

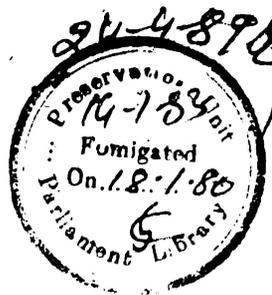
16th March 1944

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

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(29th February to 27th March, 1944)

TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16th March, 1944

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

DESIRABILITY OF A SELECTION BOARD ON BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

450. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that a Selection Board with one Muslim, one Hindu and one European Officer exists on the North Western Railway and various other Railways while such a one does not exist on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of appointing a Selection Board on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway in the same way as it exists on other State Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The question is not clear; Selection Boards are constituted when required in connection with promotion to selection posts in the subordinate cadre.

(b) Government have no reason to believe that the B., B. and C. I. Railway are not following the rules in the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In order to make the question clear, I think the Honourable Member means the Board sitting for examining the subordinates. In that case why should not that Railway do like that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: He refers to Selection Boards.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: There is a Selection Board in the North Western Railway. Why should not the B., B. and C. I. Railway follow the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is for recruitment and not for promotions:

PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIM UPPER SUBORDINATE AND LOWER GAZETTED OFFICERS ON BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

451. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the percentage of Muslims in the Upper Subordinate and Lower Gazetted officers' services on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Has any special ratio been worked out on the said Railway for Muslim officers? If not, have Government considered the advisability of fixing one and working it out in practice?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In Upper Subordinate Grades, Muslims held 4.9 per cent of appointments. There is no Lower Gazetted Service on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

(b) No, recruitment to gazetted ranks is on an all-railway basis and Muslims have a 25 per cent. reservation in such recruitment. It is not practicable to fix a separate percentage for each railway.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Has the ratio of 25 per cent. been reached in the case of Muslims in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The quota percentage for recruitment of Muslim subordinates on the Railway is 18 per cent. but it does not apply to gazetted ranks.

ABSENCE OF MUSLIM CHIEF CLERKS ON BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

452. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the post of Chief Clerk in no district on the Bombay, Baroda and Central

India Railway is held by a Muslim? If not, in how many districts is it held by Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that the absence of Chief Clerks on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway is causing discontent among the Muslim employees?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of securing the posts of Chief Clerks to some Muslims and removing the complaints of the Muslim employees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes; the second part does not arise.

(b) No.

(c) Promotions are not made on communal considerations.

DESIRABILITY OF ABOLISHING STAFF COMMITTEE ON BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

453. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): Will the Honourable Member for Railways kindly state whether Government have considered the advisability of abolishing Staff Committee on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No.

UNSATISFACTORY CATERING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUSLIMS ON BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

454. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Railway Member been drawn to the unsatisfactory catering arrangements for Muslims on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway both on stations and in trains?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that there is no Muslim Catering Inspector on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, and, as such, the catering arrangements for Muslims are not properly looked after?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of appointing some Muslim Catering Inspectors on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway and removing this complaint of the Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government are informed that there have been no special complaints from the travelling public of unsatisfactory catering arrangements for Muslims on the B., B. and C. I. Railway. Quarterly statements of any complaints received are placed before the Local Advisory Committees for their information.

(b) There is no Muslim Catering Inspector, but I am unable to accept the inference that the catering arrangements for Muslims are on this account not properly looked after. The arrangements are supervised by Indian and European Catering Inspectors and are also subject to inspection by the medical staff.

(c) In view of the replies to (a) and (b) above, this does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member what is meant by special complaints?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are always some complaints about catering matters. There has not been any serious complaint.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Arising out of part (a) I wonder if the Honourable Member is aware that there are very few important stations on the line between Delhi and Bombay on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway where there is any arrangement for Muslim food and there is no Muslim Refreshment Room?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well Sir, a very distinguished member of the Honourable Member's Party sits on the Board of the Local Advisory Committee and also the Branch Advisory Committee and that is the proper place for these questions to be ventilated. If the Honourable Member will bring these points to the attention of the Honourable Member in question he would be in a position to represent the same to the Advisory Committees.

BLOCK ON THE PROMOTION OF STATION CORRESPONDENT CLERKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

455. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 311, asked on the 19th November last, with regard to the grievances of the North Western Railway Station Correspondence Clerks, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a memorial submitted to the authorities on the 31st January last? If so, what action was taken in the matter?

(b) Are Station Correspondence Clerks allowed opportunities for transfer to the Divisional Office? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand the General Manager, N. W. Railway, has not yet received the memorials through the proper channel. When they are so received, they will be dealt with.

(b) No, because such transfers are not ordinarily in the interest of the service.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if he is considering the question of these Correspondence Clerks, because they have been complaining for a very long time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, several questions have been put in this House and I would particularly refer my Honourable friend to my replies to his question No. 311 on the 19th November, 1943.

TRAINING OF COMMERCIAL GROUP STUDENTS AT NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WALTON SCHOOL.

456. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Commercial Group students are trained at the North Western Railway Walton School in both goods and coaching duties?

(b) Is it a fact that recently a batch of such students was trained in goods duties only?

(c) What was the communal composition of the group referred to in (b) above?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to see that the efficiency of services is not lowered by training the Commercial Group students in one subject only?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, ordinarily.

(b) Yes.

(c) 15 Muslims, 4 Sikhs and 2 Hindus qualified in the Course.

(d) The procedure adopted was necessary to meet present circumstances and there will be no loss of efficiency as the men are trained for the duties they will perform.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are these goods duties specially provided for one class of clerks and other duties separately for each class of clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Normally students in the school are trained both in goods and coaching duties and the course lasts for about five months. But owing to the emergency, the need for getting trained men quickly on account of the war, it was decided to train a batch of men in goods work only. They were, therefore, trained for about two and a half months, i.e., half the period, and thus they became available within a short period.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member knows that at present there is a system going on there which is that in the goods line only persons of one community are taken and not from all communities?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member look into it, or at least direct the officer in charge there that he should take persons from all communities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider that.

SUPERINTENDENT OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WALTON SCHOOL.

457. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how long the present Superintendent of the North Western Railway Walton Training School has remained there?

(b) Where was he before?

(c) Who was his predecessor, and how long did he remain there?

(d) Is it a fact that the students are not satisfied with the food arrangements, and that the Superintendent discourages any complaints on the threat of disciplinary action?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Since 13th February, 1940.

(b) Assistant Operating Officer, Simla.

(c) Mr. R. Proudlock; for about 18 months with a short break.

(d) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member has made enquiries to the effect that the officer in charge of the North Western Railway Walton School acts like an autocrat and a bureaucrat and deals very arbitrarily? Will the Honourable Member make enquiries or at any rate tell the General Manager to look into this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is contrary to my information.

COAL SUPPLY TO PETTY CONSUMERS.

458. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that those small coal consumers whose consumption of coal is limited up to a minimum of two wagons a month including those who are engaged in war work have been compelled to obtain their supplies from the stock of the Director General, Munitions Production, built up at Shalimar, Bengal Nagpur Railway, by their agents Anrita Lal Jha and Company and at Howrah by Messrs. Bird and Company?

(b) Are these arrangements made by the Controller of Coal Distribution, the Chief Mining Engineer, the Railway Board and the Director General, Munitions Production, without calling any public tender for it with the effect that small consumers are compelled to pay exorbitant rates for any quantity of coal?

(c) Is it a fact that agents at Shalimar are charging Rs. 22 for steam coal and Rs. 25 for smithy coal and Rs. 38 for hard coke plus a loading charge of Rs. 3-12-0 per ton? Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that loading charges were Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 0-6-0 per ton as per schedule?

(d) What are the reasons for adopting such procedure? Is it not a fact that coal supplies had to be done by full and half rates formerly? Why did not the Coal Controller continue that system which kept on transport facilities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), Yes Sir. Coal and coke dumps have been set up at Howrah and Shalimar under the charge of the Director General, Munitions Production, in order to facilitate supplies of about 1,000 tons a month to a large number of small firms in the Calcutta area engaged on war production, whose requirements are less than 2 wagons a month.

(b) Coal for the dumps is purchased through the agency of the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board from collieries most conveniently situated from a transport point of view. In some cases mills and factories not favourably situated have had to pay higher rates on account of the road transport involved, but without these arrangements it would not have been possible to ensure supplies to these industries at all.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(d) The dumps were set up in order to ensure regular supplies and avoid the serious transport difficulties that were encountered previously in the supply and distribution of wagons to a large number of small concerns in the Calcutta area. This involved uneconomical rail transport in consigning individual wagons to different depot stations all over the Calcutta area.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya: With regard to part (c) is it a fact that the loading charges are Rs. 3-12-0?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information on that point.

COAL SUPPLY TO MOHINI MILLS BY MESSRS. ANDREW YULE & Co.

459. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state with regard to the supply of coal to Mohini Mills by Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., if it is not a fact that Messrs. Andrew Yule & Company have got not only a full rake siding but a double rake siding and Mohini Mills were prepared to handle 100 wagons a day at Kushtia Station? Will the Honourable Member refer to my questions sent to him for enquiry and find out the correctness or otherwise of the information given by the Coal Controller?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if, after normal transport facilities have been restored, he will consider the restoration of priority sanctions which have been abruptly stopped on account of breaches on Railways due to heavy floods? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to take immediate steps to restore all priority sanctions and restore supplies through ordinary channels?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) If the Honourable Member is thinking of traffic *via* Naihati normal transport conditions over this route are not likely to be restored for some time and only the highest priority traffic can be despatched by this route. On receipt of the information asked for I will consider the matter further.

Sir Henry Richardson: Is it a fact that since the Coal Controller is responsible for the allocation of wagons the size of anybody's sidings is completely irrelevant?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It may be so, but it does not seem to have any particular connection with this question.

CONTROLLER OF COAL ACTING AS PURCHASING AGENT FOR INDUSTRIES.

460. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is not a fact that the appointment of Controller of Coal was made with a view to transport coal without causing any inconvenience regarding supply of wagons and not to act as purchasing agents for industries?

(b) Is it a fact that the Coal Controlling Officer allowed the Indian Mining Federation, Indian Mining Association, Indian Colliery-owners' Association (who never directly traded in coal) and certain other private parties to supply coal to industries in Ahmedabad, Director of Industries, Baroda, Solapur Mills and various other concerns in India? Does the Honourable Member propose to take steps to stop this practice leading to damages to suppliers and compensate the suppliers who have suffered loss on account of such practice?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Mining Engineer of the Railway Board advertised for tender for 55,000 tons of coal on behalf of these Mills last year? Is it permissible for the Chief Mining Engineer to advertise tenders on behalf of private parties? Is he not advertising for Railways and Government requirements?

(d) Is it a fact that a firm has been given priority sanction in the name of Messrs. Multan Electric Supply Company and they sold away the wagons supplied in black market? Has any step been taken to punish the firm and does the Honourable Member propose to divulge the name of the party?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Controller of Coal Distribution was appointed to regulate the distribution of coal in the best interests of the country, but he has on occasions had to make arrangements either through members of the Colliery Associations or through the Chief Mining Engineer for supplies to consumers at their request, because their contractors had failed to supply and they were unable to make satisfactory arrangements elsewhere.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(d) Yes, a prosecution has been instituted and trial is proceeding.

**RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON MOVEMENT OF RICE FROM BURDWAN, ETC., TO
CALCUTTA.**

461. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state if the restriction imposed on the movement of rice from Burdwan to Calcutta or from any station on the H.B. Chord Line to Howrah or Sealdah is still continuing, and if this restriction applies to individuals who are not rice dealers but who used to import paddy or milled rice grown in their own lands and keep in their private and personal stock for their own use in Calcutta without taking any rice for their consumption from the ration shops? If so, why is this restriction continued when breaches have been repaired and the Railway is cleared and trains are running normally? Does the Honourable Member propose to withdraw such restrictions, if continuing?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Bengal Government have prohibited the movement of rice and paddy from all stations in the Burdwan District without special permission and have instructed railways not to deliver any consignment of rice at destinations except on the authority of the Director of Civil Supplies.

There is no restriction on movements in full wagon loads from stations on the Howrah Burdwan chord line to Howrah, but deliveries can only be made on the authority of the Director of Civil Supplies. There is an operating restriction on movements of wagon loads to Sealdah except in the case of those moving under the Bengal Government's programme.

Booking of small consignments is permissible both to Howrah and Sealdah, but the quantities which can be so moved in any one day are strictly limited and can only be delivered at destinations on the authority of the Director of Civil Supplies.

As these restrictions are mainly connected with the rationing scheme and not with railway operation, the latter part of the question does not arise.

SMALL COIN DIFFICULTIES AT BURDWAN RAILWAY STATION.

462. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that difficulties and inconveniences are still caused to passengers in the matter of small coin changes, and that passengers have to part with their balances after purchasing tickets on many stations, particularly at Burdwan Station and particularly in the lower class booking office?

(b) Is it not a fact that during the months from January to July, 1942, the Railway Treasury received from station earnings from small change worth Rs. 5,82,000, whereas during the corresponding period of 1943, Railway Treasury got Rs. 94,000 only? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if he would enquire whether small coins to the tune of ten lakhs had been exchanged outside by Railway people on a premium between half and one anna per rupee? Will the Honourable Member try to check such dishonest dealings by appointing Committees of Enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is possible that there may at times still be some difficulty and inconvenience at some stations in spite of the recent improvement in the small change position but I have no information that this is particularly the case at the Burdwan lower class booking office.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In reply to the second portion, Government have no information that small change was bartered in the manner indicated. The third part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the reply to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether the Honourable Member enquired what was the reason of this shortage, this fall in the receipt of small coins? Is it not a fact that the booking clerks are dealing in this thing as a business proposition and are selling them for profit?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The matter has been carefully gone into both by the police and by the officers of the railways. Of course, it is

capable of quite an opposite interpretation, that is, that most of the small coins received are put back into circulation to railway clients.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In view of my Honourable friend's admission that there is a possibility of this thing continuing for some time more on certain sections of the railway, will he consider the suggestion that I made two years ago that coupons may be allowed to be given in exchange, in place of change. I made the suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Member. He said that he would consider it, but I do not know what the decision was.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the matter was considered, but I will refresh my memory.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is he willing to see that this coupon system is introduced?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Without further consideration I cannot give any undertaking. I think it has been looked into but found impracticable. I will look into it again.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is my Honourable friend aware that on certain tramway lines and big motor lines, the system is working and very satisfactorily too?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have heard of that, but the same conditions may not apply here.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that this thing was tried in Moradabad in the United Provinces, and coupons of four annas were given?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will look into it.

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

DESIRABILITY OF SPEEDY TRANSPORT OF GHEE, ETC., FROM DARBHANGA, ETC., TO CALCUTTA.

†463. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattothyaya:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to arrange for the speedy transport of *ghee*, butter and similar foodstuffs from stations like Darbhanga, Madhupur, Dinajpur, to Calcutta via Howrah and Sealdah? Is he aware of the fact that it takes fifteen days now for a tin of butter or *ghee* to come from Darbhanga to Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of such delays and will bring the matter to the notice of the railways concerned for such action as they are able to take.

EXPANSION OF THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

†464. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department please state:

(a) whether expansion in the Department of Meteorology was sanctioned, if so, when;

(b) the existing strength under the heads (i) Superintending Meteorologists, (ii) Meteorologists, (iii) Assistant Meteorologists, (iv) Professional Assistants, (v) Meteorological Assistants, (vi) Senior Observers and clerks; and (vii) Observers and clerks;

(c) the additional strength sanctioned under each category mentioned in part (b) above;

(d) the total number of Muslims under each head mentioned in parts (b) and (c) above;

(e) the number of persons promoted to each of the Services mentioned in (b) from the lower ranks, the minimum period after which such promotion was allowed, and the number of Muslims so promoted and the minimum period after which such promotion was allowed in case of Muslims,

(f) whether persons promoted to higher ranks were put under training; if not, why not;

(g) the total target under each head mentioned in (b) brought up-to-date; and the number of Muslims; and

(h) the names of Meteorological Centres of different types and additions made till 1943 in each type?

†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.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, in 1942 in connection with War requirements.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply I gave on the 13th instant to parts (a) and (b) of his starred question No. 344.

(c) The additional posts in all categories sanctioned since 1942 total 802. Figures under each category cannot be supplied due to security reasons.

(d) and (e). Information is being collected and such information as can be supplied will be laid on the table in due course.

(f) In general, yes. Exceptions have, however, been made in cases where

(i) men had already got training within their departmental experience or (ii) men were required immediately for particular duties.

(g) and (h). The information cannot be supplied for security reasons.

MUSLIMS RECRUITED AS TELEGRAPHISTS, ETC.

†465. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the total recruitment made under (i) Telegraphists, (ii) Telegraph Masters, (iii) Wireless Operators, and (iv) Wireless Supervisors, during 1941, 1942 and 1943, separately, all over British India, and the number of Muslims under each head;

(b) the proportion of direct and departmental recruitment in various stages of services under the Posts and Telegraphs Department; and

(c) the method of selection for the posts of Inspectors, Superintendents and other high services of class II and I?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) to (c). Sir, I lay on the table three statements giving the information asked for.

Statement No. 1 in reply to part (a).

	1941		1942		1943	
	Total number recruited.	Number of Muslims.	Total number recruited.	Number of Muslims.	Total number recruited.	Number of Muslims.
Telegraphists	228	64	157	62	Information not yet available.	
Telegraph Masters	41	2	38	3	32	Nil.
Wireless Operators	51	Nil.	24	1	122	24
Wireless Supervisors	4	Nil.	4	Nil.	1	Nil.

NOTE.—In the case of wireless operators, there is direct recruitment and in the case of telegraphists both direct and by promotion. The figures for wireless operators and telegraphists are for the number selected for appointment.

In the case of Telegraph Masters and Wireless Supervisors, appointment is entirely by promotion. The figures given are those of men who were permanently appointed during the year.

Statement No. 2 in reply to part (b).

Grade or Service.	Percentage of recruitment made	
	By direct recruitment.	By departmental promotion.
(Grades or services to which recruitment is made exclusively by promotion have not been included.)		
Assistant Divisional Engineers, Telegraphs (including Assistant Controller of Telegraph Stores and Junior Electrical Engineer).	75	25
Postal Superintendents Service, Class II	50	50
Engineering Supervisors	75	25
Instrument Testers, Assistant Foremen, Estimators and Examiners.	100	—
Wireless Operators		
P. & T. Accountants Service	33 1/3	66 2/3
All clerical grades (except second division clerks in Circle Offices and first division clerks in other offices) and telephone operators.	80	20
Second division clerks in Circle Offices	50	50

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

Percentage of recruitment made

Grade or Service.	Percentage of recruitment made	
	By direct recruitment.	By departmental promotion.
Telegraphists	75	25
Mistries	80	20
Linemen	50	50
Compositors, Timekeepers, Conservancy Inspectors, Inspectors of Peons and Boy Peons.	100	—
Superintendents of Telegraph Workshops and Assistant Superintendents of Telegraph Workshops.	If suitable departmental officials are not forthcoming, the posts may be filled by outsiders.	
Postmen, Mail Guards, and Village Postmen; Wiremen, Inferior Servants in all branches.	Direct recruitment is resorted to only if sufficient departmental candidates do not qualify in the prescribed examination.	

NOTE.—If the required number of qualified and suitable departmental men are not available, the posts are filled by direct recruits.

Statement No. 3 in reply to part (c).

Grade or Service.	Method of Selection.
Inspectors of Post Offices and R. M. S. (including Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices).	By selection on the results of a qualifying examination.
Superintendents of Post Offices and R.M.S. including Assistant Postmasters-General, and Assistant Directors, Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi.	For departmental officials, on the principle of pure selection from among Inspectors and for direct recruits on the results of a competitive examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission.
Postmasters Service, Class II (Rs. 300—650 grade and Rs. 700—800 grade).	By selection from the best officers in the next lower grades, seniority being regarded only where all other considerations are practically equal.
Telegraph Traffic Service, Class II, Grade I	By selection from Grade II of the cadre, seniority being regarded only when all other considerations are practically equal.
Telegraph Traffic Service, Class II, Grade II	By promotion from the grade of Telegraph Masters strictly by selection.
Foremen, First and Second Class	By promotion on the principle of seniority-cum-fitness.
Assistant Engineers, Telegraphs, Telephones, Electrical and Wireless.	By promotion by selection of the best man available in the branch concerned.
Deputy Assistant Engineers, Telegraphs, Telephones, Electrical and Wireless.	By promotion on the principle of seniority subject to rejection of the unfit.
Superintendent of Telegraph Workshops and Assistant Superintendent of Telegraph Workshops.	By promotion on the principle of pure selection.
Controller of Telegraph Stores	By promotion of Assistant Controller of Telegraph Stores or by a suitable officer of the Telegraph Engineering Service, Class I.
Assistant Divisional Engineers, Telegraphs (including Assistant Controller of Telegraph Stores and Junior Electrical Engineer).	By promotion on the advice of the Federal Public Service Commission and by direct recruitment on the results of a competitive examination held by that body.
Divisional Engineers, Telegraphs including Assistant Chief Engineer Telegraphs, Senior Electrical Engineer, and Chief Electrician, Wireless.	By promotion on the principle of seniority subject to the rejection of the unfit.
Assistant Deputy Director General	By selection from the best officers of the Department, seniority being regarded only where other qualifications are practically equal. (These are tenure posts).
Deputy Postmasters-General, Presidency Postmasters and Officers of the Telegraph Traffic Service, Class I.	By promotion on the principle of selection on the advice of the Federal Public Service Commission.
Directors of Telegraphs, including Electrical Engineer-in-Chief and Deputy Chief Engineer.	By selection from the best officers of the Department, seniority being regarded only where other qualifications are practically equal.
Postmasters-General, including Deputy Directors General.	

HOLIDAY FOR JUMAT-UL-WIDA NOT GRANTED TO MUSLIMS IN DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, DELHI.

466. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the Muslim staff employed in the Divisional Superintendent's Office, Delhi, were not given holiday for Jummat-ul-Widá (last Friday of Ramzan) last year?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what were the reasons for denying the staff the privilege which they were enjoying in the past?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the Muslim staff were not even given casual leave when applied for on the occasion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) I understand the Delhi Division, which generally follows the practice of the Headquarters Office in this matter, did not receive any instructions from the Headquarters Office to declare the day a holiday. Nevertheless, staff who could conveniently be spared, were permitted to avail themselves of casual leave for the day.

(c) Yes, those who could not be spared.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether it has been the practice in the past in the Delhi Division to allow them to go without any sanction from the headquarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Delhi Division takes its instructions from the Headquarters Office. On this occasion, for some reason, they did not receive any instruction.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member prepared to follow the system adopted in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and give an assurance to that effect?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am quite prepared to discuss it with the Department with a view to co-ordinate the policy in this matter.

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES' GRIEVANCES IN RAILWAY PARCELS OFFICE, DELHI.

467. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to refer to starred question No. 371, dated the 24th March, 1943, regarding Muslim employees' grievances in the Railway Parcels Office, Delhi, and his reply thereto, and state if the question and its reply were sent to the General Manager, North Western Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, what action was taken by the General Manager, North Western Railway?

(c) Are the grievances of Muslims to be ignored on the ground that the Parcel Branch, Delhi Main, which consists of an establishment of 500 persons, is a 'small office' as mentioned in his reply?

(d) What action do Government propose to redress the grievances of Muslim employees of this office?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway informs me that the question was looked into and that no action was called for.

(c) What I stated was that I receive no information of such details, but undertook to direct the attention of the Railway to the complaint. This does not warrant the suggestion now made.

(d) Government propose to take no action, as the Railway have looked into the question and consider that there are no grounds for holding that any community has been victimised.

RAISING THE GRADE OF HEAD CLERK, COMMERCIAL BRANCH, DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, DELHI, AND HEAD CLERK, ASSISTANT OPERATING OFFICER, SIMLA.

468. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the post of the Head Clerk, Commercial Branch, Divisional Superintendent's Office, Delhi, and the Head Clerk, Assistant Operating Officer, Simla, was temporarily raised from Grade IV to Grade V on account of additional work?

(b) Is it a fact that additional work in the Commercial Branch of the Divisional Superintendent's Office has been transferred to another section which has been created for the purpose, and the claim and refund work of the Assistant Operating Officer's Office, Simla, has been transferred to the Headquarters Office, thereby reducing the responsibilities of the Head Clerks concerned?

(c) Is it a fact that these posts have not been reduced to grade IV, although the extra work is no longer there?

(d) Do Government propose to reduce these posts? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The posts of Head Clerk, Commercial Branch, Divisional Superintendent's office, Delhi, and Head Transportation Clerk of the Assistant Operating Officer, Simla, have been raised temporarily to Grade V.

(b) No, because the additional section created in the Divisional Superintendent's office still continues under the same Head Clerk, while the Claims and Refund work of the Assistant Operating Officer, Simla, although now transferred to the Headquarters Office, was not part of the work entrusted to the Head Transportation Clerk.

(c) The posts continue in Grade V, as there has been no diminution in the work which justified their upgrading.

(d) No, for the reason already stated.

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGE PRESCRIBED FOR PROMOTIONS FROM INFERIOR TO SUBORDINATE SERVICE ON RAILWAYS.

469. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that promotions from inferior to subordinate service on Railways, are subject to communal percentages prescribed for direct recruitment?

(b) Is it a fact that one of the reasons for applying communal percentages to such promotions is that the staff in the inferior service have no claim and do not look forward to promotions in the subordinate service in the ordinary course?

(c) Is it a fact that promotions from subordinate to gazetted service do not fall within the ordinary channel of promotion, and that the staff in the subordinate service cannot claim such promotion as a matter of right?

(d) If the replies to (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, why are not communal percentages applied to promotions from subordinate to gazetted service?

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

(c) No, because promotion of subordinates to gazetted ranks has always been a recognised channel of promotion. As regards the second part, no staff can claim any promotion as a matter of right.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I ask the Honourable Member if efforts are being made by the administration to see that the Muslims get a reasonable proportion? It may not be a communal quota but will efforts be made to see that every community gets a square deal?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not see how that arises out of this question.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It arises, because Government have made no effort in that line.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Which portion of the question is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Part (c).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Much wants more! Is it a fact or not?

MAXIMUM AGE FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS FOR PROMOTION TO SUBORDINATE POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

470. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway, has fixed 35 years as the maximum age for inferior servants for promotion to subordinate posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes.

471. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: I do not propose to put this question as it has been answered substantially.

MUSLIM OFFICERS RECRUITED TO CERTAIN GRADES BY THE CALCUTTA OFFICE OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

472. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of appointments made by direct recruitment by the Calcutta Office of the Supply Department, since it was established there, to the following posts:—

- (i) Assistant Engineers (Mechanical, Electrical, Metallurgical and Civil);
- (ii) Senior Technical Assistants (Engineering, Provision, Stores, Railway Stores and miscellaneous);
- (iii) Industrial and Assistant Industrial Planning Officers (Engineering, Provision Stores, etc.);
- (iv) Progress Officers;
- (v) Assistant Progress Officers;
- (vi) Assistant Directors of Stores and equivalent; and
- (vii) Deputy Assistant Directors of Stores and equivalent;

(b) the number of Muslims recruited under each of the above categories;

(c) whether it is a fact that selection and appointment to the above and most of the other technical posts are made only by the Calcutta office;

(d) whether the recruiting authorities at Calcutta are adhering to the percentage fixed for Muslims by the communal Government Order; if not, why not;

(e) if it is a fact that even fully qualified Muslim applicants are rejected by the officer on special duty (Recruitment); and

(f) whether the Honourable Member proposes to call for particulars of the rejected Muslim applications so far and satisfy himself after personal scrutiny whether this is so?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). The categories of posts mentioned at (i), (v) and (vii) of part (a) do not exist in the Directorate General, Munitions Production, Calcutta. A statement giving the required information as regards the remaining categories of posts, viz., (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) is placed on the table.

(c) The selection of candidates is made by the Calcutta Office, but their appointments are sanctioned by the Supply Member.

(d) Since the majority of the posts specified in the categories mentioned above are of a specialised and technical character, it is not possible to adhere strictly to any communal ratios.

(e) No.

(f) I am prepared to review the cases of the rejected candidates.

Statement showing the total number of appointments made by direct recruitment to the categories of posts mentioned at (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) of part (a) of the Question by the Calcutta Office of the Supply Department since it was established there, and the number of Muslims recruited under each of the above categories.

Categories.	Number of appointments made by direct recruitment.	Number of Muslims recruited.
1	2	3
Senior Technical Assistants	24	Nil.
Industrial Planning Officers	24	Nil.
Assistant Industrial Planning Officers	43	2
Progress Officers	4	Nil.
Assistant Directors of Stores and equivalent	13	2

The figures shown in column 2 of the above statement exclude the number of appointments made by persons already serving in the D. G. M. P. The numbers of such appointment respectively are 11, 18, 21, 3 and 7 involving one Muslim each under the category of I. P. Os. and A. I. P. Os.

There are no posts designated as "Assistant Engineers" mentioned in Part (a) (i) of the question, but there are Assistant Civil Engineer Advisers in the O. F. Division. No direct recruitment has been made to these posts.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to the reply to part (d), may I ask whether any attempt was made to see if these communal proportions could be kept up, whether advertisements were issued to find out whether there were people qualified to apply for these posts?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Advertisements have been issued, particularly recently it is almost a rule that such advertisements should be issued and candidates with qualifications are invited to apply. According to general instructions from Delhi careful scrutiny is made of qualified candidates of minority communities.

SIKHS IN CERTAIN CADRES AT AMMUNITION FACTORIES AT ISHAPORE, ETC.

473. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number of Sikhs, with their qualifications, now working in the Ammunition Factories at Ishapore, Moradnagar, Kirkee and Jubbulpore, in (i) gazetted posts, (ii) as foremen, (iii) as Assistant Foremen, and (iv) as Chargemen?

(b) How many posts in the above cadres have been created in each of these factories since April, 1948, and what consideration has been shown to Sikhs in the matter of appointment or promotion to those posts?

(c) What is the percentage of Sikhs in the above grades in these factories as compared to other communities?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the huge contribution towards War effort by the Sikhs?

(e) Is the Honourable Member prepared to give greater weightage to Sikhs in the said grades than they have had so far? If not, why not? If so, when?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a), (b) and (c). Statements giving the required information are placed on the table. No particular consideration could be given to Sikhs or any other community in the matter of appointments to these posts, as in most cases the posts have to be filled by men possessing technical or special qualifications.

(d) I am aware of the contribution made by the Sikhs to the war effort.

(e) In view of the specialised and technical nature of the posts in question it is not possible to adhere to any strict communal proportions. Every effort will, however, continue to be made to recruit suitable Sikhs and members of other minority communities.

Statement showing the names of Sikhs with their qualifications, now serving in the Ammunition Factories at Ishapore, Muradnagar, Kirkee and Jubbulpore in (i) gazetted posts, (ii) as Foremen, (iii) as Assistant Foremen and (iv) as Chargemen.

(a) (i) In gazetted posts—Nil.

(ii) Foremen—Nil.

(iii) Assistant Foremen—Three.

Ishapore—

1. Mr. Makhan Singh, B.Sc., Mechanical Engineer, International University, Dover, U.S.A.

Muradnagar—

2. Mr. N. S. Nagpal, B.Sc., Electrical Engineering, Victoria University, Manchester..

3. Mr. H. S. Chauhan, B.A., Punjab University. (Asst. Store-holder).

(iv) Chargemen—Seven.

Ishapore—

1. Mr. M. Singh, promoted from T. E.

Jubbulpore—

2. Mr. Surain Singh, served apprenticeship in a private power station.

3. Mr. Amrik Singh Nagpal, Matriculate, Punjab University, studied Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

4. Mr. Ujagar Singh, Motor Mechanic.

Kirkee—

5. Mr. Jodh Singh, B.Sc. (Eng.), Benares Hindu University.

6. Mr. S. S. Bedi (Records not immediately available).

Muradnagar—

7. Mr. S. D. Singh, Bevin Trainee.

Statement showing posts created since April 1943 in each of the factories and grades mentioned in part (a) of the question.

Factories.	Gazetted staff.	Foremen.	Assistant Foremen.	Charge-men.	Appointment or promotions made since April 1943.
Ishapore	2	4	4	5	Mr. M. Singh promoted Chargeman. Messrs. Amrik Singh Nagpal and Ujagar Singh recruited.
Jubbulpore	3	12	25	77	
Kirkee	—	—	2	5	Messrs. S. D. Singh, H. S. Chauhan and N. S. Nagpal recruited.
Muradnagar	—	—	—	—	

Statement showing the percentage of Sikhs in the different grades mentioned at (i) to (iv) of part (a) of the question.

Factories.	Gazetted staff.	Foremen.	Assistant Chargemen	
			Foremen.	Per cent.
Ishapore	.	.	1.2	1
Jubbulpore	1
Kirkee	1.2
Muradnagar	.	.	7	2

DESIRABILITY OF APPOINTING A SIKH OFFICER IN THE RAILWAY BOARD OFFICE.

474. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the attempts made by the Railway Board to bring in at least a Sikh Officer at the Headquarters Office (Railway Board)?

(b) Is he aware that there are quite a good number of senior as well as junior Sikh Officers but none has so far been appointed in the Railway Board Headquarters? If so, why?

(c) Is he aware of the general disappointment among the members of the Sikh community that their rights are never safeguarded?

(d) Is he also aware that members of other communities have always been appointed in the Railway Board barring a member of the Sikh community?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to see that some Sikh Officers are appointed in the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Available officers possessing the necessary ability and experience are considered for posts in the Railway Board's office, and no special attempts have been made to cater for any particular community.

(b) There is at present a Sikh officer on Special duty with the Railway Board.

(c) I am not aware of any legitimate grounds for such disappointment.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is not considered that any action is called for.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that special efforts were made to bring a member of the Muslim community into the Railway Board by questions in this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that is so.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it not a fact that the Railway Board did concede this concession to the Muslim community?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are Muslims in the Board.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the Railway Board did concede that principle or did not concede that principle. And may I ask if they did concede that principle and did bring in some Muslim members into the Railway Board to safeguard their interests?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of what happened in the past, but, generally speaking, officers are chosen for their ability and experience.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if similar treatment—not special favour—will be meted out to the Sikhs as is meted out to Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If there are qualified Sikhs with ability and experience suitable for this post, they will be considered.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If you are showing a favour to Sikhs, why not to Sindhis also? An attempt should be made to introduce a Sindhi into the Board.

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

COAL SUPPLY TO THE GLASS BANGLE INDUSTRY, FIROZABAD.

475. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the fact that only 50 wagons of coal were supplied for the glass bangle industry in Firozabad throughout the year 1943, while the figure for 1941 was as high as 8,000 wagons of coal?

(b) What measures have Government adopted to give reasonable supply of coal to ease the acute crisis in the glass bangle industry of Firozabad?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have no precise information of the number of wagons supplied to the glass bangle industry at Firozabad in 1941 or 1943, but coal is not available in full quantities for all industries and industries considered essential must have priority. The glass bangle industry has a very low priority and for increased supplies of coal must obtain the backing of the Provincial Government and the Industries and Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India had made inquiries from the Provincial Government and, if so, what do they say?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not the file with me. The question of priority has to be considered and the initiative must come from the Provincial Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The glass bangles are very valuable consumer goods and in view of the fact that the Government of India have stated several times that they want to promote the use of consumer goods in India, may I know whether they will take into consideration the usefulness of providing bangles to the people of the country as consumer goods?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be addressed to my colleague in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Member for the Civil Supplies Department will consider the usefulness of bangles as consumer goods and help the production of bangles?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All these questions are relatively considered in connection with the number of goods which we have to deal with.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Honourable Member

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot have a debate on this.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Is the Honourable the War Transport Member aware that the shortage of coal in this particular city has led to the unemployment of 20,000 workers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question of unemployment in this particular city is one which should be taken up with the Provincial Government.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Is it the failure of coal which has led to this unemployment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The industry is using firewood for the purpose.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Firewood takes much larger space than coal.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It travels over much shorter distance.

WANT OF WAGONS FOR TRANSPORT OF GLASS BANGLES FROM FIROZABAD.

476. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the fact that since January last no wagons have been provided for export of a large stock of finished glass bangles worth seven million rupees and requiring 100 wagons for export is lying undisposed of in Firozabad causing closure of 87 out of 47 factories and threatening 60,000 people of Firozabad

town and nearby villages with acute starvation and 50,000 traders in the country with unemployment?

(b) What measures had he adopted or is going to adopt to avoid this calamity?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have ascertained that no full wagon loads of bangles have been loaded from Ferozabad since January, 1944, I am not aware that the consequences, to which the Honourable Member refers, have ensued.

(b) Movement of glass bangles from Ferozabad as smalls traffic is permissible and a regular service has been arranged, but at a time such as the present when all available wagons are required for the movement of essential traffic, they cannot be diverted to the carriage of glass bangles in full wagon loads. Movements of glass bangles in full wagon loads are arranged when possible and during the three months ending 31st January, 1944, approximately 77 wagons were provided for this traffic.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India have arranged for the payment of some unemployment compensation to the unemployed persons in Ferozabad?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a question which should be taken up with the Provincial Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government will make inquiries into the condition of this industry inasmuch as the interests of a large number of workers are involved and inasmuch as the glass bangle is very valuable consumer goods.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This question has been under consideration for a long time. The question of unemployment is one for the Provincial Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India is not a Unitary Government and whether they can avoid considering the question

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CATERING FOR MUSLIMS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

139. **Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is not a fact that on all the important places of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, food contract is a monopoly of Hindus, and Mussalmans are compelled to take meals prepared by them?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, what are the names of those who cater for Mussalmans at Darbhanga, Samastipur, Broani Junction, Muzaffarpur, Sonpur, Gorakhpur and other important stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (a) of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's starred question No. 182 on the 18th February, 1943.

(b) I have called for the information from the Railway Administration and will lay it on the table, in due course.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

CIVIL SUPPLIES COMMISSIONER'S ORDER REFUSING SUPPLY OF RICE TO SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. Hegde. He wants to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the order of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies dated 28th February 1944 (Madras) refusing supply of rice to the District of South Kanara where the food position is critical.

If this order was passed on the 28th February, why did not the Honourable Member come up before?

Sir K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I received information only yesterday from the President of the Co-operative Society

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not conclusive.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: May I point out the urgency of the matter? The order was not published.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Estak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): The order was not published. How could the Honourable Member know?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The order was issued to the President of the Co-operative Stores, who is an Agent on behalf of the Madras Government for distribution of rice, in the district. When the rice stock was short, he wrote to the Collector who replied on 3rd March, 1944 as follows:

"The Government have since ordered that no more rice will be given to this district from outside. I do not, therefore, see any use in moving the Government in this matter."

This was a letter written to the President on the 3rd March, 1944, and that letter was based upon an earlier order. This was in reply to the President's request that the collector should apply to the Central Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not a fit matter for a motion for the adjournment of the House and I rule it out of order.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

SECOND STAGE—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Today is the turn of the European Group. They will move their motion now.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, we wish to move cut motion No. 1, on Late List No. 3 under Demand No. 16.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The cut motions which the European Group wished to move are Nos. 120 and 76 on the Final List. Surely, they cannot move now any other cut motion except those of which they have given notice.

Sir Henry Richardson: But the subject is the same.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well.

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,65,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,65,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

Supply of Consumer Goods as a Means of Anti-Inflation.

Mr. A. C. Inskip (United Provinces: European): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

At the outset, I should like to make it quite clear that my only object in moving this cut motion is to raise a debate on the supply of consumer goods as a means of anti-inflation and the measures which have so far been taken by Government to ensure that the consumer receives a fair return in terms of the things he has to buy. Now, Sir, I should like to deal with my subject in two parts: firstly, I should like to comment on the various controls and Ordinances which Government have introduced as an anti-inflationary measure; and, secondly, to comment on India's capacity to produce at least a portion of her requirements of vital consumer goods.

Now, Sir, the recent introduction of the Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Ordinance was a measure which many of us will say was long overdue. It has, to a limited extent, arrested the anti-social practices of hoarding and profiteering, but, as the Leader of my Group stated in the House at the opening of the Budget debate last week, the policy and the administrative action is not producing results at the rate which the serious situation in the country demands. Part of the trouble is probably due to the financial control which is exercised before any administrative action can take place. Again, it may be due to the

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various Government Departments placing a different degree of urgency on the proposed measure and in amplification of this I would quote an example. Some five months ago, it was agreed by Government to introduce a zoning scheme for the purchase of raw hides intended for the leather industry. This scheme had for its object a saving of unnecessary rail transport and the canalising of supplies to the various concerns who are engaged 100 per cent. on the production of leather for Defence Service requirements. The scheme called for the appointment of a number of controllers, but, I understand, considerable delay occurred before the Finance authorities could be persuaded to sanction this additional staff. Eventually, the sanction was forthcoming, but apparently the scheme is again held up because the authority responsible for sanctioning accommodation in Delhi has ruled that no accommodation for the additional staff can be provided. Then, Sir, again, in regard to the Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance, I feel that a certain amount of effort which could perhaps be usefully employed on other things is being directed in the control of such luxury goods as fountain pens and watches. Certain Honourable Members were recently complaining on the floor of this House that they were unable to obtain their requirements of these two items. They would, however, have experienced a similar difficulty if they were resident in America or in the United Kingdom because luxury and non-essential goods of this type are not now being manufactured. Even if they were available, I contend that persons who require luxury goods of this kind in times like the present should be required to pay the full price for them.

Then, Sir, a number of controls now enforced would appear to have been introduced by Government without making full inquiries beforehand as to whether they can be efficiently operated. The Honourable the Finance Member has indicated the difficulties which are being experienced in obtaining trained and suitable personnel. These difficulties I appreciate; but is it a wise policy to introduce any sort of control if it cannot be rigidly and efficiently enforced? As one of our leading industrialists recently said: "some of the present controls are looked upon as a heaven-sent boon to the black market".

The success of the schemes introduced both in the United Kingdom and in America is due to the fact that control is exercised all along the line from the raw material supplier to the manufacturer and eventually to the actual consumer. By the introduction of their present rationing systems which, by the way, do not limit the amount to be spent, but only the number of articles which can be purchased during a stipulated period, the consumers in these two countries are assured of at least their minimum requirements, and, while I appreciate that it would be difficult to introduce a system of this kind into a country so vast as India, an effort should, I feel, be made to attempt some such system at least in the larger cities. In the absence of some sort of rationing of vital consumer goods, the tendency will continue to be for those items which are in short supply to find their way to the hoarder or at best to the most favoured customer.

In regard to the various controls affecting raw materials and production, are Government satisfied that this problem is being tackled from the right end? For, whereas organised industry is being penalised by these controls and also by an increasing rate of taxation, dealers and middlemen, over whom the Government have apparently not been able to exercise any effective control, are left alone to exploit the situation without paying any tax on the profit they make in the black market. As an example of this kind of thing, I would quote the industry in which I am particularly interested—the leather industry. Ceiling prices for raw hides were fixed by Government over two years ago and recently by an order under the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance, leather prices were pegged in relation to the ceiling prices fixed for hides. With what leather there is available for civilian needs, it should now be possible to place in the hands of the actual consumer a really first class and durable leather shoe at approximately Rs. 12 per pair. But what do we find? At no place in Delhi or elsewhere for that matter can you purchase a durable pair of shoes under Rs. 20 per pair.

Another complaint which I have heard voiced is the manner in which the various controls and Government orders are enforced by officials who have apparently no conception of the disorganisation which results when orders are issued without any sort of preliminary notice to the industry involved. Again, I would quote an instance from my own industry and I would apologise for referring so much to the leather industry, but it is one, of which I have the most intimate knowledge. During recent years the chrome leather section of the industry in this country has built up a very large export trade with the United Kingdom and the Middle East countries. Chrome leather of a type not suited for the manufacture of Defence Services footwear in this country has, for the past four years, been one of the permissible items which can be freely exported, and tanneries, particularly those situated in the Madras Presidency have been exporting large quantities to the United Kingdom and to other Allied countries. Without any prior reference to the trade or to the organisation which represents the interests of the trade, a Government order was issued, in January last, prohibiting with immediate effect the export of this commodity. This Government order had the effect of disorganising entirely that portion of the industry engaged in the export business and resulted in the virtual suspension of production. The matter was taken up with the Department concerned and eventually permission was granted to resume exports. But no valid reason was put forward as to why the original order prohibiting export was issued. My information is that the order was issued due to a misunderstanding, but the point I wish to stress is that due consideration should have been given to the effect the order would have on the industry before it was actually issued.

Having commented on the existing controls, I now turn to the second part of my subject, namely, India's capacity to produce at least a portion of her requirements of vital consumer goods. The Honourable the Finance Member when presenting his Budget for the current year made it clear that no further increase in the overall quantum of war demands on India's resources can be made without running a grave risk of economic collapse in this country. He further went on to say that an early lightening of India's present burden was necessary in order to release for vital civil needs certain types of supplies and productive capacity. In view of these comments, I should like to hear from the Honourable the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies as to what Government are going to do to implement these proposals. The demands on industry for war purposes both in this country and elsewhere must, of course, take precedence but in view of the enormous increase in productive capacity, particularly in America and the United Kingdom, the question, I feel we must now ask ourselves, is, whether the load is distributed in the correct proportion after due weight is given to the productive capacity available in Allied countries and the demand arising from the population in those countries for consumer goods. Certain major industries in this country, which, in normal times, cater for the domestic markets, have been engaged 100 per cent. on war contracts for the past four years and the civilian population has been deprived not only of the supply of its indigenous products, but of imports of similar goods and this situation has assisted in no small measure the inflationary tendencies which are so apparent today. The practice of taking over the entire output of any one industry for war purposes does not appear to have been followed either in America or in the United Kingdom; for apparently it was realised at the outbreak of the war that civilian demands must of necessity be catered for in order to sustain public morale and to counter inflation. In this connection, I am able to speak with first hand knowledge as I visited America last year and had the opportunity of making a close study of certain industries whilst there. If, therefore, that policy was considered necessary in western countries, then, Sir, it is equally necessary in India in times like the present. I trust, therefore, Government will give early consideration to the necessity of catering for the increased demand for the thousand and one other consumer goods which have been placed out of the reach of the ordinary man, not alone by the anti-social

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practices referred to by the Honourable the Finance Member, but also by war time necessity in securing supplies for the armed forces.

Despite the rising tempo of the war and the enormous contribution the U.S.A. has made towards the common effort, she is already in a position or will shortly be in a position to turn over to an increasing extent certain of her industries to the production of essential items for civilian consumption. I have here a press cutting taken from the *Statesman* of a few days ago. It is headed "Reversion to civil production" and reads :

"Washington, March 4: Leading U. S. production officials believe that the War Department's demands for initial war equipment and supplies will have been met within 60 to 90 days. This fact is disclosed in a report of the Truman Committee on U. S. War production made to Congress today."

While emphasizing that production of many items of war equipment must continue at a high level after that period, the report adds :

"It is already evident that there are sufficient basic materials to supply not only war needs but also additional quantities for civilian use, except possibly in the case of copper where recent increases in requirements may reduce the surplus.

Actual reconversion is now starting or about to start. Increasing supplies of materials and a higher rate of cancellation of contracts make it evident that materials will soon have to be made available for further civilian production."

Then, Sir, we are told that America and the United Kingdom are giving attention, and in fact have actually commenced to manufacture goods for supply to countries which have been or will be freed from enemy occupation. If the war burden on this country can be lightened, India I feel should be given the opportunity to produce not only for her own needs, but for the future requirements of such countries as Burma, Malaya and China.

Industry in this country has a big task ahead of it and immediately, therefore, the Honourable the Finance Member has achieved his object of anti-inflation, I hope he will find it possible to restore conditions less onerous to industry as a whole, since, whilst taxation and the many controls are no doubt necessary for deflation in times like the present, it must not be forgotten that these measures are depressing and tend to remove any incentive for increased production. Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I propose to support this motion. The importance of providing consumer goods to the people of this country was stressed very strongly by the Gregory Committee. The Finance Member also admitted the usefulness of providing consumer goods as an anti-inflationary measure. But I feel that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are not giving sufficient attention to this subject; they merely talk of providing consumer goods but do nothing to help the industries which provide these goods. Two years ago I brought to the notice of this House the condition of an ancient industry in India situated in U. P. at Ferozabad, which has been neglected by the Government of India and the Provincial Government for more than two years. That industry is the bangle industry of India and it has suffered on account of various difficulties. The first difficulty it has met is the lack of coal. The Government of India do not take sufficient measures to provide coal for it; if there is coal the War Transport Department has not got wagons to carry that coal to Ferozabad. There are also other materials required for the proper conduct of this industry. It wants kerosene oil, for example; but the Government of India do not provide that with the result that for more than two years the people of that town have suffered. There are about sixty thousand workers engaged in that industry; they have been suffering from partial or total unemployment for more than two years, and no provision has been made by Government for unemployment insurance or unemployment benefit for these people.

Not only have the workers suffered, but the manufacturers also have suffered. I generally do not speak in the interests of the manufacturers but I feel

that they too are human beings and the Government of India should do something to help them also in this matter. Not only that; the merchants, too, who are engaged in this industry have suffered for two years, and they are found not only in Ferozabad but all over the country, in all towns and villages. There is no village in India where a small merchant does not make his living by selling bangles. It is not only that these workers, manufacturers and merchants have suffered, but the women of India, at least the Hindu women, have been exploited for more than two years. Generally speaking, every Hindu woman purchases bangles worth 4 or 8 annas or a rupee per year, and they are required in every town and village. But now the result has been that bangles which used to cost 4 or 8 annas or a rupee are selling at 8 or 10 times the former price. This is an exploitation of the whole womanhood of this country, who have to pay eight times the price for an article which they consider to be essential and cannot live without. I can understand the Finance Member taking deflationary measures, but taking up this particular deflationary measure, namely, the exploitation of the whole womanhood of India, is not only unjustified but cruel. The Finance Member takes away from the villages large sums of money by way of high prices paid for the bangles but is he justified in taking such high prices? It is a very unjust and unfair method of securing deflation at the expense of the women of India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Unfortunately I am afraid I do not take that money. If I could, I would.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member may not take the money but she is a co-partner with the exploiters.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The exploiters are also evaders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The exploiters take the money. They take Rs. 8 for an article worth one rupee, of which Rs. 7 go to the exploiter and at least one rupee comes to the Finance Member in the shape of income-tax and excess profits tax.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If I could catch them I would take all the eight rupees.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If the women of India are to be exploited I would prefer that money to go to Government rather than to the exploiters, but unfortunately the Finance Member has not got courage, as I said the other day, to take all the eight rupees to himself instead of giving it to private exploiters. I feel that the Government of India for various reasons have been neglecting this aspect of the question, and I suggest that they should now be very vigilant and prompt and take all the steps necessary which they can take to protect these industries which provide consumer goods for the people of India. They propose importing bicycles. I consider bicycles, of course, very useful things, but how many people in India can purchase bicycles? Their number is very small compared to the number who purchase bangles. They should therefore, protect bangle industry. If the Provincial Government is negligent and indifferent the Government of India should take upon themselves the responsibility of waking them up and bringing home to them their duty in this matter to the workers of Ferozabad and other parts of the country, to the manufacturers, the merchants and also to the whole womanhood of this country.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Laljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend on moving this cut in a very lucid manner and bold manner in order to protect the industries of India. I feel that this cut motion should more properly have been directed to the department of the Supply Member; in fact all these solid and valid arguments were levelled at the policy adopted by the Supply Department. I feel that this is just the right time to draw the attention of the Supply Department to the condition of our industries. Government must be given credit for encouraging them but it is also necessary that they should maintain them both for promoting the war effort as well as supplying the needs of the civilian population.

We know that at the beginning of the war and for now some years after that it was the policy of the Supply Department to take away for war needs as much as was available; and there was no idea in the minds of those who

[Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee.]

were carrying on these war activities that there was anything like a civilian population in India who would require any kind of supplies. We have done our part of the business quite well in so far as the war is concerned and that too at a very great sacrifice; in the cause of war activities we have not at all looked at the needs of the civilian population. While here is an instance which has been just placed before the House by my Honourable friend to show how America and England have been careful for civil supplies as well from the very start. Has anything of that sort been done here or even thought? It is a fact we have done a great deal for the war effort and at a great sacrifice to the people. We are proud of that. I ask the Honourable the Supply

12 Noon.

Member to consider very seriously the great object which my Honourable friend has placed before the House, namely, that all those industries which have been developed by us and have worked very well and have supplied so much of the war needs, should be maintained and kept up, and that if at all the orders are to be curtailed it is part and parcel of his duty, having encouraged those industries and having often assured the country that these industries have been brought with the laudable object of supplying both the war needs and the requirements of the country, to ask the Government for funds and to see that these industries are maintained, specially those industries which manufacture boots, bangles and other things which are required every day by the poor and middle-class people. So far as great industries are concerned, I do want that sufficient attention should be paid to them, although I admit that people who are concerned with those industries are powerful and they have a big voice. So far as the small and poor industries are concerned, they have really been often neglected and I do feel that the suggestion which has been put forward by my Honourable friend from the European Group is a very sound one and must be followed up. If orders are to be cancelled, care should be taken that all orders are not cancelled. There are many articles which could be kept in stock and for that the necessary planning must be taken in hand as also funds and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will not mind if even some stocks have to be kept for a little time as against having unemployment and the ruin of industries.

Then, Sir, I disagree with one remark of the Honourable the Mover of this motion. He said that control on the export of hides was put and then it was removed.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: I referred to prohibition on chrome leather.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee: Yes. I remember something that took place during the last Great War. People in Madras kept on this industry and exported leather even at the cost of needs of people in India. At present of course the whole position is different because up to now we have some demand for war requirements. But during last war they neglected the needs of the people of this country and entirely depended on foreign markets. What was the result? If my Honourable friend has been in this line for a long time, he should know that all those people who were dealing in hides and skins and chrome leather were completely ruined within ten years of the termination of the last war. The reason was that all the foreign countries began importing their stuff into India and at the same time the duties which had been levied on imports were also removed. Not a little finger was raised to protect those industries in Madras and in many parts of Bombay and other places. If the idea of my Honourable friend, the Member for Civil Supplies and Industries, is to see that more export than it is necessary does not take place, I would say that he should certainly but cautiously move in the matter rather than allow a lot of free export which might be at present paying to those people who have invested a lot or those who had suffered for a long time after last war. We should be very careful about our exports. Once again I appeal to the Supply Member and Commerce Member to see that exports are not allowed indiscriminately and that they should be restricted to the limit at which the requirements of the civilian population of India will not be affected and handicapped. I would like to make the same appeal to the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies. With these remarks, Sir, I

once again congratulate my Honourable friend, Mr. Inskip, for moving this motion and for the fact that he has so boldly moved it in the interest of industries in India, and at present time when many fear to talk about civil requirement with war requirement.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I support the opening sentence of the Mover where he said that the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Bill is over due. I have been pressing this point for the last twelve months. In fact, I gave notice of a Bill in connection with this anti-hoarding and anti-profiteering, but I am very sorry to say that the Government did not allow me to lay it before this Assembly. It is absolutely wrong that neither they take action themselves nor do they allow any other person to take action in the matter. (Interruption.) It required the permission of the Governor General in Council which was not given to me in respect of that Bill. Therefore, I say that I have got greater reasons to support this suggestion because I took action in this particular direction and the Government did not allow me to proceed with it.

Then, Sir, I support my Honourable friend Mr. Inskip's observation that the Government of India's method of action is very peculiar. In all matters of control they never make an inquiry; they do the thing first. As a matter of fact, inquiry should come first and action afterwards. But the method of the Government of India is different. This is what they do: To begin with, Ordinance is issued. After issuing the Ordinance comes action. And third comes thinking. That is what you call putting the cart before the horse. What is the result? Their method is absolutely topsy-turvy. They should follow the reasonable method. First they should make an inquiry about the matter and afterwards they should think over the result of that inquiry, then they should take the necessary action and experiment, and then, if necessary, they should issue an Ordinance. They follow the reverse course.

Then, Sir, there is one complaint which I have got against the Honourable Member who has moved this motion. He did not make sufficient enquiries himself when he gave his advice to Government about leather. I have had an opportunity of interchanging views with him and I told him that in many cases the advices that he has given during the last two years were not correct, and he himself failed in the matter in which he advises the Government of India today. He himself ought to have taken action in this matter in which he is asking other people to move.

As regards the point raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, I am sorry that he has never been in Ferozabad himself and he is influenced only by propaganda of some persons. I live close to Ferozabad; I had an opportunity of studying the matter. The present situation has arisen on account of certain individuals at Cawnpore. These very people who are complaining now gave sums of money in corruption and afterwards they ousted all those persons who had been there for centuries and these people who started their business as a war-time measure came forward and the others could not carry on the business themselves. At one time I thought of starting, in connection with the University, this glass industry, but I found that the methods which these people had been following at Ferozabad were such that I could not undertake it. So I say that Mr. Joshi had failed to understand the real situation there and he has been led away by the pamphlets issued by persons personally interested in these matters. They are interested in their own profit. These things require careful consideration before we accept the conclusion arrived at by a few Members of the Assembly, whom they approached. They wanted me to make a similar speech and I refrained from doing so as I knew the condition of affairs.

The next thing is that this is pressed as an anti-inflationary measure. This inflation is due to the action of the Government. You first start inflation and then afterwards you say how to solve it. Why do you create the problem yourself? Now you take measures how to stop this particular thing. In the first place you have raised the prices of all the articles and put in large sums of profits into the hands of these persons who are producing them, either as cultivators or suppliers of goods to the Supply Department or the Military Department. You put large

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

sums of money in their hands and then afterwards think out of the measure how to take out the currency notes from the possession of these persons who have got thousands only on account of your wrong action. Therefore, this inflationary measure is really due to the wrong action taken by the Government. Why not solve the problem direct? Why not take the steps to see that large amounts of these notes may not be hoarded and may not be in the possession of those people who have no business to get them? Of all the measures that the Government have thought of against this inflation, one is very peculiar. They want to take forcible possession of these notes from the cultivators and from the persons who have got them. This forcible possession under some name or the other is very undesirable. Therefore, you are creating a large number of problems in order to avoid a thing which you yourself have created and I have pressed, and I press now, and I will go on pressing till the Finance Member really sees things in their true perspective and not in philosophical theory that the real problem of India's finance which he must solve is that the purchasing power of the rupee should be fixed. As soon as that is done, the question of inflation will not arise and therefore all the measures you are thinking to remove inflation will not be necessary. Therefore I feel that the Honourable the Finance Member ought to be careful of financial theories, otherwise there will be a breakdown in the finances of this country. He could take active action to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee. The moment that is done, inflation will disappear and the moment inflation disappears all the measures we have been talking of as anti-inflationary measures will not arise. Therefore, we ought to take direct action.

The words 'direct action' are very dangerous words to be used in politics but I think in this particular case I should advise the Finance Member that he should take direct action so that inflation may not occur.

With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I regret I cannot share the glee of my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi and Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad, that a member of the European group has brought forward this cut motion as an anti-inflationary measure. From the language of the cut motion and from the quarter it has emanated I have reason to doubt the sincerity of this cut motion. (*Exclamations of "Oh! Oh!"* from the opposite side of the House.) I have no doubt, as the Honourable Member, Mr. Bhik Nairang, suggests, that it might be ultimately withdrawn if it should be considered to be really an important proposition that should be given effect to by the Government in favour of the country.

Sir, this motion for supply of more consumer goods is made as an anti-inflationary measure. Mr. Inskip, an Honourable Member of the European group, is perhaps the latest recruit to the corps of those who have been suggesting ways and means by which inflation could possibly be checked. For the last 2½ years and more we have been suffering from this inflation and cries from all quarters went forth to control it by procuring for the country industrial machinery or substantial goods such as Bullion to make it possible for the poor people, whose purchasing capacity has not been improved in any manner, to avail themselves at least of those very essential and necessary foodstuffs. Then I do not think the European Group raised any protest against inflation. They were chuckling over this increase of inflation. They did not suggest then to the Government that they must take measures . . .

An Honourable Member: How do you know?

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: . . . and make the consumer goods available to the general public.

Sir F. E. James (Madras European): My Honourable friend was not here when that suggestion was made to the Government.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: When, may I know?

Sir F. E. James: When my friend was absenting himself from doing his duties to this House.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I was sufficiently aware to read the speeches of my Honourable friends, the Members of the European Group. I do not think—I have even looked into the proceedings—that any protest came against inflation, nor was any suggestion made for the supply of consumer goods before this occasion from that Group.

But apart from that, as I was saying, the Honourable Mr. Inskip is one of the latest recruits to this propaganda of anti-inflationary measures and I suppose the one preceding this was the payment of Rs. 2,500 for a kiss. The Provincial Governments are taking the so called anti-inflationary measures, for example, by raising the sales taxes from $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 1 per cent., which tax would be levied on the very essential foodstuffs which are now beyond the reach of the poor people on account of the high prices. Again, Sir, the latest feat of the Government of Madras is that they would bring in even small petty dealers who were hitherto exempt from levy of sales tax over their transactions and also would include bullion and specie for the levy of sales tax. The framers of the Act, who I must say were the Congress Ministry, excluded bullion and specie from the operation of the sales tax.

The exclusion is now sought to be rectified, while the Honourable the Finance Member would sell some gold at a profit of 75 per cent. on behalf of the U. S. A. Government as an anti-inflationary measure, the Madras Government would levy a sales-tax of 1 per cent. in order to check the sale of gold. Even that is justified by the Government of Madras as a measure to check inflation. So, this is the kind of anxiety to check inflation. I am sure my Honourable friend's suggestion that consumers goods might be supplied as an anti-inflationary measure, is one of the varieties of the Madras Government proposals. Sir, some of us who have the time and the propensity to read what is going on in America and in Britain in regard to reconstruction plans and even in regard to the current construction plans, have learnt that there are four schools of thought in Great Britain. One is to see that no more industry is encouraged in India, that industrialisation must, as far as possible, be confined to Britain and of course, compulsorily in the United States of America, over which they have got no authority. Secondly, that if that is not possible to send external capital either the American dollar or Britain's sterling together with English talents to India in order to establish large scale industries. The third is that while large scale industries of key goods should be retained in Britain its distribution might be carried on by the Joint Stock Companies of Englishmen in India and smaller industries for demobilized technicians to be encouraged and in the meantime during the course of the war more and more consumer goods must be imported into India in order that there should be no scope or desire in India to establish or to encourage Indian industries. I am rather surprised that such a shrewd Member as Mr. Joshi should have missed the point.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The point is to encourage Indian industries.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: It is not said there. You must have looked into that. Let the Honourable Member who has moved this motion amend it by saying consumer goods of Indian manufacture will be supplied to India. That is not his intention and he is not going to do. He has explained during the course of his speech how in spite of all war efforts and war activities Great Britain and the United States of America are in a position to spare some consumers goods and that also for such goods the Government should place orders. Only such goods would be brought over to India. Does that mean encouragement of Indian industry? It is a direct challenge against any move of any post-war reconstruction committee to put forward any plan for encouragement of Indian industries? Now, Sir, let us examine what are the consumers goods of foreign origin which India cannot manufacture herself and without which India cannot get on or Indian citizens cannot get on.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What about Indian industries—bangle industry?

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I am afraid it is a feminine argument to talk of bangle industry.

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

Now, Sir, if instead of consumers goods you require the Government to import such of those manufacturing ingredients as are required for the improvement of existing indigenous industries, I can well understand that. For instance, for textile manufacture, colours, chemicals and so many other articles can be imported. Let the Government be persuaded to bring in some such goods in order that the existing indigenous industries may be improved. There is no mention of that. You want cigarettes and you want some luxuries, *i.e.*, fountain-pens, whisky, and such other articles which can easily be dispensed with and without which you can safely get on. Let me beg the Honourable Member to mention to me a dozen articles which must be imported either from the United States of America or from Great Britain, without which India cannot get on. I dare say he will not be able to do so. If he goes on preaching that there is hoarding and there is profiteering the Government were the first culprit in that respect. So far as hoarding of gold is concerned the United States of America was most guilty. Apart from that, so far as goods are concerned the evil started by the Government of India, in its colossal ignorance of the nature of articles, issuing freezing orders. They issued orders for articles which they did not require. If they require screws of two inches length, they did not know for what purpose those screws were required, issued orders that all screws of all sizes ought not to be sold. These goods ought to lie frozen up until a Government official arrived and he would not turn up until at least six months. The moment a notification is issued naturally such of those retail dealers whose names are not on the list of dealers with the Government would try to get hold of the quantities of such materials and hoard them. They will sell it at a price at which the market would take. So, the evil was first started by the Government through their ignorance in issuing freezing orders. There is an order for freezing motor tyres. Dealers in that commodity are crying that either their stocks should be taken away by the Government or they should be allowed to sell them. You cannot replace your worn out motor tyres. There are petrol rationing officers who would not move and who are as bulky as the Bloated Michilen tyre itself, who would not issue permits. You do not require that size of tyres for your military lorries. You do not require them for war purposes or for war transport purposes. Still you would require that these tyres should not be sold in open market. It does not serve any useful purpose except that both the goods got stuck up and they went into the black market. Any officer who uses motor-car would tell me how much difficulty he has to face in getting a motor tyre. Now, that is the way in which the things are moving.

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

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: With regard to the charge of profiteering may I know if the European firms and traders are free from this guilt or as a matter of fact any trading firm. Government encouraged profiteering as a seductive to the people to be war-minded. Government themselves felt it a great pleasure that these people are making money, because the Finance Member could ask his Income-tax officers to go and check the accounts of those firms and get the taxes. All this circle of evils went on and it is only this year that the Finance Member seems to have risen up to the evils of inflation and that after all that could possibly have disappeared either into the earth or into the native States or somewhere else.

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

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I am sorry that the Honourable Member who spoke last cast unnecessary aspersions on the sincerity of the European Group in bringing up this cut motion.

An Honourable Member: Why do you champion him?

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am not championing anybody. The speaker who moved the cut made it clear in his speech that he asked for a drive in

the production of consumer goods in this country, and I think it is desirable that we should take people and accept their word instead of casting any doubts on their sincerity because it does not help the consideration of a question which is very important from everybody's point of view in this country.

We are all selfish and I dare say the European interests also are selfish and they may like that some more consumer goods should be imported from England. But why bring that in when the Mover of the cut has made it absolutely clear that he was anxious that Government should do their best to encourage the production of consumer goods in this country?

An Honourable Member: With whose capital?

Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar: My capital, your capital, the capital of this country. If Honourable Members will have patience, I will make my point clear. It is no use having a *post mortem* examination as to why several controls have failed. I have been an advocate of control, and the constituency which I represent had been advocating control from a very long time, but the Government policy had been so vacillating that at one time those of us who had advocated control felt that it was dangerous to advocate control because Government did not know their own mind. As far back as August 1940 when the then Viceroy visited Bombay, I, as the Chairman of this Association, suggested that if the war was going to last long, it was better that the Government thought of measures for controlling production, prices, and, also if necessary, the varieties of cloth which it was necessary in the interests of the man in the street that we should manufacture and not luxury goods. Unfortunately, at that time there was a slump and the Government of the day wanted to continue the indent system for the purchase of cloth for military requirements and it took nearly a year when Sir Homi Mody took charge, that we had a conference in Bombay which was attended by Sir Homi Mody and Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar. They accepted the principle of voluntary control and asked us to place at the disposal of the Government a certain percentage of our looms first for the requirements of war, and, as Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar told us, if necessary, for the manufacture of standard cloth for civil consumption. There was again a slump in 1942 and the question of manufacturing cloth for civil supplies went into the background because prices fell. Every Tom, Dick and Harry, whether he was a barber, or bus conductor or tram driver, began buying things right and left because they expected that the prices would rise and they would make money. There were only a few people who thought that that was a short-lived phase, and that there would be a shortage of cloth. But Government made no move in getting this cloth off the market so that when the time came they could dole off this cloth at controlled rates and satisfy the civil demand. The trouble with control started when the Government passed the de-controlling order in respect of wheat. There was also the adoption of a free trade policy in certain parts of Northern India. While the Government of Bombay was trying to tighten their food control, we heard that the policy in certain parts of India had been changed and we began to feel whether Government had any consistent policy as regards control. That was why things went wrong. Later, Government came out with ordinance after ordinance bringing all sorts of articles under control, and published their intention to bring real articles under control. The moment their intention was announced goods disappeared from the market, from the shops, into private houses and motor garages, and the result was that when the Ordinances came there were already black markets flourishing in the country. Several controls went wrong and for this there is no doubt that the political situation is also responsible because bulk of the people are not willing to co-operate with Government. This vicious circle has gone on and some have been called exploiters. May I be permitted to express my thanks to Mr. Joshi for recognising that we manufacturers also have a right to exist? It is the first time that we have got this little consolation, this little acknowledgment from my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, who had hardly said a good word about manufacturers so far.

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

With all respect to the present Finance Member whom a large number of people have praised, I have got one little grievance against him. At all important conferences held I have hardly found the Finance Member present. Since the time I have been the Chairman of the Bombay Millowners' Association, we have had no personal contact with the Finance Member in Bombay. When Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Homi Mody held conferences for controlling textiles, they had always to say, "subject, of course, to what the Finance Department may have to say". No doubt there were some officers present, young, able officers of the Finance Department, but they were not in a position to deliver the goods on behalf of the Finance Department. Whatever agreement we came to with other Members of the Government of India the Finance Department was always free to take such action or such decision as it might deem fit. There was therefore no finality about the discussions at these conferences.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I hope the Honourable Member realises that the Finance Member suffers from the serious disadvantage of being unable to be present at more than one place at a time or work more than 24 hours a day.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I quite appreciate that, but I hope he will also realise that when his colleagues are carrying on important negotiations with an important industry it should be possible to take final decisions on the spot so that we may know where we are. That has not been possible except at the Textile Control Conference which was held in Bombay in June, 1943. That perhaps was the result of a telephonic communication when the Industries Secretary was authorised to come to an agreement with us.

Talking of consumer goods, my Honourable friend mentioned fountain pens and watches. But may I ask why import whisky at all? There is absolutely no need for the importation of whisky or the manufacture of whisky. Why was it announced that a certain amount of freight space would be allowed for importing whisky and that prices would be controlled at Rs. 19 or Rs. 20? I can understand whisky being imported for the fighting forces, but certainly the civil population in this country ought to go without whisky. I do not know if Sir Cowasjee Jehangir will agree with me, but the country can get along surely without whisky. I am rather serious about this, because many people have talked to me about it. When people are starving for cloth and other necessary things, why use freight space for the importation of such articles as whisky, and why announce it in advance that whisky was coming on, "Don't get disheartened. We are arranging for freight space for whisky." I appeal to the Treasury Benches that it is not a small matter, and that Government ought to know that in the administration of the country, in addition to, honesty and efficiency, an understanding of the psychology of the people with whom they are dealing is absolutely necessary. The Government of the day ought to look at this question from that point of view. If people have a feeling that all this anti-inflationary drive is in the interests of the U. K. and U. S. A., that is due to certain indications and telegrams from New York and London which have appeared in the papers and which have given the impression that what is going to happen is that we are going to be left in the cold storage and there will be a competition between the U. K. and the U. S. A. as to which country is going to supply goods, capital as well as consumer, to this country under the plea of consuming sterling and the dollar balances. There is ample ground for suspicion and that is all the greater reason why the Finance Department, the Industries Department and the Commerce Department should sit together and organise a very forcible drive for the manufacture of consumer goods in this country. I agree that the Central Government may not be able to achieve much but the Provincial Governments must be asked to get in touch with industrialists and tell them what consumer goods can and ought to be manufactured. Then capital will be forthcoming and the goods will be manufactured. There is sufficient industrial talent in this country and as recent events have shown sufficient scientific talent is also available in this country for the manufacture of goods which have not been manufactured up till now. That is the appeal I make to Government. This matter ought to be taken up seriously in the interests of the man in the street

and from that point of view I am thankful to Mr. Inskip for having given us an opportunity of placing our views before Government.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): At the outset I would like to congratulate my Honourable friend from Cawnpore, Mr. Inskip, on his unexceptionable speech. In fact, when I came to this House, I fully expected that this cut motion sponsored by the European Group will be a plea for more Brummagem from Birmingham, but having heard Mr. Inskip, I felt that it would be wrong not to take this opportunity to press home to the Government exactly where their faults lay in the matter of encouraging the manufacture of more consumer goods for the needs of the people of this country. My friend, Sir F. E. James, would, as usual, like me to explain the difference in the view point put forward by the Honourable Member representing Indian Commerce from Madras—it is true that the Honourable Member representing Indian commerce from Madras and I see eye to eye politically and in many other matters but on this occasion I feel that what little help can be got from any source in order to relieve the great pressure on the economic life of this country ought to be welcomed and conscripted, if possible. So far as my own province is concerned, it does happen that the primary producer does not get enough for his produce. The prices of primary products have not risen anything like what obtains in other parts of India and therefore, Sir, the producer who has all along been selling most of his output for obtaining ordinary necessities of life now finds no incentive to do so, because the quantum of consumable goods that are available to him in the market happen to be few, and the cost of what is at all available is prohibited and beyond his means. This is a basic economic factor and Mr. Inskip has rightly stressed that it is time the Government of India thought of ways and means of switching over to peace economy or at any rate pave the way for switching over to peace economy. There is no time more appropriate than now to consider this question. There are no doubt more important questions depending on the future of the economic position of this country and if I enter into a discussion of those questions at this stage, I am sure I will find myself at variance with that Group which has sponsored this motion. The forum for that is not on this occasion but later on, but if the problem is narrowed down to the scope which the Honourable Mover has outlined for it, I think a considerable amount of agreement can be found in this House for the proposals made by the Honourable the Mover. What has the Government been doing all along? On the one hand they have been trying their best, I suppose to the best of their ability, to increase the production of war needs. Lately, they have tried to control prices of civilian necessities by various Ordinances and as the Honourable the Mover very rightly pointed out, these control Ordinances only made the position of the availability of consumer goods for the average man in the street more difficult than it ever was. If I had an opportunity to dilate at length on the wrong angle from which the Government have approached this problem of control, I would be able to say a great deal. What the Government could have done much better was to control the few articles which are needed by the masses and which are very necessary for the man in the street from the time they were imported into this country or from the time they were produced until the time they went to the market rather than to impose a blanket control on all kinds of goods, which in the very nature of the staff and personnel available to the Government and the wide range of powers to be exercised, the control measures could never be brought into operation. Today, however, the position happens to be that the black market operator does escape and, if anything, Government is brought into contempt rather than their prestige is enhanced by these ordinances.

But to come back to the issue, the narrow issue, which I think was in the mind of the Mover of the motion, it is time that the Government got trading and commercial interests in this country together and drew up a list of items which are most necessary for the average man in the street, drew up a list of priorities and saw what could be obtained either here or from elsewhere and made available to the man in the street at proper prices. I have no desire to tread on the corns of my Honourable friend representing the Mill Owners'

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

Association of Bombay but I do maintain, Sir, that the millowners have contributed vitally to this misery of the consumer in this country and whether they are individually and solely responsible for that position or that the responsibility is equally shared by the Government is not my concern. I am not here to apportion blame but I do feel that it is time we enlisted the support of my Honourable friend representing the Mill Owners' Association to persuade the textile interests to reduce prices further and further, so that it will come down to reasonable proportions, perhaps just a hundred per cent. more than the pre-war level. That, I think, will probably satisfy the man in the street a lot more rather than telling him that they are not the criminals and that the criminals are the Government of India and a whole lot of retailers. We here cannot punish this Government for its delinquencies. No amount of censure motions and defeats would bring that fact home to them but we can ask our own countrymen, as I have asked sometime back in another forum, that they should realise their responsibility to the people of this country in the matter of bringing down the price of one of the most vital articles of consumer goods in this country, namely, cloth.

I should like to say one word about the bangle industry which seems to have caused lot of hilarity in this House, when my friend Mr. Joshi mentioned it. I am not concerned with the particular interests of the particular people in a particular place. Whether they come and seek the assistance of Members of this House to urge their claims on Government is a matter which is not within my knowledge but I do say here that so far as the bangle industry is concerned it is as important an industry as the fishing industry is for the maintenance of a proper navy. You cannot get efficient trained blowers that are needed by the glass industry but for the fact that there is a bangle industry flourishing in this country. And my Honourable friend on my left will bear me out because he has ample experience of glass industry in his part of the country and he knows that the Ferozabad blowers are in great demand in the glass workshops. The bangle industry is quite an important one in itself and it ought to be encouraged. In fact, every cottage industry should be encouraged, so that the common people would be able to buy something which is not merely very necessary but something which satisfied their aesthetic sense. After all, man does not live by bread alone or by the cloth that he puts on. Surely, I do not mean to exclude whisky within the range of things that are needed for catering to a man's aesthetic sensibilities unless it be that it magnifies his understanding and mellows his outlook.

Sir F. E. James: What the bangle is to a woman, whisky is to a man.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not in the same happy position as my friend Sir Frederick James. I am a teetotaller and I am unable to sympathise with him. My Honourable friend was talking about leather industries and somebody else talks about bangle industries. There are scores of things that are necessary. A list has to be drawn up. Will the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Civil Supplies, instead of manufacturing Ordinances, just get the people who are engaged in industry to come to his aid in this matter? Leave alone the Reconstruction Committee concerned with regard to post-war trade industry and will he get hold of those people who are interested in trade and distribution and those people who are manufacturing the goods that are ordinarily needed for the man in the street? Will he urge upon them to produce more and will my Honourable friend the Finance Member obliterate from his mind the Press Communiqué in connection with the capital issued by him some time back and not be troubled by the bottlenecks of transport difficulties which prevent him from encouraging the growth of such industries as will volunteer to come out and be started? Will he also help them instead of issuing orders that these shall be manufactured and those shall not be manufactured after such and such date? I shall have more to say about it later on and, therefore, I will not go into details now. But I think Mr. Inskip has, in a very limited way perhaps, but very usefully, focussed the attention of the public on the need for switching over from war to peace economy and for the immediate manufacture

and conservation of such consumer goods and to ensure their proper distribution. I think to that extent the House has to be grateful to him. The result depends on what the Government will do about it. Whether they are going to be merely content with control Ordinances or whether they are going also to do something by way of assisting production remains to be seen.

Mr. E. L. O. Gwilt (Bombay European): Sir, I will make but one reference to the speech of my Honourable friend from the Congress Benches. It was a typical and remarkable piece of "reconstruction" prompted no doubt by the Honourable Member's envy of the high reputation of the European manufacturer in this country. I would like to enlarge upon a point I made when I spoke in the House a few days ago and suggested that in substitution of the Anti-Profiteering and Anti-Hoarding Ordinance, another should be drafted, based upon the Prices of Goods Act in force in the United Kingdom. I said then that whilst I fully appreciate the difficulties that confronted Government at the time the Ordinance was drafted, and moreover, that it was an Enabling Order, nevertheless, I feel it to be a bad piece of legislation because it is being broken by so many people today. Indeed, I wonder how many people are faithfully observing its conditions. I realise also that Government have made clear the fact that it was never their intention to encroach upon profits, always provided that the profit now being made on the sale of goods closely approximates that made on the sale of the same goods before the war. Even this seems to me to be too vague to prevent evasion and puts the onus upon Government rather than upon the seller.

I raise this again for the reason that when the Commerce Member replied to the debate in which I participated, and he spoke after me, he made no mention of, what I submit, was a point worthy of consideration. As he was not in the House when I spoke, and as he made his speech very shortly after me, I well understand that he did not have an opportunity of dealing with this point. He will, therefore, I hope, forgive me for repeating it.

The Prices of Goods Act was, I believe, placed on the Statute Book of Great Britain in October or November of 1939, so that piece of legislation must have been on the anvil shortly after the outbreak of war and has undoubtedly played an important part in the effective enforcement of controls in operation in England at the moment. I hope, Sir, that my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, who has recently returned from England, will have an opportunity some time of telling us how controls in England are enforced.

Now, Sir, the Price of Goods Act provides for a basic price and a permitted price. That basic price, as I said before, if my memory serves me correctly, is the price at which goods were sold on the 25th of August, 1939; the permitted price is that by which the basic price is permitted to be increased under the Act, the permitted increase being identical with the increased cost of producing those goods. In other words, the precise increase in cost of production. Thus, the margin of profit permitted under the Prices of Goods Act is the same absolute profit as that made by a manufacturer or producer on the 25th of August, 1939, the same profit in pounds, shillings and pence or in rupees, annas and pies, and not the percentage of profit.

I would like to repeat that although the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance is an Enabling Ordinance, in so far as it applies to anti-profiteering, it is, I submit, a bad piece of legislation, because it is being broken by so many people, and the onus is thrown on the Government rather than upon the producer to sell his goods at no profit other than the absolute profit he enjoyed on the sale of his goods at the outbreak of the war. I also drew attention to the fact that in my view the reason why many of the controls in the country are not operating as effectively as they might is because the officers of the Provincial Governments, whose duty it is to enforce controls, are not as conversant with the spirit of the control as are those at the Centre who frame them.

The Drug Control Order, with which I have had some dealing, may well be more concise in some of its wording, the import of which, I know, is thoroughly understood by those who framed it. The provision to which I specifically refer

[Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt.]

is the one which lays down that a manufacturer, importer, wholesaler or retailer, must not withhold supplies, without reasonable cause, from a licensee. Licences are granted to certain persons to purchase drugs provided they have been in the drug business for a specified length of time. And that is an important provision because of the vast army of people who have come into the drug business since the war, many of whom have no establishments of any kind and do their business in any premises they can find and get about from one place to another on bicycles.

In view of the general shortage of drugs there is in the country, and the same applies all over the world, those who are the primary suppliers of drugs in this country, whether manufactured or imported, have had during war years to ration their sales within the volume of their stocks; such a necessity is an obvious one. It is admitted by those who framed the order that a reasonable

cause for not selling stocks to a wholesaler or retailer who may demand them is that he was not a regular purchaser from the primary distributor, at a given date in the past. There is no doubt, however, that a very large number of wholesalers and retailers in this country, who have managed to get licenses under the order, are under the impression that because they have a licence, they are entitled to purchase any amount of stock they require from whom and when they like and a good deal of disappointment results when they discover that a licence does not necessarily mean that a dealer can buy all he wants.

I give this illustration of one of the problems that has arisen under the Drug Control order, and which I feel need not, and would not have arisen, had the Centre had an opportunity of bringing together all the officers of the Provinces who administer the order, and explaining it fully to them. I have no doubt that this state of affairs applies not only to the Drug Control order but to others, but I quote it because it is the one with which I am familiar, and I suggest in the interests of every one concerned, firstly, no item of consumer goods be controlled, unless there is adequate provincial staff of the requisite intelligence available effectively to exercise the control, and secondly, that the Centre should not pass on to the Provinces details of the Control order, merely by rules and directives. I suggest they should bring the officers of the Provinces who will administer the Control together for one or two days to Delhi, or wherever the Centre of the Control is, and explain to them fully not only the letter of the control, but the spirit of it.

I am not prepared to contribute to any sweeping criticism, that controls generally have been inefficient or useless. There is no doubt but that the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance, despite its shortcomings, has done a very great deal to bring down the cost of consumer goods. I hope, Sir, the Honourable Member for Commerce will be good enough to deal with these points which I have raised.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I welcome this cut motion by the European Group and I say that the speech which was made in support of this motion was unexceptionable and there was not one attempt in that speech to discriminate between India and England. The question has two or three sides; one is, how far consumer goods are available in this country and how far they can be increased so as to become adequate; and lastly how far any imports may be necessary to make good the shortage. My own personal view, Sir, is that in a large majority of cases no imports will be necessary; consumer goods must be essential goods and not luxury goods. Consumer goods need not mean that goods should be imported; and therefore I agree with those who have protested against the importation of liquor into this country in the name of consumer goods. When Bengalis were dying of starvation, to import whisky and champagne or whatever it is (Interruption) I do not know, let my Honourable friend tell me, to import luxury goods when the country is dying of starvation is indecent. I hope the Government will take some lesson from the criticism which the public have rightly leveled against this kind of action. I also wish that people will not consider that razor blades are a luxury at all. They are 7 A.M. necessities and but for

those barbers who held a conference recently protesting against the importation of razor blades, everybody else will think that in mornings the blades save time and ensure cleanliness. I am not against the interests of any section of the country so long as luxury goods are not imported. If I consider anything a necessity I want to give priority to it over everything else, but I certainly do not want to give priority to whisky.

Then, Sir, I must congratulate my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, on his championing the cause of the bangle industry. I am sure the women of Bombay will raise a memorial to him and the women of India will join in it, thanking him for his championship of their immemorial rights to wear bangles. But my point about this bangle industry is different. I entirely dissent from my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's statement about the Ferozabad bangle industry. I have personally seen it. I have personally seen thousands of workers going out of employment. I am now fighting for the bangle industry to the extent that they are essential and they are also accompanied by the question of the employment of 60 thousand workers, of whom about 20,000 have already gone out of employment. I have personally seen that, owing to the shortage of the supplies of coal, kerosene oil and soda, which I am told are all essential for the manufacture of bangles, the people engaged in this industry were not earning much but they were simply able to get on. The whole city of Ferozabad might well be called Banglenagar on the lines of Tatanagar or Dalmianagar. The entire population depends on this industry, the Government neglect these workers. The workers think that Government are against them because instead of getting recruited to the army they are sticking to the work of making bangles. That is their fear. There are a lot of women workers also in Ferozabad and a large bulk of the population there is Muslim, for whom I am sure my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad would extend his support. I expect the support of my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, for getting coal, kerosene and soda for the manufacture of bangles there.

The second point which I wish to emphasise is that in the importation of consumer goods priority must be given to essential needs—food, clothing and drugs. I want that Government should primarily concentrate their attention on the growth of more food, on the production of more cloth and selling them both cheap, and also medical drugs. Many other things are necessary. These are primary necessities of life. (Interruption.) I know there are many other things, and their number is legion, but until we have made good the primary needs of the community, I am not even asking them to embark on the supply of any other. There is a good deal of suspicion in the public mind, to some extent fear may be well founded, and that suspicion is that the drive for imports of luxury articles has two advantages. One is that it meets the needs of our European colleagues in this House and outside and also it will to a fair extent liquidate the excessive accumulation of sterling. I do not know how far that is the object behind. But whatever the object, if first of all the needs of the people are satisfied by the growth of more food and manufacture of articles of necessity in this country and thereafter imports of necessaries are first provided, then I do not mind if even luxury articles for Europeans are made available. But the fundamental principle is not that any import should be called consumption goods. No consumption goods have any value except the primary needs of the masses of the people who are today starved of all the necessaries of life. I have got figures with me, which I shall show later on in a subsequent debate, that if the control had been properly exercised the cloth famine would not have occurred. Some time in July last year there was a total stock of ten thousand million yards of cloth in this country. I am willing to give my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, the figures and I am asking him to go into this.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, my Honourable friend does not know that the total production of textiles in this country is four thousand million yards.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: My Honourable friend does not know that it is six thousand million yards including handloom products.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is different.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: And four thousand million yards more were due to accumulations and hoarding, making ten thousand million yards in all. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, should know better.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do know better.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If he knew he would not talk like that. I will give my Honourable friend the figures. There were ten thousand million yards of cloth in this country when there was a cloth famine last year. I know his difficulties but I cannot sympathise with this kind of ignorance in a matter so vital to the people of this country.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): You take his place.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: My Honourable friend, Sir Ratanji Dalal, is going to recommend me; in fact he has been promising to recommend me for it if I voted with him in Government lobbies. The only difficulty is the portfolio. But that is by the way; I am now really on a more serious question, and that is that consumption goods must not be any goods which can be consumed but goods which the common people need badly and without which they would be reduced to a good deal of distress. Drugs are required but prices have gone up tremendously; quinine, for instance, has gone up 1100 per cent. higher. If you can have a drive for importation of essential medical products I will call them consumption goods. If that is done the object of this motion will be satisfied and from that point of view I entirely support this motion.

THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang) in the Chair.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.—*contd.*

Supply of Consumer Goods as a Means of Anti-Inflation—contd.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I have just only about half an hour's time to traverse the various points which have been raised in this debate. May I, at the very outset say that this Department is not even a year old, and the Anti-Profiteering and Anti-Hoarding Ordinance is not even six months old. For myself I do not want to take credit for what has been done and achieved in the Department, within this short time. But I would certainly like to abide by the decision of any judges after presenting all the facts of the case which I am doubtful whether I will be able to do in this House within the limited time at my disposal.

Sir, we had first to take up the question of textile control. At the time when we took our decision, the circumstances in the country were such—and here I am not entering into the question of allocation of responsibility. I am only explaining the actual fact—that at least nine to ten months of the entire textile production were in the custody of certain categories of people in this country. There was acute cloth famine which brought grave distress to the people of this country. Sir, it was not the fault of the Government of India that these gentlemen hoarded the cloth. But the Government of India had to deal with the problem of profiteering. What we have been able to do within the period of nine months is to distribute a vast amount of standard cloth after getting them produced in the different textile mills of India—a quantity more than it has ever been done in this country—and to bring about one uniform price for retail sale throughout India, no matter where it may be sold, only allowing

a very small margin of profit to the chain of distributaries. In the case of a commodity like textile, I consider that to be an achievement which ought to be considered by this House. There are no doubt some difficulties of maladjustment. We cannot deal too quickly with problems which arise out of iniquities of human society, out of the evil propensities in human society. We have to deal with established facts and the fact stands that in between the wholesale dealer and the consumer there are a number of distributaries. I know there is a land system in this country in which as between the tenant and the landlord there are 20 intermediaries. We have to deal with such a problem like this. It is not the case of a direct tenant under a landlord. We are trying our level best and we consider that the amount of profit we have allowed is quite fair. But if the complaint is that as between the consumer and the producer there are 20 distributaries, all of them in the field, then 20 per cent. profit is not sufficient for them. I think some of these intermediaries should go out of trade. You cannot probably deal with a proposition where as between the mill producer and the village consumer there are about 20 distributaries.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why do you allow them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is what we are trying to eliminate. I hope that the economic effect of the measures we have taken will make the intermediaries go away.

Sir, we have our administrative problems. I am not sure whether the Honourable Members of this House have seen the huge list of schedule of cloth prices which we have had not only to prepare but to get it printed and distributed all over India, to every Province. It runs over thousand pages and it is not yet complete. That is the administrative problem. I believe my Honourable friends will certainly allow a little bit of human limitations in dealing with a problem like that. We have difficulties of accommodation. I know it is impossible to find accommodation here at Delhi. We went to one of the biggest metropolitan cities, we could not get any accommodation even there. We had to requisition some accommodation and immediately came a fearful protest from some trade organization and some others. Then, there is the question of staff. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gwilt, referred to the Board of Trade. He referred to what Mr. Griffiths may have to say as his new experience. I would ask him to let me know staff which the Board of Trade had at the time of the war and compare it to the staff which we have today. You cannot possibly deal with the circumstances which are fundamentally different in our country.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Why did not the Government have the staff since the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Why did you not take steps in your power? Why did you not say so? I can go on multiplying the "whys". That leads us nowhere. I am dealing with the existing facts. Sometimes it happens that we select a staff, but we cannot get them. I am not saying anything against the Finance Department. Business houses from whom we expected a certain number of men are not able to spare their services. We wanted an industrial planning officer for the Industries Department, a most important work for the future of India. We considered an eminent businessman suitable, and we offered him the post, but we could not get him, and later on we had to get one from official circles within India.

Sir, my Honourable friend referred to various provisions of the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profitteering Ordinance and my attention has been particularly drawn to the Act in England. Sir, may I at the outset say that this Act in England fixes a certain basic price. My friend has adequately armed it by saying that whatever you may do you must have adequate staff of the requisite intelligence. Sir, any philosopher can write a thesis on that and I think it is almost equal to the argument, be fit and then govern your country. It is almost parallel to the same argument. We have to deal with realities as a Government. I claim that we are practically giving effect to the very provisions which this Act enunciates in England and with a small staff. But, Sir,

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

in England the price is easily ascertainable, the market is properly organised. In England there are more cities than villages, there you have not to deal with a vast country, and compared with India, England is a tiny little country. That being the position, the principles which might easily be acceptable to England may not be possible for a country like India. Secondly, the Board of Trade has for a long number of years had adequate staff to deal with this problem. As I have said, I am not entering into the question as to why we have not the staff, but the fact is we do not have them. We have to make the best in the present circumstances. As regards the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance, what we have done is this. It is quite true that in England there is a basic price, there is an increased price. We have accepted the same principles here. What we have done here is this. We say you charge the normal profit which you are charging before the war or you charge 20 per cent., whichever is less. We are allowing a margin of 20 per cent., but if you have to charge more, then instead of going to the Board of Trade as in England, please go to the Controller General. That is the only difference. We have only substituted the Controller General in place of the Board of Trade. In England they must go to the Board with a view to get proper parity of price in consideration of the present circumstances. I consider that is the most rational arrangement in the circumstances like the present. We have fixed the normal trade profit; if it is less than 20 per cent., it will be 20 per cent. If it is more you must go to the Controller General. Why do we fix 20 per cent.? Because we consider 20 per cent. is a fair limit for everybody so far as profit is concerned. If on the other hand it is not sufficient, there must be some organisation to check as to whether a price of over 20% is a proper and suitable price, and let me say that we have in many cases allowed more than 20% because we are satisfied that in so far as the particular trade is concerned a profit basis of 20% is too low. It is certainly a difficulty for the trade and businessmen to go to the Controller General and get a decision. I agree there but we are living in abnormal circumstances and that is unfortunately a contingency which we must inevitably ask them to bear for the time being.

It has been said that among luxury goods price control is unnecessary and among these goods are fountain pens and watches. I am not an economic scholar of that repute by which I can really find out whether fountain pens and watches can come under luxury goods: or whether it is possible for me to find out which goods should be for the poor and which for the rich. My friends will admit that the market frailties are as much present in England as in India. I am quite prepared to hear any cogent reasons to make the administration feasible. It has been said that we should consult trade. We have been doing it. We have been constituting advisory panels in the different trades. We have not been able to deal with all but we are quite prepared to see that the industries, traders, commercial men and businessmen flourish in this country, but not at the cost of the consuming public by asking them to pay much more than they ought to. Having regard to this principle, we are quite prepared to consult them and we are consulting them. As a matter of fact, the life of the Member in Charge of Commerce and Industry for the last few months has been a long series of receiving deputations as regards export and import quotas, distribution of film and paper, price controls and various other measures. As to the question of the prohibition of certain exports suddenly, even this villainous Government after doing it thought it necessary on receipt of a representation of relaxing the measure for some time to come. I am perfectly certain I shall not be told that that control measure was unnecessary. We have to look to the condition of the civilian market as a whole, not today but to-morrow also. If we allow any article to go abroad, whether it is a finished goods or a raw material, without taking into consideration the existing or the future production of stock, it will be difficult for us to check the tendency already in the field and to provide consumer goods for the public.

I fully agree that the time has come when we must try to look to the question of India's capacity to purchase more consumer goods. I am sure no one in this House will deny this, not even the Members in the Treasury Benches, who have been considered no more than traitors to the country, and who for the last six months have spent many busy hours with a view to find out a suitable plan which might meet the exigencies of the circumstances in so far as the industrial development in the country is concerned. It is with a view to bring the switch on from war to peace that efforts have been going on between the Supply Department and my Department, between the Finance Department and our Department, to find out the different avenues which might be open to minimise the difficulties of that stage. Much more civilian goods are being released. It may not be known. Woollen cloth has been released. Boots and shoes are being released and 50 per cent. of the indigenous production will be soon in the market for civil requirements.

Sir F. E. James: Will the price of shoes be fixed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are trying to look into the question of the price when we are releasing. We have done it in the case of wool. We are making the woollen dealers sell at a price fixed by us and keep a schedule open. Nearly 50 per cent. of the rubber shoes will be available. Our immediate aim is to release 75,000 tons of cement for civilian needs, gradually raising it to 100,000 tons a month. We are gradually releasing more and more paper in order that the market may not be disturbed. I do not want to give you the actual figures today. It is dangerous for me sometimes to give figures.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): It is not in the market.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At least, even now I have seen publications which should never have been published.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Member referring to his experience in railway bookstalls?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I belong to a family that has been printing and publishing books for years. I know the situation in every stage very well.

The same may be said in the case of matches, cutlery, timber, enamelware, electric lamps, steel. It is not necessary for me to refer to all these details. I can assure the House that we are taking every step either to increase production or to release the quantity produced or to get more for civilian consumption by getting the defence needs from abroad, if possible.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Electric lamps also?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the electric lamp is concerned, the entire indigenous capacity will be released for civilian consumption.

As regards the import of consumer goods, I have never been able to find out the proper value or the medicinal property of whisky and other liquors. I know many friends of mine do and when I have to deal with consumer goods I have to deal with some part of them also. There are many who find their temper and morale levelled by taking a peg of whisky. At the same time do remember that when a small quantity of this whisky and other drinks are imported the largest part of the price goes to the Government revenues because the excise duty is very high and therefore

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That is all very unconvincing.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very uncomfortable for those who want a lower price for it! For the last few weeks I have been telling this House about the nature of the commodities that are being imported, but I cannot understand why everybody will hang round a peg of whisky, because there are so many articles in the list which are so essential. I do not want to tire the patience of House by enumerating them.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How much space was allowed to whisky?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am prepared to answer that question, but I can tell you that it was very very small. I hope the House will devote themselves less to whisky than to other goods.

Sir, my policy so far as I am concerned is that anything imported as consumers goods must be an essential article. It must be available in the exporting country, because there are some for which we are anxious, but we cannot get them. It is not my fault. Then, Sir, the production, if any, here must be insufficient, and then it must be required for the needs of civilian public. Then it must be remembered that this import is not a *magna charta* or a permanent settlement: it is changed every quarter or every six months. Therefore, even though you might import little things for six months, they are going to be reviewed a few months hence having regard to the situation of the country. Fundamentally it is the declared policy of the Government of India that any import must not affect Indian industries at any point. Sir, this is the very fundamental attitude with which we are approaching the situation. As I said before we are fully conscious of our responsibility, more so, most so, because those who are in opposition are not quite prepared to accept our places. We are firmly conscious. Well, Sir, I assure you that whatever we do we do it with a view that the Indian industries may prosper and develop and that Indian industries may not be affected. All our efforts are directed to achieve that objective.

Sir, with regard to the Hoarding Ordinance I may say that we have already penalised any sale beyond the fixed price of a number of articles. I do not want to go into the details. But a large number of cases have been prosecuted. I know of a province where in the evening detection was made and the next morning it had the desired effect. Sir, we want that example to follow. Some of my friends suggested why should not we hold Provincial Conferences. I wish the Honourable the War Transport Member were here. It is impossible for us to hold a number of Conferences on each and every matter. Within the last three months, I know, how many Provincial Conferences have been held. Now, we have done the next best. We have sent the Controller General with a view to explain the position to the press, to provincial officers, to Chambers of Commerce, and if my Honourable friend has got himself in touch with the newspaper he will find out that the Controller General has been on constant tour during the last four or five months with a view to explain the principle behind the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profitteering Ordinances. There have been cases in which there has been detection of sale beyond fixed prices, there have been cases where there has been detection of excessive possession, refusal of cash-memo. But, Sir, I hope you will not ask for the impossible to be done in the course of a few weeks. Tendency which has been accumulating for so many years cannot be checked in a day, nor is it possible to deal adequately with the situation immediately, as some Members have said that immediately the prices of articles are given out those articles go to the black market. It is, therefore, too much to expect us to deal completely and finally with the situation immediately.

My time is almost up. I have got a few minutes more. I will, therefore, only refer to the glass-bangle industry. I think, I will be guilty of a grave omission of my duty if I do not refer to the glass-bangle industry which has created a statue for Mr. Joshi according to Mr. Mehta. If it is a fact that there has been so much dislocation of labour, if it is not possible for labour to be diverted to anywhere else, it is a matter which is certainly worth consideration to find out some remedy for it. A question was put only today.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Two years ago, I asked a question about this.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I put this question six months ago.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At least there has been a gap of six months. In any case, so far as these matters are concerned, the Government of India must depend upon Provincial Governments as to what steps should be taken. I can assure my Honourable friends if there is any representation from

the Provincial Governments and Provincial organisations, we shall certainly take steps to meet the situation. But it must be remembered that at times we have been in most critical and difficult position to find out where the coal should be sent, whether it should go to factories which supply electricity to civilian population, to industrial concerns, or to steel production or to the factories producing drugs and medicines or to the textiles which is producing standard cloth and various other types of articles. We have, it must be remembered, to find out the relative priority of those articles. If by some chance or other we find we are not able to meet a particular case or it is difficult to make proper adjustments for all, I wish we had abundance of goods and abundance of transport facilities. Having known that we have to meet the position as best as we can, yet I can assure you, if we know the actual unemployment and the effects of the efforts made to meet some aspects of the need, I at least would be prepared to bring this matter to the notice of the Honourable the Labour Member and the Honourable the War Transport Member. All I wish to say is that it is extremely difficult for Government to supply to all at one time. We are constantly watching the situation. I can assure you that not only the War Transport Member but every Member of the Executive Council twice or thrice every week has to very carefully study the whole situation and we are constantly cognisant of that position.

Sir, I wish Sardar Sant Singh practising in Lyallpur would help me in finding out how distribution can be made. I am quite prepared to place all my cards on the table, I shall also place all the cards of the War Transport Member on the table, if my Honourable friend with a robust mind can bring out a robust solution, I will accept it.

Sir, I have tried to show that in so far as these various control measures are concerned, not that we have been able to achieve every thing which we wished for within the last one year, but we have tried at least to check the tendency of profiteering. We have at least made those who are profiteering, conscious that they will not be able to go on with profiteering tendency in this country any more, and in many cases we have been able to bring down the prices. After my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, spoke the other day about cloth control price, I went myself to the shopping centre here. I saw the price of a textile marked at -/15/9. I can assure you, Sir, that six months before I could not get exactly the same article for less than Rs. 2. We have been able to do something. The best cloth for suiting is available for about -/15/- a yard and the *Khakhi* which was sold at 1/10/- to Rs. 2 is now in the market for annas twelve. I think everybody will admit that at least in the textile section we have been able to do something. But if there are some who do not like us, no matter, who commits fault, no matter what may be the existing constitution *vis-a-vis* the Provinces and the Centre, no matter how vast the country we have to deal with, no matter what we do good, bad and indifferent, for those, who do not like us, I have no answer for them.

Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is :

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. A. O. Inskip: I beg leave to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw his motion?

Several Honourable Members: No. No.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is :

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): It is now the turn of Un-
3 P. M. attached Members to move their motions. Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I wish to move cut motion No. 146 on the main list.

DEMAND No. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of the 'Department of Labour'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of the 'Department of Labour'."

Government Policy in dealing with Questions affecting the Interests of Indian Labour.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

This cut motion is being moved in order to discuss the policy of the Government in dealing with questions affecting the interests of Indian labour.

Sir, the conditions under which Indian labour has to work are extremely unsatisfactory compared with those that exist in other countries of the world. The hours of work here are too long, the wages in India are too small, and there is almost an utter lack of provision against sickness, unemployment and old age. These extremely bad conditions under which Indian labour has to work are the result of a policy of neglect followed by the Government of India. Their policy has been, if I may say so, a policy of inaction. Where they think of taking some action, they are very slow in taking that action, and when they actually take action, the measure is so small and inadequate and timid. If you study the history of labour legislation in this country you will find that after the Royal Commission on Indian Labour reported in the year 1930 the Government of India passed some measures of labour welfare which I may consider measures of some importance. They reduced the hours of work in factories, improved the Factories Act to some extent. They improved also the Workmen's Compensation Act, passed an Act called the Payment of Wages Act, they reduced the hours of work in Indian mines, and also enacted a law for controlling emigration to Assam. But, Sir, afterwards the Government of India has not passed any measure of importance during so many years. I feel that the miserable conditions under which Indian labour have to work are the result of this unsatisfactory policy. The conditions under which Indian labour was working before the war were unsatisfactory, but they were allowed to be worsened during this war. When the war came the Government of India permitted by notification longer hours of work in Indian factories in order to have more production. I am not against more production, but in India labour supply is so plentiful that there was no need for Government to permit longer hours of work in factories. Not only that, if more production was necessary the Government of India should have introduced the shift system in Indian factories. The only thing that was necessary was that labour should have been paid well. What has happened is that since the war the cost of living has gone up but the Government of India did not take measures to see that labour got adequate compensation for the increased cost of living. It is true that in the case of some organised industries, though not very adequate, some substantial compensation was paid to the workers for increased cost of living. But that is confined only to some very big and organised industries. In the case of unorganised industries the workers did not get sufficient compensation for the increased cost of living. This is specially so in the case of industries where backward classes are working, such as, on Indian mines, on Indian plantations. Not only that, but during the war the Government of India should have permitted real wages to go up in those industries where the wages, generally speaking, are sub-standard. The Government of India did not do anything of the kind.

As regards wages in India, the wages vary from industry to industry, town to town and the Government of India have not taken any steps to see that there should be some standardisation of wages. The Government of India have appointed a dearness allowance committee and that committee has reported but the Government of India have not even published that report. I feel the policy which the Government of India has been following in this respect has

been unsatisfactory. I have referred in this House several times to the occasional unemployment which takes place in this country on account of the shortage of coal and such other supplies. This question was discussed at a tripartite meeting. It was decided that when unemployment of this kind takes place, there should be some compensation. The Government of India should have issued an Ordinance fixing some compensation to the workers during this enforced idleness and unemployment. The Government of India have done nothing of the kind.

Then, Sir, the Government of India, as in other countries, during the war passed what is called the Essential Services Ordinance and the National Services Ordinance imposing restrictions upon the right of the workers to leave their job when they wanted to leave. I know that this kind of restriction is placed upon the rights of workers in other countries also but in other countries like Great Britain great care is taken to guard the interests of the working classes in essential services and in services which are known as national services. I feel that the policy which the Government of India has been following in this matter is unsatisfactory. The protection given to the workers in essential services is not adequate. I know of instances where workers in essential services have been discharged and dismissed without any reason and without their getting any protection either from the Government of India or the Provincial Government.

Then, Sir, taking advantage of this war, the Government of India have restricted the right of the workers to go on strike. Here again, I agree that during the war strikes should be avoided but the Government of India has not taken sufficient steps to protect the interests of the workers, if the workers are not to go on strike. The Government of India have made arrangements for adjudication but this adjudication is not obligatory either on the Government of India or on the Provincial Government. They appoint adjudicators at their sweet will. The adjudication takes a long time and thus the workers' interests are not protected.

Some days ago, the Government of India appointed an officer to go into the question of health insurance. That officer has made a report. The report has been lying in the department for nearly six months. It has been shelved. The Government of India is consulting the Actuary. The actuaries are taking their own time. Then, the Government of India will take their own time. In the meanwhile the working classes in this country are suffering.

The Government of India some time ago appointed a tripartite organisation in order to consider labour questions. I welcome that step but that tripartite organisation, in my humble judgment, can only produce effective work if the work is properly done. In the first place, the organisation does not meet as often as it should. They call only one annual conference. Then the standing committee of the conference only meets twice in a year. I feel that the organisation should meet more often. Then, Sir, when that organisation discusses a question I feel that the Government of India should arrange that reports of the action taken on the discussion that takes place in the tripartite organisation should be made and should be discussed, so that progress will be watched and action taken. If this tripartite organisation is to do effective work, it should have a staff of its own. There should be an independent Chairman and there should be at least a whole-time Secretary for that organisation, so that, if the Secretary has got enough staff there will be interim reports made regarding the progress and more action will result. I feel that as the labour conditions in India are very backward and they have become worse during the war, the Government of India should now change their policy of inaction. The Government of India should act hereafter vigorously and take prompt measures. Not only they should take vigorous steps and act promptly, they should act boldly also.

The time for timid action has gone. We are talking of big things happening after the war and if these big things are promised and if they are to result in some progressive action, then the Government of India have to take proper measures to see that the big things for labour will also result. The Government:

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

of India have appointed reconstruction committees and they have appointed a public health committee. I thought that the Government of India would constitute a committee like the Public Health Committee to consider labour questions. I know that the Government of India have appointed now a small committee consisting of three officers. I do not know how long that committee will take to report but I know that if a committee of three is appointed and if it makes some report, that report will have again to be considered by a representative and authoritative body. It will take long. What I want to suggest to the Government of India is this—that whatever may be their machinery for considering these problems that machinery must act vigorously and promptly and they must also take bold measures. I would like the Government of India to consider a report like the Beveridge report and on the model of that report, they should get proposals framed and considered. I am not suggesting that the Beveridge proposals will suit India without any change but what I want is that prompt measures should be taken and vigorously executed. We want the hours of work in India to be reduced. We want the wages to be brought to the level of other countries. Standard of life of the people of this country must go up. We cannot for ever live in misery.

Then the Government of India have to consider the question of social security. We have heard a great deal of social security in words but what is necessary is action. I would therefore like the Government of India to make plans for social security and these plans must be made promptly. For this purpose, the Government of India machinery itself must be well equipped for its task. I heard this afternoon complaints that the Government of India did not have large staff. It is not like the English Board of Trade, and the Honourable the Finance Member also said that his machinery was not well equipped for the task of preventing inflation. I am not prepared to hear such complaints from the Government.

If the Government of India machinery is not well equipped, let them equip it well. For that purpose, I would suggest that they should have an exclusive Labour Ministry. At present, we have a Labour Minister, a very able man and a friend of mine too. But, Sir, we want a Labour Minister who will be quite content with looking after labour matters only. We do not want the Labour Minister to look after Public Works, Geological Survey and ten other things. We want him to give his exclusive attention to the labour questions and we want a Labour Ministry on the lines of the Labour Ministry in Great Britain. We do not want only the Labour Minister, but we want the Labour Minister to have the adequate staff. The Government of India's machinery is inadequate for considering labour matters promptly and vigorously. Since my friend, Sir Andrew Clow, left the Government of India, without any disrespect to any individual of the Labour Department, I must say that the Labour Department is very poor in people who have the knowledge and experience of labour questions. This is due to the wrong policy which the Government of India is following by transferring people from one duty to another and by changing people from their duty. If the staff of the Government of India is to do its work well, they must keep their staff on that particular work for some time at least till they become experienced. The Government of India must not change them for some time, so that they will have a staff which is well-equipped for the work which they are to do. Then, the Government of India should have a sufficient number of officers in their Department. Take the Ministry of Labour in Great Britain. They have hundreds of officers. And take the Labour Department of the Government of India. I do not think they have got even a dozen officers. The Government of India should have many more officers and I will tell you what work they should do. I want the Government of India to have one officer to consider the question of factories. You will say that factories is a provincial subject but it is the business of the Government of India to co-ordinate the activities of the provinces. If there is no co-ordination in India, how can there be an all-India legislation and all-India progress? I want the Government of

India to have one officer who will deal with the question of wages; I want another officer who will deal with the question of industrial housing; I want another officer who will deal with the question of industrial health; I want another officer who will deal with the question of unemployment; I want another officer who will deal with the question of old-age pensions. There are several questions which I have not yet named and which must be considered if the welfare of Indian labour is to be protected. I know that the Government of India recently appointed Labour Welfare Officers and those Labour Welfare Officers are doing some useful work, but the Government of India does not take steps to see that the advice of these Officers is enforced. The Government of India must issue welfare orders as the Government of Great Britain does. I, therefore, feel that the Government of India should be well-equipped to adopt a vigorous policy and a bold policy.

When His Excellency the Governor General spoke to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, he expressed solicitude for the welfare of the Indian masses. Some people consider that that is an indication of a policy of social progress which the Government of India propose to follow. I hope those indications will be realised. But I want to tell the Government of India and also His Excellency that the working classes in India will judge them not by the soft words which they use but by the actions which they take. Sir, I have done.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Department of Labour’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely, Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I support the motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. I am greatly interested in the conditions of the working classes perhaps because I belong to that section of humanity, called women, who themselves suffer from many disabilities, social, economic and political, and can understand and sympathise with the people who try to overcome similar and other disabilities. I feel that the policy or lack of policy of the Government regarding labour is prejudicial to the interests of the workers and beneficial to those of the employers. My subsequent remarks will explain why I hold that belief today. The Government of India, as a rule, are indifferent to the welfare of the people of the country, and particularly to those voiceless people, the working classes. And unless the workers make an incessant demand, the Government do not feel obliged to attend to their grievances. But before considering the matter, the first thing that the Government of India do, is to place behind the bars some of the prominent leaders of the Trade Union who try to organise the working classes. That, however, is a habit of the Government of India. They cannot consider any demand of the people unless they place at least a few of the prominent leaders who put forward that demand behind the prison bars before they give their attention to the matter. After they have silenced them, they make a few promises. But before they fulfil any promise, they must appoint a committee to examine the question, and after the committee has presented a considered report, they must take time to study it and by the time they come to a decision whether the recommendations of the Committee should be given effect to, there is need for another committee. And so this process goes on. Meanwhile, a few of the leaders die in prison and a great number of the workers outside, especially women and children, die in their hovels or in the streets. It is because I know that conditions among the working classes are so bad that I speak on this motion today.

The Royal Commission on Labour is ancient history, but the Government of India have still to give effect to some of their recommendations. I wonder if the Honourable Member for Labour is aware that even here, very near us in Delhi, there are a few factories for making ball-thread, where about three to four thousand women are working in most appalling conditions. I visited some of these factories only yesterday and I was amazed that next door to the grand Capital of India there were places where human beings should not live and should not work. The women who work in these factories come there at about 7 A.M. and stay there till about 7 P.M. and they then earn a miserable pittance

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of 6 to 8 annas a day. I accompanied some of these working women to their huts. The moment they return home, they get busy with domestic work and they have hardly any rest. Sometimes when there is a great demand for ball-thread, they are summoned from their homes at the early hours of the morning, say 4 or 5 A.M. It was pathetic to see their condition. I understand that the provisions of the Factory Act are not applied to these factories. These women do not know their rights and the employers are, therefore, able to exploit them as much as possible. Even this little wage of 6 to 8 annas which they get is sometimes decreased by the imposition of fines. If accidentally the thread breaks, the worker I believe is fined one anna. I could tell this House more about their sad state but for want of time I shall pass on to other matters. In this connection, I must, however, respectfully submit to my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi that it is not increase of officers that will help workers. A change of policy on the part of the Government is necessary for improving the conditions of the working classes. In the case of these factories in Delhi itself, I am sure the Government of India have got enough staff to see that the factories are run according to the terms of the Factories Act. But why have the provisions not been applied to them? Surely it is not because they have not got sufficient officers.

Now, Sir, coming to the present committees, the Government appointed the Rau Committee and I understand that the Government are still in the process of slowly giving effect to these recommendations and by the time they complete it, I suppose the war will be over. There is the dearness allowance Committee. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has already pointed out that the report has not been published and nobody knows what the recommendations are. Yesterday, Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, expressed great sympathy for the social disabilities of the scheduled castes. May I ask him whether he and the Government are aware that the scheduled castes form a good portion, if not a major portion of the working classes? It is not mere sympathy alone that counts, we want positive proof of their sympathy. After listening to the debate yesterday, I gathered that the only benefit that the scheduled classes had was that their representatives were on some Reconstruction Committees and they will be given places on some other Reconstruction Committees. He forgot to mention that they had representation also on a Group which was sent to America and Canada to attend the meetings of the Pacific Relations Committee, but really to present a rosy picture of the present regime in India and to defame the Congress! But is that sufficient? What have the Government done really to improve their conditions in life?

Except when the Government remember the advice given by my Honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party, they point out to this House and to the country that a great world war is in progress and that the primary function of this Government is to prosecute the war successfully. Yet, they themselves forget that they should formulate plans and base their actions on these plans which should meet any new contingencies that may arise, during this very war. Take for instance the coal problem. If the Government had a proper co-ordinated plan for the production and consumption of coal, we would not have been in such a serious position today with regard to coal. When the situation with regard to coal became very grave, the Government of India feeling helpless, turned to the coal mineowners for advice. These colliery owners, like the generality of employers all over the world, are mainly concerned about their assets and profits and from what has taken place, I gather that they impressed on the Government of India that the only remedy was, first that they should be excused from paying a share of their profits to the Government for prosecuting the war and that they should be allowed to exploit the families of their workers also. It is marvellous how rapidly Indians get infected with inertia when they become members of the Government and accept readymade decisions. One would have imagined that a Government which poses as the trustee of an ignorant and a stupid people would at least not dare to shock world opinion. The country knows that the Government of India are capable

of ignoring or suspending their own laws. But to take the step of breaking an international convention is a very serious matter indeed and in spite of all the experience I have had of the Government of India, I would not have thought that they would have shocked world opinion in this manner. The excuse they give is exigencies of war. But how can the world accept such an excuse when no other country which is fighting this war, has allowed women to be employed for underground work in mines, a work which has been universally condemned as inhuman.

Sir, it was in 1934 that an International Labour Conference considered this subject of prohibiting women from working underground. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, and myself were at that conference, and, I, alas, was attached to the Government delegation. I would never have accepted the invitation of the Government of India had they not assured me that they advocated the prohibition of the employment of women for underground work in the mines, and that I was free to express this opinion as strongly as I could do at the conference. The conference appointed a Committee to examine and report on this subject and to draft a convention. This Committee, perhaps as a compliment to the Government which was advocating the convention, though it had until then permitted women to be employed for underground work in mines, elected me as rapporteur of that Committee. The Government of India, therefore, had the privilege of presenting the convention to the conference at its plenary session and having it unanimously accepted. The Indian employers did not then dare to oppose it as the delegations from all over the world entirely supported it. I am mentioning this at some length to show how serious is this breach of the international convention. The Government of India sent a delegation to support this convention and it was presented to the conference by the representative of the Government of India and therefore, this action of the Government is more unforgivable.

My Honourable friend the Member for Labour says that the Government of India were very earnest when they signed this convention and that they had considered this matter for over a decade. It is very sad indeed that contrary to the belief that time brings progress a later Government of India reintroduces a most reactionary and cruel measure which is entirely opposed to the convention that they themselves had previously advocated. My Honourable friend says that he is unhappy about it. That is very poor comfort for these miners and for those who sympathise with them. The real reason, if I may say so, for the unhappiness of my Honourable friend is that he cannot satisfy his own conscience that he is justified in being a party to this measure. Sir, if there is no other reason for censuring the Government, the coal position of today is sufficient to condemn the Government for neglect of their duty.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, I rise to support this motion and I do so for three important reasons. The achievements of Government in the interest of labour of India since 1921 are not altogether insignificant, but they are not at all adequate. I therefore press for adequacy. After 24 years of world-conscience awakening to the condition of labour the Government of India are still far backward. I know that the number of Geneva Conventions they have accepted is very large. But the action taken is half-hearted and halting. And even as regards those Conventions which they have accepted they are worked very unsatisfactorily. Apart from these Conventions the Government of India have done something on their own initiative; and particularly since the advent of the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar some one or two important measures have been taken, although they have not yet reached the stage of finality. The one thing which is to his credit is the establishment of the tripartite Labour Conference; but I beg of him that it should be brought up to the level of the International Labour Conference at Geneva and even improved upon. It is not enough that you make a good beginning, you must further work it up until it comes up to international standards. I wish to tell my Honourable friend that his tripartite conference still lacks very much in that direction. In the first place he sits alone as the sole judge of right and wrong and he alone gives the directions. My request to him is that he should direct himself to that final

[Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta.]

executive power, at least within limits, and that the decisions of the conference must be taken as binding on Government and not merely advisory,—at any rate binding in some respects if not in all. That will be the first step towards bringing this tripartite conference to the level of the International Labour Conference. At Geneva, all things that are carried are binding on their Governments and they are bound to take a decision one way or the other at least with the consent of the legislature. If a Convention is passed in Geneva the Governments of the participating countries are bound to put it to their legislatures in Parliament, and if the Parliament accepts it is implemented. Here also that system should be introduced, that if the tripartite conference takes a decision Government should come to this Legislature and if this Legislature approves they must carry it out. That would be a step in the very right direction which I commend to the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar.

Then the other two or three things which I ask him to expedite are these. First, there is the question of sickness leave with pay. All sorts of schemes have been made since 1937-38 by Congress Governments in the provinces and Dr. Ambedkar's predecessors in office even in this House. Schemes have been discussed and approved; Government themselves have undertaken to see that something is done and now for the last two years they have gone to sleep. The same example will apply to the Railway Department. Nearly 14 years ago the Royal Commission on Labour recommended a method of settling railway disputes, namely, standing machinery for railway disputes. We have argued and argued and argued with the Railway Board year after year and still we are nowhere within measurable distance of a standing machinery for the settlement of grievances. We have got no means of settling disputes that we can trust. Seven lakhs of railway workers may have seven thousand grievances; finality is reached as soon as either the administrative head or the Railway Board say, 'Thus far and no further'. There is no means of bringing to a test the genuineness, the justice and the fairness of our cause. Do you not think, Sir, that in these days, in the midst of such a war, the workers should have some definite machinery which will defend them against the wrongs of the employers? When we went to my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar with a grievance against the Railway Board and requested him to give us a machinery, he point-blank refused. So the Government of India have provided no machinery for us with respect to either the Conventions about amelioration of labour or relief in the matter of accepted policies. Even if policies are accepted and we have a grievance there is no final measure by which we can test whether relief will be available. Whether in the matter of wages or in the matter of working conditions or in the matter of administering accepted policies, the working classes are still at a serious disadvantage. I will give you only two cases. I will request the Finance Member that he should consider and consider as quickly as he can two cases which relate to his department. I addressed a letter to him about 8 or 9 months ago. He had been good enough to reply to me seven months ago that he was looking into it. Yesterday I have again addressed a letter to him that if his looking into has been completed he might let me have the result. It relates to key-punch operators in the Finance Department and their grievance is serious. I am not inclined to hustle him but I do beg of him that now after a year the time has come when he should give us some relief that he kindly promised.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If I had promised to give relief I must have done it by now. Does the Honourable Member know that it has not been done?

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta: Till yesterday, I know it was not done. If I am wrong I shall be happy to be corrected.

The second thing relates to the threatened strike in the department of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts. Nearly 239 of the employees are in a miserable condition; discipline in that department is awful. A man's child is ill he cannot go to school if he goes he is marked as 'absentee'. Two such cases have happened where children have died, the miserable father is

stricken with grief on the one hand and scolded by the department on the other. They get a treatment which is worse than slavery. I beg the Honourable Member to look into the matter. If the grievances of these people are not removed, in their desperation, helplessness and utter disappointment they have threatened to resign. I do not want them to resign; I want them to work with you but I want that you will kindly consider their case. Their cost of living in this city, as worked out by them, comes to Rs. 125 a month and their salaries rarely exceed Rs. 70. And after so many years they are still expected to live on that low salary. The Honourable Member has got all the correspondence and I do hope he will investigate these points. I am not, therefore, saying anything further on this matter.

One last point and that is that even accepted policies are so indifferently executed that they remain more or less a dead letter. I will ask the Honourable Member for War Transport how many grievances he gets by wire about grain shops which do not sell grains. I got a wire which I will read out:

"Pray urge Government immediately to supply us rice—starving—situation grave—Bijapur and Sholapur Districts Railway Staff."

There is an accepted policy on which a vote of this House is taken. They say, 'we have 513 shops and we have issued 8 lakhs of cards and we are selling 10 lakh maunds of rice', and yet this is the cry from Bijapur and Sholapur. And there is another cry from Brouch where there was actually a serious breach of public peace on account of starvation of the people which included railway employees. Then, there is another place where serious injustice is prevailing. It is the Karachi Port Trust. I will only read the letter of the Chairman, Karachi Port Trust—the iron hand behind the soft glove. Here is a printed letter in which that gentlemen whose name is Bushby threatens the workers who have asked nothing more than better conditions. This is how he threatens:

"Agitators who call themselves your leaders have been spreading malicious lies about me . . ."

Those whom he calls agitators command the confidence of 2,200 out of 2,300 workers affected. Here in the Karachi Port Trust, which is my friend's department, 2,250 workers have passed a vote of censure against their President whom they do not want but who refuses to move because he is a protege of Mr. Bushby. Workers are dismissed because they do not want him and they are threatened by this kind of letter which is extremely intimidating to their spirit:

"Agitators who call themselves your leaders have been spreading malicious lies about me and the officers of the Port Trust. They do so for their own ends."

What he calls 'malicious lies' are the grievances which have not been redressed. What are the 'ends' of a worker except to get good wages and better conditions? There is no aim other than amelioration of economic condition which 90 per cent. of workers have at their heart. You turn them into communists, you turn them into agitators, you turn them into malcontents by not giving them the justice that they are asking for. Then he says:

"They do so for their own ends. Do not listen to them. Strong action has been taken and will be taken against any one who stirs up discontent . . ."

Now, what is to be done? On the one hand you give no relief. If the workers ask for relief, you call them agitators.

"Until the election, therefore, of your new Committee you should submit any grievances through your own foremen and overseers who will enquire into them . . ."

That is, until the new election takes place the Union should not function. This state of affairs is deplorable. Sir, I do not want to go further into this letter. I can give you further particulars, if necessary. I have got to raise one or two more points before I sit down. I ask Sir Edward Benthall to look into it. These people have been approaching him during the last six months. The matter is pending; no reply has been given. Their deputation is here and they have not been able to see him—he is too busy. The only man who is the leader and who has undoubted confidence of these people has been dismissed. I beg of the Honourable Member to look into the matter in the interest of the Port Trust Work itself—the war work. This type of victimisation is not in the interest of well being and contentment of labour.

One more point and I shall finish my observations.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: One minute is quite enough, Sir. My last point is that the policy about labour must now be fully laid down and so far as the various Reconstruction Committees are concerned, labour should be fully associated. I have really no anxiety in the matter of so-called Scheduled Castes' representation. I regard them as so many workers; they are all humble people.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I, therefore, ask the Government that in the various reconstruction schemes labour's point of view should be kept before them by associating, as far as possible, accredited labour representatives with the work of the various Reconstruction Committees.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. Sir, the condition and wages of labour in my province are so poor that it is not easy for me to describe them here. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, has rightly demanded that the condition of labour should be improved and brought on to the level and standard of International Geneva Pact, but he will be surprised to hear that in my province the wages and the conditions of labour are so poor that they do not compare favourably with the wages that are being paid in Bombay or Calcutta Port. In Karachi Port Trust there is a Union and a few years ago they put up a demand before the Government. The result was that their leaders were arrested and put in jail. The same condition exists now. They are trying to get their grievances redressed, but nobody hears them. The Labour Department also refuses to hear them. One Mr. Nimbkar, who is Secretary Welfare Department, came down to Karachi; he made enquiries into the labour condition and submitted his report, but the report is still not published. We are not aware of the result of that enquiry. What has been done with the enquiry report? That report seems to have been shelved. I do not know why? Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has rightly pointed out that many grievances have been brought to the notice of the War Transport Member, but he refuses to listen. The deputation of the workers of Karachi Port Trust is here; they have been going from door to door. The War Transport Member refuses to see them—he has no time, the Secretary is too busy. Where are they to go? Fortunately I have been able to get them some time from one of the Assistant Secretaries and they have been able to put up their case. If they raise their voice by other methods, they are put in jail. So, how is the condition going to be improved? Their demands are very reasonable. The War Transport Member is paying dearness allowance in the Railways, but to the Karachi Port Trust workers he does not pay the same allowances. People who are working in the Karachi Railway Division are getting more pay and allowances than these people. The Port workers have no place to live; they hardly earn Rs. 30 to 50 per month; they have no quarters; they have to go 7 miles out of the city to live in slum quarters. And here is our Labour Member who is too busy in looking after the P. W. D. and looking after the accommodation of Honourable Members of this House. He is too busy to pay his attention to the conditions of labour. If he is unable to do justice to his work in this department he should leave it to some one else or, as Mr. Joshi has suggested, a separate Member should be appointed to look after this work.

What about the condition of Taxi drivers? They are hardly getting 30 gallons per month in my city. In Bombay they are getting 45 gallons. How can they live when things are made so hard for them? They cannot get tyres, they cannot get tubes, they cannot get spare parts, and the Labour Department is silent on these matters. No help is given to these people and then our

Labour Department comes up with demands. I do not know where the money goes and how it is spent. I hope that the Labour Member will look into the allegations and see that some justice is done to these poor people.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. Joshi has travelled over such an extensive field and raised so many points that I feel that it would be hardly possible for me to deal with each one of them specifically and to discuss what he has said and what I as representative of the Labour Department has to say in reply. Having regard to the inadequacy of time I am bound to pick and choose such points as I think are necessary for me to reply in the course of this debate.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Do not forget his bangles!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, Mr. Joshi started by making a general statement that the conditions of labour in India were extremely unsatisfactory as compared with conditions obtainable in the rest of the world. Sir, it is not my business to say from here that I dispute that proposition. Undoubtedly it is a fact. All that I want to say is this, that it can hardly be said to be the responsibility of the Government of India if the conditions are at all unsatisfactory as Mr. Joshi has depicted them to be.

Sir the conditions of labour in this country are largely governed by the industrial development of this country over which this Government has hardly any control, and therefore it is no use laying any accusation at the Government of India if the conditions are really unsatisfactory.

Mr. Joshi said that as a result of the examination of the conduct of the Government of India, he found that the Government was guilty of neglect, of inaction; it was timid and whatever it did was on an inadequate scale. I should like to say that in passing this judgment, Mr. Joshi failed to make a distinction which, I think, is a very necessary one to make. There are labour problems on which there is no dispute. There are labour problems which raise no financial consequences. Now, what I would like to know is this: Whether on any labour problem on which there was no dispute between the parties concerned, or which did not raise any financial question, the Government of India had not taken the action with all the necessary promptitude that the urgency of the case required? Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that in all such cases, where there has been perfect unanimity or an approximation to unanimity, and where there has not been the involving of any financial burdens, the Government of India has acted with all the promptitude that is due from it.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): There was no need for action in such cases.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Very much action is necessary.

Then Mr. Joshi said that the conditions of labour during the war had suffered a great deterioration on account of the fact that Government had granted certain exemptions from the Factory Act with regard to the time of working and they had introduced a limitation of labour's right to strike on requiring 15 days' notice. He also referred to the fact that the Government had introduced the National Labour Service Ordinance and the Technical Personnel Ordinance by which people were compelled to stick to certain jobs notwithstanding their unwillingness to do so. I am glad to say that Mr. Joshi had the fairness to admit that in the midst of war such limitations were justifiable, and I would say on my part that wherever any complaint has been brought to my notice with regard to the operation of these war time measures, I have taken the promptest action to rectify the grievance. I shall give only one instance. I remember Mr. Joshi raised a point that the power given under the Ordinance to the employer to prosecute the employee was a harassment of the labourer. I readily accepted the point and I remember we issued an amendment to the Ordinance to remove the power from the hands of the employer and to hand it to the Crown Prosecutors.

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Sir, as I said, I cannot deal exhaustively with these matters but I could sum up the whole situation by saying this, that when I examine the war time legislation of the Government of India, which undoubtedly has the effect of restricting the liberty of labour, I think two new principles have emerged from it. The first is this: that the Government of India for the first time has taken upon itself the responsibility which it never did before of fixing the conditions on which a labourer may be employed. I think this is altogether a new principle which had no place in our labour legislation so far, and I am sure that this principle which has found its place in war time legislation will be given a permanent place in the labour legislation of this country.

The second important principle which this war time labour legislation contains is the principle of compulsory arbitration. Sir, my friend, Md. Joshi and my friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, I think, both of them, will allow me to say that I have some personal experience of labour. I have known and seen the wasting efforts that labourers have made by going on strike in order to obtain certain advantages from their employers, and I think I can say without exaggerating the matter that I know hardly of a case where the workers after a long, arduous, painful, wasting struggle, extending over months together, had ultimately to surrender to the employers and go back on their old conditions or conditions much deteriorated. Sir, the provision contained in Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, which gives the Government the power of compulsory arbitration, has been, to my mind, a matter of the greatest benefit to labour. There are very few cases, so far as I know, where this power, when it has been adopted, has not given labour what it was struggling to get. There are very few strikes so far as I know which have not ended successfully in favour of labour. The complaint which Mr. Joshi makes with regard to the provision contained in section 81 is that we had not employed rule 81 in each and every case. His contention so far as I have been able to find out is that Government is not willing always and in every case, where labour has raised a dispute, to apply this section. Sir, I have great sympathy with that point, but it is obvious that the contention of Mr. Joshi cannot be accepted, without qualification. We could not accept the position which Mr. Joshi has taken up, that is, to undertake to apply this rule in every case the moment a trade union notifies its intention to go on strike, because its grievances have not been met.

An Honourable Member: Why this right is being refused to India and is not refused in the case of other countries.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no compulsory arbitration there, if I may tell my Honourable friend.

Dealing with the point, as I said, we cannot accept the principle that the moment a trade union sends a notice to the employer or threatens to strike we should at once proceed to apply rule 81. We must have the opportunity, we must have on our shoulder the responsibility of examining whether the grievances are genuine, otherwise the question of strike may be a matter of day to day work to which I am sure nobody in this House will be prepared to give his countenance.

The other point which Mr. Joshi raised was with regard to the inadequacy of the Labour Department in order to deal with the problems of labour. His contention was that there should be a separate and exclusive Labour Ministry to deal with questions of labour, that there ought to be officers appointed—one for making report on the old age pension, another on sickness insurance and the third one on some other urgent labour problems. Now, Sir, it is not my business to controvert what Mr. Joshi has said. In fact, personally I have great deal of sympathy with what he said. All I wish to say on the point is this: that if we take the circumstances in which we are living and carrying on administration, it cannot be said that the Department of Labour as it is constituted is inadequate to deal with the problems arising. Sir, the first thing to be noticed is that the Labour Department is no longer an appendix to some other Department. At one time it was an appendix either to the Commerce

Department or an appendix to the Industries Department. It is no longer so. It is a separate and an independent Department. It is true it is not an exclusive Department. All the same let nobody argue that it is not an independent and a predominant department in the group of Departments which are controlled by the Honourable Members in charge of them.

Then, Sir, we have recently considerably expanded the Department. Before 1942, we had only one Under Secretary to deal with the labour matters in the Labour Department. We have now one Deputy Secretary and two Under Secretaries in the Department. In addition to that we have a Labour Adviser, we have a Labour Welfare Adviser—Mr. Nimbkar—we have eight Assistant Labour Welfare Advisers. We have appointed a statistician in our Department in order to collect all labour statistics and in addition to that we have a very large staff. In fact, a very considerable staff to deal with the technical training which I am sure is a matter of great benefit to labour in general.

An Honourable Member: A good case for scrutiny committee.

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Then, Sir, with regard to the question of appointment of special officers, this is not a matter about which the Department is not aware of. As a matter of fact, we had made a beginning by appointing a special officer to report on sickness insurance. He was Professor Adharkar. It was our wish and our proposal was to go on appointing similar officers to deal with similar problems, to make reports and to suggest means and methods for carrying this proposal into legislation. But what happened was this. Last August when the Tripartite Conference met we placed before them the report for consideration. The Committee and the Tripartite Conference unanimously passed a resolution that the Government of India should also appoint a Committee to consider social welfare measures and also to suggest ways and means by which the principle of social security could be applied to working classes of India. To that report, I am glad to say, we immediately gave effect, and constituted a Committee which has now been working on that subject.

Obviously Sir, it would have been very wrong for the Department to have proceeded on appointing other officers to make report on separate subjects. We had to wait till the report of the Committee was placed before us. I can assure my Honourable friends that the project which we have of appointing special officers to make investigation into special problems is not abandoned, but will be taken up when the report of the Committee is made available to the Government. Sir, I think, that having regard to what I have stated on the point Mr. Joshi will admit that so far as the present machinery of the Government of India to deal with the labour problems is concerned, it cannot be said to be an inadequate machinery.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta made certain comments on the Tripartite Labour Conference. He said that the Tripartite Labour Conference should be raised to the level of I. L. O. Mr. Joshi said that it should have a separate Secretariat and Mr. Mehta also suggested that the Member-in-charge of the Labour Department, who generally presides over the proceedings of the Conference, should divest himself of that authority. Mr. Mehta also said that the reports of the Committee should be placed before the Legislature for rectification. Sir, I sympathise very greatly with all that has been said by my Honourable friends, Mr. Mehta and Mr. Joshi. I would like to say this, as both of them are already aware, the procedure of the Committee is more or less a matter for the Conference itself to decide. This question whether the Conference should have a separate Secretariat was discussed at the very time when the Conference was inaugurated and I think I am right in saying that the Conference was unanimous in their decision that the time for having a separate Secretariat had not come. If the Conference hereafter changed its mind and decided to have a separate Secretariat, I have no doubt that the same will be considered sympathetically.

Sir, there is only one more point about which I would like to say one thing. If I am right in presuming, both Mr. Mehta and Mr. Joshi regarded the Tripartite Labour Conference as a matter of small moment and not of much value. Sir, I beg to differ from them because I think that the Tripartite Labour Conference performs so important a function that I think it is really impossible to

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

exaggerate its value. The point that I would like to make and ask the Members of the House to take particular note is this. If any one were to examine the agenda which has been placed before the Tripartite Labour Conference or the Standing Labour Committee, I think it would be admitted that the topics placed before them for consideration and discussion have been of the highest moment. I am speaking from recollection, but they have ranged from almost anything which could be regarded of great moment to the labour world. I would like to say this. Would it have been possible for the representatives of labour outside the Tripartite Conference to have approached any employer even to consider or to talk about those projects? I am sure about it that no employer in the present disorganised condition of Indian labour would pay a tuppenny worth of attention to the problems which might be brought before them by representatives of employees. I do claim credit for the Tripartite Labour Conference that if we have done nothing more, we have at least done one thing, namely, to induce, if not to compel, the representatives of employees to meet the representatives of employers and to discuss matters of the utmost and gravest importance. I think it is a great service that the Tripartite Conference is doing to the working classes of this country.

My Honourable friend, Mrs. Subbarayan, in her speech largely referred to the question of the introduction of women in coal mines. I do not grudge her the intensity of feeling which she said she has on a question of this character. But, Sir, I cannot go over the ground once again because the House will remember that this matter has already been discussed on an adjournment motion. I repeat again that I am indeed unhappy over the decision that we had to take, and I assure the House that I am taking every possible step in order to increase the labour force to be employed in the mines and in order to increase coal output so that I may be in a position to put the ban again at the earliest moment possible.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I ask a question of the Honourable Member? Did Government consult the Tripartite Conference before issuing a notification about employment of women for underground work in mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am afraid we had no time to do it. As I said it was an emergency and we had to meet it by a most emergent measure.

One point which I would like to mention is the point raised by her, namely, that the Government of India, instead of trying to remedy the grievances of labour, was engaged in imprisoning labour leaders. Well, Sir, that is not a matter with which I in my department specifically deal. We had a great deal of discussion yesterday. I have not seen either yesterday or to-day any specific illustration or instance given to me of any labour leader having been imprisoned by Government.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon: I just referred to a case in Karachi Port Trust.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Is the Port Trust under you?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Railwaymen?

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

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Seamen?

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

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Then what else have you got?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There are very many other categories of labour. I was dealing with the question of imprisonment of labour leaders.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Was not Mr. Dange imprisoned?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am just coming to that. Knowing the labour leaders as I do, the trouble I think is that labour leaders play more than one part.

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

They are sometimes labour leaders, sometimes they are communists, sometimes they are national leaders, sometimes they are members of the Congress, and sometimes they are members of the Hindu Maha Sabha or of some other organisation.

An Honourable Member: All are to be tabooed!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is very difficult to say that a labour leader who plays such a multiple part is imprisoned because he is a labour leader and not because he has acted in some other capacity—as a communist, as a member of the Congress, or as a member of the Hindu Maha Sabha. In fact, if I may say so with all humility, in my judgment, if labour leaders were to exclusively devote themselves to the labour cause and not to be instruments of political parties of other complexion or other character, or of other programmes, than they would be not only excluding themselves from the clutches of Rule 26, but they would be doing a great deal of service to labour itself. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get in this country labour leaders who are exclusively devoted to labour.

An Honourable Member: Mr. Joshi is there.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know if there is any other matter which has been raised in the course of this debate to which I have not given a reply, or which calls for a reply. I think I may say that whatever may be said with regard to the Government of India in the matter of labour it can be legitimately claimed that there has been a new orientation with regard to the attitude of Government in respect of labour.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What is the policy behind it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: For the last half an hour I have been saying nothing else.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): May I seek one piece of information from the Honourable Member? How is it that the technicians after being trained at a centre do not get certificates after the training?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will look into it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, in the hope that this discussion will lead to increased activity and better activity on the part of the Labour Department, I ask leave to withdraw my cut motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 24.—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of the ‘Department of Posts and Air.’”

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of the ‘Department of Posts and Air.’”

Need for substantial Increase of Dearness Allowance.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I beg to move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Department of Posts and Air’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

I have ventured to move this cut motion to emphasise the need for a substantial increase of dearness allowance.

Sir, the time at my disposal is very short, and as I say, the tale of my wrongs is very long. But I hope that the Government will be able to give me something concrete and definite in their reply, so that any division or acrimonious debate may be avoided. There is not much time either for that and I shall therefore confine my observations to saying a few broad things. Although I am confining my observations to the Posts and Air Department, they are applicable to all the employees of Government in the various departments. Sir, the highest dearness allowance in the Government service is that paid to the employees in Railways and yet that payment is so inadequate that only one-third of the needs of railway employee are today met; and the employees in other departments are served even worse. The misfortunes of the Postal

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

lower grade services in particular and also of the clerks are much greater than those of the railway workers. As I told you, Sir, the cost of living today has gone up in spite of the attempts of the Government to control, on an average not less than 300 per cent. When I say 300 per cent., I must say that it means that where it was Rs. 100 before it is now Rs. 300. It does not mean that it is 400 now but this is the all in all cost. Individual items have gone up much higher. The prices of cloth, the price of food, the price of fuel, the prices of medical drugs—all these have gone up far in excess, even of 200, sometimes of 300 per cent. and even 11 hundred per cent. in the case of quinine. The cost of education of the children has gone up very high. The cost of milk has also gone up three times in most places and milk which was a rarity and practically absent from the breakfast table of the poor of this country has now become conspicuous by its total absence.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No poor man has ever had milk.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I say it is a rarity and it is now conspicuous by its absence, except where subsidised milk is supplied by the employer. I have asked the Railway Board to supply milk and vegetables. They are investigating; but in other departments, that investigation also is not there and therefore milk, which is an essential food for the babies, let alone the adults, is absolutely denied to this generation which is growing without milk since the last five years. What is the future for the race in which the younger generation is forced to live without this essential need for nutrition? And yet we talk of reconstruction after the war to build up a healthier generation. You have today the remedy, the opportunity in front of you, to allow your own employees to grow up as normal human beings but with a rise in the cost of living of 300 per cent., I ask my Honourable friend, Sir Gurnath Bewoor, whether he is giving to his employees to-day more than 30 per cent. by way of dearness allowance. He is giving practically one rupee where 10 rupees are required. The postmen have protested, have interviewed, they have demonstrated, led deputations times without number in all towns and in all provinces (*An Honourable Member:* "But did not strike".) They did not strike. I hope Dr. Ambedkar will take note of that fact and put in a word in their favour. At the last conference in Amritsar, they have become absolutely determined and they think that there is no hope under this Government. They have declared that if there is no adequate dearness allowance within a reasonable time, they must do something; even the worm will turn. That Resolution was passed unanimously at Amritsar as early as December, 1943. Since then, happily or unhappily, I have been elected President for the whole of India and the obligation has, therefore, become greater on my shoulders to plead their cause with as much vehemence as I can. I interviewed Mr. Shoobert. He was good enough to give us a most sympathetic hearing. He went into all aspects of our case and then at last he said 'Yes, I am satisfied that you have got a good case. I was satisfied myself, before you came, that you have a good case and I have made a representation in proper quarters. I am only awaiting the result. I am not ready with my reply'. In his room there was I believe an exhortation on the wall to the following effect—In times of war, keep up your morale. I pointed out to him—was it possible to keep up morale without food, without clothing and without the necessities of life. Either remove this board from your room or give me at least food, shelter and clothing. When I said this, he felt rather embarrassed. That is where we stand now. I do not want to repeat the various arguments. I shall only tell the Finance Member that the report of the Dearness Allowance Committee, even if it is not published, was ready for his study and inspection as early as January and it is time that in these matters some kind of promptness were adopted. War is not the time for this sort of dilatoriness. War is a time for quick action and you are bound to give sufficient nutrition to these men who serve you day and night. You pocket 14 crores of rupees of profits from the Postal Department and don't give them one-third of the remuneration which

the barest minimum standard of life requires. I do not wish to put it higher than this—that the Government should now make up their mind. They have taken far too much time and a further instalment of substantial dearness allowance is overdue. Sir, I move.

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

“That the demand under the head ‘Department of Posts and Air’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I rise to support this motion. Realising that the time at our disposal is very short and realising also that it is absolutely necessary that a Government representative should reply to the debate, I shall be very brief. Sir, I feel that the Government of India has neglected this problem too long. When the cost of living has been trebled and quadrupled, the dearness allowance which the Government of India gives and which they gave so tardily is very meagre. It does not meet in some cases the dearness equal to even one-half or one-quarter and in some cases it meets dearness in less than that proportion. It is not right for the Government of India or for any person to expect from the poorest classes of Government employees to make any sacrifice during the war. Some of these people get less than what is necessary for proper maintenance. Their standard of life is really sub-standard and it is wrong to expect these people to make any sacrifice even for a war.

The other day the Honourable the Finance Member told me that it is people like me who plead for sectional interests who are responsible for inflation. That is not so. I do not plead the interests of any sectional people; I plead the interests of those people who do not get sufficient living. If you pay a man sufficient living, by all means ask him to make sacrifices for the country and he should also make sacrifices in order that there may be no inflation. But if you are not paying even sufficient for their maintenance, it is wrong of you to ask them to make any sacrifices and it is wrong of you to ask them to make any sacrifices to prevent inflation. I, therefore, feel that the Government of India at least in the case of those people who get less than what is necessary for a minimum standard of life, say, those people who get less than Rs. 30, should not ask them to make any sacrifice. In their case at least, full increase in the cost of living should be compensated for. Similarly, in the case of those who get a little more than Rs. 30 but less than Rs. 50 or Rs. 60, at least 75 per cent. of their cost of living should be met. Similarly, those people who get more than Rs. 50 but less than Rs. 100, at least half of the increased cost of living should be compensated. I feel that the Government of India will be quite wrong in expecting people who do not get enough to eat to make any sacrifices. Let me tell the Government of India that in the case of a Department like the Postal Department and even other Departments, on account of the fact that you do not pay sufficient dearness allowance to your employees, the efficiency of your Departments has begun to suffer. Everybody will admit that the efficiency of the Postal Department, which was once a very efficient Department, let me say very frankly, has suffered. Today we do not get our letters promptly; letters are delivered wrongly; but the Government of India is unable to do anything. They do not get sufficient staff. The Government of India cannot even dismiss people when they find that the staff is inefficient. This is all due to the fact that the men in the Postal Department and even in the other Departments are not paid well. The Government service has ceased to become attractive and the efficiency has suffered. I, therefore, feel not only out of a sense of humanity but for the sake of the efficiency of the Departments that the Government of India should pay an adequate dearness allowance to their employees.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is meant by “adequate”?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: To neutralise the whole increased cost of living in the case of the lowest paid staff, at least in the case of those who get less than Rs. 30. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will accept our suggestion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I only want to make one remark. I would have very much liked if Mr. Joshi had defined what an adequate dearness allowance is. I always say that an adequate allowance in terms of rupees has

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

to be expressed by what I call as a kind of wage unit. Therefore, really speaking, the dearness allowance should be the wage unit *minus* the purchasing power of the rupee. This ought to be the adequate dearness allowance and I think the Government of India ought to be prepared to give this dearness allowance whatever it may come to. I think I can tell even the exact figure. At present the value of a rupee in terms of the wage unit is about 4 annas. Therefore, the dearness allowance will be 12 annas in a rupee, which means 300 per cent., wage unit *minus* the purchasing power.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Does the Honourable Member mean that Government salaries should be adjusted on that basis?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That is not the question before the Assembly. We are considering now the dearness allowance to the low paid staff and I have defined what the adequate dearness allowance should be.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): Sir, I was rather wondering why my friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, had selected the Posts and Air Department, which has a modest demand of Rs. 1,10,000 for this cut for an increased dearness allowance when he had intended that the dearness allowance should be revised for all Central Government servants. If he wanted the Posts and Telegraphs Department staff to be considered, the more proper demand for a cut was Demand No. 10, under which there is, I believe, a demand of something like 16 crores. However, I find myself in very great sympathy with what Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Mr. Joshi have said in the course of their observations and therefore I have not really very much to say in criticism of their observations. I have been myself the head of a department for a number of years and I fully appreciate the difficulties which the employees of a department feel in times when prices are rising. It is the duty of the head of a department to press the claims of his staff and to secure for them reasonable conditions of service. And I claim that the Heads of departments of Government have not been behindhand in pressing the claims of the staff and in getting them reasonable allowances as the cost of living began to go up as a result of the war. When the war began, the prices started going up early in 1940 and the first step we took was to decide that Central Government servants should get the same rates of dearness allowance as the Provincial Governments may declare to be applicable to their own servants in those areas. The idea was that the Provincial Governments were in the best position to know what the conditions of living were in any particular area. We thought that this would be a good solution. Unfortunately, however, a little experience showed us that certain Provincial Governments, though they recognised the existence of the high cost of living, were unable to give the relief due to their own financial position. Therefore, after a little time, the Central Government decided that they must embark upon their own scheme of dearness allowance.

Now, I wish to inform Mr. Jamnadas Mehta that the Central Government have always had under consideration the question of granting dearness allowance and of revising it from time to time. I admit that according to him it has been an inadequate one, but I may tell him that the first time these dearness allowances were fixed was on the 1st August, 1942. At that time—I will just take the cities of Bombay and Calcutta, for example—the pay limit was fixed up to Rs. 100, and the maximum rates of allowances were Rs. 6 for those drawing up to Rs. 40 and Rs. 9 for those drawing above Rs. 40 only after four months the rate was revised. The pay limit was increased to Rs. 120 and the rates of allowance were increased, in the case of those drawing below Rs. 40 from Rs. 6 to Rs. 9 and in the case of those above Rs. 40 from Rs. 9 to Rs. 10. Again, from 1st June, 1943, these rates were again revised, the pay limits were increased to Rs. 150 and the allowances were increased for those drawing below Rs. 40 from Rs. 9 to Rs. 13 and for those drawing above Rs. 40 from Rs. 10 to Rs. 14. Now, Sir, why I am mentioning all this is to show that Government have not been indifferent in this matter and that since they introduced a uniform rate for the whole of India, the rates have increased from Rs. 6 to Rs. 13 in the case of

those drawing below Rs. 40 and from Rs. 9 to Rs. 14 in the case of those drawing above Rs. 40 and the pay limits have been increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: What about the future?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The point that the Government of India have always had in mind was this. They recognised that the cost of living had gone up. I will not say whether it had gone up by 200 per cent. or 300 per cent. or 500 per cent. or 1,100 per cent. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, has recently been on a committee and he is now in the best position to say himself. I think he recognises the practical difficulties of saying exactly by how much the cost of living has gone up, also the difficulties of relating any rates of dearness allowance to the increase in the cost of living for a country of the size of India and for different—I will not say standards of living, but I would say—classes of employees. A mere increase in the amount of money allowances, we felt did not necessarily mean a relief which we really wanted our employees to get. Therefore, *pari passu* with the increase in the allowances, we have done all we could for the staff, to give them supplies of grain. I admit that here we have not been able to do what the Railways have been able to do, but the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been faced with real practical difficulties; unlike railways we have not got our own transport, nor have we got all our staff living along our own lines of communication. But wherever we could, we have opened our own grain shops and where we could not do this, we have advanced money free of interest to co-operative shops to pay and sell grain and other necessities of life to our staff. But what we were anxious was to prevent a mere increase in the allowances in cash which would merely amount to a vicious spiral. Apart from what has been done departmentally, the House is aware from the discussions which have taken place in this House of the efforts that are being made by Government to bring down the cost of living as a whole to the whole of the civil population of India. We hope that all these efforts will be successful and that the cost of living will be brought down, but having said this, I still recognise that there is a case for improvement in the rates of dearness allowance. We recognise that the staff has been very reasonable and we owe a debt of gratitude to the leaders of our staff who have been very reasonable and who have been discussing the difficulties of the staff with the higher officers. I am now authorised to announce that Government have taken into consideration the existing state of prices and have decided to further raise the rates of dearness allowance. These rates of dearness allowance will be applicable as from 1st March, that is to say, they will apply for the pay drawn on 1st April for the month of March. The scheme will be just as it is at present, that is to say, the areas in India will be divided into A, B and C classes.

"A" class: The present rate for those drawing below Rs. 40 is Rs. 11 and this will be raised to Rs. 14. For those drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 150, it is now Rs. 14 and this will be raised to Rs. 18 and the pay limit will be increased to Rs. 250. That is to say, those drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 250 will draw a dearness allowance of Rs. 18.

"B" class: These are generally big cities apart from Bombay and Calcutta. The present rates for the same classes are Rs. 8-8-0 and Rs. 11 and these will be raised to Rs. 11 and Rs. 14 respectively and the upper pay limit of Rs. 125 will be raised to Rs. 200.

"C" class: The allowances are Rs. 6-8-0 and Rs. 9 and these will be raised to Rs. 9 and Rs. 12, and the upper pay limit which is Rs. 90 will be raised to Rs. 150.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it only in the Post and Telegraph offices or in all the Departments of the Government of India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: This applies to all employees of the Central Government wherever employed within India. In the case of Post and Telegraph Department, there is, besides, a special concession given in that those drawing below Rs. 40 are given an additional dearness allowance of Rs. 2. This is called good conduct pay. I hope, Sir, the House will recognise that Government are fully sympathetic to the difficulties of their employees particularly those who

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor]

draw small pay and I hope that in view of these considerations the Honourable Member will withdraw his cut motion.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, I am thankful to Government for announcing these concessions which they have done. It is not possible to assess the full effect of this announcement, but it seems to be fairly generous. In anticipation of a closer examination, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 1—CUSTOMS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,41,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,41,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

(It being Five of the Clock.)

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 61,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 4—SALT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,73,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 5—OPIUM.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,08,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6—PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 7—STAMPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 8—FOREST.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 9—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,04,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Irrigation (Including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES).

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,43,28,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 11—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,81,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and other obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding one rupee be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 13—COUNCIL OF STATE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 14.—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,36,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 6,71,900 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 18—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,28,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF INDIANS OVERSEAS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Department of Indians Overseas'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 8,48,999 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,87,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,70,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'War Transport Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,33,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,41,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on Account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,75,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33—POLICE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,59,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36—SURVEY OF INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 37—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 38—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,14,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40—MINES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,71,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41—ARCHÆOLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42—METEOROLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,39,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 43—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44—EDUCATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,79,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 47—AGRICULTURE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Agriculture'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 48—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 49—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 50—IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF SUGAR TECHNOLOGY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 51—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 52—INDUSTRIES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Industries'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 53—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 54—AVIATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Aviation'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 55—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION MET FROM REVENUE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation met from Revenue'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 56—BROADCASTING.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 56,03,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Broadcasting'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING MET FROM REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 59—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—CENSUS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63—IMPERIAL DAIRY DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Imperial Dairy Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65—CURRENCY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—MINT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67—CIVIL WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,20,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—CENTRAL ROAD FUND.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,07,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,81,01,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,75,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—CIVIL DEFENCE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,43,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—DELHI.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 74,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—AJMER-MERWARA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,95,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—PANTH PIPLODA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 78—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE).

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,13,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE).

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,27,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Commuted value of pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,80,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Interest-Free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 83—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,79,74,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 17th March, 1944.