

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

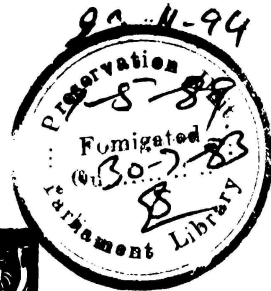


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Volume IV, 1947

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

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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*Deputy President:*

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Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 3rd April, 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

#### MANUFACTURE OF DYNAMOS IN INDIA

†1368. \*Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether there is any scheme for the manufacture of dynamos in India sponsored by any private company, or examined and considered by Government?

(b) How many schemes for the generation of hydro-electric power have been sanctioned by Government and what is the value of the orders for dynamos in connection with them, which have been placed abroad?

(c) Do Government propose to ask the Electrical Commissioner under them to investigate and submit a scheme for the manufacture of dynamos and to give reasons, if any, why they cannot be produced in India as cheaply as in other countries?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to generators used in Hydro-electric projects. Government are not aware of any scheme for manufacturing generators suitable for hydro-electric projects sponsored by any private company in India, nor has any such scheme been examined or considered by Government.

(b) The number of hydro-electric schemes sanctioned for which plant has actually been ordered is eleven, requiring about 2½ crores worth of imported heavy generating plant consisting entirely of waterwheels and alternators, i.e., A. C. Generators, the latter forming nearly half of the total value. A number of other schemes are approaching the stage of placing orders.

(c) The manufacture of giant alternators depends on the existence of a strong electric motor manufacturing industry. The motor manufacturing industry is still in its infancy in India and the largest sized motor produced is only 30 H.P. The Government of India is intent on the development of hydro-electric power for industry and I presume it is not the intention of Honourable Member to suggest that we should hold up hydro-electric power until alternators can be manufactured here. The abilities and techniques of a sound electric motor industry can be directed towards the production of big generators. But it is a matter of considerable further progress requiring time.

#### CURING OF INDIAN TOBACCO AND MANUFACTURE OF CIGARS, AND CIGARETTES

†1369. \*Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state what attempts Government have made for improving the cultivation and curing of Indian tobacco and manufacturing superior smoking mixture, cigars and cigarettes in India?

(b) What is the margin between imported prices of superior tobacco and Indian costs including excise duty?

(c) Have Government received any representation asking for help in such ventures as are referred to in Part (a)?

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

(d) How does the total imported quantity of tobacco, cigarettes and cigars during 1945-46 and 1946-47 (upto the last date for which figures are available) compare with those during the years 1938-39 and 1939-40?

(e) Have Government ascertained the effect of tobacco duty on the area cultivated and has such area increased or diminished after the levy of duty and increase in tobacco excise?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) Work has been carried on at Pusa and at Guntur for evolving suitable varieties of tobacco seed and for determining the most suitable rotation and manurial practices. A series of coordinated experiments were laid out with a view to determine the areas suitable for the production of cigarette tobacco. Tobacco research stations have now been established in several Provinces for experimental work with cigarette tobacco.

Fluecuring experiments were conducted first at Pusa and later at Guntur with special reference to the quality of the leaves.

No work has so far been done on the manufacturing side. It may also be mentioned that the Indian Central Tobacco Committee was established in 1945 to assist in the improvement and development of the production and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products and all matters incidental thereto. Two Agricultural Officers have been trained in the U. S. A., Canada and the U. K., in the technique of tobacco production and development. They have recently returned after completion of their training and will make the necessary arrangements now for carrying on further research and development work.

(b) On the basis of the declared value per unit of unmanufactured tobacco imported into India, the price of unmanufactured tobacco at the port, exclusive of import duty at the standard rate of Rs. 7/8/- per lb. amounted to Rs. 2/10/6 per lb. in May 1946, against which the maximum price of fluecured virginia 1946 crop redried strips of the 1st grade at Guntur was Rs. 2/1/- per lb. during that month, exclusive of the excise duty of Rs. 7/8/- per lb.

(c) The Indian Central Tobacco Committee has received requests for scientific, technical and monetary help in improving tobacco cultivation and manufacture from various sources. Suggestions have also been received from members of the Committee and others for improving the methods of tobacco manufacture of all kinds, particularly of the manufacture of hookah tobacco. All these are under the consideration of the Committee.

(d) A statement is laid on the table of the House. The imports of unmanufactured tobacco have doubled.

(e) Full statistics of tobacco cultivation, both as a whole and by particular varieties, have been maintained since the introduction of the excise. It is difficult to compare these with pre-excise statistics since, in respect of large areas for which no definite records were available, the latter has necessarily to be based on estimates. Some fall in total production seems to have taken place in the year following the introduction of the excise. Since then there has been a steady, though gradual increase in acreage under tobacco.

**STATEMENT**  
*Imports of tobacco into India*

(In lbs.)

| Article                             | (1938-39) (April to March) |                                                       | (1939-40) (April to March) |                            |                                                      | 1945-46<br>(April to March) | 1946-47<br>(3 months<br>ending June<br>1946) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                                     | Through Br.<br>India ports | Through<br>Kathiawar &<br>Travancore<br>States ports. | Total                      | Through Br.<br>India ports | Through<br>Kathiawar &<br>Travancore<br>States ports | Total                       | Through<br>British India<br>ports only       |
| Unmanufactured tobacco              | 6,370,556                  | 1,671,318                                             | 8,041,874                  | 5,782,824                  | 1,235,030                                            | 7,017,854                   | 4,414,412                                    |
| Manufactured :—                     |                            |                                                       |                            |                            |                                                      |                             |                                              |
| Cig rattes                          | 1,218,472                  | 34,088                                                | 1,252,560                  | 1,371,370                  | 26,019                                               | 1,397,389                   | 138,152                                      |
| Cigars                              | 205,791                    | 25,775                                                | 231,566                    | 231,326                    | 4,414                                                | 235,740                     | 2                                            |
| Tobacco for pipes and<br>Cigarettes | 59,289                     | ...                                                   | 59,289                     | 55,966                     | ...                                                  | 55,966                      | 13,212                                       |
| Other sorts                         | 33,863                     | ...                                                   | 33,863                     | 55,213                     | ...                                                  | 55,213                      | 4,831                                        |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>7,887,971</b>           | <b>1,731,181</b>                                      | <b>9,619,152</b>           | <b>7,496,699</b>           | <b>1,265,463</b>                                     | <b>8,762,162</b>            | <b>4,570,609</b>                             |



*Imports of tobacco through British India ports in the months of April to June  
during 1938-39, 1939-40, and 1945-46*  
(in lbs.)

| Article                                    | 1938-39   | 1939-40   | 1945-46   |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unmanufactured tobacco . . . . .           | 1,290,613 | 1,591,639 | 4,358,434 |
| Manufactured :—                            |           |           |           |
| Cigarettes . . . . .                       | 240,758   | 239,070   | 5,390     |
| Cigars . . . . .                           | 37,523    | 43,641    | ...       |
| Tobacco for pipes and Cigarettes . . . . . | 18,091    | 12,627    | 47,862    |
| Other Sorts . . . . .                      | 6,837     | 24,877    | 1,860     |
| Total . . . . .                            | 1,593,822 | 1,961,854 | 4,413,546 |

**IMPORT AND PRICES OF FERTILIZERS**

†1370. \*Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state what was the total import of fertilisers each year since the import scheme was started by Government?

(b) How much was taken by each Province each year?

(c) What were the prices paid by Government for such fertilisers and were they at competitive rates?

(d) What was the price charged to the Provinces and was it received in cash from them, or, was any part of the price considered as a Central grant?

(e) Have Government any information as to what price the Provinces have charged to consumers?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) In the three years 1943-46 the imports were 40,000 70,000 and 164,000 tons respectively and in the current year they are expected to be 172,000 tons.

(b) A statement (Statement I) is placed on the table.

(c) A statement (Statement II) showing the prices paid for the fertilisers from time to time is placed on the table. They have varied from £14/15/- to £ 19 per ton. In view of the system of world allocation of fertilisers by the International Emergency Food Council, the imports were made from the sources determined by that body, at the prices prevailing there.

(d) The prices at which fertilisers were made available to provinces are given in the statement (Statement III) placed on the table showing that the price of Ammonium Sulphate varied between Rs. 230 and 253 per ton F. O. R. main port. Transport godown and other incidental charges are borne by the Provinces. The Provincial Governments were debited with the full cost of the fertilisers at the price fixed by the Government. Where Provincial Governments have distributed fertilisers at subsidised rates under approved G. M. F. schemes the Government of India have sanctioned grants to cover a part of the cost of such subsidies.

(e) The retail prices vary at different places. A statement (Statement IV) showing the average retail prices of fertilisers prevailing at present in the provinces is placed on the table. The figures vary from Rs. 260 to Rs. 340 per ton for ammonium sulphate not taking into consideration the subsidies given.

**STATEMENT I**

| Provinces        | Sulphate of Ammonia allocation |         |         |         | Ammonium Phosphate allocation |         |         |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                  | 1943-44                        | 1944-45 | 1945-46 | 1946-47 | 1944-45                       | 1945-46 | 1946-47 |
|                  | Tons.                          | Tons.   | Tons.   | Tons.   | Tons.                         | Tons.   | Tons.   |
| Bengal . . . . . | 1,000                          | 4,420   | 13,000  | 17,000  | 630                           | 900     | 700     |
| U. P. . . . .    | 2,000                          | 6,450   | 13,600  | 20,000  | 800                           | 400     | 600     |
| Bihar . . . . .  | 500                            | 5,600   | 10,000  | 12,000  | 2,000                         | 400     | 1,100   |
| Orissa . . . . . | 800                            | 1,170   | 2,400   | 3,000   | 5                             | ...     | ...     |
| Assam . . . . .  | 100                            | 100     | 51.5    | 155     | 5.5                           | 10      | 5       |
| Bombay . . . . . | 1,900                          | 6,320   | 23,500  | 30,000  | 2,500                         | 1,150   | 1,050   |

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

| Provinces                 | Sulphate of Ammonia allocation |         |         |                                  | Ammonium Phosphate allocation |         |         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                           | 1943-44                        | 1944-45 | 1945-46 | 1946-47                          | 1944-45                       | 1945-46 | 1946-47 |
|                           | Tons.                          | Tons.   | Tons.   | Tons.                            | Tons.                         | Tons.   | Tons.   |
| Central Province          | 100                            | 750     | 1,450   | 2,000                            | 50                            | 100     | 1,000   |
| Madras                    | 5,350                          | 27,500  | 66,300  | 71,000                           | 3,000                         | 2,180   | 3,750   |
| Punjab                    | 100                            | 650     | 1,500   | 2,000                            | ...                           | 18      | 100     |
| Sind                      | 100                            | 755     | 900     | 2,800                            | ...                           | ...     | 100     |
| N. W.-F. P.               | 25                             | 10      | 50      | 50                               | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Baluchistan               | ...                            | ...     | 30      | 65                               | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Delhi                     | ...                            | ...     | 100     | 100                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Coorg                     | ...                            | ...     | 25      | 25                               | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| E. States                 | 50                             | 160     | 100     | 200                              | ...                           | 10      | 5       |
| Beroda                    | 100                            | 360     | 1,200   | 1,500                            | 50                            | 20      | 30      |
| Bhopal                    | 50                             | 130     | 100     | 200                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Kolhapur                  | 1,000                          | 1,900   | 5,000   | 7,000                            | 370                           | 250     | 300     |
| Cochin                    | 50                             | 250     | 250     | 250                              | ...                           | 10      | 20      |
| Hyderabad                 | ...                            | 750     | 2,000   | 2,000                            | 690                           | ...     | 200     |
| Small Deccan States       | ...                            | 675     | 1,260   | 1,500                            | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Travancore                | ...                            | 1,500   | 2,500   | 3,000                            | 320                           | 150     | 200     |
| Mysore                    | ...                            | 1,000   | 4,400   | ...                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Benares States            | ...                            | ...     | 100     | 150                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Rampur                    | ...                            | ...     | ...     | 300                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Gwalior                   | ...                            | ...     | 225     | 200                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Rajputana States          | ...                            | ...     | 357     | 400                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| C. I. States              | ...                            | ...     | 100     | 262                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| W. I. Gujrat States       | ...                            | ...     | 83      | 100                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Bikaner                   | ...                            | ...     | 100     | 100                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Kashmir and Punjab States | ...                            | ...     | 200     | 400                              | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Goa                       | ...                            | ...     | ...     | 1,000                            | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Nagod                     | ...                            | ...     | ...     | 20                               | ...                           | ...     | ...     |
| Rubber                    | 250                            | 250     | 600     | 252<br>223<br>(Ammonium Nitrate) | 189                           | 50      | ..      |

| Provinces      | Sulphate of Ammonia allocation |                |                |                                               | Ammonium Phosphate allocation |              |              |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                | 1943-44                        | 1944-45        | 1945-46        | 1946-47                                       | 1944-45                       | 1945-46      | 1946-47      |
| U. P. A. S. I. | Tons.<br>900                   | Tons.<br>1,400 | Tons.<br>4,000 | Tons.<br>1,534<br>1,562<br>(Ammonium Nitrate) | Tons.<br>307                  | Tons.<br>150 | Tons.<br>... |
| Tea.           | 8,000                          | 14,000         | 21,000         | 9,530<br>4,250<br>(Ammonium Nitrate)          | 2,951                         | 1,200        | 500          |

*Statement II—Price paid by the Government for chemical fertilisers.  
British Sulphate of Ammonia.*

- July 1943 to June 1944. £14-15 S per ton. C.I.F. Indian ports.
- July 1944 to June 1945—
  - £14-15 S per ton. C.I.F. Indian Ports.
  - £19-0 S per ton. C.I.F. Indian Ports.
  - £15-2 S per ton. C.I.F. Indian Ports.
  - £15-18 S per ton. C.I.F. Indian Ports.
- July 1945 to June 1946—
  - £15-13 S per ton. C.I.F. Indian Ports.
  - £15-7 S per ton. C. & F. Indian Ports.
  - £15-15 S per ton. C. & F. Indian Ports.
  - £15-17 S per ton. C. & F. Indian Ports.
- July 1946 to June 1947—
  - £17-0 S per ton. C. & F. Indian Ports.
  - £17-15 S per ton. C. & F. Indian Ports.

*Canadian Sulphate of Ammonia.*

- July 1943 to June 1944 and July 1944 to June 1945.—\$ 65-5 (Canadian dollars) per ton. C. & F. Indian Ports.  
 July 1945 to June 1946.—\$63-0 (Canadian dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.  
 July 1946 to June 1947.—\$63-5 (Canadian dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.

*Ammonium Phosphate from Canada.*

- July 1943 to June 1944 and July 1944 to June 1945.—\$81.00 (Canadian dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.  
 July 1945 to June 1946.—\$76.00 (Canadian dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.  
 July 1946 to June 1947.—\$76.00 (Canadian dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.

*Triple Superphosphate from U. S. A.*

\$68.00 (Dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.

*Superphosphate (Single) from U. S. A.*

\$45.00 (Dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.

*Statement III—Showing the selling price of fertilisers fixed by this Department from time to time.*

- Sulphate of Ammonia—*
  - From 1-4-44 to 31-10-44. Rs. 241 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
  - From 1-11-44 to 15-8-45. Rs. 253 per ton F.O.R. main ports
  - From 16-8-45 to 31-5-46. Rs. 245 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
  - From 1-6-46 to 31-3-47. Rs. 230 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
- Ammonium Phosphate—*
  - From 1-4-44 to 31-12-45. Rs. 305 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
  - From 1-1-46 to 20-12-46. Rs. 255 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
  - From 21-12-46 to 30-6-47. Rs. 290 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
- Superphosphate—*
  - For triple superphosphate. Rs. 274 per ton F.O.R. main ports.
  - Superphosphate 6-12-46 to 30-6-47. Rs. 186 per ton F.O.R. main ports.

## Statement IV—Showing the prices of Fertilizers charged to consumers in the Provinces

| S. No. | Name of the Province | Sulphate of Ammonia |    |    |     | Ammonium Phosphate |    |     |                    |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------|----|----|-----|--------------------|----|-----|--------------------|
|        |                      | Rs.                 | A. | P. |     | Rs.                | A. | P.  |                    |
| 1      | Ajmer-Merwara . . .  | ...                 |    |    | ... |                    |    | ... |                    |
| 2      | Baluchistan . . .    | ...                 |    |    | ... |                    |    | ... |                    |
| 3      | Bengal . . . . .     | 280                 | 0  | 0  | to  | 300                | 0  | 0   | 295 0 0 ...        |
| 4      | Bihar . . . . .      | 272                 | 0  | 0  |     | ...                |    |     | 310 0 0 ...        |
| 5      | Bombay . . . . .     | 265                 | 0  | 0  |     | ...                |    |     | 325 0 0 ...        |
| 6      | C. P. & Berar . . .  | 258                 | 0  | 0  | to  | 312                | 0  | 0   | 275 0 0 to 316 0 0 |
| 7      | Coorg . . . . .      | 284                 | 0  | 0  |     | ...                |    |     | ... ..             |
| 8      | Delhi . . . . .      | 271                 | 0  | 0  |     | ...                |    |     | ...                |
| 9      | Madras . . . . .     | 264                 | 0  | 0  |     | ...                |    |     | 314 7 0            |
| 10     | N. W. F. P. . . . .  | 297                 | 0  | 0  |     | ...                |    |     | ...                |
| 11     | Orissa . . . . .     | 270                 | 0  | 0  | to  | 340                | 0  | 0   |                    |
| 12     | Punjab . . . . .     | 262                 | 8  | 0  |     |                    |    |     |                    |
| 13     | Sind . . . . .       | ...                 |    |    |     | ...                |    |     | ...                |
| 14     | U. P. . . . .        | 266                 | 0  | 0  | to  | 276                | 0  | 0   | 325 0 0 to 330 0 0 |

## SUPPLY OF FODDER AND CATTLE FOOD

†1371. \*Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state what efforts have been made by Government to increase the supply of fodder and cattle food?

(b) How much oil-cake has been exported from India during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 (upto the last month for which figures are available)?

(c) Have Government considered and ascertained as to whether the high price of cattle and the consequent prohibitive price of butter and ghee are not pressing heavily on the standard of life of the middle class and working class people?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A reference is solicited to the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 784 asked by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal on the 10th March 1947.

(b) Exports of oilcakes during the year 1945-46 and the ten months—April 1946 to January 1947—were 115 and 47 tons respectively. 5,500 tons of mowah cake were exported in December 46 and January 1947.

(c) The prices of cattle and ghee are now three to four times what they were in the pre-war period while the price of butter is 2½ times of what it used to be. Government have no information of the extent to which these increases have affected the standard of living of the middle and working classes; such effects would vary with the extent to which wages and salaries have risen.

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

**STEPS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CATTLE AND OF CATTLE FOOD**

†1372. \***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state what special efforts Government have made (i) to increase the number of cattle, (ii) to increase fodder and cattle food supply, (iii) to provide cheap return transport for dry animals from large cities, and (iv) to stop export either of cattle or of meat from India?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of reducing the number of vegetable ghee producing plants in the country with a view to leaving in the rural area in the hands of the producers a certain amount of cotton seeds and other oil seeds for purposes of cattle food?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) (i) A reference is solicited to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 1298 by Mr. Mohammed Killedar on the 31st March 1947.

(ii) A reference is solicited to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 784 asked by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal on the 10th March 1947.

(iii) The reduced freight charges introduced in September, 1929 are still in force. In view of the fact that the costs of the Railways in transporting cattle by rail have gone up, further reductions in freights are not considered feasible.

(iv) The export of cattle is prohibited except under licence. The export of canned meat and dry beef has also been banned. The export of piggery products is however allowed.

(b) It is not considered feasible to close down the existing vanaspati factories. The quantities of groundnut and cotton seed used in the manufacture of Vanaspati amount to 18.5 per cent. and 0.8 per cent. respectively of the total annual production. Moreover it is only the oil from cotton seed and other oilseeds which is used by these factories while the resulting cakes (which in the case of cotton cake is just as good for the purpose as cotton seed) are still available for use as cattle feed.

**PROVISION OF ELECTRIC FANS, CUSHION SEATS AND DRINKING WATER TAPS IN INTER AND THIRD CLASS COACHES ON RAILWAYS**

1373. \***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there are no electric fans for inter class and third class coaches on any of the Government managed Railways;

(b) whether Government are aware that there are neither cushion seats nor water taps for drinking water in the third class coaches; and

(c) the steps that Government propose to take to provide better comforts to third class and inter class passengers than those existing at present?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Except in a few inter class coaches, electric fans are not at present fitted in inter and third class coaches on Government Railways. The future provision of fans in coaches corresponding to the present inter class is intended. The question of providing fans in third class carriages is under examination.

(b) Yes. The provision of cushions in third class coaches is under examination and the views of the Honourable Members on this point have already been invited in connection with the sample coaches on view at New Delhi station. It is the intention to provide in third class compartments a small alcove fitted with a water tap for drinking purposes.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to starred question No. 780 asked by Seth Govind Das on 10th March 1947.

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

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** With reference to the model coaches to which the Honourable Member has referred and which are now at the New Delhi Station, may I know how many such coaches will be available for the travelling public by the time of the next presentation of the Budget?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** I do not expect that it would be possible to put coaches constructed on this experimental design during the year 1947-48, but I am hoping that there will be a number of these coaches during the following year. -

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Have the Government laid down any target so far as time is concerned and to have a number of such coaches within that time?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** We have not fixed a target yet, because the question rather turns on what the final design is going to be. This is a purely experimental thing and we are awaiting the views of Honourable Members of this House and others as to the sort of design that should be finally decided.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** How long the Government will take to examine the questionnaire which has been circulated to the Honourable Members of this House?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** As early as possible.

**Seth Govind Das:** Have the Government thought of providing fans in the present coaches also and not only in the new coaches?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** Yes, Sir; that is an idea we are keeping in mind.

**Seth Govind Das:** Have they prepared any estimate as to how much it will cost to the Government if they provide fans in Inter and third class coaches?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** It will not very materially affect the cost, so that the financial problem is not the most important problem. With reference to the Honourable Member's question, I should like to make it clear that although the final decision for these new coaches has got to be held over until we have a clearer idea, our intention at present is to put into the coaches we are building on the existing designs as many amenities of the kind that the Honourable Member has suggested as possible.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that a similar coach was put on exhibition and the questionnaire was circulated amongst us as long ago as 1936 and 1937 and even now it is on an experimental stage? And is he also aware of a similar answer given by the Government when we made the suggestion that electric fans should be fitted into these railway carriages and that too is more than ten years old?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** I am not in a position to speak for my predecessors, but I mean exactly what I said this morning.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not, therefore, the duty of the Government to fix some target in order to avoid similar thing happening in the future?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** We are very keen on having these new coaches put on the lines on as big a scale as possible. I do not know if it is worth while fixing a target because we are going to do it as quickly as possible.

**Seth Govind Das:** The Honourable Member said that the financial consideration is not there. May I ask, then, what are the other considerations which are preventing the Government from fixing the fans in the third class and Inter class coaches in this very hot country?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** The other consideration which applies to the whole of our coaching problems is the shortage of materials.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Instead of using the phrase 'as soon as possible', may I ask whether it is not possible for the Government to fix a time-limit?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** If Honourable Members want me to fix a target, if they will give me a little time, I shall be prepared to examine it.

#### DE-CONTROL OF SALE AND SUPPLY OF SUGAR

1374. **\*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the position of sugar production in India compared to its demand and the approximate date when it will be possible to de-control the sale and supply of sugar;

(b) what the total production of cube sugar was during the year 1946 and what will be its expected production in 1947, and the methods adopted for its proper distribution to the various Provinces; and

(c) the reasons why cube sugar is not freely available in Delhi now?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** (a) The production of sugar in 1945-46 was 9,50,339 tons. During the current season it is likely to be about nine lakh tons. There is no precise method of ascertaining the demand. The Sugar Panel appointed by the Government in 1945 has estimated it as between 16 and 18 lakh tons. The Government are not in a position to state when the control will be lifted.

(b) The total production of sugar cubes in 1946 was 859 tons and about the same quantity is expected to be produced in 1947. The manufacturers are allowed to sell sugar cubes in their normal markets through normal trade channels.

(c) Sugar cubes are not freely available as the quantity produced is not sufficient to meet the demand.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Did the Government consider the question of introducing the control system in the matter of sugar cubes also?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** It has not been considered, because the quantity produced is very small.

**Sri V. Gangaraju:** May I ask why the sugar cubes have been excluded?

**Mr. President:** This question was dealt with at length on a previous occasion.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** What system Government is considering regarding the sale and supply of sugar to rural areas in a controlled form?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** The system in the rural areas is that the bulk allocations are made to the provinces, and the provinces out of their quotas set apart certain quantities for the rural areas and certain quantities for the urban areas.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Do Government possess any statistics to show that the sugar which was allotted in bulk for the rural areas has really been distributed in the rural areas?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** That is a matter which is left to the Provincial Governments.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Has the Government of India no machinery and no responsibility to see that the quantities that are especially allocated for rural areas are distributed among the rural people?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** We will make inquiries and find out how much quantity out of the provincial quotas is distributed in the rural areas.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government consider the advisability of adopting the new system that is being introduced in Madras of appointing dealers in rural areas alone through whom the sugar that is allotted to rural areas can be distributed among the rural people?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** Government will consider the system prevailing in Madras.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** If facts are given to the Government indicating that sugar earmarked for rural areas is actually spent in the urban areas for giving parties to Government high officials, will Government take any action in the matter?

**Mr. President:** Next question. Mr. Tamizuddin Khan.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Is the Honourable Secretary aware that the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies gave an assurance on the floor of the House during the Budget discussion that he will send a recommendation to the appropriate Department to de-control sugar?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** It is being considered.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** May I ask why sugar production has fallen this year as compared with 1945-46? What steps do Government propose to take to see that the production is increased in the current year?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** I explained on a previous occasion that the steps which have been taken by Government are to increase the price of sugarcane by four annas per maund whereby this will have a salutary effect in increasing production.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Do Government take care to see that areas which are now being cultivated with cereals are not being converted into sugarcane fields because a higher price is offered for sugarcane?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** This will be watched.

#### QUOTA OF IRON AND STEEL TO BOMBAY, BENGAL AND PUNJAB

1375. **\*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the quota of iron and steel allotted to the Provinces of Bombay, Bengal and Punjab for the half-year ending 30th June 1947 and for the 2nd half-year ending 31st December 1947?

(b) On what basis have the quotas allotted been fixed?

(c) Do Government propose to increase the quota allotted for Bombay?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** (a) The Provincial allotments of steel for Bombay, Bengal and Punjab for the half-year ending June 1947 are as follows:—

Bombay—10,500 tons.

Bengal—19,500 tons.

Punjab—10,500 tons.

The allotments for the second half-year ending December 1947 are the same.

(b) The allotments are based on population, weightage being given to urban population.

(c) If the supply position improves, it may be possible to increase the allotments to the Provincial Governments for the third and fourth periods of 1947.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** In view of the fact that Bombay is an industrial province, where the housing question is very acute, may I ask whether Government would consider the advisability of increasing the quota for the third and fourth periods for the province of Bombay?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** As I have already said, the urban population is calculated and given a weightage of 3:1, and Bombay City and other urban areas in Bombay will have that advantage and on the basis of that considering the total population of Bombay, 10,500 tons have been fixed. The Provincial allotments, the Honourable Member must remember, are



intended to meet the general public demands including house building, agriculturists, and small fabricators and therefore do not depend on the degree of industrialisation in a particular province. Steel for industrial purposes has been made available through separate allotments for industrial maintenance and steel processing and these allotments depend on the location of industries and not on the provincial quota.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is the Honourable Member aware that other provinces receiving higher quota show a surplus of iron which is sent to Bombay to be sold in the black market? May I know what steps do Government propose to take to stop this black market in Bombay?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** It is not the information of the Government that the allotment to other provinces is in excess of requirements and that they find a sale in the black-market in Bombay. We have no reason to believe this and if Honourable Member will supply reliable information, Government will make every effort to enquire into it.

**Seth Govind Das:** In view of the fact that in other provinces also there are buildings which are not finished, will Government see that no weightage is given to Bombay or anywhere and that the present provincial quotas are kept?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** These questions do cut across each other and Government will consider all of them together.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the rural population is eight times more than the urban population, why do Government allot three times more to urban areas?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** The allotment is not three times as much for urban areas as for rural areas. The arithmetic is this. The population of the urban area is multiplied by three and then the allotment is made according to the total population of the province with weightage calculated in this manner so that the weightage given to provinces on account of the urban areas is a much smaller addition than what the Honourable Member thinks. Apart from that, Honourable Members must remember that buildings that are built in towns and rural areas are of a different nature and on the whole buildings in urban areas require more steel and that is the reason why a certain weightage is given to urban population.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in rural areas, people are not able to get iron even for iron bars for windows and doors, and the demand of the rural people for building their houses is much greater today because they have not been able to build any house during the last six years on account of war conditions?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** If it is a question of taking away steel weightage given to the urban population, if Honourable Members give a mandate to Government on that footing, Government will certainly consider it.

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that many hospitals and schools are not completed for want of iron and steel materials and large works of a public nature are held up and that many persons who are suffering from diseases are not able to get accommodation on account of the fact that these buildings cannot be completed.

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir. Government are aware that many buildings like hospitals and other public utilities are suffering for want of adequate supplies of steel, but when we have the whole picture of the necessity for providing housing in rural areas, housing for industrial

workers, for hospitals and all that, Honourable Members will see that the arrangements that we have made are fairly just and in due proportion. Every effort is made to meet the demands of the cultivators first in the provincial quotas and other priorities are fixed more or less fairly in my opinion, but if Honourable Members examine the matter thoroughly and in the Advisory committee on Industries and Supplies give us their advice in the matter, it will be very carefully considered.

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** Will first preference be given to such institutions?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** We cannot give straightaway preferences to such institutions. I do not think the healthy require less windows than the sick.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Are pipes and other agricultural implements included in provincial quotas?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir. The Agricultural Department came with a long list of articles for which the rural population would be entitled and some amount of consideration is given to them out of the total provincial allotment. I believe this is so, without seeing the papers, that the list of agricultural requirements referred to by the Honourable Member are included in them.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Pipes also?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** Do I take it that the Honourable Member asks whether steel pipes are included in the commodities allotted for agricultural purposes? Very probably, but I should like to look into the matter before answering specifically.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** What is the quota for Behar?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** I want notice before I can answer the quotas for Behar and other provinces.

#### AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES ON G. I. P., B. B. & C. I. AND M. & S. M.

##### RAILWAYS

**1376. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of air-conditioned coaches on the Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay, Baroda and Central India and Madras and Southern Maharatta Railways and on what routes these coaches are being run regularly?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** The G. I. P. Railway owns two partly air-conditioned coaches.

The B. B. & C. I. Railway owns nine partly air-conditioned and one fully air-conditioned broad-gauge coaches and three fully air-conditioned metre gauge coaches.

The M. & S. M. Railway does not own any air-conditioned coaches.

The G. I. P. Railway coaches run between Bombay and Madras on alternate days.

The B. B. & C. I. Railway B.G. coaches run daily between Bombay and Delhi and Bombay and Peshawar.

The B. B. & C. I. Railway metre-gauge coaches run between Ajmer and Delhi on certain days of the week.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** In view of the fact that there are only two partly air-conditioned coaches on G. I. P. may I know whether there is any possibility of increasing it to fully air-conditioned coaches instead of partly as at present?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** We have provided in the current year's programme for building more air-conditioned coaches.

**Seth Govind Das:** Before any money is spent upon air-conditioned coaches, because air travel is more popular now in this country, will Government see that better third class coaches are built for lower class passengers?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** I am generally in agreement with the Honourable Member's suggestion.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Government take away all these air-conditioned coaches and utilise the space for ordinary coaches?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** That will not serve any purpose.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** May I know why there are no air-conditioned coaches on the M. & S. M. Railway and whether there is any possibility of having them there?

**Miss Maniben Kara:** May I know when the Honourable Member proposes to introduce improved third-class coaches for the poorer people?

**Mr. President:** That was dealt with in a previous question; perhaps the Honourable Member was not present then.

#### EXPANSION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY IN BOMBAY PROVINCE

**1377. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state whether Government propose to expand the sugar industry in the Bombay Province?

(b) What is the quota of new factories allotted to that Province during the year 1946?

(c) What is the quota proposed to be allotted during the year 1947?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Two factories.

(c) Two factories.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** May I know where these two new factories are going to be located?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** We have asked the Government of Bombay to recommend location and parties.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will it be decided by the Government of India or by the Bombay Government?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** By the Government of India.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Are the Government of Madras against such factories also?

**Mr. President:** That does not arise.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know how this figure of two has been arrived at for Bombay? What is the total number of sugar factories that are going to be established in the whole of India?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** The total number of factories in the expansion scheme is 45.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many of them will be for Madras?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** Six units.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know on what basis this allocation is made? Is there a plan which has been approved of by Government?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** The allocation was made on the basis of a report of the committee on sugar, alcohol and food yeast industries.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When was it appointed and when did it report?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** It was appointed in 1945 and its report has been published. Government considered the report and made the allocation to provinces.

**Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are Government giving any subsidies for establishing sugar factories in provinces where there are no such factories or very few of them?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** I cannot answer without notice.

#### TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN NEW DELHI

**1378. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telephone connections in New Delhi;
- (b) the number of telephones installed at the residences and offices of members of Government, Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries to Government;
- (c) the number of telephone connections given at the Constitution House;
- (d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of installing a few telephones in the verandahs of the Constitution House for the use of members, instead of installing one in every room; and
- (e) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of not concentrating so many telephone connections in New Delhi, but distributing them equitably to various other towns where the demand for them though great is not being met?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** (a) 5,758.

(b) Residential 127, Office 157.

(c) The number of telephones installed at the Constitution House was 99 in December, 1946.

(d) This was considered but abandoned since it was felt that it would not be a convenient arrangement. Such common telephones would have to be proscribed for trunk calls in view of the difficulty involved in realising trunk calls charges from the correct person. However, the Government will re-examine the position in the light of the suggestion made by the Honourable Member.

(e) The demand for telephones in Delhi including New Delhi is considerable. Technical considerations do not permit of the distribution of telephone equipment as indicated by the Honourable Member.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that Government have supplied telephones in every room in the Constitution House at public expense?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** I shall require notice; I have no information.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member take it from me that it is so? Can he explain how it is that those members of the Constituent Assembly who do not live in Constitution House have not been supplied with free telephones?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** I think there was a priority fixed for the members of the Constituent Assembly and even members living outside the Constitution House have been provided with telephones.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that members of the Constituent Assembly living in Constitution House have been supplied with free telephones, whether they like it or not, will Government now consider the desirability of asking these members whether they would like to continue to have these telephones, and if they do not, supplying these to others instead?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** I have already said that I have no information whether the telephone have been supplied free or on the basis of charge; but I am prepared to look into it.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** If the Honourable Member finds after inquiry that they have been supplied with free telephones will he now charge them?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** That will be considered.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Why has this distinction been made between Members of this House and those of the Constituent Assembly? Why should they have free telephones and not those who live in Western Court?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** Sir, I have already said that I have no information.

#### INCREASE IN THE AGE LIMIT TO 14 FOR CONCESSION IN RAILWAY FARES

**1379. \*Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railway Authorities permit concessions in railway fares to children under the age of 12; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of raising this age limit to 14, in view of the fact that the Sargent Report envisages compulsory education till the age of 14, and parents will thus be helped considerably in the matter of meeting railway fares involved in the education of their children?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Yes. Government are aware that children under twelve years of age (over three years) are charged half fares on railways.

(b) The age limit of twelve is not related to study concessions. Concessions in rail fares are permitted to school children attending schools of all kinds which are recognised by the Government of the Educational Department of the Province or State in which the schools are situated and to students of colleges affiliated to a recognised University. Consequently, Government do not consider it necessary to alter the age limit up to which all children over three years of age may travel for half fare.

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** May I know the reasons for setting this arbitrary age limit of twelve and not fourteen?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** It is in a sense an arbitrary limit but we have taken the figure which is in force in practically all countries which adopt this practice.

**Sreejnt Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know how a dispute between a passenger and a ticket collector as regards age is settled and whether the decision of the ticket collector is final?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** It is by a process of mutual accommodation.

#### REVERSION FROM THE INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT OF DEPUTATIONISTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND PROVINCES

**†1380. \*Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deputationists from other Departments of the Government of India or Provincial Governments working in the Industries and Supplies Department are being reverted at the request or otherwise of the lending Departments;

(b) if the reply to Part (a) is in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that Muslims and other minority communities form the majority of those who are so reverted, especially in the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies;

(c) whether it is a fact that Muslims and members of other minority communities occupying senior supervisory, technical (including Stenographers) or specialists' posts are mostly deputationists;

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

(d) whether it is a fact that Muslims and members of the minority communities holding permanent lien in the Industries and Supplies organization are not sufficiently senior or qualified to replace the deputationists; and

(e) if replies to Parts (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative, whether Government are aware that reversions of Muslims and members of other minority communities will reduce the prescribed communal quota?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** (a) I have stated Government's policy in regard to the reversion of deputationists in my answer to part (a) of Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer's starred question No. 1278 on the 31st March 1947.

(b) No, Sir. Of the twelve persons reverted during the last six months from the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies seven were Hindus, three were Muslims and two were Sikhs.

(c) Most senior posts are held by deputationists of one community or another.

(d) Yes, Sir. If such persons were sufficiently senior and qualified, the present deputationists would not be required.

(e) Does not arise in view of facts stated in reply to part (b).

#### RECALL OF DEPUTATIONISTS BY THE LENDING DEPARTMENTS FROM THE INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

†1381. **\*Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please lay on the table of the House a tabular statement giving details of requisitions received during the last six months, from the lending Departments recalling their hands and number of persons reverted in each community and grade in the Secretariat and its attached offices separately?

(b) Were the instructions contained in the Home Department Office Memorandum No. 92/46-Est(R), dated 24th April 1946 regarding deputationists duly considered in each case of reversion and was protection of *status quo* provided for in the above mentioned Memorandum duly afforded in each case, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** (a) I submit, Sir, it is not in the public interest to publish inter-departmental correspondence of this character. I lay on the table a statement of the total number of requisitions classified Community-wise, but without names.

(b) Yes, Sir. These instructions were duly considered.

Statement showing number of requisitions received in I. & S. Department during the 6 months ended on 28th February 1947 from lending Departments for the return of their permanent employees

|  | Hindus | Muslims | Sikhs | Indian Christians | Anglo Indians | Europeans | Total |
|--|--------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
|--|--------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|-------|

#### SECRETARIAT

|                            |   |   |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of requisitions     | 6 | 3 | 1   | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of persons reverted | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |

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

|                            | Hindus                     | Muslims | Sikhs | Indian Christians | Anglo Indians | Euro-peans | Total |    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------------|------------|-------|----|
| Number of requisitions     | 47                         | 26      | 3     | 4                 | 4             | 1          | 85    |    |
| Number of persons reverted | 9                          | 4       | 3     | 1                 |               |            | 17    |    |
| Grand Total                | Number of requisitions     | 53      | 29    | 4                 | 4             | 4          | 1     | 95 |
|                            | Number of persons reverted | 10      | 6     | 3                 | 1             | ...        |       | 20 |

## IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

1382. \*Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact, that most of our needs of agricultural machinery are met by import;

(b) whether Government are aware that recently some mechanically operated boring rigs were imported into India by the Central Ground Water Section of the Agricultural Department at a high price; and

(c) the steps that Government are taking to promote the manufacture of agricultural machinery including complicated devices in this country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Power operated agricultural machinery is mostly imported. Animal operated implements and machines are almost wholly available from indigenous sources.

(b) Boring rigs are being imported at competitive prices on the basis of offers received; the average price of a percussion rig is Rs. 50,000 and of a rotary rig Rs. 1,50,000.

(c) The demand for mechanically operated boring rigs is not large enough at present to make their manufacture in this country an economic proposition nor is the necessary type of steel available. But contracts are being given to Indian firms for the manufacture of casing and slotted pipes. The feasibility of manufacturing tractors was examined by the Automobile and Tractor Panel, and their report is being considered and the possibility of utilising Ordnance factories for the purpose is being examined. A start has been made in the manufacture of tractor drawn agricultural implements by an Indian concern in Bombay who have been given a firm order for 1250 implements valued at over Rs. 20 lakhs.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that even the kind of machinery that is at present imported can be prepared in the Ordnance Factories, particularly in Jubbulpore of which I have knowledge, if proper directions are given?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That matter is being looked into in order to ascertain exactly what types of machinery can be prepared at these Ordnance Factories. As soon as that has been ascertained steps will be taken as far as possible to manufacture them here.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will Government see that no long-term orders are given to foreign countries before knowing what kind of machinery can be easily prepared in India?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I do not think any long-term orders have been placed and there is no intention of placing any long-term orders at this stage. We cannot even get what we need for our immediate requirements.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What action has so far been taken on the grant that was approved of by the Standing Finance Committee to enable Government to appoint an officer to do research in agricultural machinery and devise such machinery as will be useful to Indian conditions?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I do not know exactly what the reference is to, but an Agricultural Engineer has been appointed at the Agricultural Institute whose function it is to carry out research on agricultural implements.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** The Honourable Member said that some factories have been established for producing agricultural implements. May I know how many factories have been established, and where, and what particular factories are specializing in agricultural implements?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** There are a number of factories in the country which have been manufacturing the ordinary agricultural implements. The special factory to which I was making a reference is the one near Bombay which has taken over an old Ordnance Factory. It has been given a contract for the manufacture of heavy ploughs, cultivators, and other such implements which are required for use with tractors.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will the Government see that in different agricultural farms some small state factories are established to prepare such machinery which can be easily prepared there?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I believe, Sir, that there are quite enough factories in the country for the manufacture of ordinary implements which are required by agriculturists. Many of these are made by village blacksmiths, and in a number of Government farms small workshops have been established. So it is not necessary to take any special measures in that connection.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is this Agricultural Engineer an Indian, and has he been to America and England to study the new implements of smaller types and smaller sizes and lower prices and to see whether any of them can be adapted for Indian conditions?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** He is not an Indian, Sir. He is an Englishman and he has been recently abroad in order to study precisely these matters.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** May I ask whether, for the manufacture of agricultural implements of heavy types in the Ordnance Factories mentioned by the Honourable Member, any expert has been appointed, or whether the available hands in India are asked to undertake that work?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** It is a private firm and they have got their own Engineers and, I believe, they have also attempted or probably have succeeded in obtaining some experts from outside India as well.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Are these Ordnance Factories under the control of Government?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** This work is not being done by an Ordnance Factory as such. This particular Ordnance Factory has been taken over on lease by this private firm for the purpose.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Government consider the desirability of getting foreign experts because our knowledge of agricultural engineering is very poor? From all our Provincial Governments, we.....

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member will put his question and not argue.



**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Government consider the desirability of importing foreign agricultural engineers for a limited period?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Yes, Sir. When the question of appointing agricultural engineers is considered, we will take the best men we can get and if we have to import foreign experts we shall take them for a limited period, such as three years, and in the meantime try to train up our own men for that sort of work.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Government appoint experienced engineers in service so that these experienced men may get better knowledge of the working of agricultural machinery suitable to our conditions?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Certainly, that is precisely what we are hoping to do.

#### NATIONALISATION OF CIVIL AVIATION

**138C. \*Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the question of nationalisation of Civil Aviation after it was discussed in the Assembly in its last autumn session;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) if Government have not reached any final decision in the matter, when they expect to come to such a decision?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply, I gave to Mr. Ahmad Jaffer's Starred Question No. 1192 on 26th March, 1947.

**Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** May I ask how soon it will be possible for the Government to consider this matter and come to a decision?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** As soon as possible.

#### RESERVATION OF MILL YARN FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

**1384. \*Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the steps that have been taken by Government to implement the recommendation of the Assembly, that at least 33½ per cent. of the total mill yarn production should be placed at the disposal of the hand-loom weavers?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** As I indicated in this House during a recent debate on a cut motion about yarn for handlooms, I am endeavouring to secure the allocation to handlooms of 33 per cent. of mill yarn production, and to get a scheme through for increased hand spun yarn.

#### APPOINTMENT OF A NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN TO HANDLOOM BOARD

**1385. \*Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a non-official Chairman and a non-official vice-Chairman to the Handloom Board?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir, it will be considered.

PROVISION OF OVERHEAD BRIDGE OVER LEVEL CROSSING AT KOREGAON ROAD  
POONA

†1386. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no over-head bridge over the Railway level-crossing at Koregaon Road, in Poona resulting in inconvenience to people who are held up at the level-crossing for a long time when the trains are about to pass;

(b) whether it is a fact that this question has been the subject of correspondence between the Railway Board, Government of Bombay and the Poona Municipality and if so, what the result of these negotiations is;

(c) whether Government propose to place the whole correspondence on the table of the House; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to have an over-head bridge constructed over the level-crossing?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The matter rests with the Government of Bombay who agreed to share the cost of construction and maintenance of an overbridge last year, but have now postponed the work.

DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES SENT BY THE AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT

†1387. \*Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state the number of Delegations sent abroad by his Department to participate in various international conferences, the personnel thereof, and the basis of their selection?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** During 1946-47 no delegations were sent by the Food Department. Two delegations were sent by the Department of Agriculture, one to attend the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference at Copenhagen and the other to participate in the deliberations of the Preparatory Commission on the World Food Board Proposals at Washington. A delegation was also sent to the Agricultural Primary Producers Conference called by the National Farmers Union.

A statement showing the personnel of the delegations is placed on the table.

The personnel was selected by Government on the basis of their special qualifications for the work to be undertaken. The representatives from Indian States were selected in consultation with the Political Department.

*Statement*

1. *Personnel of the Indian Delegation to the Second Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference held at Copenhagen from the 2nd to 14th September 1946.*

*Leader.*—Sir J. P. Srivastava, K.C.S.I., K.B.E.

*Alternate.*—Mr. D. R. Sethi, C.I.E., I.A.S., Agricultural Development Commissioner, Govt. of India.

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

*Associates—*

Prof. N. G. Ranga, M.L.A. (Central).

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, M.L.A., (Central) Mr. S. Banu, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

*Representatives of Indian States—*

Mr. C. Parameswaran Pillai.

Dr. Radha Kamal Mukherjee.

*Advisers—*

Dr. Bains Prasad, D.Sc., O.B.E., Fisheries Development Adviser to the Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Planning Adviser, Department of Food.

Mr. E. Ramiah, Director, Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.

Mr. D. Stewart, I.F.S., President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun.

Dr. G. Sankaran, All-India Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, Calcutta.

*Secretary.*—Mr. W. H. J. Christie, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.

2. *Personnel of the Indian Delegation to the Food & Agriculture Organisation Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals.*

*Leader.*—The Hon'ble Dr. K. N. Katju, Minister for Justice and Development, United Provinces

*Alternate.*—Sir S. V. Ramamurty, K.C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

*Adviser.*—Mr. A. D. Gorwala, C.I.E., I.C.S., Supply Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Prof. C. N. Vakil, University of Bombay.

Chondhury Mukhtar Singh, Vigyan Kala Bhavan, Meerut City.

Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerji, Professor, Lucknow University.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Food Adviser to the Agent General for India, Washington.

Dr. Radha Kamal Mukerjee, Economic Adviser, Gwalior State.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, Reconstruction Officer, Travancore State.

*Secretary.*—Mr. A. Ahmed, O.B.E., I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture.

(3) *Delegation to the International Agricultural Producers' Conference, London.*

(1) Prof. N. G. Ranga, M.L.A., (Central) President, Federation of Indian Rural Peoples Organisations, New Delhi.

(2) Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah Khan, Bar-at-Law, Secretary, The Punjab Chamber of Agriculture, Lahore.

## EUROPEANS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

1388. \*Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the number of Europeans in his department; and

(b) their designations, salaries and the tenure of their appointments?

**The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari:** (a) The number is 53, excluding those employed in the India Store Department, England and the India Supply Mission, U.S.A., whose numbers are not readily available here now.

(b) A statement is laid on the table. The tenure varies with the rules of service or with the contract applicable to individual cases.

Statement showing number of Europeans employed in the Industries and Supplies Department, and the Designation and Salary Scales of their Post.

| S. No. | Designation of Post | Salary Scale |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|
|--------|---------------------|--------------|

## SECRETARIAT

|   |                             | Rs.                                          |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Secretary . . . . .         | 4,000                                        |
| 2 | Joint Secretary . . . . .   | 3,000 plus S. O. P. ₹ 13-8-6                 |
| 3 | Deputy Secretary . . . . .  | Senior Scale of I.C.S. plus 400 special pay. |
| 4 | Do. . . . .                 | Do.                                          |
| 5 | Do. . . . .                 | Do.                                          |
| 6 | Private Secretary to Secy., | 300                                          |

## ATTACHED OFFICES

Chief Technical Adviser (Fertilizer Project)

|   |                                                           |                         |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 | Chief Technical Adviser (F. P.) . . . . .                 | 2,750—125—3,250         |
| 8 | Deputy Director (Planning) (Fertilizer Project) . . . . . | 1,225 plus S. P. Rs.200 |

## DIRECTORATE GENERAL, INDUSTRIES &amp; SUPPLIES

|    |                                                  |                 |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 9  | Deputy Director General (Inspection) . . . . .   | 2,250—100—2,750 |
| 10 | Director of Inspection . . . . .                 | 2,000—100—2,300 |
| 11 | Controller of Inspection . . . . .               | 1,500—75—1,950  |
| 12 | Dy. Metallurgical Inspector, Burnpur . . . . .   | 1,250—75—1,550  |
| 13 | Controller of Inspection . . . . .               | 1,500—75—1,950  |
| 14 | Development Officer. . . . .                     | 1,800           |
| 15 | Asstt. Inspecting Officer, Engineering . . . . . | 500             |

| S. No.                                | Designation of Post                               | Salary Scale                                    |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DIRECTORATE GENERAL, DISPOSALS</b> |                                                   |                                                 |
| 16                                    | Director General of Disposals . . . . .           | Re. 3,000 + S. O. P.] £ 13-6-8                  |
| 17                                    | Deputy Director General . . . . .                 | 2,250 -100 -2,750                               |
| 18                                    | Dj. . . . .                                       | Do.                                             |
| 19                                    | Officer on Special Duty, Assam . . . . .          | 1,603-4-0                                       |
| 20                                    | Director . . . . .                                | 1,250 -50 -1,500 -60 -1,800                     |
| 21                                    | Do. . . . .                                       | Do.                                             |
| 22                                    | Do. . . . .                                       | Do.                                             |
| 23                                    | Do . . . . .                                      | Do.                                             |
| 24                                    | Do. . . . .                                       | Do.                                             |
| 25                                    | Do. . . . .                                       | Do.                                             |
| 26                                    | Deputy Director . . . . .                         | 750 -35 -925 -50 -1,275<br>plus S. O. P. £. 25. |
| 27                                    | Lady Receptionist . . . . .                       | 215 -15 -260                                    |
| 28                                    | 'B' Grade Clerk . . . . .                         | 90                                              |
| 29                                    | Stenographer (Assam Region) . . . . .             | 200                                             |
| 30                                    | P. A. to Regional Commissioner, Bombay . . . . .  | 300                                             |
| 31                                    | 'A' Grade Clerk . . . . .                         | 100                                             |
| <b>IRON AND STEEL CONTROL</b>         |                                                   |                                                 |
| 22                                    | Iron & Steel Controller . . . . .                 | 1 p. a.                                         |
| 33                                    | Regional Deputy Iron & Steel Controller . . . . . | 1,800 p. m.                                     |
| 34                                    | Director . . . . .                                | 1,750 p. m.                                     |
| 35                                    | Director, Tool & Alloy Steel . . . . .            | 1 p. a.                                         |
| 36                                    | Deputy Iron & Steel Controller . . . . .          | Do.                                             |

| S. No. | Designation of Post | Salary Scale |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|
|--------|---------------------|--------------|

## COAL COMMISSIONER

|    |                                                                                | Rs.                                                |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 37 | Coal Commissioner                                                              | 3,750                                              |
| 38 | Assistant Coal Commissioner, (Stores)                                          | 1,600 plus S. P. 300                               |
| 39 | Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) & Chief Mining Engineer (Railway Board). | 2,750—125—3,000 + S.O.P.<br>£ 13-6-8 plus S.P. 500 |
| 40 | Superintendent of Collieries, Giridih                                          | 2,200—100—2,500 + S.O.P.<br>£ 13-6-8               |
| 41 | Assistant Superintendent of Colliery                                           | 1,250—50—1,500                                     |
| 42 | Superintendent of Collieries                                                   | 2,200—100—2,500 + S.O.P.<br>£ 13-6-8               |
| 43 | Regional Coal Commissioner (Distribution), Bengal & Bihar.                     | 1,500—100—1,800 + S. P.<br>250                     |
| 44 | Deputy Coal Commissioner, (Distribution)                                       | 1,250—50—1,500 + S.O.P.<br>£ 30 plus S. P. 450     |
| 45 | Electrical & Mechanical Engineer, Giridih                                      | 800—50—1,150 plus S.O.P.<br>£ 30 plus S. P. 400    |
| 46 | Do. Kargali                                                                    | 800—50—1,150                                       |
| 47 | Officiating Manager, Pouri Hill Colliery                                       | 750—850—950                                        |
| 48 | Assistant Coal Commissioner                                                    | 800—50—1,200 plus S. P.<br>100                     |

## DIRECTOR, SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIRS

|    |                                      |                                   |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 49 | Director of Shipbuilding and Repairs | 1,617 + pension 883 + S.P.<br>300 |
| 50 | Administrative Officer               | 325 + pension 325                 |
| 51 | Overseer                             | 1,500                             |
| 52 | Supervisor                           | 1,000—50—1,200                    |
| 53 | Do.                                  | Do.                               |

**Prof. N. G. Banga:** Is any effort being made to reduce their numbers by not renewing their tenures of office when they come to close?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir, Every effort is made and we have only 403 days before June 1948. I would like the Honourable Member to keep an eye on that rather than on smaller matters.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know how many of these are superannuated men already?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** It is only when considerable experience is at the back of any person it is found necessary to keep him, and so they may look superannuated but often that is the very reason why they are retained.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I wanted the number, not an explanation.

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** I cannot give the number without notice.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** How does the Honourable Member fill up the gap when a very very experienced man passes away?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** The gap is attempted to be prepared for by the next man, who takes his place when he passes away.

#### POSTS OF DEPUTY CONTROLLERS AND CHIEF CONTROLLERS HELD BY HINDUS, MUSLIMS AND ANGLO-INDIANS IN THE G. I. P. RAILWAY

†1389. **\*Sri A. K. Menon:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of posts of Deputy Controllers and Chief Controllers in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and how many of these posts are held by Muslims, Hindus and Anglo-Indians?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** The number of posts of Deputy Controllers and Chief Controllers on the G.I.P. Railway is 29 and six respectively. I lay on the table a statement showing the communal composition of these posts.

#### Statement showing the communal composition of the posts of Deputy Controllers and Chief Controllers on the G. I. P. Railway

##### 29 Posts of Deputy Controllers.

|                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. By Anglo-Indians (including Domiciled Europeans) | 14 |
| 2. By Hindus                                        | 8  |
| 3. By Muslims                                       | 1  |
| 4. By Jews                                          | 1  |
| 5. By Indian Christians                             | 5  |
|                                                     | 29 |

##### 6 Posts of Chief Controllers.

|                                                     |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. By Anglo-Indians (including Domiciled Europeans) | 4 |
| 2. By Europeans                                     | 1 |
| 3. By Hindus                                        | 1 |
|                                                     | 6 |

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

CHANCES OF PROMOTION AS CHIEF CONTROLLER OF HINDU AND MUSLIM  
DEPUTY CONTROLLERS ON THE G. I. P. RAILWAY

**1390. \*Sri A. K. Menon:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that though the Muslim and Hindu Deputy Controllers in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway possess longer terms of service than Anglo-Indians, they have no chances of becoming Chief Controllers before they retire? If so, why?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** No. The posts of Chief Controllers are Selection posts and selection is made on merit by a Selection Board irrespective of communal considerations. The latter portion of the question does not arise.

VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY GRADUATES

**1391. \*Mr. Mohammad M. Killekar:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to encourage young men to take Veterinary and Animal Husbandry as a career; and

(b) what is the present scale of pay of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Graduates in the Centrally Administered Areas?

**Sir Pharoz Kharegat:** (a) In the two years 1945-47, the Central Government awarded 21 scholarships for training overseas in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science.

(b) The scales of Assistant Surgeons in the Centrally Administered areas are as follows:—

Baluchistan—Rs. 100—4—200 (Senior)

Rs. 60—3—90 (Junior).

Ajmer-Merwara—Rs. 80—5—160.

Coorg—Rs. 75—7½/2—108—15/2—150.

In Delhi Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are deputed from the Punjab Veterinary Service and get the same scale of pay as is admissible in the Punjab. This was Rs. 80—7—150—7—185—8—225 but has recently been revised to Rs. 100—10—300.

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF NATIONAL LABORATORIES IN INDIA

**1392. \*Mr. Shah Nazar Hasan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the number and location of National Laboratories in India?

(b) How many of them are located in Bengal, Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan?

(c) What are the reasons for transferring the fruit laboratory from Lyallpur to Delhi?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** (a) and (b). There are six such laboratories, namely:

- (i) A National Physical Laboratory at Delhi,
- (ii) A National Chemical Laboratory at Poona,
- (iii) A National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur,
- (iv) A Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute at Calcutta,
- (v) A Fuel Research Institute at Dhanbad, and
- (vi) A Road Research Institute.

The place of its location is under consideration.

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



(c) The fruit laboratory is proposed to be transferred from Lyallpur to Delhi, because the buildings at Lyallpur belong to the Provincial Government, who wanted them for their own use, moreover there was no room for the expansion of the existing laboratories. Further, Delhi was considered a more convenient centre for the purpose.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** What is the exact meaning of the word 'national' when prefixed to laboratory?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** Serving the entire country—India—as distinct from province.

**Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Are fruits more in abundance in Delhi than in Lyallpur?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** The fruit laboratory is not necessarily to be in the midst of abundance, but it must have certain facilities which should be available near at hand along with fruits.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable Member if the National Laboratories that he has mentioned include the Council of Industrial Research at Delhi?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** These National Laboratories are laboratories founded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The headquarters of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is at Delhi. A part of it relating to Chemical research will be transferred when the Poona Laboratory is ready to receive that part.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** For using or prefixing the word "National" to laboratories, may I know if the Government is directly in charge of these laboratories?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** I do not see the connection between national or any other prefix and the question. But I will try to answer what is probably at the back of the mind of the Honourable Member. All these National laboratories are to serve the whole of India as distinct from provinces. As for Government management, Government thinks that scientific laboratories should be managed by the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research, of which the Member in charge of Industries and Supplies happens to be the *ex-officio* chairman.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has the Honourable Member received notices of resolutions and complaints regarding this Council of Industrial and Scientific Research?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** I do not wish to admit all that has been put into the question. Though there are complaints whenever there is a readjustment of posts and jobs in any office, I have not received any complaint about scientific research as such.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In regard to the constitution of this Council, has adequate representation been given to the Scientists in this country who are organized into two organizations?

At one time I believe there were two rival organisations, but I do not know whether they are rivals still.

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** I would very respectfully urge that questions be not put about eminent scientists without accurate information. They would resent these remarks about rival organizations.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I took care to say whether they are still rivals. They used to be rivals and I was given an assurance on the floor of this House . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Their rivalries *inter se* are not the concern of this House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** But my point is that there are two organisations of scientists.

**Mr. President:** The question need not be answered.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What steps has the Honourable Member taken to consider the needs of various scientists who have been in these laboratories? Have they been afforded good facilities by the heads of those departments?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** If the Honourable Member is referring to facilities for research, I am in a position to say that the Council is giving every facility for research of importance and utility. As regards the other grievances about their pay and other matters, that is a different thing.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has the Honourable Member received various complaints that the more and more intelligent of the junior research workers have not been offered facilities on account of mere jealousy?

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** Beyond vague charges of this kind, I have not received any complaints.

#### CONTROL OF PRICES OF COCONUT COPRA AND COCONUT OIL

**1393. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the control imposed over movements and prices of coconut, copra and coconut oil;

(b) when it was imposed and for what purposes;

(c) what were the prices ruling in the market at the time of imposing these controls and what were the control prices and what are the present control prices ruling in Malabar and Madras markets;

(d) whether Government are aware that these controls have only resulted in greater difficulties for consumers in getting supplies of coconut, copra, and oil; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of removing these controls?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as Madras is concerned, control over movements of coconut oil and copra was imposed from January 1947. These restrictions have been imposed with a view to make the price control effective.

(c) A statement is placed on the table giving prices of copra and coconut oil at Cochin and price of coconut oil at Madras before and under control.

(d) Government have been told by a deputation from Cochin that this is so. But at the same time the growers' representative in the deputation was willing to have the present control prices provided the arrangement was stabilised for a long period like ten years as that would ensure a fair price for coconuts during that period.

(e) Government have invited the views from the Governments of Madras, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore on the working of the existing coconut oil and copra controls in their respective areas and on the effect of the recent decontrol of other oils on coconut oil. The question of decontrolling these commodities will be considered in the light of their views.

Statement showing the prices of Copra and Coconut Oil before the enforcement of the Control.

| (1)          | Month 1946               | Copra per ton |    |    | Coconut oil (without containers) per ton |    |    |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|----|----|------------------------------------------|----|----|
|              |                          | Rs.           | a. | p. | Rs.                                      | a. | p. |
| (i) COCHIN—  | June . . . . .           | 1,233         | 0  | 0  | 1,883                                    | 12 | 0  |
|              | July . . . . .           | 1,325         | 8  | 0  | 1,952                                    | 4  | 0  |
|              | August . . . . .         | 1,352         | 14 | 0  | 2,011                                    | 5  | 0  |
|              | September . . . . .      | 1,459         | 0  | 0  | 2,252                                    | 0  | 0  |
|              | November . . . . .       | 1,678         | 4  | 0  | 2,387                                    | 4  | 0  |
|              | December . . . . .       | 1,507         | 0  | 0  | 2,123                                    | 9  | 0  |
| (ii) MADRAS— | June . . . . .           |               |    |    | 1,777                                    | 11 | 0  |
|              | August . . . . .         |               |    |    | 2,046                                    | 13 | 0  |
|              | September 11th . . . . . |               |    |    | 2,110                                    | 10 | 0  |
|              | October . . . . .        |               |    |    | 2,338                                    | 0  | 0  |
|              | November . . . . .       |               |    |    | 2,254                                    | 8  | 0  |
|              | December . . . . .       |               |    |    | 2,415                                    | 10 | 0  |

(II) Ceiling prices of copra and coconut oil fixed by Central Government with effect from the 15th December 1946.

|                    | Maximum Price per ton |                                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
|                    | Copra                 | Coconut oil (without containers) |
|                    | Rs.                   | Rs.                              |
| Cochin . . . . .   | 884                   | 1,390                            |
| Madras . . . . .   | 936                   | 1,456                            |
| Bombay . . . . .   | 934                   | 1,462                            |
| Calcutta . . . . . | 978                   | 1,483                            |
| Karachi . . . . .  | 948                   | 1,475                            |

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Were these controls imposed on the initiative of the Central Government or the Provincial Governments?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** It was decided upon after consultation with the Governments of Madras, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Has the Honourable Member fixed any dates for these reports to come in and is he not going to consider the matter if the reports do not come?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** When we consult the Governments of Madras, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore, we cannot fix a date limit in the very first letter.

#### OPENING OF VILLAGE POST OFFICE AT SATROD KHURD AND KHAS IN HISSAR DISTRICT

†1394. **\*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) whether applications have been received by Government during the last four years from Satrod Khurd and Khas villages in the Hissar District of the Punjab for opening a Post Office for these villages;

(b) whether any inquiry was ever made in respect of the desirability of opening such a Post Office;

(c) what the population of the villages is and the number of letters, money orders and other communications that are received in the said villages;

(d) the policy of Government in regard to opening new Post Offices for rural areas; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of opening a Post Office at Satrod?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Population of Satrod Khurd is 3,049 and that of Satrod Khas 2,649. The total number of letters, money orders and other communications received during a month by Satrod Khurd is 152 and by Satrod Khas 312.

(d) Post Offices are opened when they are considered administratively necessary or when requests are made by members of the public, provided that the offices do not work at a loss above the limit prescribed, namely, Rs. 300 per annum.

(e) The matter is already under consideration.

#### GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO THE ORISSA FLYING CLUB AT BHUBANESHWAR

1395. **\*Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state if it is a fact that the Government of India have not included the Orissa Flying Club situated at Bhubaneswar in the Subsidy List for 1946-47 even though the Club has been functioning? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that the said Club is the only Flying Club in the Country which has taken up a course of comprehensive training of commercial Pilots, Navigators, Ground Engineers and Radio Operators with the object of easing the position of the air line personnel in India in the course of two years?

(c) Do Government propose to pursue the same course in regard to the Flying Club in the budgetary provision for the year 1947-48?

(d) Do Government propose to include the Orissa Flying Club in the list for 1946-47 for subsidy and for substantial capital grant?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** (a) The Government of India have called for a report on the working of the Orissa Flying Club. The grant of a subsidy to the Club will depend on this report.

(b) No. The report referred to in reply to part (a) will include particulars on the training given by the Club.

(c) and (d). The Government of India will take a decision after the report is received.

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

OFFICIALS AND CLERKS BELONGING TO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS EMPLOYED  
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

**1396. \*Chaudhri Sri Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the number of officials and clerks in his Department and attached offices at Delhi; and

(b) the number of officials and clerks belonging to the (i) Urban and (ii) Rural areas?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** (a) The number of gazetted officers of the Industries and Supplies Department stationed at Delhi is 255 and that of non-gazetted ministerial staff 2,912.

(b) The information is not readily available and the labour involved in collecting it by special interrogation would not, I submit, be commensurate with the result to be achieved, whatever it may be.

**Chaudhri Sri Chand:** What is that labour which Government cannot provide?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. It need not be answered. The Honourable Member put a similar question a few days back.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know from the Honourable Member how far his Department has increased in numbers both in gazetted officers and others since 1939?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** The staff have increased since 1939 in the department as a whole. If figures are wanted, I submit that I should be given notice. Here I was concentrating on urban and rural distinctions.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are any steps being taken to reduce the number?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir. Very active steps have been taken to reduce the number, much to the discontent of the staff concerned.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is he aware that in the Punjab such a distinction is made and special encouragement is sought to be given to the people who hail from rural areas?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** I am not aware of it. It is very interesting. But in the records here we have no information as to who is rural or urban; and a boy who is rural becomes urban when he goes to school.

**Chaudhri Sri Chand:** Is Government ready to keep in mind in future that rural people should be employed.

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** If they are qualified and if they pass the Public Services Examination and get over other hurdles, they will be employed. But the Honourable Member must know that really there is no such person as rural or urban. Most boys are urban but really rural in heart.

**Mr. President:** He may put the next question:

OFFICIALS AND CLERKS BELONGING TO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS EMPLOYED  
IN THE RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS AND ATTACHED  
OFFICES

**1397. \*Chaudhri Sri Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state:

(a) the number of officials and clerks separately in the Railway and Transport Departments and their attached offices at Delhi; and

(b) the number of officials and clerks belonging to the (i) Urban and (ii) Rural areas?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a)

|                  | Railway Department | Transport Department |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Officials        | 68                 | 49                   |
| Clerks . . . . . | 604                | 295                  |

(b) The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

**OFFICIALS AND CLERKS BELONGING TO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS EMPLOYED IN THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AND ATTACHED OFFICES**

**1398. \*Chaudhri Sri Chand:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state:

(a) the number of officials and clerks in his Department and attached offices at Delhi; and

(b) the number of officials and clerks belonging to the (i) Urban and (ii) Rural areas?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) 578.

(b) In the absence of well defined criteria for classifying people as belonging to urban or rural areas, the information asked for by the Honourable Member cannot be collected, but it is estimated that a little more than half of them were living in urban areas and a little less than half in rural areas at the time of their appointment.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that this particular Department is specially amendable to encouraging agriculturists or those who are from the agricultural classes, will Government consider the advisability of giving special preference to those graduates and other experts who are from the agriculturists themselves so that they may be able to take greater interest in research and other work which they have to carry on in this Department?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Yes, Sir. So far as research and agricultural demonstration are concerned that has always been the policy of the Government and it will continue to be so.

**OFFICIALS AND CLERKS BELONGING TO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS EMPLOYED IN THE FOOD DEPARTMENT AND ITS ATTACHED OFFICES**

**1399. \*Chaudhri Sri Chand:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state:

(a) the number of officials and clerks in his Department and attached offices at Delhi; and

(b) the number of officials and clerks belonging to the (i) Urban and (ii) Rural areas?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** (a) Officers—126; Staff—910.

(b) The classification of officers and staff as belonging to the urban or rural areas has been made on the basis of place of birth. It is as under:

|                 | Officers | Staff |
|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Urban . . . . . | 93       | 551   |
| Rural . . . . . | 33       | 359   |
| Total . . . . . | 126      | 910   |

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, may I repeat the same question which I put to the Secretary of the Agricultural Department and may I ask the Government to take the same attitude in regard to the encouraging of graduates and scientists who hail from agricultural classes?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** May I give the same reply as was given to the previous question, *viz.*, that the suggestion will be considered.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** On what basis has the Honourable Member classified the people into urban and rural?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** On the basis of place of birth.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I ask as to how it is that the Food Secretary was able to give this information without undergoing all the labour that the representatives of other Departments said was necessary to give the same and who, therefore, declined to give the necessary information?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Because the Honourable Member is a Punjabi and he understands the system in the Punjab.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** They should then put Punjabis in all these offices!

#### REPORTED SUICIDE OF SARDAR AJIT SINGH, DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF RATIONING, DELHI

**1400. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state if the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published in the issue of the *Hindustan Times* of the 15th March 1947 regarding the suicide of late Sardar Ajit Singh, the Deputy Controller of Rationing, Delhi and if so, do Government propose to enquire into the causes of the said suicide?

(b) Is it a fact that a letter, dated 14th March, 1947 mentioning the reasons for suicide was found in the pocket of the shirt worn by the late Sardar Ajit Singh, and if so, do Government propose to enquire into the truth of the contents of the said letter?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** (a) and (b). Government have seen the report mentioned by the Honourable Member. This unfortunate man was an official of the Food Department and in 1946 was sent on deputation as Deputy Director of Rationing under the Delhi Administration. Early this year he wished to give up that appointment and to revert to the Food Department, where a vacancy had occurred in the post of Deputy Director in the Procurement Branch. Both posts bear the same designation but the cadre of the Food Department is not common with that of the Delhi Administration, and in accordance with established practice, the cases of various officers including five others, who were senior to Sardar Ajit Singh at the time of his deputation to the Delhi Administration, were put up before a staff Selection Committee. Sardar Ajit Singh's case was also referred to that Committee. The Committee interviewed all the officers and recommended an officer senior to Sardar Ajit Singh. This recommendation was accepted by the Honourable Member for Food. Numerous representations from and on behalf of the deceased were received and the case was again fully considered in all detail and the Honourable Member decided to confirm his previous order. Soon after Sardar Ajit Singh committed suicide and in a note left behind by him he stated that he was committing suicide as he could not put up with injustice shown to him by the Food Department. It appears that he was labouring under an acute sense of grievance against the decision to select another candidate for the appointment he had applied for. I regret that the case should have had this tragic ending but no case could have been more fully considered at every stage from the Deputy Secretary upwards. It must happen that the ideas of a party, who is personally interested, as to what constitutes justice will not always coincide with those of the appointing authority which has to take all claims into consideration.

**RUNNING OF PATNA BOGEY FROM CHAIBASA INSTEAD OF JAMSHEDPUR**

**1401. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Patna Bogey from Jamshedpur always misses connecting trains and is delayed for about twelve hours at Asansol, and if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of remedying the trouble;

(b) whether any inter and third class compartments are attached to the Patna bogey from Jamshedpur and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Chaibasa requesting for starting the Patna bogey from Chaibasa instead of from Jamshedpur and if so, with what result; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the need of the people of Bihar for running a through train between Patna and Chaibasa?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) The E. I. Railway Administration report that the Patna-Tatanagar (Jamshedpur) through service carriage has on occasions missed connection at Asansol due to the late running of 12 down train to which this carriage is attached. Extra time has lately been provided for the connection at Asansol to minimise the chances of mis-connection.

(b) Accommodation for first, second and inter class passengers exists in the Patna-Tatanagar (Jamshedpur) through service carriage. There is no room on this train for an extra through service carriage to be attached to provide accommodation for third class passengers.

(c) It has not been possible to obtain necessary information in time. The information when received will be placed on the table.

(d) Traffic offering does not justify the running of a through train between Patna and Chaibasa.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** As regards the running of a through train from Chaibasa to Patna, will the Honourable Member consider the difficulties that people have to undergo in travelling from Chaibasa to Patna?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** The difficulty is that we are rather short of coaches and we have got to provide accommodation for such traffic as is really important in respect of which the situation is really acute.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Is not the Honourable Member aware that between Chaibasa and Patna there is no direct connection, although both the places belong to the same province and that it is very difficult to travel from one place to the other? The Honourable Member himself must have had the same experience.

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** Yes, Sir. I am very familiar with that part of the country and I am quite aware that there is no through connection between the two places mentioned. But in spite of that we are not in a position at present to help the Honourable Member in that matter.

**REPRESENTATIONS FROM COLLIERIES ASSOCIATIONS OF DHANBAD *re* SUPPLY OF WAGONS**

**1402. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received representations from the Collieries Associations of Dhanbad and other places demanding a sufficient supply of wagons? If so, what action has been taken thereon?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 10th March, 1947, to his starred question No. 823 which covers this question.



**RESEARCH SCHEMES CONDUCTED BY THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

**1403. \*Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Research schemes conducted so far with the help of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) the particulars of and the expenditure incurred by each of such Research schemes in each Province; and

(c) how many schemes so far proved successful are being demonstrated and widely applied for the benefit of the Agriculturists?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the table showing the number of schemes sanctioned in each Province or State. For further particulars a reference is solicited to the reports and proceedings of the Council copies of which are in the Library.

(c) Some 224 schemes relate to fundamental research or are in the nature of surveys monographs, manuals, etc. The rest are of practical application and Provinces and States are taking steps to demonstrate the results in so far as their resources permit.

*Statement showing the total number of Research Schemes conducted with the help of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research*

| Province/State                  | No. of Schemes |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Headquarters . . . . .       | 53             |
| 2. Central Government . . . . . | 79             |
| 3. Madras . . . . .             | 47             |
| 4. Bombay . . . . .             | 50             |
| 5. Punjab . . . . .             | 67             |
| 6. Bengal . . . . .             | 40             |
| 7. Bihar . . . . .              | 27             |
| 8. Central Provinces . . . . .  | 30             |
| 9. N. W. F. P. . . . .          | 13             |
| 10. Orissa . . . . .            | 16             |
| 11. Sind . . . . .              | 14             |
| 12. Assam . . . . .             | 12             |
| 13. United Provinces . . . . .  | 58             |
| 14. Hyderabad State . . . . .   | 17             |
| 15. Kashmir State . . . . .     | 10             |
| 16. Mysore State . . . . .      | 23             |
| 17. Travancore State . . . . .  | 6              |
| 18. Baroda State . . . . .      | 16             |
| 19. Bhopal State . . . . .      | 2              |
| 20. Gwalior State . . . . .     | 2              |
| 21. Burma . . . . .             | 4              |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>586</b>     |

**Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder:** May I know from the Honourable Member what is the number of successful research works done by the I.C.A.R. and which have been applied practically?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The total number of research schemes carried out is 586; some of them, viz., 224, are schemes of a special type. That leaves 362 schemes the results of which are capable of being demonstrated. That work is the function of the Provinces and States concerned and we presume that the results of all these 362 schemes are being utilised by the Provinces and States.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Government consider the desirability of detailing one or two officers belonging to the I.C.A.R., who will be able to go round the Provinces and see from time to time how far the results achieved by the researches carried out by the I.C.A.R. are being applied and in what provinces, so that the Provinces themselves will be benefited by knowing how they are to utilise these researches in different parts of the country?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The suggestion will be brought to the notice of the I.C.A.R. but I believe it is already under their consideration.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will Government at least invite reports from different provinces with respect to these 362 schemes and see how many of them are useful in different provinces simultaneously and then to see whether more can be put into operation?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Most of these schemes had been put up by the Provinces and financed in part by the I.C.A.R., so that when a scheme was completed it was the province which knew all about it and was in a position to put the results into actual practice.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if any of these researches relate to the protection of crops from insect pests?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Yes, Sir. There are quite a number of schemes which relate to the protection of crops.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I know how many schemes are in actual operation in the centrally administered areas?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I am afraid I cannot give the information off-hand: I must ask for notice.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it the Honourable Member's experience, that most of these schemes are impracticable?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** No, Sir. Most of them are capable of practical application and have been so applied.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** If they are as practical, how is it that the Honourable Member has no information as to whether they are in operation or not?

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

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

**REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION DINAPORE RAILWAY DIVISION FOR INCREASE OF BOGIES IN THE SHUTTLE TRAIN BETWEEN BIHTA AND PATNA CITY**

**1404. \*Mr. Ramayan Prasad:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a Passengers Association functioning for the last 16 years in the Dinapore Railway Division and that the said Association has been rendering valuable services to the travelling public by drawing the attention of the Railway Authorities, divisional and central, to the various grievances regarding train timings, waiting rooms, addition and alteration of trains etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to great pressure of local passengers including students and men attending courts and offices, a shuttle train between Bihta and Patna City was introduced at the instance of the said Association, but the shuttle train has been subsequently reduced in size to 2 to 3 third class bogies without any upper class bogie, to the great inconvenience of the public;

(c) whether Government are aware that the said Passengers Association repeatedly drew the attention of the Divisional Superintendent and also C. O. P. S. to the great over-crowding in the said shuttle train; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the number of bogies in the shuttle train and adding one upper class bogie also to reduce the overcrowding?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Yes, it is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Daily Passenger Association, Khagaul, Patna.

(b) There is no shuttle train service running between Bihta and Patna. The Honourable Member has perhaps in mind the four shuttle services running each way between Dinapore and Patna. The upper class accommodation on these shuttle trains was withdrawn due to lack of sufficient patronage and because there were more pressing needs for upper class accommodation on other sections of the railway.

(c) and (d). An additional 3rd class bogie carriage is being attached to the shuttle services between Dinapore and Patna to reduce overcrowding. But the question of providing an upper class carriage must be deferred on the grounds that the extent of upper class traffic does not warrant the provision of an upper class carriage and that there is a shortage of upper class carriage at present.

#### CONTROL OF IMPORT OF ALUMINIUM SHEETS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

**1405. \*Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a pool of four business firms to control the import of aluminium sheets from the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the principle on which the system is based and the advantages Government expect by the introduction of this system for other firms and consumers;

(c) whether it is a fact that Messrs Wolvertiantpter Works Company Limited, Bombay and Messrs. Jeevanlal and Company Limited, Calcutta both members of the said pool have expressed their inability to Messrs. India Metal Industries, Hathras to supply their requirements; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** (a) Government have canalised imports of aluminium ingots, sheets and circles from all countries with a view to facilitating the working of the Aluminium Pool. The number of firms allowed to import under this arrangement is now four as against two till last year.

(b) According to this system the imported aluminium is pooled with the costlier indigenous product and released to the consumers at an average price. The object is to afford the greatest possible protection to the consumers as well as to the indigenous industry whose product is more costly than the imported metal.

(c) Yes.

(d) Messrs. India Metal Industries, Hathras approached the two pool members after the last date fixed for receiving their demands. It has however been arranged for them to receive 40 tons from one of the other pool constituents.

### IMPROVEMENT IN THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TESTING OF INDIAN WOOL

**1406. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in the *Hindustan Times* of 22nd March, 1947, regarding the interview given by Messrs. Staynes and Whalley, Members of the International Wool Secretariat;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have stressed the need for provision of adequate pastures for sheep-breeding, introduction of the latest scientific methods for shearing and washing wool, stoppage of adulteration, proper sorting and trade marking and establishment of wool testing houses, on the lines of the Bradford Test House in England; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the production processing and testing of Indian wool?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is not enough land to make adequate pastures available for sheep. But the Council of Agricultural Research is financing nine experimental breeding stations with a view to improve the production of wool, two centres for classing, preparing and marking wool and six local wool laboratories and one Central Wool Laboratory which function on the same lines as the Test House in England. It has also under consideration a scheme for the improvement of sheep by breeding and for the establishment of washing, clipping and classing and baling stations. Questions relating to adulteration, sorting and trade marking have been examined and discussed with the trade and are under the consideration of an *ad hoc* Committee.

?

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING DEPARTMENT ON THE MARKETING OF CATTLE

**1407. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to supply to all the Members of this House the summary of the recommendations of the report on the marketing of cattle, published by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to implement its recommendations, especially those suggesting the formation of co-operative cattle breeding societies, co-operative cattle insurance and the imposition of cess on slaughter and on export of cattle?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) A copy of the report is placed in the Library. A copy of the conclusions and recommendations will be supplied to all members of the House.

(b) The recommendations will be examined and suitable action taken in respect of each suggestion. Most of the suggestions appear to concern Provincial Governments and will be brought to their notice for necessary action.

### STATUS OF THE STAFF OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES

**1408. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the status of the staff of the Dead Letter Offices all over India was lowered in 1936 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that there has been dis-satisfaction among their staff since then; and

(c) whether it is a fact that representations from all Dead Letter Offices have been made to Government for the restoration of their status prior to August 1936 and if so, the action Government have taken on those representations?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** (a) The Honourable Member probably has in mind the revision in the scale of pay of the staff of the Dead Letter Offices effected in 1935, as a result of which they were placed on a par with post office clerks. Prior to 1935 clerks of Dead Letter Offices, Postmaster General's office and post offices were on the same scales of pay. But in the revisions of pay effected in 1935 the scale of pay of clerks in the Postmaster General's office was raised above the clerks in the other Branches of the service referred to, because in the Postmaster General's office the work was considered to be of a much more arduous nature. In the year 1936 only the working hours of all Dead Letter Offices were increased but this did not mean any lowering of the Status of the staff concerned.

(b) Some representations have been received.

(c) The matter will be considered in the light of the recommendations of the Pay Commission.

#### SUBORDINATES IN THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT, MECHANICAL DIVISION, N. W. RAILWAY

1409. **\*Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state what is the number of subordinates in the Production Department, Mechanical Division, North Western Railway, in the cadre of Foremen, Senior Chargemen, Assistant Chargemen, Junior Chargemen and Journeymen community-wise?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** I lay on the table a statement showing, by communities, the number of subordinates in the Production Branch of the Mechanical Workshops of the N. W. Railway holding posts of Foremen, Senior Chargemen, Assistant Chargemen, Junior Chargemen and Journeymen.

*Statement showing, by communities, the number of subordinates in the Production Branch of the Mechanical Workshops of the N. W. Railway holding posts of Foremen, Senior Chargemen, Assistant Chargemen, Junior Chargemen and Journeymen.*

| Category                       | Muslims | Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Europeans | Other Minority Communities | Hindus |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Foremen and Assistant Foremen. | Nil     | 8                                    | 2                          | 4      |
| Senior Chargemen . . . . .     | 9       | 7                                    | 6                          | 7      |
| Assistant Chargemen . . . . .  | 2       | 2                                    | 2                          | 8      |
| Junior Chargemen . . . . .     | 3       |                                      | 2                          | 1      |
| Journeymen . . . . .           | 13      | 2                                    | 4                          | 7      |

#### POSTS OF WORKS MANAGER, LOCO., METALLURGIST, WORKS MANAGER CARRIAGE AND WAGON FACTORY, ETC. HELD BY NON-MUSLIMS

1410. **\*Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the posts of Works Manager, Loco., Metallurgist, Works Manager, Carriage and Wagon, Divisional Electrical Engineer and Production Engineer, Mechanical in the Mechanical Workshops, North Western Railway, are being held by non-Muslims?

(b) If so, is it a fact that it is the accepted policy of the Government of India to ensure that there is no undue preponderance of any one community in any department?

(c) If so, how do Government propose to remove this preponderance of non-Muslims in this Branch?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) With the exception of the post of Production Engineer, Mechanical, which is held by a Muslim, the posts mentioned by the Honourable Member are at present held by non-Muslims.

(b) The present policy of Government, which is designed to effect adequate representation of Muslims and the other Minority Communities in Government Services, is contained in the Home Department Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33, dated the 4th July 1934 (as amended from time to time), a copy of which is in the Library of the House. In accordance with this policy, separate minimum percentages have been fixed for Muslims and other Minority Communities in direct recruitment to the Services. Promotions and postings do not fall within the scope of this policy and are not made on a communal basis.

(c) In view of my reply to part (b) above, this does not arise.

#### PROMOTION OF MUSLIM SUBORDINATES AS FOREMEN IN THE MECHANICAL WORKSHOPS DIVISION, N. W. RAILWAY

**1411. \*Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state what was the number of vacancies which occurred in the cadre of Foremen in the Mechanical Workshops Division, North Western Railway since October, 1945?

(b) What is the number of the subordinates, community-wise promoted against such vacancies?

(c) What categories of staff were considered eligible for promotion to the Foremen cadre and how many Muslims and non-Muslims were employed in these categories?

(d) What was the percentage of Muslims and non-Muslim subordinates employed in the above-mentioned categories and those promoted to Foremen's posts separately community-wise?

(e) Were the Muslim subordinates in this branch of the North Western Railway given their due share of the vacancies in the cadre of Foremen? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) 139 vacancies of Foremen occurred in the Mechanical Workshops since October 1945.

(b) and (d). I lay on the table a statement giving the figures required in each case.

(c) Senior Chargemen are eligible for promotion to the posts of Foremen. 87 Muslims and 114 non-Muslims were employed as Senior Chargemen.

(e) The question does not arise. Promotions of subordinate staff in service are not regulated on a communal basis and the posts of Foremen are filled as the result of selection by a Selection Board on the basis primarily of merit.

#### Statement

(i) Statement showing the number of subordinates, according to communities promoted against vacancies of Foremen since October 1945:—

|                                                |     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Muslims . . . . .                              | 15  |
| Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Europeans . . . . . | 73  |
| Other Minority Communities . . . . .           | 14  |
| Hindus . . . . .                               | 37  |
| Total . . . . .                                | 139 |

## (ii) Statement showing—

(a) the percentage of Muslim and Non-muslim subordinates employed as Senior Chargemen; and

(b) the percentage of the members of different communities promoted to Foremen posts—

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| (a) Muslims                          | 43   |
| Non-muslims                          | 57   |
| (b) Muslims                          | 10.8 |
| Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Europeans | 52.5 |
| Other minority Communities           | 10.1 |
| Hindus                               | 25.6 |

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## PRICE OF SUGAR AND SUGAR-CANE IN UNITED PROVINCES

110. **Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of sugar manufactured by mills in the United Provinces and Bihar in the years 1939 and 1946;

(b) the prices of sugar in those Provinces in the years 1939 and 1946;

(c) the prices of sugar-cane in the United Provinces and Bihar in the years 1939 and 1946; and

(d) the quantities of sugar-cane produced in those Provinces in the years 1939 and 1946?

**Mr. K. L. Panjabi:** (a) and (d). Statements are laid on the table of the House.

(b) There was no control over sugar prices in 1938-39. Market prices varied from place to place and time to time. Roughly speaking, the average price was about Rs. 11-10-0 per maund. In 1945-46, the controlled ex-factory price of sugar in the U.P. and Bihar was Rs. 16-10-0 per maund.

(c) In 1938-39, the minimum fixed price of sugar-cane in the U.P. ranged from Re. 0-6-9 to Re. 0-8-9 per maund. In Bihar the minimum price was Re. 0-6-9 per maund; this was later raised to Re. 0-7-0 per maund. In 1945-46, the price in the U.P. was 0-14-6 per maund at the factory gate and Re. 0-14-0 at outstations. In Bihar, the price was 0-15-0 per maund both for cane at the factory gate and at outstations.

*Statement referred to in part (a) of the Reply.*

| Seasons                                                           | U. P.<br>(Tons) | Bihar<br>(Tons) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1938-39—<br>(from 1st December 1938 to the end of November 1939). | 3,20,000        | 1,62,000        |
| 1945-46—<br>(from 1st December 1945 to the end of November 1946). | 5,17,796        | 1,76,726        |

Statement referred to in part (d) of the Reply.

## Area under Sugarcane

|                          | 1938-39   | 1945-46   |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                          | (Acres)   | (Acres)   |
| U. P.                    | 16,52,000 | 18,67,000 |
| Bihar (including Orissa) | 4,07,000  | 4,16,000  |

## Yield in terms of Gur

|       | 1938-39   | 1945-46   |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| U. P. | 14,54,000 | 18,92,000 |
| Bihar | 3,69,000  | 3 69,000  |

## RELATIVE SENIORITY OF GUARDS ON N. W. RAILWAY

**111. Seth Sukhdev:** With reference to the reply to part (a) of unstarred question No. 78, asked on 11th March 1946, regarding relative seniority among guards on North Western Railway, will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the answer to item (ii) refers to rules in force before 1936; if so, how it is reconciled with the answer to part (b) of unstarred question No. 6 asked on 27th July 1943 regarding relative seniority of promoted Grade II Guards on North Western Railway; and

(b) if the amended rule does not apply to persons in service prior to 1936, why the case of Karachi division Guards promised to be reviewed has not been reviewed; and whether it is proposed to be so reviewed now, to conform with the rules in force prior to 1936; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Yes. As regards the latter part, the reply given on the 27th July 1943 to part (b) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's Unstarred Question No. 6 refers to the determination of seniority of Ticket Collectors and Train Clerks, etc., on their promotion as Guards on and after the 7th July 1936 whereas the reply given to item (ii) of part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 78 asked on the 11th March, 1946 refers to the determination of the seniority of such staff promoted as Guards before the 7th July 1936.

(b) I am not quite clear as to what promise the Honourable Member is referring but I have called for information from the North Western Railway Administration and will lay a statement on the table of the House in due course.

## CHARACTER CERTIFICATES TO EMPLOYEES BY RAILWAYS AFTER TERMINATION OF SERVICES

**112. Seth Sukhdev:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the railway administrations issue certificates to the employees, whose services are terminated after giving the usual notice of one month or less; if so, under what specific provision of the rules?

(b) Is it a fact that in certain certificates a zigzag line is drawn opposite to the columns of "character" and "ability": If so, why?



(c) Does termination of service after due notice, constitute a bar to re-employment of the employees? If so, under what rule?

(d) If the reply to the first portion of part (d) above be in the negative, who, are the columns referred to in part (b) not filled with appropriate remarks?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Yes, under para. 1620(1) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, as amended by Correction Slip No. N727, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The detailed instructions regarding the method of completing service certificate forms are left to the General Manager to prescribe. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the practice which is understood to have been adopted by some railways whereby, in the event of the authority granting the certificate being unable, on the strength of the railway servant's record, to remark favourably in regard to his conduct and ability, a wavy line is drawn against these headings in order that no adverse remarks may appear in the service certificate of an employee to hinder his obtaining employment elsewhere.

(c) On the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to notice by the competent authority on behalf of Government, termination of service under an employee's agreement or conditions of service does not by itself constitute a bar to re-employment in service but if such termination is the result of disciplinary action involving removal from service, it may, in terms of Rule 1703 of the State Railway Establishment Code, disqualify the person concerned from future employment.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (b).

#### COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF SUB-SECTION P-1 IN DIVISIONAL OFFICE, KARACHI

**113. Seth Sukhdev:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of sub-section P-1 in the Divisional Office, Karachi on 1st January 1944 and 1st January 1947 and the communal composition thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Muslims are being brought to this section to give them over 60 per cent. representation; if so, under what rule; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to see that there is communal reservation only in direct recruitment and not in branches and sub-sections; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) The total number of staff in sub-section P-1 in the Divisional Office, Karachi, N. W. Railway, was 7 on the 1st January 1944, of which four were Hindus and three Muslims, and eight on 1st January 1947, of which three were Hindus and five Muslims.

(b) No. The posting of staff to the various sections of the Establishment Branch is done with regard to the interests of the work and not by communities.

(c) As a result of one of the recommendations made by the Officer placed on Special Duty to review the working of the orders relating to the representation of Minority Communities in service on Railways, it was decided, with the concurrence of the Central Advisory Council for Railways, to reserve 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the clerical cadre of the Establishment branches filled by direct recruitment for the Minority Communities till such time as representation in these branches is brought up to the overall percentage prescribed for those communities on each railway. Apart from this, there is no reservation in direct recruitment for Minority Communities according to particular branches and sub-sections and Government do not see that any change is necessary in this respect.

#### EUROPEAN INSTITUTES FOR STAFF ON THE N. W. RAILWAY

**114. Seth Sukhdev:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the names of the European Institutes for staff existing on the North Western Railway with particulars of membership in each such Institute as on

the 31st December, 1946 and the assistance given to them from railway revenues during 1945-46?

(b) How much assistance was given to the Indian Institutes during the year 1945-46?

(c) If the assistance to Indian Institutes per member is low, as compared with that to European Institutes, do Government propose to take any steps to equalise the same? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the names of the European Institutes existing on the N. W. Railway at present with particulars of membership of each Institute as on the 31st December 1946. As regards the assistance given to the European as well as Indian Institutes on the N. W. Railway during 1945-46, I am collecting information and will lay a statement on the table of the House in due course.

*Statement showing the names of European Institutes on the N. W. Railway with particulars of members in each Institute on 31st December, 1946*

| Name of the Institute                          | Railway Members | Honorary Members |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| N. W. R. European Institute at Delhi . . . . . | 29              | 25               |
| „ Saharanpur . . . . .                         | 63              | 10               |
| „ Ambala Cantonment . . . . .                  | 20              | 1                |
| „ Kalke . . . . .                              | 15              | ..               |
| „ Ghaziabad . . . . .                          | 12              | ..               |
| „ Bhatinda . . . . .                           | 26              | 2                |
| „ Ferozepore Cantonment . . . . .              | 16              | 4                |
| „ Bahawalnagar . . . . .                       | 5               | 6                |
| „ Karachi Cantonment. . . . .                  | 79              | 74               |
| „ Kotri . . . . .                              | 30              | ..               |
| „ Sukkur . . . . .                             | 17              | 6                |
| „ Mchri . . . . .                              | 36              | ..               |
| „ Quetta . . . . .                             | 52              | ..               |
| „ Sibi . . . . .                               | 13              | ..               |
| „ Mach. . . . .                                | 12              | ..               |
| „ Multan . . . . .                             | 15              | 10               |
| „ Khanewal . . . . .                           | 14              | ..               |
| „ Rawalpindi . . . . .                         | 65              | 5                |
| „ Peshawar Cantonment . . . . .                | 5               | 6                |
| „ Moghalpura . . . . .                         | 123             | 7                |
| N. W. R. Burt Institute at Lahore . . . . .    | 190             | 41               |

## GRADE II GUARDS RECRUITED ON THE N. W. RAILWAY SINCE 1943

115. **Seth Sukhdev:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of grade II guards recruited on the North Western Railway separately during the years 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 (up to 29th February 1947) by (i) direct recruitment (ii) by promotion from other branches of service in the permanent and temporary posts; and

(b) whether the shortage in direct recruitment is made good in the succeeding years; if so, in how many years and under what specific rule?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthal:** (a) I give below the required information in regard to Grade II Guards on the old scales of pay, corresponding to Class I Grade I Guards on the revised scales of pay:—

| Year           | Number of staff recruited direct as Guards, Grade II | Number of staff promoted as Guards, Grade II |                         |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                |                                                      | Against permanent posts                      | Against temporary posts |
| 1943-44        | 19                                                   | ...                                          | 61                      |
| 1944-45        | 195                                                  |                                              | 38                      |
| 1945-46        | 85                                                   |                                              | 27                      |
| 1946-47        | ...                                                  | ...                                          | 56                      |
| Up to 28-2-47) |                                                      |                                              |                         |

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. No time limit is prescribed, except in regard to deficiencies in the recruitment of members of minority communities, where such deficiencies may be carried forward for one year. As regards the last portion, there is no specific provision in the rules, but where separate proportions are prescribed for direct recruitment and promotion respectively, it is obviously in the interests of the administration to achieve these proportions by adjustment in subsequent recruitment, if necessary.

#### COMPLAINT re THE RECRUITMENT OF DIESEL ENGINE DRIVERS ON N. W. RAILWAY

116. **Seth Sukhdev:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article appearing in the '*Railway Herald*', Karachi, dated the 1st January, 1947 under the heading "Recruitment of Diesel Engine Drivers on North Western Railway"? If so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to meet the complaint?

(b) Is it a fact that there is surplus of staff in firemen's grade on the North Western Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that firemen were trained in 1938-39 in Diesel car driver's duties? If so, why is the same method not adopted now to absorb the surplus staff?

(d) Are Government aware that direct recruits lack transportation knowledge necessary for safe operations?

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** (a) Yes, though the correct date of the issue of the paper in which the article appeared is the 6th January 1947. As regards the latter portion, no action was taken or is proposed to be taken on the complaint.

(b) and (c). The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) This may be so at the time of their recruitment, but they are given the necessary training before their appointment, which is also subject to their passing an examination in Traffic Regulations and Mechanism of Diesel Locomotives.

#### MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE MYMENSINGH HEAD POST OFFICE IN BENGAL

**117. Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary clerks attached to the Mymensingh Head Post Office in Bengal;

(b) how many of them are Muslims and how many are non-Muslims;

(c) the period for which each of them has been serving as a temporary clerk;

(d) the reason why these temporary clerks are not being made permanent; and

(e) whether Government propose to make them permanent in the near future?

**Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi:** (a) Nineteen.

(b) Six Muslims and thirteen non-Muslims.

(c) One Muslim and five non-Muslims since 1943; four Muslims and seven non-Muslims since 1944; and one Muslim and one non-Muslim since 1945.

(d) For want of adequate number of permanent vacancies and also pending the appointment of war-service personnel in vacancies reserved for them.

(e) Six of these are likely to be provided for shortly in permanent vacancies. The question of absorbing the rest in permanent vacancies will be examined when vacancies arise.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

##### NATIONALISATION OF ARMED FORCES.

**Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia:** Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether, in view of the fact that British intend quitting India by June 1948, the Commander-in-Chief has been instructed by the Defence Member to implement his plans for Nationalisation with immediate effect?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** No, Sir. The implementation of the plans will be the subject of the orders of government on receipt of the Nationalisation Committee's final recommendations.

**Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia:** Is it a fact that the Nationalisation Committee's work is suffering because it has not received any instructions from the Defence Member about the future strength of the Defence Services?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** I am not aware that the work of the Committee is suffering for lack of instructions from Government. The information about the size of the future armed forces is of course relevant but it is not quite essential for the purposes of the Committee who are aware of the interim strength of the forces.

**Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia:** Is it not a fact that this Committee has not met for the last four weeks?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Speaking from memory, I think the Committee met last month—on the 10th of March, and since then they have been engaged in collecting material to enable them to proceed further with their deliberations.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** May I know what will be the position of the present Commander-in-Chief in June 1948 when the British quit?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** That does not arise out of the question.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** How long will this Committee take to complete its work?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** The Committee have been asked to complete their deliberations and submit their Report within six months from the date of the first meeting. That will be about June 1947.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know what action has been taken on the interim recommendations of the Committee?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** On this subject the Honourable the Defence Member made a statement in this House in the course of his reply to a cut motion.

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ARMED FORCES NATIONALISATION COMMITTEE

**Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia:** Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state whether the terms of reference to the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee have been changed, in view of the changed circumstances caused by the intention of British quitting India by June 1948?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** No, Sir. The terms of reference already called for nationalization by the earliest possible date.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** Did they call for hundred per cent nationalisation?

**Mr. G. S. Bhalja:** Nationalisation means complete—hundred per cent—nationalisation.

#### ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

**Mr. President:** I have to inform Honourable Members that Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel has been elected to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways as well as the Central Advisory Council for Railways. According to the constitution of the Central Advisory Council, all members of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways are *ex-officio* members of the Council. Thus Mr. Hirtzel, by virtue of his membership of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, is *ex-officio* member of the Council. One seat on the Council therefore remains vacant. For the purpose of filling up this vacancy, I appoint Monday, the 7th April, 1947 up to 12 Noon within which nominations for this vacancy will be received. The election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, on Tuesday, the 8th April, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

#### TAXATION ON INCOME (INVESTIGATION COMMISSION) BILL

**Mr. Shavax A. Lal** (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation of income, in place of Prof. N. G. Ranga, who has resigned from the Committee."

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

"That Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation of income, in place of Prof. N. G. Ranga, who has resigned from the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Mr. S. Guruswami** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Diwan Chaman Lal be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, in place of Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava who has resigned from the Committee."

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

"That Diwan Chaman Lal be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act 1890, in place of Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava who has resigned from the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

### RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY PRISONERS—*contd.*

**Mr. President:** The House will now proceed with the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council to release the Indian National Army prisoners immediately."

**Pandit Balkrishna Sharma** (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, when last time I was on my legs in connection with the discussion on the Resolution of my Honourable friend Khan Abdul Ghani Khan I was pointing out to certain of my honourable friends that there are questions in regard to which there need be no differences of opinion amongst us. The question of the release of the I.N.A. prisoners is one of those questions and therefore I requested them to be good enough to look at this question from a broad national point of view and not bring into the discussion matters which are extraneous to it. I do not intend to follow up that line of argument. But one or two things which the mover of the Resolution placed before the House have not found a responsive echo in my heart. Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan very aptly and very brilliantly suggested that there was little ground for any Government to take exception to the release of the I.N.A. people on the plea of brutality when we ourselves are holding out all sorts and manner of prospects for their advancement by encouraging them to get themselves made experts into performing brutal acts. I have not been able to see eye to eye with him on this point. I think that there are certain very definite lines of demarcation which it is dangerous to try to obliterate. There is a certain line of demarcation between brutality and bravery. I for one moment do not wish to suggest that the alleged acts of brutality were actually performed by those people. As a matter of fact, this House has not before it all the material facts which will place it in a position to give a verdict on that issue. But the House cannot for a moment pass any verdict which will obliterate that difference between brutality and bravery. That difference apart, the question which weighs with most of us today is as to what actually the policy of the Government of India should be in regard to the I.N.A. prisoners. Nobody in this House for a moment will doubt the sincerest possible motives which led these I.N.A. men and officers to join the ranks of the Indian National Army for the liberation of this country. The motion before the House is of a limited character and therefore it may not be possible for me to go into all those details which are necessary to take into consideration regarding the whole question which is involved in the release of I.N.A. prisoners. But with your permission and with your indulgence I would like to place one or two points for the consideration of this House. Some people have asked a question as to whether the I.N.A. prisoners, are regarded by the Government of India as criminals. The very poser appears to be a little absurd. All of us know that today the term "the Government of India" connotes a double personality—one, the men, our leaders, who are at the helm of affairs and the other, the one great leviathan, which is an insensate, stupid

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monster. Now, because there is this inherent historical contradiction in the situation, we cannot ask the question today whether the Government of India regard these prisoners as criminals or not. This is a question which might be put to the Government after the year of Grace 1948, that is, after the middle of it, in the month of July 1948. This question might be put then but today we cannot put that question to the Government of India. We know that those at the helm of affairs of the Government of India today are the very people who brought this question to the forefront. It was the Leader of this House Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru who raised this question from that cowardly legal-constitutional level to the high and lofty level of fundamentals. It was he who for the first time in the history of our country, barring Mahatma Gandhi, took up the case of the I.N.A. men and it was the genius of the late lamented great Bhulabhai Desai who, as the last act of his dedicated life, showed to the whole world how flimsy the ground was on which these I.N.A. persons were being prosecuted. Therefore, Sir, to say whether the Government of India thinks that this question of the I.N.A. men is regarded by the Government of India in any other light except in the light in which the individual members of the Government of India consider it, to say the least, is not fair. To ask this question is not fair. There are limitations.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member has only five minutes more.

**Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma:** I thought fifteen minutes were due to me.

**Mr. President:** Fifteen minutes is the time limit. The Honourable Member took five minutes before. He has taken five now and only five more are left.

**Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma:** You keep a very exact time table, Sir. As I said before, I only want to place two or three things before this House for its consideration. It is true that in regard to the I.N.A. prisoners, who are out of prison and who have been dismissed, the Government have not been able to impress upon the various departments to extend a helping hand to those men. For instance, the Government of the United Provinces and the Government of Bombay tried to enlist these I.N.A. men in the Police service.

**Mr. President:** I am afraid that part of the discussion will be outside the scope of the present Resolution.

**Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma:** I bow to your decision. Lastly I only throw out a feeler to my Honourable friends in this House. As there is likely to be certain complication in the matter, I would request the Honourable Members that we think ten times before we give our verdict on this question. I think we are passing through very critical times and, as I said to a friend of mine, we cannot jump all of a sudden over the hedge of history. There are certain limitations under which we are working. There are certain limitations under which our Government is working. We are passing through a critical time. We are passing through a transitional stage, a transitional stage that has almost become a revolutionary stage and therefore I would request the House to take a very sane and sedate view of the whole question and to so behave that they may not precipitate any crisis on account of their votes on this occasion. So far as our sympathies are concerned, nobody is in any doubt about it. All of us want that the I.N.A. prisoners should be released. All of us want that those men must be given employment. All of us want that the Government departments should go on helping them, that the Labour Department should come to their aid, that we keep them in mind in connection with the various post-war schemes and things should be so manipulated as these men may find employment, and, at the same time all of us want that the Government should issue instructions to all their officials that the surveillance and vigilance which have been kept so long over them should be done away with. About all that there is no difference of

opinion. But there is a question which cannot be easily decided one way or the other if that question threatens to create a crisis and therefore I request the House to take a sane and moderate view of the whole thing.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (Leader of the House): Sir, I should like to intervene at the early stage in this debate in order to place the views of Government in regard to this Resolution. This Resolution in some shape or other has been before the House, I believe, for over a year. It may well be asked—why is this matter kept pending so long, not merely as a Resolution, when it was fairly obvious what the views of the House were in this matter and, if I may say so, what the views of the people were. It may be asked—why has this Resolution to be brought up again and again, sometimes postponed and then been given new life. I think the House and the country are entitled to know and I propose to put facts before them with as much frankness as possible.

The House knows well that many of us have been in the past intimately connected with these I.N.A. trials. We organised defence committees. We did all that we could in order to help them in those trials and after. Why did we do so? Because we thought that this matter had something much more than a merely technical military aspect. It had a larger aspect, because we thought that in this matter, as in many others, the average soldier was placed in a very difficult position. Normally speaking every one in this House will agree that in an army the most absolute discipline should prevail. Otherwise, it ceases to be an army. It goes to pieces and if there is lack of discipline, it has to be dealt with. But in a case like India up till recently there have obviously been different pulls. There is the pull of discipline and loyalty to the discipline of the army. There is also a pull of another loyalty and a larger and perhaps a more imperative loyalty to what one imagines to be the good of the country. Now, if those two loyalties come into conflict, as they have done in the past, not only in the army but elsewhere too, the result is an inner conflict in the individual. And it would be a foolish thing to judge that inner conflict in technical terms and to say that this man has erred and misbehaved. Well, as it happens, it is the best type of individual who has to suffer that inner conflict. It is the man who does not feel that way who is usually insensitive to the vital things of life. Therefore, when we have to face these inner conflicts, these rival pulls, we have to decide after taking everything into consideration. Of course, the right way is to avoid this inner conflict and to avoid dual loyalty and to have a single loyalty to the country and the army. Then there is no difficulty in the way except personal or domestic difficulties. The difficulty arises when a country, as India is today, is in a period of transition or even before the transition, when it is not a free country. We have had to face that difficulty and the I.N.A. people had to face that difficulty and in a very peculiar state of affairs they took a certain decision. I do not know how any one of us here would have acted if similarly situated. No one can say unless he has to face a difficult situation how he will act at that time. I have little doubt in my mind that those people *en mass* were impelled by feelings of patriotism and the desire to serve their country. It was because of that belief, which, if I may say so, was strengthened in the course of those major trials that took place here, that we helped in the defence of those cases and subsequently.

Now, I do not wish any one to imagine that we consider every person in the I.N.A. as a hero and a patriot. Even in the best of Groups or organisations everybody is not a hero and a patriot. There are good people and bad people and middling people, who are neither too good nor too bad. But undoubtedly in judging of a situation like this, we had to take the major facts into consideration, and those facts led us to the attitude that we adopted in regard to I.N.A. and nothing that has happened since had led me to believe that we



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were wrong. In fact, I am convinced as ever that we were right in the attitude that we took up then. We have, therefore, subsequently also tried to help the I.N.A. people in regard to service and means of finding livelihood. May I say because a reference has been made by Pandit Balkrishna Sharma to this matter, that so far as Government is concerned, every avenue of service is open to these I.N.A. men except the military and the police at present. So that all civil employment is open to them provided of course, they are competent and not merely because they are I.N.A. men.

Now, this has been the general position. We took up that position in regard to the trials on the political issue because we felt that it would be exceedingly wrong for people placed in that difficult position to be charged with what is technically called waging war against the King. And, if I may say so, we succeeded in establishing that contention for various reasons, among them being the very brilliant defence offered by Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. And may I say also that in this matter the Commander-in-Chief, who was most intimately concerned with the army, with the discipline in the army and with all that happened in regard to the I.N.A. and who naturally in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief must have resented all these happenings which went against the discipline of the army and against his whole outlook as a soldier, did take up an attitude which was a wise attitude and a far-seeing attitude. I am for the moment referring to things in general; I am not obviously thinking of individual cases for the moment. I am talking of the general attitude which the Commander-in-Chief took up in regard to this matter. I think it was from every point of view, a very statesmanlike attitude and even at that time I ventured to congratulate him and I would repeat that word of congratulation now. The House will appreciate that however much we may try to agree on many matters, there is a fundamental difference yet in the Indian outlook and the British outlook on many problems. It may be that in future when India is a completely free and independent country that difference will vanish. But what I am trying to point out is this: anything that we may take up and whether we agree about it or not, the approach and the honest approach on both sides is often different. One starts with different data, a different view of life, different environments, call it what you like, and it is because of these that it was an easy matter for me or for any Member of this House to have taken up a certain attitude in regard to the I.N.A. a year or a little more than a year ago. But it was not an easy matter for the Commander-in-Chief, with his military back-ground and with his British back-ground, if I may say so, to take up the general attitude that he did in this matter. But he did so, I have no doubt, because he appreciated to a certain extent at least what was in the Indian mind; what was not only in the Indian civilian mind but what was in the Indian military mind also. We looked upon this question then and subsequently as a political matter which had impinged itself on military discipline. Nevertheless, it was a political matter and we were only opposed to any punishment being given on political grounds, even though that had involved a breach of discipline. Now, that was so and, if I may say so, that was admitted then by the Commander-in-Chief and the Government of India all the time. There was punishment, of course, in the sense that these I.N.A. people were dismissed from the army and they did not get various allowances, arrears, etc., which, as discharged soldiers, they might have got. That is true. But apart from that, punishment in the sense of imprisonment etc., was ruled out. That was the general policy adopted. But then a distinction was made in regard to other matters which strictly had nothing political about them, which had in fact nothing special about them, which if they had taken place not in The I.N.A. but in the regular army itself would be liable for punishment. Now, I am not for the moment entering into the merits of any individual case or trying to place before the House a certain distinction that was made then in regard to

the actual breach of army discipline by so-called waging war against the King and acts which are considered inhuman or brutal being indulged in, quite apart from the question of discipline. Obviously that is a matter which takes this out of the scope of pure politics or of pure I.N.A. There are cases happening in the regular army from time to time when officers or men are punished for some such inhuman act which degrades the traditions of the army. There are at the present moment people being punished, not I.N.A., I am referring to, but other people in the regular army who have been court-martialled for such acts and who are undergoing punishment therefor. So that, the way I am trying to put before the House the position is as it was placed to me and before me by the Army authorities, that this matter was considered by them, not on a political plane, but purely on the plane on which they might have considered any matter connected with the regular army. They said that if we are going to treat our regular army men for certain acts in a particular way, are we debarred from treating I.N.A. men for identical acts because they happen to be I.N.A. and therefore they are not liable for even a common offence of the army or common offence against humanity. The House will remember that I am not dealing with individual cases, I am putting before the House the argument advanced by the Army authorities before me. Apart from that, on any such matters, any Government must very largely rely upon the advice of those who are put in charge of the army. Obviously the Government of India in such matters, and in many other matters, more especially in non-political matters must inevitably take the advice of the Commander-in-Chief. If there is any radical difference between the view point of the Government and the Commander-in-Chief, well then, the Commander-in-Chief may be changed. But obviously the man in charge that has been placed there has been made responsible and must shoulder that responsibility by giving advice to Government on these matters. Inevitably therefore when this matter came up, we asked for the advice of the Commander-in-Chief. My own reaction, as well as the reaction of most or, if I may say so, all my colleagues was that this is not a debateable matter, this is not a matter which need take up any time of the House. We had been engaged in these I.N.A. trials and we felt that the sooner these whole I.N.A. business of trial and punishment ended the better from the large point of view because it was obvious that the general public did not like these punishments to continue. So, we thought that the matter was not one for much argument. Nevertheless, of course we had to refer to the Commander-in-Chief and the Defence Member. Then we had long talks and discussed this matter in a friendly way all aspects of it, and some of the arguments that I have put forward before the House were placed before us by the Commander-in-Chief and others and every aspect of this question was explored. We found that the Commander-in-Chief did not think that it was such a simple matter as we thought it to be. He felt that there were all manner of other issues involved, that there would be repercussions and that he himself was not personally convinced in regard to taking any steps to release them. That put us in a difficulty, because obviously we did not want to proceed in such a matter which fell within the special purview of the Commander-in-Chief without his full approval and consent. It is because of this that there has been considerable delay in dealing with this question. Honourable Members have from time to time asked questions in this House and I am afraid that the answers that have been given to them have seldom been satisfactory. Because they were not complete, it was not possible to discuss the matter in answer to a question and because we ourselves were considering it and discussing it, we could not say very much about it. I must ask the forgiveness of the House for those incomplete and unsatisfactory answers to questions during the past few months. The matter came up again and again in various forms and the House occasionally, expressed a feeling of resentment at this delay in dealing with this question. I can well understand

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that with the background which the House has. But may I say that few questions during the last few weeks or months have troubled my mind and taken up my time more than this question. We did not forget it at any time. We considered it, we discussed it amongst ourselves, we weighed the pros and cons of everything and because of this difficulty that we could not get over, we could not come to any decision about it. Otherwise, we need not have waited for a Resolution of this House. So, this was the position. Now, at the present moment if I may give some facts to the House, there are, I believe, seven persons involved. There are others, of course, they belong to other categories. There are more or less seven persons involved in this Resolution. Two of them have been sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment, two to seven years and one to three years, and one to two years. All these persons though charged with waging war have also committed offences against humanity and were generally sentenced. But we are given to understand that the charge in regard to waging war had nothing to do with the sentence except in so far as those persons were dismissed from the army. Now, Sir, they have all been sentenced for acts which may be considered which were considered by court martial as brutal and inhuman and totally unbecoming of a member of the armed forces, something for which any person in the army, I would remind the House, would have been punished. Now, the Honourable Mover of the Resolution, I remember, mentioned something to the effect that it is idle to talk of brutality and inhumanity because all war is brutality and inhumanity. If you train a man in brutal methods what is the good of punishing him if he indulges in them later. While agreeing with him completely in the view that war is an extreme brutality, and it is becoming more and more brutal and inhuman, I still differ from him completely in the conclusion that he has arrived at; and the idea that because war is brutal we should condone every kind of brutality which would reduce the level of human existence to that of the brute. The question then becomes one of fact and not of theory, what exactly has happened; not merely the fact that it has happened but the surrounding circumstances and the context of it and how it happened, because the same act may be judged in a particular way if you know the context of it. Even murder is considered justifiable sometimes, if it is in self-defence, for example. Therefore it is a question of facts and the circumstances surrounding that particular thing, not of mere theory that so and so was in the I.N.A. and therefore he is innocent. That of course has no meaning; or that so and so belongs to this and that group and therefore he should be punished or should not be punished. When we come to the facts we find that the courts-martial have dealt with these cases. I am not in a position to criticise these courts-martial on the way they dealt with these cases; I have no reason to do so except one that when we see that these things took place at a moment when certain passions were aroused among the people on either side it was not perhaps a very suitable moment for a dispassionate consideration of this problem. However the point is that regularly appointed courts considered these matters and they came to certain conclusions. It is not very easy to say that the courts were wrong or that their judgment on the evidence was wrong or that their conclusions were entirely baseless. Therefore what exactly can we do about it? As I informed the House, when originally we considered this matter we thought there was no difficulty about it. But the difficulty arose when we found that the Commander-in-Chief did not view it in the same light. He was reluctant to give effect to any such Resolution as has been moved in this House, and he pointed out his own difficulties and his own views in the matter which were formed after considerable study and consideration of what he thought would be the repercussions in the army. Now it is obvious that

those of us who form the Government here only continue in Government till the House so pleases. We are not a Government as our predecessors in these benches were who could go their way whether the House liked them or disliked them.

**Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan** (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Then accept our request and release these I.N.A. men. That is a unanimous demand from all sides of the House.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**: I am going to place the views of Government before the House and if the House agrees with them, well and good; if it does not the House will tell us what to do. A government functions according to its own lights; if those lights do not commend themselves to an Assembly the Government gives place to another government. No Government functions blindly with other people's lights. Therefore it is for the House to decide and we shall abide by their decision. If we agree with the decision of the House we shall gladly submit; if we disagree we shall also submit but others will carry out that decision.

Now in view of this present position that I have stated before the House the question arises as to what is the best way of dealing with this. I think the last speaker Mr. Sharma said something to the effect that we do not know what the facts are. Now it is an odd thing that we should come to a final decision without going into the facts because, as I said, it is a question of facts as apart from the political aspect. So it reduces itself to a question of facts. Will some impartial authority consider the facts? That becomes the question. Quite apart from that question, however, there is the other question which it is not perhaps easy for some of us to judge, namely, matters concerning the army and repercussions on the army and its discipline, etc. In this present case therefore the conclusion that we arrived at was that it would be a desirable course for these matters to be referred to the Federal Court for their consideration and for their report to the proper authority. This has nothing to do with our confidence in the Commander-in-Chief. I think he acted a year ago with considerable foresight and statesmanship. We believe that quite apart from the I.N.A. matter he has acted in ways which show that he wants the good of India to prevail. He has served India faithfully, and of course normally we are bound to accept his advice in all such matters. But in view of other circumstances this course has been proposed by Government for the consideration of the House. I would like to read out what steps precisely we would like to take if the House so agrees. Although Government do not question that in this matter the Commander-in-Chief has acted throughout in good faith and according to his lights for the good of India and the armed forces, they are, in view of the special circumstances of the case, prepared to request that the available judges of the Federal Court should be called in as advisers in this matter only and without creating any precedent whatever. What we have in mind is that before any further consideration is given to the matter by the Commander-in-Chief these advisers should examine the proceedings of the various courts-martial, give their opinion as to the desirability of reviewing the findings and sentences in each case and report whether in their opinion the findings and sentences should be altered or modified in any manner. That is the position of Government. I have tried to place before the House the various factors that have been considered by us during these weeks and months. I have tried also to make the House realise that this matter in its present aspect can hardly be considered as a political matter but as a matter infringing the domain of humanity. I do not, and I cannot, express an opinion on individual cases, even if I could it would not be proper for me to do so. But since it is a matter of fact and a non-political matter of fact in regard to certain acts committed by certain individuals, it is right and proper that it should be inquired into by a proper authority as I have suggested on behalf of Government. Obviously there are other

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considerations which the House will no doubt bear in mind. We are passing through a somewhat difficult period in India, and we have to bear all these other aspects in mind before we take a step light-heartedly. It is because of all these matters that we have given the most careful consideration to it, and placed this suggestion for the approval of the House. If the House approves this kind of reference to the Judges of the Federal Court, then I would request the Mover of this Resolution not to press his Resolution in the form in which he has moved it, because it does not fit in, but for the moment accept the reference as has been suggested by Government.

**Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask the Honourable Member one question? The Honourable Member has accepted two principles in his suggestions—firstly waging war, which was out of question, and, secondly, brutality. Now, brutalities, if at all, were committed somewhere outside India, and the best judges who could pronounce those acts as brutalities or not were the people who belonged to that particular Army of which these men formed a part—*i.e.*, the Indian National Army. What is the opinion of the I. N. A. officers about this? They should know whether any brutalities were committed or not. Of course brutalities have been found to have been committed by the Courts-Martial which were appointed out of those who were opposed to the Indian National Army. I want to know whether the Government is prepared to refer this matter to a Court Martial appointed out of the officers of the I. N. A. who will be the best judges to find out whether there were brutalities or not?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** That is a remarkable suggestion. May I say that in great many of these cases the charges are in regard to certain acts committed in prison against prisoners, not in regard to operations outside, and surely the best judges of that are neither those who are against the I. N. A. nor those who are in favour of the I. N. A., but competent people who can consider these matters.

**Mr. President:** May I have one position clarified in this respect? Is it proposed to have a specific amendment moved?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I want no amendment. I merely stated what we propose to do and unless the House disagrees with it we want to do it. We want no specific amendment.

**Mr. President:** Then I take it what is meant is that in case the House is agreeable the Honourable Member may withdraw his Resolution.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. President:** Now the discussion may proceed. Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan. [At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan).]

**Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan:** (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 3rd April, 1947. English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, I have been obliged to open my lips on hearing the speech of the Leader of the House. I heard his speech with great surprise and sadness. I thought: could he be the same Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who, with his speeches and lectures created a great stir in India's quiet atmosphere? I say, with due deference, that his to-days' speech was greatly disappointing. It sounded as if a sundried bureaucrat was talking. Sir, I think it was an inauspicious day in the history of India when you gentlemen came to occupy the Treasury benches.

Sir, I don't find even the smallest difference between I. N. A. prisoners and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The words which he and his companions used in their speeches show that they hold the I. N. A. personnel as criminals notwithstanding that they, too, were arrested for the same alleged crime that is, 'waging war against the King'. (Interruption). Don't try to give proof

of your being 'His Master's Voice'. Listen quietly. I was saying that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his companions took a prominent part in a non-violent war for freedom of India. Was not this war against the King? The I. N. A. personnel, however, thought that chains of slavery could not be broken by non-violence, violence was necessary for it. You wanted to win the war by non-violence, and they wanted to win it by violence, where was the harm in it? In my opinion there is no difference between you and them. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was telling us that the Interim Government unanimously decided to let off the I. N. A. prisoners. The United Press of India published a news that the unanimous decision of the Cabinet was to release the I. N. A. prisoners but the G. H. Q. was putting up a strong opposition. I have had my experience about it. In the Defence Consultative Committee when the question of the release of the I. N. A. prisoners came up the Commander-in-Chief showed his displeasure. Now we have to see what practical step you have taken for the release of the I. N. A. prisoners after coming to these Benches. It may be recalled that last year it was voiced out from every corner of this House that I. N. A. prisoners should be released. My friends who are sitting on those benches may deny it today for political reasons and may raise their voices against it. I know of their helplessness! Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan who are nominated members may oppose it, but have not the elected members who are the real representatives of the people, a right to demand the release of the I. N. A. prisoners. There will be hardly any elected member in this House who is against the release of the I. N. A. prisoners. The Minister for Foreign Affairs desire to act according to the advice of his adviser H. E. the Commander-in-Chief. This is probably his new principle. For the late Governments we used to say that they danced to the tunes of White Hall and now you try to dance to the tune of C.-in-C. You say that if the advice given by the Commander-in-Chief was not acted upon he may resign. I oppose your ideas at the top of my voice. If my voice does not reach you it is the misfortune of our country. If you block your ears with cotton and do not listen to our pleading you can do so but if you listen to our voice it will be our and our country's good luck. You say, and it has been decided, that the British will leave India in 1948. If the Commander-in-Chief wanted to go tomorrow he could go today with pleasure.

**Mr. Hirtzel** (Bengal: European): We shall also quit!

**Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan**: Yes, you will also quit, because you have amassed a big lot of India's money. You have already started preparations to quit and have already sold three of your largest firms. Sir, I feel exceedingly sad that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave expression to such thoughts. I say that that irresponsible Government did much in this connection during the three months of its tenure but you have been sitting on these benches for the last 8 months and you have done nothing for the I. N. A. men. The only thing you have done is that their cases might be reviewed by the Federal Court. It may be recalled that during the time of that irresponsible government I proposed a resolution and our Qaid-i-Azam Mr. Jinnah made a long well grounded speech demanding the release of the I. N. A. prisoners. Mr. Mason, the War Secretary said that he was prepared to release I. N. A. prisoners except those who were charged with brutality. That irresponsible government was prepared to release, if not all, at least a majority of them; but today we hear such big leaders—leaders who are reputed to be the true sons of our motherland; leaders from whom the country had great expectations; say that they were not in a position to decide the question. Our leaders are smiling in their seats. I am afraid indeed, I have no reason to be afraid inasmuch as I speak the truth. You are sitting on those benches. Your number is 14. One of you is Sardar Baldev Singh, the Defence Member. He belongs to the Martial Class. These valued members want to decide Indian's fate and they have already done it to a great extent. They cannot

[Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan.]

however, decide the problem of I. N. A. prisoners. I had an intention to say more but I find no need to say anything further; except this that I strongly oppose the proposal of the Leader of the House. I know and you know that soldiers and officers of the I. N. A. in order to free India offered their lives, the most precious thing in the world, at the altar of the goddess of freedom. When you, who were once declared as rebels and enemies, can sit on these benches why should the I. N. A. prisoners be not released and recruited to the Indian Army. When the only object of the I. N. A. men was to free India can't you use your good offices to get them released. I appeal to you with all the emphasis at my disposal that leaving aside the communal question of Hindus and Moslems you should try to secure the release of those who have suffered so many miseries for India. I want to tell to the Leader of the House that I. N. A. men were not getting Civil employment. His information is wrong that they were being given employment as civilians. Had it been true there would have been no questions in this House about their employment. Is not the reason of their unemployment the fact of their connections with the I. N. A.?

Sir, the Commander-in Chief acting upon the golden principle of British diplomacy has given the proof of his being the first class British diplomat. He wanted in connection with the release of the I. N. A. prisoners to bring into play the policy of 'Divide and rule' that is, he did not release the prisoners patronized by the Muslim League. I should appeal to the Leader of the House not to fall a victim to the British policy. I appeal in the name of humanity; I appeal on behalf of the I. N. A. prisoners and their miserable family that they should drive out from their minds the thought of referring their cases to the Federal Court. They should announce now and here that they will be released at once. I assert that the demand of this House is the demand of the whole country. You may recall that the release of the I. N. A. prisoners was demanded unanimously from all parts of the country. The police had to take resort to shooting and a lot of loss of life and property was caused. I appeal to you in the name of those who were thus killed to release the I. N. A. prisoners. Our party made this demand from every platform. Our leaders, who are occupying the Treasury Benches, were present when Qaid-i-Azam Mr. Jinnah demanded the release of the I. N. A. prisoners. If you honestly think that this is not the opportune occasion for the discussion of the resolution or that it would serve no useful purpose, then say it plainly. To say that H. E. the Commander-in-Chief opposes the release or to evade the issue by referring to the Federal Court is not the right course. You are sitting among the members as statesmen. If you are not courageous enough I humbly suggest that you should vacate those seats so that others may come and act courageously in this connection.

Sir, I support Khan Abdul Ghani's resolution and finish my speech.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): I do not suppose I need say any more after the able speech of my friend, Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, who has brought out all the facts and without any effort on his part displayed his sentiments as well. He has tried to impress the House on the position that the members of this House have taken for a long time. I was really disappointed at the speech which the Honourable the Leader of the House made, as I used to think, and so did the country, that Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal was one of the greatest sympathisers of those rebels who joined the Indian National Army. We never thought for a moment that his support and his Party's support of the Indian National Army could have been reduced to the position of a political stunt and was being used for that purpose and there was no sincerity behind it. If the Honourable Members of the Interim Government are not prepared to concede to the wishes of the country and the people, it will reveal one fact and it is this that when they were defending these cases

of the I. N. A. people, they were not honest to their own conscience. I take it that those in the Congress were doing it with certain mental reservations and that they did not say then what they are trying to say to this House today. The matter has gone up to the Leader of the House and he says that the matter was given due consideration by a court and he now proposes that another court should be referred to for further examination. I can cite instances in which murderers of 1942 who were sentenced by the Patna High Court have been let off. The murderers who killed two Canadian airmen at Futwah in Patna district in 1942 and who were condemned by the Patna High Court were acquitted by the Congress Ministry when it came into power. If that could be justified, if the Congress ministry had any justification for that, I think the release of these I. N. A. prisoners has a better justification. I was really disappointed when the Honourable Member Pandit Jawaharlal spoke and the fate of these people who are still in jail is illustrated by the poet who said:

*Vae qismat aj wo bhi mujko kah tey hain bura  
Ham hoi subae bure jiskey Leai.*

The translation is "Imagine my misfortune. Today even those are now giving me bad names for whom I incurred displeasures of all others and for whom I lost everything and for whom I have been dragged to this position." Whether they are patriots or rebels is a matter of opinion but the Honourable the Leader of the House has called them patriots for all time and has called them as the torch-bearers of freedom and who did what they did with the same sentiments and feelings as Honourable Members of Congress group have been doing in 1942. The differentiation which is sought to be made now, because Interim Government Members could not persuade the Commander-in-Chief to agree to a certain point of view is something in which at least I cannot see eye to eye.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore; Non-Muhammadan Rural): You cannot: You have not learnt to fight.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman**: I do not want to answer my friend Prof. Ranga, because he changes with the times. Sometimes he is a socialist and at another time he becomes supporter of capitalists. Sometimes he is one of the Congress supporters of the I. N. A. prisoners and now he is trying to pull my legs as he is willing to stick to his former ideas. Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House and I would only say that we stand committed to the point of view that we had and to the point of view that our Qaed-e-Azam placed before the House in his very elaborate speech which he made in the House on the I. N. A. prisoners. My Honourable friend Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, has already pointed out that throughout the length and breadth of the country resentment was displayed not only by resolution but by meetings, etc.

**Mr. Deputy President**: The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan) in the Chair.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman**: Mr. Deputy President, I do not propose to take any longer time of the House on this Resolution. I only want to say a word about the Qaed-e-Azam's speech on the 11th February 1946. I do not even want to quote the whole of his speech but only that part of it where he stated "release them all without any question" that was the gist of the speech which he made and which was quoted by all sections of the House then sitting in the Opposition. Mr. Asaf Ali and other Members of the Congress Party were all one and expressed the same views which I need not quote. I would only refer to the entire debate of the 11th February 1946 which Honourable Members are probably aware of. I want to impress that we are bound to take this view that the I. N. A. prisoners who are prisoners today are in the



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same position as other patriotic persons who are in the Government today. If not any better, they at least deserve this that they should be released and no time should be lost on one pretext or another or on any more examination by any court of law. With these few words I support the motion.

**Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma** (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I was very attentively listening to the speech of my young friend Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan and I quite appreciate his youthful enthusiasm, impatience and desire to get the I. N. A. prisoners released. There is not a single man in this House who does not want them released. As Mr. Nauman said, we passed a Resolution on a former occasion and demanded their immediate release. We still want their immediate release. The question of their release has often been discussed and the House has not seen eye to eye with the judgment of the court that they were guilty either of brutality or of any other offence. It is an accepted principle that punishment does no good to anybody unless it is either deterrent, that is, it keeps people from committing the offence; or it is reformatory, that is, it so educates them that they would not commit the offence, punishment is given in order that that crime should be prevented. The claim of India's independence having being recognized and being acted upon where is then sense in keeping these young men in prison.

In the case of these young people, that is the I. N. A. prisoners, they turned against the British Army, organised themselves into a national militia and waged a war against the King, the established authority. Now, Sir, one fundamental thing in life which should be accepted even in law is that you have no right without the liability. In the case of these prisoners they were left adrift in a foreign land without any responsibility, without any protection, without any care whatsoever on behalf of the British Government. As such the British Government could not demand any loyalty, any allegiance, any obligation from those people, having denied them any obligation of protection, care or looking after them. They were no longer in that sense, Sir, the members of the British Army paying allegiance to the King Emperor or to the people working on his behalf.

There is another point. They formed themselves into an organised army and waged war, not for war's sake but for the liberation of their motherland. This sentiment has been very much appreciated by the people of this country. Sir, I submit that where a country's people like a thing it is in law no crime. After all what is law and what is justice? There is no such thing as abstract justice or abstract right. Justice is what the people demand, what the people say. We as representatives of the people come in this House, produce Bills, get them enacted into law. The administration of justice is in accordance with that law. That law is framed by the people themselves. So, when a people stand up and say that in the eye of the people it is no crime, then justice demands that that act should not be regarded as crime and a man punished for that act is punished wrongly in the eye of law and it is against justice. Taking that view of the case these people are unjustly behind prison bars. The people don't want them to remain there any longer. And it is against law and principle that they should be there. But anyhow there was a competent court. That competent court tried these young men and as has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House they have not been punished for waging war against the King but for certain acts of brutality certain acts which war against the conduct of a civilised man, against the conduct of civilised people. Now, Sir, it is very difficult to detach a fact from the context of a series of acts and circumstances in which a man is placed. A man acts under certain circumstances. It is said by the greatest psychologist of the age that the poor man has only two parts to play out of ten. Eight parts of his conduct are determined by the circumstances in which he is placed. Very little of independence, of liberty is left to the poor individual.

Now, these young men having been placed in a situation in which they were fighting for their motherland, for the liberty of their people. it was not possible for them to be very nice in doing things and as such it would not be right to judge of their conduct divorced from the atmosphere and circumstances in which it took place. The trial took place at a time when passions were roused and it was difficult—though the judges may be honest and they were honest of course—to judge things in that detached and dispassionate way in which the trained judges would judge the facts of a case and in this case the judges were not the trained judges in the sense that they were not lawyer judges. They were judges from different departments and they look more of an administrative or departmental view rather than a judge's view. So, Sir, this trial was held at a not very favourable time and not under very favourable circumstances and the judgment was delivered by the judges according to their own light. Many things might have been taken into consideration which to a trained judicial officer might have been irrelevant and should not have been taken into consideration. So, the case would have been differently dealt with if it had been heard by judges of long standing. I as a lawyer fully believe that the learned judges of the Federal Court will take a view which would certainly accelerate the release of these young men. I fully believe in the justice of their case and I have no doubt whatsoever that if the cases were reopened and re-examined they would get justice and be released. Suppose they are not released and the judges find that they were properly dealt with. Then it is upto us again to raise the question and say that we are the final people to say what is justice and what is not justice and we as the representative of our people say that the law under which these people have been convicted is unjust and it is not our law and that the punishment given is unfair and we demand that the sooner the punishment is done away with the better. That would force the hands of the Government. It is far from me to suggest that I do not want their immediate release. I do want their release but I want that their cases should be heard afresh. Every man who likes justice and wants things to be done in accordance with justice and in accordance with law would like a procedure by which the judges trained in legal procedure, would give us their independent and unbiased judgment. There are two separate things—one is waging war and the other is acts of violence which is against the conduct of civilised society and which is inhuman. If waging war against the King was no crime and was not punished, then certainly an act of brutality here and there in unavoidable circumstances and done in an atmosphere of passion should not be punished. You have to take the case in its broader aspect and taking a broader view I have no doubt that the trained judges of the Federal Court will come to a decision which will be both just and fair and which will result in the release of these prisoners. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor, Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have very great regard for my friend Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan. He is an honest man but I am afraid he is confused in his mind as to what he wants. (Interruption). Does he really want to make this a motion of no confidence against Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or the Government or is he interested in getting the I. N. A. men released? I do not attribute any motives. He is so good, I know it. The difficulty is he himself is not sure about the remedy. What the Government and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said is a compromise has to be arrived at. Otherwise it will come to this—the Government may go and others may take his place. I would like to know if this is not a step taken by the Government or was there a difference of opinion? I find my friend the Finance Member laughing.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan** (Finance Member): I always laugh.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I am very glad. You are always cheerful. It looks like a case of Nero fiddling.....

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan**: Not fiddling but laughing.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why that laughter? If you were not in agreement, you could certainly have expressed your disagreement in your own way. We take it from the Leader's statement here that it is the unanimous opinion of the Government. Now, let us try to look at it dispassionately and see what it comes to. I have here the speech of the Honourable Mr. Jinnah which he delivered on this motion last time in this House. He supported Nawab Siddique Ali Khan's amendment to the original resolution but there was a further amendment by Mr. Mason, who was the Secretary of the Defence Department at that time. He said: "Except in the case of those persons who have been guilty of brutality". Mr. Jinnah said:

"Release them all. I have gone through the record and I am not satisfied that Mr. Rashid is guilty of brutality."

Therefore, he accepts the contention that if Mr. Rashid should be guilty of brutality, he would certainly not support the Resolution wholly and he would be prepared to accept the amendment of Mr. Mason. Whatever may be the position of the man and however much he might have sacrificed—I have also sacrificed for the cause of my country—, if he becomes a brute, then I would say that I am not in his favour and let him not be released. In such a case there should be on question of patriotism. If a person has been guilty of brutality and the Court Martial has already inquired into the matter, then normally the newly appointed authority would say that the judgment must stand. But now, we have got the very eminent Judges of the Federal Court of India who will go into this question as to whether they are really guilty of brutality or not. These Judges are our Judges and let us abide by their decision. I would, therefore, say that it is not a matter on which we should divide.

There is one other misconception. It is said that if the leaders of our parties are not able to do, then who else is going to do it? I can easily see that if some white gentleman was on the Government Benches, we will all level our abuse against him because it is not against his country. But that we are not able to do now. Whatever may be the merits of my Honourable friend Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan to bring about a Revolution immediately, I do not feel quite competent to do so. I am not attributing any motives to my Honourable friend, but he was attributing incapacity. On the other hand, they were quite alert.....

**Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan:** Did the Honourable Member really understand my speech?

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** The Honourable Member spoke in a language with which I am not familiar and apparently he did not want me to understand it. It is not so much my fault as it is his. But in whatever language my Honourable friend may speak, I have known him for the last 12 years and I have always attributed goodness and honesty to him. He is more enthusiastic today and I was equally enthusiastic, if not more, last time.

Sir, I would like to say one or two words to correct a mistaken impression. Nobody wanted to deceive the country. I won't attribute such an idea to any member, be on this side or that side. All of us are interested in these honourable men and the sooner they are released and come back to our midst the better. As a matter of fact, some of our friends in their enthusiasm to get them released attributed laudable motives to them when they defended them. Really speaking, these persons underwent lot of sacrifices for the cause of the country. The Honourable the Leader of the Congress Party, the late revered Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, threw his heart and soul to get these prisoners released and it was that strain which hastened his end. It was mainly on account of his efforts that most of these persons were released. It is only these 7 prisoners who were not released. May I ask against whom are we fighting now? The Commander-in-Chief is not here. In fact, I do not see a single white man on the Government Benches.....

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): May I interrupt the Honourable Member and ask him one question? He was speaking of the Commander-in-Chief. But is not the Commander-in-Chief along with other officers going to leave India by June 1948? So, what do they lose when they are going to leave?

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** They have nothing to lose and I would even appeal to them not to worry. But what have we to lose if they get away by June 1948. I would then be able to say that these 7 men should get their freedom. We have also been in jail. I was in the jail for five years. Let it be said to the credit of this gentleman that he did not fight on the battle-field of Burma. Let him for our sake be in jail for another one year. We feel that we have been unable to release them now, but the moment we get freedom, we will go to the Member in charge and see that they are released at once. But if you are absolutely pessimistic about it, nothing is going to come out of it. Let us, therefore, join hands. We are sorry that these gentlemen are in the jail and have particularly suffered. But I feel that Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan was also in jail for some years. I was there for five years leaving behind my wife and children. I know what the difficulties of jail life are. It is very hard to be in jail. We may be fed and clothed, but our nerves get shattered.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** But your brain and intellect are all right.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I, therefore, see no harm in following the course suggested by the Leader of the House. After all, our Judges of the Federal Court will go into this matter. Let us not therefore make this occasion for mutual recrimination. Our own people are now in the Government and they have arrived at the compromise to refer this matter to the Federal Court. Let us abide by their decision. So, let this Resolution be withdrawn or leave be given for withdrawing it. Let us not divide on this small issue.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural). Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I have great respect for my old friend Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, and, in fact, his speech moved me a good deal. At the same time I cannot forget and be unmindful of the fact that the Government of the day is unanimous in making the proposal for a reference for the determination of facts to the Federal Court. Therefore, let us not make capital out of this very delicate situation. If those who are today in the Government say something which is different from what they said when they sat on the Opposition Benches, they certainly do so with a sense of responsibility. There must be some very overwhelming reason to justify the course they have proposed. It is our duty and responsibility also not to embarrass them any further. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Mover of this Resolution to ask leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, nearly two years ago, when the results of the last elections to the Central Legislative Assembly were being announced, I went to the office of the Returning officer of my constituency and on being declared elected from that constituency, the first thing I did was to send to the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly a notice of a Resolution to be moved in this House for the release of I.N.A. prisoners. I say this to indicate that that was a reflex of the intense feeling which prevailed in this country on that point. The first thing which struck a man who was declared elected to the Central Assembly, the first impulse which he had was to send a notice of a Resolution for the release of these men. I did so. Later on, on the first non-official Resolution day of this House, I had the privilege of moving that Resolution. It was discussed for many days and eventually on the last occasion when it was to be taken up again, as I happened to be absent from the House on account of the serious illness of my late revered father at Benares, the consideration of that Resolution was postponed. At

[Pandit Govind Malaviya.]

that time I sent a telegram from Benares to the Honourable the President saying,—I would have read it out now if the Secretary could give me a copy of it;—I said in that telegram that in view of the changed situation in the country; in view of the fact that the very men who had galvanised this country into action on the issue of I.N.A. men and their trial, then sat here on the Treasury Benches forming the Government and holding in their hands the reins of administration every day and were going to decide as to what should be done in that matter; in other words, in view of the fact that the people from whom we had taken the lead in asking for the release of these men were themselves in charge of affairs and could therefore be trusted to look after the whole matter from the point of view of the feeling in the country through my telegram I begged for leave to withdraw my Resolution.

That was the position then. Since then we now have this fresh Resolution, the same Resolution in a fresh form before this House. Today the question is being debated as to whether, after the viewpoint of the country on that issue has once again been expressed before this House, whether that Resolution should now be withdrawn and we should give an opportunity to the Government which sits on the Treasury Benches today to pursue the matter and to deal with it in the most satisfactory manner which may be possible or whether we should press this Resolution and so to say express our lack of confidence in or lack of agreement with those who are now in charge of this affair. Sir, when I moved my Resolution my Honourable friend Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan moved an amendment to it. I shall be grateful if my Honourable friend will kindly give me his attention, because it is he who has raised this point today. Sir, last year to my similar resolution, his amendment was:

"In view of the special circumstances under which most of the personnel of I. N. A. joined it and in view of the policy laid down by the Government and action taken by the Commander-in-Chief in dealing with the sentences passed by the court martial, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to release all officers and men of the I. N. A. whether under detention or under trial."

My Resolution was a plain and simple one asking for the dropping of pending trials and for the release of those men. My Honourable friend submitted an amendment, a substitute Resolution as the Honourable Member for Bombay, Mr. Jinnah called it. By that substitute Resolution he wanted to express the view that he was in favour of the release of all men only because of all these other things which had already happened and because of the attitude which the Commander-in-Chief had taken. I know Sir, the time each one of us can have today is limited and I cannot therefore work up the points and show as to what the attitude of my Honourable friend and his other colleagues on that day and subsequent days during the debate on that Resolution was. But I will read what Mr. Jinnah said about it:

"Having put them on trial and having got a judgment after days and days of trial, you funk and reduce it to a farce . . . the first blunder was to start the trial, the second blunder was to make the farce of a judicial judgment and sentence passed."

and the very next moment, he pleaded that since that had been done, since a few men had been released, he went on to mention the name of Shah Nawaz since he had been released. "you cannot funk at it. I cannot understand your stopping there, you must release others also".

I am saying all this to indicate that the Resolution that was then moved, on the floor of the House had not the unstinted and wholehearted support of my Honourable friends over there. They know it, we know it. The records will show it. The fact that that Resolution went on for three days shows it. Today my Honourable friends have found new love and new enthusiasm for these good men; these good men whom we then supported and support now:

whom we then canonised. But the cat is out of the bag, when my Honourable friend says that the Congress ministry has not done this and has not done that.

I would very dispassionately and in the friendliest spirit ask them to consider this. We have June 1948 staring us in the face. It is due to the attitude which some people in this country have adopted that we have still to carry this reck load of the British in this country till June 1948. If the attitude of all of us if the attitude of every part of this House if the attitude of my Honourable friends opposite, had been clear and emphatic; had been one of co-operation and mutual goodwill and united action; then all this would have ended long long ago. Unfortunate as it is, we cannot deny the fact I am not trying to apportion the blame either there or here or anywhere, I am simply mentioning the fact, that it is the attitude of some of my Honourable friends and those who stand with them that we have still to wait and adjust ourselves for June 1948. It is not an ordinary matter. If June 1948 is to be negotiated successfully and in amity and good-will and with mutual settlement and adjustment, then a number of things will have to be done which we would not have otherwise liked to do. We will have to yield, we will have to concede, we will have to negotiate, we will have to compromise, we will have to swallow many things which we might not otherwise have liked. Therefore the responsibility for that situation, the responsibility for this unhappy present situation rests on the heads of those amongst us who have not taken that united attitude in the past. This Government today is faced with peculiar difficulties. I would like that we should have a cut and dried, unqualified and unreserved Resolution on this point asking for the complete release of I.N.A. men here and now, at this moment. But let us not forget that we have now got men dealing with the matter who are fired with as great a zeal and who are as deeply interested in this matter as any one of us can be. Indeed it is they who first raised this question, it is they who blazed it throughout the length and breadth of this country—and it not that anything else can be nearer to their heart than the release of these men. But in national affairs, in the affairs of a country and people, very often comparatively small things have got to be given small places than bigger things must have. As I said June 1948 has to be arranged for, the transference of power from the hands of the British to the hands of the Indians has to be arranged for—mind you, I say to the hands of the Indians, not to the hands of the Congress alone, not to the hands of the Hindus alone, but to all Indians belonging to every section and every party. Therefore I say that the situation has changed. And another evidence of that fact is that when last year on the 4th of February I had the privilege and the honour of moving my similar Resolution, there was not an inch of unoccupied space anywhere in this House—the public galleries, the press gallery, the official gallery, the Viceroy's Box, all of them were packed to suffocation. What is the case today? Don't you see the change? Don't you see the difference? Why is this so? Because, people know that now on these Treasury Benches sit men who will not allow anything to be done which is against the honour of India, which is against the interest of an Indian whether in the jail or whether outside. There is my Honourable friend the Finance Member, sitting on the Treasury Bench. I would gladly leave it to him to find out what to do. I will not make things more difficult for him and other members of our government, by saying anything more. I will not let them down. I therefore submit, I, who had the honour of moving that Resolution, I, who pleaded so vigorously for it, I stand here to say today that the situation has so completely changed, that while we want our Government to take the fact into account that the whole country will be happy to see the release of all these persons as early as possible, yet in view of what the Honourable the Leader of the House has stated, namely that he is going to get the whole

[Pandit Govind Malaviya.]

matter reviewed by Judges of the Federal Court and to take action accordingly, we feel that we should give them our full support and we should not press this Resolution. Ends of justice and our duty will not in any way be jeopardized by that act and, in the net result, I am certain, we shall achieve the same object which we can have in passing this Resolution, namely, the release of the men of the Indian National Army.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha** (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): The question be now put.

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

“That the question be now put

The motion was adopted.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North-West Frontier Province: General): I am the most unhappy Member of this House since I have heard the statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House on my Resolution of which I am a step-father as my Honourable friend, Mr. Malaviya, told you several times in his speech that he is the original father. The Leader of the House during his speech talked about the mental conflict in human beings. I have been suffering from that mental conflict from the very moment he mentioned it, because as you must have all seen from the speeches on various sides of the House, all India is united in the demand for the release of the I.N.A. people; whether they are brutes, whether they are inhuman, whatever they are, India has decided to take them into its heart. You will not find in any community even today and it is almost impossible to find every section of society agree on one thing, but this is one of the few things on which the whole of India agrees that these people should be released. They are not very many. Up to now we have been given several kinds of arguments. I will not go again into that question of brutality, although I disagree with the Honourable the Leader of the House and my Honourable friend, Mr. Sharma, that there is a line of demarcation between one kind of brutality and another. I think we have voted in this House 188 crores of rupees for ammunition and bullets and gun powder, and every member of this House is as responsible for the brutality of the soldier as the soldier himself. There can be no demarcation unless you want to create a comfortable one to console yourself and have a good dinner when the war is going on. We are told that if these I.N.A. people were released, it will spoil the morale of the Army, while, as my Honourable friend put it, the Member who are now adorning the ‘Treasury Benches’ are old jail birds. Up to last year we used to see their names in No. 10 Section of the Government in which they keep all the bad characters and if the Honourable Members would turn a few pages they will find there the names of thieves, wife-killers, murderers, and so on. All those are still in the books—I am still in No. 10 Section in the North-West Frontier Province!—and those people who broke the law were revolutionaries, and the best revolutionaries are on the Treasury Benches today. If the installation of Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister is not bad for the morale of the Army, I do not see how the freedom of a few important army officers will spoil their morale. All these arguments come to ones mind. From the speech of the Leader of the House and from the speeches of other Members of the House, we have more or less got the impression that it is the Army authorities who—I believe, for reasons of their own, for reasons of discipline, or for reasons of personal prestige, or because this will be a sort of vote of no confidence in their judgment and impartiality—have advised the Government that they should not press this point just now. There is a good proverb in your language—Urdu: *Asman se gire, khajoor men latke*. If the Army authorities could find their way to forgiving thousands of I.N.A. people who had committed a much more serious offence according to their point of view, namely, waging war against the King, if

they could forgive them, why could they not forgive, one wonders, these ordinary crimes even if they did commit them. There is a proverb in my language which means an 'elephant has passed through but its tail got stuck'. I cannot understand, Sir, why the Army authorities should go out of their way to turn down the release of 4, or 5 or 7, ordinary army officers. It is a point of honour on which they are going to precipitate a national crisis and are putting a member like myself in a most miserable state of mind. I found as I listened to the statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House, I realized not from what he said but from a lot of what he did not say, that the Government in spite of his wishes, in spite of the fact that the Government realizes that if we do not pass this Resolution to-day, and that it will have a rather bad effect upon the average Indian and give the Government rather a poor name among the Indian people, because the people like strong and revolutionary action. But I realized that the situation was such, he was so placed, that he was himself suffering from that mental conflict and he had to sort of waive aside all the work he had done last year before he became Minister, because so many people mentioned in this House that it was Jawaharlal Nehru who started the Indian National Army in India. But the situation in the country is such, as my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar put it very ably that it is impossible for us to force a crisis on the Government in a period when there are too many crisis already. Therefore these are the two sides of the conflict which have made me miserable since this morning. I feel extremely sorry that we could not behave in an irresponsible way and make vigorous and combantant speeches like Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan. We have a depressing feeling of responsibility and have to talk like a seasoned Conservatives while we feel like red-hot revolutionaries. Therefore in view of the greater issue involved and with great sorrow and reluctance, I would beg leave of the House to allow me to withdraw this Resolution.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw this Resolution?

The Resolution was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

#### RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF A RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddler** (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhamadan Rural). Sir, I move:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council to appoint immediately a Retrenchment Committee consisting of officials and non-officials for examining the increase in cost of administration in each of the Central Government's Departments and in particular of the personnel, and to suggest ways and means for reducing expenditure and for the absorption of such additional personnel as may be possible in essential Post-war Schemes arising out of Post-war planning as approved by the Assembly."

Sir, in commending this Resolution for the acceptance of this House I cannot do better than quote from the Administrative Directory of the Government of India which has been prepared under the direction of the Government of India, page 122. It is said that:

"Before the war there were nine Departments in the Government of India and some 50 odd officers. Today, there are 19 Departments and over 200 officers. In addition there have been established a number of new executive officers of varying strength and there has been a great increase in the number of committees and advisory bodies. It is no longer possible for any officer, however long he may have been in a Department to judge with any degree of certainty the scope and ramifications of the Department."

This is what is stated in the Administrative Directory of the Government of India, the latest which was placed in the Library of this House on the 23rd October, 1946.



[Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar.]

I shall also refer to an article in the *Eastern Economist*, dated March, 14, on page 494 by one V. K. R. V. Rao. Referring to the Budget he says:

"The major reason for this deficit, however, is the large volume of expenditure which the Central Government proposes to incur. The magnitude of this factor becomes evident when one compares the pre-war expenditure of Rs. 85.15 crores with the total of Rs. 327.88 crores for 1947-48. Civil expenditure in 1947-48 is 333 per cent. of that in 1938-39 while the expenditure on defence is 408 per cent. of that in 1938-39."

Later on he says:

"It cannot be maintained that the governmental establishments are rendering even twice the service they rendered in 1938-39, and yet their expenditure is nearly 400 per cent. of that of the pre-war years. . . . I would like to state emphatically that it is not the Government of India's expenditure on unproductive civil and defence establishments that is going to prevent depression. On the contrary it is adding to inflation, preventing the productive re-employment of human talent and making certain the onset of depression. It is high time that the public and the Legislature asserted themselves and demanded a speedy policy of economy and retrenchment in Government expenditure, such as will bring down at least to the level of not more than 200 per cent. or 300 per cent. of the pre-war period. . . . It is clear therefore that . . . and could have been dealt with if an Economy Committee had been appointed six months ago. . . ."

When I spoke on the Finance Bill I referred to this. I drew attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to his budget speech. I told him that he need not have been so very apologetic in that speech. He was proposing to appoint a Committee to find out means of retrenchment. But he wanted the House and public to know that he did not necessarily mean retrenchment. I am certain what he meant. If he did not want retrenchment and economy in expenditure, I do not know what the purpose of appointing a Committee like this is. But I want to impress on him, Sir, that just as it is stated in the *Eastern Economist* this sort of expenditure, which is not necessary, is not adding to the wealth of the country. You are spending on unproductive works and you won't be creating wealth or preventing depression. On the other hand, you will be creating inflation by keeping so many people in services that are not necessary and keeping them on a scale which is not commensurate with the income of this country. I pointed this out on the last occasion. Again when I had the fortune to draw this Resolution, I thought I might take this opportunity of again commending this to the Honourable the Finance Member to the need for appointment of this Commission and to retrench the expenditure of the Central Government.

In moving this Resolution I have not only said that ways and means should be found by retrenching the expenditure of the Central Government, but the last portion is worthy of note. I have said:

"To suggest ways and means for reducing the expenditure and for absorbing of such additional personnel as may be possible in essential Post-war Schemes arising out of Post-war Planning as approved by the Assembly."

There were ten departments before the war commenced and there are 19 departments at the end of the war. It is nearly two years since the war was over and what is the situation today. I do not find that any department has retrenched its staff or the expenditure curtailed in any of the departments. On the other hand, the other day I put a question to the Home Member asking him to give me particulars of the Additional, Joint and Deputy Secretaries appointed to posts created in 1946-47. In reply to that a statement was placed on the table of the House from which I find the following particulars. Two new posts of Additional Secretaries, each post carrying a salary of Rs. 3,500 per month have been created. 9 Joint Secretaries on a pay of Rs. 3,000 p.m. have been created. Another 24 posts of Deputy Secretaries have also been created, of which 19 have been filled and five remain yet to be filled. The total cost of these 35 posts comes to very nearly Rs. 65,000 a month. Now that the war is over the work of the departments are also

getting reduced and I do not see any need for the creation of these new posts. Our information is that some of these departments are over-staffed.

The other day, the Secretary for Works, Mines and Power in moving the Bill for rent control in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara stated that the strength of the Central Government establishment has increased four times and even more and therefore it was very difficult to find accommodation for all the offices and for the staff. Where is the need for all these departments and staff? If a competent body is appointed to find out what is the real situation in each department, retrenchment could be effected without prejudice to the efficiency of the work and they could also suggest ways and means as to how these retrenched personnel could be absorbed in other departments. If that committee is appointed at the earliest possible moment, it could do a useful piece of work not only for the Government but also for the public at large. There are brilliant men who are now rotting in the departments of the Secretariat wasting their talents on files. They should be made creators of articles which this country is in need and they could produce them with efficiency and very easily so as to compete with the products of other countries.

The other day I said that more opportunities should be given to the public to open new industries. I also suggested that the Government themselves should take up many more industries, they could nationalise some of the industries and absorb all these men who would be thrown out of employment. This would create new openings for these people who might be out of employment. I do not suggest that all these people should be thrown back on society without employment. When this fact was mentioned outside the House the Leader of the House and the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies said that it would be wrong to throw out many of these young men without any employment. But I ask, is it fair to keep all these people in employment, go on collecting taxes, levying fresh taxes and maintaining these men at the cost of the public without their doing any useful work, or adding to the wealth of the country.

Some of us have been agitating for an increase in the price of foodgrains. The answer was that if the price was increased by eight annas or one rupee, it would at once create inflation in the country. But what is it that the Government is doing themselves? The Government is doing exactly the very thing which they do not want to do with regard to the masses who are the toilers and on whose toil all of us have to live. I shall give you the figures with respect to some of the departments. Take for instance the Finance Department. Before the war, there was one Secretary, one Joint Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries and 5 Under-Secretaries. In 1947 there is one Principal Secretary, one Secretary, one Additional Secretary, Four Joint Secretaries, 9 Deputy Secretaries, 5 Under Secretaries and 9 Assistant Secretaries. Besides these there are ten Financial Advisers of whom there were none before the war. It is similarly the case with other Departments also. I can understand Department growing. I do want that some Departments should grow. For instance, the Department for Works, Mines and Power, Labour, Commerce and Industries Departments should grow. I have no quarrel with those departments increasing. They are expected to do useful work and to devise ways and means of increasing the wealth of the country. I would not grudge spending money on these departments but to create departments and go on spending money on them without any productive value of increase in the wealth of the country is a thing which I do protest against.

The other day we were told by the Defence Department that it was not possible to make any retrenchment or economies in the department. The strength of the army has been reduced by more than 1,300,000 men after the close of the war. But what is the reduction in expenditure. It is very little compared to the number of men that have been retrenched. The difference

[Sri, R. Venkatasubba Reddiar.]

between last year's expenditure and this year's is about 50 crores. In the R.I.A.F. it was stated that they have come to a point beyond which they could not go. The same is the case with the R.I.N. There is no department in which retrenchment could be made. Does the Government mean to say seriously that it is not possible to lay their hands on any department and curtail its expenditure? The net effect of the increase in the number of officers and staff in the departments has been that very often if a paper is sent to a particular department, it is not easily traced. It goes from one table to another until it takes several years to be traced at all and most often the papers are lost completely. When you send a reminder you are asked whether you really sent a communication of that sort. Rather than fight with them we are inclined to send a fresh request or a fresh communication. We have actual experience in obtaining ration cards in our parts. If you apply for the issue of ration cards it takes several months, if not years. One must consider himself very fortunate if he gets a ration card within six months. I ask you, Sir, and through you the Government to imagine how people could get on without ration cards for such a long number of months. This is the state of affairs in spite of the fact that the establishments have been increased and some of them are overstaffed. Nobody is prepared to work. Efficiency is undermined because there are a number of people in the Department. Nobody wants to take the responsibility for quick disposal. Each man tries to shove the responsibility on the other. When you have more men you don't know the work for which each man is placed there. As I said the other day, I went to the Deputy Controller of Iron and Steel in Madras and asked him for pipes. He wanted me to produce a certificate from the Agricultural Department. There were so many engineers and I did not know to whom I was to apply. I asked that Superintendent or Assistant Secretary—I did not know what he really was—and he said 'It is not my business to teach you to whom to go and get a certificate'. Sir, I myself did not know and that is why I asked him. Supposing it was not myself and a man from the rural parts had come and asked to purchase a pipe I do not think he would have given the reply in the very same tone in which he gave it to me. Does the Government think that these people are there to oblige people who do not know, to put them in the way, to tell them how to get these things, or to behave like bureaucrats? It is very difficult to see any of them. The more the number of officers the more the difficulty in getting at them to make your representation. If you get into one Department you are asked to go to the Directorate, when you go there you are asked to go to the procurer, and the procurer says 'you go to the Supplies Department', when you go there you are told 'go to my assistant' and again to another assistant and so on—there are any number of assistants. In the end you find yourself in a wilderness and you come away without knowing what to do. Sir, a person who leaves his village cannot be expected to stay for long for a particular purpose in the Cities or headquarters of provinces or districts. This is my experience. In spite of the increase in the staff this is the nature of the work that is done. I suggest, Sir, that there is something wrong somewhere. Unless staff is maintained at the minimum requirements the efficiency of the staff is bound to suffer. Nobody will take the responsibility. It is already too late that a Committee of the nature which is contemplated in this Resolution should have been appointed. I request the Honourable the Finance Member to appoint a Committee forthwith, accept its recommendations and act upon it.

The latter part of the Resolution as I have already said suggests ways and means for providing the men who would be thrown out of these employments with employments in the post-war schemes of which we are having so many. Already the Advisory Planning Committee has made its Report. There are

so many Reports before the Government. They can very easily find out sources of employment for those people who are likely to be thrown out of employment. Sir, with these words I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of this House and the Government.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Resolution moved:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council to appoint immediately a Retrenchment Committee consisting of officials and non-officials for examining the increase in cost of administration in each of the Central Government's Departments and in particular of the personnel, and to suggest ways and means for reducing expenditure and for the absorption of such additional personnel as may be possible in essential Post-war Schemes arising out of Post-war planning as approved by the Assembly."

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I imagined when I saw this Resolution that the Finance Member would have no difficulty whatever in accepting it, more especially in view of the opening stages of Part 'B' of his Budget Speech. If I might just quote a few sentences of the Finance Member's speech on that occasion it will lead up to the few remarks that I have to make. He said in his speech:

"I therefore propose that a Committee, consisting of officials and non-officials, including Members of the Legislature, should be appointed for this purpose. I should, however, make it clear that my object in proposing an Economy Committee of this nature is not to conduct a retrenchment campaign in the sense in which that expression is ordinarily understood. Although inflationary conditions still persist, a thorough going retrenchment drive would not be appropriate with the possibility of a post-war deflation hanging over us, which might necessitate an expansion of public expenditure for counteracting an incipient deflation. What I am really anxious to secure is that the resources of the Central Government are utilised to the fullest advantage of the community and are not frittered away on objects which are neither essential for the day to day administration nor conducive to the development of the country."

Now, Sir, I am going to suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member that there is no need for him to revise the point of view that he has put forward. We on this side yield to none in our stand for economy. From these Benches we have moved over the past years motion after motion stressing the need for economy in Government Departments. Indeed, Sir, it has been one of our chief planks and one of our chief contentions that Government Departments are wasteful in normal times and in a war more wasteful than usual. Therefore it does seem to us that something of this sort is urgently necessary. It has been mentioned in the various speeches that we have made on the Budget that an enquiry of this type should be held. But in all the Retrenchment Committees that have been appointed over the past years I think it must be admitted that for a certain amount of justified retrenchment that they have carried out and a certain amount of very important saving of waste that they have brought into being, these Retrenchment Committees have also cut down things which should have been allowed to grow. It is for this reason that I commend to the House that portion of the Finance Member's speech that I have just quoted. It is extremely necessary, particularly now, that while the need for economy is borne in mind we should not make the error of grazing down our growing crops. It is particularly necessary now that things should be permitted to grow. So I imagine that the difficulty that the Finance Member may feel over this Resolution will not be so much that he does not feel inclined to accept the movement towards the economy as that he would like this House to give him some ideas as to how this Resolution is to be applied. It is with this in my mind that I am intervened in this debate and I think that is possibly the most useful line that the House could take to attempt to interpret the intention of the Resolution as we would understand it.

Now, Sir, in the examination that the Finance Member has adumbrated and which the Mover of this Resolution clearly requires there will be two divisions. It will be necessary for this committee to decide on what departments they will attempt to save money, and on what departments they will be prepared to spend money and roughly I would suggest to the House that the division should be division between non-productive and productive expenditure.

[Mr. C. P. Lawson].

[At this stage Mr. Deputy President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang one of the Panel of Chairmen.]

In other words my suggestion would be that this Committee should not attempt to be unduly parsimonious or to cut down expenditure which will produce money. The idea that I have is that if by spending a crore of rupees there is a good return and there is a general turning over of money, then spend that crore of rupees. Where I would like to see expenditure cut down is when that expenditure is barren and produces no real results. Now, let us examine for a moment the methods by which expenditure should be cut down. Let us think of the expenditure which is barren and non-productive expenditure. The first two items that come to my mind are of course connected with the aftermath of the most barren and the most unproductive expenditure that you can imagine and that is the expenditure upon war. There is no more unproductive, more stupid and more wrong expenditure but unfortunately that is an expenditure in which the world has become involved. That has left us with two items which are present in my mind, the question of "Disposals" and the question of "Lands and Hirings." Every bit of expenditure that the Government is having to lay out on those departments is largely non-productive expenditure. They are departments which are closing and not expanding and so every little bit of money that is saved on those departments will be money well saved. I lay stress particularly upon disposals because I am convinced that a large quantity of the old war stores which are now lying in this country are really not worth the rent of the land on which they lie. As the Finance Member will realise from his brief, if effective, association with the Finance Department, it does not matter what the value of a thing is or what losses are made provided it is properly dealt with and properly accounted and duly stamped receipts come into his possession. I wish that the Finance Member by reason of his more general association with sensible things could devise a means whereby financial procedure in Government departments could be cut down a bit. In other words, that he should adopt a principle which we in business know only too well, the principle of cutting our losses. He could then remove the stuff that it does not pay to sell and thus a lot of money might be saved. There is a lot of this stuff lying waiting for Government disposal which clearly is not worth selling and we are employing an enormous staff, a large number of buildings and a large number of lands to accommodate this stuff. The same to some extent applies to "Lands and Hirings." Just because some claims have got to be settled, because there is a dispute over a thousand rupees, staff costing several thousands of rupees per month will be kept on and all the paraphernalia of the Finance Department's systems has to be applied to this declining department which is only necessary to clear up the mess.

Now, Sir, I am going to touch briefly on one or two other subjects which this Committee might possibly examine and here I would ask the Finance Member, whether he has not sometimes wondered how it is that air travel in this country seems to be so predominantly in the hands of officials of every description. I wonder whether he has noticed, on every air travel that he has taken, as he gets out of the aeroplane, that the majority of the passengers in the aeroplane are officials whose passages have been booked and financed by Government, as compared with those who pay for their own passages. I have always thought it rather a strange situation that Government should still find it necessary to retain for their use 300 priority passages by air every month, while civilians have no method of priority, albeit industrial expansion and all the needs of peacetime must be in the hands of the business people and industrialists and not necessarily in the hands of officials. I am sure everybody in this House will have noticed that in every aeroplane in which they are travelling, particularly overseas, the majority of the people travelling are officials and it seems to me quite certain for most of these people travelling, Government could spend £70 on a sea passage between U. K. and India and *vice versa* instead of the

£150 which they have to pay for the Air passage or rather they do not pay but we have to pay. Those are instances of waste and that of course is one of the things which the Finance Member's Committee will have to jump on with both feet. The waste that still goes on in this country is almost as bad as it ever was. I was surprised and rather shocked to hear the Secretary for Food in this House the other day acknowledge quite calmly that a very large stock of gram had been lying somewhere in the Punjab, presumably owing to a misunderstanding for a year or 18 months. I asked him then what he considered to be the maximum period for the safe storage of gram. He was rather indefinite in his reply but in the copies of the debates which were sent out I found the figure of 18 months mentioned. I only hope that the Food Secretary made the necessary alteration. I think Sir Pheroze Kharegat will back me when I say that I do not think there are any conditions in which it would be safe to store gram for 18 months. That, Sir, is only an instance of what we know is going on. We know for instance, and Government themselves have made this accounting, that 3½ million tons of foodgrains every year are lost in storage. A good deal of it could be saved and we still do not hear that Government have made any effective attempt to cut down this waste. I have asked on occasions whether the Government can indicate what steps they have taken and what savings these steps have resulted in. I have still to get a very conclusive reply to that question. I again mention the question of this waste of food that is going on in this country. I think I mentioned it first two years ago and it certainly is time that we began to hear what Government has done to stop this waste. As I have said before in this House, there are

4 P. M. modern methods, insecticidal methods for reducing the loss of our foodgrains. The loss can easily be reduced by 50 per cent. and if this country could suddenly find itself the better off by a million and a half tons of foodgrains, it would, I think, make the Finance Member very much more happy about the enormous sums that he is now having to pay out for grains shipped to this country from overseas. And while I am on this point, perhaps I might mention the question of food subsidies . . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** The Honourable Member had better keep to the subject-matter of the Resolution. He is really straying away from it.

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** With the greatest respect to the Chair, may I say that the Resolution invites suggestions as to the methods which this Committee should recommend to introduce economies and these are the economies that I have suggested this Committee should recommend.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Resolution refers to the cost of administration and especially the reduction of personnel.

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** In that case, I would not go into that question.

**Mr. Chairman:** Besides, the Honourable Member has got only two minutes more and he had better sum up his points.

**Mr. C. P. Lawson:** I thought there was no time-limit on this debate. However, I will conclude with a brief word on the last portion of this Resolution. It suggests that presumably the retrenched personnel should be used for post-war schemes arising out of post-war planning as approved by the Assembly.

Now, Sir, I am going to make the suggestion that it will be necessary now to consider the report of the Planning Advisory Committee as produced by Mr. Neogy and his Committee and to examine whether in view of that report Government will not have to divide their schemes into near schemes and schemes for a further future. I suggest that the "Resources Budget" included at the end of that Planning Report makes it perfectly clear that the rather grandiose although admittedly necessary post-war plans which have been suggested will need to be pushed forward.- There is literally not the necessary

[Mr. C. P. Lawson].

raw material, not the necessary capital goods and not the necessary foreign exchange to make those far distant plans any more than far distant. So, in recruiting these people for the necessities of planning, I think it will be necessary for them to be recruited in the near position to deal with immediate and productive schemes in order to produce consumer goods. I do not mind very much what those goods are provided they are consumer goods. I take a very serious view of the position, as I see it, in the next year or so in the face of the increasing inflation which the Finance Member has mentioned and which presumably this Resolution also bears in mind. The expenditure which I recommend and which should on no account be cut down is expenditure which will result in the early production of consumer goods, because as things are turning out, with the restrictions which the Honourable the Commerce Member is going to place on imports, and with the lack of coal, cement and steel to produce stuff in this country, I think the country will be on the high road to inflation in the next year or so. I, therefore, suggest most strongly that if there is any cutting down to be done, it should not be done in any sense or in any scheme which may limit the production of consumer goods.

My time is up and I am afraid I shall be unable to touch on some other rather important points that I wanted to raise. But if the last point at least is taken by my friend the Honourable the Finance Member, my intervention in this debate will be of some value. I support the Resolution.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *oum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I think we all have full sympathy with the spirit of the Resolution. The Honourable the Finance Member himself suggested in his Budget speech that he proposes to have an Economy Committee which would look into the entire structure of the administration. Although he said that it would not necessarily mean a Retrenchment Committee, but if we find that we have a staff which is not required, for that purpose it will advise retrenchment and that will have to be accepted. What is really required is an Economy Committee. I have always held that no organisation can employ a staff which does not justify the volume of work. It is true that the present staff is a legacy of the war. The departments are shrinking every day and the work is being reduced and eventually it would mean that the surplus staff will have to go out. The Honourable the Mover of the Resolution was mostly trying to impress upon the House that there is more staff at the top than at the end. That is to say, there are more Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and so on. I think all these officers have their paraphernalia and the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution did not mention that. By giving one data of facts, namely, the housing problem with which the Government is faced today, he has given sufficient impression of how the volume of Government employees has increased. The normal requirements of the Government were about 8,000 houses for officials and employees of all categories; they have now gone up to nearly 46,000 houses. At the same time, we cannot take a very drastic step nor would we like to take a step which would bring about the collapse of the employment system in the administrative machinery because that would reflect on the general economy of the country. As the Government claims to look to all sides of the people and has to look to the employment question also Government has to be very cautious. It was probably with that idea that the Finance Member did say in his speech that it will not necessarily be a Retrenchment committee. What is required is economy and for that economy if retrenchment would be necessary, it will have to be done. Before the committee is appointed, there is one concrete suggestion which can be immediately taken up and that is the sending away of all employees of superannuated age. Especially in railways there are a number of superannuated people. Probably the Railways have got the largest number of persons of superannuated age. I see my Honourable friend

Dr. John Mathai is shaking his head. Probably the story of the Railway Board is different now. But if he examines the personnel on the different Railway lines, he will find that the canker is still there probably in the highest degree. It may also be in some other departments, but not to that extent. If that is tackled immediately, that will give some relief to expenditure. The superannuated people should be asked to quit and enjoy their pension. No doubt during war time, on account of exigencies of service, few men could be spared. That is how a large number of superannuated men still find themselves in the departments. This is a suggestion which can be carried out even before the Economy committee comes into existence. This committee has also to fix a certain percentage of employees in certain departments and with the publication of the report of the Pay Commission, it will perhaps be easier for each department to fix the percentage of staff for each branch. That can also be attended to only by an expert committee and it would look to all sides of things. Though I quite appreciate the spirit of the Resolution yet I do not like the latter part of it, 'suggest ways and means for absorption of such additional personnel as may be possible for essential post war schemes'. Probably by additional persons, the Honourable Mover means surplus staff. I submit Sir, that the Economy committee cannot go into that by any chance. The economy or retrenchment committee has only got to look into what particular staff is required for each department of the Government of India. If they also take upon themselves the absorption of surplus staff, probably it will be impossible for that committee to propound any scheme within less than five or even ten years. We all know that the Government's capacity to absorb men is limited and is shrinking every day. Unless we take up the scheme of nationalisation of all industries—which is still in the mind of people, it has not assumed shape yet—there will be no possibility of absorption of additional or surplus staff. So, I suggest this Economy committee should not be given that responsibility as the Honourable Member proposes to give under this Resolution. As I said in the earlier part, I sympathise with the spirit of the Resolution, but I am not able to appreciate what is said in the Resolution. While I say I support the Resolution I really support the scheme which the Honourable the Finance Member had in his mind that he will establish a committee of Economy rather this committee of retrenchment. That name also will be more appreciated in the country than if it is said that it is a retrenchment committee which will be resented by many sections of people in the country. In that way, although I appreciate the spirit of the Resolution, I am not one with it Sir.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I congratulate Mr. Reddiar for bringing this Resolution before this House. We needed it especially for the reason that our whole Government had been planned and styled in a way which was more suitable to the English way of spending money. I think when we change the Government we will have to apply Indian standard of economy of running the government. I think Englishmen pay more to Indians as well in order to justify their own high salaries. Therefore, it is high time that we should start thinking of planning to reduce our expenditure in such a way so that it may be according to the standard of the poor and the financial conditions of our land. Moreover we have just finished the war. As we know we spent recklessly both during the war and at our elections. We had no time to stop and revise our estimates. We thought if we lose time, we might lose the war or election whatever the case be. Therefore our expenses went up. We never stopped to revise our estimates. I think we are confusing issues when we discuss departments which are actually going to disappear, for example the special departments which were constituted only for the purpose of the war. We have expanded in other departments also and we have added any number of new posts which we may not require hereafter. Therefore instead of now sitting quietly and waiting for the time when we eventually realise on some date why we have been keeping such a large staff when we had not enough



[Sardar Sampuran Singh].

work, it is time that we revise our estimates just now and decide whom we hereafter require and whom we doubt.

Another point for consideration is that prices had risen very high of all kinds of commodities. There was a hue and cry everywhere that salaries should be raised. During these six or seven years of war, we have been revising salaries and we have been doing it quite recently. But now the scales have turned. Depression may set in at any time. Prices have to come down and the money which had been circulating on account of the war is bound to shrink. It is therefore absolutely necessary that we must immediately take all these things in view and start a committee to consider all these problems. A distinction was sought to be made by my Honourable friend Mr. Muhammad Nauman between Economy committee as proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member and the Retrenchment committee as proposed by the Mover of the Resolution. I do not want to quarrel over the name of the committee. We want economy, we want retrenchment. In certain respects we require retrenchment, in other ways, we want economy, call it anything you like, call it both retrenchment and economy committee, or call it only economy committee, give it any name but it is necessary that we should start thinking on the lines of economy and retrenchment.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena** (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Reddiar. I think I am not revealing any secret when I say that the notice of this Resolution was sent before the Budget speech and if in the wording of the Resolution the word 'retrenchment' appears I think it should not scare away members. As has just now been pointed out by Sardar Sampuran Singh we have no quarrel with words. So long as the object aimed at is achieved we shall be satisfied. During the budget discussion almost from all sections of the House this point was raised that before imposing fresh taxation exploration should be made as to how much expenditure could be cut down. As a matter of fact a suggestion was made that in all departments a general cut of 7 to 10 per cent. should be made and the departments may be asked to submit proposals for making the reduction, and if later on it is found that reductions could not be made to that extent then supplementary demands may be brought before the House. If this proposal is accepted by the Finance Member that will exercise a sort of wholesome pressure upon the various departments in effecting retrenchment. Sir, we know the conditions when the Budget proposals were framed were quite different from the conditions which existed last year. I suppose the Members in charge of the various Department, including the Honourable the Finance Member, had not sufficient opportunity to go through those proposals, and we know the practice in the departments has been always to frame budgets with the knowledge that some reduction will be made, and therefore there is always a margin of 10 per cent. in the Budget proposals. We know from our experience of previous years that in every department almost invariably there is a saving of at least 2 per cent. So personally I still think, though he has not accepted this proposal and even before this committee is appointed, that the Finance Member could issue instructions to the various departments asking for suggestions to make reductions in their departments.

As for retrenchment, I am not one of those who believe that there will be so much hue and cry in the country if persons are thrown out of employment; that is what even some of the Honourable Members had told us outside this House. I am one of those who believe that economy and efficiency are not inimical. As a matter of fact if there is even one clerk or one officer surplus in a department, his presence has a bad effect upon others and it acts unfavourably upon the efficiency of the Department. Sir, if we look to the telephone

directory now and compare it with the telephone directory of 1940 or even earlier, what do we find? We find that the departments have bloated; there are Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and in some departments even Principal Secretaries. On the one hand we find that the telephones of private persons have been reduced, and on the other hand telephones are supplied in such large numbers in every department. My Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson, referred to the air passages. I would refer to telephones. I am sure if the number of telephones were reduced, it will not only mean saving to the Government, but it will also mean additional income by way of revenue from private parties who are in great need of telephones. My submission is that I am not one of those persons who believe that if there is no work we should make people dig holes and fill them. I say there is plenty of work elsewhere. What is required is co-ordination. There is so much of illiteracy, disease, ignorance and poverty all over the country; we require men for putting that right. It is always said that in the War Department we cannot effect any retrenchment because we do not know who are our enemies. So far as I know India has no enemy as far as outside world is concerned; we have our internal enemies—poverty, illiteracy, disease, and all that is there. So what we want is this: if all this machinery which was improvised for fighting the war against Fascism, a war in which India did not join voluntarily, could be utilized for fighting these internal enemies, I will be satisfied. I will be satisfied even if more money is spent and more taxation is raised, provided the war is waged against poverty, hunger and disease. So my suggestion is that the Honourable the Finance Member should proceed immediately in the matter; we cannot wait. Times are critical; their attention is devoted to other more important items, but still this thing should not be allowed to wait. On the one hand he should write to the various departments to suggest reductions in their departments, and on the other hand a committee should be appointed. My Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, has said that he does not agree with the last part of the Resolution, but he has himself said that it is the function of the Government to find employment for those who become unemployed. So I do not think there should be any objection. Even the Honourable the Finance Member has said that he would like to have an economy committee and he would not like to have unnecessary staff, but he would all the same like to find employment for those who are retrenched. So if any section of the House, has any objection to the wording of the Resolution, we are not very particular about the form of the Resolution so long as we attain the object, namely not only should the Resolution be accepted but it should be given effect to as soon as possible.

We know, Sir, so far as the War Department is concerned, there are a number of departments which were created for supplying the requirements of the army. For instance, there is Army Clothing Directorate, Dairy Branch, Vegetable Societies and so on. Personally I would like that they need not be disbanded, but they must at once be diverted to supplying the requirements of the civil population. The Army clothing factories are there and we know that in the rural areas there is so much dearth and scarcity of clothing, and now that army requirements have also reduced, it is necessary that they should be diverted to meeting the requirements of villagers. They do not get enough cloth, and whatever little they get is very costly. If the Government could produce in these factories standard clothing—*kurtas*, *pyjamas*, and so on—it will go a long way to meeting the requirements of the rural population. Again there are large number of dairies and I understand that they were working at a loss. They might have been working at a loss but now steps should be taken to examine whether they can be made to work at a profit. If they can be, they should be retained and devoted to supplying the requirements of the civilian population. If, on the other hand, they cannot be worked at a profit, they should be closed as soon as possible.

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena.]

As regards stores, Mr. Lawson said that large quantities are lying idle. Not only a large number of buildings which can be utilised for residential and other purposes of the civil population are being occupied by these stores but a large number of staff is being maintained for looking after them. My submission is that so far as the War Department is concerned, it needs looking into and there are possibilities of considerable reduction.

**An Honourable Member:** Retrenchment.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Yes, retrenchment. Then there is the department of Industries and Supplies. This is one of those departments which has considerably swollen during the war and as was pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar every war post should be suspect. There must be absolute justification for retaining it before it is allowed to remain there. If it is in that spirit that the Committee or the Finance Member approaches the task, I am sure that this Economy Committee will be able to fulfil its purpose. But if we only depend on the departments nothing will be done. One of the Members said that officials have no vested interests. But so far as the newly created departments are concerned there are no old employees. There are many new employees who come from factories and business undertakings as experts. They have got their staff. My friend only referred to Joint Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries. He did not refer to stenographers, clerks and peons that go with them. I think the Industries and Supplies Department needs looking into.

Besides these new employees there are a number of persons who came from different departments and their salaries are three and four times what they were before the war. This also needs looking into. What justification is there for paying them such high salaries.

As regards the employment of superannuated persons, I know there are hundreds of cases. I know of one who is employed in the Agricultural Department. His services were dispensed with by the U. P. Government and he is employed here. I am told that he is going to get an extension and he happens to be a foreigner.

With these words I support the Resolution. I hope the Finance Member will accept it and will give effect to it as soon as possible. I hope we will see the results of it soon. I do not want it to take a long time: it should not be a long process. Let it finish its work in six months time or at least a year. The next year's budget should show the retrenchment or economies made as a result of the decisions or recommendations of this Committee.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated: Non-Official): Sir, every year either during the discussion of the Budget or immediately after we have repetition of a discussion on the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee, on the subject of economy and subjects pertaining to both, surplus personnel and unnecessary expenditure. I am not one of those who hold that any Government has a right to waste public money. Money placed at the disposal of a Government must be spent wisely and well. But before we ask the Government to reduce its expenditure or to cut down its personnel, we must ask ourselves what is the course which we place before ourselves, what is the policy which we recommend to the Government to adopt? If it is our policy that the national activities which are carried on through Government should be contracted or restricted, then certainly we should insist upon the Government reducing the expenditure and if necessary also reducing the personnel. But if the policy which we want our Government to pursue is that of development, planned development, and more development, then, Sir, it is not within our rights to ask that Government should reduce its expenditure or cut down its personnel. Therefore before we ask Government either to reduce its expenditure or to reduce its personnel, let us decide what

policy we should recommend to the Government to follow. I am one of those who will not, either now or ever, recommend to any Government to make a contraction of its activities. I will not ask them to restrict their activities but I shall ask them to go on planning and developing the country in all aspects of life. That is what the country needs and what the country is asking for. If therefore that is what the country desires, certainly it would be wrong of us to ask that Government should reduce expenditure or cut down personnel. We want this Government to develop the country and we want that development to be brought about very quickly. We will not be satisfied by the Government going at a snail's pace. So let us ask Government to make schemes and carry them out, let us ask them to give effect to the plans which we have made or which may have been made by Government or which we may suggest to Government to carry out.

(At this stage the Deputy President resumed the Chair.)

Unfortunately, while some members of the legislature ask Government to reduce the expenditure or to cut down its personnel, the Government themselves are sleeping. I have not seen any Government in any part of the world which is so inactive as the Government of India. You may have heard about planning. I have been hearing about it for a long time. I have seen some books, some pamphlets, indicating that the Government propose to do this or do that. The Government propose to construct thousands and thousands miles of roads. They propose to construct thousands of miles of railways lines. They propose to develop this and that industry. They propose to promote education. There is the Sargent Scheme, there is the Bhore Committee Report for the development of a public health service. I have seen some of these books, though frankly I have not read all of them. I have tried to get them when they are published. At least I glance through them though I do not read them, because many times a feeling of depression comes on me and I feel that if these books are to remain mere books and if these schemes are not to be carried into effect, what is the use of wasting my time by reading the books. The Government of India is sleeping, it is supine and inactive. They must give effect promptly to the plans of development which the country needs and asks them to do. I would therefore like to ask the Government of India not to think of reducing their expenditure or their personnel but be active. They have thrown into some cupboard or vault all the planning reports which they have made at some expenditure. Take them out of the pigeonholes, out of those dungeons and cupboards and try to give effect to them quickly and promptly and vigorously. That is the policy which we want our Government to follow. This Resolution is not the right kind of Resolution which we should adopt. We should move a Resolution asking the Government to tell us what they have done about giving effect to the various plans which they have made, asking them whether there is enough personnel with them to carry out those plans, and asking them if they have not got the personnel how they propose to recruit this personnel and train that personnel. We should ask them whether they have got the money necessary for all these things, and if they have not got the money ask them what they propose to do to bring that money forward in order that all these plans may be carried out. I feel this is what we should ask the Government of India to do. This is the kind of Resolution which I would like the Legislature to bring forward and get it passed in order that this supine and inactive Government should receive some inspiration for action. Although I am in favour of the Government undertaking all these plans, spending more and not less money, having larger and not smaller personnel, I would certainly like them not to waste money as I said in the beginning of my speech. The Legislature should see that the money is properly spent, that there is work done for the money spent by the Government. This is a legitimate thing which any Legislature should ask. But that does not mean that you should secure economy by reducing the personnel. The cry of various Departments today is that they do not get the personnel they need, and at such a time we

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

want to send away people who have got four years or five years experience or at least three years experience in the Government of India within the next month ask some other Department to recruit more people. Sir, this is a waste. The Government of India have not got sufficient personnel when they begin to give effect to the plans which they have to carry out. Therefore, if they have not got the personnel and if they find that in one Department there are more men they should transfer them to some other Department, because it is bad economy to dismiss people who have served Government for three or four years, who at the cost of the Government, at the cost of the public have received some training and then to take new people who are untrained and inexperienced. It is waste of money. Everyone who spends some time in the Government receives some training and some experience. We ourselves receive training when we continue to do our work. Therefore, it is wrong for a Department to dismiss or retrench men, as people call it, and then allow other Departments to recruit new men. What is necessary is proper planning even in the matter of personnel. The Government of India should make a plan and find out how many people they want and then distribute that personnel. If they find in one Department there is more personnel then let them transfer that personnel to some other Department. Otherwise it will be a waste unless the Government of India themselves want to restrict their activity. The main thing to remember is whether the Government of India want to restrict or contract its activity or develop it. If your aim is development, then you certainly need more men and not less number of men. Sir, I have been asking—you might have heard the short speech I made during one of my cut motions—I have been asking the Labour Department to develop itself and make itself quite competent to deal with the important problems which that Department has to face. When I discussed this question with some people who are connected with the Department and I asked them to appoint a man who will make a plan for unemployment relief, a plan for giving full employment, they asked me 'Where is the man?'. They can advertise or get from some other Department. But this reply is given to me as regards almost all questions. When you want a particular Department to develop its activity it is short of men. We ask one Department to dismiss men and ask another Department to be short of men. That will not do. What is needed is that the Government of India should make a plan and carry out that plan as regards the personnel also. You have to recruit personnel when you are developing and you might have to train your personnel too. If you have not got a trained personnel, if you are giving your work to untrained men, there will be waste. Government should therefore have a big plan, a great plan which will be worth of this country, which will develop this country in a short time and bring it to the level of advancement of the other countries in the world. We want to be equal with the other people of the world and therefore we want our Government to move promptly and vigorously to that end. We should ask them not to reduce their expenditure, not to reduce personnel but we should ask them how much money they want, how much personnel they want and ask them to take immediate steps to raise that revenue and to secure that personnel, whatever may be the cost. Sir, I have done.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madars Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is not without some amazement that I have heard the speech of my honourable friend Mr. Joshi I am afraid there is some confusion in his statement. It is not as if the mover of the Resolution wanted that planning and industrialisation of this country ought not to go on. As he said during the course of his speech what is intended by this Resolution is that waste should be avoided. Where do you get money from for planning? The object of the Resolution is, to put it shortly, do not rob Peter and pay Paul. Peter is the man, the 400 dumb millions of this country. Do undertake all business for improving their standard of life. For that there must be planning

I do admit. But having all sorts of inefficient men either at the top or at the bottom will not serve the purpose. I will give one instance. There was a Planning Department in the Government of India which has since been abolished. The Planning Department started with not one man who was competent to advise anything on planning. No industrialist was put on it. The man at the top, the Secretary, was practically a superannuated man who was called back—an I.C.S. gentleman. Then there was the Joint Secretary, the Deputy Secretary—I forget the names. You had all kinds of permutations and combinations possible in the English language and found in the dictionary. Ultimately there was one gentleman who knew anything about that. That gentleman was dismissed or he went away soon after he was appointed. That was Mr. Vakil. He is known to be one of the best economists in this country. After he left he said 'I wanted a permanent Board, a planning Board not only to plan, which is accepted by the Government, but also from time to time to give directions to carry out that plan'.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Tell that to Government.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I am really surprised that Mr. Vakil comes from the same part of the country from which my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi hails. He wants me to tell this to Government. He could have done it much better. You join hands with me, let us find some crores of rupees, let us help the Finance Member to find some more crores of rupees by economising the expenditure and then utilise it for industrialisation of the country or planning, so that the poor man may have one more morsel of food or if he is wearing a langotta he may have a loin cloth. That is the object of this Resolution. My friend has entirely misunderstood it. I think Mr. Joshi, though apparently not supporting the Resolution, does in fact support it. We do not disagree.

Sir, the one difficulty I find is that the Honourable the Finance Member ought not to be so rich as he is. Though he has given up that prefix to his name my friend is still a Nawabzada. A poorer man must be in charge of this Department. A rich man always thinks in terms of luxurious living. What is the need for so many Secretaries and Under Secretaries in every department. They are overcrowded. I am only reminded of the story of the beggar who was begging for bread and he was told—why not eat cake if you cannot get bread. That is what I read to be the psychology of the Honourable the Finance Member. He has no doubt come forward with a challenge in his Budget speech. He has appointed a committee to economise expenditure. Naturally anybody would do so soon after the war. It is war that has put out 60 per cent of the money into the field and also money has rolled on over and over again. The war is over but the persons who were appointed have still a tendency to stick on. They have got gums attached to them. Take the War Department. Instead of beating the air, I would suggest the following kinds of economy. Some departments may be abolished altogether. (*An Honourable Member: Including Finance.*) No, Finance is the soul of the Centre and it cannot be abolished. I am now reading from the administrative directory of the Government of India on page 39. The department, I believe still continues. I believe the subjects dealt with must have been dealt with by some other departments during peace time. There are 60 odd officers. The subjects dealt with are acquisition, custody and relinquishment of land vested in the Crown for purposes of defence, marine service, navigation, ecclesiastical affairs, special police, Vizagapatam Harbour, Estates of deceased officers, medal distributions, Indian army list and so on. These are among the list of subjects which this War Department is dealing with. Cannot all this be pushed into some other departments? That is. No. 1. No. 2 is the Food Department and the Agricultural Department. We have got over the food crisis. I do not say that the Food Department should be abolished immediately, within the next six months or a year. By the time this Committee concludes its sittings and makes a report the Food Department would become practically unnecessary in this country. Agriculture and other

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]  
things are Provincial subjects. During the war and immediately after the war, as an aftermath, the Food Department has done excellent work but I would say that it may not be necessary to continue that department.

Then there is the Industries and Supplies Department. I would like to give a small story about the Industries and Supplies. When I was getting into the train some time ago, some friend who just took the M.A. degree came along and said that he wanted a job in the Central Government. Our Honourable friends were not in the Treasury Benches. There were all white faces over there. I said 'I am in the opposition. How can I get you a job?'. He said 'I do not want a salary'. I was wondering in which Department of the Government he proposed to work without salary. He said 'Supplies Department'. During the war period, the Supply Department has grown. It is time that the Supplies Department is put an end to. I do not say that we do not want the Industries Department. All I have got to say about that is that the department is not working as satisfactorily as it ought to. The Supply Department may be cut off. Some Departments may be abolished. Some may be amalgamated. Some departments will shrink. Others may expand later on. If you throw a ball on the ground, it rebounds with greater effort. I want my friend and future Finance Members to satisfy the Assembly that they have done all they could to economise, before coming forward with fresh proposals for taxation.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan** (Finance Member): May I ask my Honourable friend one question. I just want to know what is the difference between my proposal which I made in the Budget speech and this Resolution. I am just asking this question so that I may be in a position to know what is it that the Members of the House have got at the back of their minds, which is not contained in my Budget speech.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I may immediately tell my friend that there are some more words in the Resolution than in his Budget speech. This Resolution was drafted before we came to know the contents of the Budget speech. Now, we are explaining how this thing can be done.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan**: I welcome that statement. I was only wanting to know whether there was anything more that you wanted.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: Other matters we do want to discuss. We have obtained a day for discussing them, even without your allotting it. That is all that is intended by this motion.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan**: Then it is all right.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: The officials have got into the habit of thinking that unless their post continues, the whole department will collapse. We want you to take courage. We shall stand by you in spite of all the officers going out. We know how the officials delude themselves. They think that unless there is an I.C.S. officer in a particular post, the Sun will not rise in the East or will not set in the West. That is the unfortunate way in which we have been going on.

I want to remind our Members of the Government that hitherto the Government had to purchase loyalty by giving to their officers 3,500, 4,000 and 5,000. Hereafter I want you and the present Government to appeal to the higher sense of patriotism, the sense of service and sacrifice as many others have done in this country. They must be prepared likewise to reduce their salary from 4,000 to 2,000 immediately. Now, immediately the cry will come that if you reduce the salary there will be corruption and he will take more bribes. If a man is prone to take bribes, he will take it even though the salary is Rs. 20,000. The only thing that will happen is the larger the salary the larger the bribe. The man with a smaller salary may be prepared to take a seer of brinjals. The man with a higher salary wants a motor car or diamond necklace or something of high value. The tendency to take bribes is always there, whatever the salary. I want a

revolution in the minds of people. When you give salaries of 4,000 or 5,000, it disturbs the social economy of the country. It makes it very difficult for me to get bridegrooms. It makes expenditure on marriages and other things very hard. You are unnecessarily putting so much unwanted money into their pockets. That is by the way.

I was saying that you must abolish certain departments, amalgamate certain others. You must get rid of certain offices. So far as officers are concerned, push them down from the top a little below. I do not want that any of the clerks should go out. Those people at the top, if they are ready for retirement, let them go. I do admit that in a planned economy we do want personnel. Sufficient personnel is now wanting. The previous Government unfortunately has not trained proper personnel in this country. They have only so far produced graduates and M.As. for the purpose of clerical jobs. If something goes wrong, they cannot drive a nail or handle a screw. That is how we have been brought up. We have been trained to talk in courts. Nothing more. I do want an overhauling in every department. I must see this economy being carried out.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Anyhow, this Resolution is not finishing today and my Honourable friend the Finance Member is not going away.

**The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** By that time the Economy Committee will be functioning.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In that case, I will not press the Resolution.

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The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 7th April, 1947.