

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1944
(28th March to 5th April, 1944)

TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

Deputy President :

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Mr. HOOSHINBHÖY A. LALLJEE, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

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Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal :

Captain Haji Sardar NUR AHAMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions :

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Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. GOVIND V. DESHMUKH, M.L.A.

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 28th 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.

MEMBER SWORN :

Mr. Nivarty Sundaresan, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

CLASSIFICATION OF ABORIGINES IN AGENCY TRACTS.

652. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that all the people living in certain areas called Agency tracts are known as aborigines?

(b) Are they treated as scheduled classes different from Hindus?

(c) Is he aware that the religion of aborigines in Peninsular India is of the Hindu family? If so, what are the measures taken by the Government of India to treat the aborigines as Hindus for all political purposes?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) No.

(b) Members of primitive tribes, whom apparently the Honourable Member has in mind, are not ordinarily treated as scheduled castes.

(c) I am not clear what exactly the Honourable Member has in mind. Where however the Government of India has made special provision for primitive tribes it is because of their social condition as primitive tribes, not because of their religion.

ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR IN INDIA.

†653. *Mr. Nabi Bux Illahi Bux Bhutto: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of enemy prisoners of war in India?

(b) What is the actual food consumption of these prisoners?

(c) In view of the acute shortage of food in India, do Government propose to remove these prisoners to some other country?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 51,600 approximately.

(b) About 82 tons per day including meat and vegetables.

(c) Several thousands have already been sent ex-India and thousands more will be sent out shortly.

RATE OF INCOME TAX FOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICERS, SERVING IN INDIA.

†654. *Mr. Nabi Bux Illahi Bux Bhutto: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the effect of the Indian rate of income-tax on army officers from South Africa serving in this country?

(b) Are they subject to the same rate under the Indian Income-tax Act as others? If not, why not?

(c) Do Government propose to lift all the facilities given to the South Africans in the matter of income-tax?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a), (b) and (c). British Indian income-tax is not at present being levied on army officers from the Dominion of South Africa serving in this country in view of the smallness of the amount involved, the fact that these officers pay tax in South Africa on salary drawn by them in this country and the absence of double income-tax relief arrangements with that country. Government are, however, considering the withdrawal of this exemption.

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

CLASSIFICATION OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS WITH GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

†655. *Bhai Parma Nand: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) if it is a fact that accredited correspondents with the Government of India have been classified according to their status in the profession and the status of their newspaper; if so, what method has been prescribed to ascertain these matters;

(b) if it is a fact that the accredited correspondents (shown in the statement to unstarred question No. 58 of the 23rd February, 1944) who were given accreditation before 1941 are classed in B and those who were given accreditation after 1941 are classed in A; if so, the reasons therefor; and if not so, what the correct fact is, and who in class A and class B are respectively, together with their date of accreditation;

(c) if it is a fact that more than one accredited correspondent of a newspaper or of a news agency have been placed in class A; if so, the reasons therefor, and if not so, what the correct fact is;

(d) whether the correspondents of all the four news agencies are placed in class A; if not so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) whether Government now propose to cancel the classification, removing the differential treatment to their representatives at the centre; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes. The factors determining the status of a newspaper are: it should be a newspaper as defined in the Post Office Act; it should be published regularly at stipulated intervals; its influence and circulation. The status of a News Agency is determined by the method of distribution of its services, e.g., volume of telegraphic news service; the centres or the newspapers catered for; the percentage of publications secured.

(b) No, Sir. The second part of the question does not arise. As regards the last part, a statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes. News Agencies are allowed to have two correspondents each, the class privileges to which they are entitled being determined by their status, in view of the wide range of news covered by them. Only one newspaper, the *Statesman*, which has a Delhi and a Calcutta editor has been allowed two correspondents as a special case.

(d) Correspondents of *Associated Press of India*, *United Press of India* and *Orient Press of India* are given Category 'A' privileges. Correspondents of *National News Service* are entitled to category 'B' privileges only. As regards the reasons, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to part (a) of this question.

(e) No. Government are satisfied that the classification helps to place representation of newspapers or news agencies at the headquarters of the Government of India on a more satisfactory basis and enables correspondents to provide a more effective news service.

Statement showing the names of accredited Press Correspondents at the headquarters of the Government of India, the dates of their accreditation and the category of privileges accorded to them.

Names.	Date of Accreditation.	Category of privileges to which entitled.
Mr. S. N. Bhatnagar	4-3-32	A
Mr. Durga Das	22-11-41	A
Mr. A. S. Ivengar	27-9-32	A
Mr. G. V. Krupanidhi	23-10-35	A
Mr. A. N. Kumar	16-4-37	A
Mr. B. Shiva Rao	31-5-35	A
Mr. M. Roy	15-4-36	A
Mr. J. N. Sahni	6-11-40	A

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

Names.	Date of Accreditation.	Category of privileges to which entitled.
*Mr. S. A. Sastri	..	A
*Sir Usha Nath Sen	16-3-39	A
Mr. K. C. Sen Gupta	15-5-33	A
Mr. P. D. Sharma	20-12-34	A
Mr. Sri Krishna	22-10-40	A
Mr. Hilal Ahmed Zubairi	11-5-43	A
Mr. Z. A. Suleri	20-5-43	A
Mr. Dharampal Gupta	26-6-43	A
Mr. P. N. Bajpai	18-11-43	A
Mr. J. K. Cowley	29-9-42	A
Mr. Mohd. Umar	16-6-43	A
Dr. P. S. Lokanathan	29-7-43	A
Mr. D. G. Kulkarni	9-10-37	A
Dr. Lanka Sundaram	16-9-43	A
Mr. C. L. Suri	13-1-44	A
Mr. J. N. Shukla	3-2-42	A
Mr. Dharam Yash Dev	17-1-44	A
†Mr. Syed Muhammad	17-1-44	A
†Mr. Aslam Siddiqi	..	B
*Mr. S. N. Chopra	..	B
*Mr. Muhammad Jafri	..	B
Mr. R. Mudhavan Nair	29-7-41	B
Mr. Harishchandra	10-3-43	B
Mr. A. C. Khosla	1-2-36	B
Mr. Indra Prakash	10-3-43	B
Mr. Somina Venkiah	16-11-43	B
†Mr. C. C. Joseph	15-3-44	

* Date of accreditation is not available due to destruction of old records.

† Provisionally accredited.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF CONTROLLER OF SUPPLY. ACCOUNTS.

656. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only three Muslim Gazetted Officers, two Accountants and two Assistant Superintendents in the main office of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts out of the total strength of eighteen Gazetted Officers, forty Accountants and five Assistant Superintendents, and that there is no Muslim on these posts in the offices of the Controller of Supply Accounts at Calcutta and Bombay and Controller of Food Accounts, Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that major portion of the sanctioned posts in these offices is on a temporary basis and hence the newly created posts should be filled by the appointment of members of different communities in the proportion fixed by the Government of India;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of officials have been appointed in these offices by transfer of their services from other Accounts and Audit Offices and by re-employment of pensioners;

(d) if the reply to parts (a) to (c) above is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by the heads of these offices to secure adequate representation of Muslims in these services and grades, and whether any efforts have been made to secure the services of experienced and qualified Muslims from other Audit Offices or by re-employment of Muslim pensioners; and

(e) whether it is not a fact that two Muslim Superintendents have recently been compelled to leave the service of the department owing to unsympathetic treatment of Hindu Officers and one Muslim Assistant Superintendent has been reduced and one clerk has been dismissed on the ground that he had misappropriated Government money, and that a large number of Muslim clerks have resigned their services?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving details of the information sought by the Honourable Member.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the orders with regard to communal representation apply to direct recruitment only.

(c) Yes.

(d) Every effort is made to secure adequate representation of various communities in the services under the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts' control. The Chief Controller of Supply Accounts has made special efforts to obtain Muslim candidates by inserting advertisements in the press and by addressing letters to the Aligarh Muslim University and to the Heads of other Muslim educational institutions. Among the experienced officials transferred from other offices there are no less than 93 Muslims. Five Muslim Pensioners have been re-employed.

(e) No. The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member.

Statement.

(a) No. The actual figures are :

<i>Office of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts..</i>		
Gazetted officers	.	2 out of 17
Superintendents	.	5 out of 47
Assistant Superintendents	.	13 out of 50
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Calcutta.</i>		
Gazetted officers	.	1
Superintendents	.	1
Assistant Superintendents	.	4
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Bombay.</i>		
Gazetted officers	.	Nil.
Superintendents	.	1
Assistant Superintendents	.	2
<i>Office of the Controller of Food Accounts, Delhi.</i>		
Gazetted officers	.	1
Superintendents	.	2
Assistant Superintendents	.	2

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the other Universities, e.g., the Benares Hindu University, have also been informed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir. Since the problem arises from the inadequacy of minority communities, it is being pursued in this way.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But if these are not available, then in that case, the appointment should go to the Hindus, and will the Honourable Member do it for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not necessary to take special measures in order to secure sufficient Hindu candidates.

SCHEDULED CASTES REGIMENTS.

657. ***Mr. Piare Lal Kureel:** (a) With reference to his answer to my unstarred question No. 103, dated 7th March, 1944, will the War Secretary be pleased to state which of the following Regiments consist entirely of the Scheduled Castes:

- (i) the Mahar Regiment;
- (ii) the Chamar Regiment;
- (iii) the 17th Dogra Regiment;
- (iv) the 3rd Regiment; and
- (v) the Bihar Regiment?

(b) Will he also please state the number of Scheduled Caste Commissioned Officers (all ranks) in the regiments which consist entirely of the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The Mahar and Chamar Regiments consist entirely of Scheduled Castes.

(b) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available, and, in view of the fact that it is not the policy of Government to make any distinction between various castes and creeds in the appointment and posting of officers, I do not propose to collect the information.

SCHEDULED CASTE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

- 658. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Caste Commissioned Officers (all ranks) recruited in the Indian Land Forces, Royal Air Force and the Royal Indian Navy during the years 1942 and 1943?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his unstarred question No. 104 on the 7th March, 1944.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND THEIR NOMINATION TO I. C. S.

659. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Provincial Governments were asked to recommend persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes for nomination to the Indian Civil Service in the years 1942 and 1943?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, did Provincial Governments recommend Scheduled Caste persons for nomination to the Indian Civil Service? If so, the action taken by the Government of India in the matter?

(c) Was any Scheduled Caste person selected for the I.C.S. in the years 1942 and 1943? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) Yes.

* (b) In 1942 and 1943, five and two nominations respectively were received from the Provincial Governments. The nominees were interviewed by the Federal Public Service Commission.

(c) No Scheduled Castes candidate was nominated to the Indian Civil Service in 1942 and 1943 as in the opinion of the Commission none of the candidates reached the standard required for appointment to the Indian Civil Service. But in 1942 one reserved vacancy was earmarked to be filled after the war by a suitable Scheduled Castes candidate with war service if available. Moreover in 1943 a Scheduled Castes candidate was selected for training in the Indian 'Civil Service Probationers' Training Camp and he will be considered for nomination on the basis of the results of the final examination in the Dehra Dun Probationary Course in 1944.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member what is the proportion that is to be given to the Scheduled castes according to the Government resolution?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Eight and one third per cent. of the vacancies are reserved.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND THEIR NOMINATION TO I. C. S.

660. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India have asked the Provincial Governments to recommend the Scheduled Caste candidates for nomination to the Indian Civil Service this year? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Home Department Press Communique, dated the 19th December, 1942. The Secretary of State has decided that recruitment to the Indian Civil Service should be suspended for the period of the war after the January examination of 1943 and all vacancies should be held in reserve for war service candidates.

Press Communique.

With a view to attracting young men of a suitable type for Emergency Commissions in the Defence forces and in order to ensure that such men were not placed at a disadvantage compared with those who sought civil employment, it was announced in March, 1941 that 50 per cent. of the annual vacancies in the I. C. S. and the I. P. would be left unfilled with a view to their being available after the war for candidates with approved "war service".

The Secretary of State has now decided that all vacancies in the I. C. S. and the I. P. should, after the January examination of 1943, be reserved for such 'war-service' candidates and that recruitment to both Services should be suspended for the period of the war.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
New Delhi, the 19th December, 1942.

PREPONDANCE OF MUSLIM ARTISTS IN ALL INDIA RADIO STATION, DELHI.

661. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an open letter was sent to the Director, All India Radio Station, New Delhi published in the *Mahratta*, dated the 10th March, 1944, complaining of the policy practised in the radio programme and preference given to Muslim artists?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the aforesaid open letter? If so, what steps were taken to ascertain the facts shown in it?

(c) Is it a fact that the Hindu artists were overlooked in the programme of the Delhi Radio Station in the following ratio on the undermentioned dates?

Date.	Percentage of Muslim artists.	Percentage of Hindu artists.
16th January, 1944	95%	5%
17th January, 1944	80%	20%
18th January, 1944	95%	5%
19th January, 1944	95%	5%
20th January, 1944	90%	10%
21st January, 1944	100%	Nil

(d) If the figures shown in part (c) be not correct, what was the actual ratio of Muslim and Hindu artists on the aforesaid dates and what were the reasons for adopting the difference?

(e) Is he aware that Hindus quite competent and even specialists in *Geet*, *Thumries*, *Gazals*, *Dadras*, *Khiyals* are always available? If so, why is lesser number of Hindu artists scheduled at Delhi, Lucknow, Lahore and Bombay?

(f) Is it a fact that more *Gazals* are being sung at the All India Radio than *Geets*? If so, why?

(g) Is it a fact that all the *Gazals* composed by Muslim authors are being sung and even a number of *Geets* composed by Muslims are sung and no preference is being given to Hindu composers? If so, why?

(h) If the answer to part (g) be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the number of *Gazals* and *Geets* composed by Muslim and Hindu composers, respectively, and sung by Hindu and Muslim singers on the dates mentioned in part (c)?

(i) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to remove the difference in treatment and the grievances detailed in the letter mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; the letter has only recently been brought to my notice and I have made the necessary enquiries.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). The ratio was 57: 43 taking into account all categories of programmes and 76: 24 in respect of only music programmes. The number of Muslim artists at the Delhi, Lucknow and Lahore stations of All-India Radio is larger than the number of Hindu artists roughly according to the proportion in which suitable artists of these communities are available for these stations. At Bombay and some other stations, the position is exactly the reverse.

(f) At some stations, yes, but not over All-India Radio as a whole. The position varies from station to station according to the demand of the listeners and the availability of talent.

(g) No preference is given to any community. Artists are selected on grounds of merit.

(h) No such statistics are maintained and the labour involved in collecting them will not be commensurate with the result.

(i) I am satisfied that there is no differential treatment in All India Radio and that the grievances mentioned in the *Mahratta* are based on a misapprehension of the actual position.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether Hindu artists are not available in the Punjab and so preference is being given to other communities or that the Hindu artists are ignored?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: They are available in the proportion in which I have mentioned.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is that proportion fixed for each broadcasting station? If so, under what rule or order?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Perhaps my Honourable friend did not follow the answers at all. The question was as regards people employed between the 16th and 21st January, 1944. The proportion was given for that period.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to clause (c), on 21st January, the percentage of Hindu artists is shown as 'nil'. Why it is so?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Because there was none.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: None was available?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Obviously.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if any advertisement was published? What is the proof to show that none was available?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Little knowledge is a dangerous thing! I would respectfully urge upon my Honourable friend to visit the All-India Radio once and see how it works. He ought to know that advertisements are not given for these artists.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Committee is consulted?

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

MUSLIM OFFICER IGNORED FOR APPOINTMENT AS APPELLATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX IN THE PUNJAB.

662. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a very senior Muslim officer of the Income-Tax Department in the Punjab, has been passed over and the newly created post of Appellate Assistant Commissioner has been given to a junior Hindu Officer, and as a consequence Muslim Officer had to apply for leave preparatory to retirement?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No. Pir Mohammad Ali Shah, the senior Muslim Income-tax officer in the Punjab to whom the Honourable Member is presumably referring, had gone on leave preparatory to retirement before the temporary post of Appellate Assistant Commissioner referred to could be filled. The question of his supersession does not therefore arise.

PROPOSED CLASS A OR CLASS I SERVICE OF INCOME TAX OFFICERS.

663. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether he proposes to create a class A or class I Service of Income-Tax Officers, and, if so, what steps does he propose to take to safeguard the interests of the officers belonging to minority communities?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is proposed to constitute a Class I Income-tax Officers' Service, appointment to which will initially be by selection from among existing Income-tax Officers and later by direct recruitment through competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission. No special steps to safeguard the interests of minority communities are necessary, since direct recruitment will be made in accordance with the orders governing communal representation issued by the Government of India from time to time.

EJECTMENT CASES IN DELHI COURTS.

664. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of ejectment cases filed in Delhi Court since the extension of Punjab Rent Restriction Act to Delhi

province? How many have been disposed of and how many are still pending in Courts?

(b) Is he aware that immediately after enforcement of the Punjab Rent Restriction Act in Delhi Municipal Area, landlords asked a number of tenants to vacate residential houses and flats for landlords' own occupation? Are Government aware that a large majority of such claims was false and the houses were let to same or other parties on payment of *Nasarana*?

(c) Will he be pleased to give instructions for enacting Control Orders throughout Delhi Province providing that no residential house or flat should be vacated so long as the tenant pays or is willing to pay controlled rent?

(d) Is he aware that landlords in Delhi generally refuse to carry out repairs to their property since the enforcement of Control orders? If so, will he be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take to penalise the landlords for refusing to attend to their property?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: This question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Labour Member.

LOWER CLASS ASSIGNED TO CERTAIN SECURITY PRISONERS IN CENTRAL JAIL, AJMER.

†665. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that Syt. Shankarlal Varma, assistant editor, *Hindustan*, New Delhi, and ex-president, Ajmer-Merwara Provincial Congress Committee, Mr. Balkrishna Kaul, member, All-India Congress Committee and Professor Gokul Lal Asawa, who are being detained in the Central Jail, Ajmer, as security prisoners, are undergoing various terms of imprisonment under the provisions of Central Government's Security Prisoners Order, 1942?

(b) If so, is it a fact that these security prisoners are being treated as ordinary 'C' class prisoners and no consideration is being shown for their social status, mode of living and education?

(c) Is it a fact that these individuals have been accorded 'A' class treatment in jail on former occasions?

(d) Is it a fact that Syt. Balkrishna Kaul is running daily temperature and the present state of his health is causing anxiety to his friends and relatives?

(e) Will Government be pleased to order better class treatment to these persons without any further delay?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) Yes.

(b) It is true that they have been placed in Class C.

(c) Two of them were accorded A class treatment in Jail on former occasions.

(d) Balkrishna Kaul gets low fever in the afternoon but his health is not such as to give cause for anxiety. He is receiving suitable treatment and has recently put on weight.

(e) The matter is already being considered by the Chief Commissioner.

QUASHING OF SENTENCES PASSED ON CERTAIN SECURITY PRISONERS IN CENTRAL JAIL, AJMER.

†666. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that some of the security prisoners now confined in the Central Jail, Ajmer, were sentenced to four months rigorous imprisonment under Rule 18(2) of the Central Government Security Prisoners Order, 1942 (for disobeying a lawful order) by the Additional City Magistrate, Ajmer?

(b) If so, is it a fact that the Sessions Judge, Ajmer, has on appeal set aside the conviction and acquitted seven of the nine security prisoners, as in his opinion the Jail Superintendent was not competent to issue an order enjoining security prisoners to give finger impressions?

(c) Will Government be pleased to revise the sentence of Mr. Balkrishna Kaul and Gokul Lal Asawa, the remaining two security prisoners, who did not prefer appeal against their conviction in the light of the judgment of the Sessions Judge, Ajmer?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The point is already being considered by the Chief Commissioner.

RESERVATION OF PROVINCIAL VACANCIES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

667. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: With reference to the Home Department Resolution No. 23/5/42-Est(s), dated the 11th August, 1943, reserving 8-1/3 per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment in the Central and Subordinate Services to which recruitment is made on an All-India basis, and also increasing the maximum age limit by three years in the case of Scheduled Castes, will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has sent copies of the above Resolution of the Home Department to all the Provincial Governments and Provincial Public Service Commissions;

(b) whether he has asked or requested the Provincial Governments and Provincial Public Service Commissions also to reserve 8-1/3 per cent. of all Provincial vacancies for Scheduled Castes and also to increase the maximum age limit by three years in the case of Scheduled Caste;

(c) whether he knows that Provincial Governments do not seem to be inclined to reserve 8-1/3 per cent. of all the Provincial vacancies, and to increase the maximum age limit by three years in the case of Scheduled Castes, in spite of the representations made in this regard to the Provincial authorities by the leaders of the Scheduled Castes; and

(d) whether he proposes to urge upon the Provincial Governments and Provincial Public Service Commissions to fix a certain percentage in all the Provincial Services, and to increase the age limit by three years in the case of Scheduled Castes?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) Copies of the Resolution in question were sent for information to all Provincial Governments but not to Provincial Public Service Commissions.

(b) No.

(c) Enquiries made from the Provincial Governments in 1942 showed that several of them had made specific reservations for Scheduled Castes in certain Services under their administrative control. Many Provincial Governments also grant age concessions varying from one to five years to members of such castes. I have no information regarding any further action taken by Provincial Governments since copies of the Government of India's Resolution were furnished to them.

(d) This is a matter for the Provincial Governments and the Central Government have no power to interfere.

RESERVATION OF PROVINCIAL VACANCIES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

†668. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Home Department Resolution, No. 23/5/42-Est(s), dated the 11th August, 1943, applies to vacancies filled by promotions? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: No. The orders of the Government of India regarding communal representation in the services apply to direct recruitment only.

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL WAR FRONT IN ASSAM.

†669. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the advance made by the National War Front Movement in Assam in one year?

(b) Is the Honourable Member ready to place on the table the report submitted by Rai Bahadur Dr. S. K. Bhuya, ex-Organiser of the National War Front in the Assam valley, and what suggestions did he make for the intensive organisation of the National War Front?

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

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

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The National War Front movement in Assam has been gaining strength steadily and has made a considerable advance in its activities during the past year. Recently eleven National War Front Rallies were held all over Assam—five in Assam Valley and six in Surma Valley—and the general public took a very keen interest in them. Each Rally was attended by not less than 40,000 people.

(b) Dr. S. K. Bhuyan was Provincial Organiser of National War Front for Assam Valley till 1st May 1943. In his capacity as Provincial Organiser he submitted a number of reports on the working of the National War Front together with his suggestions for the intensification of the movement. All these reports were written for departmental use only. A summary is contained in the comprehensive report placed before the Legislature on the 10th November 1943 and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by referring to the individual reports.

ORDERS RE FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR OFFICIALS IN AUDIT OFFICES.

†670. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that there are orders from the Auditor General in India that an official should not be allowed to continue on one seat for over five years in the Audit Offices?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These orders of the Auditor-General of India do not apply to all the officials in an audit office but only to those employed in the audit sections.

STENOGRAPHER FOR DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

†671. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that no post of a stenographer is sanctioned for the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, but an allowance is allowed for this work, if and when an official is required to perform part time duties?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reply is in the affirmative.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

POLICE GUARD AT SHRI GOPAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DELHI.

192. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Sardar Mehtab Singh, Superintendent of Industries, Delhi, put up Police Guards at the Office and the Godowns of the Shri Gopal Chamber of Commerce, Limited, on the 15th October, 1943?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the law and the orders under which he took this action?

(c) Is it a fact that no order for this action was served on the Officers of the said Company nor was it shown to any one of them?

(d) Is it a fact that the Police Guard remained there for about four months and a constable is still posted there and was not removed even after the Judgment of the High Court and the Textile Commissioner's Chemical and Dyes Control Order?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the amount spent on the maintenance of these Police Guards and the object of public utility served by this action of Sardar Mehtab Singh?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: (a) and (b). The District Magistrate of Delhi made an order on the 9th October 1943, under Defence of India Rule 81(2) prohibiting the disposal without his prior permission of certain stocks of dyes held by the Shri Gopal Chamber of Commerce, Limited, and the Delhi Colour Safe Deposit, Limited, which were being made the subject of highly speculative transactions prejudicial to the public interest: and on the 15th October he gave instructions for the posting of Police at the premises of the Shri Gopal Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the order was not evaded.

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

(c) I understand that the District Magistrate's order of the 9th October was served on the parties in the regular way.

(d) Yes. It has not yet been considered advisable to relax the precautions against attempts to infringe the order.

(e) The expense cannot be readily estimated. The object of public utility served by the action of Government has been explained above in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

PROSECUTION OF OFFICERS OF SHRI GOPAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DELHI.

193. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the prosecution launched against the Officers of the Shri Gopal Chamber of Commerce, Limited, and other members of the public under the orders of the District Magistrate, Delhi, dated the 16 October, 1943?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Blacker of the Lahore High Court dated the 27th January, 1944, quashing the whole proceedings and declaring the action taken by the District Magistrate, Delhi, as misconceived and illegal?

(c) Is it a fact that in this action not only the officers but some members of the subordinate staff and outsiders sitting in the room also were arrested and challaned?

(d) Is it a fact that the investigation by the Police was carried on under the supervision and guidance of Sardar Mehtab Singh, Superintendent of Industries?

(e) Is it a fact that the accused made various representations explaining the whole situation to the Chief Commissioner and the Home Department, Government of India, pointing out the illegality of the action of the District Magistrate? If so, why no action was taken on these representations?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate, Delhi, had taken legal opinion before issuing the above order for arrests?

(g) Will Government also be pleased to state how Rule 94(c) was taken to be applicable to transactions of Dyes and Colours by the District Magistrate, Delhi?

(h) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Industries took a keen and personal interest in the case against the Chamber?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the house in due course.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to parts (a), (d) and (e) of starred question No. 232 asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam on the 25th February, 1944.

MALARIA EPIDEMIC IN BANIACHUNG IN SYLHET.

(a) and (d). According to the report received from the Government of Assam the number of deaths from malaria in Baniyachung from April to October, 1943 was about 1,700. Later figures are not available but they are likely to be on a smaller scale as the epidemic has been brought under control.

(e) The report received from the Government of Assam confirms the Honourable Member's statement.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

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

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting, held on the 27th March, 1944, agreed without any amendment to the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund for the improvement and development of the cultivation, marketing and utilisation of coconuts in India, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 3rd March, 1944."

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to read out a message to the Assembly from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General:

"Whereas by its vote of the 27th March, 1944, the Legislative Assembly has refused to take into consideration a Bill entitled a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1944;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill in the form hereto annexed.

(Sd.) WAVELL,

Viceroy and Governor General."

NEW DELHI;

The 28th March, 1944.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1944, in the form recommended by the Governor General.

The only thing I would say is that this Bill is the Bill as it was before the House with the incorporation of four amendments. One is merely a formal amendment to correct a misprint which is No. 38 in the printed list of amendments; and the other three consist of amendments Nos. 2, 3 and 4 in Supplementary list No. 1 to the Final List, that is to say, the amendments standing in the name of Sir John Sheehy.

Sir, I move.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1944, in the form recommended by the Governor General."

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this occasion which has brought back the Bill recommended by His Excellency is not without precedent. This Assembly has had many occasion of a similar character; and but for the provision in the Government of India Act, one should have thought that Government would exercise their powers without asking a body, that cast a deliberate vote yesterday, to reconsider it this morning. It is somewhat amazing that though formally a provision of this kind may be necessary it should be used in the manner in which it is being used. The position today is this. Yesterday this House voted on this question, and though as a matter of form it was by a majority of one that the Bill was rejected by the House, in truth and in fact in so far as the elected Members of this House are concerned, it was a vote of 56 against 18. And even out of this 18, if I have some consideration which the Members of the European Group have always extended to Government, you really come back to this that in so far as the real voice of the country is concerned, it was a matter of 56 against 8. Therefore, as I submitted yesterday to the House, there is such an amount of unreality about the vote that is asked for that one might have wished that the constitution itself had a provision by which once the House, at all events, votes in the manner in which it has done, there should be no further ceremony gone through for the purpose of bringing in the Bill, for I think it is an imputation of a lack of common sense to ask people to reconsider what they have been considering for quite a long time. When this Bill was at the consideration stage, a period during which about seven days elapsed, when every Party and such Members as wanted to take any part in it expressed their opinion, they made it quite plain in so far as the representatives of people—the elected Members—are concerned that it was not possible on ground of principle as well as on the deteriorated condition of the country

during the year in question, that this Bill for supplies would ever be voted for. This is not a matter of mere grievance, but it has now taken the form of principle for a very good reason. We have been demanding ever since the war was declared and ever since India was declared a partner in this war that the affairs of this country, at least during that emergency, should be managed on a very different principle to this under which the matter was being handled and passed. It then became quite clear for the first time at all events that in so far as the representatives of the Indian people are concerned, their association would solve both the questions which I ventured to raise yesterday. It will solve the question that those who have the responsibility of finding money and resources would also have the privilege of carrying out and dictating the policies for the purpose of their disbursement. It will also solve the question which has now become almost a common sense question for the observance of the war that when the confidence of the people in the Government is lacking, the war on the military side cannot be waged with the same efficiency, with the same vigour and with the same relentlessness which are the necessary concomitants to the successful prosecution of the war. And those two matters can only be solved if the Government—meaning His Majesty's Government in this particular case—began to realize that however eminent or able individual personnel of the Government may be it is the confidence of the people which is the bed-rock and foundation of any useful Government during a period of war in any case. If, therefore, this emergency has got to be met, we have pleaded times without number here that it ought to have been met in the manner in which an offer was made—the House may remember the offer which I read in the year 1940—when the first, what was known as supplementary token budget, was granted. It was a budget which was intended merely to have, as I then ventured to say and I venture again, a mere propaganda value, for, the additional amount asked for was only two crores of rupees and, as I then pointed out, if Great Britain was spending something like fourteen crores of rupees every day there was not much purpose in the Government of India coming before this House and saying 'Oh! give us two crores of rupees for the purpose of the prosecution of the war'. It is true at that time the situation, the parties ranged, and the extent to which it had then progressed was such that it was still far away from either the Eastern or the Western shores of this country. Today we are in a different situation and, as I ventured to submit to the House yesterday, while we are confident of what happens in the future you cannot be too complacent, and it is necessary that for the purpose of the further prosecution of the war, if for no other better object, the affairs of the country should be conducted by a National Government.

And the better object in my judgment is that after all it is not the mere military success of the war that is going to solve the problems of the world and indeed those who have studied the situation and the statesmen of different countries have agreed that it is more the problem of the peace to follow, namely, as to how long, of what duration and of what quality that peace is going to be that is going to determine the future of the world; for, indeed, every time you may fight for righteousness, but so long as that method continues there can be no question that it is only ultimately by means of superiority of arms that even righteousness can be vindicated. It appears a paradox but that is how the world is being governed and the time must come when the world must be governed under better circumstances leaving more secure peace and leaving better times. For these reasons, Sir, I oppose the motion.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr President, may I speak

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Only two speeches are allowed at this stage. The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1944, in the form recommended by the Governor General."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—45.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.	Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.	Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.	Miller, Mr. C. C.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.	Piars Lall Kureel, Mr.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.	Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Richardson, Sir Henry.
Chatterji, Mr. S. C.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.	Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.	Sheehy, Sir John.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.	Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.	Spence, Sir George.
Greenfield, Mr. H.	Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.	Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.	Sundareshan, Mr. N.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.	Thakur Singh, Capt.
James, Sir F. E.	Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	
Kumaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.	
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.	

NOES—56.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.	Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.	Lalljee, Mr. Hoosainbhoy A.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.	Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.	Mangal Singh, Sadar.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.	Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.	Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Choudhury, Mr. Abdur Rasheed.	Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Das, Mr. B.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.	Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.	Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.	Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.	Sant Singh, Sardar.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.	Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.	Sham Lal, Lala.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.	Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.	Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Get out! Get out even now!

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

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1943-44.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed to deal with the supplementary grants for 1943-44. Sir Jeremy Raisman.

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I want that the Honourable Member

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There is too much noise. Will Honourable Members go back to their places?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: When the Honourable the Finance Member moves for a supplementary grant, he should not merely do it just because it is on the agenda. He should explain why this sum was not thought of at the time when he introduced last year's budget and why it is required now. The explanation may be very brief but it is necessary for each item. He may however say that the explanation was given in the Standing Finance Committee's Report. But that is not enough. He must explain to the House why it was not foreseen at the time of last year's Budget.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Practically the whole of this supplementary demand is due to the fact that the entertainment of additional temporary staff in connection with the administration of the Tobacco Excise Duty Act, 1943, and the Vegetable Products Excise Duty Act, 1943, took effect from the 1st March, 1943. We could not make provision in the budget estimates for the obvious reason that we had not yet got those taxes voted by this House, and to make provision in advance would have revealed the proposals of the budget prematurely. That item accounts for over Rs. 29 lakhs of the amount which is here mentioned, namely, Rs. 31,48,000. Another element is that a large number of match excise banderols were manufactured, and that comes to Rs. 58,000. Another element, Rs. 1,61,000 consists of compensations payable to certain Provincial Governments for suspension of provincial measures of taxation on wholesale trade in tobacco. That practically makes up the total amount.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

The motion was adopted.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

I may say that the main causes of the excess here are, first, the entertainment of additional temporary staff for the clearance of arrears, and for the reconstruction of the records of the Delhi Income-tax office which were destroyed by the mob during the August 1942 disturbances. Another element is due to larger payments in respect of dearness allowance and other allowances. Finally, there is an element due to greater expenditure on such matters as postage stamps, law charges and other contingent expenditure.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): The staff in the income-tax department is very much overworked and I believe is insufficient, and any investment in the direction of improvement

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

of the staff will mean additional income. I know the difficulties. No ordinary person can be employed in the Income-tax Department as it is a highly specialised work. In spite of the fact that I was a party to the passing of the Income-tax Act, I cannot fill in the income-tax form without the aid of an expert. Therefore, I should like to ask whether you are taking any steps to train persons who may help you in this work, as income-tax inspectors or subordinates, so that they may ultimately become income-tax officers later on.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): I find from the schedule of supplementary demands that additional temporary appointments have been made during the year under report. I have come to know that the claims of Mussalmans in matters of service in temporary appointments have been ignored. I hope the department will take into consideration the just claims of the Mussalmans.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In regard to the observations of my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, I would say that we are fully conscious of the desirability of increasing the staff. We are continually taking measures, and we are also taking steps to train staff so as to supplement the ranks of Income-tax Officers. In regard to the remarks made by Mr. Abdul Ghani, I would only say that such rules as are applicable to recruitment of staff of this kind are, I have no doubt, applied in making these appointments.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4—SALT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Salt'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Salt'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion. I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,93,000 in respect of 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I find from the schedule that additional appointments have been made or are proposed to be made in the year under report. The number of Muslims are very few in the department and their claims require to be adjusted here. The difficulty of Mussalmans is that there are two circles, one is at Calcutta and the other is here, and persons coming from Bihar, C. P. and other provinces got very little opportunity of presenting their case or filing their applications by going over to Calcutta or by coming over here. So. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: With your permission, I would like to point out that the excess in this case is not due to entertainment of additional staff, and therefore I submit that the question of communal representation is not relevant to this particular supplementary demand.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have a few general observations to make on this particular grant. The House has not the advantage of a recommendation from the Standing Finance Committee in regard to this grant, but the short note that is appended to this demand is sufficient to cause serious anxiety in the eastern provinces. The House is well aware that the eastern provinces are dependent almost solely on sea-borne salt, and we find in the note that the Government had to increase the output of the salt sources of northern India for the purpose of meeting the higher-

demand consequent on the stoppage of imports of foreign salt. I should like to know the position from the Honourable Member as regards the supply of salt in the eastern provinces at the present moment. We have been receiving reports of an alarming character from the eastern provinces regarding the acute shortage of salt that prevails there at the present moment. In very many places salt cannot be had for less than one rupee a seer. In one instance which has been reported in the Press, a prosecution was pending a few days ago against a shop-keeper in a district town in Northern Bengal for having sold salt at the rate of Rs. 2 per 7 *chattaks*, which works out at more than Rs. 4/8 per seer. I should like to know, therefore, from the Honourable Member in charge as regards the present stocks that may be held in Calcutta, and secondly, as regards the supplies in the interior. I am aware that it is not so much perhaps a question of the supplies in Calcutta as a question of transport and distribution of the available salt. I dare say my Honourable friend, the Railway Member, will be in a position to give us an assurance that salt is being transported into the interior of the eastern provinces by the Railways under a high priority, and further that the inland steamer services are also doing their best to help in a proper distribution of salt in the interior. I have no desire to further occupy the attention of this House in regard to this matter, but I feel that the situation has assumed such serious proportions in the eastern provinces, particularly in some of the districts of Bengal, that I trust that Government will give it their immediate and earnest attention for the purpose of finding out a solution of the difficulty that has arisen.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): The position in regard to the availability of salt in the Eastern Region. . .

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Calcutta also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Possibly Calcutta but more so, Assam. The position there has been causing us a little anxiety for some time but I am glad to say that the position has now greatly improved. Supplies of salt have arrived, I think, everywhere. I have not got the entire data here with me. I had them yesterday to answer questions which were tabled on the subject but I am, generally, satisfied that the situation has improved and we are doing everything in our power to bring about further improvement.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member has assured us that he has got sufficient salt in Calcutta. I would like to know what facilities have been provided for the distribution of salt in the mofussil because Bengal is very differently situated from the other provinces. There are small streams there which are not approachable except by boat. Has he made satisfactory arrangements—to the satisfaction of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments—that the salt that is now accumulated in Calcutta will be distributed in the mofussil towns and may I know whether means of transport are placed at the disposal of Government to carry this out.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The Honourable the Food Member has given us information to the effect that there is sufficient supply of salt but that is a vague assertion.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I did not say 'sufficient'. I said that the situation has improved.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That is also a vague assertion. I want to know definitely what is the amount of stock in Calcutta and what is the amount in the countryside and what definite arrangements are being made with regard to the supply of salt in all the districts.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have already said, I am not in a position to supply all the details today. I had the details yesterday to answer questions on the subject.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Later on.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall be very glad to give the information to my friend any time he wants it. I can answer a short notice question about it.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Good.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: With regard to the inquiry made by my friend Dr. Zia Uddin I would like to assure him that the necessary transport has been provided to carry the salt to the mofussil.

Mr. Akhil Uthandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): When?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to give the dates but the latest assurance from the Director of Civil Supplies, Bengal, is that he is getting the transport that he wants.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichnopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I should like to raise an important question on this supplementary demand. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow any further discussion on this subject. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 7.—STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Stamps'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 9.—IRRIGATION NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 10.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,28,03,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,28,03,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Finance Member and of the Posts and Air Department to a few points. I find that the supplementary grant is required for telegraph and telephone lines and for

radio communications. Now, I must say that both the telephone lines and the radio communications are very much wanting in Sind. We have got no trunk call on the right side of the river Indus, and many a time it has hampered even the administration. We have no telephone communication from that part of the province to Karachi itself. I know of instances where the Collectors have themselves felt the necessity of it especially when there have been breaches in the canals or there has been some other difficulty. I know that a

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demand has been made for this for a very long time, even when my Honourable friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor was the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs. But he has taken into his head one thing and that is always worrying him and he has made no attempt to solve the difficulty. On that side there is a great need for this telephone line. It only needs to connect the Ruk junction to Kotri. . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the Demand that the Honourable Member is referring to?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am talking about Demand No. 10, last but one item in respect of telegraph and telephone lines and radio communications.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know that. But is the grievance which the Honourable Member is now putting forward covered by any item of this demand?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: This money is wanted for that purpose.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That point cannot be raised now.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But I can refer to radio communications because we want a station at Karachi.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That, too, cannot be discussed. You cannot ventilate any general grievance on a supplementary grant. The Honourable Member can only say whether this demand is necessary or not.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then, Sir, I oppose it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in the Explanatory Memorandum, while giving the reasons for asking this supplementary grant, they have said "increased activities of the Department, the necessity for maintaining assets at a high standard of efficiency" are responsible for it. Am I to understand that till this demand was asked for, things were not maintained at a high point of efficiency? Then, later on, we are told that the militarization of staff in Bengal and Assam Circle is responsible for an increase of 27 lakhs. May I know how it increases the expenses of the Department? At what rate have you given the increase to those who have joined the military personnel? Then, about the arrears of contribution under Empire Air Mail Scheme, we would like to know, if it is not too much for the Finance Member to explain here, on what grounds is this contribution fixed? And, lastly, about the taking up of the Telephone Company at Bombay, may we know the profits that they expect to get by taking over this company?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): Sir, as regards my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, what I gather is that he is not objecting to the amount which we have spent, but he wants us to spend more than what we have done. I do not know whether that will be quite relevant.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: You can have reduction elsewhere.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I would now like to explain to my Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, the points which he has raised. When we mention here 'the necessity for maintaining assets at a high standard of efficiency', the point that was intended to be made was that owing to the greater use of certain services which is now being made of the telegraphs and telephones particularly, greater amount has to be spent on the maintenance of those assets. Formerly, interruptions and various other little damages to lines could be repaired in a leisurely manner, but in war time it is most essential that interruptions should be put right very quickly. Therefore, it is necessary to employ a much larger number of staff and also a much larger quantity of stores than was the case in peace time. The question of militarization that is raised is this. In the Bengal and Assam Circle, the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, like the railway staff, has been enrolled in the military service, but they continue to perform the same duty as they were performing before. This was considered necessary in the interests of ensuring the maintenance of these

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor.]

essential services in case the position in the province became worse. It has been agreed with the Defence Department that half of the extra cost involved will be met by the Defence budget and half by the Posts and Telegraphs budget.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How has this extra cost come about?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The extra cost has come about because those who are enrolled in military service are given in addition to their pay an allowance of 25 per cent. of their pay. They are given ration allowance or they are given rations in kind and they are provided with uniform. This is the extra cost that is involved and it is met partly by the Posts and Telegraphs budget and partly by the Defence budget. This has been done, as I said in order to ensure the maintenance of these essential services even if conditions in the provinces became far worse than they are at present.

As regards the payment for the Empire Air Mail Service, the position is that when the war broke out, the whole system of the all-up Empire Air Mail had to be stopped. The service could not operate as it used to operate before and, therefore, we agreed that the question of what should be paid for the service should be re-examined. While the re-examination was going on, no payment was made. We have now thoroughly examined the question and found that the services which we are now getting are costing the operator very much more than they cost in peace time and that we would be fully justified—in fact, it would be profitable to us—to pay according to the agreed old scheme. Accordingly, it has been decided to pay the amount and, therefore, the amounts that were not paid in the past are now being paid.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: On what basis they are paid?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The basis is the old contract. Under the Empire Air Mail Scheme a contract was entered into according to which payments were made by India and other Empire countries on a basis of 15 years. 7.23 lakhs in the first year, 7.69 lakhs in the second year, 8.61 lakhs in the third year, and so on. It was an agreement which was explained in this House before. It was an agreement made between His Majesty's Government and the Indian Government with regard to the Empire Air Mail Scheme under which all first class mail was carried free without any extra charge and India received so many services per week. When the war broke out, that service broke down. We are now sending out mails on a surcharge system and the operators, namely, the B.O.A.C., are providing the service. We are now paying them under the old system for the new services, because we are satisfied that this is profitable to this country and that we are receiving services which are much more valuable than the amount we are paying.

The last point is about the Bombay Telephone Company. This again is a matter which has been explained in this House before. The Government of India purchased all the shares of the Bombay Telephone Company and thus became the proprietor of that company, but from 1st April, 1943, the company ceased to exist and the Government of India is now operating the service as a departmental service. As regards the question whether it has been profitable or not, there is absolutely no doubt about it. Taking the income and expenditure side of the three companies which we have taken over now, we stand to gain about a crore of rupees per annum in revenue.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,28,03,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

The motion was adopted.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 13.—COUNCIL OF STATE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Council of State'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Council of State'."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What is this amount for?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This was for the extra Session of the Council of State. It is explained in the Memorandum.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 14.—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 15.—HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, with respect to the war, various new Departments have been created for which funds have been provided. As far as we can see the only work of the Home Department seems to be to issue Ordinances, order detention of persons without trial. Beyond these, there is no other work for the Home Department. I do not, therefore, see any necessity for any new appointment in the Home Department for any new work. No justification is shown for this expenditure except that an extra person is necessary and, therefore, a new appointment is created. I submit some more detailed explanation is necessary.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell (Home Member): This refers to a specific appointment of an officer on special duty for seven months. He was appointed in connection with the administration of the Essential Supplies Scheme for Central Government servants in Delhi.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In the Explanatory Memorandum under (a) the explanation is given: "creation of some additional temporary posts to cope with the increased work on account of war".

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: There was a Supervisor, essential Supplies Scheme, and a Superintendent for the same purpose.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: For the sake of?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I said that a Supervisor for the Essential Supplies Scheme was also appointed.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 17.—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1.85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1.85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I oppose this demand. Sir, I gave notice in the Standing Finance Committee that I will oppose this particular demand for the reasons which I gave to the representative of the Department and I repeat here. In this particular Department, we have got a small clique which first chooses persons for whom posts should be provided, or in other words favourites are first selected, then they create posts for them and afterwards they advertise in the Press inviting applications. They give a lot of trouble to candidates. They apply on prescribed forms and pay Rs. 3 for it. The candidates are put to the inconvenience in running about and gather informations, secure recommendations, and incur a lot of expenses in coming for the bogus interview and in fact there is no end to all these troubles. Lastly, this clique thinks out the reasons by which they bluff the Finance Department and justify this particular expenditure. I said that the process ought to have been reversed. The last course should be taken first and the selection should be the last. I spoke to the Deputy Secretary of the Department when he came before the Standing Finance Committee that we did not approve of this method which is now followed because we happen to be the sufferers. In the first place not a single student of the Aligarh University is selected for appointment, and this for the simple reason that not a single Aligarh University man is in the ring. According to the terms of advertisement, an Aligarh student is not inferior to any other student. Unfortunately, we are not in that ring. We do not fulfil the qualifications which are necessary to get into this ring, and I am glad that we are not in that ring. These are our genuine grievances, and I submit there ought to be fair play for everybody.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss these grievances on a supplementary demand.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am opposing the whole demand and I am giving my reasons for doing so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot ventilate grievances of that character on this supplementary demand.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I oppose the whole demand for this reason that the Department does not show fair play to every body. They are only cheating the public by inviting applications when they have already made up their minds about the candidates for whom offered posts are created.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): These are matters for the Standing Finance Committee.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I opposed it in that Committee and recorded my dissent. I said I would oppose it in the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss a general grievance in regard to the appointment of these men.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My grievance is that they first select the men and then create posts and then advertise in order to cheat the people. They afterwards give reasons for creating the posts. The method is wrong and I oppose it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can oppose it for any reason relevant to the Demand but with regard to the appointments no questions of that general character can be discussed.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I oppose it because money is not wanted for posts which are required but for certain individuals whom they wanted to provide. Therefore, I say that a case should first be made out in the Standing Finance Committee for incurring this expenditure and they should justify the creation of the posts. Then, if the posts are sanctioned, they should be filled with the help of some impartial body and not in the fashion they have adopted. It may be the Public Service Commission. The Honourable Member has now changed the method and has invited the Public Service Commission to help in filling certain posts. I hope this method will be still further widened and there will be fair play for every province and every community without a monopoly being created for a few individuals. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I rise to oppose this motion for the reason that I am unable to synchronise the observations of the Standing Finance Committee and the demand now put forward. It may be that the demand is less in amount than what was visualised by Government at the time they approached the Standing Finance Committee. Anyway, it has been definitely said that a sum of 2 lakhs and 16 thousand has already been spent whereas I see that the demand here is for 1 lakh and 85 thousand.

Another point on which I should like to have some information is in regard to the subscription paid, I presume, to the United Nations Information Committee through the Secretary of State for India. I do not find an analogous item, similar to what was submitted to the Standing Finance Committee, in this demand before us. Anyway the House would like to have some information as to what this United Nations Information Committee is, what its functions are, why any amount should be paid to it by the Indian Government and what benefit this country is getting by the payment of this subscription.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I expected some more information from the Honourable Member and I requested him that when he moves a demand of this kind

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But surely every demand does not require a detailed explanation?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: But this particular demand the House cannot easily understand and some more explanation is necessary. Specially here we do not know whether it includes anything for the expenses of the delegation that was sent from here to England. If it is not included here, I should like to know where it is charged. I tried to find that out in the explanatory memorandum but did not find anything. Under what head is that given and where does it come from? The House should not be taken by surprise in this manner.

Then, I will bring it to the notice of the Honourable Member that many people apply for posts in reply to advertisements which are issued and they have first to pay a fee of 3 or 5 rupees although the Department knows fully well that their applications will not at all be considered. That is how this Department is making an income in this objectionable manner and a great injustice is done to the people who send their applications. It is certainly objectionable for any Government Department to collect subscriptions like this when it is never their intention to treat these applications seriously. I agree with my Honourable friend, Sir Zia Uddin, that this is pure cheating and comes under section 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

Then, another thing is openly talked about that when a debate takes place in this House and that news is given out on the radio, the speeches of those who speak on behalf of Government are given for about ten minutes whereas

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that and should not mention them.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Very well, Sir. These are our grievances and unless we are given more information as to the necessity for this expenditure, we are not willing to grant this demand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, with regard to this United Nations Information Committee, I find on page 7 of the report of the Standing Finance Committee that it was decided to subscribe to it in the year 1943-44. On page 6, I find that Rs. 4,709 was paid towards this to the Secretary of State for India. In the Report of the Standing Finance Committee I do not find that any witnesses were examined or questions asked or answers given to questions if they were asked. Therefore, I want to know what this Committee is, what its functions are, and what work it has hitherto done, so that we may know whether this payment is necessary or not.

My Honourable friends have their grievances against this department. I have also got my grievances, namely, with regard to a radio station at Karachi and with regard to trunk telephone, etc., but I shall not deal with them here. I will only say that there are several grievances and, therefore, we oppose this demand.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the object of this Information and Broadcasting Department is to enlighten the public, especially in religious matters. In a very recent case in Lucknow

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better speak up.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: In a very recent case in Lucknow, it so happened that one of the greatest *maulvis* of Lucknow was invited by the Broadcasting Department

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all those individual cases. He must confine his observations to the supplementary demand under discussion.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Sir, I oppose this on this ground

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot oppose on all sorts of grounds; you can oppose this motion on the grounds which are relevant.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: The department is paying

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That stage is passed. You cannot, on this supplementary grant, bring in all those matters.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: But it is a very serious matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot do it.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: But the department pays the people whom it invites to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In the explanatory memorandum it is stated 'for the expansion of the activities of the department'. This Rs. 1,85,000 is nearly about 1/12th of the demand of the whole department. Rs. 14,39,000 is the original demand and being such a large portion of the original demand, I think it is necessary that the Government should give details of what these 'expansion activities' are. I would, therefore, like the Honourable Member to tell the House what are those activities which are responsible for this huge additional expenditure in relation to the expenditure on the whole department.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I deeply regret that the Honourable Members do not bring with them the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee which have been circulated.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have got these proceedings with me. Here they are.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: This is not the one.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Only this is circulated to us.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: All this information is given there on page 6, and "Members are requested kindly to preserve these copies for their own use it will not be possible to supply any more copies in view of paper economy." If the Honourable Members do not bring their copies with them, I regret it is not possible to supply more. All the explanations are given there.

However, I will explain the position now. Mr. Krishnamachari wanted to know how it was that though the excess was Rs. 2,38,000, we are asking only for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,85,000. Well, the rest of it has been got by re-appropriation. As regards Rs. 1,85,000, all the details are given and it has got nothing to do with the Broadcasting Department; it is for the Information Department. Rs. 56,200 is for the appointment of the following additional officers for which no provision could be made in the original demand: One Deputy Secretary: One Officer on special duty and so on. Rs. 35,000 are due to additional ministerial staff appointed during the current year, for which no provision could be made at the time of framing of the original estimates. Rs. 61,100 is on account of dearness allowance, etc. Rs. 32,700 is mainly due to the effect of splitting up the office in two portions—Delhi and Simla. All these details have been given and they have got nothing to do with the question of appointments in the Radio Station at all.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I interrupt the Honourable Member on this particular question? There are certain discrepancies between the figures given in the Demands and those given in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, to which attention was drawn by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It has been explained.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: There are discrepancies; figures do not accord with each other.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The explanation has been given there: Later on we made enquiries and found that the figures did not tally and, therefore, we made the necessary corrections.

Now, Sir, as regards the grievances of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin. I would like to mention that since, at any rate, I have been in this department, I have seen to it that the appointments are made after due advertisements in the papers. Some of the appointments have been made by the Federal Public Service Commission; other appointments have been made by Selection Boards, and I have passed an order that, as far as possible, subject to efficiency, all provinces should be represented. It should not be the monopoly of only one province or any particular class of people. I have passed an order to that effect and I am glad to say that during the last six months appointments have been made on a different basis.

Now, as regards the grievance that the students from Aligarh University do not find a place, I have been examining that question and I can say nothing at present as to why this has happened if it has happened at all. If this has happened and if suitable candidates were available, surely there was no particular reason why they should not have been appointed. I have got a letter from the Honourable Member and I am going into that question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the Honourable Member is in a position to give the constitution of this committee which he has just appointed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes. I need not deal with the constitution of the Federal Public Service Commission. On the Selection Board, the following are represented: (i) Joint Secretary of my Department; (ii) The News Editor—Mr. Barnes; (iii) Mr. A. S. Bukhari, Director-General, All India Radio. For smaller posts, we have perhaps got another selection board consisting of—I cannot give all the names, but I think I am right in saying—Dr. Zakir Hussain, Sardar Sobha Singh, Mrs. Ikramullah and some one else.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: What small appointments; those carrying Rs. 500 and so on?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No less than Rs. 200. For higher posts carrying a salary of say Rs. 1,000 or so sometimes go to the Federal Public Service Commission.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are these permanent appointments?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Not all. Some of them are; none on the Information side.

With regard to the item 'Secretary of State for India—Rs. 4,500', it is really for the United Nations Information Committee. I will give to the House the functions of this organisation:

(a) to act as a forum for discussion on questions of information and publicity of general and joint interest to the United Nations;

(b) to collaborate with the Inter-Allied and United Nations Information Committee outside the United Kingdom on matters of joint publicity interest and to consider decisions reached by these committees or matters referred to the Office by them;

(c) to maintain an information office under the direction of a Secretary-General for the purpose of—

(1) serving as publicity agent for common activities agreed between the Members, and issuing statements on matters of common interest endorsed by the Members;

(2) developing joint publicity about the activities of the United Nations through the press, radio, films, exhibitions, posters, lectures and other recognised publicity channels;

(3) providing facilities for the pooling of material and the dissemination of information about the United Nations, and making accessible common resources for research and consultation on matters of joint publicity interest.

It is not a function of the organisation to undertake publicity of national interest only for or about an individual Government, or to decide questions of differences in publicity policy which may arise between two or more of its members. As the dominions of South Africa, Canada and Australia have joined it was decided that India should also join.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is India represented on this Committee?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have just said so. India has joined. That must be.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Represented by whom?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I cannot give that answer.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the Department of Information and Broadcasting."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—45.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterji, Mr. S. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur-Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.

Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Maxwell, The Honourable Sir Reginald.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Ogilvie, Sir Charles.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam
Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.	Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.	Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.	Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.	Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.	Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.	Murtuza Sahib Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Choudhury, Mr. Abdur Rasheed.	Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Das, Mr. B.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.	Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.	Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.	Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.	Sant Singh, Sardar.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.	Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.	Sham Lal, Lala.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.	Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.	Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.	

The motion was negatived.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is too much noise. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF INDIANS OVERSEAS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Indians Overseas'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Indians Overseas'."

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I should like to have some information in regard to this particular demand. The House will observe that this demand is not supported by a recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee. The House will observe further that a part of the increased expenditure is due to the head "Burma Reconstruction Conferences". I had an idea that the attitude of the Government in the Indian Overseas Department towards these Burma questions was one of benevolent neutrality. I should like to know from the Honourable Member in charge as to what exactly was the nature of the participation of the Government of India in these "Burma Reconstruction Conference" activities.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Indians Overseas): Rs. 38,000 consists of the following three items.

An Honourable Member: Cannot hear you.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Rs. 38,000 consists of the following three items—pay of officers voted Rs. 7,500.

An Honourable Member: That is all in the book.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot remember all these by heart. I must read from the book.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why was it not brought before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If I am allowed to have my say I shall say. Travelling allowances Rs. 17,000, and other charges Rs. 18,500. These constituted Rs. 38,000. With regard to pay of officers, I have to say that a P.C.S. officer was appointed as Under Secretary in the Department instead of an I.C.S., so the amount has become voted, though it was non-voted before. Then a Pilgrim Officer was appointed for a temporary period. Thirdly, a gazetted officer was appointed as my P.S., and Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan was appointed for some time as an officer on special duty in the Department. These items make up Rs. 7,500. As for allowances, the increase is due, on account of T.A. of members of the Haj Committee and the Burma Reconstruction Conference. This refers, I believe, to the conference which I called in Bombay and not to the Simla conference which was, of course, paid by the Burma Government. The second reason is increase in dearness allowance, house rent and other allowances also. As regards other charges, it is due to contingent expenditure—due to the increase in the volume of work.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly say what was done at that Bombay Conference, what were the results that emanated of that conference?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The result is not yet available. I wanted to have information from the people from Burma and I have got it. That is all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: My question was why it was not put before the Standing Finance Committee as all other supplementary demands?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reason for that is that sums below a certain amount are by regular practice not placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I think in the case of non-recurring expenditure the limit is one lakh of rupees.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That is too big a limit.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: . . and amounts below that are not usually placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): The Honourable Member in charge of Indians Overseas said during his reply that a Pilgrim Officer was appointed for the Haj pilgrimage. I want to know in that connection if he has made a permanent appointment of Haj Pilgrim Officer, and if so, who is the person he has posted in that appointment, what grade has been given to him, and is he a full time officer or he has simply to work during sea voyage or route voyage, both of which are not in existence now, and it is not known when they will be brought into being.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Pilgrim Officer was appointed temporarily, and the question of making the appointment permanent is being examined. That is all.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: May I know from the Honourable Gentleman why, in spite of the Resolution having been passed in this House regarding the appointment of a Pilgrim Officer, only a temporary arrangement has been effected and not a permanent incumbent has been appointed?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Last season there was no Haj, and if a temporary appointment is made, what useful purpose will be served by expending this amount of money over the appointment of Pilgrim Officer? I, therefore, oppose this.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Indians Overseas'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Finance Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Finance Department'."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. President, I should like to have some information with regard to item F—National Savings Bureau. The relevant reference to the Standing Finance Committee's Proceedings merely says:

"A National Savings Commissioner has been appointed to co-ordinate the activities of the various Provincial organisations and broadly to direct and control the Savings Movement from the Centre."

This is at page 2 of the Standing Finance Committee's Proceedings of the 19th February, 1944. I want to have some more particulars, because apparently the Standing Finance Committee was either not curious, or was not furnished with any other information. The House would like to know who this officer is, what his qualifications are, and so on. I think if that information is vouchsafed to us we would be in a better position to decide whether we should vote for this supplementary demand or not.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In the Explanatory Memorandum it is said that they are going to create a new officer, that is, the National Savings Commissioner. In the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, the duties of the Commissioner are explained, and we find:

"The main features of the movement are (i) the employment of authorised agents on a commission. . . ."

This is a matter about which I should like to say a few words. The methods in which the savings are effected at the present day are reprehensible enough. They weigh very heavily upon the people, but to appoint commission agents for the sake of savings is like the appointment of rapacious tax collectors of the East India Company days. I have no doubt that this will prove a new source of oppression upon the people of this country. Not only that. This will open out a new channel for corruption of the worst character. These commission agents will go about the country, take Rs. 100 from the villagers, pay only Rs. 10 to the Government as savings and put the other Rs. 90 in their pockets. It is our experience that usually behind these people there is a certain amount of influence of the Tahsildars and Police Inspectors and police constables. These people go to the villages and threaten the villagers of all sorts of penalties and the poor villagers are fleeced of their money and that money does not go into the national savings but it will go into the pockets of the commission agents whom the Government is going to appoint for this purpose. The money will go into the pocket of the middlemen whom the Government of India and the Finance Department are trying to avoid in other spheres of life. These middlemen will exploit the masses and take most of the money for themselves. We think that this is a very vicious system. Especially in a country like this, where most of the people are uneducated and are asked to do things out of fear and not love, where most of the people are frightened and tyrannised by the local magistrates and the police, this system will prove an engine of oppression. We shall not be a party to this system of appointing commission agents and as such we oppose this motion.

Sir Cowasjee Jahangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): The question of small savings is one of the greatest importance just now for the

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

country. It is of advantage to those who contribute to the savings and also to the country. So far as I know, there is no compulsion in this matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will you read page 9?

An Honourable Member: What about commission agents?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Commission agents will be appointed who will try and sell these new cash certificates and they will get a commission for doing so. There is no compulsion. The point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member is this. It is said that the National Savings Commissioner has been appointed to co-ordinate the activities of the various provincial organisations and to direct and control the savings movement from the Centre. I would have thought that the duties of this Commissioner were to assist the Provincial Governments or those whom the Provincial Governments may appoint to do this work and do his best to meet their requirements. Naturally, he might have to refer to the Government of India. It may not be in his power but he should try his very best to meet the requirements of the Provincial Governments, and not put any obstacles in the way. After all, he may not be able to understand the requirements of all parts of India himself and I would suggest that whoever the gentleman is who is appointed he should make it his business to take the side of those who require these facilities and not reject all requests summarily but after due inquiry from the Central Government or the department of the Central Government who may be required to co-operate. I think it is his duty to see that such facilities as are required are as far as possible given and not rejected.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, I do not understand what are the real functions of this officer, the Small Savings Commissioner, and a great deal of apprehension has been felt and expressed by some Members on this side of the House as to the scope of his duties and the manner in which these duties are likely to be performed. Now, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, rose to explain the position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I didn't.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But instead of explaining, he left me in greater confusion.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I did not get up to explain.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I thought you had been asked by the Honourable the Finance Member to explain the position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: On a point of personal explanation. I am not here to explain the policy of Government. I only explained what was written in the statement. The Finance Member can speak for himself.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Anyway, I did not exactly understand the trend of his opinion—whether he regarded this officer as a very essential link between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments or whether he thought that it was the duty of this officer to carry out the duties entrusted to him by the Honourable the Finance Member. Well, he was unable to explain that and left us in greater confusion. Now, I want to know, if this gentleman makes a wrong use of the powers and the duties that are entrusted to him, whether he will be under the control of the Central Government or whether he will take shelter behind the Provincial Governments. Very often it happens that we here give certain powers to certain officers and these powers are exercised in consultation with the Provincial Governments and then when we raise these points here, we are told that the work is done in the provincial sphere. I hope nothing of that sort will be done.

Then again, I want an assurance that the duties of this officer will not be performed in a way so as to oppress the people. My Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, has raised a great deal of apprehension in this regard and unless it is proved beyond doubt that no such scandal will happen, we will not vote this demand.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): I have also to point out to Government that for the

purpose of making collections for the national savings the District Magistrate of Arrah had issued orders which were brought to the notice of this House by means of an adjournment motion the other day, which was ruled out of order because the Mover of the motion was not present here. I should like to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Government that this order had appeared in the provincial papers also. The order of the District Magistrate was that every landlord should pay compulsorily to the national savings when he was making payment of the land revenue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Was this order made by this officer mentioned in this demand?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: No. This order was issued by the District Magistrate

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question now is the appointment of this particular officer.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: It is under this officer that this thing is going on and there must be some authority to control and check such work in the provinces under the authority of the Government of India, and the Government of India must be held responsible for the authority that is exercised in respect of the collection of national savings fund. The officers who are in charge for collecting this fund should not be allowed by the Government to work in the manner they are now working. Perhaps it is in this way that the ultimate responsibility rests with the Government of India or with the officers under this Department. Of course, the point that I was going to submit to the Government was that this is a very serious matter because in Bihar the condition of the landlords is very bad inasmuch as their income has gone down by more than half.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not relevant to this supplementary demand. The Honourable Member cannot go into all these questions.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am not going into any question except to point out that such things are being done by the officers under the Government of India and for whose pay the Government has brought up this matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is dealing with the question that the landlords are poor and they cannot afford to pay. That has nothing to do with this supplementary grant.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: The point must be made clear to the Honourable Member in charge of this Department. Unless I say what is being done by the officers there, I cannot make my point clear.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should refer to the question of appointment of this particular officer.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: This particular officer is for the purpose of collecting the national savings fund and unless I mention the things that are being done by the officers under him, how can I make the grievance clear to the House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has this officer passed the order in question?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Of course, this officer cannot be expected to have passed an order direct to the District Magistrate of Arrah, but surely it is under his authority

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into any question of policy.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am not saying anything about the policy. I am not saying that this officer who is in charge of national savings fund and under whose authority the collections are being made is personally responsible for this sort of thing which is happening in the districts and in the provinces. But the fact is that it is under the authority of this officer that these collections are being made. So, I was trying to make this point clear to the Honourable Member in charge that if such things are allowed to happen in the districts, it will be very difficult for the landlords to make payment of the revenue in time.

[Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall.]

The payment of contribution to the National Savings Fund is made a condition precedent to the payment of land revenue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member not to dilate upon this, otherwise I will ask him to discontinue his speech.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If you think that I am not speaking in a relevant manner, I will surely resume my seat, but whatever I have said will, I hope, be carefully considered by the Government. I trust they will take steps to see that the officers in the district will not indulge in any sort of high-handedness while collecting funds under this Department.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I will only briefly say one word. We do not accept the principle that the collection should be made on the basis of commission agency. The collection should be made on a voluntary basis and if the Government thinks it necessary, there should be a paid staff

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now quarter-past one and I must adjourn the House for lunch.

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

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

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I was referring when the House rose for lunch that we are opposed to any form of employment of persons for collection of funds on the basis of commission. This will lead to corruption. It may be that some relations of the tahsildar or the sub-inspector might be appointed, and in order to give a better commission to those relations, the tahsildar or the sub-inspector might force people to buy national savings certificates. This will lead to corruption. I think the best method of collection is by making good propaganda by taking the people into confidence, by creating a kind of sympathy in their minds. I have had my own experience in this respect. During the last war, in 1915, in my District Sir James Meston, then Lieutenant Governor of the United Provinces visited the place and I was then a young Barrister practising in that District and the Lieutenant Governor asked me if I could collect a sum of Rs. 30,000 from my District for the U. P. Special War fund. I undertook to do it. Instead of collecting only Rs. 30,000, I collected one lakh and 67 thousand.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Did you get any commission.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No; on the other hand, I spent money from my own pocket in touring the district for collection of war fund. It was possible for me to collect such a large sum because great enthusiasm was created in the minds of people. Everybody was vying with one another to subscribe to the fund. Everybody whom I approached gladly contributed. Mind you, that was not a loan, they were not war bonds which they could get back after a certain number of years. It was giving away money once and for all as subscription to war fund. Great enthusiasm was created in the minds of people, the people felt it was their war and, therefore, unless they subscribed liberally to the war fund, they will be the sufferers. If they subscribed, they would win the war. This was the feeling instilled into their mind. If you get hold of people who have got a hold on the people, who have got a stake in the country, and if such people go about for the collection of national savings certificate, there will be good response. What is the use of choosing people who have no hold in the country? What is the use of taking people who flatter the officials? Their only claim is that they are in the good books of the district authorities and all advantage is taken from them. This will certainly lead to corruption. This is bringing the Government into disrepute. It is creating no enthusiasm in the minds of the people. The people have got no faith in those people who support the Government officials in the Districts or who speak on behalf of the Government. The real people who matter, and who are the backbone of the country, they are keeping silent, they are not working with you. They sit quietly

because you have not created any enthusiasm in their mind to support your cause. Therefore, it is that you are driven to this position that you have to rely on commission agents. The best method of collection is this. The public should be enthused over this and then money will flow into the Government treasury like water into the rivers. You cannot get money by coercing people. They will grumble and Government will be brought into disrepute. So, I think the appointment of commission agents for collection of national savings certificate is harmful to the people as well as to the Government. It may lead to many undesirable results, as I mentioned last time. I, therefore, think no money should be spent under this Demand.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What happened to the case against the Honourable Mr. Hoosein Imam which you referred to the other day.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not know what happened in that case. I understand that some high military official has been put in charge of the collection of money through national savings certificate. I am also told that the military officer's wife also is associated with him as an honorary worker, taking only travelling allowance. These two, husband and wife, go on tour. I think all these things become scandalous and it is high time that Government put a stop to all these things. Instead of relying on such doubtful people, the Government should take some people who will do really some good work and who will create enthusiasm in the minds of the people for this war, who will make the people feel that it is their war and that they must fight the Japanese and defend their country. You do not take hand of co-operation that is offered to you. If you put a military officer-in-charge of this work, he will be touring about the country, he may not get into touch with the public, because he does not know the real views of the public. You must put in a man who knows how best to tackle the public, not a man who is completely ignorant of public feeling. That is why I submit that this demand is not justifiable and, therefore, I oppose it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I submit that the money spent on the salary of the National Savings Commissioner and his establishment is absolute waste. I know that the National Savings Commissioner is not taking proper care for the sale of these certificates all over the country. He is not taking care to see that people are not unnecessarily harassed and compelled to buy these certificates. I may inform the House that the Government of India themselves have fixed a quota for each Province, and I am given to understand, subject to correction, that Bihar has been asked to contribute a sum of rupees six crores by sale of National Savings Certificates. Revenue of Bihar is about rupees five crores. Several kind of misuse of power is going on and the National Savings Commissioner is responsible for all these harassments of poor people. The public should not be subject to these hardships and harassments. I will cite some instances in support of my argument. In my part of the country, in Bihar, every licensing authority misuses his powers. In my locality a magistrate realised five hundred rupees for every renewal of gun license and failure to purchase a national savings certificate for Rs. 500 would result in forfeiture of the license. Again every villager who pays one rupee as *chaukidari* tax has to buy a national savings certificate of the value of ten rupees, i.e., ten times the *chaukidari* tax. The poor cultivators who grow sugar-cane are forced to pay a tax of two annas per maund of sugar-cane. There are plenty of cases like this. Zamindars have been and are being forced to purchase National Savings Certificates of considerable amounts before they are allowed to pay land revenue. These complaints have been from time to time brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary but the officers are encouraged by this Savings Commissioner to do these things because they are given rewards for selling these certificates, and those who sell for larger sums get larger rewards. So encouragement is given to harass the people. These case-loving people do not want to take the trouble to go to these villages and explain the object of these National Savings Certificates. In their zeal and energy they want to finish their quota in a very short time and thus resort

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to these illegal actions. I think the Government of India would fail in their duty if they do not warn this Savings Commissioner and through him the Provincial Governments that their officers should not unnecessarily harass the people and misuse their powers. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, this question came before the Standing Finance Committee and there I supported the proposal and I will state my reasons here. The first reason for that is that the cultivators have plenty of money in the form of bank notes. We have no consumer goods or gold and silver, and these people are not bank-minded. The result is that these bank notes are hidden away and are often eaten up by white ants or otherwise destroyed. Therefore, we must try to make them bank-minded so that they can get some profit out of their savings. One method of doing that is to pay a liberal rate of interest as in the case of the last war when it went up to even as much as $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The present financial policy of the country will not allow that now, because there must be uniformity in all forms of investment. The Finance Member may go so far as to allow in these cases 4 per cent. in place of the general rate of 3 per cent., but nothing beyond that, as that will upset the entire machinery of investment. The other thing possible is to modify the time limit, that is, instead of 15 years it may be 10 years, and I thought that would lead to greater investment. This perhaps will be shown only by experience. Another thing is that I agree with my Honourable friends, Sir Yamin Khan and Maulvi Abdul Ghani, that there may be misuse of powers. Some one must go to the villages and teach the people and carry on some kind of propaganda. If you are lucky enough to get a man like Sir Yamin Khan you can, of course, collect any amount of money. But such men are not always available and, therefore, we have to employ paid agents; and there are two ways of doing it. Either you employ a man on a fixed salary and tell him to go and sell these certificates, in which case the trouble is that you have no check on him; he might sit down at one place and write a false diary that he did this and that. You can also have a system of paying so much for a certain service that he renders, that is, make the salary commensurate with the exact collection. In this method the best way is not to give them a fixed income but pay them on the commission basis. In this case there is no chance of the man sitting idle without doing any work and then writing a false diary.

As regards coercion, I think a permanent official will use his influence more towards coercion than a paid commission agent. The agent gets only a commission and he will not be treated in the same manner as a permanent Government servant with all the authority of Government behind him. So the commission agent will no doubt be very much handicapped in his work but certainly the chances of misuse of powers are very much less than in the case of permanent Government officers.

The other thing I would like to point out is in connection with what is called the collection of money for donations. This question has been referred to by members on this side of the House. Donations are very different from investments. I have got definite complaints in many cases in which the method of collecting donations for war purposes is being misused; it is being misused everywhere, in all provinces, districts and tehsils. I have brought this question to the notice of the Governor and I think several other persons have brought this to the notice of their own Governors that they have got a method which is being misused. The collector is asked to collect so much money; he writes to his Sub-Divisional Officers and they in their turn write to the *Kanungos* who practically collect double the amount but deposit only $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of that. Here we are not dealing with collection of donations; this is investment and we should ensure that the collecting agencies do not keep anything in their own pocket. The chances of misuse, as we have noticed in the case of collections of donations, cannot be applied in the case of collections for a deposit of a particular kind. Therefore, this method may be tried. If it does not succeed, it will not succeed for two reasons. Firstly, the time is rather very long. If

a person deposits the money he would not know what may happen to him fifteen years later. Ten years is the right period.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The time is twelve years, not fifteen.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Even twelve years is more; ten is very good. The second point is that the rate of interest should be greater, but the rate of interest cannot be altered without changing the entire fabric of the financial system. These were the things I had in mind when I supported this in the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. E. E. Gupta (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I am one of those who believe in the intensification of this National Savings drive in the country. But, Sir, I would like to point out that there have been certain shortcomings in the methods which have been adopted in the past. Therefore, I suggest that the department should fix definite criterions on which this drive should be intensified further in the country. For the purposes of this scheme, I would divide the investing public of the country into two sections: one is the urban population; and the other is the rural population. So far as the urban population is concerned, the difficulties are not much and I think the arrangements as they exist at present are somewhat satisfactory. But so far as the question of the rural investing public is concerned, I am sorry to point out that whatever methods have been adopted uptil now, they are not only unsatisfactory but they are very very troublesome to the people. I will suggest that three criterions should be fixed for furthering this saving drive in the rural areas: Firstly, people should be assured by the creation of such a machinery that they may feel confident that after the war is over, or when the time comes for the repayment of their investment, they will be assured of it. I may tell you, Sir, what I mean by this. After the last war it was found that many small investors—people who are generally uneducated, poor and weak—found it extremely difficult to realize the money which they had invested in War Bonds, etc. That fear exists in the minds of the people even today. When they invest money, they consider that perhaps they will not get it back. Somehow or other this prejudice has got to be overcome, and that can only be done by the establishment of a suitable machinery in rural areas, which for the present will help in collecting the funds and afterwards will be responsible for securing the return of those investments to them when the time for it comes. Secondly, the scheme should not be based on forced investments; it should be only on voluntary basis. Thirdly, my submission is that you should make it a rule that no administrative machinery of any of the Provincial Governments will be brought into the picture so far as the question of collecting these loans are concerned. Sir, I have already pointed out when we were discussing the Defence of India Rules how many injuries and what sort of difficulties were inflicted on the people for raising collection of loans in U. P. I have also pointed out that at least about 25 per cent. of whatever money was realized from the people did not go into Government coffers at all. It went into the pockets of those individuals who were allowed to collect those loans. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member is quite sympathetic towards this point and he also knows the difficulties when this sort of thing is allowed to be carried out through the agency of Police and other petty revenue officials in the villages. Therefore, I suggest that, as far as possible, he should confine the collection of these investments mostly through banks, post offices or private individuals, or the new machinery which you may create for collecting these loans, but under no circumstances it should be left in the hands of the administrative officers of districts. Sir, these are the only suggestions which I wanted to make.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am very encouraged to find that many Members of this House appreciate the importance of the Small Savings Movement. It is a movement which in my opinion is essentially for the well being of the people from whatever political point of view one may approach it. The existence of surplus purchasing power throughout the country at a time like this, when inevitably the goods available for purchase are limited, is a

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source of great danger to the people themselves. It means, as I have often pointed out, that if they try to spend that money they merely force up the prices of goods and everybody who complains of the hardship of high prices should be sympathetic to a national savings movement.

The Government of India have, since a fairly early stage in the war, made various efforts to get the savings movement going on an adequate scale, and I must admit that their experience until recently was not very satisfactory, and it is obvious that something more was wanted. It has been found in all countries—and this is a problem which is common to every country at war—that you cannot tackle a small savings movement in a purely amateur and voluntary way. There is no doubt that there are many people like my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, who are willing to provide their services on a free basis in order to assist a movement of this kind,—and we have been relying largely on voluntary efforts of that kind—but that in itself is not sufficient to produce the results which are necessary particularly when the country is menaced by inflation. You have to tackle the thing in a much more businesslike manner. It has to be organized. Now, in England and as far as I am aware, in America and other countries, the movement is organized on a completely business basis. You have a thorough-going administration with local branches and organisations and it is dealt with as a complete—I was going to say department of Government—organisation. Actually in England it is headed by a more or less non-official or semi-official organisation. Nevertheless, it is one that is completely organized on a quasi-governmental

model. Now, that involves inevitably the employment of personnel who must be paid. You cannot in a matter of this importance rely merely on voluntary spare-time services of the well-intentioned people who happen to be available. I must acknowledge here that in various parts of the country in the several provinces public spirited people have come forward in order to try and assist in this movement. But I think they themselves would be the first to admit the great difficulties they have encountered by trying to proceed purely on what I may call the spontaneous or spare-time basis for this kind of work. It is essential to organise it properly. Now, we have been in consultation with the Provincial Governments as to what is the best way to step up the small savings movement, and it is recognised throughout that it is a movement which is capable of tremendous benefit to the people, entirely apart from the war, if you can only get the people interested in investment and in savings. Once you get a man to put something aside and to begin to plan as it were his own financial future, he becomes an entirely different being. The cultivator has for so long been steeped in debt that it was idle for him, even to think of anything except the periodic payments which he should make of the interest on that debt. In many cases he had given up all hope of redemption. Well, now things have tremendously improved. There is no doubt that whatever other evils may have resulted from the war and from the increase in the volume of currency, one great good has resulted, and that is that the burden of indebtedness has been very greatly decreased. I have evidence of that in many ways, and it is a very encouraging sign, because I do not think there was any greater evil which lay like a nightmare on the Indian countryside than the burden of hopeless indebtedness which could never be discharged. Well, I was saying that we consulted the Provincial Governments who were keen to co-operate in this work, but just as in this House different opinions have been expressed, we found that provinces too had differing ideas. Some provinces said this work could only be done satisfactorily if it were entrusted to the regular staff. "We do not approve of the idea of any non-official agency operating in the districts because we feel that abuses may arise. We may not be able to control their activities." On the other hand some provinces said: "If only you will relieve the administrative staff of the burden of this work, we would be very glad to assist. If you will provide some other agency and some other means for stimulating the movement, then we will help you in every way." Some provinces thought that the remuneration available for this work should be distributable even to their own officials, so that in their

spare-time they might participate and lend their services. Other provinces said that "in no circumstances can we agree that any of our officials should receive any payment in connection with work of this kind."

Well, Sir, these were the differences of opinion which existed. The Central Government have given a lot of anxious thought to this matter and we are proceeding on the basis of discussing these opinions with the provinces in the light of their own local conditions and their local experience. There is no question of the Central Government issuing orders to the Provincial Governments, and the National Savings Commissioner who tours the provinces and studies and holds discussions with Local Government officials and non-officials, in consultation with them suggests the best methods by which the movements may be carried on in the varying conditions of the provinces. He does not, I must emphasize this, issue orders to the provinces, and he has no powers whatever to do so: far less could he issue any orders to any local officers in the way which has been suggested by some of the speakers.

Now the National Savings Commissioner is an officer who was in the Political Department for a number of years and has considerable experience of ordinary administrative work in India. He is an officer of considerable organising ability. He was a retired officer and we re-employed him for this purpose. It is very difficult nowadays to get active officers for all the new demands which arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Who is he?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Colonel Daly. To say he is a military officer is incorrect. He was a Resident in various States. He was an officer originally drawn from the Indian Army, but the greater part of his experience has been local administrative experience.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: How old is he?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He has passed the retiring age.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: He might be in the late 50's?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He retired only two or three years ago. He is an officer with enthusiasm. This kind of work is not to everybody's taste. It requires a good deal of keenness and enthusiasm and it requires a certain amount of original thought about the methods to be employed. My Honourable friend, Sir Yamin Khan, seems to suggest that there is something improper because his wife has placed her services in the movement in an honorary capacity. She has gone about, and I am very grateful to him and to her, and assisted in the work in so far as women's organizations could be brought in to assist. She has helped in that way. She has also helped in devising various forms of pamphlets which might have a popular appeal.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: You get two people for the payment of one!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: She certainly has helped very greatly.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I wish you would pursue that principle in other departments also!

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): May I ask you one question? If once the principle has been adopted that every officer when in discharge of his duties should be allowed the benefit of an allowance being given to his 'better half' the implication would be very wide. The Executive Councillors may also require their wives to be paid.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I quite agree. But this gentleman's wife is not paid and also I am entirely satisfied with the value of the work that she is rendering, and I have seen something of it. It is very great indeed and so far from there being any question of scandal or abuse, the Government of India are definitely in her debt for assisting in the way she has done in this work. She receives no remuneration whatever.

I described the differences of opinion that have existed in regard to this kind of work and the importance of trying to co-ordinate it and somehow provide advice to the provinces.

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Now, as regards the method of operation, I should say first that I am very grateful to my Honourable friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, who has pointed out exactly the considerations which should underly the scheme which in an experimental way we are now embarking upon. I think it offers more hope of success than any method which has previously been tried, and it is certainly worth trying in our opinion.

As regards authorised agents I may say that there is no intention of employing tahsildars or police constables. Our object as regards the country side would be as far as possible to select local villagers whom the local inhabitants respect and in whom they have trust. We are very anxious as far as possible to employ that kind of individual, and not to utilise the ordinary official agency. A good deal has been said about pressure which has been brought to bear by official agencies in regard to stimulating the savings movement. I may say that it is not strictly relevant to this particular demand, but I would like to emphasise again how important it is that the savings movement should be stimulated. I do not for a moment wish to lend any support to methods of undue coercion or to abuse of powers. At the same time, I think it must be admitted when one envisages the seriousness of the situation which arises if you do not have any means for inducing saving,—I think it must be realised that a very considerable degree of persuasion is justified, and in fact, without it it is practically impossible to secure the desired results.

I do not think there is anything more that I can usefully add. We have taken a lot of trouble in thinking about the scheme. We have consulted all Provincial Governments and various official and non-official authorities. We hope that this scheme will be successful and we have little doubt that it is certainly worth while to embark on this experiment and that the expenditure involved will be justified.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: May I put a question to the Honourable Member? May I ask the Honourable Member that he would take into consideration the allegations that have been brought to his notice, in the matter of collection of funds, and will he see that those who are in charge of making collections do not adopt such means as may be questionable or may cause hardship. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is making another speech.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): He has asked a question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have no knowledge of the actual scheme to which the Honourable Member refers. It is one of the schemes which the Provincial Government has worked out. It is not related directly to the scheme out of which arises this supplementary expenditure. I have no doubt that if there have been abuses or unjustified exercise of authority they will be brought to the notice of the Local Government.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 22.—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, in respect of the 'Commerce Department'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Commerce Department'."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have some more information in regard to this supplementary demand. I find that in the Standing Finance Committee's Proceedings of the 19th February, and again of the 18th March, reference has been made to the provision of additional staff for the purpose of foreign trade control. In the proceedings of the 19th February, a statement

has been made before the Committee that export trade control has increased rapidly of late. I would like to have some more particulars on this matter, because, as I see, there is no need for any augmentation of the department of Commerce under this head. What seems to have happened really, as has been mentioned on the floor of the Assembly by several speakers during the last ten days, is that the export trade control is passing out of the hands of the Government of India into the hands of foreign agencies which have very adequate representation in this country. It might be that some people might feel that statements made in this House are vague, but if you look at things wilfully or otherwise through a smoked-glass everything will undoubtedly be vague, you have to look at it from my point of view to see the realities of the situation. But be that as it may, my concern is with the Commerce Department. I think there is really no need for any further increase in the staff because the export trade has passed virtually into the hands of the U. K. C. C. for one thing and the U. K. Ministry of Food for another. They seem to control the export of all commodities from this country either to U. K. or the U. S. A., or to any Empire country, or for that matter, to any foreign country. I should like to have some clarification with regard to the precise need for augmentation of export trade control machinery.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): It is very difficult for me, after what I have stated, to give more details. We have said that export trade is coming more and more into importance. It was not so about two years ago, and naturally the staff which we have got is not enough to deal with both import and export. As I explained, it is entirely a travesty of fact to say that there is no reason for having a staff when the U. K. C. C.—my Honourable friend probably means it—can do the rest.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The U. K. Ministry of Food is also available. They will also assist.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think. That is entirely misconceiving the nature of the work which has to be done. Surely it was not for the sake of pleasure that we merely increased the staff, and even if we do so, I think my Honourable friend has never dealt with the Finance Department when the administrative department goes in for a new proposal of expenditure.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: My sympathies are entirely with you.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure my Honourable friend that this foreign trade control has become a matter of paramount importance to-day. I have nothing more to say at this stage, except that this foreign trade control is going to be far more important in the coming year especially as more and more shipping space is available. If it could be possible for us to leave things to trade as before during the period previous to the war, if everybody could have liberty to get things from another country, if there was enough shipping space, if there was no restriction of commodities coming to this country, it would not be necessary, but I can assure my Honourable friend that every bit of article which has to come to this country has to be planned much ahead. . . .

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Excepting gold.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think I have ever dealt in gold to such an extent that I can give my expert opinion on that matter. It has to be planned ahead, and we have to calculate on the basis of the past average as to what it is likely to be, and then to distribute it in this country and to satisfy the many individuals and claimants and people who come on their behalf that it is fairly distributed, and then to ultimately press for more and more of those commodities. I think this is necessary. I do not think it is possible for me to say anything more at this stage.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 22A—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: This demand is for the creation of an entirely new department. I have been looking at the difference in the duties. There are two departments in the Government of India. One is under the Honourable Member for Commerce and the other is under the same Honourable Member and relates to Industries and Civil Supplies. Both the departments are in charge of the same member. When I first saw these two departments, it first occurred to me whether departments are not being multiplied to provide for the ever widening Executive Council.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Provide work for them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I hope there is work. In the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, the reasons for creating this new department are given: This is what it says:

"Indian industry has shown remarkable development since the outbreak of the war. When, however, conditions return to normal, the new and expanded industries will be faced with a variety of difficulties. In order to give all possible guidance to Indian industry, so that when peace returns the momentum which it has now received is not lost and industrial development continues over an ever widening field, and in order that careful and continuous attention is given to the solution of problems relating to civil supplies (other than the supply of foodstuffs), a separate Department of Industries and Civil Supplies was created with effect from the 22nd April 1943."

Now, there are three points on which I want information. May I know whether they have carried out investigations as to how many industries have developed and what help the industries will require at the end of the war, what are the new and expanding industries that the Government have in view; secondly, how they propose to encourage them during the war and thirdly how they propose to support them after the war. These are the points on which I should like to have information.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure my Honourable friend that if he will kindly come over to me one day I will be able to satisfy him that this Department of Commerce, Industries and Civil Supplies is not merely the work of one man. Probably more than one man in the department is required to deal with two departments. These two departments have to deal very largely with the economic future of this country, one dealing with the import and export trade and another dealing with the future of industrial production. Quite apart from the problem which my friend has raised, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is now in charge of the entire control measures which have been adopted with reference to the different consumer goods. I have enumerated a list. It is unnecessary for me to reiterate them and that, I consider, is more than enough work which this department has got for the time being. But I can inform my friend that in so far as his questions are concerned, we have already taken up the matter in hand. It is with a view to find out as to what we can do in respect of the industries which have come in, what industries should be supported and what should be the future pattern of Indian industries, that in November last we issued a questionnaire in consultation with the Policy Committee to all the industries concerned to let us know exactly their post-war capital and other requirements so that the Government can give the necessary assistance to the industry in the way of supply of machinery and other things. Naturally an inquiry of this nature cannot be answered in a day. Even the industrial concerns have not been able to give us the answer but we have already taken up this matter and it will not be possible for me to give a reply to a question like this except to point out that the fact that the currency

has been expanded is not merely because that there are others who have come to this country but because industries are also expanding, which are being required for war purposes. The whole of the Supply Department is concerned with the purchase of commodities within India. A very large part of it has come into being within the last three years. What will happen to them after the war is a matter which is now under the consideration of the different committees. As I have said, we have called for figures. We have got replies from one or two. We expect replies from others. They are being tabulated and after tabulation we will be able to say exactly how the position stands; but we have taken up this matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You have not said what industries you are going to support?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In order to know what their future requirements are going to be, you must first know what are the existing conditions today and I can say that in the Supply Department alone a few officers have been busy for the last six months merely preparing a list of the industries. That list is in itself a big list. But we have got many other things before us. We have got to find out the nature of the raw materials, we have to find out the machineries available, power, labour, its distribution, its location and their general effect on problems of social security. All these matters will have to be considered at some stage or other before the whole matter can be considered at its proper level.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Sir, I have to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member the question of the consumption and distribution of cloth as it is done in the districts.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I raise a point of order? I humbly submit that this question is not relevant to this issue.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Is not this matter under the Civil Supplies Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, but this demand does not cover every matter that can come under the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: So much money is asked for under this demand but we have not been told who pays for these officers, how they are being paid and where they are working.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can say that they are certainly not working in the districts of Bihar for the time being. I have said that the distribution in the provinces is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If these officers are not in Bihar, there must be some agency working for the department in Bihar.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is the Provincial Government.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I was wanting to know the way in which this is being worked in the province of Bihar. There must be some agency which is in charge of

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have repeatedly said before that our scheme of cloth distribution is this. We send out to the different provinces a certain quantity of cloth. The Provincial Governments name the rail-heads. Our duty is to bring the commodities to these rail-heads. Thereafter the question of distribution, as to whether it will go to Bhagalpur, or Muzzafarpur or Tirhut, is a matter entirely for the Provincial Government. Our function is to see that the commodities reach the rail-heads which are named by the Provincial Governments. That duty we have done. How the provinces actually distribute is a matter which I cannot explain. That matter does not come within the purview of the Central Government.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Does not the Honourable Member realise that this dual responsibility is not working quite satisfactorily to the credit of the Department of which he is in charge?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member cannot make a second speech.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I gave notice of a cut motion under this head. May I move it?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member ought to have moved it earlier. I think it is too late now to move it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I stood up but I was not able to catch the eye of the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): In any case, I think it is too late to move it now.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In that case, I may be allowed to have my say on this Grant.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Certainly.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I want to point out two things. The first point is that the civil population are put to much inconvenience regarding the supplies of commodities, particularly, cement and other things. In reply to a question of mine yesterday, the Honourable Member pointed out that 150,000 to 170,000 tons of cement has been released for civil needs. But I find that there are many individuals who are actually in need of cement and whose requests are not looked into. The Honourable Member may ask me to give him an instance. I am myself an instance.

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Can't the Honourable Member come forward?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is no objection. (The Honourable Member then came to the front bench.)

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I was submitting, Sir, that there is much difficulty in the supply of cement and other materials required by the public. I was saying that it has been pointed out that about 170,000 tons of cement has been released during 1943 for the use of the civil population. But I fail to understand why our request is not met with. As an instance, I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member in charge that I am trying for the last two years to get some cement, but I have not yet been able to get it.

An Honourable Member: Are you building a new house?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: No, I require it for repairs only.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Whose house is that?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: It is my own house. When I apply to the Honorary Adviser, sometimes he replies in the negative and sometimes he keeps silent.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Why don't you put something in the Honorary Adviser's pocket?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I do not know how to do that.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: You can take Dr. Banerjee's advice.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: As regards the distribution of the standard cloth, the other day the Honourable Member pointed out that in Bihar about 21 millions yards is lying unsold. I wish to point out in this connection that it is due to lack of superintendence over the distributing agency, because the agency in Bihar tries its level best to do the sale of National Savings Certificates. Recently, they have been trying to give the monopoly of the sale of standard cloth to that person who comes forward and purchases a considerable amount of National Savings Certificates. In this way, people have to suffer. I hope the Honourable Member will inquire into the matter and see that such things do not recur in the future.

Now, in the matter of services, I find that excluding the Honourable Member himself, there are 33 officers in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, of whom 4 are Muslims. If you include the officers of the subordinate offices also, then their number becomes 41, of whom 5 are Muslims. Appointments are made piecemeal and the Muslims get very rare opportunities of getting into this Department. I hope the Honourable Member will look into

the legitimate grievances of the Muslims before the appointments are actually made.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I should like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies to two points which I raised also on the occasion of the Finance Bill. The first point is that the time has come when he must prepare and produce an anti-monopoly Bill on the lines of the enactment in the United Kingdom. The second point is that I again wish to bring to his notice the great injustice that is done in all parts of Kathiawar.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That has nothing to do with the Industries Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But it relates to the Honourable Member who is in charge of that also.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: For the time being, I am a Member for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is exceedingly difficult and my Honourable friend is making out a very nice distinction as sometimes I do, as to whether I am a Lieutenant-Colonel or the Vice-Chancellor of the University. But he should not forget that he is the same person who has to do justice to both and he must look into the matter before it is too late.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23.—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 73,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Labour'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 73,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Posts and Air'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Posts and Air'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, may I know if the officer appointed is merely for investigating about the post-war aviation problems or he has been appointed for arranging for post-war aviation?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The Honourable Member cannot go himself and that is why he has appointed an officer.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, an officer was placed on special duty in order to prepare plans for the development of air transport after the war in India. This memorandum was mentioned before by me in this House and a copy of it is now available in the Library of the House, and Honourable Members can see what work has been done. The object is to prepare plans for the development of air transport after the war in India.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25.—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,79,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'War Transport Department'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,79,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'War Transport Department'."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I want some clarification with regard to the expenditure that is to be incurred under this demand. I see that the notes given under the demand mentions that the money is needed for the "cost of equipment of Producer Gas Experimental station and expenditure on the producer gas reliability trial, and advertisement and other charges in connection with the import of motor vehicles spare parts".

Sir, I would like the Honourable Member for War Transport to tell us exactly what is being done in regard to the making of producer gas plants which I understand is being stimulated as a complimentary measure to the petrol rationing scheme of the Government of India. We have seen in various parts of India motor vehicles run on producer gas. What exactly are the Government doing about it? I have also seen in my own city, Madras, public service motor vehicles which are being run by producer gas plants stopping dead in various parts of the city. They start in the morning all right but during the course of the day, they come to a stop. I heard recently that the Local Government acting undoubtedly as agents of the War Transport Department have decided to issue liberal petrol rations to the people who were running these public service vehicles on producer gas formerly. One would like to know here at this stage, what rules the Government of India have framed with regard to reliability tests, whether all producer gas plants which are being used on motor vehicles come under this test. I have been informed that a very big transport operator in my part of the country failed to satisfy the test for quite a long time and that was the reason why the public transport vehicles operated by him used to stand at various corners of the City of Madras during the day. It is one thing to have reliability test trial, it is another thing to see that your agents see that the producer gas plants are tested properly. In this connection, I should like to mention another fact: we welcome any scheme inaugurated by the Government of India in order to reduce the consumption of petrol by public service vehicles so that a little more petrol will be available to private users. In my part of the country, the mere fact that a man wears a *khadi* costume is enough to damn him so far as the issue of petrol rations is concerned. You are immediately classed among those who are engaged in subversive activities and the cars that you own are supposed to be used for that purpose. Be that as it may, one would like to know what control the Government of India exercise on Provincial Governments in the policy that they follow regarding issue of supplementary rations to private owners as undoubtedly they act as the agents of the Government of India in regard to petrol rationing scheme.

One other matter, I would here refer, is in connection with import of motor vehicle spare parts. I have read in the newspapers that in my part of the country a controversy has been going on between a large importer of motor spare parts in my City and no less a person than Sir Kenneth Mitchell, who is acting immediately under the Honourable Member for War Transport. The question seems to have been that Sir Kenneth thought that plenty of spare parts were available but the particular importer in Madras maintained that no spare parts were available.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are they available here in New Delhi?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know. I have not got a car here and so I do not know anything about it. One would like to know exactly what the Government of India have done in regard to import of motor vehicle spare parts. It is rumoured that there is a continuous fight going on between the War Transport Civil Department and the Military Transport Departments in the

matter of motor vehicle spare parts. I have also heard rumours that the Military Department have got spare parts worth crores of rupees and very often the War Transport Department buys motor spare parts from the black market material stolen from the stores of the military department. That is perhaps why the War Transport Department has thought of starting an establishment in order to import directly motor vehicle spare parts. There has been a certain amount of discussion arising out of this between Sir Kenneth Mitchell and the importer in Madras I referred to, who according to Sir Kenneth is in a very privileged position and would like to defy the Government both in the matter of using producer gas plants and also in the matter of supplying motor vehicle spare parts to the public. Sir, I should like the Honourable Member in charge of War Transport to enlighten us a little more on these matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member said in answer to a previous question that supplementary grants of less than one lakh are not placed before the Standing Finance Committee, but only demand of more than one lakh of rupees are placed. Here, I find that this demand involves a sum of one lakh and seventy five thousand and yet it has not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. May we know the reason why that has not been brought before the Standing Finance Committee? The second point is an important one. May we know the result of the investigation about producer gas plants? That is the point which my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, also raised. Have the Government arrived at any results? If so, may we know the results? It is important from this point of view that if the cost is cheap, will the Government consider the advisability of making it a post-war measure also, because petrol will have to be imported from outside, whereas gas can be produced within India, and in view of these facts, have the Government made researches whether these gas plants can be used in post-war period also, so that a cheaper method of transport may be made available to India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I rather understood when the discussions were taking place yesterday and previously that the Honourable Members were not very much interested in the Budget and placed the whole responsibility upon us in this Government. But the Honourable Member who spoke now asks me for a fairly complete statement about the working of the War Transport Department in respect of motor vehicles. I very much regret that at very short notice like this and in view of the circumstances, I am not in a position to give him a full statement but I will try to answer some of the points that he mentioned.

The items which are being discussed are sums which have been spent on a contribution to the Scientific and Industrial Research Board and towards the cost of initial equipment for the producer gas experimental station at Delhi; also Rs. 10,000 in connection with the producer gas reliability trials, the object of this expenditure being to try to improve the quality of producer gas machines so that the public can be sure that when they are buying producer gas plants they will be buying something that will be reliable. The position is at the moment that at least the lease-lend vehicles which have to be fitted with producer gas plants can only be fitted with plants which have passed the tests at these testing stations. As to what my Honourable friend says regarding motor buses stopping in Madras I not quite follow from what he said exactly what the cause of it is.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They were fitted with producer gas plants and they are allowed now to switch over to petrol.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that one of the difficulties in Madras is shortage of charcoal, but I see that in Madras province there are today something like 3,281 buses of which 3,133 are on charcoal and 26 on diesel and 122 only on petrol; so that out of 3,281, 3,133 are on producer gas. I think there is a certain tendency as in other provinces for people to try to get back to petrol because it is easier. But both we in the Centre and the Provincial Motor Transport Controllers in all the provinces are doing their

[Sir Edward Benthall.]

utmost to prevent this. In certain cases I think petrol has to be issued, particularly on hill sections such as the Nilgiris, where producer gas is not quite efficient with the steep inclines. There is a certain demand also, of course, for petrol for use particularly with lorries where urgent work has to be done for Government, such as, for instance, on airfields, and in certain cases petrol is issued for those purposes. Generally speaking, however, the policy is to go out for the maximum conversion of motor vehicles to producer gas. Progress lately has been not as rapid as it has been in the past, but it does not mean that our efforts to continue to effect conversions to producer gas are not continuing.

As regards petrol rationing the policy is still to secure the maximum saving and we have effected a saving in civilian consumption of about 50 per cent. on pre-war figures.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What about waste in the military department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is, of course, constantly being watched; it is primarily a matter for the War Department. As regards control, the control rests with Provincial Motor Transport Controllers. We are pressing them continually for the maximum saving. As to whether somebody gets an adequate ration of petrol according to the clothes that he wears is a matter not for the Central Government but for the Provincial Governments, and I am quite certain that that is not a cause of discrimination.

As regards spare parts I will look at the records of the debate and see what my friend has had to say and look into it. My Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, asked about gas plants in the post-war period. There is no doubt that efficiently run gas plants can compete with petrol plants. But it is more trouble and drivers are not very keen on them. You have to and should pay the drivers more for the work involved. Whether or not producer gas will be used extensively after the war is impossible to foresee, but I see no reason why it should not be; because, as the price of charcoal comes down after the war, as we hope it will, it will be able better to compete with petrol.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, my Honourable friend asked a question as to why this amount, although it exceeded one lakh, has not gone before the Standing Finance Committee. The rule, as I understand it, is that supplementary demands go before the Standing Finance Committee if they involve new services and amount to either one lakh non-recurring or Rs. 25,000 recurring. If my Honourable friend will look at item A of this supplementary demand which is over a lakh, he will find that this is due merely to a change of classification of expenditure from non-voted to voted, and entertainment of some additional officers, etc. But I imagine that the actual new recurring expenditure did not exceed the limit which have been laid down.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,79,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'War Transport Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Food Department'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Food Department'."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I find that this demand is made to meet expenses due to the creation of additional posts consequent on the expansion of the department. I also find mention of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature and the appointment of an Adviser on food. All these are new appointments made for the purpose of eradicating starvation in Bengal and other places. As regards the Foodgrains

Policy Committee I should like to know whether it is a statutory committee or a departmental one, what is the constitution of the committee, whether it prepares any report to place it before the Standing Food Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is the Gregory Committee the report of which was published some time ago.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But do they make any report with regard to policy and is the report placed before the Standing Advisory Committee of this House?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not a continuing committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I only want to know from the Honourable Member whether the report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee was placed before the Standing Advisory Committee for Food, and whether the report

4 P. M. of the Adviser was also placed before them or not. Further, I would like to know why this Foodgrains Committee was constituted when you have got a special Adviser on this question, and if the Adviser has given any scheme why it has not been directly placed before the Standing Advisory Committee and considered there? Why has extra expenditure been incurred on this other committee? I also want to know how far, since these committees have been appointed, starvation in Bengal and other places has gone down, and whether as a result of recommendations of these committees more food has been supplied by Government than they were doing before. Also how far the measures suggested by this committee have solved the difficulties with regard to food. Sir, this is a very important matter and the whole country is looking forward to what the Honourable the Food Member is going to do

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can we raise a debate on food on a supplementary grant? The Honourable Member is raising a debate on food.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am only putting questions.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The questions asked are such that it will raise a debate on food, and we cannot have a debate on food at this time.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. The Honourable Member is asking a few questions on the working of the Food Adviser.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Is the Honourable Member unable to reply to these questions?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I will make one more observation, and then I shall have done. With regard to the portfolio of Food, I am glad that it is now in the hands of the present Honourable Member, but I would like to know why after the question of Food was discussed at the last Session by Honourable Sir Azizul Huque, the portfolio of Food was transferred over night to another Member

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): That is another matter.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I gave notice of a Resolution, which unfortunately was not balloted, that the Food Department should be abolished. Therefore, I cannot be a party to any expenditure which the Honourable the Finance Member may demand in order to strengthen this department still further. The other day I drew the attention of the Honourable Member to fifteen different points which I mentioned in my speech

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: How many? They were fourteen, I think.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: All right, fourteen points. I did not get a reply to any of those points.

Sir, the next wheat crop is ready and will be coming into the market within a week—it may be delayed for a day or two because of rains—but the Food Department has not yet fixed the price at which the wheat should be purchased and disposed of. We have been waiting for a long time but he is waiting for orders—in this case, not from Whitehall—from persons who really are in a position to dictate terms. Unless these orders are received from those interested persons, he will not be able to make up his mind. This is a very serious

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

matter in the case of the Food Department and we ought to pay serious attention to it. This is a question which not only concerns food but many other issues; practically the entire war effort depends on this and therefore it ought to be taken up seriously. Not only does it affect the food problem, but the purchasing value of the rupee depends primarily on this article, so that we are very anxious to know what the Honourable Member has decided. I hope this time he will be able to tell us what price he has fixed for the wholesale purchase of wheat from cultivators and what price he has fixed for general sale in the market. I hope the Honourable Member will get up in time, but I am sure the department is not working so efficiently and the rates which should be fixed in April 1944 will not be fixed till about April 1945, when it will be too late. We have got the experience of last few years. In 1942, a certain price was fixed. It was immediately altered, because it did not suit some of the stockists. In 1943, the same thing happened. Now, we have reached 1944 and there is absolutely no sign as to what price he is going to fix; whether it will be Rs. 8 or 9 or 10 per maund. This morning I came to know that it is still under consideration, but this is the time when people ought to know because the crop is being reaped and harvest season has begun. The provinces and the people, who have to provide food for their dependants, do not know where they stand, and they are waiting for the decision of the Food Department. This is not the only problem but there are a number of others which require their decision and, therefore, I say that some definite and clear decisions should be laid down for the benefit of everyone. I shall be very pleased if the Honourable Member would enlighten us on these points:

(i) What price he has fixed for wheat and rice for year 1944-45? (The year 1944-45 will begin from the 1st of April and so far we have got no idea as to what he is going to do).

(ii) What arrangements he has made about the supply of food, i.e., food rationing? Which are the towns he has selected for the introduction of rationing scheme, and from what dates, and whether in those places he has made any arrangements for the storage of food? It is said that in some places where food rationing is to be instituted, cards are there but there is no food available.

(iii) What arrangements he has made about the control of stocks; whether stocks will be controlled or whether they will not be controlled. (I am very suspicious as to why it has not been done so far).

(iv) What penalties he has fixed for those who do not obey the orders of the Government of India? and

(v) last but not least—and on which the whole thing will depend—why he has not permitted me to move the Anti-Hoarding Bill before this Assembly.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Who?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Food Department; the Member in charge of the Food Department I gave notice of that Bill and I gave a copy of that to the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. I do not think you can go so far as to open the whole question of policy in regard to Food.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I had to lay all my grievances before him, and the thing

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You cannot lay all your grievances on a supplementary grant.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I can oppose it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. As a point of order has been raised, I think I should give my ruling. Now it must be understood that although it is a supplementary demand there is some scope for opening to a certain extent the question of the working of the Food Department due to the creation of additional posts, etc., consequent on the expansion of the Department. That being the demand, I think to a certain extent Honourable Members are entitled to question the working of the Food Department. At the same time, I must say that you cannot open a food debate here under this demand.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am talking of the working of the Food Department.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: You had your say.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: And the greatest defect is that they shut the mouth of the Members!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: You talked for six days the last time!

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to oppose this demand. My reason is this. Sometime ago the Honourable the Food Member informed the House that he makes weekly reports to the Secretary of State on the Food situation. Then I asked him whether he will make similar weekly reports to the Indian Legislature and the Indian public. He said that he would consider the question and I find that he has been considering that question for a long time. I therefore feel that if the Honourable the Food Member does not consider that he is more responsible to the Legislature than to the Secretary of State for India, then this Legislature should not give him this supplementary demand. I would like the Honourable the Food Member to explain to us and to tell us whether he is going to make weekly reports to the Legislature as he does to the Secretary of State for India.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: To the Legislature?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, to the Legislature or to the public. If he makes weekly reports to the Secretary of State why should not we get them too. The Indian public is very anxious to know what the food situation is and we know that unless sufficient food is imported into India, the food situation is not going to be much better. I would like the Honourable the Food Member to say how much foodgrains he has imported so far and my suggestion to him is that he should from time to time make a report regarding the foodgrains which he has imported. Then I have suggested to the Honourable the Food Member that he should tell us which of the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee have been implemented by him and to what extent action has been taken. If his reply is not satisfactory, I shall vote against the demand.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I think that the House cannot without full explanation give their vote for this expenditure when we are not satisfied on many points. I would like the Honourable the Food Member to enlighten this House on the criticisms which are prevailing in the whole of the country as regards the food control policy. Whenever you go to the controlled shops you get allowed and mixed *atta*. There is maize *atta* and other kinds of flour mixed with wheat flour, but you never get the pure stuff. These conditions prevail not only here but also in the Presidency towns like Bombay and other places. But my Honourable friend will say that he is not responsible because that comes under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not said that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Probably he may. Even so, the first and primary duty of the Government of India in the matter of these controlled shops is to see that the articles sold there are at the proper prices and secondly to ensure that the stuff sold is what it is purported to be. If you say it is wheat flour, it must be wheat flour and not 60 per cent. wheat and 40 per cent. other kinds of flour mixed up with it. Otherwise, I do not think the House will be justified in voting this amount to be wasted. The Honourable Member ought to know that there is discontent in the country as far as these things are concerned. Let me cite the example of one or two things that we have purchased from the controlled shop. We asked for fuel and they gave us logs of wood instead of cut wood. We had to get men to cut them up. When we got coal much of it was coal dust.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A sad picture!

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: When you purchase

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member should not go into the details of these matters.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Unless he satisfies us on these points he cannot get the sanction of our vote just because he has spent this money. Let him satisfy us that the money has been spent properly for the benefit of the country and not wasted.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: None of those items relate to these things.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Neogy.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: perfectly realise that this is not the occasion for raising a general debate on the food situation, but at the same time I cannot help feeling that the Honourable Member is hardly entitled to the support of this House for the reason that he has done his best to prevent this House from having a discussion on the food situation.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is wrong.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: From the observations already made by several Honourable Members it is quite clear that there is a general desire on the part of this House to have a debate on the food situation, and I do think that it is not too late as yet for the Government to reconsider their decision. The Honourable Member in a statement which he made in the other House tried to create the impression that there was no general desire on the part of the non-official Members of the Legislative Assembly to have a discussion. But I shall stop there, because I shall not be relevant in developing the point further. I would at the same time urge upon the Government the extreme desirability of giving an opportunity to this House of having a general discussion on the food situation.

I should now like to come to the demand itself. The demand is for the amount of Rs. 1,12,000, and we find in the foot-note that this has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee on the 18th March, 1944. When I turn to the relevant note of the Standing Finance Committee, I find that the Standing Finance Committee recommended a sum of Rs. 98,000 only. I should like the Honourable Member to explain this discrepancy. I very much think that there was some amount of misunderstanding on the part either of the Finance Department or of the Food Department as regards the amount involved in this case. I do hope that in future there will be greater accuracy in such matters.

An Honourable Member: Food expert.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I find that the third item, which is mentioned in the note under this demand, runs thus: "Due to salary of an Adviser on Food not provided for in the original budget". It was not even mentioned in the memorandum which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I do not know when this officer on food was appointed, and whether under ordinary rules of business of the Standing Finance Committee the Committee was entitled to know something about this particular appointment for which we are now expected to vote the necessary money. As this is the first time when we have this new appointment brought up for discussion on the floor of the House, I should like the Honourable Member to give us an idea about the duties of this officer, his experience and so on, how many other advisers the Honourable Member has already got, and how many more he proposes to appoint in future. I am rather alarmed at the prospect of having more and more of such experts being foisted on us, because I find from the memorandum which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee this statement:

"As the activities of the Department are extending, only actual experience will show the work involved and the staff necessary for it. The proposals are based on the requirements as far as they can be estimated at present."

When can we expect the Honourable Member to cry halt to the expansion of this Department?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: And the importation of experts.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Only at the time when you have got nothing to eat.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: When the food crisis is over.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West-Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The new expenditure was incurred by the Government of India in connection with the Food Policy Committee. I have gone through their report. What we want is a central policy which will be enforced by the provinces. Under requisitioning orders it has been stated that sufficient rice or wheat should be left in the villages when requisitioning is made, because the scope of distribution of food grains will not mostly include villages but only urban areas. The policy of requisitioning and also acquiring grains has been left to the provinces, and whenever a question arises with regard to shortage of food grains in any district, I find the Honourable the Food Member getting up and telling us that it is a provincial responsibility and not a responsibility of the Centre. We are asked to vote a huge sum for the purpose of expansion of the Food Department, and also for the purpose of appointing Advisers. In this connection I would like to have a categorical statement from the Honourable Member whether the question of food is going to be seriously considered as a central responsibility, or whenever a very serious or inconvenient question is raised the Food Member would get up and say, this is a provincial matter, the province is responsible, we are not responsible. The other day when I wanted to move my adjournment motion. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I am only referring . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: This is by way of example.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: This is only by way of example.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on citing such examples.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The Food Department has come into existence after the war. It is not a matter which you will find in the Government of India Act of 1935; it came into existence, if I remember correctly—only after the provincial Ministries were withdrawn and after the provinces began to be governed under section 93. How can the Honourable Member say that this food policy is a provincial concern and not a central one?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: We want a statement from the Honourable Member whether whenever we find starvation in any district, he is going to say it is a responsibility of the province and not of the centre. Now, I find that my district is particularly very, very deficient . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must really confine himself to the supplementary demand.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The demand includes the pay of officers and a huge staff. I would like to know in this connection for which purpose this staff and this adviser are to be appointed. If it is for getting proper figures and making proper calculation as to how much would be required for the purpose of rationing, then certainly the responsibility for seeing that grain is supplied to every district, to the urban area, rests with the Central Government.

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

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I find it very difficult, Sir, to know as to on what to talk and on what not to talk, in view of the fact that this House has been refused an opportunity during this Session of expressing our difficulties in the different constituencies from which we come. The question of food is the greatest question of which we should take serious notice, and this House has been refused an opportunity, while the Upper House has been given an opportunity. In those circumstances I can only say that we oppose this demand.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): On this side of the House we have maintained that this department has been the dumping ground for any and every sort of thing, and it was on this account that my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, wanted to move a Resolution that the department should be abolished.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to this supplementary demand,—anything relevant to that but not beyond it.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I will try to do that. We believe that the money that is being spent on the whole Food Department is not at all warranted and we do not approve of it; certainly we do not accept any additional expenditure which is embodied in this supplementary demand. I should like to know what useful purpose that adviser is able to serve, on whose behalf the demand has been made, and what are his credentials. Even the approval of the Standing Finance Committee was not taken, though it should have been consulted. Besides, I want to impress this fact on the Honourable Member's attention. From the composition of the officers and the commissioners who have been appointed, we notice that the quota of appointment has been miserably bad so far as the minorities are concerned. Out of eight commissioners only one happens to be a Muslim.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Now the Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I only want to impress, with your permission, that this House feels that the whole department is being mismanaged . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But that does not arise on this supplementary demand. The department is there and it has to be accepted.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In that case we would only say that we do not approve of the items given here for additional demand, and we would like to vote it down.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): This is a supplementary demand for Rs. 1,12,000—(a) "mainly due to creation of additional posts, etc., consequent on the expansion of the Department, (b) Due mainly to formation of Foodgrains Policy Committee and Standing Advisory Committee of Legislature during the year . . ."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not read that out. It is there.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: The original grant was Rs. 26,81,000—I shall stand corrected if it is not correct, and 26,40,000 have been killed in Bengal by being deprived of food. It comes to exactly one rupee per head and now they want 1,12,000 more. Do they mean to kill as many? The policy was given out in the Gregory report . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All that does not arise. The policy cannot be discussed under this demand. This is a supplementary demand.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I am not going to discuss the policy, Sir. The policy was not given effect to at all and yet we find that this 1,12,000 has been added to the expenditure. The advisory committee has met only for half an hour or few hours and only for two days in the whole year, and the policy recommended in the report has not been given effect to. We do not know what the salary of the Adviser on Food is. We do not know when he was appointed and what are his duties. The whole food policy has failed and yet another 1,12,000 is wanted. We cannot really be a party to this. The Supply Department has been working smoothly since 1939 . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into the working of other departments.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, I am not going to discuss that—my point is money is spent unnecessarily on the salary of Adviser. The Department of Supply is working smoothly. Why should not our Food Department be guided by them?

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

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, therefore, I oppose this demand of Rs. 1,12,000.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I wish to ask two questions of the Honourable the Food Member. In the first place, I wish to ask what are the exact duties of the new Food Officer who has been appointed, whether it is one of his duties to make reports, secondly, if reports are made, whether those reports are placed before the Food Advisory Committee and whether the meetings of the Food Advisory Committee are held frequently. The food question is a very urgent question and if you have an advisory committee it should meet very frequently, once a month at least or once in two months and the reports of the Food Adviser should be placed before this Committee and the Food Advisory Committee should be allowed to consider this report and should also be allowed to formulate a policy with regard to distribution and procurement of food. I hope the Honourable Member will enlighten me on these points.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In connection with this demand, a number of points have been raised. I did not anticipate them and so, if I do not answer them at length, I hope it will be understood. The main question seems to be what this Trade Adviser is going to do and who is he.

Mr. T. S. Avinashalingam Chettiar: Who is he? What is the name?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The reason for this appointment is that so far in the department there was no one who knew the trade in foodgrains, excepting perhaps one European Assistant who knew it to some extent. There was nobody in the department, therefore, with real experience of the trade in foodgrains. When we are buying crores worth of grain in the surplus provinces, we in the Centre ought to know what are the market rates, what are the market usages, what are the trends of prices and what other practices prevail in different parts of India. We also wish now to maintain a department of statistics to show the movement of prices of all foodgrains throughout the country. It was obvious that nothing could be done without a man who had experience of the trade in foodgrains.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How was it done before?

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

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We depended very largely on reports from the Provincial Governments and as we are now committed to an all-India policy it was necessary that we should have our own machinery for checking up the reports of the Provincial Governments. It was for that reason that I thought of the idea and I take the fullest responsibility for it.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Credit or discredit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I looked out for a man, who knew something about the trade in foodgrains.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: You found the man first and then created the post for him?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I believe that Dr. Zia Uddin has done that many a time during his administration of the Aligarh University.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: You have followed him in this case?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Dr. Zia Uddin is a very old friend of mine and I believe he has done it many a time. The need for such an officer was urgent and insistent. I looked out throughout the country for an Indian. I wrote to some very distinguished Indians who are in the business but no Indian was prepared to come on the salary which we wanted to offer, namely, Rs. 1,500 a month. We wanted a man with extensive experience. Fortunately we got hold of a man who is a Swiss, and who has just retired from Volkart Brothers, who have large grain business. He has a very wide knowledge of the trade and at my request he has agreed to be with us for a year or so and give us the benefit of his experience and knowledge of the trade in foodgrains. I think it is a very good arrangement and very cheap for the money that we are spending. As the House is aware, Volkarts have got their branches all over India and they have very large dealings in foodgrains. This man had been with them for 30 years and there is not a market in India which he does not know.

Sir, the other points raised by my friends here take me into a regular debate on food. I wish to make it clear to my friends here that I have always been

[Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava.]

willing to give to the House every opportunity to discuss food. Last time when the House wanted to debate food, they started with one day. Then, it came to two days and in the end they had 5½ days.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What about my anti-hoarding Bill?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I think Dr. Zia Uddin is hoarding it somewhere. I am not aware of it and I have not seen it.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I am not hoarding it. I have given notice of it and I have sent it to his Department. I have sent it to the Secretary of his Department and I also gave it to the Honourable the Finance Member. Still, I have got no reply.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Honourable Member did not hoarding it. I have given notice of it and I have sent it to his Department.

So far as the debate this time was concerned, I personally had no objection to it but the exigencies of Government business, I believe, have prevented the allotment of time. So far as I am concerned, I have nothing to hide and I shall be very glad, indeed, to place my cards on the table each time.

Mr. Neogy wanted to know as to when the Department will cease expanding. Well, Sir, the department is just a baby. It is only 18 months old and it is going to grow up into a hefty man. It will go on growing for a long time yet.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan has complained about the alloyed *ata*. I have not seen before the alloy of *ata*, but I am quite aware of the complaint about the quality of foodgrains.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: You have read about the adulterated *ata*.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Adulterated *ata* possibly, and we are trying our best to eradicate that evil and I want the assistance of every Member of the House in doing so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Why don't you have the assistance of your own Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We are doing everything possible, but human nature being what it is, we cannot be successful in a day.

Now, my friend, Mr. Joshi, has stabbed me from the back he sits also just behind me. He says he is going to oppose the grant for some fault of mine, of which I am not aware at the moment. I believe he suggested that weekly reports should be circulated. To whom? I do not seem to remember. I shall look into the matter. We are giving full reports to the Standing Committee of the Legislature which now meets regularly. There is another meeting convened two days hence. I am most anxious to have the Committee as many times as possible. The only trouble has been that it does not suit the convenience of the Members themselves. Otherwise, I am prepared to call the Standing Committee of the Legislature every two months and to give them the fullest report of what is going on. Sir, I shall look into this complaint of Mr. Joshi and I will see whether I can circulate a weekly report to the Members of this House or publish it in the form of a communique. But I wish to inform the House that all important matters are published in the form of press statements regularly by the Department and the report which we send to the Secretary of State is more or less a synopsis of those press statements. So, all that you need do is to put our press communiques together and you shall get a weekly report. Still, I shall see whether we cannot circulate regularly the weekly report or publish it as has been suggested.

Now, Sir, as regards the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, I think that we had already published a statement in the White Paper, stating what recommendations we have accepted. I do not know what more Mr. Joshi wants. If he will look up the White Paper, which we laid on the table of the House last time, I think he will find the answer to his question.

Now, Sir, Mr. Hegde has raised the question of Provincial responsibility *versus* Central responsibility. I thought he understood the position quite clearly. Perhaps he did not attend the last session of the House (Sri K. B.

Jinaraja Hegde: "I did") when I made myself very clear on the subject. We have repeatedly said that food is now an All-India responsibility. We have an all-India policy. We exercise supervision and check at every stage as far as we can. But it must be understood that there are autonomous Provincial Governments functioning and we cannot step into their shoes. They have got to carry out the work. Where it appears to us that they have gone wrong, we give them sometimes friendly advice, sometimes a stern warning and sometimes a direction. But that must be left to us. We have got to go warily. So, there is no confusion in my own mind as to the functions of the Centre and the Provinces in regard to food. Some people would want us to go much further. They want us to practically take over the administration of food in the provinces, but I would ask you, Sir, whether that is possible or feasible. We have no machinery. Some members are grudging to give me one officer to advise me on trade. Some Members are not willing to vote even a sum of Rs. 1,12,000. Would you like to know what is the extent of expenditure incurred by each province over the question of distribution of food? It runs into crores of rupees and it requires a very big personnel. The Food Department, as it stands today, is only a small department, considering the work it is undertaking. I would like to warn the House that if the Food Department is to carry out an all-India policy, then the Department must expand and must have men and must have more money.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: It must be run more efficiently.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 27.—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Central Board of Revenue'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Central Board of Revenue'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, this cut motion is intended to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to see that the grievances of the Muslims in the services under this Department in respect of the additional appointments are redressed. I hope he will issue strict instructions that more Muslims should be taken into this department in respect of all new appointments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand the Honourable Member is raising the question of policy about inadequate representation of Muslims in the services. That cannot be allowed to be discussed under this Grant.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: No, Sir. I am raising the question of inadequacy of Muslim representation only in respect of new appointments for which money is now asked for and is going to be spent.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But the Honourable Member is raising the question of policy.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Only in so far as it relates to the new appointments that are going to be made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That may be. No question of policy regarding appointment of Muslims can be discussed now. This motion is out of order and it cannot be discussed now. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of the 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944 in respect of 'Audit'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Audit'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, the amount involved is the sum of Rs. 7,85,000 and it is not a matter of reappropriation either. May I know why this was not placed before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I understand that when it is a mere excess in expenditure due to automatic causes and no question of policy and no question of new service being involved, there is no need for it to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee. It comes before the House and there is no need for anything to be done further. No question arises except a mere automatic excess of expenditure for reasons explained. It is only in respect of new services where certain amounts are involved that it comes before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that when amounts are spent much more than the original amount granted thus necessitating supplementary grants being voted, even then it is not put before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is so. It happens, for instance, that there are many items in regard to which discussions will be useless. For instance, there are items like refund, ordinary legal refunds which are sometimes exceeded by very large amounts. There is no point in putting them before the Standing Finance Committee. If the refunds are due under the ordinary law, they have to be paid.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The analogy of refund does not hold good in this case. The excess here is mainly due to the creation of the office of the Controller of Food Accounts, the entertainment of temporary staff to cope with the increased work on account of war. These two, the creation of the office of Food Controller of Accounts and the temporary staff, are new services altogether. They do not come under old expenses.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But audit is a function which has to be carried on and if there is more expenditure or new types of expenditure for audit, then the amount has to be provided for them. It is not much use discussing that point. Again, there is no point of principle to put before the Standing Finance Committee, presumably this House desires that expenditure should be audited always.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Yes, we do desire; but this expenditure should be put before the Standing Finance Committee.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of Administration of Justice."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of Administration of Justice."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 97,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 97,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1944, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, the explanatory memorandum says:

"The amount is required (a) to meet the excess expenditure in connection with the confinement of *ex*-military prisoners in Central India Agency jail."

I should like to know what is the meaning of '*ex*-military prisoners'. We always thought that military prisoners mean persons who have been in the military. I do not understand what '*ex*-military' means.

The second item in regard to which the amount is required is:

"to meet the payment of various outstanding bills for the articles purchased by the Andamans Administration and the payment of dearness allowance to the dependents of Government servants who remained in the Andamans."

Well, Sir, the Andamans administration has gone out of our hands before three years. Why should any bills be outstanding for the last three years? May I know whether there is any Andamans administration functioning here in India just as the administration of the Government of Burma is functioning in Simla or as the administrations of many Governments of Axis-occupied countries are functioning in London? I do not see how these bills could have been outstanding for the last three years, unless it be that the Andamans administration is functioning here. How much has been paid towards outstanding bills and how much has been paid towards dearness allowances for dependents of Government servants who remained in the Andamans?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I can explain at once about the *ex*-military prisoners. They were *ex*-military prisoners who were evacuated from the Andamans and they are now being confined in a jail at Indore. We have got to pay this contribution to the Crown Representative in that behalf. I think that is all the Honourable Member wanted to know about them.

As regards the second item about outstanding bills, I am afraid I cannot give the Honourable Member separately the figures about these bills and also as regards dearness allowance to dependents in India. If he wants that information perhaps I could give it when the debate is resumed tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1944.