745	30,45,700	All the equipment and machinery so far received has been installed in the Bombay Mint, as will the balance, when received.
	Total	1,17,24,801	61,33,283	

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** With reference to the reply to part (d) may I know where the new machinery which is arriving will be placed?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I have given details in the statement that I have just laid on the table.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know on what basis the organisation of the mint has been made having regard to the needs of this country as a whole, and for what reason the mint already established at great public expense during the war in Lahore is being deliberately pulled down and shifted to Calcutta?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** Since I received notice of this question I am having the position examined with regard to the mint at Lahore.

#### TRANSACTIONS IN THOUSAND RUPEE NOTES AFTER THE LAST DATE FOR TENDER

1144. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many thousand rupee notes Government have received after the last date when it was possible for the public to tender their notes?

(b) From which sources were these received and what was the reason for the late receipts from these sources?

(c) Are Government aware that transactions in thousand rupee notes continued to take place for months at various centres?

(d) Have Government enquired whether it was possible for any parties to acquire these notes cheap and to get them fully cashed, and whether any facilities in this direction were abused?

(e) On which date was the final note under this account received and has the matter now been finally closed?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) 1765 one-thousand rupee notes were tendered for exchange after the 26th April, 1946, the last date fixed for the purpose.

(b) Almost all these notes were received from private individuals, the justification for late submission being, in the main, (1) ignorance of the provisions of the Ordinance; (2) illiteracy; (3) residence of the holder in a distant village or other remote locality; (4) illness; (5) death, etc.

(c) Government are aware of stray transactions of this nature and have taken action under the Ordinance wherever sufficient evidence was forthcoming.

(d) Applications were allowed in all cases where Government were satisfied of the *bona fides* of the applicants as Government were anxious to avoid harassment to small holders who had failed to present their notes in time for reasons stated in my reply to part (b). There can, however, be no absolute guarantee that in no case the facility was abused.

(e) The final note for exchange was received on the 28th February, 1947, after which date, according to Government's recent public announcement, no further claims are to be entertained.

#### DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST SCHEMES

1145. **\*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, has sanctioned the following Delhi Improvement Trust Schemes under sections 40 and 42 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to Delhi:—(i) Ahata Kidara Scheme; (ii) Paharganj Circus Improvement Scheme; (iii) Sadar Bazar (Serai Purani Idgah) Scheme; and (iv) Serai Purani Idgah Scheme Part I;

(b) If so, when?

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

(c) By what date will the Delhi Improvement Trust begin to acquire the houses under these schemes?

(d) By what date do Government propose to give compensation to (i) the Zamindar, and (ii) the owner of the house under these schemes?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) Yes. Schemes (iii) and (iv) are the same Scheme.

(b) Schemes (i) and (ii) on the 27th May 1941 and (iii) and (iv) on the 12th November, 1946.

(c) The acquisition proceedings under the Ahata Kidara and the Paharganj Schemes are almost complete but those for the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme have not yet commenced.

(d) The compensation has already been assessed and paid in most of the cases relating to the Ahata Kidara and the Paharganj Schemes. In the remaining cases relating to those schemes and the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme, compensation will be paid as soon as the Land Acquisition Collector gives his awards.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** May I know the boundary of the Ahata Kidara scheme?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I have no information now; I will supply it to the Honourable Member.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** At what state does the Serai Purani Idgah scheme stand at present?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** The scheme has been sanctioned and the various preliminary measures are being taken to acquire the land and make other arrangements.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** May I have an idea of the time when the people of these localities will be asked to vacate their houses?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** It is not possible to give any date at present. They will be asked to vacate when all other arrangements are complete, for example, for their re-housing.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Have the new localities to which the people are being shifted made known to the people concerned?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** That has not yet been decided.

**Seth Govind Das:** How much notice will be given to these people to vacate their houses?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** No fixed period is laid down but ample notice will be given when the time comes.

#### PROVISION OF HOUSES TO INHABITANTS COMING UNDER DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST SCHEMES.

11a. **\*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state in which locality Government have made arrangements to provide houses to the inhabitants of the localities coming under the Delhi Improvement Trust Schemes?

(b) Will these localities be close to the localities requisitioned by the Delhi Improvement Trust? If not, why not?

(c) Of what type will these houses be and how will they be distributed?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) to (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to parts (a) to (c) of his unstarred question No. 21, on the 6th February 1947. All persons whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 50 who wish to be re-housed, and who are willing to pay a monthly rent fixed by the Trust will be eligible for the benefits of the state aided re-housing scheme.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** May I know if any provision has been made for a school in the locality?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I have not got that information.



BUILDING OF HOUSES FOR INHABITANTS OF LOCALITIES COMING UNDER DELHI  
IMPROVEMENT TRUST SCHEMES

**1147. \*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state whether the quarters for the inhabitants of the localities coming under the Delhi Improvement Trust Schemes have been built, and if not, when they are expected to be completed?

(b) If they have been completed, what arrangements have been made in respect of (i) water; (ii) electricity; and (iii) bathroom and lavatory?

(c) Do Government propose to provide the facilities of a market and a hospital in the new localities proposed for the inhabitants under these schemes?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) Over 500 single storeyed houses have already been built according to the old design. Construction of houses according to a new design will be taken in hand shortly by the Trust.

(b) In houses built according to the old design a bathing platform has been provided but there is no water connection and no lavatory. In the new design of houses a bathroom and a flush latrine will be provided and also a water connection. Electric light fittings are not provided in either the old or the new design.

(c) Sites for markets and hospitals will be made available according to the requirements of each area.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** May I know if the new design will comprise double-storeyed buildings with one, two or three rooms?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** Yes, Sir, the new design provides for four quarters in one double-storeyed building.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** What will be the rent of these quarters?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** About eight rupees a month for each quarter.

**Seth Govind Das:** Are Government aware that enough kerosene is not available in Delhi, and if electricity is not going to be provided in these houses how are they going to be lit?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** These houses are intended for the poorest class of people and it is not certain that they will be able to pay the cost of electric light, and the other difficulty is that the provision of electrical fittings will add to the capital cost and so will increase the rent of the house.

**Seth Govind Das:** How do the Government think that they will be able to have light in their houses when there is no kerosene available?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** There are many houses without electric light.

**Seth Govind Das:** Do the Government not think it desirable at least to provide light in the new houses which they are building for poor people?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** The matter will be examined.

SCALING DOWN OF STERLING BALANCES

**1148. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government propose to give an assurance to the House that they do not intend to entertain any proposals from the British Government for the scaling down of sterling balances?

(b) Do Government propose to consult the House before coming to any final decision on the proposals from the British Government for the scaling down of sterling balances?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) I would invite attention to paragraph 30 of my Budget Speech.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies to part (b) of starred question No. 166 of the 4th November 1946 and to part (d) of starred question No. 208 of the 11th February 1947.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Has the Honourable the Finance Member seen a very adverse comment on India's position in the American Magazine *Time* in a recent issue, and may we know what steps he proposes to take in order to counteract this adverse propoganda and in order to put forward the true facts of India's very strong case in the matter of India's sterling balances?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I have not seen it, but if my Honourable friend will tell me the date of this Magazine I shall certainly look into it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will not the Government of India avail themselves of the new machinery set up in America and in other parts of the world in order to put forward our case strongly as a counter to the propoganda which has been done against Indian interests by the British and the French, and will not Government take more active steps in this matter by way of propoganda?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** The Government will certainly utilize the Information machinery for supplying the foreign countries with correct information with regard to everything.

#### SUSPENSION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIAN NEWS PARADE FILMS

1149. **\*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether it is a fact that the production of the "Indian News Parade" films has been suspended by Government? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** "Indian News Parade" ceased to be a Government concern on May 1st 1946 owing to refusal of supplies by the Legislature and the production was taken over by a commercial film company. The decision to suspend production of Indian News Parade was taken by that company on its own responsibility.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is it a fact that the Honourable Member is thinking of reviving this Indian News Parade, and if so may I know the reasons for that?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** It would be for the House to sanction the finances.

#### DE-REQUISITIONING OF HOUSES AND BUILDINGS BY THE ARMY IN BOMBAY.

1150. **\*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state how many of the buildings, bungalows and flats requisitioned by the Army in the city of Bombay have been de-requisitioned during the second half of the year 1946, giving full details thereof, their situation and description?

(b) Will the de-requisitioned properties be handed over to the respective owners or to their former tenants?

(c) is there any system by which new comers and other intending tenants can hire these through Government or any other source?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) One hundred and twenty. Full details regarding these are given in the Statement placed on the table of the House.

(b) Speaking generally buildings will be handed over to those who were in occupation at the time of requisition.

(c) Government are not aware of any such system.

## List of Requisitioned Buildings, Bungalows and Flats in Bombay City

Released During 1-7-46 To 31-12-46

S. No.	Name of Property	Location	Rent P. M.			Occupied by
			Rs.	A.	P.	
1	"Burjor Building" 2 Rooms	Colaba	170	0	0	Army
2	"Nagin Mahal" (Two Flats)	Ch'gate Reclm.	875	0	0	RAF
3	"No. 14, Mount Pleasant Road	Malabar Hill	NYS			RAF
4	"Madhu Kunj"	Malabar Hill	4,500	0	0	RAF
5	"Gamadia House"	Warden Road	NYA			Army
6	"Darbhanga Flats" North Block	Pedder Road	717	0	0	WRNS
7	"Meher Building"	Dadar	30	0	0	Army
8	"Flat 27, Mission Belvedere"	Queen's Road	200	0	0	Do.
9	2nd Floor Flat, No. 14, Ormiston Road.	Apollo Bunder	NYA			Do.
10	Flat No. 10, "Oval View"	Queen's Road	245	0	0	Do.
11	Flat No. 3, "Beacon"	Ch'gate Reclm.	NYS			Do.
12	1st Floor Flat, "Samudra Tarang"	Mahim	150	0	0	Do.
13	"Prospect Lodge"	Altamount Road				
14	Prospect Lodge (Small)	Do.				
15	Prospect Lodge (Annex)	Do.				
16	"Lincoln Lodge"	Do.	6,125	0	0	Do.
17	"Lincoln Lodge" (Annex)	Do.				
18	"Baker's Bungalow"					
19	"Rajawaji Building"	.....				
20	Flat No. 8, "Kay House" Brads Flats.	Colaba	169	0	0	Do.
21	Flat No. 7, "Javeri Mansion"	Malabar Hill	210	0	0	RIN
22	Flat No. 5, "Cleave House"	Wodehouse Road	220	0	0	Army
23	Flat No. 7, "Chateau Windsor"	Marine Drive	170	0	0	RIN
24	Flat No. 4, "Chateau Windsor"	Do.	170	0	0	Do.
25	1st Floor Flat, "Summer Queen"	Arthur Bdr. Road	90	0	0	Do.
26	Flat No. 10, "Down Court"	Cuffe Parade	220	0	0	Do.
27	Flat No. 6, "Hussain Manor"	Warden Road	228	0	0	Army
28	Flat No. 14, "Rupa Yatan"	Marine Drive	135	0	0	Do.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location	Rent P. M.	Occupied by
			Rs. A. P.	
29	Flat No. 17, "Maskati Court"	Queen's Road	164 12 0	Army
30	Flat No. 9, "Jyoti Sadan"	Marine Drive	200 0 0	Do.
31	"Marble Villa"	Warden Road	4,925 0 0	WRINS
32	Flat No. 25, "Corner House"	Kalaskar Road, Dadar.	60 0 0	Army
33	46-B, "Bhimriwala Building"	Worli	18 0 0	Do.
34	"Patel's Bungalow", L. J. Road	Dadar	90 0 0	Do.
35	"Goolshan"	Pedder Road	NYS	Govt. of Bombay.
36	"Star Sea View"	Chowpatty	220 0 0	Army
37	Flat No. 11, "Blithe House"	Ch'gate Reclm.	215 0 0	Do.
38	"Mithi Lodge", Grd. Flr. Flt.	Colaba	120 0 0	Do.
39	Flat No. 5, "Shalimar"	Marine Drive	120 0 0	RIN
40	Flat No. 2, "Bhagwan Mansion"	Dhobi Talao	90 0 0	Army
41	Flat No. 22, "Shanti Kutir"	Marine Drive	220 0 0	RIN
42	Flat No. 4, "Horizon View"	Ch'gate Reclm.	220 0 0	Army
43	No. 66, Walkeshwar Road	Mulabar Hill	NYS	Do.
44	No. 5, "Queen's Mansion"	Bastion Road	585 0 0	Do.
45	Flat No. 13, "Solunki Sadan"	Sion	NYS	Do.
46	"Eddie House", Terrace Flat	Pedder Road	120 0 0	Do.
47	Flat No. 4, "Gulbahar"	Dhobi Talao	85 0 0	Do.
48	Flat No. 6, "Prem Court"	Ch'gate Reclm.	200 0 0	Do.
49	"Dhan Mahal", 1st Floor Flat	Colaba	140 0 0	RIN
50	"Hamolton Building", Grd. Flr. Flt.	Fort	30 0 0	Army
51	Flat No. 3, "Sea Side"	Colaba	153 0 0	Army
52	Flat No. 17, "Marina House"	Marine Lines	105 0 0	RIN
53	Flat No. 10, "Habib Park"	Byculla	25 0 0	Army
54	Flat No. 15, "Habib Park"	Do.	43 0 0	Do.
55	Flat No. 20, "Habib Park"	Do.	61 0 0	Do.
56	Flat No. 33, "Habib Park"	Do.	41 0 0	Do.
57	Flat No. 34, "Habib Park"	Do.	63 0 0	Do.
58	Flat No. 306, "Silverton"	Colaba	140 0 0	Do.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location	Rent P. M.			Occupied by
			Rs.	A.	P.	
59	Block 'D' G. F. "Amarchand Mansion"	Mayo Road Fort	215	0	0	Army
60	Flat No. 13, "Zainab Manzil"	Ch'gate Reclm.	155	0	0	Do.
61	Flat No. 2-A, "Connaught Mansion"	Colaba	190	0	0	Do.
62	36, 61 & 72, "Great Western Building"	Fort	80	0	0	Do.
63	Flat No. 6, "Podar Mansion"	Marine Drive	170	0	0	Do.
64	Flat No. 16, "Shanti Kutir"	Do.	220	0	0	RIN
65	5th Floor, "Winston House"	Ch'gate Reclm.	250	0	0	Army
66	Terrace Flat, "Kali Lodge"	Colaba	150	0	0	Govt. of Bombay.
67	"Dil P. zir", Flat on 3rd Floor	Malabar Hill	165	0	0	RIN
68	2nd Floor, "Oomer Mansion"	Warden Road	184	0	0	Do.
69	Flat No. 7, "Malabar Court"	Malabar Hill	425	0	0	RAF
70	Flat No. 8, "Malabar Court" & Terrace Flat.	Malabar Hill	400	0	0	Do.
71	Flat No. 3, "Javeri Mansion"	Malabar Hill	250	0	0	RIN
72	"Rasik Nivas"	Marine Drive	2,950	0	0	RAF
73	No. 75 & 76, Marine Drive (Block of Flats).	Marine Drive	2,720	0	0	RAF
74	Ground Floor Flat, "Empress Court"	Queen's Road	65	0	0	RIN
75	"Empress Court," 5th Flr Block.	Do.	240	0	0	Army
76	"Earl's Court"—Flat No. 2	Marine Drive	82	7	0	Do.
77	"Khatau Buvan," 2 Rooms Grd. Flr.	Colaba	80	0	0	Do.
78	No. 77, Marine Drive	Marine Drive	2,722	0	0	RAF
79	No. 78, Marine Drive	Do.	2,722	0	0	Do.
80	Flat No. 2 "Palm Court"	Ch'gate Reclm.	175	0	0	Army
81	1st Floor, "Regul Theatre"	Colaba Road	125	0	0	Do.
82	Flat No. 1, "Western Breeze"	Colaba	128	3	0	RIN
83	"Farnham House", 1st Floor	Do.	100	0	0	Army
84	"P. lit na House", Grd. Flr. Flat.	Malabar Hill	275	0	0	Do.
85	Flat No. 8-A, "Patel Manzil"	Nepean Sea Road	190	0	0	Do.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location	Rent P. M.			Occupied by
			Rs.	A.	P.	
86	Flat No. 2, "Habib Court"	Colaba	113	4	0	RIN
87	"Sutar Villa" Oomar Park, 1st Floor Flat.	Warden Road	283	0	0	Do.
88	4th Floor Flat, 84, Nepean Sea Road.	Nepean Sea Road	275	0	0	Do.
89	4th Floor Flat, "Karim Court"	Colaba	100	0	0	Army
90	Flat No. 5, "York House"	Do.	112	13	0	RIN
91	Flat No. 8, "Padma Mansion"	Malabar Hill	275	0	0	Do.
92	"Habib Park", Flat No. 1	Byculla	83	0	0	Army
93	"Argentina Hotel"	Churchgate	Variable			Do.
94	Fort Press Flat & Garage	Arthur Bdr. Road	176	14	0	Do.
95	Shed 163 & 1/2 of 166	Sassoon Docks	642	0	0	RN Storage
96	Bipin Silk Mills	Dadar	250	0	0	Army
97	Mario's Restaurant	Rampart Row	150	0	0	Do.
98	Bombay Bar Gymkhana	Fort	925	0	0	
99	Part of 2nd Floor "Wakefield House"	Ballard Estate	40	0	0	S. S. O. (W. & F.)
100	"Amar Building"—4th Floor	Sir P. M. Road	...			C. S. D.
101	"Apollo Chambers" Apollo Bunder.	Apollo Bunder	3,896	11	0	Army
102	"Contractor Building" 3rd Flr.	Ballard Estate	659	0	0	Do.
103	V. C. O.'s Club C. C. I. Brabourne Stadium.	Churchgate	150	0	0	Do.
104	Godown No. 164	Sassoon Dock	NYS			RIN
105	"Mustafa Building" 3rd Floor	Sir P. M. Road	501	0	0	RIN
106	Godowns Nos. 169 & 170	Sassoon Dock	NYS			RN
107	"Warden House" 2 Rooms	Sir P. M. Road	305	0	0	N. S. A.
108	Wellington Mews, Ground Floor & 24 Garages.	Wodehouse Road	700	0	0	RIN
109	Royal Tile Godown	Arthur Bdr. Road	NYS			CSD
110	"News Paper House"	Sassoon Dock	1,400	0	0	RN
111	Fredrick's Hotel	Apollo Bunder	5,400	0	0	NSA
112	Bank of India Building Basement	Esplanade Road	17,990	0	0	Army
113	Hindu Gymkhana	Marine Drive	2,750	0	0	Do.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location	Rent P. M.	Occupied by
			Rs. A. P.	
114	Islam Gymkhana	Marine Drive	1,200 0 0	Army
115	Asian Building, 1st Floor	Ballard Estate	125 0 0	Do.
116	"Wakefield House" 1st Floor	Do.	500 0 0	Government of Bombay.
117	"New India Assurance Bldg." 4th & 5th Floors.	Esplanade Road		Government of Bombay.
118	"Lentin Chambers" -1 Flat	Fort	Not paid	Never occupied.
119	Shamsher Printing Press	Sion	2,297 0 0	RAF
120	Pure Products Plot 107-E	Sion	3,825 0 0	RIAF

**COMPENSATION FOR LANDS TAKEN DURING THE LAST WAR FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN BENARES**

†1151. \***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) if all the lands that were taken for military purposes during the last war in the district of Benares, have been given back to the tenants;

(b) if any portion thereof has been retained;

(c) the purpose for and the conditions under which the lands have been so retained; and

(d) the rate at which compensation is being paid; and if the rate is the same as it was at the beginning of the war, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of giving compensation at a higher rate owing to the rise in the price of these lands?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reason for retention is that the land cannot be restored to its original condition. It is being acquired.

(d) Requisitioned lands have been taken on rent computed at the time of requisition. The Government of India do not intend to revise the rents at this late stage when the requisitioned properties are in the process of being liquidated by means of releases or acquisitions.

In respect of acquisition of requisitioned land, the amount of compensation payable will be such sum as would be sufficient to purchase, at the market rate prevailing on the date of the notice under section 5 of the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Act, 1947, a piece of land equal in area to, and situated within a distance of three miles from, the acquired land and suitable for the same use as that to which the acquired land was being put immediately before the date of its requisition, or a sum equivalent to twice the market value of the acquired land on the date of its requisition, whichever is less.

† Answer to this question laid on the table<sup>o</sup>, the questioner being absent.

**PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX BY DEFENCE DEPARTMENT ON LANDS REQUISITIONED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES FROM TENANTS**

†1152. \***Shri Sri Prakasa**: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Department of the Government of India agreed to pay income-tax on behalf of those tenants whose lands were requisitioned for military purposes, and who were required to pay income-tax, as the annual sums paid to them by the Defence Department as compensation were not regarded as non-agricultural income; and

(b) if so, whether the money has actually been paid and if not, when Government expect the transaction to be completed?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja**: (a) Yes, provided the assessee produces a certificate from the Income-tax Officer concerned.

(b) So far only one case has come to notice and the tenant concerned has been asked to produce the necessary certificate from the Income-tax Officer concerned before payment is made.

**PRODUCTION OF QUININE IN INDIA**

†1153. \***Sri A. K. Menon**: (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state what is the quantity of Quinine produced annually in India on the average of the last three years?

(b) Has there been more demand for it than could be supplied by Government?

(c) If so, why is it not allowed to be imported or produced in larger quantities than is being done at present?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam**: (a) The average quantity of quinine produced in India in the last three years is 85,000 lbs. a year.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no restriction on the quantities that can be imported. Owing to the time required for a cinchona tree to attain maturity rapid expansion of production is not possible. Since 1948, however, 4,680 acres have been brought under cultivation by the Governments of Madras and Bengal under a scheme promoted by the Central Government. For future development the target of 210,000 lbs. a year suggested by the Bhoré Committee has been accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments, subject to review from time to time in the light of developments in the production of synthetic drugs. The Madras and Bengal Governments have prepared plans for development with this target in view.

**COMPLAINT AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT JAIL DELHI BY THE DIVISIONAL PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY, AMBALA**

†1154. \***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta**: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Divisional Prisoners' Aid Society, Ambala, held a Conference on 13th October, 1946, to recommend various measures of Prison Reform and that the said Conference passed a number of resolutions which were forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration;

(b) whether Government are aware that the said Conference brought to the notice of Government through a resolution that at present the First Class District Jail, Delhi, has a part time Superintendent, who is also the Additional

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



District Magistrate of Delhi and visits the said Jail only twice a week and that the real administration of this Jail remains with the Deputy Superintendent who is a subordinate junior officer;

(c) whether it is a fact that these have been complaints against the administration of the District Jail, Delhi, regarding the treatment of prisoners of various categories and if so, the action that Government have taken so far in this connection; and

(d) the various industries carried on at the District Jail, Delhi, and the profits earned therefrom during the last five years?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) A copy of some of the resolutions said to have been passed by the Ambala Division District Prisoners' Aid Societies Conference held at Ambala on the 13th October, 1946 was received by the Government of India.

(b) Yes, a resolution to this effect has been brought to the notice of Government.

(c) No complaints have been received.

(d) The following industries are carried on in the District Jail, Delhi; Manufacture of cotton articles (Durries, dusters, khaddar, etc.), paper making, chieks, book-binding, carpentry, manufacture of ink and moving box and printing press, etc. The profits earned during the last five years from these industries are as follows: 1942—Rs. 1,598, 1943—Rs. 7,302, 1944—Rs. 5,194, 1945—Rs. 7,569, 1946—Rs. 7,280.

#### ACTION BY GOVERNMENT FOR RAISING THE DISTRICT JAIL, DELHI TO A CENTRAL JAIL

†1155. \***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Technical Instructors namely carpenters, weaving masters, etc., attached to the District Jail, Delhi, and the out-put of their work in training prisoners for these trades;

(b) whether Government have taken any action, on the resolution of Ambala Divisional Prisoners' Aid Society for raising the District Jail, Delhi, into a Central Jail and for the appointment of a wholetime Superintendent for it; if none, why; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action on the scheme for starting a Prison Officers' Training College recommended by the Divisional Prisoner's Aid Society, Ambala; if not, whether they propose to do so now?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** A carpentry instructor and a weaving instructor are employed in the District Jail. The former supervises and trains prisoners employed in the carpentry workshop: the latter trains and supervises prisoners employed in spinning and the manufacture of cotton articles. The industry supervised by the carpenter master showed a profit of Rs. 1,650/9/3 in 1946. The industries supervised by the weaving master showed a profit of Rs. 3,073/3/9 in the same year.

(b) the matter is under consideration in consultation with the Chief Commissioner.

(c) In view of the opinions elicited in consultation with Provincial Governments I do not propose to proceed further with the consideration of the recommendation.

APPOINTMENT OF WHOLETEIME STAFF FOR PRISONS IN THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS PROVINCES

†1156. \*Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have any scheme under their consideration for the appointment of wholetime staff for the prisons in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces; and

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of appointing wholetime and well trained Superintendents for the Jails in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) and (b) No.

CONFERENCE OF ALL-INDIA INSPECTORS GENERAL OF PRISONS

†1157. \*Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Conferences of All India Inspectors General of Prisons are arranged by the Government of India and if so, how often such conferences are arranged and when the last conference was held; and

(b) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House the resolutions of the last Conference of the Inspectors General of Prisons and the action that has been taken on such resolutions and if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) Conferences arranged by the Government of India were held in 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1933, 1939, and 1945.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

*Resolutions passed by the Seventh all-India Conference of the Inspectors-General of Prisons, held at Nagpur in 1945*

A. Recommendations concerning the Central Government.

Serial No. in the Report of the Conference	Resolutions	Action taken
22. (in so far as it recommended the institution of a Prison Medal).	"The Conference is of opinion that :— This Conference very strongly reiterates resolution 15 of the Sixth All-India Inspectors-General of Prisons Conference for the institution of Prison Medal for the Jail staff, in recognition of gallant and meritorious services rendered by them"	The proposal regarding the institution of a Prisons Medal has been rejected.
29. (regarding possibility of establishment of a Central Jails Staff Training School for staff from all over India or from Provinces who cannot afford to have separate schools of their own.)	"The Conference reiterates the resolution passed in Conferences held in 1925, 1929 and 1939 on this subject and is of opinion that arrangements for the training of jail staff should be made in each province as early as possible. Details about the training scheme should be left to the different provinces."	The proposals regarding the appointment of Director General of Jails and the establishment of a Central Jails Staff Training School have been dropped.
33.	"The Conference is of opinion, Colonel Jatar and Colone Ladvani dissenting, that there should be a post of Direct General of Jails with jail experience attached to the Central Government for correlating and co-ordinating the prison administration activities in different provinces with a view to secure uniformity."	

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

## B. Recommendations concerning Provincial Governments.

Serial No. in the Report of the Conference.	Resolution.	Action taken by Central Government for Central Administered Areas and communicated for information to the Provincial Governments.
1	2	3
1	<p>"The Conference is of opinion that security prisoners should be given a fixed scale of diet, clothing and bedding, in kind, as per requirements of the respective provinces on climatic and other considerations, but is opposed to the idea of fixing an allowance in the shape of money for this purpose, as regards an allowance for sundries, it is preferable to give it in kind e.g., tooth-brush, tooth paste, hair-oil, etc; and not in cash, but the question be left to the discretion of the provinces." (Col. Puri and Col. Nalwa dissenting)</p>	<p>No action considered necessary as all the Security prisoners have been released.</p>
2	<p>"The Conference is of opinion that accommodation for C class prisoners should be provided in association barracks. The diet, clothing and bedding of these prisoners should be in accordance with the prescribed scale and no allowance in the shape of money should be allotted for this purpose. As regards newspapers, interviews and letters, the question should be left to the discretion of the individual provinces. The Conference recommends that the system prevalent in the Central Provinces jails of allowing prisoners to smoke at their own cost from the gratuity earned by them by extra or special work in jail be introduced in other provinces, wherever possible".</p>	<p>The Government of India are not at present in favour of ordinary class prisoners being permitted to smoke in jails as recommended in the resolution.</p>
3	<p>"The Conference is of opinion that dental and other treatments including dentures and eye-glasses for all prisoners (including convicts) should be given at Government cost, provided the Medical Officer considers it necessary for the preservation of the health of the prisoner. The Conference strongly recommends that all important jails should have visiting Dentists attached to them".</p>	<p>The Government of India accept in principle the recommendation regarding the desirability of attaching a visiting Dentist to each jail and providing at Government cost dentures and spectacles to prisoners who are certified by the medical officers to be in real need of them for the preservation of health.</p>
4	<p>Interviews to security prisoners with members of of family, their frequency, duration and interval at which interviews allowed.—Discussion of the rules in the matter with a view to achieve uniformity of practice, if possible.</p>	
5	<p>Legal interviews to security prisoners—How Conducted—Whether given across the grille ?</p>	<p>No action considered necessary as all the security prisoners have been released.</p>
	<p>"The Conference is of opinion that security prisoners of higher class should be given interviews at intervals of a fortnight and those of lower class once a month, and ordinarily the duration of an interview should be about half an hour. The conference agrees that giving of interview through a grille is the most effective way of preventing unauthorised communications between the prisoner and the interviewers and at the same time it obviates the necessity of searching them, which otherwise would be absolutely essential though humiliating. The Conference considers it desirable to give legal interviews also through a grille".</p>	

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6 The Conference resolved as follows :

"As a general rule, all prisoners including security prisoners should be locked up, but individual cases could be allowed to sleep out, provided the the authorities concerned are satisfied that there is no risk involved".

No action considered necessary as all the security prisoners have been released.

7 Classification of security prisoners . Do.

1. Whether it should be abolished .
2. Whether free association between different classes of security prisoners should be permitted if classification is retained.

8 Creation of a special class know as 'Q' class for Congress security prisoner in certain provinces— How it has worked in practice

The Conference resolved as follows :

"1. The Conference is of opinion that the present classification of security prisoners into a higher and a lower class should be retained and that security prisoners should not all be given one class like a Q class.

2. The Conference is unanimously of opinion that under no circumstances free association should be permitted between the two classes of security prisoners."

9 The Conference resolved as follows :

"The Conference is of opinion that as far as possible security prisoners of one province should not be transferred to another province, though as a result of the mutual exchange of security prisoners between the Central Provinces and the the province of Madras no serious difficulties were encountered nor was any material deterioration in the health of prisoners noticed."

Do.

10 The Conference resolved as follows :

"The Conference is of opinion that security prisoners who frequently resort to hunger strike, should be given the minimum of publicity. The Conference recommends that reports to Government should be sent only at the time when the prisoner goes on hunger strike, when his health deteriorates seriously and when he gives it up. Prosecutions of security prisoners for going on hunger strike have had hardly any deterrent effect."

Do.

11 "The Conference is of opinion that separation of casuals and habituals is essential and arrangements should be made in all provinces to separate even short-term habituals from casuals. This conference considers that in order to ensure effective separation, special jails should be allotted for these prisoners. As regards prisoners convicted for offences of a political nature, it would be preferable to avoid collecting such prisoners in one or more jails, for it is easier to manage them if they are distributed in different jails. The Conference realises that on occasions of mass movement, it would be very difficulty to follow this procedure of distributing them in separate jails.

The Government of India agree with the recommendation.

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- 12 "The Conference is of opinion that the present classification of prisoners into A and B Classes and the concessions given to them have been found very satisfactory and the Conference does not think it necessary to give further concessions either 'mental' or 'physical' to A or B class prisoners. The Conference notes that the suggestions of the Government of India have already been accepted by the Government of Madras". Noted.
- 13 "The Conference is of opinion that the existing practice in most provinces, except Central Provinces and Berar, of permitting prisoners to write a letter once in two months is satisfactory and adequate, and recommends no change". Noted.
- 14 "The Conference is unanimously of opinion that it is not desirable to reduce the scale of diet of prisoners in jails to bring it in conformity with the reduced ration of civil population, as the diet of prisoners is calculated on a scientific basis and as it is not possible for the prisoners to supplement their diet as is the case with those outside". The recommendation is accepted by the Government of India for adoption in the Centrally Administered areas so far as local conditions permit.
- 15 The Conference resolved as follows :  
"The Conference is of opinion that the diet of prisoners must contain fresh vegetables and other anti-scorbutics in sufficient quantities". Do.
- 16 The Conference resolved as follows :  
"The Conference strongly recommends that Radios should be installed in as many jails as possible. The control of Radios, as regards the type of broadcast and the time at which it should be permitted, should be under the strict control of the Jail Superintendent. The Conference is opposed to the idea of a general issue of musical instruments, but they may be permitted periodically. Opinion of the Conference is divided whether singing by prisoners in jails should be permitted, but the Conference recommends that this experiment may be tried wherever considered practicable. No action proposed.
- 17 "The Conference finds that in none of the provinces a definite limit of income or an exact definition of 'superior mode of living' is laid down except in one province, and agrees that it is difficult to lay down a definite income limit for this purpose". Noted.
- 18 "The Conference is strongly of opinion that conveyance should be provided for all undertrials when they are taken to and brought back from courts. Undertrials may be given work if they ask for it, in jails where it is possible to do so". The recommendation is accepted by the Government of India so far as local conditions permit.
- 19 "The Conference is of opinion that undertrial prisoners should be allowed to write a letter once a week at Government expense. If an undertrial prisoner desires to write more letters in connection with his defence, he should be allowed to do so at Government expense, only if the Superintendent considers this necessary. He may also be permitted to send additional letters at his own expense."

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- 20 "The Conference recommends that as there have been mass agitations in various provinces resulting in mass arrests during the past two decades or so it is not only desirable but necessary that all provinces should have a proper scheme for the accommodation of such prisoners and adequate staff for their management, based on past experience to meet future emergencies." The Government of India are inclined to agree with the recommendation.
- 21 Appointment of suitably paid officers with more or less independent status subject to Inspector-General of Prisoners' control and direction for gate-duty in each jail. NOTED.  
"It is the opinion of the Conference that such an officer is not necessary, but trustworthy and reliable officers not below the rank of a head warder should be appointed as gate keepers in Central and District Jails."
- 23 "The Conference reiterates resolution 3 of the 4th Conference of the Inspectors-General of Prisons and recommends that all whole time jail employees should be provided with rent-free quarters on or near the jail premises as it is absolutely essential for the efficient performance of their duties and as it minimises the chances of unauthorised communications." The Recommendation is accepted by the Government of India so far as local conditions permit.
- 24 Recruitment of subordinate staff, e.g., Assistant Jailors and warders in view of difficulty experienced on account of the war and maintenance of a reserve of permanent warders to fill up temporary and permanent vacancies. No action contemplated.  
This item was discussed along with item 20 on the Agenda.
- 25 Use of tear gas for combating riots and serious disturbances in jails. The recommendation is accepted by the Government of India so far as local conditions permit.  
"The Conference is of opinion that there is no objection to the use of tear gas provided it is used by trained people."
- 26 Occupation for condemned prisoners. No action contemplated.  
The Conference is of opinion, Inspectors-General of four provinces dissenting that there is no objection in giving work to a condemned prisoner in his cell provided the prisoner asks for it, and provided it involves no risk to the lives of others and to that of the prisoner.
- 27 Recovery of maintenance charges of P. R. T. Prisoners belonging to other provinces. No action contemplated.  
"The Conference is of opinion that the existing reciprocal arrangements between different provinces regarding maintenance charges of P. R. T. prisoners should continue."
- 28 Discussion on jail reforms introduced in provinces (No specific resolution was passed.).
- 30 Revision of sentences by the establishment of Central Revisory Board in each Province. No action contemplated.  
"The Conference recommends that in the matter of review of prisoners there should be a uniform policy in recommending releases and this can only be secured by the establishment of a Central Revisory or Advisory Board."

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| 31 | “ The Conference recommends that Libraries should be maintained in all jails and prisoners should be encouraged to make more use of them.”  | The recommendation is accepted by the Government of India so far as local conditions permit. |
| 32 | “ The Conference is of opinion that no previous sanction of higher authorities or of jail boards should be made compulsory for whipping prisoners in the case of prisoners for whom this punishment is allowed by Government.   | No action contemplated.  |
| 34 | “ The Conference is of opinion that the maximum age of children permitted to stay in jails with their parents should be up to six years.”   | No action contemplated.  |
| 35 | “ The Conference is of opinion that it is not advisable on any grounds, to allow ordinary prisoners to sleep outside in the open at night during summer months.”  | No action contemplated.  |
| 36 | The Conference is of opinion that no punishment of any kind need be abolished because it cannot be enforced. The Conference suggests that the following rule of the Jail Manual of Central Provinces be incorporated in the Jail Manuals of all the Provinces.<br>The Superintendent of the jail may use or require to be used such force as may, in his opinion, be necessary to compel obedience on the part of any male prisoner to any lawful order issued by him.”   | The Recommendation is accepted by the Government of India so far as local conditions permit. |
| 37 | “ The Conference agrees that Deputy Superintendents and Jailors should be eligible for promotion to the rank of a Superintendent.”  | No action contemplated.  |
| 38 | “ The Conference approves of the suggestion of the appointment of male nurses for all jail hospitals.”  | The recommendation is accepted by the Government of India so far as local conditions permit. |
| 39 | “ The Conference is of opinion that every attempt should be made to provide facilities for the schooling of children of jail staff near the jail.”  | No action contemplated.  |
| 40 | Whether experiments have been made in regard to payment to prisoners for good or extra work as suggested by the last Conference by some of the Provinces, and if so, with what results, tasks on which such payments are made and at what rates ?<br>The Conference resolved as follows :<br>“ The Conference is of opinion that it is desirable to give payment to prisoners for good and extra work done by them in jail.”<br>As regards security prisoners the Conference is of opinion that it would simplify administration if the prisoners are not congregated in one jail.” | No action contemplated.  |

**RETURN OF CASH AND VALUABLES REMOVED FROM THE PERSON OF MR. S. M. BASHIR AN I. N. A. PRISONER**

†1158. \***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** With reference to the replies to parts (c), (d) and (e) of my short notice question asked on 16th November, 1946, regarding the non-return of cash and valuables removed from the person of arrested I.N.A. men, will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether the amount due to Mr. S. M. Bashir, formerly an Indian National Army prisoner, has been refunded to him or not? If not, why not?

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

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Government orders have been issued for a refund of the money.

**TRAINING COLLEGE FOR RECRUITS FOR THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

**1159. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are going to start a training college for recruits for the Central Administrative Services to replace the existing Secretary of State Services;

(b) if so, when and where the college is going to be started;

(c) the principles governing the admission to the college; and

(d) the qualifications that would be insisted upon for admission of students?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) to (d). I would invite attention to the reply I gave to Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer's starred question No. 965 on the 17th March. The School will provide training for those who are appointed to the All-India Administrative Service on probation, after selection by the Federal Public Service Commission.

**FILLING OF VACANCIES IN THE SECRETARIAT RESERVED FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES ON THE BASIS OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

**1160. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to fill up the vacancies reserved during the war in the Government of India Secretariat for temporary employees on the basis of the confidential reports of their immediate superiors;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Industries and Supplies Department and the General Headquarters have intimated the result of the confidential reports to the employees concerned to enable them to assess their prospects of permanent retention or otherwise in Government service; and

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of advising other Departments also to adopt this practice?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**FOODGRAINS RATIONS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL**

**1161. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains allowed per head per day to military personnel;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scale of ration for military personnel is in excess of that for civilians; and

(c) if so, whether in view of the scarcity of foodgrains in the country, Government propose to bring down the scale of rations admissible to military personnel to the level with that for civilians?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) 21 ozs. per day.

(b) The civil and military rations are devised for two different purposes. The purpose of the military ration is to fit the Armed Forces to fight a battle tomorrow if need be. The civil ration is not devised for this purpose and no direct comparison between the two rations can, therefore, be made.

(c) The military ration has already been cut by 3 ozs. It was decided after the fullest consideration that this was the maximum cut that could be accepted without impairing the morale and fighting efficiency of the Armed Forces.



**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that the ration of civil population has been much more cut than the ration of the military?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** The question about the civil rations should be addressed to the Honourable the Secretary for Food Department.

**Seth Govind Das:** When no war is going on and when the military is absolutely resting in its barracks, is it not proper in the present circumstances of the country to make more cut in the military ration?

**Mr. President:** This will be a matter for argument.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Is it a fact that a section of the Armed Forces made a representation to the military authority that they were prepared to submit to the ordinary civilian ration?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I am not aware of any such representation.

#### RELEASE OF SURPLUS FOOD STOCKS BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES

1162. **\*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the war Military authorities were storing two or three years' food requirements at a time;

(b) if so, whether that practice is still being continued; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of discontinuing this practice and releasing surplus stocks for civilian consumption?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable the Defence Secretary inform this House as to how many months requirements are as a matter of fact being carried by the Defence Department for their men?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Reserves—15 days requirements are held at Command Depots. Working stocks—30 to 60 days of indigenous and imported articles, as the case may be, are held at station supply depots.

#### PERCENTAGE OF DE-REQUISITIONED LANDS AND BUILDINGS AS COMPARED WITH LAST FIGURES.

1163. **\*Mr. O. P. Lawson:** (a) With reference to the Supplementaries arising out of my starred question No. 517 asked on 24th February 1947 regarding de-requisitioning of property, will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state what percentage of buildings and lands has now been de-requisitioned as compared with the last percentage figure indicated to this House in the reply to part (a) of starred question No. 67 asked on 30th October, 1946?

(b) Do Government now propose to indicate approximately when all requisitioned properties will either be returned to their owners or acquired by Government?

(c) Are the Advisory Boards adumbrated in the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 517, dated the 24th February, 1947 now operating?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) The total percentage of buildings de-requisitioned up to the end of February 1947 was 82 per cent. and lands 41 per cent. as compared with buildings 61 per cent. and lands 18 per cent. up to the end of September 1946.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my answer to Part (b) of Starred Question No. 517 asked on the 24th February 1947.

(c) All the Advisory Boards except the one at Dibrugarh are now functioning.

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) will he tell the House whether he supplies these Advisory Boards with advice and information whereby they may recommend the removal of personnel from the district in which they operate to other districts where possibly Government accommodation may be available?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** It will be open to any Honourable Member of the Advisory Board to raise any question which may have any connection with the question of de-requisitioning or the question of acquiring requisitioned property.

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** I am afraid the Honourable Member has not replied to my question. These Boards work in certain localities and the necessary information for removal of personnel from the district would not be available to them. I have asked the Honourable Member whether he proposes to supply these Boards with information and advice whereby personnel may be removed from the locality.

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** If my Honourable friend will give any concrete case in which he thinks that personnel can be suitably removed to another place, we shall certainly put the matter before the Advisory Board concerned. But I think it is perhaps going too far to ask the Government to put all cases in which accommodation is requisitioned by them and suggest suitable places for removal of these personnel to other places.

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** The Honourable Member's reply invites argument, but in such cases as, for instance, the removal of the Pensions Department from Delhi to Simla, the Advisory Board operating in Delhi could not possibly know what particular accommodation was vacant in Simla, and I again ask the Honourable Member whether, as he supplies this House, he will not also supply the Advisory Boards with information regarding vacant accommodation in other districts?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** As the Honourable Member has specifically mentioned the case of the removal of the Pensions Branch from Delhi to Simla, the information connected with that question will be placed before the Delhi Advisory Board.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether Government are taking up the recommendations of the Advisory Board which they made in connection with the Bombay de-requisitioning, and whether the Honourable the Defence Secretary will assure this House that those recommendations, which were unanimous, will be given effect to at once by the Defence Department?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** The last meeting of the Bombay Advisory Board was held only a few days ago, and the suggestions made at that meeting are already before the Government for consideration.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have Government examined the necessity of retaining in every important urban Centre only as many troops and personnel as there were before the war, and of removing the whole of the surplus so as to be able to de-requisition these buildings?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I have said that all the suggestions made by my Honourable friend are being sympathetically and actively examined by the Government.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** With reference to part (c) of the Honourable Member's reply, namely that all Advisory Boards except the one at Dibrugarh are now functioning, may I know when this Board is expected to operate?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Very soon. The Board has been constituted, and a request has been made to the President of the Board to convene a meeting at the earliest possible date.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether the premises which are taken ostensibly on rent by the Government come within the purview of the requisitioning and de-requisitioning purposes?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I think my Honourable friend is referring to hired buildings.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** In their case, it is a private contract between the Department of the Government concerned and the owner of the building. It is open to the owner of the building to ask the occupying department to vacate it if he does not like to continue the contract. I do not think there is any need of raising this question before the Advisory Board.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a rent control law operating in this country which has exempted the Government from the operation of the ordinary laws of eviction, and therefore although they have taken buildings on hire, still they do not come within the purview of ejection clause?

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is asking for opinion on a question of law.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** No, Sir. In view of the fact that the owners of houses in many parts of the country cannot get back possession as the Rent Control Orders stand in their way, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of examining this question in order to bring them within the purview of the De-requisitioning Board?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Government will consider the suggestion.

#### REMOVAL OF IMPERIAL LIBRARY FROM CALCUTTA

**1164. \*Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to remove the Imperial Library from Calcutta;

(b) whether Government are aware of the strong public feeling against such a proposal; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of making an investigation regarding the merits of the proposal before coming to a final decision?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ( اے ) معاملہ پر سوچ بچار ہو رہا ہے۔

( بی ) ہو سکتا ہے کہ کسی ایسی تجویز کے خلاف کالکتہ میں سخت پبلک فیلنگ

پائی جاتی ہو لیکن میں آنریبل ممبر کو یقین دلوانا کہ اسی درجہ کی

پبلک فیلنگ ہندستان کے دوسرے حصوں میں بھی پائی جاتی ہے۔ اور

وہ کسی ایسی تجویز کے خلاف نہیں ہے۔ اس کے حق میں ہے۔

( سی ) اس سے پہلے کہ اسکے بارے میں آخری فیصلہ کیا جاوے گورنمنٹ ضرور

معاملہ کے تمام پہلوؤں پر پوری طرح سوچ بچار کریگی۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) There may be strong public feeling against such a proposal in Bengal, but I can assure the Honourable Member that there is equally strong public feeling for it in other parts of India.

(c) Government will give adequate consideration to the proposal before coming to a final decision.

**सेठ गोविन्ददास :** क्या माननीय सदस्य को यह बात मालूम है कि जिस बक़्त कलकत्ते से राजधानी दिल्ली को बदली गयी, उस बक़्त भी कलकत्ते वाले उसके खिलाफ़ थे। और जबकि राजधानी दिल्ली में है तो जो पुस्तकालय राजधानी का अभी तक कलकत्ते में है वह दिल्ली की राजधानी में आजाना चाहिये ?

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it in the knowledge of the Honourable Member that the people of Calcutta were even at that time against it when the capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi? When the headquarters of the Central Government are in Delhi the Library of the Capital which is at present in Calcutta should also be transferred to Delhi.

**آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :** گورنمنٹ کے سامنے اس معاملہ کے تمام پہلو موجود

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**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** Government have all the aspects of the matter before them.

**परिहित-श्रीकृष्णदत्त पालीवाल :** इस बात को खयाल में रखते हुए कि लाईब्रेरी अगर दिल्ली में आजायेगी तो उससे मेरे दोस्त तमीज़द्दीन साहब भी फायदा उठायेंगे, क्या गवर्नमेन्ट जल्दी इस लाईब्रेरी को दिल्ली लायेगी ?

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Keeping in view the fact that if the Library was transferred to Delhi my friend Mr. Tamizuddin will also be able to make use of it; will the Government make arrangements to get it transferred at an early date?

**آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :** گورنمنٹ اس معاملہ پر غور کر رہی ہے۔ جہاں تک

جلد ہوگا اس کا فیصلہ کیا جاویگا۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The matter is under the consideration of the Government and a decision will be reached as early as possible.

#### PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN FINANCE DEPARTMENT SECRETARIAT

1165. \***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the percentage of Muslim Officers in Class I and II appointments and other higher selection posts in the Secretariat of the Finance Department?

(b) Are Government aware that the representation of Muslims as Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks, Stenographers etc., falls short of the 1934 award of the Home Department regarding communal representation? If so, why?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) The representation of Muslims is as follows:

(i) Class I and other higher Selection posts	20.5 per cent.
(ii) Class II posts	19.05 per cent.

(b) The orders of the Home Department alluded to by the Honourable Member relate to annual recruitment to posts to which direct recruitment is made. The posts of Superintendents are not open to direct recruitment. As regards other posts it is presumed that this part of the question also relates to the Finance Department. If so, except for stenographers the recruitment

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

up to the year 1941 was all done centrally by the Home Department so that the communal proportion was not observed separately for each Department. Early in 1942 Departments were permitted to recruit temporary personnel in the Ministerial staff from any available source but unfortunately Muslims could not get their full prescribed share in this recruitment because candidates were not available when required and owing to the urgency of the work it was not found possible to keep the vacancies unfilled for long.

As regards Stenographers Muslims could not get their prescribed share on only two occasions.

**INDIAN STAFF OFFICERS IN OFFICES OF ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF OF GENERAL HEAD-QUARTERS AND CHIEF ENGINEERS OF COMMANDS**

**1166. \*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Staff Officers' appointments in Grades I and II held by Indians and non-Indians in the offices of the Engineer-in-Chief of General Headquarters and Chief Engineers of commands;

(b) the number of such posts held by non-Indian officers which fell vacant since October 1946;

(c) how many of these vacancies were filled by Indian Officers and non-Indian Officers; and

(d) if majority of such vacancies have been filled by non-Indians, the reasons therefor?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

As regards the Engineer-in-Chief's office the information is as follows:

(b) Ten.

(c) All vacancies were filled by non-Indians.

(d) Non-availability of qualified Indian candidates. It is hoped to have the post-war establishment in the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch and Chief Engineer's Offices fully staffed by Indian officers upto Staff Officers I grade by October 1947. By this time a number of more senior regular Indian officers will have completed their engineer training, and be available for posting. The re-organization of the M.E.S. will also provide additional officers for posting to some of these appointments.

As regards Commands the information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

*Statement*

Office	S. O. I			S. O. II		
	Indian	Non-Indian	Total	Indian	Non-Indian	Total
E-in.C.'s office . .	1	14	15	6	36	42
C. E.'s office . .	2	20	22	6	32	38
Total . .	3	34	37	12	68	80

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** May I know what are the qualifications of the Non-Indians appointed?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I can say that there are no different qualifications for Indians and Non-Indians. The qualifications required for the Staff Officers I and II Grade Engineer appointments are as follows:

(a) Basic educational qualifications—B.Sc. Engineering Degree from a recognized University in the case of Indian Officers, and B.A. Engineering Degree in the case of Royal Engineer Officers.

(b) For Staff Officer I Grade appointments, in addition to the basic educational qualifications mentioned above, a number of years of technical experience is insisted upon. For a II Grade appointment, the number of years experience required is less.

#### EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS TO REGULAR OFFICERS OF INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

**1167. \*Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regular Officers of the late Indian Medical Department (Indian Cadre) who were granted Emergency Commissions during the war;

(b) the number of these Emergency Commissioned Officers granted or proposed to be granted Regular Commissions in the I.A.M.C.;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prescribed medical qualifications for entry into medical services were relaxed for grant of Emergency Commissions;

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the Ex-I.M.D. (I.C.) Emergency Commissioned Officers were given independent and responsible positions and were placed in command of Medical Units; and

(e) whether Government are considering the desirability of absorbing these Regular Officers of the late I.M.D. (I.C.) who were granted Emergency Commissions in administrative appointments like Quarter Master, Adjutant 2nd in Command, Officer-in-Charge wing, etc., in the I.A.M.C. or in the alternative, of granting them suitable mastering out concessions as reward of their meritorious services during the war as are being awarded to Emergency Commissioned Officers of other Arms and Services in similar cases?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) 390 officers of the Indian Medical Department (Indian Cadre) were granted emergency commissions in the I.A.M.C. and two in the I.M.S.

(b) None has so far been granted a regular commission in the I.A.M.C.

(c) The prescribed medical qualifications for entry into the commissioned ranks of the Medical Services were relaxed in that licentiate doctors direct from civil practice or from Universities were granted emergency commissions in the I.A.M.C. In order to make the position of members of the Indian Medical Department more equitable, selected officers of that department were also granted emergency commissions in the I.A.M.C.

(d) Some of these officers were given independent positions and were placed in command of very small medical units, namely Staging Sections. Others were appointed officers in charge of X-ray Units which were attached to large hospitals.

(e) It is not proposed to absorb these officers in the administrative appointments mentioned but, as already stated on the 20th March 1947 in answer to starred question No. 1068, it is intended that members of the Indian Medical Department should be asked by 1st May 1947 whether they desire to be released from service on 30th June 1947 or desire to revert to their former entitled status in the ranks which they would have reached in the Indian Medical Department on 1st July 1947.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Do the Government propose to give them study leave facilities?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Two officers of the Indian cadre and two officers of the British cadre (the latter consists mostly of Anglo-Indians who are nationals of this country) have been selected for graduate training outside India

#### EXPECTED ANNUAL INCOME FROM EXPORT DUTY ON TEA.

**1168. \*Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual income expected from the export duty on Tea from different Tea producing Provinces of India;

(b) whether Government propose to distribute any part of this duty amongst the Provinces;

(c) on what principle the distribution, if any, amongst the different Tea producing Provinces will be made;

(d) whether Government are aware that the Jute is distributed between Bengal and Assam on production basis; and

(e) whether the same principle is proposed to be followed in the distribution of export duty on Tea?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) The estimated revenue for next year is Rs. 8 crores but it is not possible to allocate it among the Provinces providing the exports.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 62½ per cent. of the net proceeds of the export duty on Jute is distributed to the Jute producing Provinces in accordance with Section 140(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935 and paragraph 8 of the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936.

(e) Does not arise.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** In regard to the answer to part (e) does the Government not propose to set up an . . . . . for jute?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** For the simple reason that this export duty on tea has been put to meet the requirements of the Central Government.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** In view of the fact that the Assam budget is a deficit budget and the Assam Province having no other important income, will the Government see to it that Assam is helped in these matters?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I cannot say that Assam will be helped in this matter. But the Central Government are always anxious to help any province which is in difficulty not due to its own actions.

#### EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL-NUTS

**1169. \*Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the amount of Excise duty levied on betel-nuts grown in different provinces of India in the year ending 31st January 1947?

(b) Are Government aware that in spite of Government instructions to the contrary, Excise duty on uncured betel-nuts, is actually collected in the province of Assam?

(c) If so, do Government propose to refund the same and issue instructions to the officers concerned not to levy any tax on uncured betel-nuts?

(d) What is the amount, if any, spent out of excise duties in Assam for giving marketing facilities and also for the expansion of cultivation of betel-nuts in 1946-47?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). No. The excise is being levied only on betel-nuts which are cured within the meaning of Section 2(c) of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

(d) Proposals for the improvement of the cultivation and marketing of betelnut are under the consideration of the Agriculture Department. No money has been spent for this purpose.

Statement of Excise duty collected on betel-nuts in the various provinces in British India during the year ended 31st January 1947.

Province	Revenue (In thousands of rupees)
Assam . . . . .	5,00
Bengal . . . . .	71,00
Bombay . . . . .	14,01
Coorg . . . . .	4
Madras . . . . .	24,43
All other provinces . . . . .	Nil
<b>Total for British India</b>	<b>1,14,48</b>

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** In regard to part (c), may I ask whether the duty on uncured raw betel-nut is being charged in Assam and Malabar and this duty falls heavily on the growers? And if so, whether Government is prepared to exempt the raw betel-nut from the excise?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I said that the excise is being levied only on betel-nuts which are cured within the meaning of Section 2(c) of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that this betel-nut tax affects more than several millions of peasants who produce it, and also affects the many more millions of consumers, and also further in view of the fact that the Government gets only Rs. 90 lakhs, will Government consider the advisability of completely abolishing it at an early date?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I am very sorry I am not in a position to give a reply to that question. All that I can say is that as far as it is possible for me, I would take every step to lighten the burden of the poor.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** In view of the hardships enumerated, will the Government bring a Bill to change the definition of the Section?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** Sir, first of all I have to be satisfied that hardship is there.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Honourable Member take it from me that the betel-nut is not at all cured in the province of Assam?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** If betel-nut does not come into the section to which I made a reference, then no duty can be charged on it.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** But as a matter of fact, the excise duty has been levied on the ground that the betel-nut growers have not been able to produce an account of the cured betel-nut.

**Mr. President:** I believe that is an executive matter to be taken up with the Department. It cannot form the subject of information by the Government.



PROSPECTS OF PROMOTION TO ASSAMESE IN THE CENTRAL EXCISE STAFF DUE TO  
COMBINED CADRE FOR ASSAM AND BENGAL

1170. \*Sreejut Rhoimi Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a combined cadre for Central Excise Staff for Assam and Bengal;

(b) whether it is a fact that recruitment in Bengal had been made much earlier than in Assam;

(c) whether it is a fact that promotion being normally made on the basis of seniority, an Assamese Officer cannot expect promotion to the higher grades for years to come; and

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of appointments are going to be made in the grades of Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents in the near future, and if so, do Government propose to take steps to see that these appointments are made, after a separate Collectorate has been formed for Assam?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) The non-gazetted Central Excise staff in Assam, Bengal and Orissa at present belong to a common cadre, but there may be some change in this respect when the organisation in Assam becomes a separate Collectorate on the 1st April this year.

(b) If, as I presume, the Honourable Member refers to recruitment of Central Excise staff in the Calcutta Collectorate following the introduction of the tobacco excise in 1943, the reply is in the negative; but since Assam produces much less tobacco than Bengal the recruitment in Assam was comparatively small until the introduction of the tea excise in the following year.

(c) Promotion depends partly upon seniority and partly upon merit, and Assamese officers will have equal chances with their brother officers who were recruited at the same time.

(d) An increase in the number of Inspectors has been sanctioned and recruitment is in progress. A due share of this recruitment will be drawn from Assam.

NON-INDIAN WOMEN IN ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S BRANCH.

†1171. \*Sri A. K. Menon: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Indian ladies working at present in the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch, General Headquarters and the qualifications possessed by them for their respective jobs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch intend to make their appointments permanent after 31st March 1947; and

(c) whether well qualified Indians are not available in the same Branch to do the work entrusted to these non-Indian ladies?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) There are four non-Indian ladies employed in the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch the contracts of three of whom are due to expire within the next two months and will not be renewed. The fourth lady clerk belongs to the pre-war permanent grade and is domiciled in India. They were all appointed after taking into consideration their qualifications and experience which were necessary for their appointments.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At the time of their appointment, no Indians of the requisite qualifications were available except at a considerably higher salary. They will, of course, be replaced by Indians now.

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

## EXCAVATION ON AGROHA MOUND IN HISSAR DISTRICT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PURPOSES.

1172. \*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education kindly state if the Agroha mound in the Hissar district of the Punjab was excavated for archaeological purposes?

(b) Have any valuable articles been discovered? If so, what?

(c) Is there any proposal to start the excavations again? If so, when?

(d) Was any research made to find out the age of the articles found at Agroha? If so, what was the result?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) ہاں! سنہ ۱۹۳۷ اور سنہ ۳۸ ع میں۔

(بی) بارہ فٹ گہرائی کی ایک خندق سے تقریباً چار سو پرانی چیزیں روشنی میں آئی ہیں۔ ان میں برتن ہیں۔ پکی ہوئی مٹی اور تانبے کی مختلف چیزیں ہیں۔ پتھر سے تراشی ہوئی صورتوں کے ٹکڑے ہیں۔ دھات کے ٹکڑے ہوں جو زیب و زینت کے لئے کام آئیں۔ پھسلے کے پتھر ہیں۔ سمرن کے دانے ہیں۔ کوزیاں ہیں اور ہاتھوں میں پہنے کی چوڑیاں ہیں۔ ان کے علاوہ پکی ہوئی مٹی کی ایک چھاپ اور ایک مہر بھی نکالی گئی ہے اور ایک جلا ہوا نوشتہ بھی ملا ہے جو درخت کی چھال پر لکھا گیا تھا۔

تیلہ کے پوربی کنارے سے گھٹیاں اور مختلف قسم کے برتن نکلے ہیں اور کون کی بھی دو چھوٹی چھوٹی دھیریاں ملی ہیں۔ ایک میں چاندی کے پانچ سکے ہیں۔ ایک انٹیاں کندکس کا دوسرا آپالو ڈوٹس کا۔ تیسرا اسٹریٹو کا چوتھا ایمنٹس کا۔ پانچواں سکے پلنج مارکڈ ہے جس پر سورج اور درخت کی علامت کھدی ہوئی ہے۔ دوسری دھیر میں ۵۵ چوکور تانبے کے سکے پائے گئے ہیں۔

(سی) ہاں جہاں تک جلد ممکن ہے کھدائی کا کام آگے بڑھایا جائیگا لیکن اس بات پر بھی نظر رکھنی چاہئے کہ اس طرح کے کاموں کے لئے ہمارا فنڈ ابھی محدود ہے اور ایک خاص حد ہی تک کام بڑھایا جا سکتا ہے۔

(تی) ہاں۔ انڈو گریٹک اور ایکو ڈاکا سکوں کے نکلنے سے اس جگہ کا پرانا ہونا ثابت ہو گیا ہے۔ تقریباً دوسری صدی۔ بی۔ سی۔ کا زمانہ ضرور ہونا چاہئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes, in 1937-38.

(b) About 400 antiquities were brought to light in a trench up to a depth of 12 feet, comprising pottery, terracotta and copper objects, fragments of stone sculptures, plaques, grinding stones, beads, shell bangles, iron implements and other objects including an inscribed clay die, a burnt birch-bark

manuscript and a clay seal.

Two pits sunk at the extreme east of the mound yielded a well made of terracotta rings, and 120 portable antiquities comprising pottery and two small hoards of coins; one containing five silver coins belonging each to Antialkidas, Appollodotes, Strato, Amyntas and one punch-marked coin with solar and tree symbol; and the other containing 55 mostly rectangular copper coins with an inscription *Agodaka Agacha Janapadasa*.

(c) Yes, as soon as possible; but it will, however, be appreciated that funds available for excavation are limited.

(d) Yes, the recovery of Indo-Greek and the *Agodaka* coins have established the antiquity of the place to about the 2nd century B. C.

پندت تھاکر داس بھارگو : کیا راجہ اگرسین کا تعلق ان سکوں سے پایا گیا ہے ؟

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Have these coins been found to bear any connection with Raja Ugra Sen?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** I want notice to answer this question.

سےٹ گوویند داس : माननीय सदस्य, क्या इस बात का भी विचार करेंगे कि इस जगह के सिवा अयोध्या और मथुरा दो ऐसी जगह हैं, जहां सूर्यवंशी और चन्द्रवंशीयों का राज्य था क्या खुदाई के बारे में इस बात का गौर फरमायेंगे कि ऐसे स्थानों पर इस तरह का काम जल्द शुरु होना चाहिये।

**Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member consider that in addition to this place Muttra and Ajodhya are two other places where Suraj Bansi and Chander Bansi dynasties ruled? Will it be taken into consideration in connection with archaeological survey that such work is started at those places at an early date.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بات یہ ہے کہ بہت تھوڑا فنڈ اس کام کے لئے دیا گیا ہے جیسا کہ میں نے کہا تھا کہ ہمارے وسائل محدود ہیں۔ لیکن تاہم اس پر غور کیا جائے گا۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** As I have already said our means are very limited and we have been given very little fund for the work, yet the proposal will receive consideration.

**ARREARS OF PAY AND PENSION DUE TO CAPTAIN KANHAYA SINGH OF I. N. A**

1173. \***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department kindly state if Government has perused the pamphlet *I.N.A. Facts* issued by the I.N.A. Executive Committee, Delhi, in February 1947?

(b) Are the facts published in Appendix F of the above pamphlet about the case of Captain Kanhya Singh correctly stated?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the case sympathetically and pay the pension and the arrears due to the said Captain?

(d) Do Government propose to reconsider their policy in regard to the I.N.A. personnel and respect public opinion by rehabilitating them or at least by ceasing to penalise them?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The statements contained in Appendix "F" of the pamphlet *ina facts* are being verified.

It would appear that Kanhya Singh was formerly a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army. Viceroy's Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army who were members of the Indian National Army and who were not brought to trial by court martial were dealt with through their regimental centres.

The service documents of Kanhya Singh will be called for and examined.

(c) Government will give full consideration to any representation which may be submitted through the Officer Commanding the Regimental Centre by or on behalf of the ex-Viceroy's Commissioned Officer.

(d) Government's future policy is at present under consideration.

#### I.N.A. OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN PERMANENT SERVICES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

**1174. \*Pundit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of I.N.A. Officers so far employed in permanent service in the Government of India;

(b) the number of I.N.A. Officers taken in any vacancy reserved for ex-servicemen in the Government of India;

(c) whether Government propose to insist that those I.N.A. Officers who were regular officers commissioned after Federal Public Service Commission examination before they joined the Indian National Army, should again be examined by the Federal Public Service Commission to be recruited for employment in various Central services; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make necessary concession regarding age and experience in the case of these I.N.A. Officers?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Any officer who is a candidate for a Central Civil Service must go through the prescribed procedure for recruitment to that Service irrespective of whether he originally obtained his Commission after passing an examination by the Federal Public Service Commission.

(d) I.N.A. officers with war-service are eligible for the age and educational concessions granted to other candidates with war service. It is not proposed to grant additional concessions.

#### MUSLIMS IN THE CHEOKI ORDNANCE DEPOT.

**1175. \*Mr. Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state what is the total strength of labour and supervising staff at Cheoki Ordnance Depot?

(b) What is the number of Hindus and Muslims separately?

(c) Is there any proposal for retrenchment of the staff or the closing of the depot?

(d) If there is any proposal for retrenchment, do Government propose to keep the ratio of the Muslims according to the assurances given?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) The total strength of the supervisory staff at Cheokki Ordnance Depot is 2502 and that of labour 9655, making a total of 12157.

(b) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) It is the intention of Government that Cheokki will remain as a post-war depot. The staff required during the next few months is under examination and at this stage it is anticipated that there will be approximately 1500 employees surplus.

(d) Yes, Sir.

## Statement

The number of Hindus, Muslims and others is as follows :—

	Hindus	Muslims	Others
Labour . . . . .	8231	1379	45
Supervisory Staff . . . . .	1862	575	65
Total . . . . .	10093	1954	110

APPEAL AGAINST CONVICTION OF SRI BORRA APPALA NARAYANA REDDI OF WALTAIR.

**1176. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Sri Borra Appala Narayana Reddi of Waltair Uplands, Vizagapatam District, who joined the Army in 1925, was court-martialled in 1948 and sentenced to 7 years R. I., and is now kept in Rajahmundry Central Jail?

(b) If so, for what offence? What is the history of his career in the Army?

(c) Has he appealed against the conviction? If so, when and to what court?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) Yes, Sir. Sir Borra Appala Narayana Reddi was convicted by a Summary General Court Martial in December 1943 and sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment and to be dismissed from service.

(b) The prisoner was convicted on a charge of inciting a mutiny. The history of his career in the Army is not readily available but will be obtained and placed on the table of the House.

(c) In October 1945 a petition from this prisoner against his conviction was considered by the Central Government and rejected.

In June 1946 a further petition from the wife of the prisoner was considered by the Central Government and rejected. Later in the year the proceedings of the trial were reviewed by the General Headquarters Review Board when, as an act of clemency, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief remitted seven years of the sentence of fourteen years rigorous imprisonment.

A further petition from the wife of this prisoner is now under consideration by the Central Government.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that two petitions from the prisoner himself were rejected earlier and only on the third petition on account of clemency his conviction has been reduced by 50 per cent., that is from fourteen years to seven years imprisonment, will Government consider the advisability of looking into it more carefully and give the prisoner the benefit of doubt and remit the further period of the sentence that he has got to serve?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** A further petition which has been received from the wife of the prisoner is now under the consideration of the Government.

**Seth Govind Das:** In view of the fact that India is on the threshold of freedom and all these persons did something for this freedom, will the Government consider the advisability of remitting all the sentences of such prisoners and release them?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** My Honourable friend is under a misapprehension. This question does not relate to the I.N.A. prisoners. This case refers to an offence mutiny.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member's question is hypothetical.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I know from the Honourable Member by whom is the case being reviewed: is it by the Government or by the Commander-in-Chief?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I said by the Central Government.

COURT MARTIAL OF SRI GOLLAKOTA RAMABRAHMANANDARAO OF PEDDAPURAM,  
EAST GODAVARI.

**1177. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Sri Gollakota Ramabrahmanandarao of Peddapuram, East Godavari District, who joined the Army, was court-martialled in July 1945, and sentenced to transportation for life, and is now kept in Rajahmundry Jail?

(b) If so, for what offence? What is the history of his career in the Army?

(c) Were adequate opportunities given to him to defend himself?

(d) Has he appealed against the conviction? If so, when and to what court?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** The information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The Honourable Member's reply only defers the question to the next session. May I ask the Government whether they will try to exercise the same kind of care in regard to this unfortunate prisoner as they propose to do in the case of the prisoner referred to in my previous question, No. 1176?

**Mr. President:** I am afraid it is premature and hypothetical.

**Diwan Chamao Lall:** May I know when the Honourable Member received notice of this question since he says that he was unable to collect the necessary information?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I think the notice was received a few days ago. Enquiries were made from the General Headquarters. They said that they would not trace the case without information as to the number of the prisoner, the unit to which he belonged, etc. As the particulars required were not available, I sent a telegram to the Superintendent of Jail, Rajahmundry, where the prisoner is said to have been lodged and I got a reply on the 23rd March giving the particulars of this prisoner. Now we shall send for the record of the prisoner and examine it.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgl:** May I know whether it is not a practice with the Defence Department to review every six months cases of conviction by court martial?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** They are reviewed from time to time. The sentences are of various kinds, and I have not got the exact information as to the intervals at which these cases are reviewed.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Am I to understand that the records of these people who have been sentenced to transportation for life are not being kept at the General Headquarters and they are at the mercy of the local officials for such information?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** My Honourable friend is under a misapprehension. If we had got information as regards the number of the prisoner, the unit to which he belonged, etc., we would have been able to trace the case. Here in the question only the name was given and from that alone it was not possible to trace the particulars of the prisoner in question.

#### CADRE OF THE CANTONMENT DEPARTMENT.

†1178. **\*Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state whether the Cantonment Department is a Civil Department under the Government of India, Defence Department?

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

(b) What is the cadre of this Department?

(c) Is the staff of this Department transferable to any allied similar post in India?

(d) How many applications for transfer have been received by the Government during the last two years and what is the number of transfers sanctioned by the Secretary of the Defence Department or by any authority under his orders?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Officers—29. Establishment—182.

(c) No, Sir. Only during the War certain officers and clerks were released for temporary military duty.

(d) During the last two years, three applications were received from officers and 28 from others. Transfers and deputation of two officers and seven clerks were sanctioned.

**NUMBER OF ASSESSEES TO EXCESS PROFITS TAX IN AGRA, ALLAHABAD AND LUCKNOW**

†1179. **\*Mr. Shah Nazar Hasan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the number of assessees to the Excess Profit Tax community-wise for the years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 in the Districts of Agra, Allahabad and Lucknow separately;

(b) the number of assessees to Excess Profit Tax community-wise in the said three districts separately whose accounts were accepted and assessments made, in accordance with the profits shown in such accounts; and

(c) the number of assessees to Excess Profit Tax whose assessments for each of the years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45, in the Districts of Agra, Allahabad and Lucknow were not completed within two years of the submission of their returns?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

*Statement*

Community	AGRA			ALLAHABAD			LUCKNOW		
	42-43	43-44	44-45	42-43	43-44	44-45	42-43	43-44	44-45
(a)									
Hindu	23	29	33	6	8	9	13	14	26
Muslim	2	1	2	1	3	3	3	4	5
Christian	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parsi	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...
Sikh	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Companies & Others	5	6	7	1	3	3	4	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>

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

Community	AGRA			ALLAHABAD			LUCKNOW		
	42-43	43-44	44-45	42-43	43-44	44-45	42-43	43-44	44-
(b)									
Hindu	22	23	24	2	3	4	5	7	13
Muslim	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Christian	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parsi	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Companies & Others	5	6	7	1	3	3	4	5	6
Total	29	30	33	3	6	8	9	12	19
(c)									
Hindu	...	...	...	3	1	1	2	1	...
Muslim	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Sikh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Companies & Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Total	...	...	...	3	2	3	3	3	...

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF OFFICERS OF THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT IN UNITED PROVINCES.

†1180. \*Mr. Shah Nazar Hasan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the number, community-wise, of the following Officers of the Income-Tax and Excess Profit Tax Departments separately in the United Provinces:

- (i) Income Tax Officers, in charge of Districts.
- (ii) Excess Profit Tax Officers.
- (iii) Inspecting Assistant Commissioners of Income Tax.
- (iv) Inspecting Assistant Commissioners of Excess Profit Tax.
- (v) Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income Tax.
- (vi) Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Excess Profit Tax.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

Statement

Item	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Anglo-Indian	Domiciled European
(i)	12		1	...	...
(ii)	7	2	...		...
(iii)	1	1	...		1
(iv)	1	...			
(v)	3	2		1	
(vi)	2		...	...	...

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



## SECRET EXPORT OF ARMS TO INDIA

1181. \*Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* (Calcutta) of the 11th March, 1947 under the heading "Arms being exported to India through devious means"?

(b) If so, have Government ascertained its correctness?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) and (b). I have seen the press report mentioned but regret I am unable, in the public interests, to make any statement on this subject.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AT TAXILA

1182. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an archæological museum at Taxila;

(b) whether the same is safe and intact after the recent disturbances at Taxila; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to preserve the relics in the museum now and in the future?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) اور (بی) کا دہاں، جواب ہے۔

(سی) تکسلا کلکشن کی حفاظت کے لئے یہ انتظام کیا گیا ہے :—

(1) بہت زیادہ قیمتی چیزیں وہاں سے ہٹا لی گئی ہیں۔

(2) پرمٹنٹ پولیس گارڈ جو مہوزیم پر رہتا ہے۔ رائفل اور شاٹ گن سے مسلح کر دیا گیا ہے۔

(3) تیہارتسٹ کا ایک افسر خاص طور پر وہاں بھیجا گیا ہے تاکہ اس جگہ کی جیسی کچھ حالت ہو اور حفاظت کے لئے جو انتظامات کرنے ہوں انکی رپورٹ کرے۔

(4) تکسلا کھوپڑیٹر لوکل ملٹری اتھارٹی سے برابر ملتا جلتا رہتا ہے۔

(5) راولپنڈی تیویوزن کا کمشنر اس معاملہ سے ذاتی طور پر دلچسپی رکھتا ہے اور صورت حال پر برابر توجہ رکھتا ہے تمام ضروری باتیں جو احتیاط کی کیجا سکتی تھیں، کی گئی ہیں اور وہاں کے صورت حال کی پوری طرح نگرانی کی جا رہی ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure the safety of the Taxila collections:

(i) Certain of the more valuable specimens have been removed from Taxila.

(ii) The permanent Police Guard at the Museum has been armed with rifles and shot-guns.

(iii) An officer of the Archæological Department has been deputed to Taxila to report in detail upon the local conditions and precautionary measures.

(iv) The Taxila Curator is in contact with the local military authorities.

(v) The Commissioner of the Rawalpindi Division has been in touch with the situation and is taking a personal interest in it.

All reasonable precautions have been taken and the situation is being closely watched.

#### CONFIRMATION ON TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT

**1139. \*Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of persons who got into the Imperial Secretariat in the years 1937 and 1938 as temporary hands are still employed as such, and have not been confirmed in their posts, because of the promulgation of an order to the effect that no confirmations should be made during the war;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these employees are to be considered as being in the same position as those who joined during the war; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of exempting them from appearing for the Federal Public Service Examination or substituting Departmental Examination in place thereof?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** (a) to (c). The ban on permanent appointments came into effect from the 29th June 1942 only. It did not, therefore, affect the chances of confirmation of temporary employees recruited before the war. They were appointed in temporary vacancies only and on the results of the examination had no claim to permanent appointment. I would in this connection invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave on the 13th November 1946 to unstarred question No. 79.

#### RAISING OF AGE LIMIT FOR COMMISSION-IN-THE INDIAN ARMY

**1184. \*Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Honourable the Vice-President of the Interim Government and the Honourable the Defence Member jointly issued an appeal to the patriotic youths of the country to join the Defence Forces of India in large numbers;

(b) whether Government are aware that the narrow age limit of 19 to 21 years prescribed for Commission in the Indian Army debars many a youngman of high ability to respond to the said appeal and serve their motherland; and

(c) whether Government, in view of the changed conditions, propose to consider the desirability of raising the age limit to 23 years?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The point raised by the Honourable Member is engaging the attention of Government. It is realised that the present age limit for entry into the Indian Military Academy may debar a certain number of young men, particularly those who continue their studies in order to obtain a University degree. For this reason the raising of the age limit, under certain conditions, is already under consideration.

#### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

##### PROTEST AGAINST THE MILITARY CAMP AT RAIWALAY NEAR HARDWAR

**1185. \*Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) whether Government have received any resolution passed by the Ganga-Sabha of Hardwar (United Provinces) protesting against the proposal to make the temporary Military camp at Raiwala a permanent one;

(b) whether Government are aware that Raiwala is situated on the Nishikesh Road near Hardwar, with a temple of Mata Goddess visited by thousands of Hindu ladies and children;

(c) whether Government are aware that an agreement was arrived at between the Government and the Hindu leaders in 1916-17 to the effect that the Ganga Sabha would be duly consulted in future in matters concerning the Hindu pilgrimage to Hardwar and its vicinity; and

(d) if the answers to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative whether Government propose to consider the advisability of abandoning the proposal for establishing a permanent Military camp at Raiwala?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Provincial Government have been asked for this information, as the Central Government do not appear to have entered into such an agreement. When available, the information will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) It has not yet been decided whether a permanent camp will be established at Raiwala. Before a decision is taken all the factors involved will be given serious consideration.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

**94. Sri A. K. Menon:** Will the Honourable Member for education be pleased to state.

(a) the names of the several Educational Institutions (both ordinary and technical) maintained at the entire expense of the Central Government; and

(b) the average annual expenditure incurred in respect of each of them?

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The required information is being collected and will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE POOR IN JHANDEWALA ESTATE BY THE DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

**95. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state whether the Delhi Improvement Trust is constructing quarters for poor class people in the Jhandewala Estate?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to start the construction of these quarters?

(c) How many quarters will be constructed to provide accommodation for the residents of Tanda, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, which area Government intend acquiring under the Slum Clearance and Development Scheme?

(d) Do Government propose to give an assurance to this House that the inhabitants of Tanda, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, will be accommodated in the Jhandewala Estate?

(e) What monthly rent is proposed to be fixed by the Delhi Improvement Trust for these quarters?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) A proposal for constructing poor class quarters in Jhandewala Scheme area is under the consideration of the Delhi Improvement Trust.

(b) Construction work will be taken in hand by the Delhi Improvement Trust as soon as the estimates have been sanctioned.

(c) It is not possible at present to state how many persons from Tanda, Sadar Bazar, Delhi will be provided with quarters under the state-aided re-housing scheme in the Jhandewala area.

(d) In view of the heavy re-housing commitments of the Trust some of the inhabitants from Tanda, Sadar Bazar, Delhi may have to be accommodated in areas other than the Jhandewala Estate.

(e) The rate of monthly rent for quarters to be built hereafter under the state-aided re-housing scheme will be Rs. 8.

**HOUSING OF INHABITANTS OF TANDA, SADAR BAZAR, DELHI, UNDER THE STATE AIDED RE-HOUSING SCHEME OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST**

**96. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state whether Government propose to give an assurance to this House that the inhabitants of Tanda, Sadar Bazar, Delhi who are not found entitled to Re-housing under the State-aided Re-housing Scheme of the Delhi Improvement Trust will be given an opportunity to purchase plots of land in the same locality at concessional rates instead of being compelled to compete with capitalists in auction?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** Those owners who are not found eligible for State-aided Re-housing will be given an opportunity of purchasing plots at a fixed rate based on the market value without being compelled to compete in auction.

**SUGAR EXCISE FUND**

**97. Sri V. C. Vellingri Gounder:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the amount of expenditure incurred every year out of the Sugar Excise Fund since it was opened?

(b) What are the objects for which amounts from the fund are disbursed?

(c) How have the various Provinces been individually benefitted by the Fund?

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** This question concerns the Department of Agriculture. It has accordingly been transferred to that Department and will be answered by the Secretary of that Department on the 26th March 1947.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Murder of Muslims near Kotwali, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

**Mr. President:** What is the position about the adjournment motion, may I know?

**The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, as I suggested yesterday, if my  
12 Noon honourable friend considers it would be advisable or in public interest to move this adjournment motion and to have a discussion on such matters it is for him to decide. I do not desire to oppose the motion if my honourable friend wants to insist on its admission. My own personal view is that it does more harm to public interest to bring such motions in the House. Whether the bringing of an adjournment motion for discussing such matters in the House is advisable it is for my honourable friend to decide, and about the admission of such motions it is for you to decide. But when there is such tremendous communal tension throughout the adjoining provinces, in view of the possible repercussions and also especially when there is a big conference going on in the city, I consider that to discuss such matters in the House is highly improper and, to say the least, inadvisable. But, as I have said, it is for the Honourable Member to decide whether to press it or not. If he wants to press the motion I have no objection.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I have met the Honourable the Home Member yesterday and also today with my Deputy Leader Khawaja Nazimuddin and made representations on the whole situation as it exists in the town today. In view of the conditions as they are prevailing in the city I do not think that it will be advisable to discuss the whole thing at this stage. In view of that decision and in view of the fact that we are representing all the other facts to the Honourable the Home Member I should think I would not press this motion.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

**Secretary of the Assembly:** Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 24th March, 1947, agreed without amendment to the Bill to provide for the control of rents and evictions, and for the lease to Government of premises upon their becoming vacant in certain areas in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 21st March, 1947."

#### ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan, the Tribal Areas and India's membership of the United Nations Organisation for the financial year 1947-48."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan, the Tribal Areas and India's membership of the United Nations Organisation for the financial year 1947-48."

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the other day when I moved a cut motion with respect to the Commonwealth Relations Department. I suggested that the Commonwealth Relations Department and the External Affairs Department should be amalgamated, and the Honourable Member in charge accepted my suggestion. In view of the fact that assurance may I know whether it will not be advisable now to have one Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department and the Commonwealth Relations Department about which the Honourable Member is going to move another motion?

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I just want to know from my Honourable friend why he restricts this Committee's powers only to these three matters. It is true that when this Committee was first formed its work was confined only to affairs in Baluchistan. But that was at a time when this External Affairs Department was the sole concern of the Governor-General. Now that the whole Department has been transferred to my Honourable friend I should suggest to him that he should not restrict the powers of the Committee to only these three matters. He should allow the Committee to discuss all the matters which are administered by the Department of which my Honourable friend has control. All other Committees that are formed by this House have such powers. They go over all the matters dealt with by the Department. The terms of the resolution that have been put down by my Honourable friend make it necessary for him to make it clear that this Committee will deal with all the matters with which his Department is concerned.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural: Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that this Committee had never met even once during the last year. Now that this Department is extending not only in its staff but also in the scope of its work and the Honourable the Leader of the House is today practically the Foreign Minister for this Government it is advisable that the terms of the activity that are placed here open for this Committee should be extended so that it would be within the ken of this Committee to discuss foreign affairs and the foreign policy of this Government and offer advice for whatever it is worth to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

**Pandit Balkrishna Sharma** (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I should not have liked to intervene but for the statement of my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das. He has suggested that the Committee for the External Affairs Department as also the Commonwealth Relations Department should be one. I think it will be highly undesirable to have any such Committee whose scope should extend to cover these two Departments. The Commonwealth Relations Department and the External Affairs Department may be under one Minister. But the work of the two Departments is so different that it cannot be mixed together. Therefore it will not be desirable to have one Committee for the purposes of discussing these two Departments.

As regards the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Sattar Sethi, regarding the extension of the scope, that some other matters might also be included, I think the motion, as has been worded, does not exclude any matter regarding foreign relations to be discussed by the Committee. I therefore think that it should not be permitted to extend the scope of the Committee and that the House should accept the motion as has been proposed by the Honourable the Leader of the House.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**: Sir, with regard to the point raised by Seth Govind Das it is a fact that we are amalgamating the two Departments. In fact the decision has been taken and we are in the process of amalgamating them. But we found that it would be more advisable, even after this initial amalgamation, to keep most of the subjects separate. There are certain common subjects which we are going to deal with in a common manner. For the rest, as a first step, we propose that the two Departments in effect will be dealt with separately. Later on, the next step, may be after two or three months, will be a further amalgamation. A sudden amalgamation might upset the whole thing. In fact the work is territorial and the various territories dealt with by the two Departments are separate. The only question that really arise are about some of the superior officers as to how they should be fixed up after the amalgamation. As I said we have for the present considered it more desirable to tackle certain subjects in a common way and for the rest to carry on as we are carrying on, and take the next step a little later. We feel also that probably it would be advisable to have two Committees. I have no objection to one Committee, but two Committees will be able to pay more attention to the specific subjects and territorial areas. Even from the point of view of convenience and expediency I would suggest two Committees. As to the amalgamation, as I have said, we have agreed and we are putting it into effect, but it will be by steps.

As regards the other point raised by two Honourable Members about the scope, the language used in this motion that I have moved is an identical reproduction of the language previously used. I entirely agree that the scope of the External Affairs Department has largely increased and so far as I am concerned the Standing Committee should certainly discuss the many other matters that come up before the External Affairs Department. I have no personal objection to changing the wording of this, so as to include those other

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

matters in its scope but I should like to place this before the House. There are many matters concerning foreign affairs which are supposed to be very secret and which we cannot even inform sometimes our own colleagues about it. It is not a question of secrecy with our own people but secrecy in regard to the rest of the world. If it gets into a paper, there will be difficulties. Even in the case of a point which is agreed to, it must not be known to anybody till it is formally announced simultaneously in the two countries. If there is a leakage of matter, important diplomatic repercussions may follow. Therefore while I am perfectly prepared to change the language of this motion in order to bring within its scope such subjects as come before the Department, I should like the House to consider this fact that many matters may not be able to be put up before the Committee. I am prepared to change the wording on those lines, if the President permits me.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): With this assurance of the Honourable the Leader of the House, can we not leave the position as it is and see in practice how it works for a year. The wording need not be changed now. On this definite and clear assurance given by the Honourable Leader of the House, the wording may remain as it is and such other topics as members choose to bring up will be dealt with by this Committee, if they do not fall within the limitations suggested, which we all appreciate.

**Mr. President:** There is also a technical difficulty. Unless the particular rule is changed it will not be possible to expand the scope but as Mr. Subedar has said, other matters may also be brought before the Committee by convention and the scope may be extended in practice.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan, the Tribal Areas and India's membership of the United Nations Organisation for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

#### ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Relations during the financial year 1947-48."

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Relations during the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

#### ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEJAZ

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz."

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I know whether there is any legal or constitutional bar to the appointment of a non-Muslim as a Member of this Committee and whether Government have any objection to a non-Muslim member asking to serve on this committee?

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North West Frontier Province: General): I represent the Congress Party on this Committee. It used to be presided over by a non-Muslim, Mr. Banerjee before and now the Honourable the Leader of the House. I think there is no need to have purely Muslim members on this Committee. They merely make arrangements for the transport and accommodation of pilgrims and I would very gladly give my seat on the committee to my friend Mr. Sanyal.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**: I do not know what the constitutional precedents are in this matter but it was thought that as the pilgrims concerned are Muslim colleagues and friends in the country, they should have the largest say in the matter. Otherwise there is no bar to the appointment of a Non-Muslim.

**Mr. President**: This is in pursuance of the previous precedents. The matter may be considered for the next year.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage, to the Hejaz."

The motion was adopted.

#### ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCE DEPT.

**The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar** (Commerce Member): Sir, I move: "That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Commerce is concerned for the financial year 1947-48."

**Mr. President**: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Commerce is concerned for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President**: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department.	27th March, 1947 .	1st April, 1947.
2. Standing Committee on Commonwealth Relations.	Ditto .	Ditto.
3. Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz.	Ditto .	2nd April, 1947.
4. Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce.	Ditto .	Ditto.



[Mr. President] •

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purposes. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

#### DEATH OF DR. SIR AZIZUL HAQUE

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (Leader of the House): Sir, the House is probably aware that one well-known ex-Member of this House passed away two days ago. I am referring to Sir Azizul Haque. Personally it was not my privilege to be associated with him in any activities here or elsewhere. So, I cannot speak from personal acquaintance. We are all aware of the eminent place he held in the educational and the political field and there must be many members present here who were associated with him in his work and it is fitting that owing to his sudden and tragic death we should record our sorrow and send a message of condolence to his family.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** (Assam European): I rise to associate this Group with the message of condolence to which expression has been given by the Honourable the Leader of the House. Sir Azizul Haque who was well-known to most of us here played an outstanding part in many spheres of public life—first in Bengal, then here, then again in Bengal. He had a high reputation for integrity, devotion to duty and zeal for public service. Those of us who come from Bengal knew him particularly well and I myself regarded him as a close personal friend. We deeply deplore his loss and we request that you, Sir, will convey our sense of loss and our condolence to the bereaved relatives.

**Khwaja Nazimuddin** (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, Muhammadan Rural): I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, would also like to be associated with the previous speakers with reference to the sad death of Dr. Azizul Haque. He was a personal friend of mine. He was a colleague of mine in the Bengal Government. He made his name first of all in the Lothian Committee, later on as Minister for Education, Speaker of the House, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, High Commissioner for India in England and last of all as Commerce Member of the Government of India. He earned the respect of all those who came in contact with him and he rose to this high eminence by sheer ability and merit. From the very young age, while he was a student in the college, he took part in the political discussions of those days and I believe as early as 1906 he went to Dacca when the Muslim League was being formed. He was one of those persons whom everybody liked. He was simple in habits and manners and his personality was such that everybody who came in contact with him loved him and admired him. We consider India and Muslim India in particular has suffered a great loss by his premature death.

**Mr. President:** I associate myself with all that has been said. I first came in contact with Dr. Sir Azizul Haque as the Speaker of the Bengal Assembly during the Speakers' Conference in January 1938 and ever since that time I have had very close relations with him. I found him very competent, painstaking and a person who knew his subject very well. That was how he impressed us all. The most difficult work of drafting the Privileges Bill was, therefore, entrusted to him and he took pains over that. I need not add anything more. The loss is indeed great and many of us feel the loss as a personal one. I will, as desired by the House, surely conveyed to the members of the family of the deceased the deep sorrow which this House feels on account of his demise.

## INDIAN FINANCE BILL

**Mr. President:** The House will now proceed with the following motion:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1947, be taken into consideration."

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan** (Finance Member): May I, Sir, make a short statement with your permission? Yesterday my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi asked me as to what was the final attitude of the Government with regard to the two Bills that had emerged from the Secret Committee, I mean the Business Profits Tax Bill and the Capital Gains Tax Bill, and I promised that I would make a statement as soon as possible, so that Honourable Members may know the exact position before further discussion on the motion which I had moved yesterday proceeded. The Government have given very careful consideration to the reports as well as the minutes of dissent on these two Bills. The Government have noticed that there is a great difference of opinion amongst the various sections of this House over these Bills. In their desire and anxiety to get the support of all the sections of the House for the budget proposals the Government would be willing to accept certain amendments in these two Bills.

First of all, I would refer to the Business Profits Tax. The Government would be willing to accept an amendment to the effect that with regard to abatement, as provided in clause 2(1)(a), instead of 6 per cent. and 5 per cent. a uniform figure of 6 per cent. would be acceptable. With regard to the rate of tax, instead of 25 per cent. a rate of 16 2/3 would be acceptable to the Government. If Honourable Members would move amendments to that effect the Government would be pleased to accept them.

With regard to the Capital Gains Tax, the Government would be willing to accept an amendment to exclude personal effects from capital gains. I hope that every section of the House will now be able to give their support to the budget proposals which were placed before them for their consideration.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir, it is my privilege to congratulate the Government as a whole upon the agreed compromise they have reached. It is indeed a very strange thing under the strange circumstances in which we have had to live that financial proposals should, first of all, have been formulated and then later on the Government as a whole should come to consider them and then come to such proposals as would meet the wishes of all section of the House. Anyhow, better late than never. I am glad that at least this Government has begun to function as one Government and it has begun to do so on the most important and crucial issue.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member himself did not claim to be a socialist and therefore his budget proposals cannot be considered as socialistic at all. If anyone in the country were to consider them as socialistic proposals then he is either living in a sort of dreamland or he is indulging in wishful thinking. I am told by several people that myself and several of my colleagues were attacked for the part we played in the Select Committees because they felt that we were not playing the role as socialists. I can assure you and the House that I continue to be just as hard-boiled socialist as I had ever been.

**Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): In words only!

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Yes, in words only. I thought that we were going to witness the repetition of English experience where the Conservatives were trying to do down the Liberals and the Liberals the Conservatives and in the end it was the working classes who were benefited. But I found actually as our work in the Select Committee was progressing that it was not the working classes or the peasants who were progressing or who were being benefited but

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rather the very capitalistic interests, of whom my Honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad happens to be the tail-end and various others in this House who have never happened to be very important sections. They gain much more than anybody else. We have been accustomed to the fact that whenever budget proposals are made and financial proposals are brought forward before the House, the experts behind the Finance Member are supposed to know what they are talking about. It came as a sort of shock to me to be told by the Finance Member and his own experts that it was a sort of guess work on their part, that they had no definite idea at all in regard to which particular tax proposal was likely to bring how much money and in what manner and what might possibly be the repercussions of the effects of their taxation proposals upon the tax paying public as well as others in this country. It is because of the inefficiency of the Central Board of Revenue and of his budget staff and the experts behind my Honourable friend the Finance Member that these proposals have had to be modified in the manner in which they came to be modified. Otherwise these proposals, even as they were being placed before this House would have been entirely different, very much unlike what they are today. That is one reason why I found it impossible to agree with my Honourable friend in the Select Committee. I need not go beyond that in regard to the activities of the Select Committee.

There is also one other reason and that is I have already stated in my Supplementary Minute of Dissent. The E.P.T. was abolished last year by the British Finance Minister. We were opposed to its abolition. The Congress Party as a whole was opposed to its abolition, whatever might have been the views of capitalists outside this House. In spite of it, it was withdrawn. Now, this year, these capitalists themselves, whatever might have been their own internal quarrels and schisms and conflicts, came forward and said to the general public including the Finance Minister that they would be prepared to go back again to the levy of E.P.T. and offer him thereby a much greater payment than the Honourable Member himself has claimed to be able to get out of this B.P.T. It became a sort of mystery to me why it was that when he could possibly get more money from E.P.T. than from B.P.T. that the Finance Member was keen on retaining the tax on B.P.T., and not revive the E.P.T.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I will tell you.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I dare say he will tell the House that he wanted to do justice between one section of businessmen and another section of businessmen, that one section of businessmen were getting off rather lightly under E.P.T. and therefore he wanted to put something more on their shoulders because they could bear more than the lightened burden on the smaller people among the capitalists themselves. Sir I have discussed this with European capitalists also. I have come to this conclusion that it is the man who wears the shoe who knows where it pinches. As far as they are concerned, they are all united and they have made their suggestions to the Honourable Finance Minister that they would rather go back to E.P.T. than have B.P.T. Even in the case of E.P.T., they suggested that the deficiency clause in the old E.P.T. Act might be dropped and they also made several suggestions for filling up the gaps and completing the deficiencies so that the Honourable the Finance Member might be able to get much more money.

Now, Sir, I come to the point of direct taxes and indirect taxes. I agree with the Honourable the Finance Member on his insistence that as far as possible money should be taken from out of direct taxation than out of indirect taxation. I also glad that this year, he has levied all these additional taxes on the rich people alone, and has not imposed any new tax upon the poor people.

But I am not quite so happy because he has not withdrawn some of the taxes that still fall upon the poor people. So far as the central excise is concerned, it is yielding eight times more than what it used to yield before the war. No relief is given to the smaller people. Only this morning at question time, I had drawn his attention to the fact that he is getting only 90 lakhs after hitting several millions of producers on the one side and many more millions of consumers on the other who use this betel nut, which is the only luxury of the poor people. He gave some poor consolation, when he said that he would certainly try to withdraw as many of these taxes as fall upon the poor people. I do not know when.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** As far as possible.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** That is the sort of axiom behind which anybody can take shelter. My Honourable friend the former Finance Member had done so and I do not know what the fortunes of the present Finance Member will be.

The previous Finance Member had promised to constitute what is known as the Taxation Enquiry Committee which the present Finance Member has not yet appointed. I suggest that it should be appointed at the earliest possible moment. It should not be only a sort of expert committee. Why do I want such a committee? I want it in order that tax proposals as the B.P.T., Capital Gains and similar taxes can be examined by the committee and after proper discussion, they can suggest in detail what taxes should be levied. Then the capitalists would not be able to have as justifiable a complaint as they have this time, namely that they have not been given any sort of warning at all, they have not had even a chance of discussing the advisability or otherwise of these taxes being levied, that their minds were not at all prepared, that there was a sort of depression in industrial shares and so on.

There is one other matter which the Finance Member should bear in mind. It is not enough that you do not draw any more tax revenue from the poor people. The more important thing is that you should be able to raise taxes from the rich people and spend this money for the benefit of the poor people.

That is the only way in which you can possibly distribute, or constructively redistribute the wealth that you derive from taxes.

What I find is a negative redistribution of wealth. You simply take this money and spend it on what? You spend it on the maintenance of a huge and highly paid staff of officials. This money is taken from the rich, from the middle class and the upper middle class and also from the lower middle class to some extent and spend all that on the bloated salaries of the officials of the Government departments.

Just now the House mourned the death of a former colleague of ours, Sir Azizul-Huque. He was a great champion of the peasants as well as handloom weavers. He was the author of a book, "The man behind the plough". I liked him for this book. What does the Honourable the Finance Member propose to do for the uplift of the peasants and the handloom weavers? What has happened to the subvention of five lakhs to handloom weavers which was being given for a period of 15 years. Now, I do not see any such subvention for the development of handloom industry. Even the money that was formerly given is now withdrawn. Without such help, how does he expect to build up the Co-operative Societies for the handloom weaving industry? I do not find money for many other useful items of industry. There was a grant formerly for cotton growers in order to maintain the bottom prices payable for cotton. What does the Honourable the Finance Member propose to do for that? There used to be protection for sugarcane growers and for the development of co-operative marketing. Many of these beneficent items are missing from this year's budget. Then the Honourable Member has made a provision to spend about 80 lakhs upon improvement of urban housing. What

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does he propose to do for rural housing? For the housing of *Harijans* and other agricultural workers in rural areas, there is no provision at all.

Some years ago, Sir James Grigg made a provision of one crore for rural development. The following year he gave 1.80 crores and we were hoping that this grant would become an annual feature. But I find no provision is made under this head in this year's budget.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** I am given 45 crores.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am coming to that soon. My Honourable friend boasted that he is giving 22 crores as subsidies for food. In answer to a question I was told the other day that this subsidy was benefitting both the rich and the poor. There is the 'socialist's gift' for the rich people in Aligarh University. That is the sort of subsidy he is giving to the so-called poor people at the cost of the masses of this country.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** That is why I suggested that the Food Department should be abolished.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** You will suggest many more unreasonable things. I have no time to refer to all of them. These 22 crores subsidy has got an awful edge. It is utilised in order to depress the price of our agricultural products. I wish to warn the Honourable Finance Member that if he were to depress the agricultural prices of this country, if we were to depress the purchasing capacity of the great mass of agricultural masses in this country, then the very industrial development and commercial development which he is dreaming of will be mere moonshine. Without increasing the purchasing capacity of the agriculturists, how can you benefit the manufacturer. If the agriculturist faces economic depression and thus loses his purchasing capacity, of what earthly use is your industrial development because there will be nobody to purchase the manufactured goods.

Then there is the question of nationalisation. My Honourable friend said that he is going to nationalise the Reserve Bank. It is the easiest possible thing for him to do. Why not say, "I am going to nationalise the railways also?" They are already nationalised. The Reserve Bank is three-fourth nationalised. The only difference is that hereafter the Honourable Member will be able to control it without having to consult the various shareholders and their directors. I wish to make a suggestion to him. I am glad he is nationalising it, but nationalisation by itself is not enough. It must be a democratic nationalisation. It means that you must associate with every institution that you nationalise as many representatives of the general public that are effected by that particular institution as possible, so that it will be possible for you to know the impact of the activities of your own nationalised institutions upon the public that they cater to. Therefore the Planning Advisory Board over which my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy presided have suggested that certain industries should be nationalised. My Honourable friend has not said a word about it. It is suggested that in the first instance coal, mineral oils, iron and steel, motor, air and river transport should be nationalised. Some were accusing us that we were agents, paid or unpaid, of Indian capitalism. Big business? Here is big business. Why is it that my Honourable friend has not thought of getting at the very throat of this big business where crores and crores are being made as profits and which the Indian State can possibly take? The whole production has been so much standardised that there is no case for any private enterprise to make any experiments or anything like it and therefore the State can easily take it over. But when they do take it over, I want Government to see that they provide for democratic control of that nationalised industry.

Then I come to the question of planning. It is on this score that I wish to join issue with my Honourable friend and I part ways with him. He does not believe in central planning; he believes only in regional planning. What sort of regional planning? Should we not have all these regional plans co-ordinated and fitted into a national plan? But unfortunately he does not believe that India is a nation but that in India there are two nations. Even if there were to be two nations should not these two nations have their own two separate national plans, and these plans again fitted into one big over-all plan so that we may have co-ordinated economic development for the whole of India? But he does not think in these terms. On the other hand this Planning Board has suggested that there should be a national planning commission with three organisations,—a central statistical office, tariff board and scientific consultative committee. But when is the Honourable Member going to do it? He says he has provided 50 or 60 crores of rupees and he has also given a lot of details about schemes costing over 10 lakhs of rupees we find mentioned so that the whole list can be made to appear a very big thing. He says he has set aside about 90 crores as a sort of capital budget. But I want to know what will be the result of all this expenditure. If it is not co-ordinated you will have lop-sided development. Sugar industry here in Bihar and U.P., sugar industry in Madras,—all provinces competing one with the other,—and very soon you will have economic depression merely because there is too much production of one particular commodity and too little production of another commodity. Therefore there will be ill-distribution of your own capital wealth between different enterprises and economic depression will result again in unemployment and further depression of the standard of living of our own people.

Then I come to the other question. He says that his experts are not efficient experts; they themselves claim that they do not have sufficient trained staff. But who prevented them from having that trained staff? We have not been able to prevent the other departments from swelling and swelling. Why do not these people provide themselves with an efficient staff? It is because his department is not sufficiently and efficiently staffed that all these other departments have swollen like that; otherwise they would have been able to prune them and effect an economy cut of 5 or 10 per cent. We are told on very good authority that the Defence Department was accepting a lump-sum cut of 10 per cent. They did not have it and therefore the department has swollen. I do not wish to go into all that just now. I only say this by the way that the defence budget has swollen to such an extent that it is much higher today than what it was one year after the war began. It is only 80 crores less than what it was in the worst period of the war, i.e., 1942-43; it is even higher than what it was even in the second year of the world war. Is that a compliment to my Honourable friend and his budget? Certainly it is not. They themselves have admitted that they have a lot of recoveries to make.—20 crores for one city alone, Bombay, and another 25 or 30 crores from the rest of India. Forty-five crores they have yet to get: and still they come here with these financial proposals and want more and more money.

I agree with him on one point only, namely, that the budget should be balanced this year. On that I agree with Dr. John Matthai also; but that does not mean that every year the budget should be balanced. I do not subscribe to that view at all. But this year there is money and therefore balance it, so that when next year comes or if another economic depression faces you will not be obliged to find money not only for this year's deficit but also for later years.

Sir, I want my Honourable friend to make one innovation; I do not know why he has not done it, because he is not unaware of that particular suggestion. Last year we made it. We want a five-year plan; we want a three-year

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budget at least. But he does not make any beginning. The Government estimates alone for a five-year planning for the whole of this country come to over a thousand crore budget. Two hundred crores he should have been able to make provision for; even more in fact in the first one or two years. And I find only 90 crores as a sort of capital budget, taking all sorts of things together. Therefore I say that my Honourable friend instead of succeeding has failed miserably.

The only thing is that he is a very good propogandist. He has borrowed many of our own principles and he has retailed them very nicely; and on top of it with the coping stone of a *Quranic* injunction. I agree with him so far as the *Quranic* quotation is concerned; but the worst of it is that his practice belies his professions.

**An Honourable Member:** He is a landlord.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Not as a landlord alone; I have no objection to his being a landlord because I am abolishing landlordism.

His budget estimates have been said by very many people to be underestimate. I agree with them. Even last year we complained in the same way, and then also Sir Archibald Rowlands said that we were all wrong. But I have got facts and figures here to show that the revised budget has shown in one item alone—revenue from income-tax—six crores of additional revenue. That is the usual trick of the inefficient Finance Department to underestimate revenue and overestimate expenditure, and afterwards to come and tell us that their deficit has not been so very great or there had been no deficit at all and so we should congratulate them. Sir, I am not prepared to congratulate his department. I used to think that because he belonged to my own party, my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar was not such a great expert as those experts of my Honourable friend. But to my great surprise I found that Mr. Manu Subedar was the man who was in possession of all the facts in regard to business conditions in this country. Whereas my Honourable friend there was saying that from the capital gains tax he would get only Rs. 2½ crores my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar was able to say—without the department being able to refute his facts—that they would be able to collect not less than 20 crores. What does that mean? I do not want to make a free gift of my own rich people's money which I can take any time I like when I am in a better position not only to tap it but to make use of it for better purposes than my Honourable friend proposes, with a national plan in sight. I do not want to make a free gift of that money to these gentlemen to be wasted on these various departments which are not so very efficient. My Honourable friend and Leader Sardar Patel exclaimed the other day, "Show me a department which is not corrupt." I do not want my money to be wasted on such departments and in this way. If we pass these Bills and at the end we present the Honourable Member with a surplus and plenty of money to spare, what is he going to do with all that money? Where is the guarantee that he will utilise that for national planning? He is giving money to Bengal because of natural vicissitudes and to Madras and some other provinces for them to waste as they like. Only yesterday my honourable friend, Mr. Maitra, was drawing attention to the inefficient way, almost bordering on corruption, in which large funds were wasted away in Bengal by the Bengal Government, and the Public Accounts Committee of which I happened to be a member, drew attention, indeed censured the manner in which the money was being wasted in Bengal. Is it for this that he wants my co-operation to get all this money? I want all this money from Mr. Tyson, from Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and from members of my own Party, and from Mr. Lalubhai with the co-operation of my honourable friend and my party in order that every rupee of it might be utilised to produce two, three or five rupees worth of consumers' and producers' surplus.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I feel rather restricted in this debate. If I remember correctly, when Mr. Maitra opened this debate, the Chair wanted his remarks to be confined purely to the taxation proposals and that they could be criticised, but not the future policy or politics. But I think, Sir, I may humbly submit that it has been the precedent and also the practice in other Houses like the House of Commons, to enlarge upon the criticism by including all the recent politics and policies of the parties as well as the country. I would crave you, Sir, to give us this opportunity here also.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member seems to be under some misapprehension. He can cover all subjects of administration but that does not mean that he will go beyond the administration and future policies which are not the concern of this House. If Members will bear in mind, that distinction they will be within their rights in addressing on any subject with which the Government of India is concerned.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I draw your attention to the fact that all along since I have been in the Legislative Assembly, since 1935 down to 1945, if you will kindly turn over the pages of the debates on the Finance Bill, you will find that discussion on political matters has occupied most of the time of the speakers. My friend, the Finance Member, sitting there and the late Mr. Bhulabhai Desai made 99 per cent. of their speeches political and less than one per cent. financial. You will also find long discussions on Pakistan and in 1945 particularly the debate in which my friend, the Finance Member took part, the main theme was the League and Congress Pact and so on. That all related to future political arrangements.

What I am going to submit to you, Sir, is that the Finance Bill in all countries, including this House, furnishes members the right and opportunity to have a free discussion on all matters on the principle of redressal of grievances before supplies. If we are restricted to make speeches only on the budget, it means we have to repeat over again the arguments we had advanced in connection with budget. That means repetition of all things that have gone before. I am therefore submitting that you, as the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House, should see to it that you do not restrict the liberty of the members to speak on subjects which concern them most. After all, the Finance Bill is the only occasion on which they can make their grievances heard. I was very much pained by your ruling yesterday, but as I am a strict disciplinarian myself, I implicitly obeyed your ruling. I hope in future, you will take this aspect into consideration and not unnecessarily restrict members in their speeches in connection with the Finance Bill because it touches the very liberties of the Members of this House.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member has submitted whatever he had to say on the merits of the case. He need not repeat the arguments.

**Pandit Balkrishna Sharma** (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I heard what was said and I really made an effort to draw a line of demarcation between what was said to be the various departments and policies of the Government of India in regard to them and something regarding the larger political questions or future policies, and despite my efforts it has not been possible for me really to see the difference as to where one ends and the other begins. (As a matter of fact, the larger policies of the further, and the present criticisms of the various departmental activities overlap each other so much that even though there may be some very philosophical distinction, yet in practice it is not possible for any member to strictly observe that distinction. I would therefore submit that apart from the parliamentary practice throughout world parliaments, you may be pleased to allow the members to bring in any sort of grievances that they have, and at the same time to so regulate the discussion that their freedom may not be impinged upon.) I would submit, therefore, Sir,



[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma.]

that in view of what the practice has been in this House, as also in view of the way the financial discussions have been carried on in various other parliaments, that you as the guardian of the privileges of this House will not come in the way of members ventilating grievances on the questions that are uppermost in their minds.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I understood the points raised by my friend, Mr. Sharma and Mr. Maitra to mean that the Finance Bill is the occasion and the only constitutional method to ventilate all sorts of grievances from China to Peru. But the whole theory behind it is that of removal of grievances before supply. That assumes that the Government sitting here has jurisdiction and authority to remove those grievances. I want to ask my friends, Mr. Balkrishna Sharma and Mr. Maitra whether the bigger constitutional problem and its solution are within the jurisdiction of this Government? Formerly it was a different context altogether. The former Government was in a way responsible to the Secretary of State. So whatever grievances we wanted to make and whatever points of view we wanted to press were really addressed not to the incumbents of the Treasury Benches, but all these attacks were directed against the British Government. Now the whole position has changed. The whole context has changed. I quite understand those grievances to be relevant and admissible for discussion the removal of which is within the jurisdiction of this Government. But those grievances the removal of which is not within the jurisdiction of this Government, are strictly outside the purview of this House. Apart from this fact, I would appeal to Honourable Members who want to venture into spheres where it would not be very proper at this moment to venture, whether considering all the factors they cannot tactfully avoid the discussion of this subject.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra**: That is not the scope of the ruling at any rate!

*Ruling re the scope of discussion on the Finance Bill*

**Mr. President**: I am afraid there seems to be some misapprehension as to what I said yesterday and what I mentioned today. It is difficult in any discussion to lay down exact lines where subjects may not overlap. Some references might be permissible but then the question is one of a sense of proportion as to how far those references should be made and how long they should be made. The position has been, to a large extent, clarified by Mr. Gadgil in his own way. But whether there is a change in the character of the Government or otherwise, the true principle (the principle of refusal of supplies) is that the Government, to whom the supplies are being voted is responsible for the grievances and is in a position to give some relief in respect of those grievances. That is the broad outline within which discussions have to be kept. In other foreign countries, foreign relations and every thing concerned with it are within the jurisdiction of the Government. Constitutional problems, as Mr. Gadgil has said, might not have been exactly within the jurisdiction of the government that existed previously but anything said would have been conveyed to those who were in power or who had the power of taking the constitutional steps, even if supplies were refused by the House. But that is a different position. If we want really to have true growth of democracy and criticism of Government in a parliamentary manner, the best way is not to go into other questions which are not concerned with questions of administration by the Government in office.

There is another aspect of the matter which Mr. Gadgil has pointed out but I may tell the House that I am not actuated or influenced by that aspect, in circumscribing or limiting the discussion. That aspect is the present peculiar and very delicate situation through which the country is passing and we must consider whether we want, in this House, to transgress into the proper sphere of the

Constituent Assembly and try to settle the various political problems which are agitating the minds of people outside this House, and whether we would like to have the atmosphere in this House muddled by those considerations instead of applying ourselves to securing, as best an administration as possible in the interests of the four hundred millions of this country. That is also a consideration which the Honourable Members will have to bear in mind. I am not restricting the debate by being influenced by that fact, though it would be a serious consideration.

So far as the previous rulings on the subject in this House are concerned, I might just invite Honourable Members attention to what has been said by my predecessors.

"In the course of his speech on the Finance Bill, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru referred at length to the question of export duty on hides, when Sir Basil Blackett pointed out that the particular question had already been settled in a previous debate.

● **President ruled:** 'On the Finance Bill the whole administration comes under review and it is very difficult to rule this out. (He did not want to rule out a particular discussion). I would, however, ask the Honourable Members not to reopen the question, which has been fully discussed.'

I am giving this as a parallel: there should not be a repetition, because there is a scope.

Then, further, on another occasion:

"The Member then went on to discuss *Pakistan* and National Autonomous States. (The Honourable Mr. Maitra said that 99 per cent. of the speech was *Pakistan* and therefore I am inviting attention to this particular remark), whereupon the President reminded him that the Member must confine his criticism to the action of the Government of India and not discuss other peoples' words and policies and added:

'So long as the Honourable Member confines himself to a discussion of the Finance Bill or the administration of the Government of India, he is in order; not otherwise.'

(Interruption by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra). The Honourable Member will not argue over what has been a previous ruling. I do not want to restrict anybody's liberty of criticising the Government of India or the budget proposals. I quite concede that some of these things are connected with the larger political issues but we must not go into the roots of those and dilate at length on them. Those issues would not, really speaking, be the matter under discussion before the House. The administration is under discussion. The future policies in respect of that administration are within the competence of this House; and with reference to these policies anything that a member desires to say, he can certainly say but that does not mean that members can sally forth into the outside constitutional problems for which there are other places, where they can speak at any length they like. I do not wish to restrict any liberties, as I said, but then people carry their own notions about liberties and they have their own notions about restrictions just as I have my own notions about liberties and restrictions. As I have said, this is, to my mind, the proper scope of the discussion on the Finance Bill and I trust Honourable Members will keep within these limits.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari:** Thank you, Sir. There is one difficulty which we commoners feel. I think it is the case all over, in every Government, whether it is the case of a Chancellor of the Exchequer or a Finance Member, to behave, if I may say so, in a very effeminate manner. You incur the expense, or budget for the expense, first and get the sanction of the House and later you come with the proposals to find ways and means of taxing the people. It is just like the wife putting the tradesman's bills before you after the purchases are made and asking the husband to find the money. That is why I said when we are going to be taxed let us at least have some cry over it. Let it not be all cry and no wool or all wool and no cry.

I do not find much to congratulate the Finance Member because so far as the common man is concerned I do not believe that anything more has been done to

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him under the present proposals than what has already been done by foreigners in our government. I claim to represent the common man, much more than many others do here, because I am not a financier, nor an industrialist, nor even a manager or an *entrepreneur* of an industry, I cannot claim to be a labourer or a representative of labour like my Honourable friend Miss Kara. So I am a very common unit, the common man who does not belong to any particular category. I am afraid that the common man has not been helped much, even though it is the common man more than any other class of people who contributes to my Honourable friend the Finance Member's revenue. It is true, as my Honourable friend said, that the lifting of the salt tax is not lifting off a very heavy burden on the poor man but there is a particular fact which I believe my friend Miss Kara forgot and that is the psychological effect. Water is available free but supposing a small tax is levied as is done by some municipalities. Then it would be a matter of great resentment. It would be a bad tax. It is not a question of the distribution of the burden at all. Somewhere the distribution of burden has got to stop and we felt that it ought to stop in a country like India where salt is concerned. The lifting of the salt tax may mean striking off a quarter anna or two pice in the budget of the poor man but it means a lot to the psychology of the person and that is a fact that has to be understood. If a socialistic budget or an ultra-socialistic budget is required I do not believe it will be possible for the present Government of India to have it. Even though it is called a socialistic budget or a common man's budget, if we have the socialistic ideal as a budget ideal we will fail. We will not have it there, it is impossible. We have to consider it as a budget for a country which is not yet a fully capitalistic country—nearly a democratic country, trying to be fully democratic. Viewed in that light I certainly congratulate the Finance Member for the very level headed manner in which he has been able to settle the differences, if it all there were differences because I do not know, but I congratulate him on the able way in which he has done it. Yesterday we were feeling rather non-plussed as to how to proceed in criticising this budget or in offering any suggestions because things were in a nebulous stage. I am glad that things have settled down.

Individually or personally I did not think that really trade or commerce or the capitalist's interests would suffer even if in entire the original proposals had been agreed to. Even though I am not an expert financier or even an expert student of economics, I can claim to have been, and still continue to be, a humble student of economics. So far as I can see I do not think that the taxation proposals would have crippled our industries or destroyed our trade or commerce or would have ruined any of the capitalists. This is a result of the poor data, it all comes out of the poor statistics that we have. That is my feeling. The Government, though it boasts it is a Central Government, has not got any statistics worth the name. It has no statistical compilations. It has recently started a Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics I believe. More than two decades ago there was a recommendation for the Government to start such a statistical organisation—a Central organisation for compiling all the necessary figures. Even now it is in a sorry state. That is why when one set of people claim that by imposing this taxation industries will be crippled and another set starts saying that no harm will be done, we are unable to prove by facts and figures that such and such will or will not be the consequence. That I believe is at the bottom of the whole trouble. If now at least the Government of India thinks seriously about compiling statistics centrally, co-ordinating them, synthesising them, publishing commercial intelligence, annual books, directories and other necessary information for external and internal commerce, then we would be in a better position to understand the facts. The Finance Member and his Department will also be in a better position to put through ordered planning and will be able to convince the people that such and such tax is necessary or that such and such plan is necessary. So far as the

present settlement is concerned not only do I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member but I think one principle stands vindicated, that is, if a certain section of people who are important in the economy of the country feels that it has been taxed too much, or that much more than it ought to give has been demanded from it, then it is up to Government to see that such a feeling does not exist either by proving that such a feeling is baseless or unfounded on facts or by listening to that section. In the absence of figures I am glad that the Finance Member agreed to go a little way to meet them. I think it is a good psychological gesture and a very good way in which the compromise has been effected.

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. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari:** I shall try to fill these few minutes I have, with some more observations.

In regard to the 'Grow More Food Campaign', I think a great deal more can be done by means of a central irrigation scheme by which all the arid lands in our country could be brought under cultivation and the swamps in our country could be drained. Unless this is done, there is no possibility of our increasing our food supply. I would even say that a part of the amount that is now being spent in purchasing food from other countries would be better utilised in bringing fertile but waterless tracts under cultivation. There are such tracts all over our country. I remember there was at one time a great engineer in our country who suggested the linking up of all the big rivers of the north with the rivers in the south—Sir Henry Cotton. That was a project well worth considering. Several decades have passed and nobody seems to have thought of paying serious attention to this proposition. I would certainly invite this Government to take this matter deeply into their consideration and devise ways and means for bringing the abundant and fertilising waters of most of the rivers, 90 per cent of which is running to waste, to the fertile but uncultivated lands, which remain in that condition for lack of irrigation.

I would now draw attention to one or two matters of parochial importance, which affect my province and my constituency. I want to say something about the increase in the Kilowatt powers of certain of the stations of the All India Radio. I find that even Calicut is proposed to be equipped with high power transmitters of 20 kilowatts. The existing station at Trichinopoly is a station which caters for the Tamil population which is twice as large as the Malayalam speaking population. I am making this comparison for no other purpose than to show that it is of equal if not of more importance than the station proposed to be started at Calicut. The existing Trichinopoly station is only 5 kilowatts.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): You have the Madras station which is going to be raised to 100 kilowatts.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari:** I would remind my friend Mr. Seth that Madras is a multi lingual station. The Trichinopoly station caters purely to the Tamil speaking people and as a matter of fact the percentage of literacy in Tamil is much more.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Not more than Malabar.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari:** Then, Sir, we have electricity in a network all over our place and more radio sets in use than elsewhere; and I believe the House will know that of all the Dravidian languages Tamil has got a hoary tradition and it dates back several millenniums. There are also more Tamils overseas than of any other community. So, I would suggest that the All-India Radio station at Trichinopoly should be equipped as a more powerful station.

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Before I conclude, I would also put in a plea for the development of the Eastern coastal ports. In my constituency there were two ports which were of great historic significance. Those ports have fallen into desuetude. The coast is blocked up because there have not been any schemes to make it open with major ports. These are not being attended to, as they should be. As coastal shipping will come into its own in the future, I think it will be very necessary for the Government of India to develop and subsidise in the development of certain of the ports in the Tanjore district. I make special mention of the port of Kodikarai, also that at Vedaranyam, Point Calimere. You will find that it is the nearest approach to Ceylon. There was a roaring trade there at one time. Several coastal ships used to touch at the Ceylon ports and there was a very decent trade between the Chola country and the other countries in the Indian ocean. We were a big sea faring people and we were having almost all the overseas commerce in our hands. Even now, it will be very proper for the Government of India to develop these ports, especially the ports at Kodikarai, Negapatam and Tranquebar. If the Tranquebar port is developed, it will become not only a great commercial port but also a delightful spot where people of other countries may be made to come. It will also be a good health resort and I am sure the commerce of the country will improve if this port is developed. Negapatam also is a good port. It had been developed by even Westerners when they first came to the Madras Presidency. Later on they found it was not to their advantage to develop it. The railway system which was run with a profit motive by the Englishmen would not allow it to prosper. I would put in a strong plea that the port of Negapatam is also developed and I would appeal to the Central Government to take all these ports into its own hands and finance schemes with a view to make them major ports in our country.

In regard to the taxation proposals, I am reserving my remarks for a later period, but I believe the Finance Member is not justified in not devoting greater attention to the taxation of joint families. We have at present lot of difficulty in proving the status of the joint families before the Income-tax officers. We maintain in law that the evidence for a partition need not be documentary. As you know, Sir, ordinarily there are oral partitions and there need not be a partition by metes and bounds. In the absence of documentary evidence it is difficult to prove to the income-tax officer there was partition. There the existing law is rather deficient. I suggest therefore that section 25 or 25A should be modified so as to meet this great lacuna in the Income-tax law so that the joint families may be relieved of the difficulties which they have to undergo now. I would advert to it more when the clauses are being discussed if necessary by moving an amendment. With these words, I conclude my remarks.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder** (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): (Sir, I wish to confine my remarks to those Departments of which I have some knowledge. I will, first of all, take up the Food Department. This Department incurs an expenditure of about some crores of rupees and I would like to make some remarks about it. I can understand that when there is a war it may be necessary under certain abnormal conditions to get food from outside and secure food also for military purposes. But it is now more than a year when the war ended and yet we are not getting sufficient food for ourselves and we are providing a larger amount of expenditure for making this Department a permanent one and we are also making permanent constructions for all these purposes. In these times every part of the country is feeling how the health of people is being affected on account of the foreign stuff being dumped on us as a regular food. Even that food when it comes to the distributing point is very much deteriorated and is very much mixed up with all sorts of stuffs in order to make huge profits. This state of affairs is in no way going to be better until these foreign stuffs are brought under control. On healthy food depends the public health, especially in the villages. You know, Sir, the

difference between the food we eat in our homes and the food we purchase in the bazaars. But when the whole country is supplied with this inferior food, especially the poorer people, and when medical help is also not available in the interior villages, you can imagine the condition of the people.

So far as the agricultural statistics are concerned, our country is not so much deficient now having regard to the crop conditions in 1947. Excepting those areas where there is a deficiency of food, it is necessary on the part of the Government to supply food. Did we not experience similar conditions as exist now in the previous war in several parts of the country where famine conditions prevailed? What did the Government do then? They supplied the necessary foodstuffs to such an extent at places where they had famine conditions that they were able to get over the difficulty and everybody was supplied with proper food.

Then, Sir, I have another suggestion to make. Instead of supplying grains to the famine stricken areas, you can have open-kitchens to provide the people with food. To say that Government wants to supply food in deficient areas where people might die of starvation is nothing but a plea just to continue the Food Department for a longer period. This necessity has arisen because of the large population accumulating in urban areas on account of these controls and also because of the military development in all important towns where so much work has been started and people have got to be fed. This was necessary at the time when the war was going on. Now, the Government is making every attempt to make itself self-sufficient in every area so far as the distribution of food is concerned. Take, for instance, the case of a province like Madras, which is deficient in rice and Burma rice was imported. If rice is supplied through normal trade channels, there is no need for any control and there is no black-marketing or so many middlemen to handle the stuff. All these things ultimately make the country suffer and the health of the people also goes down. So, I would earnestly urge upon the Government to take into consideration this important point of health and also to provide every facility to make the people live an economic life, especially in the villages. This control should not be allowed to continue in the villages.

Recently Government have paid double the price for Burma rice. It is nothing but black-marketing business done by Government itself in procurement outside while denying economic price being paid to local producers. Why have they spent so much money on Burma rice? We wanted to approach the Government for the last two years but our request was not given any consideration at all. The other day my Honourable friend Mr. Reddiar was observing that in spite of the Government insisting on having a uniform price policy, there is so much difference in the price of rice in Madras and in Delhi. I cannot understand. If it is a policy to be uniformly enforced, then it has no meaning when we find that things are going on like this. On the face of it these controls are not doing effective work and these controls are no better than allowing black marketing. It is impossible for Government to do control business properly. From all quarters of this House, from provincial committees, from district committees, we were informed that the controls are doing any amount of harm to the country. Why should they be continued? We boast that our country has advanced economically. A popular government has been established. The Government are spending a lot of money on "Grow More Food Campaign." It is no consolation to see that on the pretext of "Grow More Food campaign," these controls are continued and that the Food Department is sought to be made permanent to administer these controls so far as food is concerned. We spent some money on the "Grow More Food Campaign." I come from one end of the country, that is South India. When I come to the north India, which is at the other end, what do I find? The talk everywhere is grow more food. I can tell this House what is being done in South India on account of the "Grow More Food Campaign." Some money is given to agriculturists to sink wells, some-

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money is given for the purchase of agricultural implements, seeds or to improve lands and so on. We know that all these grants are given at the fag end of the season. Most of the money is simply wasted. I have known personally about this wastage in Madras. There is a big delta area in Tanjore district of the Madras presidency and I know how money is spent there. For cultivation of one acre a reward of Rs. 10 is given to the agriculturist. In order to be able to earn this reward, all that the agriculturist has to do is to sow some seed on the land, allow water for it and see some-thing sprouts, no matter whether it is the straw of grass or of paddy. The officer who is in charge of distributing money for "Grow More Food Campaign" has simply to send a report that such and such an agriculturist has brought so many acres under cultivation and on the strength of that report, the agriculturist is granted the reward. In this way lots of money are wasted. I had a talk with the Director of Agriculture a few weeks back and from the statistics, I was able to gather that there is no substantial increase in the production of paddy although more acreage had been brought under new cultivation. Although it was said in Government records that several thousands of acres were brought under cultivation, that means so many lakhs of rupees were wasted by way of rewards, yet we find no substantial increase in the production of food in this country. These are the several ways in which money is wasted. Instead of wasting money on these idle schemes, the better way to develop the production in this country is to develop small scale irrigation schemes. Develop the cattle dairying, develop the fishery, develop the poultry, develop fruit and in these ways you can increase the quantity of wholesome food available to the masses in this country. This will go a long way to meet the deficit in food in our country and the development of irrigation schemes, on small scale will bring permanent benefit to the cultivators. This will give occupation to large number of people. Instead of allowing money to pass through various middle hands, which never ultimately reaches the agriculturist instead of wasting money on these subsidies and rewards, instead of paying subvention to other countries for importing food, the better way of increasing the agricultural wealth of this country is to spend money in the country itself. As I said, if you develop fisheries, it will give occupation for lakhs of people and it will be a source of nutritive food for several lakhs of people who are living on the coastal areas of Bengal and Madras. In this connection, I must point out to the Government that the fishing boats which were confiscated by the Government from the fishermen in Bengal, during war, should be returned back to them. In Madras also on account of war fishing industry was very much affected. I submit that the old time facilities should be restored for the fishermen. Fish is one of the cheapest indigenous sources of supply of food.

Next I should like to know how much money has been spent in getting foodstuffs from outside. How much of these foodstuffs have been supplied to the Indian States? Is any money going to be recovered from the Indian States, that proportion of the amount of subsidy to the quantity of foodgrains supplied to them. With the cessation of war there has been so much unemployment among labourers, among the educated young men in the country. Many from rural people who were all engaged in war work, having lost their jobs are now crowding the urban areas in search of employment. All these people have got to be provided with some work. All the time we are talking only of large scale industries. Of what use is the large scale industry to these unemployed people who migrated to towns? The only way in which to absorb a large number of these unskilled labourers is to engage them in cottage industries. I may be told that the development of cottage industries is the primary concern of the provincial governments. But I submit the Government of India also have a moral responsibility in order to meet the abnormal conditions to come to the rescue of provincial governments by way of grants to enable them to develop cottage industries. We have had enough discussion about handloom industry. The

other day I put a question about the report of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Japan and I suggested that the Indian Trade Commissioner in Japan should get us details about the development of cottage industries there so that we can develop our country on those lines. We can also study the conditions of development of cottage industry in China and Switzerland. These countries have developed cottage industries side by side with the development of big capital industries. If we proceed on these lines, it will really solve the question of crowded unemployment and it will increase the large scale earnings of the masses of our country and it will remove poverty also. Unemployment has now become an acute problem in this country both among the educated urban class and among the rural folk. Their salvation lies in the development of cottage industries only. We were also supplied a lot of literature upon this subject. Yet nothing has been done in a practical way.

With regard to the development of irrigation schemes, I should like to say a few words. We were told the other day about a large number of big schemes costing crores and crores. At the conclusion of the war, several planning committees were set up, both central and provincial and any amount of literature has sprung on this subject and we were flooded with a large number of reports. We were told at that time that there was a plethora of money available, hundreds of crores and all that was necessary was to draw up large scale plans to utilise the money. So we were all planning for vast development schemes. But all these high hopes are not going to be fulfilled so far as the immediate future is concerned. Our immediate necessity is to have short term plans. These long term plans are not going to solve the difficulties of the country in the immediate future. What we are badly in need of is short term planning which alone will solve all these difficulties. For short term planning we have got also several published reports with regard to the immediate planning about food, unemployment cottage industries and small irrigation sources. Small irrigation schemes are very important for fighting famine and for the "Grow More Food Campaign." There was a small scheme in my part of the country which frequently suffers from crop failure and engineering experts could not say whether it would be paying or not. But I advised the ryots to pay a contribution and they paid 25 thousand rupees. Government executed

3 P.M. scheme at a cost of about 2 lakhs. And now this area which suffered greatly from drinking water and shortage of food crops every now and then has been very much benefited by the improvement of sub-soil water. Small schemes as these will go a long way to help the people. We have a department of Works and Mines and Irrigation and Navigation—it is all a high-sounding name—but we do not know what all this irrigation and navigation is. They are thinking in terms of the Tennessee Valley Scheme, which is only intended for an industrially developed country. There will not be much good that such a scheme can do in this country; more money may be spent for purposes like the development of electricity. This development of electricity in one particular area will not provide very much employment. We depend on foreign countries for capital goods and these capital goods which are heavily costly will take several years to come. I heard that this department has got 35 or 40 engineers. They can very well be sent out to different parts of the country because the provincial Governments are in need of efficient men to develop small irrigations. Not much money has been spent on small irrigation works in the country which will serve the present needs at once. Where is the necessity for navigation when our country is so backward in industry? Comparisons are made of our country with wealthy countries like the U.S.A. and Canada but these are all industrially advanced countries and there is no meaning in comparing ourselves with them at the present state of our country. We have big officers here whose knowledge about irrigational and agricultural development is more of theory than practical. So I submit that this department should not be allowed to develop so prematurely; their energies should be devoted more to the development of small irrigation



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schemes, and the provinces should be helped with these technical officers. Instead of that there is a tendency on the part of the Central Government in all departments to bring in all sorts of able men here from the provinces. That means waste of money, more centralization of offices and more delayed correspondences. And with regard to the grants that are made to the provinces, by the time they reach them it becomes too late to use them.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member has exhausted his time; he has taken 25 minutes already.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** I will say one word, Sir, with regard to committees and conferences. The Government of India have got committees with regard to coconut, tobacco, sugar, coffee, cotton, etc. We do not know what work these committees do and what benefit is gained out of these by the taxpayer who pays for them. The Council of Agricultural Research has been working for 15 years; I do not know what money has been spent on it in these 15 years and what has been the actual benefit to the agriculturist. I do not know how long the Cotton Committee exists, what it is going to develop except some publication of yearly reports of a stereotype kind. The taxes are there and our cotton price is not properly fixed in order to make it an economic price. I suggest that Government can very well reduce these establishments and work may be done in a more scientific manner so that they may understand our difficulties and so much money can be saved. There is no necessity for any more taxation proposals coming up if proper retrenchment are made as I said before. The Excess Profits Tax was abolished last year but it has been imposed in so many other ways. Due to increasing high prices in consumer goods there is always the increasing cost of living. Government have been doing very little about it and people are suffering. Sir, I have done.

**Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar** (Gujrat and Deccan Sardars and Inamdars: Landholders): Sir, when we considered the budget last year conditions were far from normal as the war had just ended then; this year also we are in abnormal times under different circumstances and as such the budget will have to be considered in accordance with the times. The budget cannot be considered as having been framed to meet the needs of normal times. It was a very happy and momentous announcement that the Honourable the Finance Member made when he declared the abolition of the salt tax. It is not so much the money concession that is important but the idea and the psychology behind it that are important; and it is in that way that I give the first importance to that happy announcement. His other measures of taxation also are bold and direct. I will not comment on them because that is a matter for experts to deal with. It was a pleasing announcement that he made before lunch today, that Government would be prepared to accept certain amendments. I will only say as a layman that whatever money he will get from these taxation measures will be used to cover the deficits and not to effect any direct ameliorative measures. It will also be clear to a layman like me that this direct taxation is introduced at a time when we are in a transition period. I must say that in general the present size of Government as a whole should be retrenched sufficiently before any heavy taxation is proposed. Only when people are satisfied that all that is expected to be done by way of retrenchment without loss of efficiency has been done, can Government come forward with any scheme of fresh taxation. There must be some planning which will be in the interest of alleviating the grievances of the every-day life of a common man.

Now, I will turn to some of the important items in the little time that I can get. I will first turn to the Army. As you know, the Army Budget swallows much of the amount from the general budget figures. As yet conditions do not seem to be settled. I think Government has not yet framed any policy as to the size of the peace-time permanent army and given thought as to whether there is any scope for retrenchment. With the early and rapid nationalization and

replacement of the British forces by Indian troops, I suppose there will be scope for economy, and I think that will leave some margin for introducing some more substantial reforms while maintaining the standard of efficiency.

The other day I read in the newspaper that Brigadier Nathu Singh, Director of Personnel, was addressing the Rotary Meeting at Bombay. Therein he said that about 800 officers are required to be recruited every year and he was sorry that the right type of personnel was not coming forth. I am afraid, if that is a fact, it is not a compliment to the speaker or to the country to whom he was addressing. He admits himself that not that there are not men of the right type, but that they are not coming forth. If a blame is to be apportioned to someone, I suppose it will be more for the Government to share that blame rather than the people. As yet the proper approach has not been made to recruit or find out the right type of person. As you know before the war, the army was a sealed book. In the days of the war it was considered a period of emergency when you could not think of normal time policy. So it is now that Government will have to come forth and find out a method that will be helpful to pick up the right type of persons to man and officer the army. Now they will realize that the average youth of India looks upon these things in a more healthy and co-operative spirit, and if Government approach them properly, they will find young people willing to come forth and man the Indian Defence Forces. I am afraid this is a subject which you cannot cover up in a short space of time. But now the Army people must come out and mix more with the public and create more confidence. In this connection I welcome the Government move of setting up a Committee under the chairmanship of the Honourable Pandit Kunzru to consider the desirability of instituting a National Cadet Corps. I hope the same will bring forth more constructive and directly fruitful results. I also welcome Government's decision to set up the National War Academy in Poona and I would request them to hurry up so that the permanent machinery could be set up and training could be started forthwith.

Then in the short time at my disposal, I will take occasion to draw attention to matters relating to agriculture in general. In the budget provision, I find that about Rs. 20 crores have been allotted for the subsidising of imported foodgrains. I am afraid though this is a necessity in which we have no choice, much of the money will go outside the country; and in this way though the average consumer will stand to gain, the average farmer, I do not think will share the corresponding benefit. If much of this money could have gone directly to the agriculturist, it would have certainly helped the average agriculturist directly and at the same time it would have made no difference to Government's exchequer. I have not much to say in favour of this "Grow More Food Campaign" which if one were to take into account the type of an average person in the countryside is so much advertised. What can you expect an average agriculturist to do if you find that the seed for sowing cannot be obtained in sufficient quantity or timely; that the agricultural implements cannot be had, or that the cattle is so poor in quality and numbers or that the water facilities are so inadequate. It is these things you have to attend to by a definite programme under a time limit before you can expect the agriculturist to put forth his best yield from the soil. I think we are counting more on the paper propaganda than on the actual results, and unless these points which I have emphasized above are attended to, I do not think the average agriculturist can have the material or the means to bring forth the maximum production, even though he wishes it. In this matter I welcome the setting up of the Commodities Prices Board by Government. It is a step which is not too early at all. The average Indian agriculturist as yet has his grievance that the prices that he gets are not adequate to the increasing cost of production. I know I am treading on delicate ground because this is an economic question and Government have to consider both the consumers and the producers. From an agriculturist point of view. I strongly feel that he deserves to be paid more in view of

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the growing cost of cultivation. How much I wish that it were possible to divert bulk of the sum of Rs. 20 crores to help the agriculturists directly and thus enable them to produce to the utmost. I hope that this newly formed Board will consider all these things in a practical manner and arrive at conclusions in the matter of fixing the prices so as to satisfy an average agriculturist and encourage him directly to produce from the soil as much as he can in the interests of the average consumer. Sir, I have done.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Since the Government have departed from the practice of allowing a certain day for a food debate, I take advantage of the general discussion of the Finance Bill for offering a few suggestions in this matter.

My friend, Babu Ram Narayan Singh reminds me that the Food representative is not here. But that is not my fault.

During question hour I expressed my desire to speak on the food situation in the country and I hoped that someone from the Food Department would be present. That is a matter over which we have no control and I hope the Members of the Government who are here will convey the observations for whatever they are worth to the member concerned.

I will not tread upon that aspect of the question which has been discussed by previous speakers.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** May I make one request. I have just sent for the representative of the Food Department who is a member of the House. If my Honourable friend would talk about something else in the meantime, the Food Department representative will then be here by that time to take notes.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** I am very much obliged to my friend but I can tell him that if I had to talk about something else then the time that will be left for me will not be enough to talk on food. Therefore, in the meantime, my friend will take notes, if they are worth taking.

I will not deal with that large question which was discussed on the floor of the House by the previous speaker. The question of subsidy to the producer is a stock question, and our good friend and champion of such causes, Prof. Ranga has discussed this threadbare and I myself and my friends put in their feeble voice of support. Today, will you be surprised to hear, that—my information is of the last fortnight—in Great Britain potato is selling at 0-2-6 per seer, but here, although our earning resources are much smaller, we have to pay more. That is because, not merely that the Government is giving ample subsidy to the producer but also that the Government has taken up the question of subsidizing at the other end, that is the consumer. This year Great Britain's subsidy to food is more than 400 crores. They began giving copious subsidy to the Food Department during the stress of war, and even after the termination of war instead of winding up these grants, they are increasing. Therefore what is necessary is that just as there should be large subsidies to induce the cultivator to bring additional acreage under cultivation, similarly there must be some subsidy at the consumers and so that the price may be stabilized both for the producer and for the consumer. In this connection I agree that it is a formidable task for a Government to take up the question of subsidizing to the extent of making foodgrains available at reasonable prices. I believe our Government is looking into this matter very carefully, but to start with I would suggest that if they cannot take up the question of subsidizing the entire population, they might pick out classes and groups. For instance, a flat ration whatever may be its merit when rationing was first introduced has the demerit of having one defect, namely it brings those who require more on the same level as those who eat less and can afford to go without these fundamental and staple cereals. A factory labourer, or a peasant requires more rice than an intellectual aristocrat

having large resources at his disposal. He can have supplementary food—meat, fruits, fish and all these things. His nutrition never suffers for want of adequate supply of cereals. Therefore, let us begin with these classes and groups. For example, look at our teachers; look at the large section of non-agricultural lower middle class population—they have to live within very limited income. A schoolmaster at Rs. 40 per month has got to pay rent at Rs. 10 and is left with Rs. 30 with which he has to bring up a family of at least five. To ask him to purchase rice at Rs. 20 per maund is nothing less than a cruel joke. Therefore the machinery of the Government must be ready to give assistance to these classes. Look at the large number of factory workers. Within their income they cannot really purchase that quantity of ration which ought to be good enough for keeping their physical efficiency at the proper level.

This brings us to the question of modified or graded rationing and graded subsidy. We must go in for some level; so far as income is concerned, people below certain level can be given assistance and subsidy whereas people above that will not only not be given subsidy but their ration will have to suffer further cut because they are expected to go in for more costly food material. In this connection we come to the two vulnerable groups of population, namely ladies and children. Ladies and children have been described as the vulnerable section of the population by some of the nutritional experts. Some sections can easily submit to curtailment in order to give a little more assistance to this section, because they are really the custodians of our future. There is no one who does not know that an average family is unable to give that nutrition which a child in the school requires. Therefore some means should be devised by which we can give something like the minimum nutrition to our boys and girls. This can be done by subsidizing educational institutions to start with. Our children go to school early in the morning with some apology of a food only to fill up the cavity in the stomach, and they are detained in the school for long hours. There are some high-standard aristocrats' schools which make provision for some good tiffin during the lunch time, but I am not talking of them because they are children of fortunate parents and we need not worry about them. What we want is that the state should take care of the average educational institution and provide for at least a minimum standard tiffin for each and every student who goes to the school. It will not cost very much. I was discussing this thing with a friend of mine who is a teacher and who has some knowledge of science also. He says that sprouting gram, and gur with one and a half roti provides good nutrition and it should be given daily to these students so that it will save them from the onslaught of avoidable diseases.

Then comes the question of milk. Some time back through questions we wanted to have an idea from the Government as to what they were doing with regard to nutrition. They had no idea themselves, and therefore they could not give us any idea. In the first place, milk should be made available for these children and nursing and expectant mothers before it is made available for anybody else. It is a crime if an able-bodied adult gets milk and children and nursing mothers go without it; he takes as much milk as would be sufficient for half a dozen children. Milk should come under the purview of rationing in such a way that every child who is growing and has to grow, and every mother, gets her share, or at least a portion of her share, before the able-bodied population gets any milk. Our tea takes away so much of milk; let us take tea without milk; but let us make it available for our children and mothers. In this connection I would draw the attention of Government to the question of maternity homes also. It has been my privilege to come in contact with some maternity homes. It is shocking to find that in the name of milk water is given, not only because the contractor is bad, but because milk is not available. Therefore we must conserve every drop of milk for those who require it more badly than the rest.

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.]

In this connection I would invite the particular attention of the Government to the question of starting community canteens and kitchens. We can start such community kitchens for our schools. We should have community kitchens for factories, and similarly we must also encourage and have community kitchens in selected areas here and there because after all today the food position is such that partly on account of nonavailability and partly on account of forbidding prices, it is not possible for the average middle class man to have that food which is necessary and which is unavoidable. Therefore the State must undertake the question of opening canteens here and there so that if the experiment succeeds, the State will go ahead and the popular opinion will be increased in such volume that the cry will be irresistible and the Government's hands will be strengthened very much. Let us start with some canteens; let us make monthly and quarterly surveys, and I am sure that if we take to this line of work in the course of next 12 months we can come and say on the floor of this House that this experiment has succeeded so much and people will have a new orientation of things and that will be very good for our future generations.

In this connection, Sir, I would also invite the attention of the Government Members to the question of preservation of foodstuffs. I will concede that the Government is looking into the question of preserving the cereals; they are having what we are told as elevators. But I would draw their attention to the question of preservation of fruit and fish. Fruit is a very important article of food; we can make it available to all sections of the people throughout the year if we make arrangements for proper preservation. This preservation can be done in two ways: by keeping them in cold storage or refrigerators or by converting them into jam and jelly and canning them in tins and making them available for the people. Indeed the canning industry is so very poor in our country that a tin of canned fruit from Australia is cheaper than a tin of fruit canned here.

**An Honourable Member:** Australia subsidises the industry.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Yes, that is exactly my point. In our country we must go in for subsidising. Our industrialists made a howl yesterday that the Government is out to tax them and that industries will be killed. Here is a compromise formula. If the industrialists come up with proposals for implementing a solution of the food problem I will go on bended knees before the Government and plead with them to give all the facilities required for building up a food industry in this country. There is the question of refrigerators. Let our private capitalists make their capital available, let them place it at the disposal of the Government. Let the Government provide the preservation facilities in the matter of fruits and fish. This is a major problem and if the capitalists are going to invest their money in it, certainly the Government will respond to their desire by either subsidies or exemption.

In this connection I would also invite the attention of the House to the question of manufacturing foodstuffs; because it will not do merely to depend upon the "Grow More Food Campaign" of the agricultural department of the Government. We have also to manufacture food, for example vitamin tablets. Since there is an overall shortage of food throughout the country it will not do for us merely to depend upon outside assistance. We are getting food from outside at very heavy cost. If we can mobilise and harness for useful purposes a part of this money that we are paying to foreign countries for food imports we can go in for factories which will produce vitamin tablets and nutritional food. This is the best method of taking up the problem in right earnest. For all these things one thing is necessary and that is getting the assistance of scientists of our country. Though it may be said that in regard to other matters like mechanism and technology, we may need the assistance of foreign experts, I am sure that so far as food is concerned, so far as nutrition is concerned we have got brilliant men inside our country and they are willing to give all assistance that may be

necessary to the Government. Let us have a board of scientists with real authority. We have got a Directorate of Agriculture but not a bushel more of wheat is produced. We have a Director of Fisheries but I am doubtful whether fish culture has improved at all. We have also a Director of Fruits but I do not know whether fruit has really been converted into a food proposition. Tinkering with the problem in this way or posting experts here and there will only create and keep up an appearance that something is being done. But that is not the real solution to the problem. To grapple with the problem in the right way you must hand it over to a body of experts who will make it the business of their lives or the mission of their life, to solve the problem in right earnest and in a most effective manner. Let Government have a board or panel of scientists, whose duty it will be to tackle the problem in a scientific manner. Look at the U.S.A. The Federal State has got a larger number of scientists to deal with their problems than even the sum total of the 48 States put together. That is because they look at the country as a whole, they look at problems as a whole and in one building they co-ordinate all their activities and there is no catch or red-tapism in their work. In India the Agricultural Department tackles with the problem in its own way. It has its own Adviser. There are plans galore but they are all paper plans. Why is it that although the National Government has come into real power for more than six months the food problem is not easier today than it was before they came to office. To some extent it is worse, not because the men at the head of the Government are unwilling or unable to tackle the problem—they are the cream of the country, their imagination is inextricably connected with the needs and the demands of the people, but they are so much administration-ridden and this administration is so much stereotyped that they cannot grapple with the problem in a statesmanlike way, because of the lukewarm assistance that is made available to them from the department. The Food Department is today topheavy, not in the sense that the personnel are unnecessary but in the sense that the Food Department looks at the problem more as one of administration than as a real problem of the nation as a whole. Therefore my earnest appeal to the Government would be to shake off this administration-ridden habit and to place their problem before a board of scientists. As has been said elsewhere I will repeat here that the scientist's place is not at the tap but at the top.

**Pundit Thakur Dass Bhargava:** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 25th March, 1947. English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*): Sir in the whole of the Finance Bill there is one silver lining like lightening in the black clouds and that is the salt tax. Besides this I find no great difference in this budget and the past budgets and this is not such a wonderful thing. The thing is that the people have greatly misunderstood the National Government. People thought the advent of the National Government will work such differences in things that *Kalyug* will be replaced by *Satyug*. They thought that all controls will end. Ministers with a magic wand will produce everything from the juggler's bag and change the whole universe. They are wrong. In India people commonly imagine that their leaders are great men and they will show some miracle as they have heard of the leaders of old doing wonders and performing miracles. How can it be possible for the Finance Member to effect a sudden change in the whole department when its old secretary with old traditions is in his way. Similarly, it is wrong to expect that Sardar Patel will end all corruption in a few days or Rajendar Babu will have so much food grains produced that we will have no difficulty. The National Government have now been in power for the last six months but our expectations have not yet been fulfilled. We should give up the idea of having our hopes fulfilled in such a short time. Until five years have passed and the members have got their respective department completely under them and

[Pundit Thakur Dass Bhargava.]

their co-workers have come to think like them and their subordinates have imbibed their influence we should refrain from making any estimate whether the National Government have succeeded or not. I do not want to condemn the Finance Member for different items of this budget because his hands are tied. So far as the abolition of the salt Tax is concerned I should say that it is a good thing but I am afraid that owing to the existence and operations of old Rules and Regulations Indians will not be much benefitted by this abolition. If under the old Rules Salt Tax officers inspect the place where salt is manufactured and impose restrictions I am afraid the poor men who have been waiting for a long time for the abolition of the Salt Tax would not be benefitted but would be sadly disappointed. The abolition of five and quarter annas per annum Salt Tax is no real benefit. The real benefit is that everybody would be allowed to manufacture salt freely. I therefore request the Finance Member to look at the rules from the point of view that there is no restriction in the free manufacture of salt. If a poor Chamar does not get salt at the lowest price for curing raw hides and a fisherman for preserving his fish the abolition of the tax will not have done much good. In the war of 1914 there was saltpetre industry in every village which increased the income by 500 to 1,000 rupees. Then the manufacture of saltpetre was forbidden and wherever it was made restrictions were imposed. I, therefore, say that if you want to keep this industry alive, you should improve other industries which are connected with salt and stop the import of salt from foreign countries and see that the Rules are not so strict as they were before.

Moreover, the Finance Member claims that he is a friend and helper of the poor. His tax proposals will be such as to free the poor from the payment of taxes. I have already said and with your permission say it again that among the Hindoos mostly the Mahajans are engaged in trade. All the undivided Hindoo Families are not traders; because a large number of Hindoos are Brahmins and Chamars who are not at all conversant with trade. To think, therefore, that an undivided Hindu Family on whom so much tax is levied, will be able to pay it, is wrong. In the undivided Hindu Family Sikhs, Jains and other castes of Hindoos are included. So far as poverty and wealth are concerned this tax, which has been levied on undivided Hindoo Family, falls more on poor Hindoo families rather than on rich families. In the income-tax provisions distinction has been made between poor and wealthy Hindoo families that is, provisions for levying tax on the wealthy is rather different than those for the poor on whom less tax is levied. When amendments will be proposed in this connection I will speak in details on the matter. The minimum exemption limit of tax for the Hindoos is not Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 2,000. If there are five members of a family; it would be injustice to levy tax on all the five of them. When Capital Gains Act went to the Select Committee the majority and the minority both admitted that injustice had been done in the original Bill to the undivided Hindoo Family. Hence, Sir, the Select Committee has raised the abatement sum from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakhs. Previously super-tax incomes for undivided Hindoo Families and for individuals were Rs. 75,000/- and Rs. 50,000, respectively. Those who have made an income of Rs. 2,00,000 live in palaces and the tax does not affect at least their necessities of life. I say such persons should be taxed the most. So far as the poor people are concerned I desire to know under what law, what moral principle do you tax the incomes of a few persons who constitute an undivided Hindoo family as if those incomes were the income of one man? It is not the question of Hindoo, Moslem, Sikh or Christian. It is a question of justice. I shall deal with it at another occasion; at present I should say this much only that if the Government wanted to levy tax it should not be levied on Hindoo Joint Family and undivided Hindoo Joint Family but on each individual of those families. Sir, in 1920—1930 this question was

rooted on the floor of this House and the then Finance Member admitted the injustice of levying tax on an undivided Hindoo Family under this principle. If required I am prepared to place the old records before you. I should point out the fact that so far as other taxes are concerned the Hindoos are taxed individually although they should not be so taxed under the principle of undivided Hindoo Family. If you would look at section 375 of the Taxation Inquiry Committee Report you will find that Government have accepted the principle of individual taxation. So, for this matter both the undivided Hindoo Family and the Divided Family should be equally treated. Now the Estate Duty Bill is before this House. It contains a clause that the estate of an individual should not be taxed on the principle of undivided Hindoo Family but on the principle of Divided Family. I therefore request that justice may be done to Hindoos in this connection.

Sir, at the time of every budget I have placed one ideal before the Government. My ideal in this connection has always been one: I do not look at the budget from a big industrialists point of view nor do I look at it from a cultivator's point of view but I look at it from the point of view of the most insignificant depressed class man. I want to see whether in the budget of 1947 any amendment or any difference has been made from the point of view of this insignificant man. A popular government has come to office. It has awakened this hope. It has increased the tempo. But, has it really made any difference in his condition? I want to say that in the Constituent Assembly you may pass any resolution you desire, give the right of equal status to whomsoever community you like, proclaim brotherhood by beat of drum, but is a Chamar allowed to purchase a piece of land in any of the villages of Delhi? No, not at all. In 1928, I asked this very question from the Government. In 1946, I again asked this question. I was told, in reply, that a Chamar could not purchase land. Recently our venerable Rajaji at the time of South African dispute said that there was no civilized country in which such restrictions were found as those found on Indians in South Africa; and such restrictions are really found here inasmuch as a Chamar is restricted to purchase land from a Cultivator. I, however, congratulate Honourable Dr. Rajendra Pershad who has in one way determined to amend this ancient law. I am, however, afraid, inasmuch as such a long delay has occurred in amending it, that the way in which it will be amended will leave a sting which will not allow to take its full advantage. I request you that no separate group be made of the Chamars living in Centrally administered area but they should be included in the general group. They possess no lands nor can they purchase land. If you want to give them equal status and especially now when the popular Government is in power, we should at once abrogate the law which do not deprive them of the right of purchasing land. It is a big black blot on us which should not remain for a minute now. Sir, the other thing that I want to see from the point of view of a member of the depressed classes is that in addition to deprivation of their right of purchasing land which provides livelihood to the entire world their rights for residential property are also worthy of attention. After the death of a Chamar his son can live in the house but no other relative can have the right of inheritance in it. They cannot make those houses of bricks and masonry. They are not allowed to dig wells in the village. They die of thirst but they cannot have a well. I say it, with due deference, that I have always been saying these things in this House but as yet the Government has not moved an inch and paid no heed to it. It is true that the previous government had a heart of stone which did not move; but what obstacles are there now to remove these vices. Recently, Sardar Patel gave us hope that justice will be done to untouchables especially in the matter of service. With your permission I repeat that Hindoos and Muslims



[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava.]

both must make a determination that in order to give equal status to untouchables they will not accept any service for five years and allow the untouchables to fill up those services. When a person falls ill or is arrested for some alleged crime he searches for a good doctor or a Vakil. He does not see whether he is a Hindoo or a Moslem doctor or Vakil. The higher services which effect the interests of the masses should be given by merit but services carrying social prestige with them should be given largely to the untouchables. Their status will improve if they are given such services. If they are made sub-Inspectors of police and Tehsildars all those disabilities would vanish, so long as they are not given those services, so long as they are not allowed to purchase land, so long as they are not allowed to possess houses; your passing of resolutions will do nothing. Untouchables must have full benefit of the necessities of life. They are in great difficulty for water; so, if one crore of rupees was provided for water supply of the untouchables in the budget it will do them a great good. To-day everybody is aware of the inconveniences of the village life. I therefore say that if justice is to be observed the budget should be prepared bearing their difficulties in mind and efforts should be made to remove them.

Sir, the untouchable mentioned by me mostly work and live in villages. They do not get so much of the produce as would suffice them for the whole year. In the circumstances, therefore, the dearness of the necessities of life prove a great hardship to them undoubtedly they get more wages than they used to get but they do not really get more. I have been noticing for the last 30 years that the untouchables and poor people in the villages who kept cows, have now given up keeping them because they cannot afford them now. They have been reduced to such status in the villages that they have usually come to think that they were not allowed to keep cattle. In the common village fields they are not permitted to graze their cattle. The time has therefore come to have the village records revised and amended in such a way that the poorest person may live his or her life. In this connection, Sir, I say that in former budgets enough provisions used to be made for the poor and for education. During the question hour it was said that so many lakhs of rupees will be given to Benares University and so many lakhs to the Aligarh University. I say the more you give to these universities the less it is but allow me to repeat the demand which Lala Lajpat Rai made from the floor of this House in 1926 that the Central Government should reserve Rupees two crores for the education of these insignificant, indigent people. Let the present government look after them so that these people may understand that they have now a popular Government. People believe that the popular Government will do justice to them and I have no doubt that all our grievances will be removed. If you want to capture their imagination treat them in a manner that they begin to feel that justice is being done to them.

Sir, there is another thing which I want to mention: I do want that full justice should be done to the cultivator and he should get reasonable price for his produce. Rupees 20 crores has been set aside for subsidy. A large portion of it should be expended in such a manner that the cultivator is encouraged to produce more corn. For this purpose if the prices of the food grains are increased there will be no harm done. For people whose income is small arrangements may be made to open cheap grain shops so that if prices go high labourers who have not enough grains in their homes may get them at cheap rates.

In conclusion I want to draw attention to two things: Poor peoples necessities cannot be supplied by big industries. Those industries are essential for the defence. Unless small cottage industries are not started for the people in the villages the poor people will get no employment in India. Poor people can not leave their villages nor can they go to a far off place because

they have no money. There is only one remedy and that is to start cottage industries near their homes where they can go and get work. Sir, I want to draw your attention to the economic condition of the lower and middle classes of people. In the Finance Bill the limit of 5 per cent. is fixed that firms should not pay a dividend of more than 5 per cent. In my opinion 5 per cent. limit is not attractive. If you want that the poor people may invest their money and earn a good profit from their money you should make some good provision in the budget for them. For a company's share if less than 8 per cent. dividend was paid the poor people's capital will not be forthcoming. So, for persons who do not pay income-tax this rule will prove of no effect. I should say that we may not think of the rich but we will have to think of the poor. I should therefore say that the condition of 5 per cent. is not good for the poor. In conclusion, I want to say that the manufacture of *Vanaspati* may be stopped for ever because the health of the people has greatly deteriorated by the use of this article. So far as the poor people are concerned the making of Ghee is being discarded in the villages and they cannot, in consequence, get butter-milk. This has caused the growth of various diseases in the villages and the death rate has gone higher. The reason why people do not get butter-milk is that cattle have become scarce. I say that it is necessary to bear in mind the health and food of the people of the villages. If we look from the point of view of the "Grow More Food Campaign" this *Vanaspati* is poison for us. We must try our level best to stop its use. It may, however, be said for it that by stopping it we will be destroying an industry of crores of rupees. I say in reply to this that those factories could be used for other industries. At present their production is causing various difficulties to the people of India. It is the duty of the Government to make appropriate arrangements for it.

**Mr. President.** The Honourable Member has already taken 20 minutes.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, the temptation to talk about this very intriguing Finance Bill is very great, but I will talk about the tribal territory which costs this Government nearly 15 crores of rupees a year when you take into consideration all the money that the Defence Department also spends on the North-West Frontier Province from Gilgit to the Persian Gulf.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Chairman (Mr. P. J. Griffiths)]

My knowledge of finance is very poor but I do know more about the tribal territory than any other Members of this House. Therefore, I will try to discuss something about which I can say something of value to this House. I hope the Finance Member will not think that I have deserted him because I supported him very strongly during the budget session and I will not talk about the principle or the morality of taxation in this Finance Bill. I assure him that I support his unadulterated and uninvited taxation with all my heart even now. But I must say that the political, social and moral make-up of India has not developed enough to accept such a radical taxation at this time. All I can say to him is, better luck next time. I feel that the tribal territory is more important to India than E.P.T. or B.P.T. So, I would like to discuss this problem. This very knotty problem of the tribal territory is merely a problem of bread. I have said that on the floor of the House several times before and I want to emphasise it again today. The tribal Pathan demands his share of food from society and when society refuses to give it, he snatches it because he is too primitive and brave to beg for it. If you have to choose between begging and stealing and if you are a brave man you would certainly steal and not beg.

The problem of tribal territory is economic. It is neither political nor religious. The Waziri is heartless and ferocious not because he loves ferocity

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan.]

and cruelty, but because he hates hunger and want. He steels and condemns people because that is the only way in which he can earn bread and clothes for his people. This is my belief and I am a Pathan and I ought to know what I am talking about when I talk about the Pathans. That is the first step towards a solution of the tribal territory problem. How are we to solve this problem?

Sardar Mangai Singh suggested the other day that we should march in and conquer this nest of dacoits and raiders.

**Sardar Mangal Singh** (East Punjab: Sikh) That is the only way.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** He roared like an air-raid siren and tried to substitute a strong voice for a strong argument, as usual. To talk of the conquest of the tribal territory is ridiculous. That ought to be obvious even to a logical person like an enraged Sikh. India could never commit such a moral crime.

Another alternative is the policy in force now, the policy which has been evolved by the hundred year old Political Department. The Department has been divided into two now, to make room for the vanity of the Indian Princes as well as the patriotism of India. What is that policy? The Political Department buys influence in the tribal territory with Indian gold. This influence is of two kinds—spiritual and social, the priest and the *Malik*. This influence is used not for the benefit of the persons from whom it is bought but for the benefit of the person who buys it. The point before India is not how to get the influence on the tribes but how to use the influence that India has already got among the tribes? The political service is the most autocratic service in India and perhaps in the world. It ought to be really sent to South Africa because General Smuts is the only person whose principles agree with the principles of this service. Most of the recruits are those who could pull the biggest strings in the highest places in the old days. It is made up of the cleverest rogues in the British Empire.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think the Honourable Member should moderate his language. The Honourable Member should confine himself to policy. It is hardly fair to make reflections on the members of the service who are not here.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** I am sorry, Sir, I have used some unfortunate word which seems to have annoyed the Chairman. But it is a fact that the Czar of Russia was certainly a constitutional monarch compared to this political service. They collect the weakest and the most greedy in the tribes and subsidise them to collect influence and use it how and where they please. Change the Political Agents today and send a different type of man and you will find a change in the tribes tomorrow. Teach the tribesman other way of making money and he will cease to kidnap and murder for it. You must teach them before you can blame them. You must give a man a chance of being good before you can condemn him for being bad. That ought to be the core of justice. Now, that the Indian Government is functioning, let us make an effort to win a gallant friend, a good neighbour. Your only contact with the Pathan is the political service. Make these gentlemen change their outlook or change these gentlemen. The tribesmen must know that India's will has changed and that India's policy has changed. The Afridi is not aware that Jawaharlal Nehru and not Weightman is dealing with his life now. How is the tribesman to know that. The interim government has to do nothing more than make the tribesmen aware of their friendliness and the tribes would become friendly. The men who project India to the tribes belong to the old order. They must be changed. We must get new contacts, new ties and new influences with a new type of man in the tribes. The political department catered for the greedy and the mercenary. We must

now cater for the proud and the idealist. Because they wanted to use them and we want to help them. The political department wanted unthinking slaves, we want thoughtful missionaries. We must get a new type out of them, the missionary type, the idealistic type. We must show the tribesmen that we are willing to lend our hand to help them develop and win their love. Can free India express her friendliness to the tribes through the same medium through which Mr. Churchill expressed his imperial power? As long as the political servants remain, the tribal problem will remain unsolved. It has taken them a hundred years to create this tribal problem. Before we embark upon any new policy towards any nation, we must decide clearly what we want, and find the tools, human, economic and political to project that policy to another nation. India means friendship towards the tribal territory. India is anxious to help them yet, they do not understand because your projection is faulty, otherwise they would not react to your love with hatred. India has always bribed them. India has always used them only as a practising ground for their troops and training centre for their bombers and gunners, for half a century. And now India turns round and flashes a smile on him and expects him to fall down in adoration and worship. No, Sir, something more than loving messages are required to win the love of a victim of your cruelty for centuries. A solid and concrete expression of love and friendship and the right kind of people to express it to the tribesmen, that is the only solution of the problem. There is no other solution.

It will take centuries, if you do not start at once, but it will be quick and almost instantaneous if we go about it briskly and efficiently. In this connection, it would be helpful to India if we, the Frontier people, have more to do with it than the Secretary of State. We know them more than the Secretary of State. First, India must declare clearly and in straight terms that we believe in the freedom of the tribes and will respect it as we respect our own. Secondly, we must take clear and definite steps to express our friendship to them effectively by finding the right people. That, Sir, is my proposal for the long term and the short term Indian policy. As things are now there, the Governor is the King of Kings of the tribes. He is not responsible to the External Affairs Department, even if he is, he does not care a fig. India and the Interim Government, Jawaharlal Nehru and his colleagues might be full of good will and noble intentions but it is Sir Olaf Caroe who appoints and disappoints the Political Agents and who interprets and expresses the will of India to the tribesmen. That is the problem. Not the reactions of the tribesmen but the action of India. The tribesman has no chance to see the man in Delhi, he judges him by his agent in Malakand. And the poor mercenary in Malakand knows of the man in Delhi but his promotion, degradation, titles and jagirs are in the hands of the Special Agent in the province, that is, the Governor, who has no sympathy with the popular Government led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

There is neither any sense nor any point in talking about a new policy or plan or indeed any policy of yours until you change the tools of the old policy from top to bottom, everyone. They will not liquidate the tribal problem because no man will liquidate his livelihood. To expect them to become missionaries of Indian good will to the tribes is like expecting a scorpion to grow wings and become a honey bee. They cannot change. They are too old to be elastic and too proud to lean and too stupid to understand the change.

The old political department is right there, in all its tenacity unscrupulousness and power. That looks upon the Interim Government as a little British joke and upon its leader as a nicely brought up but foolish idealist. And you expect these people to express your will to your neighbours! Until you can tackle the political department do not tackle the tribal problem.

[Khan Abdul Ghāni Khan.]

because the political department is the tribal problem. Sir, the tribal problem lives in New Delhi and not in the Khyber Pass. You cannot grow roses in the patch which is occupied by a cactus hedge. The best way to have a fine crop is to plough the field thoroughly and deeply, otherwise you may sow the finest seeds, have the most noble intentions and say the most pious of prayers but the end of the season will find you looking tired and sad and starving. Sir, that applies to governing as truly as it does to farming.

The tribal problem, although of great importance and magnitude to India is in itself a little problem when you boil it down it comes to changing five men—the political agents, Malakand, Khyber, Khurrum and Waziristan and then the mastermind Sir Olaf Caroe, the Governor. It would be unfair if I pass that magnificent name without paying my tribute to this great lover of the late lamented British Empire. To call him conservative would be to insult him. He is so deeply corroded that Mr. Churchill looks like a red Radical by his side. To him and people of his type who abound in the political service and Department, the Labour Government is a visitation from the devil. They hate Major Attle as conscientiously as they do Jawaharlal or they hate Mahatma Gandhi.

Sir, I have several things to say about these various gentlemen, but as you have cautioned me to be moderate, I will leave them out. I am not asking you to hang these gentlemen though they richly deserve it. I am only asking them to be changed, because they have tried to poison the soul of the Pathans. They have murdered thousands of us spiritually. Each one of them is a symbol of the suffering and torture and humiliation of the Pathans. Each one of them is a symbol of Churchill, Willingdon and the devil. They must go. If you cannot do that, do not let us make fools of ourselves by talking about our policy and appointing advisory committees, or by talking about five years plan and ten years plan for the tribal territory. Until we send these chronic die-hards to the home of Mr. Churchill with our love and best wishes, there is no point in talking about any policy. Mr. Churchill will find these gentlemen a sympathetic audience for his alcoholic hysteria and they could take to him their poison and Empire burdened hearts, their injured imperial pride and weep down his neck as the English poet has put it—

*“One in whose gentle bosom, I could pour my secret heart of woes,  
care burdened honey fly that hide her murmurs in the rose”.*

As for us the Pathans, we will heave a big national sigh of relief at getting rid of this political, economic and moral cancer. Sir, I say this with apologies to my Honourable Leader Jawaharlal Nehru. That is all I have to say.

**Mr. Tamisuddin Khan** (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is very gratifying that the Honourable the Finance Member has been able to announce a compromise of the tangle that threatened the Government till very lately. Sir, for myself I have accepted the announcement with mixed feelings. While speaking on the general discussion of the budget, I expressed the apprehension that Government might probably capitulate to big business. It looks very much like capitulation on the part of the present government to big business. But it is gratifying that Government have capitulated *en bloc* and that the rift that appeared in the ranks of Government has disappeared. That gives me satisfaction. Otherwise the substance of the compromise does not give any satisfaction to this side of the House.

Sir, the most important problems that the country is faced with today are, if I may say so, firstly, the political situation; secondly, the food situation;

and thirdly, the defence situation; particularly internal defence. I should like first of all to say a few words about the food situation. I was feeling grateful to my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal for having been instrumental in bringing the food Secretary here, because I wanted to say something about his department, but I now find that he has slipped out. But fortunately the Secretary of the Agriculture Department is here and I think his presence will do for me. That the food situation is serious no one can deny and when the situation is going to improve I do not know. Our population is increasing every year to an appalling extent, and so far as imports from outside are concerned. I am not very hopeful that we can expect much more from that direction than we are getting now. The whole world is in a very difficult situation in the matter of food and so it behoves us to try to be self-sufficient in regard to this urgent problem. It is no doubt gratifying that the Government of India and the provincial Governments have taken up the 'Grow More Food' campaign in right earnest. I had my words of praise for this good work while I spoke on the general discussion of the budget, and I still stick to my opinion. But I think further steps have to be taken to make India self-sufficient in the matter of food. In my opinion the steps we are now taking are not enough to make us self-sufficient. It is gratifying to find that for the last two or three years Government are spending large amounts of money by way of giving subsidy on this account, and the amount to be spent in the coming year is 17½ crores. It is gratifying so far as it goes, but if my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal's figures are correct I think we are not going far enough. Mr. Sanyal said only a few minutes ago that England is spending as much as 400 crores for food subsidy in the coming year. Our spending capacity is certainly much less than that of England; but still while England is spending 400 crores we are spending only 17½ crores and that is not enough. I am afraid we do not yet realise sufficiently the gravity of the problem. And I think the money that is now being spent is not spent in a proper way. If this amount were spent properly I think Government could do more for production than they are doing now. In fact, by this grant they are helping the 'Grow More Food' campaign in no way whatever. We spend these 17½ crores for the rich and the poor alike. There is hardly any sense in giving subsidy to people who can very well purchase their food at any price. But a substantial portion of this amount will be spent in giving subsidy to these undeserving rich people. I would suggest that if this money is better spent it will give a great fillip to the 'Grow More Food' campaign. What can induce the cultivator to grow more food? There may be many factors but the main factor is that the cultivator gets a proper price for his grain. Are you giving the cultivator his proper price? I think not, because even in spite of strict controls black markets are flourishing almost everywhere and the black market prices are far higher than the controlled prices. That shows that the cultivator is not getting an economic price for his produce, and unless he gets an economic price there is no incentive to him to produce more. I therefore think that if these 17½ crores could be spent more wisely it would give an encouragement to the cultivator to grow more food. Several Honourable Members have suggested that the prices of foodgrains should be increased, that is, the producer should be given more than what he is given at present. The main objection to that is that the average Indian is not in a position to pay more for his food in the present circumstances. I agree that the prices cannot be increased all round but why not spend these 17½ crores—or 30 crores if necessary—by giving a subsidy either to the producers or only to the needy consumers and not to the rich people, and simultaneously raise the prices? Prices can be raised and prices can be raised without the poorer people being hard hit. I propose that you should give a subsidy to the poorer sections of the community and realise a higher price from the rich people who can pay these

[Mr. Tamizuddin Khan.]

higher prices. If that is done you will raise the price given to the cultivators and at the same time you will also give relief to the poor. In this way I think these 17½ crores can be better spent and the cultivator can be given a more economic price for his produce. Unless Government pay serious attention to this problem and somehow or other come forward to give a proper price to the cultivator, I think we shall not be able to solve the grave food problem that faces the country today.

The next point I should like to deal with is the defence problem. After the war, from one point of view this problem is not very important. So far as external aggression is concerned, we are perhaps comparatively safe at the present time; and in the matter of this external aggression not only India but most countries of the world will have to depend more on the efforts of the United Nations Organisations to keep peace in the world than to their own individual strength. Very few countries in the world can actually prevent aggression from the big powers in case of war. Therefore in regard to external aggression I think we can very well depend upon the United Nations Organisation and try our little best to strengthen the hands of that organisation. But another problem has assumed importance, namely, internal defence, on account of the British declaration to confer full powers to Indian hands in the course of a few months. We know that the general situation in the country is extremely disturbed; serious things are happening and more serious things can happen at any moment. Therefore there is no doubt that the army has to be kept in a state of efficiency. And along with this there is the question of Indianisation of the army within a short space of time. So far as Indianisation is concerned I think we all wish it to be done as quickly as possible, but there are great impediments in the way which have to be overcome. One of the main impediments is that there are not enough trained officers to man the Indian armed forces. Therefore it is only commonsense that as many trained people as are available at the present time should not be diverted to other lines and should be principally confined to military duties. In this respect suggestions have been thrown in the House, but they have been treated with very little regard. I would like to say a few words about a very limited aspect of this problem, i.e., about the Civilian Ordnance Officers. A question was asked in the Assembly about these officers—whether they could be absorbed in the post-war service? A reply was given to the effect that the size of the post-war Army was not yet known and until the Indianization Committee sent their report nothing could be finally decided. But curiously enough though the Indianization Committee has since recommended that these officers should be absorbed in as large a number as possible, a large number of them have been served with notices to quit and there is no assurance that others will be retained in the post-war service. Why? Instead of using these Civilian Ordnance Officers it is proposed that trained military personnel should be employed for this job. Why? Here is an instance where trained Indian Civilian Ordnance Officers, who have proved their worth and who have proved extremely successful and useful, are being thrown out. Why should not these people be employed in the Ordnance Service and as many military officers as possible should be kept reserved for military service. As regards this there is no satisfactory reply and the Defence Secretary is not here at the moment. I do not know if this House is going to get a satisfactory reply on that question, which is very important. I suppose that will not only help Indianization but will also save a considerable amount of money to the Indian Exchequer. Therefore there is no sense at all in sending away these trained people and enhancing our difficulties in every way.

Then I would come to my last point. That relates to the political situation. I thought that it would not be proper to say anything on that

subject, but unfortunately my Honourable friend, Mr. Maitra, who is not here at the present moment, raised this question, and he raised this question in such a way that one cannot but say a few words in reply to his insinuations against the Bengal Government.

**Mr. Chairman:** When Mr. Maitra was speaking on this point, the President pointed out that he was going rather far beyond the scope of the Bill. I hope the Honourable Member will not do likewise.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** What about the harm which has already been done because of his insinuations? Can I confine myself to what he stated? I will not go beyond that.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Honourable Member is certainly entitled to refer to what has already been said on the floor of this House, but he cannot go further than that.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Sir, he has said that the Government of Bengal mis-spent the grant given by the Central Government, and therefore he has warned the Finance Member that he should be careful in giving any further grant to the Government of Bengal. Sir Cowasji Jehangir related yesterday that he had had a dream. I think Mr. Maitra had not only had a dream, but a nightmare. He said that the Government of Bengal mis-spent 3½ crores of rupees given to them for famine relief. Does he not know that the Government of India made these grants not before, but after most of the expenditure on famine had been made and what the Government of Bengal spent for famine was not an earmarked money granted by the Government of India, but the Government of Bengal had to spend vast sums as required on account of the famine, and actually they had to spend, far more than what the Government of India gave them? Therefore to say that out of the Government of India grant only so much was spent for giving gratuitous relief and so much was spent for employing staff—that is an argument which does not appeal to me. Then, Sir, he was very sorry that his community was not represented on the Government of Bengal, and therefore his argument was why should the Government of India give any subsidy to a Government where a large section of the population was not represented. That was probably the reason for his argument. I would like to say, does he not know that there are six other provinces in India where one particular community—the second largest Party—is not at all represented? That is very well, but when it comes to the case of Bengal, he says that the Government of Bengal is not representative because one particular party is not in the Government. No one is more sorry on account of the absence of that Party from the Government of Bengal than I am, but Mr. Maitra and those for whom he stands must thank themselves for their absence from the Government of Bengal.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think the Honourable Member has made the point sufficiently clear. He must not pursue it further.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Further he said that it was preposterous that the community that contributed 80 per cent. of the taxes of the provinces was unrepresented in the Government of Bengal. Sir, that is another mis-statement. What is the community that contribute 80 per cent. of the taxes to the coffers of the Government of Bengal? I think, Sir, it is the peasant and the worker who is the only producer of the wealth of the land that actually pays the tax to the Bengal Government and in fact to all Governments and it is not the few conduit pipes through which money has found its way to the coffers of Government. Without naming any community I would like to say that the workers and peasants are very well represented in the Government of Bengal. Therefore no one can maintain that the Government of Bengal is unrepresentative.



[Mr. Tamizuddin Khan.]

I generally find myself in agreement with the views of my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, but he said one thing today to which I could not unfortunately agree. He has found fault with the Honourable the Finance Member in respect of what he said regarding regional planning.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is not enough.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** When my Honourable friend says it is not enough, I think he has since modified his opinion to a certain extent. From what he said I understood that he was out and out against regional planning. If the House remembers, one prominent member belonging to his Party—Mr. Masani—supported the theory of regional planning very strongly the other day. Unfortunately,—how can the Finance Member or any other person help it—unfortunately, this vast country is divided into regions, and conditions in these regions greatly differ. Therefore there has to be this regional planning. Look at, for example, the “Damoodar Scheme”. “The Damoodar Valley forms one particular region of India. Therefore it cannot be said that there should not be any regional planning so far as schemes like this are concerned. But the Honourable the Finance Member advanced another very good reason. Everything now seems to be in the melting pot. We do not know whether there is going to be one India or more than one India. Therefore, will it not complicate matters by launching into all-India schemes of development, only a few months before things take a particular shape. We shall not have to wait long. We shall have to wait for a short time before we are in a position to know where we stand. So far as that large political question is concerned, it is very unfortunate that the country has not been able to come to a settlement. We on this side of the House desire that there ought to be an amicable settlement. But if there is no amicable settlement, everyone knows that the results may be very very disastrous and I only wish that good sense will prevail in all quarters and that we shall be able to come to a settlement in the near future. But I should like to say that it will not do to beckon for compromise with one hand and shut the door with the other. If any party approaches the problem in that spirit that party is not going to help the solution of the problem at all.

**Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah** (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, the whole country hailed this budget as the poor man's budget. It filled the man in the street with the hope that the setting up of an Indian Government would not mean the substitution of one set of exploiters for another set. The man in the street began to feel that he too was an important member of the body politic and not merely an automaton created not to live but merely to exist and slave for the benefit of some multi-millionaires. No sooner were the budget proposals announced than the multi-millionaires began to make a terrific noise all over the country. Newspapers, which always make a pretence of championing the cause of the poor and down-trodden millions began to vie with each other in championing the cause of the multi-millionaires. They are trying to throw dust into the eyes of the poor people and trying to convince them that the tax on the multi-millionaires is a calamity on the poor. They attempt to conceal the fact that the deficit in the budget will have to be met by some other tax, whose incidence will fall on the middle and the poor class people. It is now well known that the budget proposals were drawn up by the Finance Member in consultation with two other very eminent members of the Cabinet. It is idle to suggest that these eminent members of the Cabinet failed to appreciate the real significance of the taxation proposals. Some newspapers had been even so charitable as to suggest that the consent given by these eminent members of the Cabinet was not “considered consent”. Encouragement of such criticism would amount to a mockery of statecraft and bankruptcy of statesmanship. At the time of the preliminary discussion of the Budget in this

House there was strong criticism of the taxation problems by some of my Honourable colleagues. I regret to say that this criticism showed utter lack of discipline because competent and responsible leaders had already given their consent. The Honourable Members of the Cabinet on the other hand gave expression to their whole-hearted and well-considered support of the taxation and one Honourable Member went so far as to suggest that if big business did not submit to the taxation willingly, the alternative would be the nationalisation of industry. Nevertheless, opposition to the taxation problems has been gaining momentum. The taxation measures have since been fully thrashed out in the Select Committee. Many modifications of far-reaching character have been conceded. My fear is that these modifications have already made a big hole in the anticipated receipts. All the serious objections raised by the multi-millionaires have been fully met. We are, however, confronted with the most grotesque situation in which all the members of the Select Committee, who belong to the Congress Party have recorded a minute of dissent. They are not satisfied with the substantial modifications already made. There is tragic humour in the fact that the socialist members of the Select Committee have also signed a minute of dissent. Some people had their suspicion that the socialism of the socialist members was only skin-deep. But even skin-deep socialists would hesitate to dance to the tune of the capitalist in such brazen-faced manner. The performance of my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh has never been equalled in the annals of this House. In his speech on the 3rd of March, 1947, he characterised the criticism of the taxation proposals as the howl of the multi-millionaire, and was most emphatic that the taxation proposals should be rigidly adhered to. With what curious logic he now dissents even from the taxation proposals as considerably diluted by the Select Committee, passes comprehension.

I have no mind to allude to the scandalous rumours which are current in Delhi and outside as to what power and influence have converted the erst-while champions of the masses into champions of capitalism as its worst. Suffice it to say that such conduct on our part is likely to have very serious repercussions. We shall be losing the confidence of the poor masses in this country. If the Delegates who have come to Delhi from 32 countries to attend the Asian Relations Conference were to come to know the way in which such important matters are handled in this country they will not take with them the sort of impression about our integrity and high-mindedness which we want them to do. Small temporary benefits and advantages are often bought too dearly. If there is any intention anywhere to win the confidence of the weak and the down-trodden, let me say that the way in which this budget is being handled by a section of this House is not the way to do it.

The note of dissent recorded by some members of the Select Committee clearly showed that the voice behind it was the resolution of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce. These merchant princes own practically all the newspapers in India and the press is so demoralised that they have accepted the principle of those who pay the piper have a right to call for the tune. The press in India does not represent the public opinion but it expressed the opinion of their masters. Therefore I beseech the Finance Member to pay no attention to the press propaganda as we all know that the propaganda is being engineered by a group of seven millionaires, who are not rolling in wealth but the wealth is rolling on them. Our blood-suckers made enormous profits during the war and they desire that the war profits should continue during the peace-time as well and if they do not realise the situation in the country, then threat will be administered not by the members of the Treasury Benches but by the socialist and economist groups in the country. A note of warning was given by Miss Maniben Kara yesterday.

[Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah.]

I hope the Government will elucidate their policy about capitalism. While the U.P. Government is anxious to destroy the capitalists the Government of India is following the dictatorship of the capitalists. I am sure that the elected members of the House to whichever party they belong will maintain their promises given to their electors. All taxes are unpopular but they should be levied in proportion to one's capacity to pay. The Finance Member has lost 9½ crores by abolishing salt tax and this should be compensated by persons who are in a position to pay.

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson** (Bengal: European): Sir, in the few moments that are left at the disposal of the House it will not be possible to deal in any great detail with some of the points which I want to mention in the course of my speech. I think the congratulations of all of us are due to the Finance Member on the long ordeal through which he has almost safely passed. He has shown his powers of endurance both during the General Debate on the budget, in the proceedings of the Select Committee and now in this debate, which is in keeping with the traditions of his office. He has also shown considerable mastery of the gift of silence. I have watched him in this debate for the last two days, as it ranged over a very wide variety of topics, making notes on his pad with a bland and comfortable smile on his face and I have come to suspect that that smile derives from the fact that he knows as well as we do that, when the heat and dust of the present controversy over the business profits tax and the capital gains tax has passed away, we shall come to realise what he fully well knows now, namely, that the real head and front of his attack on the taxpayer is to be found in the Finance Bill, 1947, to which so little detailed attention has so far been given. Of course the Bill does not go to the Select Committee, and the occasion of the debate on the Finance Bill is very largely utilised to ventilate grievances over the field of administration, and to that extent we are apt to neglect the detailed provisions of what is perhaps in any year, and certainly this year, the most important of the financial proposals which the Honourable Member brings before the legislature.

Now, Sir, generally speaking, the Finance Member has as background to his tax proposals put before us, for our consideration, what he has described as ideals of social and distributive justice. He made that clear in his initial speech in introducing the budget on the 28th of February, and in utterances which he has made since on reference of his Bills to the Select Committee he has underlined what he said on that occasion.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Honourable Member may resume his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 26th March, 1947.