

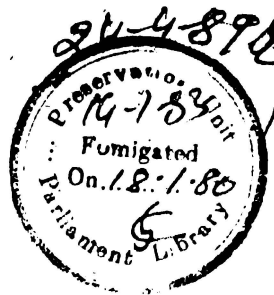
17th March 1944

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume II, 1944

(29th February to 27th March, 1944)

TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 17th 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.

MEMBERS SWORN:

- Mr. Zahid Husain, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
Mr. Harry Greenfield, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

TOUR OF PROFESSOR A. V. HILL OF ROYAL SOCIETY.

477. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that Professor A. V. Hill, Secretary of the Royal Society, has been invited by the Government of India to tour round India? If so, when was he invited?

(b) Was the necessity for such a tour felt after the outbreak of war or even before that?

(c) What is the estimate of expense for such a tour?

(d) Is he asked to submit a report of his tour before he leaves the shores of India? If not, why not?

(e) If a report is submitted by him, would it be placed on the table at the earliest opportunity? -

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes; in August 1943.

(b) The proposal originated in 1943.

(c) About Rs. 17,000.

(d) and (e). Professor Hill was not asked to submit a report: the preparation of a formal report would have required much more time than was available. The purpose of inviting him to India was rather to promote informal contacts and discussions, from which arrangements for wider co-operation and plans for further developments might be expected to result. Professor Hill, however, has himself suggested that after returning to the United Kingdom he should write a short report embodying a number of observations, comments and suggestions which have arisen from his many visits and discussions in India.

FORMATION OF ROYAL SOCIETY IN INDIA.

478. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the Government of India are prepared to encourage the idea of "Formation of a Royal Society in India"?

(b) Are the Government of India prepared to grant a decent subsidy to such an association, if formed?

(c) Do the Government of India realise that Scientific Research in India is in its infancy and requires State aid to be on par with many a civilised country?

(d) Are Government aware that Scientific Research in other countries contributed a great deal to the national welfare of those countries?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India recognise that the existence of a national scientific society, occupying the same position in India as the Royal Society of London and the National Academy of Science at Washington in their respective countries, is desirable. The matter is being considered.

(b) If and when a national scientific society on the lines of the Royal Society is recognised in India the question of financial assistance from Government will be considered.

(c) Scientific research in India is certainly not "in its infancy": the developments of the last 25 years have in fact been very substantial. Government recognise the importance of assisting scientific research and are doing so on an increasing scale as the Budget before the House indicates.

(d) Yes, certainly.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member please state whether the Society contemplated in the reply will be different from the two scientific societies of a rival character in England?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That I cannot say.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Does he contemplate to start a new Society or will he accept one of the two existing societies?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have nothing to add.

DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVING SERVICE CONDITIONS OF INDIAN NURSES. -

479. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if he is aware that nursing profession has failed to appeal to the right type of women in India?

(b) Are Government aware that trained Indian nurses are regarded, paid and housed, as menials?

(c) Do the Government of India expect large numbers of Indian ladies to come forward to dedicate themselves to this work?

(d) Is the formation of an All-India Nursing Council necessary for the betterment of Nursing profession?

(e) Have the Government of India noted the words of Lady Wavell "The shortage of trained nurses in India is a problem, that all who care for the well-being of the people in this vast country must view with grave concern"?

(f) Is it not a fact that in India there is hardly a trained nurse for every 50,000 of the population and one to 874 in England?

(g) Is it not a fact that the figures in (f) show a deplorable state of affairs in India?

(h) What are the proposals to improve the condition of service?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government have seen statements to that effect.

(b) and (c). Conditions of service are not uniform throughout the country and there is undoubtedly scope for improvement in most institutions.

(d) The formation of an All India Nursing Council is in contemplation.

(e), (f) and (g). Yes.

(h) The Provincial Governments are concerned with the improvement of the conditions of service of nurses in Provincial Government hospitals. As regards the Central Government hospitals, the scales of pay for nurses in one important hospital have recently been revised.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the scale of pay for nurses?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In that particular hospital the scale of pay is Rs. 150 rising by Rs. 10 to Rs. 200.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not a fact that there is a general scale of pay for nurses throughout the provinces, or are there different scales of pay in different provinces?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir, there are different scales of pay for nurses in different provinces.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Government of India impress upon the Provincial Governments that they should accept the same scales of pay as have been adopted by the Central Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir, it is an entirely a provincial matter.

HAND-MADE PAPER INDUSTRY.

480. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of the scarcity of paper in India? If so, what is the method by which Government propose to make up the deficit?

(b) Is it not a fact that the price of paper has risen several times the pre-war price, and in certain places the price is so prohibitive that it has caused a lot of inconvenience to the educated public and a great hardship to the poor?

(c) Have Government a well-laid plan on an all-India basis for a hand-made paper industry? If not, why not?

(d) Are Government aware that there are several trained young men in the art of making hand-made paper? If so, are they prepared to make use of the talent which is being wasted by non-use?

(e) Are the Government of India aware that the hand-made paper industry is thriving in Gandhi Ashram at Wardha?

(f) Do they propose to send the Government paper expert to Wardha and see if the industry can be made a nucleus for an all-India concern?

(g) Are the Government of India aware that the joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, is urging the importance of starting a hand-made paper unit on a co-operative basis at Chicacole?

(h) Do Government realise that hand-made paper industry would bring in an additional income to the poor and destitute villagers in India? If so, why do they not encourage the industry by subsidies and grants?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes. Methods by which it is proposed to make up the deficit in the supply of paper are (i) control over distribution, (ii) increase in production, (iii) economy in consumption, and (iv) increase in imports.

(b) Government are aware that there has been considerable increase in the prices of certain varieties of paper.

(c) Yes, Government have a definite plan to assist hand-made paper industry on an all-India basis.

(d) No. Government cannot make use of such trained people themselves, as they do not intend to establish Government production of hand made paper.

(e) Government are aware that hand-made paper is made at Wardha.

(f) No. The Paper Production Commissioner has always been willing to give any assistance that is asked of him by any paper manufacturer.

(g) No.

(h) Yes, only so long as paper prices owing to shortage of supplies continue to be as high as they are today. Provincial Governments who are primarily concerned with the development of such industries are giving all necessary direct encouragement and assistance.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to (c) may I know something about the plan to assist the hand-made paper industry?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Among other things, I think, the plan provides for the purchase of hand-made paper that may be offered for sale by the Government at the price prevailing in the market?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I wanted to know whether the Government will render any assistance to the industry?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes Sir, if the industry applies for it.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the paper supplied to the Provincial Governments according to the quota fixed by the Central Government or do the Provincial Governments sent their own quota and they get the paper accordingly?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is contemplated that a quota will be fixed for the provinces and distribution will be made by them.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know what is the quantity of hand-made paper today?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am afraid I am not in a position to give that information.

Sir Henry Richardson: Is it a fact that the paper known as news-print is not manufactured in this country at all?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes Sir, that is so. Some firms sometimes back came forward with a proposal for the manufacture of newsprint paper on an assurance being given by the Government as regards the prices at which they will be allowed to sell the paper

at the end of the war. The prices quoted by the firm were found to be far in excess of the pre-war prices and far in excess of what may be the prices at the end of the war and the Government, therefore, felt after consultation with some consumers of news-print that they were unable to give such an assurance to the firms.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the quantity of the hand-made paper so far purchased by the Government of India.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that.

BINDERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

481. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some binders in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, were appointed after trial in the year 1935, and were confirmed in 1936;

(b) whether some more binders were appointed in 1936 and 1937, and were confirmed after 1937;

(c) whether it is a fact that men referred to in (b) above have been allowed to supersede the men shown in part (a); if so, why; and

(d) if the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Member has considered the advisability of getting their cases examined and giving them the necessary relief?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Only one binder recruited in 1937 was declared senior to certain binders recruited earlier. This was done solely on the ground of merit.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to (c) above.

COLOUR PREJUDICE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AS REGARDS MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE OF INDIANS.

482. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas aware that in December, 1943, a white Mayor in the Union of South Africa protested that he was not prepared to sit with any Indian in the Municipality?

(b) Is it a fact that the Minister of the Interior made a speech (as reported by Reuters) stating that Municipal franchise was granted to Indians with property and educational qualifications on communal basis?

(c) Did the Buksburg Town Council decide unanimously to draw the attention of the Transvaal Municipal Association to the speech made at Pieter-Onaritzburg by the Minister of the Interior to the effect stated in (a) above?

(d) What was the notice taken of the protest of the Mayor Mr. P. A. Venter?

(e) Did the Mayor and his European colleagues sit with the Indian Members in the deliberations of the Municipal affairs or not? If not, what was the consequence?

(f) Did the Honourable Member and the Government of India or the British Government take any notice of this incident and take any steps? If so, what and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (c). Government have seen press reports to that effect.

(b) What Mr. Clarkson, the Minister for the Interior, is reported to have said was that in his personal opinion franchise should be granted to Indians on a communal basis with educational and property qualifications in municipal councils, provincial councils and the Union Parliament.

(d) I presume that the Honourable Member refers to notice taken by the Government of the Union of South Africa. If so, the Government of India have no information.

(e) I would point out for the Honourable Member's information that Indians do not have municipal franchise in the Transvaal and that Indians are

not eligible for being members of municipal councils in the Transvaal. The question, therefore, does not arise.

(f) The Government of India have no information whether the British Government took any notice of this incident. The Government of India do not feel called upon to take any action every time an individual chooses to voice his personal views.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is not adding an insult to the injury that the British Government should not take any notice of it and the Honourable Member should not also enquire into it and ask the British Government what steps have been taken?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: There are die-hards in every country giving vent to their personal feelings and it is hardly worth our while forwarding protests and yet more protests to the Governments of their countries. This is only one of the many instances of anti-Indian utterances by South African Europeans and what action we can take to deal with this general question is under our active consideration.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member is also playing the same role of die-hard here.

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

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: He is not a die-hard here.

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

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have the Government of India devised any methods here to meet this diehardism?

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

CAPTAIN A. W. T. WEBB OF INDIANS OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT.

483. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state if there is an officer by name Captain A. W. T. Webb in the Indians Overseas Department?

(b) To what country and to what nationality does he belong?

(c) What is his salary and overseas allowance?

(d) Is he on special duty? If so, what is the nature of special duty?

(e) How many days does he tour in a month? Does he travel in a saloon? What is the average travelling allowance bill per month since the date of his appointment?

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

(b) United Kingdom, British nationality. Settled in the Union of South Africa in 1925.

(c) Rs. 1,600 a month but no overseas allowance.

(d) Yes. Capt. Webb deals with work relating to evacuees of European, British and Allied nationality. He is also in charge of the Bureau set up for finding employment for Indian evacuees.

(e) He does not travel every month nor does he travel in a saloon. His average travelling allowance per mensem since the date of his appointment is Rs. 881.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether it was necessary to import this expert and nobody in India could be found to do this work?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He is not imported, Sir.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I understood the Honourable Member to say that the gentleman settled down in South Africa in 1925. That means that he has taken up the naturalisation certificate of that Government. Then what was the idea of giving a man from South Africa a job under the Government of India of such a responsibility when the Honourable Member knows the views of this House on the reciprocity question?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He was born of British parents in Bikaner which is in India.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It does not matter. He may have been born here, but the Honourable Member said that he had settled down in South Africa. So he is a national of South Africa.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think he is amphibious.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Has he no nationality?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: British nationality.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: When was he appointed actually?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think he is serving in India for a long time:

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: For how long?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He came to India as a subaltern in 1909. I am giving his life history. He joined the Bombay Political Department in 1911. He served in World War No. I and was mentioned in despatches. Due directly to war services he was invalided and placed on a small disability pension. After nearly three years in hospitals, he went to South Africa for health reasons. He returned to India in 1934. During the Census of 1940-41 he was the Superintendent, Census Operations in Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara. In December 1941, he was appointed as an officer on special duty in the Home Department to deal exclusively with questions arising out of the evacuation to India of refugees of British and allied nationality. When the portfolio of Indians Overseas was transferred to the Indian Overseas Department, naturally he was transferred from the Home to this Department for doing the same work.

Sardar Sant. Singh: Is he on a contract basis?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I should like to have notice.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: This Bikaner born gentleman—his birth in India may be a panacea for all manner of things,—when was this gentleman actually appointed? Was he appointed before the Reciprocity Act was passed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Positively so.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Is the inspection of brothels in places like Gorakhpur, Salem, Coimbatore, one of his duties as an officer on special duty?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that that part of the question has been disallowed.

POST-WAR SHIPPING POLICY.

484. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) With reference to the answer given by the Honourable the Commerce Member to my starred question No. 248 on the 17th November, 1943, on the subject of post-war shipping policy, will he be pleased to state whether he has received "further information and clarification on certain points" from the British Government in connection with the statement made by the Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport in the House of Commons on the 14th July, 1943; and, if so, whether Government have given their consideration to the same?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement in regard to the post-war shipping policy of India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes, the matter is receiving the attention of Government.

(b) Consideration is being given to post-war shipping problems as part of the wider question of post-war trade and industrial policy, and until decisions are reached after consultation with the appropriate Reconstruction Committee, I shall not be able to make a statement on the subject.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there is suspicion in the minds of all people here that British shipping trade is against the development of Indian shipping will the Government be pleased to give an assurance that Indian shipping will be developed, not on the scale as before, but on a much larger and better scale consistent with the status and needs of this country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is one of the points which will be considered by the post-war reconstruction committee and the recommendations of this committee will be considered by the Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if any new considerations have to be taken note of by the Committee, although it is a well known fact?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Post-war questions are quite different from what the position was before the war.

POST-WAR SHIPPING POLICY.

485. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the answer given by the Honourable the Commerce Member to my starred question No. 213, put in the Legislative Assembly on the 5th August, 1943, on the subject of India's post-war shipping policy, and the answer given that if a separate question was put to him as to the general lines of any shipping policy which the Government of India may have, he would certainly answer the same, what definite lines of action have been taken by the Government of India, or what definite lines of action do they propose to take, and what general policy of shipping have they laid down and/or adopted, firstly, for the purpose of securing an adequate participation of Indian shipping in the coastal trade of India, secondly, for securing an adequate participation of Indian shipping in India's overseas trade; thirdly for enabling and ensuring the development of an Indian Merchant Navy owned, controlled and managed by Indians, adequate not only for carrying India's maritime trades but also for participating in the world trade; and fourthly, for enabling the large ocean-going ships to be built by Indians in Indian Ship-building Yards?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of his question No. 277 on the 10th August, 1943.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member sure that all the specific points I have mentioned in this question are covered by the answer to that question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state with reference to part "fourthly",—"enabling the large ocean-going ships to be built by Indians in Indian Ship-building Yards"—what assistance has been given by Government for the purpose of enabling the existing ship-building yards to manufacture large ocean-going vessels?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: A special dock has been allowed to one of the companies which has applied for ship-building at Vizagapatam, and certain quays have been laid down there. But owing to the present position on account of war necessities, other work has been entrusted to this company. But I may say that within the last few weeks two engines have been ordered by the company for constructing large ocean-going vessels. These are in England and action has been taken to get them imported to this country to be set aside for the purpose of fitting them up when the ocean-going steamers are constructed.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is there any outstanding request from this particular company with regard to shipping facilities being granted for the purpose of enabling essential machinery out from England and essential parts such as propellers?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The only request that was outstanding was for the importation of these two engines and connected machinery to fit it with the ship that may be constructed. Quite recently the Government have recommended priority for the import of these engines.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member quite sure that there is no other outstanding request from this company?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Not that I am aware of.

POSITION AS REGARDS INDO-BURMA IMMIGRATION AGREEMENT.

486. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government on the motion adopted by the Central Legislature on the 4th November, 1941, recommending to the Governor General in Council to request the Secretary of State for India not to implement the Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement by an Order in Council?

(b) If any representation has been made to the Secretary of State on the motion referred to in (a) above, what is the latest position in this connection?

(c) If no representation has been made to the Secretary of State for India as referred to in (a), why has it not been made?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state, whether at the informal conference called by him in Bombay on the 4th January, 1944, it was urged by the representatives of the various Associations invited that "the status of Indians in Burma should be the same in all respects as that of persons domiciled in the United Kingdom, and that Indians should have the same right of free entry into Burma as is enjoyed by the Britishers?"

(e) If the answer to (d) be in the affirmative, what action has the Honourable Member taken, or proposes to take, to enable Indians to exercise and enjoy such right of free entry into Burma after it is reconquered?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a), (b) and (c). An account of the debate on the motion was forwarded to the Secretary of State. Action was also initiated to reopen the matter but was unfortunately interrupted by the Japanese invasion of Burma. No further progress has been made on account of the developments in the course of the war in the East which are well-known to Honourable Members.

(d) and (e). The proceedings of the Conference called by me at Bombay on the 4th January, 1944, are confidential and I regret I cannot disclose them at this stage. But I assure that the suggestions made at that Conference are engaging the active attention of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (a), do I take it that the Government of India merely contented themselves with sending a copy of the proceedings of this House, or did the Government make any observations of their own for the consideration of His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already said that action was also initiated to reopen the matter.

UNIFICATION OF CONTROL OF SHIPS PLYING IN COASTAL TRADE OF INDIA.

487. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether any attempt was at any time made by Government to bring ships on the Indian Register, and ships on the United Kingdom Register plying in the coastal trade of India, under unified control of the Government of India?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, did His Majesty's Government consent to such unified control on the part of the Government of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). I am unable to say more on the subject than that discussions took place in 1941 as to the possibility of establishing unified control over Indian and British shipping based on India and that those discussions were of a purely exploratory character.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the Government of India did not put forward any specific opinion in this matter and that the discussions were merely exploratory?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They put forward certain suggestions to explore the possibilities of any agreement on the subject.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it not a fact that the Government of India definitely wanted this action to be taken—the action indicated by me in this question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Government of India suggested that an action of this kind may perhaps help in resolving certain difficulties which had then occurred in regard to the management of these two kinds of ships. These difficulties have since been resolved by other means.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I take it that the suggestion in regard to that matter was made by the Government of India but it was turned down by His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The difficulties were met by other methods.

MANUFACTURE OF QUININE IN INJECTABLE FORM.

488. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether Government have allotted quinine sulphate or quinine bihydro, to any pharmaceutical works for manufacturing quinine bihydro, in injectable form after the reply given to part (c) of my starred question No. 296 on the 12th August, 1943, stating that arrangements are being made with manufacturers for the manufacture of quinine in injectable form from stock available from Government? If so, what quantity of quinine has been allotted since August, 1943, to each firm, and what are the firms that received such allotment?

(b) What rate has been charged for such allotment, if any has been released?

(c) How are the manufactured ampoules distributed to the Malaria-stricken people of Bengal and Assam, and what are the channels for such distribution?

(d) Are Government distributing manufactured ampoules at controlled price through registered dealers and existing trade channel? If not, what is the plan of Government to distribute the same for the Malaria-stricken people of Bengal and Assam?

(e) What rates have been accepted by Government from each of the manufacturing concerns, and, if their rates are not the same, has the lowest quoting firm been offered the option of getting maximum quantity of quinine for manufacturing in injectable form?

(f) If the ampoules are not sold to the Malaria-stricken public at controlled rate, what is the Government's object for allotting quinine for manufacturing the same in injectable form?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the Table showing the quantities of quinine bihydrochloride allotted so far to different firms for the manufacture of ampoules.

(b) Quinine bihydrochloride is supplied by the Madras Government at Rs. 35/8/- per lb.

(c) and (d). The manufactured ampoules are allotted to all Provincial Governments, except Bengal, according to their requirements. The Provincial Governments are responsible for distribution within their areas at controlled rates. The Bengal Government have been asked to make their own arrangements for manufacture of injectable quinine to meet the requirements of Bengal.

(e) The rates accepted by Government vary between -/13/- and 1/8/- per box of 6 ampoules of 6 grains each. No firm has been given any option of getting the maximum quantity available for allotment. As the supplies are very urgently required, the manufacture has been entrusted to a number of firms after taking into account the rates tendered by them and their manufacturing capacity.

(f) Does not arise.

Quantities of Quinine Bihydrochloride allotted to firms for Manufacture of Quinine Ampoules.

<i>Name of firm.</i>	<i>Total quantities allotted.</i>
	<i>lbs.</i>
Hind Chemicals Limited, Cawnpore.	700
Chemical Industrial & Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Limited, Bombay.	650
Smith, Stanistreet & Company, Limited, Calcutta ...	600
Lister Antiseptics & Dressings Company, Limited, Calcutta ...	550
Standard Pharmaceutical Works, Limited, Calcutta.	750
Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works, Limited, Calcutta.	100
	<hr/>
	3,350 lbs.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Do you know the name of the firms?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Whose tenders have been accepted?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Yes.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information is given in the statement laid on the table of the House.

IMPORT OF QUININE, ATEBRINE, ETC.

489. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state what quantity of quinine, cinchona febrifuge and quinine substitutes like Atebrine, Mepacrine, Plasmoquine or Totaquine in any form has been imported into India, year by year, and, item by item, since the fall of Java in 1942?

(b) Is it a fact that Messrs. Martin and Harris Limited of Calcutta applied for an import licence to import 2,680,000 Metoquine tablets from the United States of America for the Indian Tea Association, and that the same was refused on the ground that quinine and all compounds and substitutes would be imported under Lease-Lend procedure? If so, what quantity of quinine or quinine substitutes have been imported into India under the Lease-Lend procedure?

(c) Is it a fact that certain manufacturers in the United States of America were willing to ship Metoquine Tablets (Atebrine) to Messrs. Martin and Harris Limited of Calcutta, but they were refused permission by the Indian Supply Mission at Washington? If so, why did the Indian Supply Mission at Washington take such a step when India was not self-sufficient in this essential drug?

(d) Did Government refuse to permit private importers to obtain supplies of quinine substitutes from the United Kingdom or the United States of America when Malaria is playing havoc and giving rise to such tragic consequences in Bengal and Assam?

(e) Are Government aware that due to extreme shortage of quinine, a serious black market in this drug has developed and spurious products in the name of quinine or quinine compounds are coming in the market? What steps have Government taken to check these?

(f) Have the Government of India supplied any quinine or quinine substitutes to Bengal? If so, what quantity has been supplied during the last year?

(g) If the reply to (f) is in the affirmative, through which channels are these drugs distributed? Has definite quota been fixed for the civilian population of Bengal and Assam where Malaria is taking such a heavy toll?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Cinchona febrifuge and quinine substitutes are not separately recorded in trade returns. The available information relates to quinine salts, imports of which amounted to 40,298 lbs. during 1942-43. I am not in a position to furnish later figures except in regard to quinine substitutes, of which approximately 19 million tablets have been imported in 1943-44.

(b) Yes. Because under arrangements with the American authorities all civil requirements in India are being imported by Government. The American authorities have fixed the amount of quinine substitutes to be exported to India and the Government of India have taken over the whole of that amount.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) Government have themselves taken steps to secure the available supplies.

(e) The Governments of Bengal and Madras have taken action under the Defence of India Rules to control the sale of quinine and other Provincial Governments have been asked to take similar action.

(f) The quantities of quinine and quinine substitutes allotted to the Bengal Government in 1943 are:

Quinine	89,000 lbs.
Cinchona febrifuge	24,800 lbs.
Mepacrine hydrochloride	71 million tablets.

(g) It is understood that the drugs are distributed by the Provincial Government through the public health and medical staff and reliable non-official agencies. All the supplies made available are intended for the civil population and no question of a quota for the civil population arises.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member in a position to tell us that the Government of India have satisfied themselves that the quinine substitutes imported from the United Kingdom and the United States of America have the active principles of quinine?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: They have not any element of quinine but they have exactly the same result.

Pandit Lakshmi Kantra Maithra: I wanted to know whether any experiment has been conducted by the Government in their own laboratories or anywhere else to test the active principles of these quinine substitutes?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know of any such test that has been made in India but I can say that we are quite satisfied that they are efficacious and the defence forces, in order to relieve the quinine situation, are using quinine substitutes exclusively.

BANKING FACILITIES TO PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ.

490. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of **Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha**): Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state:

(a) if Indian pilgrims are allowed to carry with them Indian currency notes to the Hedjaz; if so, whether Government are aware that they face difficulties in exchanging currency notes and have to pay a good amount of discount in the local market; and

(b) whether Government proposes to arrange to remove this difficulty by providing banking facilities or to open a section attached to the British Legation to assist pilgrims in the matter?

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

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Honourable Member has information to the effect that these notes are sold at a discount.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already said that we are collecting information. I am not in a position to answer that now.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member may be collecting information about the quantum but what about the fact whether the notes are sold at a discount?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It may be so.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member help us with a reply to this question? We are anxious to know what is the foreign credit of the paper currency.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can tell the Honourable Member that the Indian rupee notes, in certain neighbouring countries, are standing at a very high premium.

PROVINCIAL HAJ COMMITTEES.

491. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of **Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Indians Overseas please state the Provinces in which Provincial Haj Committees have been established?

(b) Are these Committees doing any useful work?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to lay copies of their annual reports on the table of the House, and to arrange to supply them to the members of the Central Haj Committee every year?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Madras, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Assam (two regional Committees) and the North-West Frontier Province.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What are the rules under which the Provincial Haj Committees are constituted?

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

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Muslim Members of the Central Legislature will be taken on the Provincial Haj Committees as *ex-officio* members?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not think so.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of this step?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It is for the Provincial Governments.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is there a Provincial Haj Committee in Bihar?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already answered that.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Government will be pleased to ask the Government of Bihar to have a Provincial Haj Committee constituted there?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It is their concern.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: My Honourable friend is entitled to ask whether there is a Haj Committee in Bihar, arising out of part (a).

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have answered that categorically. I have stated the names of provinces where Haj Committees exist.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Bihar is not there.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is there a Haj Committee in the Central Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have given the names of provinces where Haj Committees exist, namely, Madras, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Assam (there are two here) and the N.-W. F. P.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know why Provincial Haj Committees are not formed in other provinces?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That depends upon the Provincial Governments, whether they consider it necessary or not.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Do the Government propose to consult the various Provincial Governments on this?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have nothing to add.

BRITISH CANVASSING FOR INDIAN ORDERS FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

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

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that certain British firms representing British manufacturers of capital goods are canvassing for orders for the import of various capital goods into this country at the end of the war;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a British firm in India representing British manufacturers has issued a circular letter in connection with the canvassing for orders to various Indian firms, containing among other matters the following:

"A condition of requirements being entered on the makers' books to rank for priority would be that you would agree to pay us a sum in rupees as earnest money equivalent approximately to five per cent. of the nominal total net f. o. b. prices ruling at that time, to be treated when telegraphically remitted by us to the Makers in sterling at the then ruling rate of exchange, as a sterling payment made by you. No interest would be allowed on the sum in question. Your order would be registered on the Makers' books as and from the date the remittance is received by us, provided that Makers have confirmed that they are prepared to register your order. If the order is confirmed by you, the sterling sum would be treated as part payment on account, but if the order is not confirmed by you within a reasonable time after you receive the firm price quotation, the sum would be treated as a price paid for preliminary preferential registration of your requirements and, in that event, the sum would be forfeited and not repaid to you";

(c) whether the Honourable Member considers that these are fair conditions; and, if not, whether the Honourable Member proposes to take steps to see that Indian firms are warned against committing themselves in the manner suggested in the circular letter;

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the negative, whether Government accept these conditions to be fair or in the larger interests of the country; whether Government have approached His Majesty's Government to stop this practice of British manufacturers for canvassing such orders on such unfair conditions; and

(e) whether Government are prepared to consider, at an early date, their whole policy, with reference to future imports, so that industrialists in this

country are made aware of the conditions likely to prevail at the time when the War is over in the Western Theatre and can adjust their needs accordingly?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The matter is under investigation.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The matter is already under consideration.

Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury: Is it a fact that the canvassing done by the firms is in the knowledge of the Government?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Which Government?

Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury: The Government of India.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable Member has not followed the reply that I have just given.

DISPARITY BETWEEN UNORTHODOX AND ORTHODOX QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

493. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state:

(a) whether the plinth and ground area, including outhouses and garden, is much larger in the case of unorthodox clerks' quarters than in the corresponding type of orthodox clerks' quarters (especially in the Minto Road Area), so much so that, while the tenants of unorthodox quarters raise a good crop of vegetables, lay flower beds, rear poultry, can keep milch cattle and have badminton or tennis ground, there is not enough open space in orthodox quarters even to lay charpois for an average family during summer, and that the roofs of the "D" and "E" orthodox types are so low that they become heated very quickly during summer and cannot be occupied;

(b) whether the quality of materials, viz., timber, bolts, etc., used in the construction of an unorthodox quarter and the furniture supplied therein are much superior to those used in the orthodox type of quarters, the workmanship also being superior;

(c) whether the following special amenities and fittings provided in unorthodox quarters are absent in orthodox quarters:

(i) gardens and shrubs,

(ii) servants' quarters,

(iii) iron grates in fireplaces,

(iv) wall almirahs,

(v) fittings for curtains and rings for hanging chicks,

(vi) wash basin in bath rooms,

(vii) unfiltered water connection in compound, and

(viii) venetian window shutters in the "D" and "E" orthodox quarters;

(d) whether no cattle sheds are allowed to be constructed in orthodox quarters below the category "B" while they are allowed in unorthodox quarters;

(e) whether in the Public Works Department Enquiry Offices, more prompt attention is given to complaints from unorthodox quarters and preference is also shown to unorthodox quarters in the matter of annual repairs and general maintenance, etc.;

(f) whether the cost of maintenance of an unorthodox quarter is much more than that of an orthodox quarter, and that, while return on capital in the case of an unorthodox quarter is comparatively negligible, the orthodox quarters provide adequate revenue to Government;

(g) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, the reasons for discriminating between unorthodox and orthodox types of quarters in regard to amenities referred to and for charging rent on the same basis, i.e., ten per cent. for both types; and

(h) whether Government are prepared to amend their Fundamental Rules so as to make them conform to strict business principles; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The answer to first part of the question is affirmative and to the latter in the negative.

(b) No.

(c) Yes so far as items No. (i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (viii) are concerned. A room for servant exists in other than D and E orthodox quarters and unfiltered water connection is provided in the open compound outside the orthodox quarters.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the position is as follows:

Government servants occupying quarter of both the types pay standard rent or 10 per cent. of their pay, whichever is less, but the standard rents of orthodox quarters being lower, a larger number of occupants pay the standard rent.

(g) The amenities provided in the two types of quarters are in accordance with the standard designs which were prepared to suit the orthodox and unorthodox styles of living. Rent is charged according to rules.

(h) No. Government provide accommodation at concessional rates as laid down in the Rules, which cannot be varied to suit the varying circumstances of officers.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is a part of the rule to provide water in the compound of the orthodox quarters and in the case of the unorthodox quarters only in the quarter itself?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That must be so.

ALLOWANCES FOR SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS, ETC., AT IRWIN HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI.

494. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether Sub-Assistant Surgeons and/or Assistant Surgeons in the Irwin Hospital receive any allowances in addition to their pay for doing special work, e.g., attending to Secretariat Establishment, to Government of India Press Establishment, etc.?

(b) If so, what are the various allowances so given?

(c) How many of these allowances were given to Hindus, and how many to Muslims, on the 1st December, 1943?

(d) Is there a Resident Medical Officer at the Irwin Hospital? If so, what allowances are being drawn by him in addition to his pay?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Hindus three, Muslims two.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Statement.

1. A special pay of Rs. 40 per mensem for the performance of extra duties performed by an assistant surgeon consequent on the abolition of the post of Resident Medical Officer.

2. A special pay of Rs. 30 per mensem in the nature of a conveyance allowance to a medical officer for attendance on employees of the Government of India Press and their families at their residences outside his duty hours at the Irwin Hospital.

3. A special pay of Rs. 50 per mensem to the anaesthetist at the Irwin Hospital.

4 and 5. A special pay of Rs. 25 and a compensatory allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to the Assistant to the Radiologist.

REDUCTION IN SUPPLY OF KEROSENE OIL TO GLASS BANGLE INDUSTRY, FIROZABAD.

495. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of the fact that the quota of kerosene oil for joining ends of glass bangles in Firozabad has been reduced from 7,500 tins monthly in 1941 to 1,100 tins monthly in 1944 which has caused huge accumulation of unfinished bangles in the factories?

(b) What measures are being adopted to avoid this crisis by either increasing quotas of kerosene or providing a substitute by installing a steam coal gas plant?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is not a fact that the Glass Industry in Firozabad was receiving 7,500 tins of kerosene a month in 1941. The monthly supply during that year to the town of Firozabad itself averaged about 4,500 tins. Supplies during the current year to the town averaged 2,000 tins per month, of which 1,100 tins have been allotted to the Glass Bangle Industry. It is a fact that there is a large accumulation of unfinished bangles in the factories.

(b) Owing to the shortage of coal and firewood, so long as the difficulties regarding coal and firewood continue, there would be little point in installing a steam coal gas plant or in increasing, even if it were possible, the supplies of kerosene. Government is doing everything possible to ensure a better and more regular supply of coal.

HAWKING OF INDIAN COTTON GOODS, ETC., IN DELHI WITHOUT EXHIBITION OF PRICE LISTS.

496. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that prices for cotton goods and other articles of necessities manufactured in India have not so far been fixed by Government; if not, the Notifications in which the prices of Indian made merchandise goods are published; if not, why not;

(b) if it is a fact that cotton goods, etc., manufactured in India are hawked in bazars and streets of Delhi and price lists are not kept by persons vending them;

(c) what arrangements have been made to protect the public from the profits made through prices which could not be ascertained from the persons hawking the goods in places other than shops, and regularly maintained markets; if no arrangements have been made, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if it is a fact that in shops in Delhi which are observing weekly holiday a large amount of unauthorised sales on closed shop premises, footpaths, etc., is carried on by hawkers and others, who are not in possession of price lists; if so, why?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government have already fixed prices for a large number of consumer goods.

(b) Government have no information; but in so far as cotton goods are concerned, price lists would, in any case, be unnecessary since prices are required to be stamped on the cloth.

(c) Every effort is made to bring to the notice of the public the prices fixed for various commodities from time to time. If the prices asked for by hawkers appear to be excessive, the public have the alternative of refraining from buying from these people and obtaining their requirements from regular shops.

(d) Government have no information.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: What will the public do if they have to purchase some medicine which is very necessary and the man is selling it at a very high price? How can a man go without medicine?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I was not aware that hawkers vended medicine.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Not the hawkers only, but the Honourable Member said in his reply that the public has been told not to purchase articles if they find the price excessive. To this I am asking what remedy have the people when they find that the chemist is charging three times the original price?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am afraid my answer has not been properly appreciated. I said that members of the public need not buy from the hawkers but may obtain from regular shops.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Why should not action be taken against hawkers if they sell medicine at a high price?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Government have no information on the subject, but that point will be brought to the notice of the proper authorities.

STATUS AND POSITION OF ASSOCIATES OF INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.

497. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether he has in contemplation any scheme for regulating the employment by Insurance Companies of persons who are Associates of the Institute of Actuaries; and

(b) whether he has been advised that the present time is opportune for making any change in the status and position of the Associates of the Institute of Actuaries?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes.

(b) As no change in the status or position of the Associates is intended, the question does not arise.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Why is it that there is a need for changing this method of giving licences to the Associates?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is the very matter which is under consideration now. As a temporary measure, in 1939, the then Superintendent of Insurance, finding that with reference to insurers and provident societies there was a great deal of routine matter to be certified, permitted the Associates to certify that, instead of following the original system of requiring each individual Associate to apply personally to him and each Company to apply also for permission to employ that Associate. That has led, so the allegation says, to these Associates claiming for themselves the same position and status as the Fellows, which was never contemplated. The whole matter is now under consideration.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the idea of the Government is to protect the Fellows as against the Associates?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: To see fair-play among all sorts of qualified and partially qualified people.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he knows that this is not the proper time that Associates can be enabled to become Fellows and they cannot get properly qualified because of the war conditions?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That does not alter the fact that they are only partially qualified.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Cannot the Government hold this particular rule in abeyance till the war comes to an end?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The matter is under consideration; that may be one of the possibilities.

COTTON TEXTILES PRODUCED BY MILLS AND HAND-LOOMS.

498. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(i) the total approximate quantities of cotton textiles produced in India by mills and hand-looms, separately, year by year, in 1941, 1942 and 1943;

(ii) how much of the above quantities were taken over by Government for military or other requirements;

(iii) how much of the above quantities were exported outside India and to which places; and

(iv) how much of the above quantities represent the approximate internal demand per year?

(b) Is it a fact that exports of cotton are being controlled by Government? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to explain the policy of Government in this matter, indicating the principal features of the control system, and the quotas fixed for different countries?

(c) What is the total quantity of standard cloth that the Indian cotton mills were expected to produce in 1943, and what was the allotment for each province thereof, and how much of it was disposed of in each province by the end of 1943?

(d) What has been the method of distribution and sale of standard cloth in each province?

(e) What are the rates of price payable to mill-owners during different periods, and what rates of prices were fixed for their sale to the consumer in the respective periods?

(f) Is there any scheme for bringing about a graduated reduction of the price of standard cloth? If so, what are its features, and to what extent has the consumer actually received the benefit of such reduction period by period in each province? Was any reduction due on the 1st February last? If so, has it been given effect to?

Before my question is answered, may I point out that there is a mistake in part (b) of the question? In the first line, the reference was intended to cotton goods. The word 'goods' does not appear in the question as printed. I hope that won't interfere with the answer of the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It would because my answer has been based on the fact that cotton was exported.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can answer this question later.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I can answer the whole question. There is only part of it which has been affected.

(a)(i). The following are the figures of production of cotton textiles by mills:

1941—4,300 million yards.

1942—4,014 million yards.

1943—4,755 million yards.

As regards handlooms, no definite figures are available but the probable annual production in the past three years may be about 1,500 million yards.

(ii) The quantities purchased by Government have been:

1941—600 million yards.

1942—1,104 million yards.

1943—562 million yards.

(iii) Figures of exports are given in the Monthly publication "Accounts relating to the Sea Borne Trade and Navigation of British India", copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(iv) The approximate internal demand per year in normal times is probably in excess of the total Indian production.

And this is where I have to give the reply on the basis of cotton.

(b) Exports of cotton are being controlled by Government. Their general policy is to prohibit export of medium and long staple cotton except to Empire countries. Even to these latter, exports are not freely permitted.

(c) The total quantity of Standard Cloth for which orders were placed on mills in 1943 was 743 million yards. Out of this 408 million yards had been despatched to Provinces and States by the end of December 1943. I have placed in the Library of the House a statement showing the amount of Standard Cloth allotted to each Province up to the end of January 1944, the proportion of that allotment actually despatched by the end of January, and the quantities actually sold in each Province by the same date.

(d) Provinces sell Standard Cloth through the normal trade channels and through official channels at their discretion.

(e) I have placed in the Library of the House a schedule showing the ex-mill and retail prices of all varieties of Standard Cloth during the last three quarters.

(f) Yes, Sir. Its main feature is to pass on any reductions obtained in ex-mill prices to the consumer over a certain period though not as reductions actually occur, the aim being to give a reasonable time to the dealers to dispose of stocks purchased by them during one period before further stocks at different prices are made available to them. This is necessary because the margin of profit allowed to the dealers has been kept particularly small and not capable of bearing any large losses owing to frequent reductions in price. Ex-mill prices of Standard Cloth, for which orders have been placed for delivery to be made during February-April, are lower than the corresponding prices during the previous

periods. The question of passing on the benefit of the lower prices will not arise until deliveries under this begin to be made.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Is it a fact that the scheme of Standard Cloth is going to be stopped soon?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It may have to be considered.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Is it not a fact that the Government have already come to the conclusion that it will be stopped?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I find myself in a peculiar difficulty in answering that question.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Is it because you feel a delicacy in disclosing the decision of the Government?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have not got information on this subject.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: May I know if the Government are not making as much as 17 per cent. profit on the Standard Cloth?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want notice. But I can say that there is no profit being made by Government. It is an equalisation fund that is built up which is passed on from period to period by way of adjustment of prices. No profit is made by the Government at all.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (d) the Honourable Member stated that the Provincial Governments have got their discretion either to employ the official agency or the trade channels for the purpose of distribution of Standard Cloth. Has the Honourable Member any information in his possession to indicate as to which of the Provinces utilise the normal trade channels and which others the official channels, and what are the respective outstanding stocks in the two cases?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want notice.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that in Madras, the normal trade channel was utilised to a larger extent than elsewhere and it is in this Province alone there is nothing very much by way of stock in the hands of the Government, and that in Provinces like Bengal, Bihar, etc.; due to the fact that the official agencies were preferred to normal trade channels, large quantities are still held in stock?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Knowing as I do the Madras Province, I am prepared to accept the information given by my Honourable friend regarding Madras as substantially correct. As regards other Provinces, I have no information.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee: What is the official agency? Are Government shops created?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Shops licensed by Government specially for this purpose, I take it.

POLICY FOR ISSUE OF LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF CHEMICALS AND DYES.

499. **Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the new policy Government are following for the issue of licences for the import of chemicals and dyes necessary for the cotton textile industry in India, and the procedure by which decisions with regard to the issue of such licences are taken?

(b) Why are some Indian firms which had been given licences in the past sought to be eliminated?

(c) Why is the policy of discrimination at the cost of Indian concerns allowed to continue?

(d) What precautions are Government taking against the establishment of a monopoly in these commodities by non-Indian vested interests?

(e) Have Government received any communications on this subject from the Secretary of State for India, the High Commissioner for India in London or from manufacturers in the United Kingdom?

(f) Are Government aware of the complaint that at meetings of the Advisory Board which is supposed to advise the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, in

these matters, at which issues concerning the subject matter of these questions are discussed, the Honorary Chief Controller of Raw Materials tries to impose his pre-determined views?

(g) Are meetings of the Advisory Board convened only to convey the decision of Government through the Honorary Chief Controller of Raw Materials?

(h) Have Government received any representation from the trade as well as commercial bodies protesting against this procedure? If so, what action do Government propose to take to make the advisory system real and effective?

(i) Are Government aware that recent decisions of the said Honorary Chief Controller of Raw Materials tend to establish a virtual monopoly for the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ciba and other foreign business houses?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No new policy is being followed in respect of dyes, and the same is true of chemicals with the exception of zinc chloride and hydro-sulphite of soda. In the case of these two substances licences for the period January-June 1944, have been granted only to accredited representatives in India of the manufacturers concerned. This procedure was, however, introduced in special circumstances and is subject to review at the end of the current licensing period.

(b) and (c). The decision in the case of zinc chloride and hydro-sulphite of soda was not taken with a view to eliminating any Indian concerns, but to ensure supplies of the two chemicals of good quality and at reasonable prices.

(d) The question of establishing a monopoly by any interests does not arise. Any concerns which directly represent a manufacturer in the exporting country are given licences. There is no question of giving any one an additional advantage.

(e) Yes, the Secretary of State for India has enquired as a matter of information.

(f), (g) and (h). Government have received certain representations to this effect. They are satisfied that these representations are not well-founded. The recommendations of the Committee are duly recorded in the minutes of its meetings, which are thereafter considered by the Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board.

(i) No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to parts (b), (c) and (e), may I know whether Government have any information that exporters of chemicals in U. K. are agitating over this matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir.

POLICY FOR ISSUE OF LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF CHEMICALS AND DYES.

500. *Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is the considered view of Government that, in future, imports should only be permitted through importers who are themselves representatives of manufacturers in foreign countries?

(b) Are Government aware that manufacturers' representation in India is mainly confined to a few big non-Indian concerns like the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ciba, National, etc.? If, therefore, imports are permitted only through them, is there not the danger of the business developing into a monopoly for these concerns?

(c) Do Government realise the menace to trade and consumption in concentrating immense powers in the hands of a few combines?

(d) Are Government aware that the Imperial Chemical Industries has long been trying to oust its competitors from the trade by all means at its command, and that the monopolistic tendencies of this company have been the subject of adverse criticisms even in the British Press?

(e) What measures do Government propose to take to protect the interests of those who have been in the trade and who have made their reputation with customers who look to them for supplies?

(f) Are Government aware that many of these firms have successfully competed with the Imperial Chemical Industries and the like concerns in

the past when normal conditions prevailed, to the advantage of the consumer and for the prosperity of the trade?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No such general conclusion has been arrived at.

(b) and (c). Government are aware of the disadvantages of restricting import licences for any particular commodity to manufacturers' representatives, but circumstances may exist in exceptional cases where the advantages of doing so outweigh the disadvantages.

(d) Government are not aware to which particular criticism the Honourable Member refers.

(e) and (f): Government are fully alive to these considerations and it is part of their import licensing policy to take account of the legitimate interests of those engaged in any particular trade.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if for the period from January to June of this year, licenses have been issued to cover 90 per cent. of imports through one channel and ten per cent. of imports through Indian as well as Swiss channels? I mean 90 per cent. is covered through I.C.I. and ten per cent. is covered by Indian as well as Swiss channels?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want notice.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware that certain ports are not open all the year round, but they are open only for certain months in the year. Will the Government allow persons to use their full quota all the year during the months in which the ports are open?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I do not understand the question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In Kathiawar there are certain ports which are open all the year round. There are certain other ports which are open only for a few months in the year. May I know whether the Government will allow the use of the full quota of the year to those merchants who export from closed ports during the months the ports are open?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want notice.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My question is very important.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I realise the importance of it and that is why I ask for notice.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This fact has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies. I should like to know what action has been taken. It is rather an important question.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: This question relates to imports and not exports. The question of certain ports being closed during part of the year, like those in Kathiawar ports, is in my opinion far more important with reference to exports than on imports.

PROMOTION OF QUALIFIED COPYHOLDERS AND REVISERS AS READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

501. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) With reference to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 231 put by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, on the 25th February, 1944, regarding promotion of Copyholders and Revisers as Readers in the Government of India Press, will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state whether the 'anomaly' is due to the fact that departmental men passing in earlier dates do not get any preference whatsoever over those who pass in the second chance in subsequent examinations?

(b) Is he aware that those who pass the examination earlier stand distinctly higher in order of merit and efficiency and experience in Readers' posts?

(c) Is it a fact that the present anomaly and the hardship that existed before the promulgation of the existing rule can not be removed unless the date of passing is accepted as a criterion for determining the position of the candidates for Readers' posts?

(d) Do Government propose to promote the candidates to Readers' posts on the basis of seniority *cum* efficiency, i.e., according to seniority but in order of the dates of passing the examination? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) No. The earlier passing of the examination does not necessarily mean higher merit.

(c) There is no anomaly in the case of persons who qualify at the Readership examination in the first or second chance. As regards men who qualify in the third chance, certain anomalies have arisen and the question of removing them is now under consideration, as stated in reply to part (d) of Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's question No. 231.

(d) The Readership examination is a qualifying examination and every candidate is permitted to avail of two chances. Government do not propose to regulate promotion in order of the dates of passing the examination.

MUSLIM OFFICERS IN FOREST DEPARTMENT.

502. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the total strength of officers in the Forest Department at Headquarters and in Provinces under the Forest Department, and the number of Muslim officers therein?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Excluding twelve posts held by officers of the I.F.S., to which recruitment was stopped before the orders of 1934 enjoining the observance of communal proportions in recruitment were issued, the number of gazetted officers employed at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges at Dehra Dun and in the Forest Departments of the Chief Commissioners' provinces on the 1st July 1943 was 34, of whom nine were Muslims. The Central Government have no Forest Officers serving in the Forest Departments of the Governors' Provinces.

CENTRAL LEGISLATURE MEMBERS IN PROVINCIAL FOOD COUNCILS.

+503. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many Members of this Assembly and the Council of State are invited by Provincial Governments to accept membership of the Provincial Food Councils; and

(b) how many Provinces have formed their Food Councils, and whether those Governments have invited the Members of this House to attend their Councils; and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Government of India have no information.

(b) Seven Provinces have set up Food Councils or their equivalents and the remainder propose to do so. It is for the Provincial Governments to decide the composition of these bodies.

BIHARIS AS ASSISTANT GEOLOGISTS.

+504. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that in the Department of Geological Survey of India vacancies are filled on the basis of quota fixed for each Province;

(b) the quota fixed for Bihar for the posts of Assistant Geologists;

(c) how many Biharis are working at present as Assistant Geologists or in a higher capacity; and

(d) the quotas for different Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) Does not arise.

INSURANCE COMPANIES APPLYING FOR RAISING OF SHARE CAPITAL.

†505. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to say how many Insurance Companies have applied for sanction to raise the share capital since the new Insurance Act came into force? What is their number, province-wise?

(b) Did any Insurance Company apply from Bihar for sanction to raise the share capital?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member.

PROMOTION OF QUALIFIED COPYHOLDERS AND REVISERS AS READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

†506. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the case of amending the rule regarding the promotion of qualified Copyholders and Revisers as Readers in Government of India Presses is under consideration;

(b) whether it is a fact that the views of all the Government of India Presses, their Works Committees and Workers' Union, which were invited, are also under examination;

(c) whether it is a fact that some qualified Copyholders who passed the Readership Examination in the year 1936, according to the present rules, have been superseded by those who qualified after four years (in 1940); and

(d) whether it is a fact that these men who passed the examination at a sufficiently earlier date, were superseded by those who qualified after a long period?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. Attention is invited to the reply given on the 25th February, 1944, to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazim's question No. 231.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). No. As the Rules in force till 1940 required re-qualifying, no supersession was involved.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY AND COMPARTMENTAL SYSTEM OF EXAMINATIONS.

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

(a) the result of his correspondence with the Aligarh Muslim University regarding the introduction of the compartmental system of examinations; and

(b) whether the various expert committees appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education submitted their reports; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay a copy of the same on the table?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India have very recently received proposals from the Aligarh Muslim University for an extension of the compartmental system in the examinations of the University.

(b) The report of the Examination Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education on the technique of examinations was considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education at their last meeting in January 1944. The report of the Committee, together with the recommendations of the Board thereon, will be printed in the 'Proceedings of the tenth meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education', copies of which will, when published, be placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Government of India have accepted the unanimous recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education as regards supplementary and compartmental examinations?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say, Sir.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if the Government considered the unanimous recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education about compartmental and supplementary examinations?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am unable to say, Sir. If the Honourable Member will give me notice, I will supply the information.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, this question has already been raised and it is before the Honourable Secretary for Education for consideration. It was raised by the Aligarh University and the papers are with the Secretary for Education. I should like to know what is his opinion on this matter.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member seems to have been misinformed. I have not yet seen the proposal.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TRANSFER OF LANGUAGES SECTION OF BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO LAHORE.

140. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the area of the space allotted to the Languages Section (excluding officers) in Lahore, and the total strength of the staff accommodated therein? Do Government consider this adequate for the efficiency of the staff? Was not even this much space available in Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that the lavatory has been provided for the staff and the improvised urinal has no drainage arrangement?

(c) What is the strength of the staff belonging to the Bureau of Public Information which has been transferred from Delhi to Lahore? Of them how many were provided with quarters in Delhi, and how many in Lahore? How many of them have so far surrendered their quarters in Lahore on grounds of inadequate accommodation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) An area of 4,587 Sq. ft. was allotted to this office. The ministerial staff consist of 48 persons.

Second part—Yes.

Third part—No.

(b) The answer to the first half of the question is in the affirmative and to the second half in the negative.

(c) Strength of the Staff that moved from Delhi	35
Number of the staff provided with quarters in Delhi	7
Number of the staff provided with quarters in Lahore	18
Number of the staff that surrendered accommodation in Lahore on grounds of inadequacy	5

DELAYS AT SALES OFFICE OF MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI.

141. Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state if it is a fact that a person has to wait for hours for publications at the counter of the Sales Office of the office of the Manager of Publications, Old Bihar?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The reply is in the negative.

ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS FOR MANUAL WORKERS IN BIHAR.

142. Mr. A. C. Inskip: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to state with reference to the proposed Bihar Government Sales Tax, what the Central Government consider are essential foodstuffs for manual workers in Bihar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I understand that the Government of Bihar propose to exempt all foodstuffs generally from the proposed Sales Tax. The Honourable Member's question therefore does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

SPECIAL ALLOWANCE TO BRITISH JUNIOR MARRIED OFFICERS IN INDIA.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the War Secretary please state:

- the facts with regard to giving of further allowance to British junior married officers in India, and what the proposals are;
- how many will receive this allowance as at present contemplated; and
- what will be the financial effect of these proposals?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As the War Secretary is indisposed, I have been asked to answer this question.

(a), (b) and (c). Investigations arising out of a question asked in the House of Commons in October, 1942, have disclosed that the net emoluments of certain categories of married British Service Officers with children serving in India are less than or not appreciably in excess of those of their opposite numbers serving in the United Kingdom. This result is due to the differences in the income-tax laws of the two countries. British law allows a variety of easements including certain exemptions in respect of wives and children, which Indian law does not. Moreover, in the United Kingdom various allowances, including family allowances, are exempt from taxation whereas under Indian law they are liable to tax. Various suggestions for restoring to officers the margin over United Kingdom emoluments, which is an accepted feature of overseas service, have been under examination by the Secretary of State and the Government of India but no decision has yet been reached.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, it has fallen to my lot to raise my voice of protest year after year against the restriction of the duties and functions assigned to the Standing Finance Committee and against the composition of this Committee. I pointed out several times before that the powers and functions which were originally to be allotted to this Committee are not allotted to it now and that the composition of this Committee is unsatisfactory. I do not like to go into the details of this matter at the present moment, but I shall point out to the House that when this Committee was first constituted in the year 1921, Sir Malcolm Hailey (now Lord Hailey) stated that very important functions were to be given to this Committee. But that is not done now. As a protest against this restriction of powers this Assembly refused on several occasions to elect the Standing Finance Committee at all. Sir, after the non-election of any Committee for a number of years, this Committee was re-elected four or five years ago, and I agreed to join this Committee in order that I might try to make myself useful. But bitter experience for several years taught me that I could not be of any use to this Committee, and last year I declined to be nominated for election to this Committee.

Sir, I put it to this House now, whether it is desirable or not to have the restrictions on the powers and duties of this Committee removed and to alter the composition of the Committee.

As regards the composition of the Committee, I wish to urge that only elected members of this House should be elected and not nominated Members. I urge also that nominated members should not vote at the time of election. These two matters will receive, I hope, the careful consideration of the Government and of this House, and on that will depend my attitude towards the election of this Committee.

Sir Oowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about the functions?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, several members of my Party who have been sitting on this committee have brought to my notice that they have not been getting proper opportunity to

discuss the matters which were brought before the committee. One reason was that this committee meets when they are already over-worked and cannot give sufficient time to study the matters which are to be brought before them. I think the Honourable the Finance Member is very anxious to save public money and for that reason he always holds the committee meetings during the Assembly Session when Members are here. I admit that some saving is naturally effected by holding the committee during the Assembly Session, but the disadvantage in holding the committee during the Assembly Session is that Members do not get sufficient time and opportunity to scrutinize things and go into the details of various matters which are placed before them. I think the main function of the Standing Finance Committee is to say as to whether a new expenditure should be sanctioned or not. To do that satisfactorily, they must be given proper opportunity to go into details.

Then, Sir, I do not think it is necessary for the Government to try to have a majority of members on the Committee who would suit them, because it only shows that their case is not strong and they have no confidence in themselves.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We have no majority.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It is always the duty of the Government of the day to satisfy the Opposition. The least the Government can do is to take the Opposition into confidence, for in their very criticisms they may be of help to Government.

I do not want to come up and discuss the remarks which have been made by one Honourable Member that there should be no distinction between the nominated and elected Members. But, Sir, it is not we who are making the distinction. It is they who are demonstrating that there is a distinction between the nominated and elected Members. It is the every-day show which they have exhibited by going into the lobbies with the Government where their own interests have suffered. I know, Sir, that some Members may say that they are here to represent their community.

Kunwer Hajee Ismael Alikhan (Nominated Non-Official): I want to raise a point of order. Is this the proper occasion to discuss the conduct of the nominated Members?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I know my Honourable friend may like to say that some people represent certain communities or interests,

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make such reflections. They are entitled to vote in any way they like.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Every Honourable Member is entitled to vote as he likes. But I am saying that there is a distinction. Can we ignore the facts as they prevail? I would have been pleased if those Members who represent certain interests did come and were taken into confidence. At least they could have shown where their interests lie. I think this is the time that Government should not be very anxious to have these committees composed in such a manner that they have a substantial majority in their favour. We want people who do not ditto the head of the Department. In that way they will be helping the Finance Department. We want men on the Committee who can say no, no matter who is the head of the Department on the Committee. We do not want mere 'yes' men. If the Committee is composed of such men it will function to some useful purpose.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already said that.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal Landholders): I on behalf of my Party wish to say that at present we are not interested in the composition of this Committee, but I wholeheartedly endorse the views expressed by my friends. I think the appointment of such committees will serve no useful purpose.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I support the suggestion of my friend, Dr. Banerjee, that the function of this Committee should be enlarged. I feel that the Standing Finance Committee should be in a position to examine all the new proposals of the Government of India, whether they are votable

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

items or non-votable items. It may be that the House has not the power to vote upon the non-votable items but the House certainly has a right to consider and express an opinion on those proposals which are non-votable. I therefore feel, Sir, that the function of this Committee should be enlarged. At the same time I feel that my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjea, the Knight from Meerut and the Congress representative, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, were not quite fair to the nominated Members.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Ignoring yourself.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: You are an exception.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not wish to be an exception. The House as it is constituted has a certain number of nominated Members. They are a part of this Legislature and it will be wrong for any party to deprive those people of their rights which are given to them by the constitution. There is nothing in the constitution by which a nominated Member is obliged to go against his conscience.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: But do all the nominated Members realise that?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would like to ask a counter question. Do the elected Members always realise that they, ought in this Legislature to vote according to their conscience? So long as party systems exist in politics, no member belonging to a party can always follow his conscience. I know it, is open to a Member

(Interruptions from several Members.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on without interruptions.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: So long as there are nominated Members, they cannot be deprived of their rights. Secondly, the number of nominated Members as compared to the number of elected Members is such that the elected Members can always prevail if the latter only stand together. The real difficulty is that they do not stand together. They are divided. Otherwise they can form a sufficiently large bloc to see that their opinions are carried. I would suggest, therefore, to the elected Members and those who claim that only elected Members should have the power to vote, instead of allowing some of their Members to act, perhaps under undesirable influences

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Should Government take advantage of this?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would like to ask Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan whether he was himself at any time a nominated Member and whether he allowed himself to be influenced by any undue influence?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No. I refused to take the whip from the Government Whip.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would suggest to him that in

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This kind of controversy must not go on.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I informed the Honourable Member that when the whip was brought to me I refused to take it and I deliberately voted on matter when the

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has no reason to make reflections on others.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I, therefore, think that the Government of India should increase the function of this Committee and that the nominated Members should have the right to vote as they have had.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: On a point of personal explanation. I never made mention of any distinction between the nominated and the elected Members.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken. He cannot speak twice.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I have served on the Finance Committee for the last 16 years under four different Finance Members and I may just say what I feel about the Finance Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There is too much noise in the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Really speaking, the Finance Committee is the second line of defence of the Finance Member. The first line of defence is his own Department. We get demands from various departments of the Government of India and every department tries to please the Finance Member to get the maximum amount from him. Then his first line of defence is his own Department and the second line of defence ought to be the Finance Committee, and this has been the practice of the predecessors of the Finance Member. Then we were supplied very full desiderata for the demands made by various departments. It is supposed to be a settled fact between the Finance Department and the Department who is making a demand, and if we differ it is really a fight between us and the Finance Department. These are the things which we do not like and, therefore, the Standing Finance Committee ought to be treated as a second line of defence by the Honourable the Finance Member. We should support the Finance Member in the Finance Committee in saving him from that anxiety. That is my complaint. The question of voting does not arise at all, but it is a question of advancing arguments by those who are present in a particular Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I have been interested to hear the remarks of various Honourable Members on this motion. Professor Banerjee, I may say, merely repeated what he said on this subject on a previous occasion and he raised the same points to which I had previously replied in some detail. The history of the Standing Finance Committee and of the scope of its functions is fully given in a memorandum which was laid before the Committee on the 21st January, 1937, and was approved by it. This memorandum shows clearly what was the scope laid down for the Committee at various stages and why that was modified in the light of actual experience. Now, Sir, I shall have a little more to say on that in a few minutes, but I would like to touch on some of the points which have been raised by Honourable Members. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan complained about my fixing the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee during the Session and he said that that put extra work on members of the Committee. Well, I would like to point out that during the same Session, in addition to having to attend to my duties in this House and to supervise the preparation of materials for this Committee and to attend the meetings of this Committee, I also have a few trifling duties to perform in connection with the finances of this country. If there is going to be any complaint of overworking, I think, I should come first on the list. I think Honourable Members might consider the convenience of the Government Members, particularly of those of us who are heavily worked. It is from the point of view of an attempt to secure a convenient despatch of business in consideration of my own personal programme as well as that of other Members that we do endeavour to fix these meetings during the Session. My Honourable friend knows as well as I do that many members of this House are so busy that they will not lightly undertake to serve on a Committee which may be called together at various times of the year. If they know that an attempt is made to economise in time and they are not unnecessarily called on to move to and fro between Delhi and their constituencies, they may be, I hope, more disposed to agree to serve on Committees of this kind. I think it is most undesirable

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Can't it be done a few days before?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think it is most undesirable that the Committee should be composed entirely of members who have more leisure than others. I think, we should endeavour to get members on the Committee who are most interested in the functions which the Committee has to perform. These functions are extremely important. The other day when we had a debate on the constitution of a new Committee—an Economy Committee—I was thinking to myself, why is it that the Standing Finance Committee cannot or is not regarded as adequate to carry out those functions? After all, it is essentially a Committee which should carry out those functions.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Expand the functions.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall come to that in a moment.

I am quite prepared to endeavour to give this Committee more time in which to deal with the programme of work placed before it. I am also prepared to endeavour to put a good deal more before this Committee if this House will take this Committee seriously. Then I am quite prepared to consider putting before it material other than the mere prepared schemes of the Departments. For instance, a good deal was said in this House the other day about the question of corruption, a good deal was said about the question of waste. I pointed out to the House that it is extremely difficult to lay upon the already over-worked Departments the duty of preparing memoranda and information in different forms and so on. It has always to be given to the same handful of men who have something more important already on their hands. I know how heavily worked they are. At the same time I myself am very anxious to get the views of the Members of this House on these questions. I would like to consult a Committee of this House on the question of corruption. I would like to have their suggestions, practical suggestions in order to deal with this situation. I would also like to do that without laying additional burdens on the already over-worked Departments. Similarly, I would like to discuss with Members of this House round a table their suggestions for dealing with waste and so on. I am anxious to have the assistance of Members of this House who come in contact with people all over the country and who hear their complaints regularly. I would be very glad to be able to receive suggestions constantly from Members of this House. I do not see any reason whatsoever why the Standing Finance Committee should not be able to perform functions of that kind. If it is not able to perform functions of that kind, then for Heaven's sake let us dispense with it altogether. Why should we have innumerable committees to cover more or less the same ground? I am prepared to have a Committee of this House to assist in dealing with the control of expenditure, and also to consider means for counter-acting corruption and suggestions for controlling waste. I do not see anything sacrosanct in the name of the Standing Finance Committee. It is not a matter of name only, the important matter is to secure economies and to control expenditure. I see no reason whatsoever why this should not be approached from a common-sense point of view. And in response to what my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, suggested I am quite prepared to consider at the present time the question of consulting this Committee on wider questions whether relating to votable or non-votable expenditure. I am quite prepared to do that. I do not mean that we should put before them in the ordinary way detailed proposals regarding, for instance, defence, or other non-votable expenditure of that kind, but I am prepared to consult them on general aspects of this question of the undesirable features which are generally alleged to have grown up in regard to Government expenditure, whether in the War Department or Supply Department or the Food Department. I shall be glad to receive suggestions from Honourable Members as to how evils and abuses which are alleged to exist can be practically dealt with. I wish the House to realise that I am prepared to consult this Committee in that way and I should like the House in electing Members of this House to have that in view.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That cannot be done.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know why Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan says that cannot be done. I call that a pre-judged decision merely because he has made up his mind . . .

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot see any reason why a committee of this House which is elected by this House when it has certain duties in mind cannot do anything . . .

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Different duties. We wanted something else.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: A committee of this kind can both carry out the functions which it has normally carried out in the past, that is, it can scrutinise programmes prepared by the departments for expenditure on particular proposals, on particular schemes as it has done hitherto. In regard

to that, I may say that I am prepared to endeavour, so far as I can, to allot somewhat further time so that discussions on those proposals or schemes can be somewhat more leisurely and unhurried than it may have been in the recent past.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Can we discuss subjects which are not on the agenda?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am prepared to have a meeting of the Committee to discuss the scope of the functions which it might usefully carry out, in addition to the functions which have hitherto been allotted to it,—to discuss with it the scope of the functions which it might usefully carry out during the war and in relation to the present situation. I am prepared to discuss with the members of the Committee what we could endeavour to do. If we can arrive at a satisfactory conclusion on that matter I would endeavour to use the committee in that way.

Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, defended the nominated Members in this connection. What I would like to say is this. During the five years in which I have presided over this Committee, I cannot remember a single occasion on which nominated Members have obstructed in any way the desire of the elected Members in relation to proposals placed before this Committee. My recollection is that after discussion . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But they have always voted with you.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a question of voting. My recollection is that there has never been an occasion on which there has been an actual division. The most that I remember is that there have been occasions on which certain Members said that in certain matters not directly related to the functions of the Standing Finance Committee they wished it to be recorded on grounds of general policy of the Party or Group to which they belonged that they could not subscribe to this or that. That is, as far as I remember, the most that has ever happened. There has never been a division and actually there has never been a taking of votes as far as I remember.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Expression of opinion.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Whenever there has been a difference of opinion—it is rare, it is very rare, but when a particular member or two or three members wished to record a difference of opinion, we have said, "The Committee by a majority", but that is most unusual. Generally speaking, the Committee has functioned in a perfectly harmonious and satisfactory manner. In short, there has not, in my recollection, been any question of a difference of view as between elected and nominated Members.

I welcome the remarks made by my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad as regards the functions of this Committee in assisting the Finance Department *vis-a-vis* the other departments. It is true that in so far as the function of the Committee is the scrutiny and control of proposals for expenditure, their function is the same as that of the Finance Department. If I have at times intervened in order to explain proposals it is because I have previously satisfied myself on a scrutiny of the proposals that the proposals were such as should be accepted by the Department. After all, it may be that the Finance Member may allow proposals to come before the Committee which he himself is not prepared to accept, and he may seek the assistance of the Committee in negating proposals which he does not like. It is possible that that has happened in the past, but I am not sure whether that procedure is not a trifle disingenuous. I must admit that if the Finance Department have accepted a proposal my practice has been, unless some new consideration has emerged in the course of the discussions, to support the proposal on the ground that the Finance Department has already indicated its view in the matter, and I know of nothing less admirable than hunting with the hounds and running with the hare.

That is all I have to say. I would repeat that I should like the House to endeavour to treat this Committee as a very important body for the purposes which have been discussed here in this House.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Not for the purposes for which the cut was carried here. We do not agree.

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

“That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1944.”

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

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1944.”

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): I find that whenever any question regarding amenities of passengers, particularly third class and intermediate class, is raised in this House, the official reply is that the matter should be referred to the local advisory committee. Now, this committee is the supreme body.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The present motion relates to the Standing Finance Committee.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: The Finance Committee controls the finance. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the various local advisory committees do not meet often or if they do . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not really arise on this motion.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Very well, Sir. I will speak on the next motion.

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

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1944.”

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official Members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1944.”

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

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official Members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1944.”

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Honourable Members of this Advisory Council are *ex-officio* members of the various railway advisory councils. I find that they do not meet as many times as is required in order to discuss the question of amenities to the railway passengers. I trust that in future the members of this committee, when attending the meetings of the local advisory councils, will impress upon the various Railway administrations the necessity of holding meetings of the local advisory councils very often and to transact business relating to the amenities of passengers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have very few words to say on this motion. I feel that the constitution of this advisory committee and the functions thereof were framed very very long time ago. I think the functions ought to be enlarged, so that we may also consider some

other matters. For instance, we are not allowed to speak or make suggestions with regard to corruption and also with regard to certain grievances of the staff and several other questions of that nature. Therefore it is necessary that the functions should be reviewed and enlarged.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In regard to the first speaker, he said that members of the Central Advisory Council were *ex-officio* members of the local advisory councils. That, of course, is not the case. They are elected by the Central Advisory Council. The second suggestion I understood to be that the local advisory council should meet as often as possible. The question of how often they should meet was discussed at the last meeting of the Central Advisory Council and it was agreed that we should make recommendations to the local advisory councils to meet, I think, at least once in two or three months . . .

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Every three months.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: At least every three months. As regards the second speaker who referred to the functions of the Central Advisory Council, one Honourable Member of this House suggested last year that the Central Advisory Council was not performing any useful functions and should be abolished. We took that to heart and looked into the question and decided to try and place more business before the Committee, who, quite frankly, seemed at one time to be more interested in election to the local advisory councils than anything else. Since then we have put more business before the Central Advisory Council. They have discussed the passenger question and I have no doubt we shall discuss it again and I am quite willing to enlarge the functions . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Functions of the Advisory Committee also? The General Manager disallows many questions.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I was saying, I am quite prepared to enlarge the functions of the Council and to place before it other matters such as anti-corruption, on which its views will be valuable.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I thank the Honourable Member for his promise to enlarge the functions of the Advisory Council. I request him to consider this question as well. Whenever he had in contemplation the increase of railway fares . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot make a speech on that now.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This thing ought to have been discussed in the Central Advisory Council.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It was discussed and rejected.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member cannot complain that it was not discussed.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: About the purchase of railways. This matter has been placed before the Standing Finance Committee but the question of the rates at which . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot raise all these questions now.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): He is only asking questions.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official Members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1944."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects, with which the Labour Department is concerned."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects, with which the Labour Department is concerned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and for holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees and the Council namely:—

	Date for nominations.	Date for election.
1. Standing Finance Committee	20th March, 1944	22nd March, 1944
2. Standing Finance Committee for Railways	Do.	Do.
3. Standing Committee of the Labour Department	21st March, 1944	23rd March, 1944
4. Central Advisory Council for Railways	23rd March, 1944	26th March, 1944

The nominations for all the three Committees and the Council will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned above for the purpose. The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

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

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1944, be taken into consideration."

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

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1944, be taken into consideration."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, before I go into the merits of some of the proposals in the Finance Bill and some of the matters raised by the Finance Member in his Budget speech, I would like to say a few words about my friends, from among whom I have been released just recently. I refer to the lot of the detenus.

May I, Sir, raise a point of order that Members in charge of all the Departments should be present in the House to take note of the points raised by the Honourable Members when the Finance Bill is discussed?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has never been the practice and it is not practicable. They have other business to do. But the Departments concerned are represented, I believe.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Is the Home Department represented here?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Home Department is not represented here, but we shall endeavour to take note of the points mentioned by the Honourable Members and pass them on to the Honourable the Home Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Thank you. I do not like to refer here to the unfortunate deaths of many of our friends while in detention. I shall not refer to the death of the late Honourable Mr. Satyanurti, who used to figure so prominently in this House. If you know the facts about his detention, you will conclude that the treatment given to him was callous. Many persons who were hale and hearty and whom we expected to live for years have died in detention. Many of those who have died outside have died for the reason that the Government did not want them to die inside the jails, as they were released, having made sure that they will die a few days after. That is a matter which, I believe, has been raised once before in this House.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It was raised several times before.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But the matter which I want to raise today relates to the effects of the latest Ordinance issued by the Government of India. The latest Ordinance says that to every detenu the charge-sheet against him should be given and he should be given an opportunity to reply to that charge-sheet. This House will be surprised to hear about the flimsiness of these chargesheets. May I give you a few samples of the charge-sheet that are being given to them and of the charges that have been levelled against them? The charge against one of them is that he has been a member of the District Congress Committee and of the Taluk Congress Committee, which to this day have not been banned as illegal. In the case of another person the charge has been that he has been a Vice-President of the District Board and that he asked the schoolmasters and mistresses to sing national songs. Against some others, the charge is that they have been members of the All-India Congress Committee and no charge has been mentioned that they have done any overt act of sabotage or any other illegal act. You will be surprised to hear that some people who were in jail long before August 1942 and were released in December 1942 were arrested again and brought to detention camps. We were surprised and did not know what they could have been detained for. Now, the charge-sheet against one of them shows that he was conducting classes within the jail as if that is a charge for which he can be detained. Even the Defence of India Act, as far as I know, does not make the conducting of classes within jails an illegal matter. Another charge was that they made plans within jails to start illegal movements when they went outside the jails. Some of the charges are that they have been responsible for wire-cutting. Charges have been framed without any trace of evidence that a man has been responsible for wire-cutting and he is asked to defend himself. What more defence can any detemue put up than to deny it? There is no evidence of any kind for the allegations and I am yet to see what those gentlemen, who have been appointed to review these cases, will do.

Then, there is another set of cases which have been brought against certain persons. You know about the famous acid throwing case in Madura. Some persons have been convicted and some persons have been acquitted. The Judge has found that they were not responsible for these occurrences. But what happens is this. The Judge acquits a person; but as soon as that person steps out of the court, immediately he is arrested and brought under detention. Although the Magistrate has acquitted them and the Judge has acquitted them, the charge of the police in these charge-sheets is that they have been responsible for those cases, and on that ground they have again been detained in jail. There is another set of cases. Some people happened to be rich and they have not done any overt act, but the police had a grouse against them and they have also been detained. The charge-sheet against them is that they have financed the Congress. You can examine their accounts and you can produce evidence, if necessary, but nothing of the sort has been done. Simply two lines are written: 'You have financed the Congress illegal activities.' These are some of the samples of these charge-sheets.

There is a friend of mine, who is the Chairman of the Madura Municipal Council and he caused notices to be printed and distributed that acts of sabotage and violence are against the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, but he has also been placed in detention. So, the charge-sheets that have been framed against these detenus show conclusively how flimsy they are and many of the reasons for which they have been detained are not sufficient grounds for their detention. Not only that, nothing can be proved against them. They are very hazy and one-sided assertions for which there has been no proof whatsoever and no proofs have been adduced. It is rather strange that in Madras alone there are still about 400 such people who are now under detention. And this detention is for an indefinite time. You may say that detention today is only for six months. But nothing prevents the executive from renewing the order after six months. So, this legal quibble that it is only for six months does not change really the status of detenus within the

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jail. Whatever the circumstances may have been in August 1942, the people were panicky, the Government were more panicky, there was great commotion, the people were put in prison on mere suspicion. Whatever may be the merits of the grounds then, those circumstances have entirely disappeared now. The circumstances have changed, the atmosphere has changed. There is no longer any ground to keep these people in detention continually for much longer period than they have been kept already. I do not like to say anything more about the case of detenus except to state that the Defence of India Act and Rules have worked havoc not only on detenus but on people outside. In fact it has made the whole of India a close prison and in no town or village can any public meeting be held without the permission of the District Magistrate. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, for whom I have great regard, told the House the other day that even a Committee of sixteen of the Civil Liberties Union could not meet in Bombay without the permission of the Commissioner of Police. Are we in martial law days? I have not had any experience of martial law regime. My Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, may have some experience. But this much I know that public life at the present day is impossible, and civil life is made intolerable. Today under the present Defence of India Act India has become a veritable prison.

Now, Sir, I wish to ask the Government one question. The A.I.C.C. was declared an illegal body. The working Committee of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee was declared an illegal body. Are they illegal for a time or are they declared illegal for all times. No time limit has been placed upon this illegality. Now that the circumstances have changed, is there any harm in Government lifting the ban on these bodies so that they can meet and consider the present political situation.

I now come to the most important problem of the day, namely, food. I was surprised and I was also sorry at the question which my Honourable friend Sir Frederick James put to the Government the other day which was answered as a short notice question. The Government usually do not care to accept short notice questions from this side of the House even on very important matters. But between cousins, it is easier. It was a short notice question which Mr. Tyson answered and the question was about the number of deaths that happened in Bengal. If 10 days notice had been given for the question, it is not going to create one more death. That does not matter and I welcome the opportunity of getting information earlier. But, Sir we believe it was a collusive act between the Government and the European group. It is in the air that a large number of deaths took place, i.e., nearly five millions, due to this famine. The Government want to counteract the propaganda which these figures do and to whom should they look for help except to the Members of the European Group and the short notice question is the outcome. I would like to quote an *ex-Member* of the Government of India who had defended the Government so well in his days. I refer to Sir Nripendra Sircar. I believe the Government will give due weight to what he says? This is what he says:

"Mr. Amery told the House of Commons that his estimate of death from starvation for the Province was a thousand per week or more. Within a week he changed his statement to about the same figure for Calcutta alone. In the meantime the censor, not unduly lenient to the Press allowed the statement to be published from responsible persons putting the estimate at even 50,000 per week."

He does not suggest categorically that it is 50,000 per week. He is too careful for that, but he does suggest that the death is somewhere about that figure. Unofficial opinion thinks that the total death is about five millions, or 50 lakhs. The population of Bengal is about seven crores and about one-fourteenth of the population of Bengal died of starvation. I ask you, Sir, whether the Government could not have foreseen this food shortage. Here again he writes:

"The radio at one time tried to impress on the public that a very small fraction of the total consumption of rice used to come from Burma."

People warned the Government of India that if Burma was lost, there is going to be a shortage of rice. They pooh-poohed it:

"But later on the same machinery proclaimed that one of the main causes of the present distress was the loss of Burma rice through Japanese occupation. The shortage which was originally denied, by a process of evolution developed into 'somewhat considerable' and 'dastly 'acute'."

May I know whether the Government of India could not have foreseen that after the loss of Burma, we are bound to find food shortage and could not the Government have arranged for the shortage? The better class rice was being exported from Bengal, when we were being told that no more rice would be exported. The death of these five million people must be put down to the carelessness and recklessness of the Government of India. Now, Sir, I do not want to stop with my reference to Bengal alone. I know Malabar is in the grip of an acute famine. The people are living on such poor diet in Malabar that any day an epidemic will find a welcome refuge there and thousands will die on the first outbreak of an epidemic. I was told by the workers who went there for cholera relief who visited Calicut and other places that though it was given out that people died of cholera, yet it was not actually so, but that people died of starvation. Nearly 50 thousand people died in one district alone.

Now coming to one of the districts of Tamil Nad where there is not supposed to be actual shortage, I found that the poorer classes and the working classes were very badly off. They are living on less than half their usual diet. If this state of affairs were to continue, I am afraid influenza epidemic might break out and just as in the last war, it may take a heavy toll of life. The Government of India should take adequate steps to provide food for the civil population also. It is not merely the military that has to be fed. I was told sometime ago that when the military released some foodstuffs for civilian consumption, a friend of mine from Bombay told me that the wheat was unfit for human consumption. We do not want that the military should release wheat at this stage of decay of the product. If we want that these people should continue to live, we must take adequate steps soon. To my Honourable friend, the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar, who is a champion of the cause of the working classes, let me point this out. The people who suffer today are not the richer classes but it is the poorer classes. It is up to us to see that the poor do not suffer.

And now, Sir, I come to the next thing: Meat and milk. I have read from the report of a speech of the Commander-in-Chief in the other House
 1 P. M. that there are lots of cattle available in this country, that meat which is supplied to the army is only from cattle which are not useful as milch cows and those which are old. This is all talking in the air, if I may use that word. Those people who know how cattle are being slaughtered today for the military, know that it is not only the unfit cattle that are being killed, it is not only the un-yielding cows that are being killed, but the most productive ones. I want to tell you just something which has recently happened near my district. There was a big *shandy* and two bulls, like elephants, were brought there for sale. The owners asked for two thousand rupees, but the bid was not exceeding one thousand five hundred. A military lorry came along and there were some soldiers in it. One of them gave twenty notes and purchased them. He tried to make the bulls get into the lorry but as bulls are not used to this sort of transport they would not easily go into the lorry. Do you know, Sir, what he did? He took his revolver, shot the two bulls and took them away. Is it what you call preserving good bulls for the country; is that the way in which bulls which are unfit for use are being slaughtered? Certainly not. It is unfortunate that in this country that the interests of army which is supposed to look after the interests and safety of the country and the interests of the people are considered separate. In trying to feed the military they do not care a hang for the good and welfare of the civilian population. This is what people have seen and reported. If this is the condition, Sir, I request this House not to believe in the verbose statements which they make here that meat is being prepared only of animals which are not fit for work and meat is being prepared out of cows which do not yield. It is all wrong; to say so is uttering a lie, if

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I may use that word. If they are interested in the agricultural population, if they are interested in the wealth of this country let them see that India is not denuded of its cattle for a purely temporary purpose.

I do not like to deal exhaustively with the price controls adopted by the Government. I have spoken about it on another occasion and others may speak about it in greater detail, but I would like to make one observation. The Honourable the Commerce Member defended his price control machinery very vehemently, but he did not deny the one statement that I made, and many others also made, that price control has driven the things into black market. He did not deny it and did not offer any solution for it. But there it is. By price control things have been driven into the black market and the effect of price control has been that it has helped the richer and the more influential people and the poor man has gone to the wall. I want him to consider these matters and to evolve a plan by which he can get the co-operation of the public of this country and see that the price controls really do help the poor, the purpose for which it is intended. Even things like fire-wood in places like Madras, Coimbatore and many others, have, shall I say, disappeared. People do not get even firewood. Rich people, of course, get it, but I know many families who have not been able to cook their meals in their own houses for weeks together and they have to get something from hotels. This is a point, which the Honourable the Commerce Member should take into consideration and he should evolve a plan so that price control may become effective.

Now, Sir, I come to inflation. The Finance Member in his speech has dealt with inflation.

An Honourable Member: He is not here.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But it is the ruling of the Chair that he need not be here.

Now, Sir, I do not refer to the big borrowing programme which he has referred to on page 17. I would like to refer only to something which is said on page 16. The Government has now come to the conclusion that small borrowing programmes could be run through commission agencies. I have heard of merchants pushing their sales through commission agents; I have heard newspapers and magazines asking for agents who would sell their papers on commission, but I have never heard of a Government trying to collect money through commission agents. Sir, on page 16, it is stated:

"A scheme has been evolved which provides for the employment of authorized agents on a commission basis whose function will be to collect money for investment from villages, purchase certificates on their behalf and deliver them in the villages."

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has come and so I would like to repeat a few words. The Government in trying to attract investors have, like ordinary businessmen, tried to appoint commission agents, and here is what he has said on page 16:

"A scheme has been evolved which provides for the employment of authorized agents on a commission basis whose function will be to collect money for investment from villages. . . ."

This is what is called entrusting the lambs with the wolves. Today they are collecting subscriptions. Sir, I know that at least there are three cases against Tehsildars and Sub-divisional Officers pending in my district alone on the charge of corruption. And what is the corruption? Receiving the money for war funds and not crediting it to the Government; they retain the money by way of commission, I suppose. This commission scheme has legalized the corruption. What I am trying to point out is that in our country it is a tyranny of the worst type—I know it; I have experienced it. People have been whipped. These Tehsildars and Deputy Sub-divisional Officers go to the villages and insult men and women, they threaten them in all sorts of ways, they take money from them and do not give any receipts. Half the money goes to them and many of them have become masters of lakhs in this way. If we know only a few cases that come up the surface it does not mean that these are the only people who

are corrupt; it only shows that there are many more who are doing the same thing. Through this agency of rapacious collectors—equal only to those of the East India Company—you have added another set of officers who have got the sanction of the Government behind them and who go and ask people to give ten, twenty or fifty rupees—as they please. You know the state of the poor villagers. Those on Government Benches have often said that these poor villagers do not understand their own affairs. And the Finance Member says that authorised agents of Government will purchase certificates on their behalf and deliver them in the villages. What onerous work! I tell you that nothing of the sort will happen. Ten per cent. will go to the villagers in certificates and ninety per cent. will be swallowed up by these agents. I am not saying this in any sense of hubble-bubble. I talk from experience. I talk from facts in my personal knowledge. This will be the greatest tyranny that you could impose on the people of this country to-day.

I am very sorry, Sir, that the Government should resort to this very unhappy and low method, low because it will lead to the most unfortunate consequences.

Now, Sir, I come to the next item which the Finance Member has mentioned in his speech to avoid inflation, and that is the sale of gold. We do recognise and we approve that gold can be sold as an anti-inflation measure, that the Indian villager has an attraction for gold and silver which will make him invest his money thereon. If the Government of India had taken measures to purchase gold from the United States of America or the United Kingdom and sold it in India at the proper price, we would have no grievances. We would support it. But what have they done? They have done a most wonderful thing which no decent Government can do. They have invited the United States of America and the British Government to bring their gold here and sell it in India. Through whom? Through the instrumentality of our Reserve Bank of India. And at what price have they bought it and at what price are they selling it? I am subject to correction. I will be glad if I am corrected. They have bought it at Rs. 45 an ounce—the price level in England and America was Rs. 45 an ounce—and that gold they have imported into India and with the connivance of the Government of India and through the help of the Reserve Bank of India they have sold it in India at Rs. 85 an ounce. Am I correct?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No. The gold is being sold at Rs. 71. That has been so for some time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Thanks for the correction.

Now, will any Government allow any article bought at such a low price as Rs. 45 in England and America to be brought here and after giving their own machinery, i.e., the machinery of the Reserve Bank of India, allow them to reap a profit of Rs. 30 on an ounce? It is rank robbery sanctified by the Government. Even if it were a private agency, the Government that has controlled the sale of other things could also control the sale of gold in the interests of India. I do not know, I shall be gratified if the Finance Member will tell me how many million ounces of gold have been sold in India in this way.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall not.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He dare not tell me. He will be ashamed to tell me because it is a matter for shame that he has allowed this to be done and he shall not allow himself to be exposed.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No question of shame. It is a question of not playing into the hands of various operators.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If you had been honest you would be prepared to say it. When you accept that the price of gold in England is Rs. 45 an ounce and sell it here at Rs. 71, there is nothing wrong in telling us how many millions of ounces of gold have been sold to the Indian people up to date. I believe that many crores of Indian money have gone in that way. But the Finance Member came forward with a wonderful argument for it. He told us how to avoid inflation. Inflation means a greater amount of money in circulation than is needed and the greater the amount that is withdrawn by the sale of gold the better it is for the country. I think he is sorry that it sold at Rs. 71.

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Perhaps he would like it better if it had been sold at Rs. 91. By that way a greater amount of money would have gone out of the country.

Now, Sir, I come to the next question with which this is immediately connected, and that is the sterling resources. Before coming to that I would like to meet an argument which the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman raised while replying to the question on the sale of gold. He said that the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom were purchasing things at a very high price in India and that when they are buying at a very high price why should you not pay them at a high price. I think that is not true. Every article bought for the Government of the United Kingdom and the United States is bought at a controlled rate. May I say that every article supplied to the British Government has been at controlled prices, controlled by the Government of India? The maximum price of jute goods has been controlled. Steel is sold to His Majesty's Government and pig-iron also at pre-war prices with an allowance for increased cost of production. Shellac is sold to America at controlled prices. The whole story can be repeated for mica, manganese, skins and hides, boots, shoes and clothing. It is well known that from the start of the war the Supply Department through its contacts and otherwise has controlled these prices for the benefit of every nation except our own.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): What is that book from which you are reading?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is the presidential address of Sir Muthia Chettiar and I quote it for the facts stated there:

"The attitude of the Government is that it does not matter . . . so long as they get these articles at a very much lower price for the Government of India's own requirements and for the requirements of the United Kingdom and every other allied country."

When you have controlled the price of the articles which have been purchased for the United Kingdom and the United States of America what right have you, Sir, to allow them to sell gold at a price like this and to come to this House with the argument that because they have paid a high price for them you should pay more? I am sorry that an argument like this has been adduced and could have been adduced before this House.

Now, Sir, I come to the problem of the utilisation of the sterling resources. This has again been dealt with by my Honourable friend the Finance Member on pages 17 and 18. By the end of March 31 this year, he expects it to be 950 crores.

I will deal with the liquidation of sterling debts in England, and also with the sterling resources. These sterling resources are growing. Now, Sir, this is a very important matter which is engaging the attention of the Government of India and the people of India and all those who are interested in the welfare of the people of this country. I would like to know from the Government of India in this connection as to how they are going to use these sterling resources. There are international payments. I think, five things are likely to happen to these sterling resources. Attempts may be made, if I may say so, to write off these sterling resources. Last time after the war it happened like that and two hundred crores of Indian money was written off as donation. Secondly, it is likely to happen just as it happened after the last war that certain obligations may be repudiated. In many of the British newspapers, particularly the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Economist* some articles have appeared from private individuals saying that these amounts are really to be considered as contribution from India for the war. Unfortunately, for India, it is a matter between John Bull in England and John Bull in India, and they may come to any conclusions, not necessarily in the interest of India. Then, Sir, the third thing which may happen to these sterling resources is depreciation of the sterling itself and thereby a lot of money of this country will disappear. Last time it happened with regard to the German Mark. People used to purchase a cigar with thousand marks, or one million marks. Fourthly, Sir, it may be paid as consumers goods and fifthly as capital assets. I want you, Sir, to remember

that after the war is over it is liable to be forgotten as to what amount of sacrifice India and Indian people have made for accumulating these sterling resources. About fifty thousand people have died in Bengal and there are lakhs of people who are suffering today for one meal. It is owing to the sweat and toils of millions of peoples of this country that you have been able to accumulate these sterling balances in England. After some time people are liable to forget, as to with what sacrifice these sterling resources have been accumulated. Here I would like to offer a suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Member. I am not one of those people who want these amounts to be accumulated indefinitely because, I think, accumulation of debt when it goes on into large amounts always produces wrong effects: It leads to the thought that since you cannot pay, it is better that it should be written off. So, I think it is always better to utilise some money out of these sterling resources even now and even today in the best interest of the country, consistent with the shipping position and consistent with the exigencies of the war. But I want you to remember there are many methods and ways in which they can be put and used for better purposes. I will presently give you my suggestions. You have appointed Re-construction General Policy Committee and other Reconstruction Committee, you have asked them to submit their reports. All these reports will be of no use unless, you have trained men who can work them out. You must train personnel as the Honourable the Finance Member put it. You must have men with metallurgical knowledge, scientific knowledge and any other technical knowledge required for the manufacture of medicines, etc. We want such men and at the end of the war I am sure these persons will be of great use to the country as a whole. Unfortunately trained personnel is not now available. I warn you, Sir, at the end of the war there is going to be a lot of unemployment and there will be a great demand of technical men. I assure you, Sir, there is no lack of Indian young men, who can learn. Sir, our universities consist of some very intelligent men, and if I may say so, of all classes, who are quite competent to train themselves in each and every line. I, therefore, suggest that some money out of these sterling resources be invested for this purpose.

Then, Sir, I think it is dangerous to keep the sterling resources in England alone. It is better to keep these resources in England and America. I want the Government to develop dollar resources independently so that we may, if necessary, utilise these balances for the manufacture of locomotives and motor cars.

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

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, when the House rose for lunch I was dealing with the desirability of having our sterling resources well divided into dollar and sterling resources and kept separately, and for a good reason. The reason is that we will secure a better purchasing power if we have a hold on two markets instead of having all our resources in one market alone. I have another good reason to say why our resources should be divided and kept separately in dollar as well as in sterling. It has been our experience in the past that the British industries have rarely given us opportunities for training. Even the Tatas I am told found difficulty in getting an opportunity to know the inside working of factories in the U. K. and to get knowledge enough to set up work in India. I am also told, that it is largely American skill and labour which enabled many of our industries to be started and conducted in this country. I have been told that the British industries are not prepared and are not willing to train our men, and for a good reason from their own point of view, because they do not want us to become industrialised. They want us to be a market for their own

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goods, and if industry is started in India, then it will become a competitor to their own. But America, I think, is still open. I think we may find industrialists there who will take up our men and train them if we promise to purchase things from them. A friend of mine had been recently to America, and he came with an offer. He said: "Given the money and Government help, I have got promises from American industrialists who will send me plants to establish an automobile industry in India". So, I feel that it is in the interests of this country to have our foreign balances not merely in sterling, but preferably in dollar and in sterling, so that we can use both the markets to our best advantage.

Now, coming to the ways in which these sterling and dollar resources can be utilised, I may suggest three methods by which they can be used. No. 1 is over which I talked a little while ago—the training of skilled personnel even in these times of war, even to-day so that they may be useful when the peace comes as it must. That is No. 1. When these people are sent there, to that extent our sterling resources can be utilised, and I think money spent on training personnel is very well used.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Does the Honourable Member mean training in England?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: England and America. That is what I mean. That is how the sterling can be used. No. 2 is importation of consumer goods. Certainly one type of consumer goods may be imported, a type which is not produced in India. Watches for example. You do not produce in India watches and there is no chance of our producing the same in the near future. I think that consumer goods of the type which is not competitive with Indian goods may be imported. In this we were rather chary of supporting the cut motion of yesterday. The cut motion of yesterday ran like this, "increase of consumption goods as a method of avoiding inflation", if I remember correctly—as an anti-inflationary measure. We do agree that the manufacture and production of consumer goods is an anti-inflationary measure. But we were afraid of giving a handle to the Government in this matter in this way. If you can avoid inflation by imports, it was not explicitly written there, "manufactured in India".

Mr. A. C. Inskip (United Provinces: European): Yes, it was.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It was not in the cut motion. You said that in your speech.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: I said that in my speech.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It was said in the speech but it was not in the cut motion, and many times we have had the very unfortunate experience with the Government of India when our speeches are forgotten and the words of the cut motion are emphasised to their own advantage, and that is what my Honourable friend, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty, said. He requested that it might be amended to be consistent and to be more explicit, in view of the speech of the Honourable the Mover of the cut motion, and if that had been done, we said and we thought we would support it. The idea is that the manufacture of consumer goods in India must be encouraged. If the sterling resources are to be used, imports of such goods as are not competitive with our goods manufactured in this country may be done. But if other goods were imported, then our sterling resources would not be utilised to our best advantage and our industries which are now struggling to-day will suffer and go down. It is for this reason that we wanted to make it clear that consumer goods should be manufactured in this country, when the discussion came up yesterday. Importation of necessary consumer goods not produced in this country will be a good way of utilising sterling resources.

I come to the third and the best method by which sterling resources can be utilised, and that is, getting of the capital goods into this country. For the last 9 or 10 years that I have been in this House, we have been pressing at question time and on other occasions, we have moved resolutions and cut motions asking the Government to manufacture locomotives. At one time they said that there was no demand for a sufficient number of locomotives in order to establish a

separate factory in India. Now they say, you cannot start manufacture at the time of war and we have to import them. At one time they say, we cannot get plants enough to produce autocombustible engines. And again that we have not got requisite material to produce aeroplanes; and all sorts of objections were raised. In the meantime, we find even to-day huge orders being placed. Not only that. An Indian gentleman started the Hindustan Aircraft Factory in Bangalore, but what happened to it is that it has been taken away from him and handed over to American management. We want this country to develop industrially. We are told, how can you get these huge plants from England? There is no shipping space available; you cannot do it in war time, skilled personnel is not available; all that is said. But what happened in Australia? I think they are farther away from England than we are. I shall read a few sentences from a book by Mr. K. T. Shah:

"War-time difficulties to transporting machinery, importing technicians, or financing such enterprise, have been mentioned as explanation of the relative neglect of India's industrial possibilities. But such obstacles also operate elsewhere; and yet they have not been suffered to stand in the way of Australia developing her automobile industry. It is a war baby, pure and simple. An expert committee had pronounced against such enterprise being started in that country. And yet, its Government, national in composition as well as sympathies disregarded such experts and went ahead with the plans to build up this industry."

That is what we want. We want bold action. We want action with vision, with patriotism, with the interest of India at heart. We do not care what the temporary expenses may be. We want India to be developed industrially and these sterling balances, we submit, must be utilised to that end. We are told that there is no shipping space available. The Commerce Member was telling us the other day about Johnnie Walker, about blades and many other things and even textiles which are bulky things. Shipping space is available for consumer goods; wagons, engines and so on are coming. Cannot plants come? Where there is a will, there is a way. I want the Government to think it over and to give an assurance today that they will be up and doing and take up this matter early.

Now, Sir, this subject leads me to the subject of post-war reconstruction. I entirely approve of all that His Excellency the Viceroy has said in his speech. He has said it very nicely. This is what he said:

"Our great aim must be to plan for economic and social development so as to raise our standards of living and general welfare. We must lift the poor man of India from poverty to security; from ill-health to vigour; from ignorance to understanding; and our rate of progress must no longer be at bullock-cart standard but at least at the pace of the handy and serviceable jeep."

I do not know what 'jeep' means.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If my Honourable friend looks about as he moves round Delhi and he will see plenty of jeeps.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Those little things? Well, Sir, if the Government of India approve of what Lord Wavell has said, I would like to know at what speed they are going.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Your friends have objected to the start we have already made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Hear me fully and you will then agree with what I am going to say. We want the standard of the people of this country to be raised. We want education to be given. We agree with every word of what Lord Wavell has said. But the Government of India is falsifying the Viceroy's statement. They have not started at all. It is not a matter of the bullock cart rate or that of the jeep. It is a matter of standing still. (*An Honourable Member:* "going backward".) We are in the stage of appointing committees. His Excellency goes on further and says this:

"Over the greater part of the field, our actual conduct after the war will depend to some extent—often to a great extent—on international factors—such as tariff policy and international currency—of which we can at present know little."

Quite true. Then His Excellency goes on:

"But we need not wait on these; on the big questions of policy we have to make certain broad assumptions, and we are now deciding what our assumptions should be. Concurrently

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

we are appointing individual development officers—not Committees—to draw up outline plans for subjects such as electrification, industries, road development, irrigation and agriculture."

Very truly has His Excellency Lord Wavell said that certain broad assumptions can always be presumed and I presume, Sir, that the automobile industry is absolutely essential for this country and that can be presumed. An aeroplane factory, ship-building yards which can produce the navy to defend our coasts and ships for our coastal trade, chemical factories, factories to manufacture machine tools—all these are absolutely essential for any country. It is not a matter of your standing still. If you don't move forward, you perish and live for ever as slaves. If any assumptions can be made, these are the basic assumptions that must be acted upon by the Government of India but unfortunately, I was disillusioned even this morning. I had expected that the Executive Council, composed of patriotic gentlemen, would have accepted the necessity for these basic assumptions. But what did I hear. There was a question about shipping and the Honourable Member on behalf of Government replied that it is a post-war matter, that it has been referred to the reconstruction committee and that that committee will report and then they will decide whether they will have shipping or not. Such an answer is puerile. Did the Government imagine that such a reply would satisfy the members of this House or satisfy the people? I am very sorry that the Government have falsified what was written in His Excellency's speech.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The basic assumptions must be taken for granted and the work must be done here and now.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is being done.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I hope so. But we do not see any proofs of it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There are some so blind that they cannot hear.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I don't hear with my eyes!

An Honourable Member: They have brains but they don't function.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But they are very active in certain directions.

Now, Sir, I am sorry that I miss my Honourable friend, Mr. Siva Raj, Mr. Kureel and even Dr. Ambedkar. Let me assure them that in post-war reconstruction—why post-war reconstruction, even now, if there is anybody who wants the uplift of the depressed classes, we are whole heartedly with them. We shall share their burden and work for them. We shall suffer for them. We shall make amends for all that has been done in the past. All honour to them for having voiced the position of these unhappy millions. Let me tell them that there are thousands of men of the higher castes who do feel for them, who work for them and who will die for them. For them I want to suggest a programme. Personally, I think their uplift is a matter of economic development. If they get enough money, they will get education. They will progress and they will be more enlightened. I have in my mind a scheme and let anybody who can make it possible do it. I want every province to raise a loan of 5 or 10 crores of rupees in times like these when money is cheap and with that money land should be acquired and distributed to these Harijans on the basis of the land-mortgaged banks. Let them pay it back as land revenue in, say, in 40 years. Give them this land so that they may have an opportunity to live better. That is the best way of making progress. I wish and pray that a time will come when we will be able to do it. But that is the real reconstruction.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Is the Honourable Member interested in putting up the price of land still further?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is how the sympathy of the Government works for the progress of the scheduled classes. There is always some

point against anything that we suggest. However, that is our proposal and if ever we have an opportunity to do it, we will do it.

Now, Sir, I come to the next point. Our Government always says and yesterday Sir Reginald Maxwell waxed eloquent and he said that both the European and the Indian Executive Councillors worked with one view, and that is to the good of India. I daresay many of you have read the book Bernard Shaw's 'Man of destiny'. In that book Napoleon says at one place. "The Englishman always fights with vigour and when he kills you, he kills you for your own good. When he plunders you, he plunders you for your own good. When he breaks your head, he does so for your own good". And that is the way these Englishmen come here and stand up and have the temerity to say: Every thought, every word, every act, is in your interest. We are being shot in thousands; that is 'in your own interest'. In Bengal people are dying in millions; 'in your own interest'. They are spending 300 crores of rupees; 'in your own interest'. You are appointing rapacious money collectors in every town; 'in your own interest'. You are sending Englishmen to fill key posts and giving them concessions beyond Lee concessions and you do not choose Indians for those posts; the reply is: 'in your own interest'. You are selling gold in this country at such an unconscionable profit; 'in your own interest'. You are having the U. K. C. C. which has put out the whole of the Indian trade. Why? 'in your own interest'. You have given to the Imperial Chemical industry 90 per cent. of the dyes trade in this country and then you have the temerity to say that it is a question of policy and principle. I have had a talk with one of the Members of the Executive Council here. I asked him: "What is this? Here is a corporation which is purely European and you have given it agency for about 90 per cent. of the dye". And he said it is a question of policy. We are doing it on principle. Don't you know everything is done on principle. I asked him what is the principle involved in this policy? Even today at the question time there was a mention of old policy and new policy. The policy is that the Imperial Chemical industry was given 90 per cent. of the distribution before the war—minus the portion of the German agencies—and that should be continued till eternity. That is the principle. I do not see any principle in it.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): For whose benefit?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: 'In your interest.' I told him that if you continue to give them 90 per cent., it will become a sort of worse form of vested interest. I say there must be an end to this sham of working in India's interests. There must be some limit. My friend, Mrs. Subbarayan, reminds me that you are sending women into coal mines; 'in your interest'.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order, Sir. "Your" means Deputy President.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am glad that our Deputy President is not ruffled by any of these points of order. If there was President, he would have been very much disturbed.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Order, Order.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I now come to the matter of licences . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think the Honourable Member made a remark just now which he should be asked to withdraw. He reflected on the Honourable the President.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): If the Honourable Member will repeat, then I shall be in a position to say whether it was improper. What did he say?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He made the suggestion that if the Honourable the President were in the Chair, he would have acted in a different manner.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): That was certainly not proper.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am sorry, Sir; but I did not mean it.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of licences. Licences are necessary and they are issued by the Government of India for exports or imports for many of the articles and I have been told that mostly they operate in favour of the European concerns.

An Honourable Member: 90 per cent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am told they operate to the extent of 90 per cent. in favour of European concerns. I shall be satisfied if the Honourable Member for Government corrects me and says up to what percentage they operate. Sir, it is somewhat of an open scandal which I hear from merchants. I will be glad if their statements are false. But unfortunately I can say from my own experience that every restriction that is placed upon the trade is being evolved later on to the advantage of the Britisher. Hundreds of people apply but it is the Britisher who is preferred and for an ostensible reason, namely, that he has been dealing with the trade for a long time. But that cannot be the proper reason. There are reasons which need not weigh to the disadvantage of the Indian. I find that in war time today such things are happening and surely they are not expected to inspire confidence in the Government of the country.

My next point is about the terrible corruption that is rampant in the country. I do not want to linger long on this subject. What with Controls and other machineries of control which the Government have introduced, corruption has become the order of the day in many Government departments. I wish Government takes it seriously. I am glad that today the Honourable the Finance Member said some things in replying to the motion for the setting up of a Standing Finance Committee. I am surprised that without amending the memorandum, he wants to bring these things before that Committee, which I think he cannot do. I expected that he will withdraw the present motion for the setting up of the Standing Finance Committee, present another memorandum and form a new Standing Finance Committee which will have the power to go into questions of corruption. If necessary he may change the name of the Committee itself. There is nothing sacrosanct in a name. What is there in a name?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The memorandum is merely a document adopted by the Standing Finance Committee. It is a sort of legislation by the Committee for its own guidance.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then you are agreeable to amend the constitution suitably so that these things will be brought before the House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was prepared to discuss with the Committee the scope of its functions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is very good. I congratulate the Honourable Member for at least this proposal. I warn the Government not to be slack in this matter of putting down corruption. If necessary, let the Government appoint private C. I. D.'s to watch even the highest officials in the land. Money spent on tracing corruption and rooting out the same is well worth spending. In South India, only private C. I. D.'s unearthed cases of corruption for which cases have been put up. In South India, the Government went ahead and created a machinery as it were to find out corruption, especially in my District.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Your District seems to be thoroughly bad in every respect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Not worse than your District. In Bihar, perhaps the thieves are not found out, whereas in my part of the country they are found out. That is the difference. You have thieves all the same in your place. Even the highest in the Government of Bengal was suspected of taking part in corruption. I dare say this Government should have the courage and the strength to take up measures even against the highest officers to root out this evil. In all such measures, they will have our wholehearted co-operation. I hope the Government will have the courage to do it.

I now come to my next point and I wish my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, had been present in the House. I do not know whether he is Sir Griffiths or merely Mr. Griffiths, but he richly deserves to be knighted for his exploits in favour of the National War Front. We were talking about retrenchment the other day. We demanded a Committee. But for reasons best known to himself the Honourable the Finance Member did not see his way to accept our Motion. Expenses are swelling and we thought the present is the most opportune moment to have a Retrenchment Committee. I will bring to the notice of the House two instances of colossal waste of expenditure. It may not be colossal when you compare it with 300 crores of our expenditure. But still it is a good amount for a poor country like India. Take the National War Front of which my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths is the Leader.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, he is not the Leader. I am the Leader.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It takes my breath away to hear it. I never thought that my Honourable friend was up to it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Quite up to it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I thought Mr. Griffiths was best suited for it, because he is an excellent speaker in English. But I do not know in what language he spoke during his rambling from Himalayas to Cape Comorin to propagate the National War Front, which is neither national, nor war, nor has it got any front.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He has given it up.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have seen some samples of the officers who form this National War front in my part of the country. They are all young men.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The National War Front is a *pinjrapole*.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: No, I see quite active young men drawing fat salaries ranging from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,000. They make a lot of tour this way and that way, they have motor cars and their occupation being classed as essential service, they get a lot of petrol, that is the attraction for them. So, Sir, these people go about arranging meetings. When they find no audience to listen to them, they simply pack up their show and go away in their cars. Sometimes they come to a village. The villagers ask them what about food, with the result, now they don't go to the villages at all. This is the National War Front work which is being carried on in this country for which you spend money. There is a scramble to get into this National War Front, because there is money in it. Here is a good source of saving for the Honourable the Finance Member, if he cares. Abolish this National War front.

The next point to which I wish to refer is this. I am sorry I have to raise it again. That is about the grant to the Indian Council of International Affairs. I still maintain that the grant to the Council and to the library should have been shown not under the External Affairs Department and thus taken out of the purview of this House. I think there are many such things in the Budget of the Government of India. The Budget is a huge volume and it is a whole time job for one to wade through the whole mass of figures and find out the flaws therein. Perhaps it may not be one man's job, but it is a job of many men, or perhaps the job of a Committee. It is well worth having a Committee to scrutinise this Budget. I do think that a good portion of this colossal expenditure could be saved, and to that extent it can lessen the burden upon the taxpayers of this country.

Lastly I wish to say a few words about the political situation in the country and about the political problem of this country. I was a Member of the A. I. C. C., and I am. I hope, still a member now. I attended the Bombay session of A.I.C.C. I was present on the 7th and 8th August, 1942. I heard the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I can say with truth

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: For once.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You know how many times we speak the truth and how many times you do so. You know it well. I can say with truth that though the urge for freedom and independence was there, the idea that the war should not be won by the Allies was never in our minds. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru stressed that England should win the war, that China should win the war and I can say that England can have no better friends than Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

And then what did he say?—

"We want to win the war; we want an efficient Government for that very purpose; and for that reason we want this Government to go out of office."

What did Mahatma Gandhi say —

"Be non-violent in action, if not in thought. This is the least I expect from you.

If there is the slightest communal taint in your mind, keep off the struggle.

Never believe—as I have never believed—that the British are going to fail. I don't consider them to be a nation of cowards. I know that before they accept defeat, every soul in Britain will be sacrificed.

We must remove hatred for the British from our hearts. At least in my heart, there is no such hatred. As a matter of fact, I am a greater friend now of the British than I ever was. My friendship demands that I must make them aware of their mistakes.

Give up the attitude of mind which welcomes Japan.

I want you to adopt non-violence as a matter of policy. With me it is a creed but so far as you are concerned I want you to accept it as a policy. As disciplined soldiers, you must accept it in toto and stick to it when you join the struggle."

And now, Sir, you will say, and very rightly too, how did this violence and sabotage come about? How did this notice,—about which a reference has been made by the Honourable the Home Member in this House and, if I remember aright, by Mr. Amery in the House of Commons,—how did this notice come about? Sir, this notice was caught in Madras on or about the 29th of July, if I remember it correctly.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Which notice you are referring to?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am referring to the notice which advised people to start civil disobedience and in which there was a programme called 'telegraph wire-cutting'. It is true, Sir, that there was a notice like that. I saw it myself. I went and asked the Working Committee Members as to what was the programme and I also mentioned that there was a notice laying down the programme and asked why that had not been circulated to us. They replied, "No instructions have been issued from the Working Committee and no programme for civil disobedience has been laid down. You will hear Mahatma Gandhi tomorrow—the 8th". A meeting of workers was fixed for 8 O'Clock next morning to be addressed by Mahatma Gandhi. No programme was issued by the Working Committee. Even today we do not know what Mahatma Gandhi's ideas were in regard to the programme. I had an opportunity to ask a Member of the Working Committee and he disclaimed Congress having issued any programme. He said, 'you should wait and you should not do anything because Mahatma Gandhi believes in compromise, he believes in seeing Lord Linlithgow and he believes that something good may come out of it'. It was announced that there would be a meeting of workers on the 8th to be addressed by Mahatma Gandhi. It never happened because in the morning, at 5 O'Clock, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested. I had the privilege of going to that meeting and I was at the flag hoisting ceremony, when I had the privilege of experiencing tear gas used by the police.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Who issued that notice?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Working Committee members did not issue any instructions; Mahatma Gandhi certainly did not issue any instructions. But who issued this circular is something to be found out. What I can make out today is that these instructions, over which the Government are harping, were not issued by the Working Committee or by Mahatma Gandhi. You may ask 'how did it happen that these instructions were broadcast throughout the country?' And now I want the Government to hear

Sir: I have been in jail with friends; I have had talks with them about

the origin of this notice and how did it come about, and this is what I understand. On the 9th night, Mr. Amery seems to have spoken on the radio in regard to the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi—I did not hear him myself

An Honourable Member: Which Amery?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am sorry if there is any misunderstanding. There is only one Amery in this world, the present Secretary of State for India. He broadcast over the radio justifying the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and in that speech he proclaimed to the world that cutting of telegraph lines, railway lines burning of post offices and so on, was the programme of Congress. This speech was reported in some of the papers in India and many workers told me that when they saw this programme published in the papers they thought what Mr. Amery said was the programme of Congress was actually the programme chalked out by the Working Committee of the Congress. This is what I heard in the jail; I did not hear the broadcast myself. Even today I do not know what the Working Committee's wishes were in this matter, but I do not believe that Mahatma Gandhi would have ever said anything like that.

Now, I come to the next point: His Excellency the Viceroy in his speech says, 'you must come together, unite, you must become one with each other, your leaders must unite', and yet if on a single occasion the Congress and Muslim League vote together, what jealousies it creates. Here in this House Sir Frederick James could not even suppress that jealousy. If the Government really wishes that the various parties should come together, if the Government really want the people of this country behind them for the war effort, it can only be achieved by seeing Mahatma Gandhi; it cannot be achieved by not seeing him. You are shutting him up in jail. You won't allow him to come into contact with anybody. You won't allow him to write a letter even to his political opponents, or shall I say political friends. You would segregate him from all things. At least if the Working Committee and Mahatma Gandhi are put together they can come to some conclusion and they may give you an offer. Suppose I ask you?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Don't ask me!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I ask the Government that in view of the present political situation, they may have something fresh to submit and to say. Is it not common courtesy that you should gather them together? All this talk about unity is, if I may say so, bunkum. I want you to be sincere. Act up to your words once. Will you?

I have been told that the head of this Government told a leader of thought in Madras that they are very sincere with the Cripps offer. I believe that they are sincere but sincerity must be shown in action and if they are sincere, they must let people meet Mahatma Gandhi: they must let Mahatma Gandhi meet the Working Committee and they must let those two political parties come together and that is the test of sincerity and I hope they will rise up to it and act up to it in their own interests and in the interests of this great war that they are waging in the interests of the democracies, and the United Nations.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Tell us about your own diary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Unfortunately it will not be very relevant in this debate.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Anything is relevant in the Finance Debate.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In the end I want to say that if the Government are sincere about their professions in regard to India and if they want to win the war and they do not want to prolong its agonies—the war may be won in one year or ten years. With the concentrated efforts of the people of this country the war will be won much sooner. Millions of men and women need not hunger and die and millions of men need not suffer. If you do not want to prolong the agonies of war, it is up to you to give opportunities to

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these political parties and get their support. As for us, Sir, we believe in this great principle:

"Who lives if India dies?
Who dies if India lives?"

Some of us may live, some of us may die in jail and may rot: some of us have died. Some of us may come out as physical wrecks. Some of us may lose everything. But still the ideal of a free and independent India will always live for generations in millions of men until it comes true.

(Interruptions from Government Benches.)

I do not want to add anything more. I oppose the motion.

Mr. R. R. Gupta (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The speech of the Honourable the Finance Member on this Budget is much more thought-provoking, as hitherto, for the last four years, he has been confining himself mostly to explain the difficulties arising out of delay, increasing expenses and other economic difficulties. It is for the first time after four years, that he finds the Budget position somewhat stabilised, hence he could not help giving some indications affecting the policy which this Government wish to follow in the post-war period. That is, he has explained the difficulties resulting out of the shortage of consumers goods. He has also touched upon the planning after war, which has started naturally agitating the minds of people, as the chances of successful conclusion of war become more and more evident, and programme of finances required to meet post war planning. He has already indicated that chances are that present taxation may continue indefinitely, with further taxation in the form of estate duty or death duty, etc. These indications naturally compel one to think deeply and analyse thoroughly in what direction he is trying to lead us. Had the Honourable the Finance Member been clear with regard to the future policy which this Government wants to pursue and the schemes which they have in mind, our task would have been comparatively simple. But as it is, one has to draw conclusions from the things which he has said and connect them from other materials which have come to our knowledge during the last few months, and in my so doing, Sir, I arrive at the only conclusion that the position is too serious to allow it to pass unnoticed. The policy which the Government seems to follow is that politically they think that they have entrusted the country's future, for some time to come, at least, in the safe hands of Mr. Jinnah. Militarily, they think the position is going in their favour in Europe, and that with the unlimited man-power of India and rising resources of the Allies, the defeat of Japan is sure. Economically I am sure the Government wants to follow the policy of facing the problem of poverty and the ignorance of the country as perhaps they have come to realise that their past policy has resulted in reducing 95 per cent. of the population of this country to the actual position of an animal.

Sir, it is the last point with which I will concern myself today. In one place you emphasize the necessity of increasing the production of consumers goods. You have also talked of other schemes . . .

Mr. M. M. Joshi: Address the Chair.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: Very well, Sir.

That is, the Government is trying to tackle the problem of national education. They are also trying to tackle the problem of agricultural rehabilitation, which they can do either by increasing the wealth of the country or by appropriating the meagre resources of the country which only a few individuals possess. If you adopt the first course you have definitely to overlook the economic interest of England and treat the Indian interest as supreme in every respect, while in the other course he will be able to meet the requirements of the greater population temporarily. At the same time, while he will be able to create a big field for British industries and capital to exploit in this country and secure employment for more and more foreign persons in India, result will be that the country will become poorer to the extent that perhaps no one will be left with any ambition. You will excuse

4 P.M.

me, Sir, if I point out that the words of the Honourable the Finance Member do not stand scrutiny with the actions which he has proposed in this Budget, otherwise, Sir, how can he justify his present proposals of increased taxation. I have analysed the effect of the present proposals contained in his Budget speech and the figures work out to be very very discouraging. If a person, before the war had an income of thirty-six thousand—I mean a business, who after paying taxation was saving about 30,790 what will be the position of the same business if the present proposals of the Honourable the Finance Member are carried out. Consider a business with an income of thirty-six thousand, if it earned profits, say, one lakh of rupees. But, Sir, before I come to that point, I would like to point out, that according to the present position, before this Budget was introduced, if a firm had an income of thirty-six thousand rupees and it earned rupees one lakh in a year, it is saving only Rs. 26,380. If the same firm had an income of ten lakhs during a standard year, it was saving upto now only one lakh thirty-six thousand rupees. Now, Sir, the result of the present proposals will be that a firm with an income of thirty-six thousand will save only Rs. 21,380. If another firm has an income of 10 lakhs in the year, it will save Rs. 24,100 only.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Has the Honourable Member taken into account the sum that is really saved and that is deposited with the Government?

Mr. E. R. Gupta: Yes, Sir, I have taken that amount into consideration. That amount is to be deposited by us with the Government. That is obligatory.

An Honourable Member: Is the Honourable Member talking about firms or limited companies?

Mr. E. R. Gupta: Limited companies. Sir, the position of the firm will also be more or less the same. If you like, I can calculate it.

Then, Sir, there is another point in regard to individual persons. If a person has got a dividend income of five lakhs of rupees, ultimately what will he save? He will save only Rs. 1,81,000. My point is this. With this meagre income what a firm, company or individual can do is not enough.

An Honourable Member: What does the Honourable Member mean by dividends. He is giving wrong impression to Honourable Members.

Mr. E. R. Gupta: I have first of all given you the example of the companies who have got a standard period of 36 thousand after present provisions are brought in force, what will be left to them as profits only will be 2 thousand rupees.

Now, I come to another point which relates to the deposit of income-tax. There are several other points which required very detailed consideration about this matter, and I propose to deal with them when the Income-tax Bill comes up for discussion. The Honourable the Finance Member wants that money should be deposited with the Government every three months in the shape of income-tax and in the form of E. P. T. He has now got a provision in the Finance Bill to suggest that that money will be treated as an investment from the business. Thus the businessman will have no advantage to include that amount in his income. Sir, I have given you some examples which, I think, are sufficient to show what a meagre income will be left in the hands of companies and businesses after paying all these taxes.

There is one more point which must be given serious consideration, and it is this: the standard period of companies was based on those periods which were more or less periods of depression. What was the result of that? The result was that these companies were not in a position to declare satisfactory dividend at that time. What has happened now is, that the Government have imposed further taxes on those companies, with the result that these companies will not only be unable to give any dividend, but they will be left with nothing for payment of corporation tax. I shudder to imagine the fate of business and companies if present provisions are allowed to be continued. I realise what will be the effect of this taxation. Naturally the effect will be that no honest

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assessee will like to carry on business at all, nor there will be left any allure-ment to do any kind of business. On the one hand you want to increase the production of consumers goods as you have said, and on the other hand, you are going to reduce their capacity to almost nil. The position will be that nobody will like to run any business. No question of further expansion. Consequently the result will be that country will have to depend upon the foreign imports for all type of consumers goods. Otherwise you will have to go on facing shortage in this country.

Another point is this. After all, what for do you want to increase further taxation at all? So far as I have been able to understand your Budget position, I think there is absolutely no deficit in the coming year, if you take into consideration the actual position of the amount which you will get even as a result of your present rate of taxation. My point is that on the income side, the Honourable the Finance Member has calculated a return of only Rs. 174 crores, while in the present year he has already got about Rs. 168 crores. Though in his speech he has said that the income from the taxation has been only about Rs. 188 crores, there is Rs. 28 crores standing in the deposit account. If that is also taken into consideration, the actual income from income-tax and excess profits tax works out to Rs. 168 crores in the last year. Which is 64 crores more than his last calculations. I would like to point out that the income which you are going to assess this year is the income for that period which has been the best boom period for industry and business. Therefore, there is no reason why you should not count on getting at least Rs. 225 to 250 crores from income-tax and excess profits tax in this year even at old rate. If that figure is taken into consideration, the total income will work out to be about 335 crores. Expense, which the Honourable the Finance Member has worked out including expenditure on defence, is to the tune of Rs. 348 crores. My submission is this. If the Honourable the Finance Member takes into account the prospective return from income-tax he will get at least Rs. 325 crores as a result of present taxation. In that case he does not require any more increased taxation at all. Another ground for fresh taxation could be only this, that he wants the sterling accruing in England to be kept as it is, and that he would try to reduce raising loans in India as much as he could. If that be so, I submit that it requires consideration as to how far our position is safe in the matter of our sterling balances. With the present rate of taxation, privation and misery will surely result, with such large balances in the hands of the very persons, who have been flouting public opinion, in this country continuously without the least remorse. After all, a man learns from the past history. In matters of our economic relations with England the past also has not been very helpful; rather the contrary has been the case. When this background is put, in line with the chorus of cry in the English press, against the accumulation of our sterling balances, and the wishful expressions of high placed individuals in England, it becomes evident as to how they wish to liquidate our these resources. When put to actual test, there are instances like your recent importation of useless articles, directly under the permission of the Secretary of State, without even consulting the Government of India, the non-helpful attitude of the Government in procuring machineries required for increasing production of consumers goods in this country, and the changed policy of the Government towards the question of encouraging production of machine tools in India, and also the fact that while the newly created tin food industry in India on your own requests are starting for orders, those very things are being imported from abroad;—all these do not give us much hope that our position is very secure in the matter of our sterling reserves. In reply to my question last time, I have got a list of consumers goods which the Government have recently imported, and that contains among other things clothing and wearing apparel, cycles and cycle parts, electric fans, radio apparatus, tinned provisions, glass-ware, metal lamps, agricultural implements, liquors, paints, and photographic

apparatus. I submit that these are not items which are so very urgent for India's general consuming masses. The undue emphasis which is laid, in season and out of season, by the Honourable the Finance Member on inflation and anti-inflationary measures in India, creates a serious doubt in our mind that neither our economic position at home nor our sterling reserves are very safe. I can depend upon the Honourable the Finance Member because he has seen what sacrifices are responsible to bring this big amount of sterling balances to our credit, but he can be called away in a moment to England if he is found to be too obstinate or unmanageable by his bosses there. Then what will be the security of our sterling resources? I want to bring to the notice of the House the manner in which these sterling balances are accruing to our credit. They are not due to any charitable policy followed by Great Britain towards India, nor is it the result of profiteering, as has been lately emphasised by some of the papers in England. It is a result of the blood, tears, sweat and the sacrifice of millions of human lives of Indians. The present balances do not represent the actual value of our services, because purchases for home front from the very beginning have been at control rates, which never had any relation whatever to the actual prices which were prevailing in the country. Then, the pay of the Indian forces which are serving abroad is much less in comparison than the pay of the foreign soldiers, though their great deeds and their valour have not been less than any of the other foreign forces of any other country. Again, in the handling of these goods Government have not charged anything from Great Britain for labour, etc., employed in India. So, whatever amount is shown, that is not the actual cost of the services which this country has rendered to Great Britain. But actually it is much less. These amounts are not as a result only of the division of expense between India and England. They also represent our exports of essential goods like tea, jute, pig iron, manganese, rubber, coffee, etc. All sorts of things they were exporting to other countries while in India we were being denied many of those things for our use. Then, Sir, apart from that, we have also spent quite a lot on war preparations and in the name of the defence of this country and we all know that we did not require all those forces. At least now, there is no necessity for all those forces if they are to be maintained here purely from the point of view of the defence of this country.

Now, I come to the question of the dollar resources of our country. So far as I can calculate, more than 40 crores of dollars have already accrued to India, as a result of trade balance in favour of India, within the last 4 or 5 years and, Sir, in return for all this, what satisfaction has India got till now, either about its political ambitions or about its economic future, except the satisfaction that we have also played our part for the saving of the world from the bondage of Nazism and Tojoism? If justice is to be done to India, then a definite assurance should be given to this House, as to in what manner the Government wants to spend our sterling resources, which have accumulated and which will be further accumulated in England. I also want that at least from now onwards whatever dollars are accumulated in our favour, they should be kept in the Indian account. I am thankful to the Honourable the Finance Member, for his assurance that henceforth he will keep certain dollars now in India's account from the Empire pool. But I want that whatever dollars are accrued to our account, henceforth at least those dollars must be kept all exclusively in the Indian account.

Unless the Honourable the Finance Member satisfies us on these points, he does not deserve our support in the matter of increased taxation and we submit that the Honourable the Finance Member should consider the matter from this point of view also.

There is one more point, which I want to touch, and I have finished. I do not believe in developing industry under State management, especially so far our Government is dominated by those whose economic interests are always in direct conflict with the interest of this country. For instance, I will give the example of the railways themselves. We have up to this time invested about 900 crores of rupees over these railways. Several hundred crores have

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been invested in Posts and Telegraphs and Telephone industry in this country and what is the position? Even today, after so many years of its existence, none of these industries are independent to the point of looking after its own maintenance and expansion. Even now every year we have to import material worth several crores of rupees for the maintenance and expansion of these services. Sir, only the other day, the War Transport Member pointed out that he has got the blue prints ready for the expenditure of about 370 crores of rupees. But he has not said how much money out of that he proposes to spend in India and how much worth of money he will spend in foreign countries. So long as that state of affairs continues, I want to make it absolutely clear, we do not want any further industries to be developed under the management of the present State. I want that the position should be fully clarified. This country should not be reduced to a position where we may lose all private initiative for the development of industry and we may be left at the mercy of imported consumers goods. We must actively take up welfare schemes. But that can be successfully carried out only when schemes for increasing the wealth of the country are also taken up in hand side by side in right earnest.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): May I inform the Honourable Member that much of the greater part of the money will be spent in this country.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: I would like to have the figures. If you have got the blue prints ready, I see no reason why you should not give the figures and the percentage you want to spend here. If that is not given, then we will have to conclude that most of the money will be spent in foreign countries. We are not yet self-sufficient even in the matter of Railways which are existing here over the last hundred years and this is an industry which is controlled by the Government. No better example can be cited as to the fate of industry if it is to be developed under your auspices.

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

Mr. Umar Aly Shah (North Madras: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to say a few words on the Finance Bill. Again and again, new taxation has been adopted by the Government. In spite of demands to stop this, Government does not pay any heed to them and they go on with this policy of increasing the taxation. Some time ago, the Congress Ministries were in charge of the Governments of eight provinces. They also adopted this taxation policy. There are 40 crores of people and this new taxation will affect 90 per cent. of them. Income-tax, Super-tax and so many other taxes will be paid by rich people. They are very cunning people and they well know how to evade them. They can take care of themselves but what can these poor people do. Our Congress people have been giving so many lectures on patriotism and sympathy and so on but in action they do not seem to have done much for the poor people. I am here for a long time and I know that several Congressmen, politicians and big scholars have condemned this policy. This new taxation policy was condemned by several politicians for a long time. But this sort of policy has been urged every year. Even today there is no leader to save us. I know of so many villages which are suffering from want of food. This trouble is not confined to Bengal only. In Bengal people have got a sort of unity and patriotism and they are advertising their case everywhere. As a matter of fact, in my Presidency of Madras there are half a dozen districts where there is a great scarcity of food. Bellary and Kurnool are the greatest sufferers and they have been suffering for a long time. But Government have not done anything for the people of these districts as is being done in Bengal. Of course, the Honourable the Finance Member has shown great ability and efficiency but he has not been able to understand this taxation. I have been in the Finance Committee and he has done these things in a very arbitrary manner. I cannot understand what his taxation means. Umar Khayyam said:

Wine is bad. But if you want to take wine, do not take it with menials; you can take wine with the nobility. What I mean to say is, tax the rich and dissociate yourself from taxing the poor. Of course, you want money for your army and for the war effort and therefore you have to get money by putting all sorts of taxes. There is no question about it. We are also behind you. But these are very bad times. This is not an ordinary war. It has spoilt the whole world and India also is in danger. The enemy is at our doors. Therefore, we must be ready to support the Government to win this war. In spite of all these you can't squeeze money from the poor.

But I must say one thing. You are buying the Indian sepoy for Rs. 18 whereas you cannot buy an ordinary goat for that sum. So, you are trying to save our country by having an ordinary sepoy on Rs. 18. That is absurd as you are collecting 100 crores extra for this during the war. Now you want to collect 4 crores by taxing betel-nuts, tea and coffee. These are luxuries which could be avoided like *Ganja* which is being used for yogic purposes—you know India has got its own culture. And like opium—the other day Mahatmajī told us—tea and coffee also intoxicate and several of my countrymen have given them up. Our women have also got a great tendency to reject them, the best thing being to take milk as this is the real beverage of India. Therefore, my suggestion is to reject these taxes as you will not be able to collect them.

Then, there is the tax on tobacco. Tobacco is a foreign thing and therefore there is no name for it in Sanskrit. The usage of this has come from outside and we are to pay 10 crores for this.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: There is a suggestion that you should speak in Sanskrit.

Mr. Umar Aly Shah: It is quite a different question. In Mahabharat it is said about *pan supari*:

Rajasuya Dhawaray Samai Bhishma Drona Kurur wrajat Krishna Dattagra Tambolam Sisupalavarodhare,

In Hastanapur the present Delhi, when beetles and nuts were offered by Bhishma to Sree Krishna during Yagna Rajasuya which was performed by Pandus, King Sisupala from the big audience protested that Sree Krishna was a Yadu non-Brahmin and also was not a Kshatriya and hence not entitled to these beetles and nuts. And hence a big war had to be waged. I want you to understand that we are passing through war days and your imposition of taxes on beetles and nuts is not a good symptom. But I do not like the taxes which you have imposed. Therefore, my request is to reject those taxes.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: You oppose all those taxes.

Mr. Umar Aly Shah: I oppose all these damn inferior taxes. The Honourable the Finance Member showed great efficiency and great knowledge in his Budget speech. We are also the representatives of the people. I also realise that money is required to save our country. In the Mahabharata Bhishma says:

*"Ardhasya Pursho Dasaha, Dasa Swardhaena Kwasya Chith
Iti Satyam Mahabaaho Bandho Smardhaena Cowrawaihi."*

This means: Man bows himself to money; If there is no money one does not serve the other: Oh! warrior this is a true fact. I bow to cruel Cowrawas because they are rich.

What I want to impress you is this:—You collect money but don't tax the poor people.

Without money you cannot do anything; you cannot perform your administration; you cannot rule. You cannot rule the country without money. You must first get sympathy and then collect money to administer the country. Even Bhishma, the great *pitkamaha*, the great Lord of the land said that you must have *artha* and collect money to rule over people. He said he was serving the Kauravas though they were bad people because they were the rulers.

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As such we are serving. Therefore you must save this country, at the same time you must save our poor people also by giving them economic help. The suggestions which the wise and patriotic people make should be heeded to by the Government. The other day I was rather pained to hear the Honourable the Home Member characterising all Indians as fifth columnists. It is wrong on his part to say so. We are not fifth columnists. We are all patriotic people, we are loyalists. The difficulty is the Government do not study our mentality properly. You see the Congressmen have attended this Legislature. In the same way Mahatma Gandhi also might change his views and support the Government. Even my Leader, Mr. Jinnah, who also protested to the Government that they do not appreciate our views, is also attending the Legislature. There are very many great men in India who are doing the same. In ancient days, the sages said: "*Na vishnu prithvi pathi*", it means the King is Lord himself, and without God's help nobody can become King. So, our ancient Indian culture teaches us that we should look upon the King as Lord himself. We revere the King. That is laid down in *Dharma Shastras*. Of course, some English knowing people with so called modern culture try to mislead the general public. But the real culture of India is to be always loyal to the King. It is the English knowing people with the so called modern civilization that create all kinds of problems to this country. I cannot say whether they are right or wrong. I do not want to criticise them.

What we want is some food. India is a wonderful country, you can raise food in this country for the whole world. This is one of the richest countries in the world. It is a land of many rivers and mountains and there is plenty of scope for growing more and more food and keeping people well and contented. There can be no famine in this country if the Government develop the country properly. Of course, India is a vast country, 2,500 miles long and about the same in breadth. There are 7½ lakhs of villages and it is an enormous task to supply foodstuffs to the entire population. The Government should take some interest in the poor ryots who are all suffering without help. There are a number of Princes in India who squander money. Why don't you take it away from them to help the poor?

The next point I wish to refer is the paper currency of the Government. Before war paper money was of the order of 174 crores and now it is 876 crores. It is not good to have paper money. Muhammad Bin Tughlak introduced leather coinage. In the days of Sri Rama there was wooden coinage. It is said that in the days of Sri Rama the *mangala suthru* was made of wood. If you read Ramayana—and I am sure my Honourable friend, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, knows it well—you will find that there was wooden coinage in those days. What I want to point out is that you should not have either wooden coinage or leather coinage or paper coinage. The only coinage which survived the ages is the gold coinage. No paper money is good. Unless you have gold, the country will not be saved from ruin. You should not have this bogus money in the shape of paper. If there is real money, it is gold, the coin itself should say its own worth. Please do not deceive the poor people by taking away all the gold money. You must take all the poor people with you and try to raise their standard of living. You can even pass an ordinance and collect money from the rich *baniyas* and from the Princes and spend them on the poor. *Dharma Sastra* says, you can take away everything from the *baniya* except that which is required for his food for 15 days. What we want is food.

Sir, this war is spoiling the whole world, not India alone. And when I say that, I mean spiritual India, philosophical India. 90 per cent. in India depend upon their spiritual culture and therefore perhaps could not be destroyed by the material weapons, our cultural and spiritual heritage may have been helpful to throw away this damned wretched enemy—Japan. Japan is a sinner; she has spread Buddhism in Burma, Indo-China and other countries.

Of course, many Indians have not seen books on this subject and they do not know. I have studied these things and I know that Buddhism is not Hinduism, and Buddhism is not *Ahimsa Dharma*. Vedas say:

Ahimsa Permo Dharmaha
Viediki Himsa Ahimsa Bhawati
Satyam Vade Dharmanchara
Mastru Devow Bhawa
Pitru Devo Bhawa
Acharya Devo Bhawa
Raja Karasya Karanath, etc.

Nonviolence is super righteousness
Vedas say nonviolence in place of violence
Say truth, follow the righteous
Worship mother.
Worship father
Worship teacher
Justice rests with the King, etc.

This is correct that Vedism cannot be Buddhism. *Ahimsa Dharma* is the fundamental principle of Hinduism which can never reconcile itself to Japanese, the eaters of snakes, frogs and other dirty things.

German means *charman*, and *charman* means *chandala*. We have no sympathy with them. And therefore today India is ready to fight them. Therefore, Sir, I request you to think over all this and guard our spiritual and cultural heritage. The best way this can be done is by safeguarding the interests of the poor and abstaining yourself from taxing them.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. President. I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Honourable the Finance Member and in doing so I shall have to refer to a number of subjects which relate to portfolios under the Honourable the Finance Member, Honourable the Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies, and perhaps also to the Supply Member. As the Honourable the Commerce Member is not here and as we are coming to the end of the day's debate, I shall not touch on any points concerning his portfolio today. I shall take up first the taxation proposals covered by this motion. I have to remark, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech introducing the Budget has not said anything very convincing for the doubling of the tax on tobacco. The House knows full well that this tax is just a year old and it does not appear that the Government have got full experience of the operation of this tax. In my own province, which produces a large quantity of tobacco, the agitation against this tax has been intense. While the people recognize the fact that a tax once imposed is never removed, the agitation was largely against the method of its operation, the method by which the tax is collected. I remember, Sir, that in May last there was a conference of tobacco merchants and tobacco growers at Palghat in Malabar district which I attended. At that meeting were expressed views with regard to the operation of the tax which really were quite revealing. And while still the fears about this tax persist some hope seems to have been entertained by these tobacco merchants and growers that some form of relief would be obtained for them during this Budget Session. Therefore, Sir, this doubling of the tax came as a bolt from the blue, and we would in this House like a little more elucidation of the principle underlying this precipitate action of the Finance Member. The mere fact that tobacco happens to carry a very high incidence of taxation in generally all the civilized countries does not mean that this is the most appropriate time for increasing the tax on tobacco and I think the House will have to examine at length the tax on the various products like *biris*, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc. It will at once reveal to them that the tax is out of all proportion to the value of the products concerned. That, Sir, is my first objection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resumé his speech on Monday. The House is now adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 20th March, 1944.