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COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

Tuesday, 26th March, 1946

Vol. I—No. 11

OFFICIAL REPORT



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(51)

COUNCIL OF STATE

Tuesday, 28th March, 1946

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Hon. the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**CIVIL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT DUE TO
THE TERMINATION OF THE WAR**

193. **THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL :** What is the number of persons disengaged from the military and civil services on account of the termination of war ?

THE HON. MR. H. C. PRIOR : The information is not readily available and is being collected. This will take sometime, particularly in respect of the Civil Services. I shall communicate again with the Hon. Member and will let him have the information that becomes available.

TRIAL OF FLIGHT-LIEUT. GIRADET BY SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL

194. **THE HON. MR. SURPUT SINGH :** Will Government state :

(a) Whether one Flt.-Lieut. Giradet, Co-pilot of Admiral Mountbatten's aircraft was tried by a special court martial for carrying gold worth Rs. 1,40,000 in a service-aircraft ?

(b) Whether his trial by the special court martial was for some offence against military law or discipline ?

(c) Whether the findings and decision of the special court martial have resulted in his acquittal ?

(d) Whether the trial by the special court martial lasted for 4 days ?

(e) If so, the reasons for such long drawn proceedings in that court ?

(f) Whether a copy of the findings and decision will be available to the House ?

(g) Whether he was subsequently tried by a criminal court at Karachi for carrying Rs. 1,40,000 worth of gold without licence and thus cheating the Customs Department ?

(h) If so, the finding of that court and the nature of sentence passed against him ?

(i) Whether the quantity of gold which formed the subject matter of the offence was returned to the offender and a fine equal to the value of the gold was imposed upon him instead ?

(j) Whether cases of such carriage of gold without licence by military personnel have come to their notice from time to time ?

(k) Whether the law prescribed forfeiture of the gold unlawfully carried ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : (a) and (b). Flt.-Lieut. Giradet was tried before a special court martial for attempting to take out of India in a service aircraft gold worth about Rs. 1,40,000 on the ground that such action amounted to conduct to the prejudice of good order and Air Force discipline.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) and (f). The court martial in question was convened by Headquarters Air Command, South East Asia, which is directly controlled by the Air Ministry. The reasons for the length of the proceedings are not known and it is not possible to make a copy of the findings and decisions available to the House.

(g) No, he was not tried by a Criminal Court but the case was dealt with by the Collector of Customs, Karachi, in exercise of the powers vested in him by the Sea Customs Act, 1878.

(A) The Collector of Customs, Karachi, found that an offence of attempting to export gold out of India in contravention of rule 90B of the Defence of India Rules had been committed and, therefore, confiscated the gold under section 167(8) of the Sea Customs Act, fixing in lieu of confiscation a fine of Rs. 1,50,000.

(i) Yes, the gold was returned to Flt.-Lieut. Giradet on payment of the fine which was approximately equal to the value of the gold.

(j) On a previous occasion an officer of the R. A. F., seconded for service with the B. O. A. C., was involved in the smuggling of gold out of India and similar action under the provisions of the Sea Customs Act was taken by the Collector of Customs, Karachi, at that time.

(k) Yes, sub-rule (3) of rule 90B of the Defence of India Rules attracts the provisions of the Sea Customs Act and section 167(8) of the Sea Customs Act read with section 183, *ibid* provides for the confiscation of the offending gold and for the fixing of fine in lieu of confiscation.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Why was Flt.-Lieut. Giradet not prosecuted for contravening the law ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : Because action was taken as provided for in the Sea Customs Act by the Collector of Karachi.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Does that prevent the Government from prosecuting this officer?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : I do not quite understand what the Hon. Member's question is. But he will realise that this officer had already been tried by court martial and acquitted.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will the Hon. Member tell us on what grounds the court martial acquitted him ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : I have answered that in my reply to parts (e) and (f) of the question, Sir.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We do not know what the findings of the Court were and this officer was tried before the court martial only on grounds of discipline and so on. How could the Government consider themselves debarred from prosecuting this officer for the criminal conduct of which he had been guilty ?

(No answer.)

PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVES OF INDIAN COMPANIES

195. FLIGHT-LIEUT. THE HON. RUP CHAND : Will Government state the total number of Indian joint stock companies in India on December, 31, 1945 (or on the latest date for which figures are available) with paid-up Capital and Reserves of—

- (i) less than Rs. 1 lac,
- (ii) over Rs. 1 lac and less than Rs. 5 lacs,
- (iii) over Rs. 5 lacs but less than Rs. 10 lacs,
- (iv) over Rs. 10 lacs but less than Rs. 25 lacs,
- (v) over Rs. 25 lacs but less than Rs. 50 lacs,
- (vi) over Rs. 50 lacs but less than Rs. 1 crore,
- (vii) Rs. 1 crore and over,

THE HON. MR. Y. N. SUKTHANKAR : The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in its collection would not be commensurate with the value of the results. The attention of the Hon. Member is, however, invited to the annual publication entitled *Joint Stock Companies in British India and in the Indian States, etc.*, published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. Copies of this publication are in the Library.

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF RICE, WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR

196. FLIGHT-LIEUT. THE HON. RUP CHAND : Will Government state the quantity and value of rice, wheat and wheat flour imported into, and exported from, British India during the calendar years 1944 and 1945—

- (i) on private account,
- (ii) on military account ;
- (iii) on Government account ?

THE HON. SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA : A statement showing the quantity and value of rice, wheat and wheat flour imported into, and exported from, British India on civil account, during the years 1944 and 1945 is placed on the table of the House. Apart from small quantities allowed as ship stores, for certain stations on the passenger air line routes, and gift parcels, and 500 tons of wheat products allowed to be exported to Saudi Arabia as a free gift by Sind Muslims for relief of distress in the Hedjaz, all exports have been on a Government account.

Figures regarding exports on Defence account are being collected.

All imports have been on Government account.

Statement showing quantities of wheat, wheat products and rice exported from India during the calendar years 1944 and 1945, on civil account, and imports into India during the same period.

	1944 (January to December)				1945 (January to December)							
	Wheat		Wheat, Flour and Atta		Rice		Wheat		Wheat, Flour and Atta		Rice	
	Quantity (in tons)	Value	Quantity (in tons)	Value	Quantity (in tons)	Value	Quantity (in tons)	Value	Quantity (in tons)	Value	Quantity (in tons)	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

I.—EXPORTS

—	1,000	2.46 lakhs	767	2.46 lakhs	49	0.29 lakhs	500	1.20 lakhs	1,219	3.68 lakhs	53,923	294.75 lakhs
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II.—IMPORTS

On Civil and Defence Accounts together.	563,018	11.9 crores	51,643	1.15 crores	4,500	0.15 crores	787,562	17.3(a) crores	10,739	0.24 crores	52,434	N. A.
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(a) Does not include the cost of free gift of 100,000 tons from Canada.

N. A.—Not available.

Note 1.—Figures for the month of December 1945 are provisional.

Note 2.—Figures of value represent only estimates.

ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

197. **THE HON. RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH :** (a) Is it necessary under the constitution for an Indian who wanted to proceed from India to Burma, or wanted to return from that country to India, to take permission of any Government to do so ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have given the power of veto to the Government of Burma in the free movements of Indians between the two countries? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that the representatives of British commercial and other interests can go to Burma as and when they like but even those Indians who have got their lands, residential and commercial property, and other interests in Burma, cannot do so, unless they are given express permission to enter Burma? If so, why this discrimination? What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ensure the free and unrestricted movement of Indians between India and Burma, and to remove the discrimination obtaining at present?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : (a) No. Under the Government of India Notification of the 21st July, 1941, the emigration of unskilled Indian labourers is banned. Therefore all persons desirous of proceeding to Burma had to obtain a certificate from the Protector of Emigrants of the Port of embarkation that they were not unskilled labourers.

(b) No; but owing to abnormal conditions in Burma, the shortage of shipping space and the difficulties regarding internal transport and accommodation in Burma, the Government of Burma are consulted for allowing persons to go to Burma. This previous reference to the Government of Burma is nothing but administrative consultation with that Government. As conditions become more and more normal, previous reference to that Government would, of course, cease to be necessary. The Government of India have also been able to secure a limited number of passages for civilians and are making every effort to utilise such passages to send evacuee businessmen, replacements of business concerns in Burma, landlords and property owners and some urgent cases on compassionate grounds. It has not been found possible to make the maximum use of these passages as applicants do not give sufficient details to enable Government to allot passages and require longer notice of sailings than what the Army can give.

(c) Government's information is that no special facilities are being provided to representatives of British interests as such to proceed to Burma. The Government of Burma has given us an assurance that care is being taken in this matter to ensure that competing interests do not obtain advantage over one another.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW : With regard to part (b), have the Government of Burma prevented the entry of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru into Burma in concurrence or in consultation with the Government of India?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I have not got the information with me.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW : You have said that no particular veto is exercised by the Burma Government but newspapers tell us that veto has been exercised against his landing in Burma. Is the Government of India aware of that, or have they been consulted perviously?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I must ask for notice of this question.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What happens in cases where there is a difference of opinion between the Government of India and the Burma Government with regard to a man who wants to go back to Burma, an evacuee who wants to go back to Burma?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : Well, cases of this nature have not arisen to my knowledge and therefore I am not in a position to give any answer at this moment.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : But what is the position under the rules or under the law?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : Under the law there is no restriction.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : But in practice since the Burma Government want to prevent the sudden entry of a large number of people into Burma do they not exercise the right of preventing any particular person also from going there ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : No, Sir, I do not think so.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Then how do they keep a man out if they have no power to keep him out ? Do they keep him out after consulting with the Government of India or anybody else ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : This is done in the interests of the evacuees themselves, so that they should not be put to any avoidable hardship.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : But under what law do they act ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : It is not law ; it is administrative consultation. Under the law there is no restriction.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : But can a man get a passage for Burma without the sanction of the Burma Government ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : Not without previous consultation. Sanction is not required.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Previous consultation with whom ? Is a permit required or not ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : With the Government of Burma, of course.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is a permit required from Burma Government or not ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : No permit is required.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : It is required.

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : In so far that the person is not an unskilled labourer.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I understand that permits are required at the present moment.

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I have no such information.

PLACING OF GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICAN BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

198. **THE HON. RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH :** Will Government state why they took no steps to bring before the United Nations Assembly the subject of the discriminatory legislation, which are being passed against the Indians in South Africa, and other kindred matters adversely affecting them ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : The Government are examining the question whether the matter can be placed before the United Nations Assembly.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM BURMA AND MALAYA

199. **THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** (a) Is it a fact that any one willing to come to India from Burma and Malaya is required to obtain a permit to leave the country ?

(b) Has this arrangement been made at the instance of the Government of India or in agreement or consultation with them ? What is the purpose of this restriction ?

(c) Are Government aware that Indian labourers, thousands of whom want to return to India, are required to obtain such permits? In view of the hardship caused by this requirement do Government propose to do away with such restriction?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : (a) During the military administration of Burma, the antecedents of any Indian desiring to leave the country used to be scrutinised and he had to obtain a permit from the military authorities. This practice survived for some months even after the return of the civil Government. It has now been discontinued.

(b) The object of this precaution was to ensure, for purposes of internal security in India, that full information was made available regarding the antecedents of such persons. The Government of India did not object to the procedure.

(c) The requirement of permits has since been discontinued. Only applications for passages are being registered in order to facilitate determination of priority for purposes of passages.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With regard to part (a) of the question has the need for obtaining permits in order to leave the country been discontinued only in the case of Burma or of Malaya also?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I believe Malaya also.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : When was it discontinued?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I have no information about the date but I gather that it is so. No permit is required now.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Till recently permits were required. For instance, when I was in Malaya—and I was there till the end of January—permits were required before a man could get an air passage or a sea passage for India.

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I believe that it is not so now.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will the Hon. Member kindly enquire from what date the old practice has been discontinued?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I will enquire.

DR. GEORGE LEE

200. **THE HON. RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH :** (a) Is it a fact that Government have declined to give permission for inclusion of Major George Muller Lee of the I. N. A. Medical Service, in the Congress Medical Mission to Malaya? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that Major Lee is domiciled in Siam and his wife and children are there, who are put to extreme economic hardship?

(c) Why has Major Lee been refused permission to return to Siam?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : (a) Government have received no formal application for his inclusion in the Mission but have decided not to agree to the inclusion therein of members of the Indian National Army since the local administration is likely to take exception to the entry of such persons into Malaya and this would tend to delay the visit of the Mission.

(b) I understand that Dr. Lee lived for some time in Siam but Government have no information regarding his family there.

(c) Doctor Lee has not been refused permission to return to Siam.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With regard to part (a) of the question on what ground do Government think that Major George Lee's return to Malaya is likely to be unacceptable to the Malayan Government?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : On the ground that he was a member of the Indian National Army.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Are they anticipating the Malayan Government's decision or have they asked the Government of Malaya whether they would allow this man to go there for medical work ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : Government have reason to believe that persons of that kind would not be welcomed in Malaya at present.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Have Government made enquiries ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : Government have reasonable grounds for that belief, Sir.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What are those reasonable grounds ? Have they made any enquiries ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : They have made enquiries. They have reasonable grounds for the belief that these people will not be welcome in Malaya.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Have the Malayan Government given no reply to their enquiries ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : I doubt whether there is a Malayan Government. I believe there is a Military Administration. The Military Administration is not prepared to receive these people into Malaya at present.

RETURN OF INDIAN EVACUEES TO BURMA

201. **THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Will Government state :

(a) The rules which Indian evacuees from Burma have to comply with in order to go back there ?

(b) Were the rules framed by the Burma Government with the consent of the Government of India ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : (a) and (b). There is no formal bar to an Indian evacuee returning to Burma. In view, however, of the acute shortage of shipping and of the abnormal economic conditions prevailing in that country as a result of the war and the Japanese occupation it is considered desirable that the return of the evacuees should be gradual and planned. To this end, a scheme for the repatriation of Indians is being worked out in consultation with the Government of Burma.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With whom will the final decision with regard to the return of the evacuees rest ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : With both.

RETURN OF INDIAN EVACUEES TO BURMA

202. **THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Are Government aware that :

(a) Persons possessing property in Burma, and the sons and daughters of well-to-do Indians who remained in Burma during the period of the Japanese occupation are not allowed to return there without a permit from the Burma Government ?

(b) Does not the preamble to the Agreement establishing the UNRRA contemplate the return of such evacuees to their homes as a matter of course ? If so, what steps do they propose to take to enable such persons to go back to Burma without the permission of the Burma Government ?

(c) Has any agreement been arrived at between the Governments of India and Burma with regard to the categories of Indian evacuees who should be allowed to return to Burma under the economic conditions prevailing there at present ?

(d) What is the number of Indian evacuees who have been able to return to Burma since its reoccupation by the British ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : (a) I would invite the Hon. Member's attention to my reply to question No. 201. In view of the circumstances explained in that reply, priority for shipping accommodation is generally given to the class of persons whose return to Burma is considered essential for purposes of reconstruction and rehabilitation of that country. There is great shortage of accommodation and other essential facilities in Burma owing to the devastation caused by the war. Such shortage was found to be most acute immediately after the return of the civil Government. It is for these reasons that the practice of making a previous reference to the Government of Burma has been adopted so far before Indians of this class can return to Burma. All available facilities are being provided for the return of such persons sponsored by the Government of India or the Government of Burma.

(b) and (c). The Government of Burma have agreed to the return of all evacuees ; but, in view of the difficulties explained, it is considered desirable that the return of the evacuees should be gradual and planned. This is also in the interest of the evacuees themselves. There is a genuine risk of their being stranded in Burma in case a very large number of Indians arrive there without any previous reference to the Government of Burma as regards the availability of accommodation and other facilities. Normal communications and law and order yet remain to be re-established in the interior. It is, therefore, necessary to invoke the aid of the Government of Burma for the provision of minimum facilities for the reception and reabsorption of evacuees. To this end, a scheme for the repatriation is being worked out in consultation with the Government of Burma. Certain general principles have been agreed with a view to determining priorities for repatriation. Generally, priorities are proposed to be given to such classes as are required urgently by the Government of Burma for purposes of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country, to such evacuees who have no homes in India, to evacuees who have left property or assets behind in Burma and to commercial and professional classes. Evacuees belonging to the more well-to-do classes who do not require any assistance from the Government of Burma in regard to accommodation and other facilities are now being allowed to return more freely.

(d) A few thousand Indian evacuees have returned to Burma so far, but their precise number is not known.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question, why is the entry of Indians who were living in Burma before the war, who have resources of their own and who have got houses of their own there, been made dependent on obtaining a permit from the Burma Government ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : As I have said, now they are allowed to go more freely, without any hindrance.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will such people not be required to obtain permits in future ?

THE HON. DR. N. B. KHARE : I believe so.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND INDIAN POLICE

203. **THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS :** Will Government state :

(a) Whether out of the Secretary of State's services 95 posts in the Indian Civil Service and 44 posts in the Indian Police are scheduled to be filled in 1946, from amongst Indians with approved war service.

(b) Whether it is a fact, that out of these vacancies, 75 per cent. will go to candidates from the fighting services and 25 per cent. to civilian candidates with approved war service.

(c) What categories and classes of services connected with war departments, are recognised as " Approved War Service. "

(d) The method of recruitment for filling these vacancies in the I. C. S. and I. P.

(e) Whether recruitment to these services will be made on territorial basis ; if not, why not ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the services recognised as " war service " for purposes of recruitment to reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police to be filled by Indian candidates.

(d) Final selection will be made by the Federal Public Service Commission after all candidates have been tested by a selection board.

(e) No. These war reserved vacancies are being filled in accordance with the arrangements which existed before the suspension of recruitment, when selection to the Indian Civil Service was made on an all-India basis and to the Indian Police on a regional basis.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW : With regard to (c), are any minimum educational qualifications insisted upon for these war service candidates before they are recruited in the service ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : Yes.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW : Which is the body which tests them to find out whether they are duly qualified ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : The qualification is an educational one : it consists of a degree, or having passed some recognised examination.

THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS : Is not recruitment to the Indian Police made on a territorial or provincial basis ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : Yes, Sir ; it is.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW : Are we to assume that the Adjournment Motion passed in the other House and the Resolution that was discussed in this House have no effect on the policy of Government with regard to this matter ?

(No reply.)

THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS : If recruitment to the I. P. is done on a territorial basis, why is not recruitment to the I. C. S. also done on the same basis ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : I am afraid I have not correctly understood. Recruitment to the I. P. is on a territorial basis ; recruitment to the I. C. S. is on an all-India basis. I understand the Hon. Member's question to be why they are not on the same basis. Is that the question ?

Services recognised as " War Service " for purposes of recruitment to war reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police to be filled by Indian candidates

Whole-time service of any of the following kinds :—

- (i) service of any kind in a unit or formation liable for service overseas or in any operational area ;
- (ii) service in India under military, munitions or stores authorities with a liability to serve overseas or in any operational area ;
- (iii) all other service involving subjection to Naval, Military or Air Force law ;
- (iv) a period of training with a military unit or formation involving liability to serve overseas or in any operational area ;
- (v) *Civil Defence Services*—
 - (1) Auxiliary Fire Service.
 - (2) Control and Report Service.
 - (3) Air Raid Wardens' Service.

- (4) Fire Prevention Service.
 - (5) First Aid, Casualty and Ambulance Service.
 - (6) Rescue Service.
 - (7) Gas Identification Service.
 - (8) Decontamination Service.
 - (9) Messenger Service.
 - (10) Instructor's Service (including the instructor staff of the Government of India Civil Defence Schools).
 - (11) Mortuary Service.
 - (12) Air Raid Precaution Depot Service.
 - (13) Members of the Air Raid Precaution Emergency Medical Services (Hospitals).
 - (14) Staff of the Civil Defence Ambulance Train No. 1.
 - (15) Technical Services under the Chief Adviser of Factories (A.R.P.).
 - (16) Staff of the Civil Defence Stores Depot, Calcutta.
 - (17) Staff of the Calcutta Office of the Director of Civil Camouflage.
- (vi) any service connected with the prosecution of the war which a person is required to undertake by competent authority under provision of any law for the time being in force ;
- (vii) service after 3rd September 1939 anywhere at sea on a merchantship sailing under the directions of an Allied Government as an officer, indentured apprentice or sea-man ;
- (viii) service rendered in a civil capacity subsequent to his release from the Forces by an officer who volunteered and was selected for employment with the civil administration under Special India Army Order 12/S/44, dated the 27th March 1944, or under the A.F.O.(I) No. 138/44 ;
- (ix) Any temporary Government service rendered in Assam or in Bengal to the east of Brahmaputra river.

THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS : Yes.

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : I shall have to have notice of that question ; I cannot tell him off-hand.

INDIAN POLITICAL SERVICE

204. THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS : Will Government state :

(a) The total number of appointments now existing in the Indian Political Service ?

(b) The total number of appointments held by Indians in this service ?

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (a) 158 (including temporary appointments).

(b) 32 (including 15 officiating in the service).

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW : Are there Indian Deputy Secretaries or Indian Assistant Secretaries in this service ?

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN : I must ask for notice.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND INDIAN POLICE

205. THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS : Will Government state :

(a) The number of applications received so far from candidates seeking nomination to the I. C. S. and I. P. ?

(b) The number of applications received from Oriya candidates for the I. C. S. and I. P. ?

(c) In view of the fact that there are only two Oriyas in the whole cadre of I. C. S. recruited about 15 years back, do Government propose to give any special consideration to this grievance of the Oriyas and allot an adequate number of vacancies to Orissa ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : (a) The number of applications so far received from "war service" candidates for recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police is as follows :

Europeans	879
Indians	5,193

(b) The information asked for is not available.

(c) The Government of India do not recruit to the Indian Civil Service and are therefore not in a position to allot vacancies in the service to Oriya-speaking natives of Orissa.

THE HON. MR. N. K. DAS : With regard to part (b), will the Hon. Member please make an attempt to find out how many applications for appointments in these services are from Oriya candidates ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : I think it would be a little unreasonable to ask that. No purpose would be served, so far as the I.C.S. is concerned, in making such a distinction ; and, so far as the I. P. is concerned, I imagine that at some future date the candidates will have to be classified, at any rate by regions. At that stage I have no doubt that it might be possible to classify them according to their mother tongue also.

EXPORT OF RICE

206. **THE HON. MR. SURPUT SINGH :** Will Government state :

(a) Whether rice was exported in large quantity during the second half of 1945 ; if the answer is in affirmative, the quantity in tons sent out during the third and fourth quarters of 1945 from the port of Calcutta ?

(b) Whether their attention has been drawn to a recent statement made by the President, Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta (supported by figures from the Calcutta Customs Office), to the effect that a non-Indian firm exported very huge quantities of rice from Bengal from the port of Calcutta during the months of July, August and September 1945 ; if so, the name of the non-Indian firm ?

(c) Whether Government gave the firm concerned the necessary permit for such export ?

(d) Whether the bags seen in the docks in Calcutta fully loaded in the months of November and December 1945 and January 1946 contained rice or ground-nuts or both ?

(e) The place to which those bags were exported ?

(f) Whether all the rice exported in recent months from the port of Calcutta was done with the knowledge of the Bengal Civil Supply authorities ?

THE HON. SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA : (a) 21,024 tons and 3,125 tons of rice were exported from Calcutta in the third and fourth quarters of 1945, respectively.

(b) Government have seen the statement alleging that 61,797 tons rice had been exported from Calcutta during the period May to October, 1945. Inquiries were made from the Export Trade Controller, Calcutta, which indicated that the above mentioned quantity included shipments of 42,000 tons of rice to Ceylon and 16,000 tons of rice to Mysore through Marmagao. The former quantity was sent to Ceylon on a replacement basis and has since been made good by H. M. G. by imports. The total quantity accounted for is thus 58,000 tons. The balance of 4,000 tons is explained by the fact that the quantity sanctioned for loan to Ceylon was 46,000 tons of which only 42,000 tons was actually shipped.

The firm which exported the rice to Ceylon as Agents of the Ceylon Government was Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). It is not clear to which bags the Hon. Member is referring.

(f) Yes.

MR. HAROLD V. COES

207. **THE HON. MR. SURPUT SINGH :** Will Government state :

(a) The object for which Mr. Harold V. Coes was invited from U. S. A. to come out as Consulting Engineer to the Government of India in the Planning and Development Department ?

(b) How long did he stay in this country ?

(c) What special matters formed the subject of his investigations ?

(d) Whether he has submitted any report of his investigations ; if so when that is expected to come ?

(e) Whether is it a fact that, before submission to the Government of India, he will make his report in consultation with Ford, Bacon & Davis Corporation, New York, the firm to which he belongs ?

(f) Why Mr. Coes was selected for that special work ?

LT.-GENERAL THE HON. SIR THOMAS HUTTON : (a) and (f). Mr. Harold Coes is a senior member of Messrs. Ford, Bacon & Davis, a leading American firm of Consulting Engineers, whose services were engaged to advise the Industrial Plant and Machinery (Heavy) Panel, in technical matters in which they needed assistance. The firm have had considerable previous experience of the type of work on which the Panel is engaged.

(b) A little over three months.

(c) He investigated the possibilities of manufacturing heavy machinery in India.

(d) Mr. Coes has only recently completed his work and his final report is expected shortly. I invite the Hon. Member's attention to my reply to question No. 105 for the 28th February, 1946.

(e) The report will be sent to the Government of India by the Firm which was entrusted with the task.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN BIHAR

208. **THE HON. MR. SURPUT SINGH :** Will Government state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that with the closing of the Combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Bhaptiahi and Ganpatganj in Bhagalpur District (Bihar Province) due to Kosi floods and thereafter for war economies, considerable inconveniences have resulted to the residents who had been served by them for so many years ?

(b) Whether the people of the localities as well as the zamindars of the neighbouring places have memorialised to Government for restoration of these Post and Telegraph Offices ?

(c) Whether the local people have offered to bear the costs of restoration of the telegraph lines for the Telegraph Offices ?

(d) Whether the postal authorities propose to take up the matter in order to restore the Telegraph offices at an early date.

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (a) Government are aware that the public have been inconvenienced by the closing of the telegraph branch of the two offices.

(b) Yes.

(c) The public of Ganpatganj agreed to bear only a portion of the cost of restoration of the telegraph branch of the Ganpatganj Telegraph Office. As regards Bhaptiahi, the matter is under consideration.

(d) The matter is already under examination.

MUSLIMS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

209. **THE HON. MR. ABDOOL RAZAK HAJEE ABDOOL SUTTAR :** Will Government state : (a) The number of Muslims employed in the first rank officers' grade of the All-India Posts & Telegraph Service ?

(b) The number of such Muslims employed as Postmaster General, Deputy Postmaster General and Assistant Postmaster General, province by province ?

(c) The number of Muslims and Hindus separately drawing more than Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 in Bengal and Assam Circle of the above service.

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (a) There is no grade in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department known as first rank officers' grade. Presumably, the Hon. Member requires information regarding Class I Officers in that Department. The number of Muslim officers working in Class I at the present time is 27.

(b) Officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are posted in the Directorate or in Postal Circles and not in provinces. No Muslim officer is at present working as a Postmaster General, but 9 are working as Deputy Postmasters General distributed as follows :—

Circle	No.
Bengal and Assam	2
Bihar and Orissa	1
Bombay	Nil.
Central	1
Madras	1
Punjab and N. W. F.	1
United Provinces	1
Sind and Baluchistan	Nil
Directorate	2

Assistant Postmasters-General are not Class I Officers.

(c) There is only one Class I Officer drawing between Rs. 200 and Rs. 500 per month and he is a Hindu.

MUSLIMS IN THE IMPERIAL CUSTOMS SERVICE

210. **THE HON. MR. ABDOOL RAZAK HAJEE ABDOOL SUTTAR :** (a) Will Government state the number of Muslim employed in the first rank of officers' service in the Indian Customs Department ?

(b) Will they also state the number of Muslims employed in the Income-tax Department in superior service holding posts as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : (a) The Hon. Member presumably refers to the Imperial Customs Service. Five members of that service are Muslims.

(b) There is one Muslim holding a post of Commissioner. There are no posts called "Deputy Commissioner" in the Income-tax Department.

THE HON. KHAN BAHADUR KERAMAT ALI : As regards (a), what is the total number of officers ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : Twenty-five, Sir.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHEDULE CASTES IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

211. **THE HON. MR. M. L. DAS :** Will Government state whether there is any Scheduled Caste man employed either as Superintendent or as Administrative Officer in the Central Public Works Department? If the answer be in the affirmative, will they state the name of the person so employed? If the answer is in the negative, do they propose to take steps for securing representation of the Scheduled Castes in these posts?

THE HON. MR. H. C. PRIOR : There is no member of the Scheduled Castes employed either as Administrative Officer or as Superintendent in the Central Public Works Department. The question of filling the post of Administrative Officer on a permanent basis is still under consideration. As regards Superintendents, these posts are filled by promotion and the orders regarding communal representation in the public services do not apply to vacancies which are filled by promotion. The question of reserving any of these appointments for members of the Schedule Castes or of other minority communities does not, therefore, arise.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

212. **THE HON. MR. M. L. DAS :** Is it a fact that the post of Administrative Officer in the Central Public Works Department is vacant at present? If so, do Government propose to consider the claims of Scheduled Caste candidates while filling the post?

THE HON. MR. H. C. PRIOR : No. The post has been temporarily filled but the question of filling it on a permanent basis is still under consideration.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE, INDIAN POLICE AND INDIAN POLITICAL SERVICE

213. **THE HON. MR. M. L. DAS :** (a) What is the total number of vacancies reserved for candidates with war services in the Indian Civil Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Political Service, respectively?

(b) How many vacancies in each of the services mentioned in (a) are earmarked for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : (a) In the Indian Civil Service 217 vacancies and in the Indian Police 119 vacancies have been reserved for 'war service' candidates. No direct recruitment to the Indian Political Service is made but it is proposed to fill 29 vacancies in that Service by 'war service' candidates recruited to the Indian Civil Service.

(b) The Secretary of State has not reserved any vacancies in either service in favour of Scheduled Castes. As regards the Indian Police, to which recruitment is made on a regional basis, the initiative in ensuring communal and other reservations is placed upon the provinces. In respect of both the Indian Police and the Indian Civil Service the reservation of vacancies for Scheduled Caste candidates is at present under the consideration of Government in consultation with Provincial Governments.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND INDIAN POLICE

214. **THE HON. MR. M. L. DAS :** Is it a fact that some applications from some qualified Scheduled Caste candidates with war services for the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service have been rejected by the Federal Public Service Commission on the ground that the candidates are over-age? Do Government propose to consider the desirability of relaxing the age-limit in the case of Scheduled Caste war candidates in respect of the reserved vacancies as has been done for peace-time appointments?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : There was no general relaxation of the maximum age-limit in respect of Scheduled Castes candidates for vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police before the war and the normal age-limits apply to candidates from the Scheduled Castes for war reserved vacancies in these services. If, however, duly qualified ' war service ' candidates from the Scheduled Castes within the normal age-limits are not forthcoming in sufficient numbers, the Central Government will consider the question of recommending a relaxation of the maximum age limit in favour of suitable candidates.

PROMOTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SCHEDULE CASTES IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

215. **THE HON. MR. M. L. DAS :** Will Government state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that in view of the paucity of duly qualified Scheduled Caste candidates with pass certificates from recognised institutions, in order to maintain the communal representation prescribed by the rules, deserving and competent Scheduled Caste work mistries have been appointed on the posts of Engineering subordinates on the strength of recommendation by the Executive Engineers in the Central Public Works Department ?

(b) Whether some posts of Engineering subordinates reserved for Scheduled Castes candidates are at present lying in the Central Public Works Department ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that some deserving and competent work mistries having sufficient practical experience as employees in the Central Works Department have been recommended by their Executive Engineers for the reserved posts mentioned in (b) ?

(d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative will Government state why the reserved vacancies mentioned in (b) have not been filled by appointing the Scheduled Caste work mistries who have been recommended by their Executive Engineers ?

THE HON. MR. H. C. PRIOR : (a) Certain vacancies in the grade of subordinate were filled by promotion of deserving Scheduled Caste work mistries, but not with the object of adjusting the communal quota.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, two such nominations have been received.

(d) The question whether these vacancies should be filled by promotion or by direct recruitment is still under consideration.

RESOLUTION RE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO RELEASED POLITICAL PRISONERS—contd.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT : The Council will now resume the debate on the first Resolution.

***THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL :** (Bombay : Non-Muhammadian) : I just want to say a few words, Sir. I am in perfect agreement with the spirit of this Resolution. I was told that some difficulties were pleaded by Government to the Resolution as it stands. As usual, Government pleaded constitutional difficulties in giving effect to the Resolution. But there are ways of meeting those difficulties and Government know them very well. These people do deserve the relief which this Resolution seeks and I say, Sir, that Government should do everything possible to see that the relief is brought to them.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT : Will you please tell me if you have made any estimate of the cost which would be involved to Government in accepting this Resolution ?

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL : No, Sir, I have not made any estimate of the cost.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT : Can Mr. Porter give any information to me on the subject ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : Not without inquiring, Sir.

***THE HON. SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muham-madan) :** Sir, I also support the Resolution. I do so on the short ground that these people who have been detained in custody have been cut off from their old moorings. They have practically lost touch with their profession. They have been practically weaned away from their family. It is necessary, just and fair that when they are set at liberty, they should be given something by way of helping them to find their fee. Whatever the cost, I think it is worth while that Government should give them this much-needed relief. Sir, I support the Resolution.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces : North-ern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I should like to give this Resolution my moral support. It is true that the Resolution asks the Governor General in Council to direct the Provincial Governments to continue to pay State and Security prisoners in receipt of allowances before their release the same allowances for six months after their release. But it is clear that what is desired is a recommendation from the Central Government to the Provincial Government that people whose financial condition was such as to justify their being paid an allowance before their release should not be allowed to be stranded immediately after their release. Before their internment they might have been carrying on some business in a large or small way which might have been seriously affected by their inability to attend to it. If it is found that in certain cases a man is unable to maintain himself and his family because of the action taken against him by Government, then I think it is the moral duty of the Government to see that he and his family are not allowed to starve just because Government, without bringing them to trial, thought that their detention was necessary in the interests of law and order. My Hon. friend Mr. S. K. Das does not ask that every State and security prisoner should be given an allowance. All that he says is that people who were paid allowances while they were in detention should continue to receive them for a period of six months after their release in order to enable them to find adequate means of supporting themselves. I think, Sir, this is a very reasonable request. As my Hon. friend pointed out, the Bengal Govern-ment did this from 1937 to 1939. The Home Secretary told us the other day that the Bengal Government had considered the matter afresh some time ago and had come to the conclusion that the old practice should not be revived. He did not give us, however, the reasons on which the Government of Bengal based this conclusion. I do not think, Sir, that there can be any moral grounds which would justify the Government in refusing to help people of the class to which the Resolution refers. It is true that so far as the Central Government are concerned, there are only two persons whose cases can be covered by this Resolution. But I hope that they will not take a technical view of their responsibilities or base their decision entirely on the language of the Resolution, but will understand what its spirit is and be prepared to advise the Provincial Governments to act in accordance with the recommendation which my Hon. friend Mr. Das wants Government to accept.

***THE HON. MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) :** Sir, I support the Resolution. The cost will not be very heavy. If you consider that there are 1,500 security and State prisoners who will be paid this allowance, on an average if they are paid Rs. 50 per month, it will be Rs. 75,000 per month for six months or Rs. 3 lakhs. The Government can well afford to pay this amount—3 lakhs of rupees for the rehabilitation of these persons who have lost their vocation so that they may seek re-employment or any other vocation after six months. On the ground of cost, I do not think the Government will object to this small sum for these 1,500 security and State prisoners.

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces : General) : Sir, I support the Resolution of my friend, though I find a little technical difficulty for the Central Government to give effect to the recommendations contained in the Resolution.

[MR. V. V. Kalikar]

But I understand that the Central Government and the Provincial Governments so far as these prisoners are concerned do follow an all-India policy. Now, these prisoners were not criminals. My point is that Government for political expediency detained these prisoners. It was the duty of the Government to put them up for trial and if these people had been adjudicated by the court of law as having committed the offence, then the case would have been different. But here the Executive Government put them in jail. So, Sir, the responsibility lies on the Executive Government to see that after they are released they get sufficient sum to rehabilitate themselves. I quite agree with my friend Pandit Kunzru that the word "direction" used by my Hon. friend is not a happy one in this Resolution. But so far as I remember practically all the Provincial Governments take suggestions from the Central Government and during war time Provincial Governments have taken suggestions from the Central Government as to how they should deal with these prisoners and they have acted on the suggestions of the Central Government. I therefore submit that the Central Government should issue suggestions to the Bengal Government that the allowances that they were giving to these prisoners should be continued.

THE HON. MR. SURPUT SING (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to accord my support to the Resolution moved by my Hon. friend. Sir, on both their arrest and release of the security prisoners, there is no opportunity given to them to realise their position in any way. They have to proceed to their detention in a state of unpreparedness and return after detention equally unprepared. What moorings they have in life all get asunder when they are suddenly taken into custody. Then equally suddenly, when they are released, they feel they cannot adjust themselves to the new conditions they find themselves in. Then, Sir, no sort of training or fitting out is afforded to them which can be of any service to them when they are set at liberty. Mostly the interned persons are from middle class families and their families' staying power at the time of their arrest is almost nil. Equally almost nothing it is when they are sent back to their normal life. Grants to their families during their detention are quite often inadequate. Thus there is nothing left over to them by way of surplus on which they can bank on their return home. Naturally, therefore, these men find themselves quite stranded in life on their return to normal life and feel desperately unhappy and miserable when funds are not available to them to fall back upon. I would request, therefore, the Central Government to take the initiative in the matter and accept the Resolution of my Hon. friend.

***THE HON. RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS** (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir I am sorry that I am not convinced of the fairness of the stand my friend Mr. Porter took on behalf of the Government. Sir, the constitutional argument that he put forward does not hold water in my view. If there is one subject in which all canons of constitutional propriety were set at naught, it is political detention. Sir, the Federal Court and the High Courts of Bombay, Nagpur and Calcutta in their historic judgments have thoroughly exposed the illegal character of the provisions of the Defence of India Rules, especially of rule 26, which curb the liberties of thousands of people without legal sanction. Sir, you from the Centre virtually as one Government have imposed your rule on the provinces even where there were Ministries. Sir, you know those Ministries. The Ministry in Bengal depended on the European Group and that in the North-West Frontier Province on the favour of the Governor for their existence.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT: You are going out of the scope of the Resolution.

THE HON. RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS: Sir, I suggest that the Central Government can recommend the substance of my Resolution to the Provinces, or at least I hope, Sir, discussion on this Resolution in this House can be circulated to the Provinces so that the newly-formed Congress and Coalition Ministries may act upon it. Sir, the injustices done to the detenus were very recently

* Not corrected by the Hon. Member.

exposed in the Bombay High Court which passed very severe strictures on the disregard by the executive of the sense of judicial fairness in connection with the case of Saha Sati. Sir, there are several cases which have been brought to light. I do urge that all these detained persons be set at liberty and that these people may be given an allowance for six months so that they may be able to settle down in life.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT : Does the Government member wish to say anything ?

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : With your permission, Sir, I would like to say a few words. I shall not detain the House for more than a few minutes.

I remain of the opinion which I indicated in reply to the Hon. the Mover of this Motion. I assure him that there is no particular fun in taking a stand upon a constitutional punctilio ; but there is the fact that this House can only vote on the Resolution which is before it ; and it would, I submit, be improper to vote upon a Resolution with reservations as to its meaning. A Resolution must be voted on as it is moved. It would be improper in my view for Government at the Centre to attempt to direct Governments in the Provinces to take action along the lines suggested.

On the merits of the proposal I hold equally strong views. It is, I think, sometimes forgotten that the people who have been detained have not in fact been detained without serious cause.

It is also sometimes forgotten that the provisions of the law under which responsible Governments acting with a view to securing the safety of the State have been reluctantly compelled to place people in detention without trial are not without validity. My Hon. friend, the Mover of the Resolution has referred to certain High Court Judgments. He will be interested, I know, to learn that all judgments impugning the legality of provisions under which, at any time during this war, any person has been placed in detention have been upset by the Privy Council, which is the highest judicial authority to which resort can be had.

THE HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR : Not all.

THE HON. MR. A. E. PORTER : I think, Sir, that all such judgments, either specifically or by implication or in consequence, have been overruled ; but I am subject to correction. Well, Sir, it is a point which is sometimes forgotten that these people who have been put in detention were not put in detention illegally. They were not put in detention without due cause and that cause was the protection of the State to the best of the belief and knowledge of the Governments responsible for securing the safety of the State.

However, it may be held that this is a comparatively minor matter ; the real question is what is to be done with these people now that they have been returned to civil life after having been detained all this time. Well, Sir, there I do not think that there is any real ground for excessive sympathy of the kind which we are now asked to show. I can think of numbers of more deserving classes of society for whom and on whose behalf could be put up a very much stronger argument than that which has come from the opposite Benches on behalf of released security prisoners. I, therefore, continue to oppose the Motion and I hope that it will be thrown out. I should add, however, that if Hon. Members wish, I shall be happy to see that a copy of the debate in this House as soon as it is available is forwarded to the Provincial Governments for their consideration.

I oppose the Motion.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT (to the Hon. Rai Bahadur Satyendra Kumar Das) : Do you wish to press your Resolution ?

THE HON. RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS : Yes, Sir.

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT : Resolution moved :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council to direct all the Provincial Governments to continue to pay all the State and Security prisoners their allowances at the rate at which they were being paid at the time of their release up to six months after their release so that they may re-seek out their course of income."

Question put : the Council divided :

AYES—19

Abdool Suttar, Hon. Mr. Abdool Razak Hajee.
Ayyangar, Hon. Sir Gopaleswami.
Buta Singh, Hon. Sir.
Chettiyar, Hon. Mr. Chidambaram.
Das, Hon. Mr. N. K.
Das, Hon. Rai Bahadur Satyendra Kumar.
Hossain Imam, Hon. Mr.
Kalikar, Hon. Mr. V. V.
Keramat Ali, Hon. Khan Bahadur.
Kunzru, Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath.

Mahtha, Hon. Rai Bahadur Sri Narain.
Mitha, Hon. Sir Suleman Cassum Haji.
Motilal, Hon. Mr. G. S.
Padshah Sahib Bahadur, Hon. Saiyed Mohamed.
Row, Hon. Mr. Thirunala.
Roy Chowdhury, Hon. Mr. Susil Kumar.
Rup Chand, Flt. Lieut., the Hon.
Surput Singh, Hon. Mr.
Yuveraj Dutta Singh, Hon. Raja.

NOES—23

Assadulla Khan Raisani, Hon. Sardar Bahadur Nawab.
Charanjit Singh, Hon. Raja.
Chinoy, Hon. Sir Rahimtoola.
Das, Hon. Mr. M. L.
Devadoas, Hon. Sir David.
Dhar, Hon. Mr. S. M.
Ghosal, Hon. Sir Jona.
Gibbons, Hon. Mr. J. M. B.
Hissamuddin Bahadur, Brig. the Hon. Sir.
Hutton, Hon. Lt.-Genl. Sir Thomas.
Jones, Hon. Sir Cyril.

Karnachwar Singh of Darbhanga, Hon. Maharajadhiraja Sir.
Khare, Hon. Dr. N. B.
Khurshid Ali Khan, Hon. Nawabzada.
Lal, Hon. Mr. Shavax A.
Mahomed Usman, Hon. Sir.
Menon, Hon. Sir Ramunni.
Mukherjee, Hon. Sir Satya Charan.
Porter, Hon. Mr. A. E.
Prior, Hon. Mr. H. C.
Sobha Singh, Hon. Sir.
Sukthankar, Hon. Mr. Y. N.
Townend, Hon. Mr. H. D.

The Motion was negatived

RESOLUTION RE FLOATING OF LOANS TO HELP AGRICULTURISTS

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces General : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name runs thus :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a loan of ten crores of rupees earmarked for the purpose of subsidising agriculturists to grow more food-grains, be immediately floated."

Sir, I need not inflict a long speech on this House so far as this Resolution is concerned, because when we debated the food position in India we were told that a committee was examining the question of subsidising the agriculturist, and I therefore think that the Government will take a sympathetic view of this Resolution and will help the agriculturist to grow more food.

Sir, the House knows that the agricultural industry, the basic industry of this country, has been neglected for a very long time. On looking at the history of the various provinces, I find, Sir, that in many of the provinces a small beginning in the direction of starting of Agricultural Departments was made in the year 1880. After that, regular Agricultural Departments came into operation in the year 1905. In the Centre too an Agricultural Department, connected with the Commerce and Revenue Department, was established in the year 1871. My point is that, after nearly 77 years, and after the Bengal famine, the Government recognised that this industry ought to be seriously and sincerely helped.

When Lord Linlithgow came to rule over us, many of us thought that he would take active steps in developing agriculture in India. But, unfortunately, except for his scheme of supplying bulls and improving the pedigree of the cattle wealth of India, he could not do anything. We expected some improvement during his time because he was the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and we thought that he would press upon the Centre as well as on the Provincial Governments to

implement some though not all of the recommendations of the Commission. But to our misfortune, he was not able to do anything of that sort. I also think that the political leaders of various Parties in India have not given due attention to this basic industry of India. We know, Sir, that this industry supports nearly 72 per cent. of the population of India. About 90 per cent. of the population of India is directly or indirectly connected with agriculture. But still we find neither the Government nor the leaders of Parties taking any interest in giving a fillip to agricultural improvement in the country. My object in tabling this Resolution at this time is just to induce the agriculturist to grow more food and to avert the threatened famine in Madras and Bombay. I shall show later on that India is not self-sufficient in the matter of food. It was not self-sufficient in the matter of food even before the war. The House knows that we were required to import rice from Burma. The House now knows that when we are threatened with famine in Madras and Bombay, we are required to go to various countries with a beggar's bowl and we are told that so much of our requirements will not be met by them. Therefore, I think that the Government of India and the people must decide seriously that the time has come when India must grow all the food she requires for her population.

Sir, British India has got about 5 lakhs of villages and the cultivated land of British India is about 214 million acres. We have got in India 92 million acres of culturable waste land and 45 million acres of current fallow. According to Government experts our total annual production of cereals is 60 million tons. We have to make a reduction of about 12½ per cent for seed and wastage and the amount available for food is about 52½ million tons of cereals per year. This is for the normal population. Then we have to take into consideration the annual increase of 50 lakhs of people every year. So, we will have to increase our total production by between 5 to 10 per cent. Sir, to some, the idea of giving a subsidy to the agriculturist will not appeal. But I submit that the principle of giving a subsidy to the agriculturist has been accepted in Western countries. I may bring to the notice of the House that even in England, during the war, Rs. 200 crores or over were given by way of subsidy for food production. Recently I understand that they have sanctioned about Rs. 400 crores for that very purpose. They have given a subsidy for diverting land from cash crops and for getting under cultivation land which was not cultivated before. I will just read a sentence from the Home Front Hand Book for England. It is said here :—

"Substantial financial aids to convert grass land into arable land have been given, such as a grant of £2 per acre for grass land ploughed up; a subsidy of £3 an acre if wheat or rye were sown, a payment of £20 per acre for land previously devoted to flower-growing if converted to food crops; assistance up to 50 per cent. of the expenditure required for draining and ditching and a subsidy, also of 50 per cent. on cost of agricultural land."

I find that even in Canada a substantial amount—

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT : I do not think your proposition is disputed that a subsidy should be given to agriculture because money given for the construction of wells in India is subsidy for agriculture and to the land cultivator. It is tantamount to subsidy.

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR : I am coming to that point, Sir. Money given for digging wells or money given for irrigation or for better seed, that is a long term or short term policy. I want immediate relief. My point in moving this Resolution is that if you give a subsidy to the agriculturist to divert cash crops land to food crops land and to cultivate land which is lying fallow, you will be giving him an incentive to grow more food. The Government of India have in recent times made various proposals. There is the Kharegat Report and the Memorandum on the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in India and there are so many other schemes on paper. That is alright. I quite agree with you, Sir, that they are going to spend money for the improvement of agriculture. Common sense dawned on them only when they found that 3 million people died in Bengal on account of famine.

I do not dispute the proposition that they are going to do something. I quite agree with you. My point is that I want immediate result and for immediate result you must take immediate action. Sir, the spirit underlying my Resolution is that you must give to the agriculturist some amount which will really induce

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar]

him to grow more food. I will just cite an instance from my own province. About 3 years ago, in my province a subsidy of Rs. 2 per acre was given to agriculturists and the figure that I have got is that in the year 1942-43—of course my Hon. friend Mr. Dhar will correct me if I am wrong—Rs. 28,83,000 were given and in the year 1943-44 and 1944-45 Rs. 10,64,000 were given. There was a debate on this very Resolution in the other House two years ago and the then Secretary Mr. Tyson stated in the other House that in my own province 6 lakhs acres of land were diverted for the purpose of producing food-grains from cash crop. If that information is correct, there is urgent necessity now to accept my Resolution and to give subsidy to the agriculturists. You will find that in Canada, Australia, America, everywhere subsidy has been given to the poor agriculturist for growing more food. I believe the House knows that in America an attempt was made to bring in an anti-subsidy Bill, but the late President Roosevelt vetoed that Bill and subsidy was allowed to be given. It is only in India that the agriculturist has been neglected both by the Provincial and Central Government up till now, and I am very sorry to say that even the leaders of Political Parties did not take much interest in this matter. Sir, the arguments that have been advanced against this proposition of mine or that are likely to be advanced or that have been advanced in the past are two. The first is that there is no need of subsidy to be given to the agriculturist for growing more food because he gets a remunerative price. That is one argument; and the other argument that has been advanced some time ago in the other House was that the agriculturist gets much more price and that is a sufficient incentive to him to grow more. At the risk of repetition, because I referred to it in my speech on the Food Debate, I again want to stress the point here namely whether agriculturist gets a remunerative price for his produce. I will just cite the prices current in my province. In C.P. a maund of 40 seers of wheat is sold at the price of Rs. 10-4-0, rice at the price of Rs. 8, jowar at Rs. 7 and gram at Rs. 10. Now, Sir, I challenge any body to convince me if these rates are really remunerative. I know that the prices that I have given just now are double the prices that used to obtain before the war. (*An Hon. Member*: 3 or 4 times). No. These prices are double the prices of the pre-war rates. But the price of goods and services, of bullocks, of implements, the cost of labour, has gone about 4 or 5 times more over the pre-war level. If an agriculturist gets this price, do the Government really think that this price is remunerative? And then if he does not get a remunerative price, at the prices fixed by them, how is it possible for a farmer to grow more food, for he will naturally divert his land to cash crop; and unless and until you give him some incentive you will not be able to produce the foodgrains that are absolutely essential for maintaining the health of your population. Sir, the House knows that a large part of the population of India is half-starved. It is very unfortunate that though India is an agricultural country it should not be able to produce sufficient food for her population. But the fault lies with the Government. The British Government has been here for over 150 years. As I said in the beginning of my speech, we have got these Departments, regular Departments of Agriculture, from the year 1905. You may have our schemes on paper, you may have agricultural farms, but unless your improvements reach the farm and unless the farmer is in a position to purchase improved seed, manure, bullocks, etc. and adopt various improvements, you will not be able to benefit the farmer. I assure you that all that your reports claim to have done in this Department during the last 50 or 60 years has not even reached one per cent. of the agricultural population. I, therefore, submit, Sir that you may have various Committees, you may start Research Institutes in any number and you may bring any number of experts from England—and especially, Sir, the Government of India is very very fond of importing experts from outside; they are not fond of teaching their own nationals and making them experts in the interests of their own country—it won't solve the problem. But apart from that, Sir, if really we want experts we won't grudge them but we should have them on contractual basis. That is my personal view but I think that we should not import any more experts. We should train our young boys to be experts so that they will really understand the needs of the country and they will be able to serve their population.

Sir, my point is that your paper claims will not help in any way in increasing the produce of a farmer. You must have schemes. I do not want in any way to minimize the importance of your schemes but I am giving you the facts as they are. I am bringing to your notice the situation as it exists in a village. If you import tractors, if you produce fertilizers, if you can get all these things they are long-term programmes and for that purpose you will require a large number of additional staff. You will require that the agriculturist must understand things properly and then and then only after a very long time all your schemes will be successful. But if you really desire—and my Hon. friend the Food Member told us the other day that he wants to give a balanced diet to the population of India—if the Government really desire to give a balanced diet to the population of India, they must direct their attention to giving subsidies to the agriculturist and inducing him to grow more food.

Sir, I hope, as you also expressed, that there will not be a difference of opinion on this point and I hope the poor agriculturist will get substantial subsidies for growing more food. (*Applause.*)

Sir, I move.

THE HON. RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (Bihar : Non-Muhammadden):
 Sir, I have just a few words to say regarding this Resolution and in support of it. To my mind this Resolution is not of a type which requires a great deal of argument to convince people about the proposition it brings forward. During the last few years, we have seen in this country the spectacle of a particular type of propaganda known as the "Grow More Food Campaign." It has not, however, convinced many people as to how this "Grow More Food Campaign" has been or could have been of any material value either to the grower or the consumer. The reason for the futility of the "Grow More Food Campaign" is obvious. If more land is under cultivation today than was under the plough earlier the difference is the result of other forces. If the agriculturist has the necessary seeds, if he has the necessary pair of bullocks, and the necessary manure and market prices of grains are such as may be considered to be remunerative, the agriculturist does not need and shall not wait for the reaching of propaganda leaflets to him to induce him to grow and cultivate his field. Sir, in every trade, the greatest incentive and the most enduring incentive is the price that the commodity concerned fetches. Now, we have heard the Mover gave you some figures. The figures that he has quoted for rice, maize and other commodities do not very materially differ from those obtaining in other Provinces. The prices as they exist make it a matter of tragic experience to all agriculturists that they cannot make their agriculture pay. I can relate to you something about another Province, my own province, namely, Bihar where the Hon. Mr. Dhar himself worked for a very considerable time. Sir, he should be able to know that the prices of bullocks which were available at the biggest cattle fair held in India, that is Sonpur, were definitely seven times higher than what they were in 1923. Then the agriculturist in Bihar has never been able to afford to buy any manure in spite of what is asserted from many quarters that the prices were and are very remunerative to the agriculturist. He can very seldom, except on pain of semi-starvation, lay by any extra food-grains in order to go and sell it in the market. Close sits the shirt but closer sits the skin and not long ago we had the sad spectacle of the Bengal famine where millions died even when the Government of Bengal of the day had to tell their agent that he was to be paid a Commission not on the quantity of food-grains bought but on the price paid for the grain. The difficulty in obtaining grain was such that the Government of Bengal had to go in for that concession. But even on the top of that we had that terrible famine in Bengal, which will continue to shock our memories for years to come.

Then, Sir, the question naturally arises as to what is the way out of the difficulty? We have got to consider the present slender means of the agriculturist on the one side and the consumer on the other and then to find a way out of the difficulty, the solution is subsidy, we must either subsidize agriculture or subsidize the consumer. If we subsidize the consumer we waste our money because the consumer will pay the money out to the agriculturist who in the initial stages will not have got the funds

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to proceed with his agriculture and scarcity will continue. But, if we subsidize agriculture the grower will find the wherewithal to grow food and the consumer will be able to find the produce at a reasonably low price and shortage will very largely disappear. That Sir, is a very clear proposition. We must subsidize society at the proper place and time. We have the money available, we have unemployed labour, we have fallow land. You are going to abolish the E.P.T. People would need some avenue of investment. Your loans if floated, will sell in no time. I cannot easily find any difficulty, therefore, in Government accepting this Resolution, which gives an avenue to the man with money to invest, which opens out ways to the agriculturist to go and buy the material he needs for his agriculture, and makes food available at a more reasonable price to the general consumer. Sir, I heartily support the Resolution.

THE HON. MR. M. N. DALAL (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. President, the agricultural efficiency of this country has gone down materially during recent years, though to what extent it is difficult to tell. The reasons are paucity of able-bodied labour diverted to war activities and high prices of cattle, agricultural implements, manure, etc. The apparent prosperity of the cultivating classes due to high commodity prices has neither reflected in greater productivity nor in greater efficiency of production. The Government of India have accepted the responsibility for increasing the food resources of the country, and they must give the highest priority to measures designed to increase the productivity per acre and the measures designed to diminish chances due to the vagaries of nature. In England, direct subsidies have been given to the agriculturists to convert grass land into arable land. For instance: a subsidy of £2 per acre for conversion of grass land; ploughed up; £3 per acre for wheat or rye sown; £20 per acre for land previously devoted to flower growing if converted to food crops; assistance up to 50 per cent. of the expenditure required for drainage and ditching, and a subsidy of 50 per cent. on cost of agricultural land. The markets for all farm products have been controlled and the farmer is guaranteed an adequate return. The success of the policy is illustrated by the following results. The area under cultivation has increased in the course of three years by 6 million acres. The acreage under wheat has recorded a 35 per cent. increase; the area under potatoes has been expanded by 60 per cent. Taken as a whole, production has increased by 70 per cent. This is in England from a report published in 1944.

Mr. President, there are millions of acres of land in this country which are still lying fallow, and Government should lose no time in formulating a bold and comprehensive policy to that end. I am aware of the elaborate programme of Government, which is mostly a long-term programme. The programme, if I may repeat here, envisages facilities in goods and services necessary for increased production to primary producers; educating the cultivator in better methods of production; improving the standard of living; improved arrangements for storage; methods of pest control scientific processes to conservation and modernised and improved arrangements of transport; promoting village communications and vitalising co-operative marketing credit. The programme also envisages the need for establishing a permanent system of control to assure a market for the producer and equitable distribution of food to the consumer at prices fair to both. These, Sir, are admirable measures for a long-term scheme for growing more food. But for the imminent emergency there does not appear to be any direct financial help to the cultivator by way of an outright subsidy. When crores have been raised and spent in this war, when Government are borrowing this year as much as 300 crores of rupees to meet their budget requirements, I think it is a very fair and essentially sound suggestion that 10 crores more might be borrowed to be given through the provincial Governments as an outright free and direct subsidy to the agriculturist to encourage him to bring more uncultivated land under the plough and to convert cash crops into food-grains, which is the policy of the Government of India. Mr. President, I support the Resolution.

THE HON. RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH (Nominated Non-Official): Mr President, the Resolution which has been so ably moved by my HON. friend Mr. Kalikar asks for two things. One is that the Government of India should float a loan of Rs. 10 crores immediately, and the second is that the money thus raised should be used in subsidising agriculturists to grow more food. I am in entire agreement with the underlying idea of my Hon. friend the Mover of this Resolution that the grow more food movement should be encouraged. But I am afraid the procedure to be adopted is not quite clear. The following points will have to be decided before any action is taken:—

- (a) What will be the quota of each province and on what basis.
- (b) Who will select the agriculturists for the purpose of this subsidy.
- (c) How will the amount of subsidy be determined.

(d) Will the subsidy be given by the Government of India direct to the selected agriculturists. If so, which Department of the Government of India is to take up this additional work of selecting the agriculturists and of distributing 10 Crores to them.

(e) If the subsidy is to be given through some other agency, then who should that agency be and what would be the control of the Government of India.

(f) What would be the extra cost of this additional work. Will new staff be required for it.

(g) Will Local Governments have any say in the matter ?

Agriculture, as you know Sir, is a provincial subject. Circumstances differ from province to province. In view of all this, would it not be better to leave the raising of loans and the distribution of subsidies according to individual requirements to Local Governments? Already there is a good deal of duplication of work between the Centre and the Provinces. This extra work will entail still more the multiplication of files and extra cost. I would therefore request my Hon. friend Mr. Kalikar not to press this Resolution, and to leave it to be taken up by the Local Governments themselves.

***THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan):** Mr. President, the Resolution which my Hon. colleague Mr. Kalikar has moved is really divided up into two parts. Not only that, but one is the essential part, and the other is only a means to an end. What he really wants primarily is that the Government of India should set apart 10 crores of rupees for the purpose of subsidising agriculture, and secondarily, as a means to that end, that a loan should be floated for this purpose. The floatation of a loan is not the *sine qua non*, but merely a method, and I do not think that he or any of us would be very sorry if the Government refused to float a loan but set apart that amount from its existing balances.

THE HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: From the loan which they have already floated.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Yes, and which they are hoarding, according to the Indian Customs. This is infectious. This hoarding habit has permeated even the Government of India. Sir, my Hon. friend Mr. Dalal has given very cogent figures which show how agriculture can be supported and really made operative. Our condition is fast approaching the condition of England in the matter of self-sufficiency. We are not self-sufficient as far as food is concerned. This is the direct result, as I said last time, of the increase in population without a concomitant increase in the land under agriculture. For this purpose it is very essential that you should take up a scheme of subsidising agriculture in different shapes. The most effective shape is to give cheap water. The canal rate should be reduced. In most of the Provinces, — the Joint Secretary in the Agriculture Department will bear me out — the canal rate, irrigation is regarded as a head of

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income, where not only the interest is covered but some profit is also made. This is most obnoxious, for if you really wish to have a prosperous agriculture, the canal rate should be pitched so low as to help the agriculturist to grow more food.

THE HON. SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : Land tax ought to be reduced.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM ; Secondly, Sir, agriculture is in urgent need of manures. We are given manures at almost the cost price and it is said that a great benefit has been conferred on us by selling manure at cost price. But that is not the method to adopt. You must subsidise it in order to popularise it and make it available. You should try and sell it at a lesser price and special care should be taken that manures are used more for foodstuffs than for cash crops. Most of the manures which are being used today are being used for tobacco, for sugarcane and such other cash crops.

BRIGADIER THE HON. SIR HISSAMUDDIN BAHADUR : Flower gardens.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Yes, for flower gardens, especially when the Indian States are concerned. I was going to say, Sir, and I was glad to hear that others have repeated it, that the cattle prices in India are soaring so high that it is time now that subsidy cattle should be made available to the agriculturists so that they may be able to renew their stock and have better animals to work with. I have suggested, Sir, that Government should purchase tractors and hire them out to those who wish to use them. This is the system which they have adopted in Russia. There the Government have got tractor stations from which people get the tractors at very attractive rates for the purpose of cultivating their farm. Although I know that in India the system of small holdings is prevalent, still, in rabi cultivation we are sure that a lot of work could be taken from tractors. We are always face to face with "the penny wise and pound foolish" policy of the Government. They cannot spend a penny for the purpose of agriculture without counting up the depreciation, rent charge and this and that, so that the cost becomes so high that it is well nigh impossible for any agriculturist to avail himself of the facility offered by the Government of India. It is very necessary that this policy should be given the go-by. We are now entering on an era of new experiments, new ideas and new methods and you can only do it by scrapping all the old notions and embarking on a bold policy the object of which is to make India self-sufficient in the matter of food. I dislike the idea of taking the begging bowl to the United Nations and asking them for grants of wheat and rice. God has given us land enough and men enough to work. The only thing which is missing is the facility for agriculture. There is no irrigation available, there is not enough incentive available and it is these lacunae which must be filled up. I therefore heartily support the Resolution and hope that the Government will take effective steps to accept the ideas underlying it which means subsidising agriculture in order to produce more food.

FLT.-LT. THE HON. RUP CHAND (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to extend my whole-hearted support to the resolution moved by my Hon. friend, Mr. Kalikar, recommending the floating of 10 crore loan for subsidising agriculturists to grow more food-grains.

Sir, in my view, this is the most opportunate time for floating such a loan. In the first place, there is a great shortage of food-grains in our country and every step which will encourage the production of more food-grains should be taken without delay. Secondly, there is surplus money with certain sections of the people who are looking for suitable and safe means of investment. The floating of a loan at this moment will help to draw away the surplus money and will also act as a deflationary measure.

A study of the present position of Indian agriculture leads one to endorse the gloomy words of Dr. Clouston, former Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, that "Agriculture is one of the depressed industries of India". Judged by whatever standard—the size of the holdings, implements and fertilisers in use, system of rotation of crops, the quality of seeds, land improvements, marketing, organisation, and cattle conditions—agriculture in India is in an extremely backward condition. This is conclusively shown by excessively low yield per acre, which is only one-third or one-fourth of what is obtained in other countries.

We Indians are regarded as a poor people in a rich country, India is very rich in her natural resources, but these resources have not been fully utilised and developed as in other countries like U.S.A. and Russia. The need of agricultural improvements is urgent in India from every point of view. But the masses of the people who till the land are poor and cannot afford to buy new tools, implements or fertilisers. Hence the need of immediate financial assistance to agriculturists. If the proposed 10 crore loan is floated immediately and the money is used to subsidise agriculturists, it will help them to resort to intensive cultivation of land already under cultivation and will also give them means to bring under the plough land which so far has not been cultivated.

The loan which is recommended by the resolution now before the House should be used also to help the agriculturists in sinking more wells for irrigation purposes and also in building private tanks to provide against failure of rains. The loan can also be used to procure good manures and fertilisers which will increase the total production.

The loan will be a very good investment and will bring very good results. Increased production will not only relieve the food shortage but will also help to improve the economic conditions of the masses and raise their standard of living.

Sir, with these words I support the Resolution.

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

The Council re-assembled at Half Past Two of the Clock, the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal in the Chair.

THE HON. SIR RAMUNNI MENON (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, the food situation that prevails in the world today, as indeed the food problem that has been created by the war, has brought before our minds very vividly the important place which agriculture plays in every national economy. There prevails in all circles in this country today a very genuine desire to see agriculture made efficient and the lot of the agriculturist improved. But I think in our eagerness to promote measures which are intended to achieve these purposes, we should be very careful not to accept proposals without full consideration, and such consideration may often require the guidance of experts. Now, the particular proposal that is before us today is that the Government should raise a loan of 10 crores to be earmarked for subsidies to agriculturists. It was suggested in the course of the debate this morning that the particular method of obtaining this amount is a matter of minor importance; it was regarded only as a means to an end. To that contention I give my whole assent. I would suggest that we might extend the scope of that argument a little further. I suggest that the particular method that you select for encouraging agriculture is also only a means to an end. The end is the improvement of agriculture and whether you bring about that end by granting subsidies or in any other way is a matter of minor significance; and if my Hon. friend is particular on insisting upon the idea of "subsidy" it will be well for us to remember that under the schemes that are in operation at present very liberal grants are being made by way of subsidies. I am speaking subject to correction. I believe well sinking and the construction of tube-wells are subsidised; and for aught I know the bringing under cultivation of waste land is also an approved subject for the grant of subsidies. I believe in Madras they are paying Rs. 15 an acre under this head. I believe under the existing provisions there is ample scope for the grant of subsidies under one head or another. The substance of the Hon. Member's Resolution is simply this that we want to increase the amount available for helping agriculturists, either by subsidies or in some other way. We were told the other day that the Central Government have already spent something like over 10 crores and the amounts—I understand that the proportion is 50—50 under grants—which the Governments,

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Both Central and Provincial, have already spent on the Grow More Food campaign will come to somewhere about 14 crores. And in any case we have been assured that there would be no difficulty about finance at all. The Government are anxious to push on with the Grow More Food campaign ; and I do not see any reason why, taking the scheme of agricultural expansion in the short term plan we need be anxious that there will not be forthcoming sufficient funds. I said, Sir, that subsidies are only one way of encouraging agriculture. There are various other ways. For instance, the provision of water facilities, the supply of improved seed, the supply of manure—all sorts of measures are available, and I believe the Government are proceeding along all these lines. But the Hon. Mover's main point is, if I have understood him correctly, that the subsidy should be given to individual agriculturists in the form of money, not by providing him with water facilities or improved seed or manure. That is a matter which requires very careful consideration. In effect it means that you will be giving him a higher price than the market price for his agricultural produce, though I quite appreciate that this subsidy will be a lump sum payment and made only once, where as the price which he will get will be an annual receipt. On that point I have very definite views. I regard the present agricultural prices as very high ; they are sufficiently remunerative to the agriculturist. My friend tried to make out that agriculturists are suffering. As far as I am able to judge, the larger growers and the medium growers have succeeded to a very large extent in wiping off their pre-war debt. If there is any section of growers still in debt, it is the smaller growers. Obviously the smaller grower suffers from certain handicaps. He cannot buy his instruments of production, particularly bullocks. Well, the remedy for that is obviously not to give a subsidy but to make cheap credit available to him—both long-term credit and short-term credit. I consider, Sir, that the Government can help agriculture in various ways and particularly by providing facilities for improved cultivation, like water supply, improved seeds, manure. If the Rs. 10 crores that my Hon. friend recommends were spent on establishing in this country big fertilizer factories the Government will be doing by that one act far more than they could by any other means to increase agricultural output. I know there are practical difficulties in establishing these factories, but if it can be done it would be one of the best way of promoting agriculture.

My Hon. friend referred to prices. Now if we fix high prices for agricultural products we are entering into a vicious circle which will ultimately recoil on agriculturists themselves. Agricultural prices are the main element in the cost of living of any individual. If rice and wheat have to be bought at high prices, where does it lead ? The labourer who is turning out consumption goods for the use of the agriculturist from implements for his production and consumption goods like cloth for his living, will demand higher wages naturally. Higher wages means increased price for the products which he turns out and those are the very products that the farmer has to buy and he will in his turn have to raise his prices higher ; to meet his increased cost so the whole thing works out in a vicious circle. I disapprove entirely of the scheme or proposal which starts from the point that agricultural prices must be very high. I do not agree with that at all. I concede that the agriculturist must have a remunerative return : that is an entirely different proposition. You can make the return remunerative by supplying the agriculturist with consumer goods at cheap rates. We can do that by reducing the cost of production in industries in general. In fact, the whole economic problem is how to gradually bring down the general level of prices in this country ; and general level includes agricultural prices as well as the prices of other essential consumer goods. That is the fundamental problem with which we are faced. I may further point out that the question of prices is not a thing which we can decide arbitrarily for to a certain extent they will have to depend upon international levels of prices. That is a matter on which at present it will be impossible for anybody to express any opinion. It seems to me that agricultural prices also will have to depend upon international prices.

For these reasons, I think it is very undesirable for us to accept the very specific proposition that a loan of Rs. 10 crores should be raised and that the whole of the

amount should be given to agriculturists in the form of subsidies. - There is one point, however, on which I am in perfect agreement with previous speakers. We must protect the agriculturist in the event of a general fall in agricultural prices. Such a contingency is likely to happen in a world depression. Against that we cannot now make any provision. All that we can do is to watch the trend of trade and economic activities in the world and adjust our own domestic policy suitably. I feel, therefore, Sir, that while the ultimate object which my Hon. friend has in view is one with which we should all sympathize, the particular proposal that he has put forward before us is one which cannot be adjudged without fuller and probably expert examination.

THE HON. MR. SURPUT SINGH (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution—so important a Resolution—moved by my Hon. friend Mr. Kalikar. The Resolution asks Government to float a loan of Rs. 10 crores only for the whole of India. India is an agricultural country, and, in respect of her food products is not self-sufficient as will be evident from the report of the Famine Enquiry Commission. They have recommended the bringing of waste land under cultivation. The British Government in India has been governing us for the last 200 years and we are still in the same primitive condition or rather worse I may say, the quantity of our produce has deteriorated. Whenever there is any shortage of rain, or some unforeseen calamity as cyclone or something else, we are short of food, as would be evident from our present position when we have had to send a Food Delegation to America for begging food for India, which by itself is capable of producing a surplus quantity of food. It will be evident, Sir, that we produce only 650 lbs. to 900 lbs. per acre of rice, while Japan produces 2,300 lbs. per acre, Egypt 2,000, America 1,500, Italy 3,000 and Spain 5,000 lbs. per acre that is due to our old methods of cultivation. There are about 10 million acres of waste land, out of which we can easily cultivate 2 to 3 million acres of land and increase the produce of our lands. England, Sir, a few years back before the war, produced only 30 per cent of the foodgrains required by the United Kingdom, but in a few years' time she has increased her production by improved methods and constant rigidity and application of new methods and fertilizers to the extent of 70 per cent. of her needs. I ask, Sir, why cannot we produce the same quantity? We here have difficulties about rainfall, about irrigation, and so on. The request made for 10 crores is a very modest one and it may be taken as a fund to start with, and it may be applied in such manner as may be recommended in the post-war development project. Before applying the money, a committee should be formed and programmes prepared on proper lines. Besides subsidies for cultivation of food crops, an adequate amount should be paid to agriculturists to induce them to bring under cultivation the waste land that is available, and also for the purpose of sinking tube-wells, digging tanks, canals, and so on wherever possible. There is also difficulty in getting good seeds. If the Agricultural Departments in India act on the lines on which they do in England, I think we also can produce the same quantity.

Finally, Sir, I beg to suggest that where by advancing Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per acre agriculturists cannot be induced to bring under cultivation available waste land, they should be paid the full cost of cultivation, half of which may be recovered from them after the harvesting of the crop. Moreover, they should not be made to undergo so much difficulty in securing the subsidy as in the Grow More Food scheme whereof the amounts made available for advancing to the agriculturist more than half went into the pockets of the agencies through whom the money was to be distributed. The other day the Food Secretary announced that Government would be pleased to pay half the cost of sinking tube-wells. I do not know what will be the amount required, but to my mind it will be not less than Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 per tube-well, but it is out of the question for the agriculturist to invest even Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. They should be paid the entire amount required for sinking a tube-well, and half of it may be recovered from them after they have started growing food.

The request made in the Resolution is a very modest one, and I think the Government should take the initiative in acting in accordance with the request made by my Hon. friend Mr. Kalikar. With these words, I beg to support the Resolution.

*THE HON. M. THIRUMALA ROW (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. Chairman, I want to know whether the Hon. the Mover meant his proposition as a long-range one or as a short-term one.

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR: Short-term. I made that clear in the very beginning of my speech.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW: I am sorry I was away on some other business when the Hon. Member spoke.

I do not know, Sir, whether in the present circumstances this question of stepping up food production in the country should be treated as a Central matter or whether it should be treated as a provincial matter. In several provinces Ministries have been formed after the recent elections, and in some others Ministries are going to be formed very soon. Agriculture is a provincial subject. It is entirely under the control of provincial Ministries. But we have got an all-India organisation the Food Department, functioning here, as a central institution, trying to procure and distribute food. Therefore, where the jurisdiction of the one will overlap or will telescope into the jurisdiction of the other is not quite clear. Sources of irrigation and all the means of enhancing the production of this country in the agricultural field are entirely controlled by Provincial Governments. We have had some sad experience of the grow more food campaign that has been organised under the auspices of the Central Government hitherto. In my own place, I know, when lands which were in the delta, within easy reach of the water coming from the Godavari, were sought to be cultivated. The Revenue Department and the Executive created innumerable obstacles—most unconsciously, because they were not accustomed to expeditious despatch of business. Lands which were fit to be cultivated in one or two months, were not allowed to come under cultivation under the grow more food scheme, because the files did not move quickly from one office to another. If the same thing is going to be repeated in the administration of this 10 crores—provided the Central Government is generous enough to grant it—then I do not think it is worth the trouble.

The underlying idea seems to be a system of grants to be given to the provinces and distributed by them. I do not know why a separate loan is required to be raised for the purpose of getting Rs. 10 crores. The Government is rich enough. It has made a present of 67 crores to the capitalists of this country by abolishing the excess profits tax. They can very well cut a small hole into it and save Rs. 10 crores and distribute it among the provinces which have got responsible governments, or are going to have them shortly. Certainly the Provincial Governments will welcome any subsidy from the Centre. This subsidy should be distributed to the provinces on the basis of the area brought under cultivation where the largest acreage is brought under cultivation in any province, the largest amount of subsidy should be given to that province from the Centre. But in what way the subsidy is going to be utilised is not clear to me. In Madras, for instance, to get over the immediate difficulty, they have set a time limit—that within the next two or three months, before May, short-term crops of *cholam* and *ragi* should be grown in the upland regions, and Government will give a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre after the crop is established and there is a fair certainty of reaping it. I am not very well conversant with the conditions prevailing in other parts of the country; I do not know if this season is favourable elsewhere for the growing of such short-term crops in order to relieve the pressure of the food situation in the near future.

With regard to water-courses, a widespread movement is set afoot for digging Artesian wells, and I think some wells are programmed to be dug in the United Provinces and in other parts of the country. This amount can very well be utilised for subsidising the digging of wells also.

With regard to the purchase of bulls and other things, I am not sure that it is such an easy matter, because the problem is a long range one of eliminating useless cattle and producing better stock that will be able to stand the strain of intensive cultivation. With regard to the other arrangements, I am not sure how far these will help in increasing the food supply. But, as an experiment, I think these

Rs. 10 crores might be tried. I feel that it is very small. The Provincial Governments should be entrusted with a survey of the available land and with the possibilities of intensive cultivation of the same land, and getting a greater yield than what is being got out of the same land. Further, Sir, I am afraid that the fragmentation into small bits of land all over the country is one of the insuperable difficulties at present to any plan of food production on a large scale. The Provincial Governments should seriously consider consolidating these holdings into a minimum of, say, 25 or 30 or 50 acres and encouraging groups of villages, to enter into a co-operative system of production and supplying them with seeds, manure tractors, bulls, water supply and every other necessity which is required for such a consolidated method of production. In view of the impending changes that are bound to come, I think that Government will take a note that the desire of this House is that a subsidy in some form must be given to the cultivator in order to produce more food. The Food Member the other day in an elaborate speech has put down the subsidizing of the food supply as one of the items of his programme. My friend Mr. Kalikar comes here with a concrete proposition that this should be one of the main items to be taken up immediately. But somehow my feeling is that we can wait for a little more time. When there is greater responsibility installed in the Centre, in co-ordination with the responsible Governments that are bound to come, and have already come into existence in some Provinces, an all-India policy can be evolved of not only the long-term production but also of short-term production by intensifying and exploring all avenues of production, whether of food-stuffs or vegetables or grains, which will enable us to tide over the present emergency and also make a beginning for a long range programme. With these words, Sir, I have pleasure in supporting the Resolution.

THE HON. RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS (East Bengal : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, I hail from Bengal. I know it to my bitterest experience what famine means. If you want to avoid what happened in Bengal, if you want to give an incentive to the "Grow More Food" campaign, if you want to make the agriculturist solvent enough to purchase manures and new types of implements for increasing his production, you should comply with the modest demand made by my esteemed friend Mr. Kalikar. Sir, India is called a sub-continent and it is an agricultural country. It is a matter of deep regret that there should be a deficit of food-grains in it. This is mainly due to absence of proper manure, absence of education of the agriculturist, and absence of proper implements. We are very glad to hear from the Food Secretary that they are taking steps for sinking tube-wells. But there is no talk about the amalgamation of holdings. That is the greatest draw-back in our country. Sir, I would suggest the setting up of an Economic Board by the Central Government to devise ways and means how to amalgamate the holdings, as was being done in Ireland. I came to know this from Sir John Anderson, the ex-Governor of Bengal, that there was a lot of inquiry there and these holdings were amalgamated. You can have exchange of holdings from one tenant to another to increase the area of a holding so that a new type of tractors may be used to ensure better production and quantity and you can import chemical manures from abroad to ensure good quality of produce. Sir, my esteemed friend, Raja Charanjit Singh, talked about the procedure to be followed in the distribution of any sum that may be granted by the Government. We have got a machinery to distribute, but as to the *pro rata* basis pointed out by my Honourable friend on my left, I would suggest that this money should be distributed on the basis of the agricultural land area in the Province. With these words I support the Resolution.

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL : We would like to hear Mr. Dhar, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN. (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Would the Government Member in charge prefer to reply at this stage ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES (Finance Secretary) : This Resolution is financial in form and I would probably be regarded as the Government Member in charge. But my interest in this particular Resolution is secondary and I suggest that Mr. Dhar might speak on behalf of the Agriculture Department.

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR (Nominated Official) : Sir, as the Hon. the Senior Secretary, Finance Department, has just pointed out, he will be dealing with the financial aspect of the Resolution. Actually, the Resolution, as it stands, has a distinct financial bearing although the object is purely agricultural. I shall deal with the agricultural aspect of the problem. The Agricultural Department, Sir, has nothing to say against the object of the Resolution. The object of the Resolution, as explained by the Hon. the Mover, is to induce the agriculturists to grow more food and to make India self-sufficient by growing sufficient food for her population. There can be no difference at all with regard to this aspect of the Resolution. Coming to the question of subsidy, this Department has always welcomed any scheme of subsidy or assistance in any other form which will help materially in increasing the food supply. In this matter of food supply we have had the unstinted support and assistance of the Finance Department and I do not think, Sir, that a single scheme sent up by the Provincial Governments has been turned down or held up for want of funds. The Resolution as it stands, therefore, appears to us to be quite unnecessary.

Sir, the Hon. the Agriculture Member, in his speech on the food debate, gave the House an idea of the activities of the Department in the matter of increasing food supply. I should like to go into a little more detail to show how the problem is being tackled and the manner in which subsidy and other assistance is being given to the agriculturists. That will probably enable the House to appreciate the problem fully and decide as to the best manner in which we can bring about the object that we have in view.

I was not going to deal with the question of what they have done in England to increase food production. But, you, Sir, as a member of the House, as well as the Hon. Mr. Surput Singh, have drawn our attention to what they have done in England and asked why we cannot do the same here in India. I do not propose to minimise what England has done; what they have done is extremely creditable. But I would only submit that the conditions there were much more favourable. As you know, Sir, in the United Kingdom as a result of their industrial policy, the policy of *laissez faire*, they decided to depend mainly on imported food stuffs for their living, and in course of time their arable land came down to something like a third of what it was before and nearly two-thirds were converted into grass lands. When the present problem came up, it was a much simpler matter for a country which had a vast area of arable land lying fallow merely overgrown with grass, with plenty of water to bring that back into cultivation. There was no question of water difficulty. It was a question of their industrial potential being turned on to agricultural machinery, fertilisers, etc., to put them on land and turn it into cultivation. In the United Kingdom there was no question of irrigation; only in certain areas the surplus water had to be drained out. Here again they had the machinery and plant to excavate big canals to drain out water. For them it was a much simpler problem, as far as I know, than we had to face in India. I might in this connection point out that in the United Kingdom the percentage—it was pointed out by Sir Pheroze Kharegat in the Assembly—at the beginning of the war of cultivated land was only 11 per cent of their total area and they have increased that to 20 per cent. Now, Sir, in this country we are faced with an entirely different proposition. The pressure of increasing population has left very little surplus land which could be readily brought under the plough under normal conditions that is the conditions under which we have been carrying on in the past. There has been a good deal of talk about the so-called culturable waste lands and I have heard that mentioned in the House here today. Coming from a Province as I do only recently, I had occasion to look into this matter, and my view is also supported by a recent survey held in one district in U.P. We find that these so-called culturable waste lands include grazing grounds, mango groves, unprotected private forests, etc. These areas cannot obviously be turned into cultivation. The remaining areas consist largely of shrub jungles, swamps or sandy flooded tracts with deep-rooted grass or lands rendered fallow by erosion or regular draught and in some cases by want of labour through malaria infestation. The reclamation

of such areas involves major irrigation, drainage, river-training, anti-erosion or anti-malaria measures, which take time. These are things which cannot be done in a day. They also require expert staff and machinery. None of these were readily available in this country. Even for dealing with deep-rooted grass, which is the simplest, we are held up for want of tractors, as Sir Pheroze the other day explained to a Press Conference. We have been trying for the last three years and against our requirement of several thousand tractors we have succeeded in getting only 80. All the world over manufacturers are wanting tractors for their own country and it is extremely difficult for India to get these plants. We are up against these problems, Sir. We have to tackle them, but they will take time. Now, for the immediate purpose of getting land converted into agricultural land, we have to depend very largely on what we call marginal lands which form only a very small fraction of the so-called culturable waste land and we also have to depend on the conversion of a part of our commercial crops into food crops—a point which was referred to by the Hon. the Mover. And lastly—and this is extremely important—we have to depend on improvement in the standard of our cultivation by better irrigation and drainage, better seeds and manures, besides encouraging the production of other kinds of food. I think the Hon. Mr. Row has emphasised the importance of increasing the yield of our land; and I feel, Sir, improving the seeds, using proper fertilisers, providing better irrigation, these are the ways in which we can obtain the quickest and the largest results both on marginal land and land which is already available for cultivation.

Now, Sir, as pointed out by the Hon. Raja Charanjit Singh and the Hon. Mr. Row, agriculture being a provincial subject, we have to depend on the Provinces for the drawing up and the execution of the schemes, and the Centre has to function mainly in an advisory capacity. But the Centre has readily been contributing on an average 50 per cent. of the cost of all provincial Grow More Food schemes. As I pointed out before, not a single scheme which came up from the Provinces has been turned down for want of funds and we have been egging the Provinces on to go ahead and come up with schemes which can add to the food supply of the country. For the information of the House I might give them an idea of the manner in which assistance is being rendered to the growers, either in the shape of subsidy or by some other means, direct or indirect. Firstly, as was pointed out by the Hon. the Mover himself, we have been giving a subsidy of Rs. 2 per acre for every acre of land that is turned over from short staple cotton into food crops. This subsidy has since been increased to Rs. 4 per acre. I think the Hon. the Mover said that as a result of this subsidy 6 lakhs acres of land have been diverted from cotton to foodgrains. But I think the figure is much more than that. My information is that 5 million acres—

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR: I spoke about the C. P. Six lakhs acres of land were diverted to food crops in the C. P.

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: In 1942-43 as a result of that subsidy 5 million acres of land were diverted from cotton to food crops, and subsequently up to date the figures are 9 million acres—a very substantial addition to the food supply of the country. It might be said that this figure may not be reliable. But I might point out that the figure entirely relates to the temporarily settled areas where we have an elaborate system of keeping land records and there is no reason to think that the figure is exaggerated. Incidentally, Sir, this is one of the items in which Government have definitely accepted the policy of giving subsidy when they can get land converted into food crops, which is the main object of the Hon. Mover of the Resolution. Recently the Government of Bombay have offered a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre to cultivators with well-irrigated lands for growing a hot weather crop on their land. This is a sort of catch crop between the two main crops.

I am told that a similar scheme—I think it was repeated by Mr. Thirumala Row today—had been adopted in Madras, though we have not yet received a report from Madras on the subject. Well, Sir, the Agriculture Department will welcome if other Provinces also adopt similar schemes to encourage catch crops and come up for grants and subsidies to help them to carry them through.

THE HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR : Do Government of India give any help to the Bombay Government in regard to the latter's Rs. 15 per acre subsidy ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR : They have not come up with any proposals. We shall be glad to consider them.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Any scheme from Bihar ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR : No scheme has come up from Bihar.

Now, Sir, the other big item in which the Centre has been helping is the loans required by Provincial Governments for the Grow More Food campaign. These loans are being granted by the Centre free of interest for a period of three years. This acts as an indirect subsidy to the cultivator and is being advanced to him either in cash or kind and the cultivator is getting the benefit of this remission of interest.

Then the Centre is granting 50 per cent. of the cost of all additional provincial staff, including cost of training, engaged in the Grow More Food campaign.

The Centre is also paying 50 per cent. of the cost incurred in multiplication and distribution of improved seeds in the shape of premium (up to about 20 per cent.) to the growers who produce pedigree seeds and also bearing 50 per cent. of any loss suffered from the time that seeds are produced and go back to the actual cultivator. Now, Sir, this is also a kind of subsidy although you cannot call it a direct subsidy.

Then, Sir, the Centre is paying 50 per cent. of the subsidy granted to the cultivators towards the cost of all types of manures, either to make them economic or to popularize their use. Now this subsidy applies to chemical fertilizers, oil cakes, compost from town refuse, as well as seeds for green manuring. I think, Sir, the Hon. Mr. Hossain Imam had pointed out that it is not sufficient to sell fertilizers at cost price, but actually a very big rebate—up to 50 per cent. is being granted on the sale of these fertilizers and the Central Government is bearing 50 per cent. of that loss.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM. Does it include oil cakes ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR : It varies from Province to Province. Again I must point out that agriculture being a provincial subject whatever proposal comes up from a Province is examined by us. If we find that it is on the right lines we accept it and make a contribution roughly on the 50 per cent. basis. Some provinces have come up with their proposals ; some of them have not come. Most of them have come up for fertilizers.

The Centre is prepared to pay 50 per cent. of the cost of land development or reclamation of culturable land. Subsidy to the agriculturist in this case is allowed up to 50 per cent., further liberal subsidy being granted where the land has to be broken up or deep-rooted grass eradicated. Now, as I was pointing out, much of our culturable waste land requires this treatment. A small subsidy will not help the cultivator to convert such land into agriculture ; so in this case a very large share of the cost is borne by Government and the Centre bears half the cost.

Similarly, the Centre is paying 50 per cent. of all contour ridging or anti-erosion schemes where the agriculturist has to be very liberally subsidized. I know, Sir, in Bihar we are putting up an anti-erosion scheme to cover 25,000 acres and the entire cost of the scheme is being borne by Government. In the case of some of these demonstration schemes the entire cost is being borne by Government, 50 per cent. of it being paid from the Centre. Now this is hereby a direct subsidy to the cultivator. It is being done simply because it is beyond his means to carry out work of this magnitude.

In respect of emergency irrigation and drainage projects also the agriculturists are being heavily subsidized, the Centre paying to the extent of 50 per cent. of the net cost. These include construction and repair of ordinary wells, tube-wells, tanks, irrigation canals and distributaries, construction of head-works, lift irrigation schemes for pumping water from rivers, drainage projects, contour bunds, etc.

Similarly, in respect of schemes for the development of fruits, milk, poultry, fish, etc., in many of which the producer is being subsidized, the Centre is bearing 50 per cent. of the cost.

In the three years from 1943-44, the Central Government have sanctioned to the Provinces loans to the extent of about Rs. 5 crores and grants to the extent of over Rs. 4½ crores. As I have pointed out before, the Province comes in for almost an equal share; so the total amount which is being actually spent, apart from loans is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 9 crores.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: During what period these grants were made?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: During the three years 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46.

Now, Sir, out of that Rs. 9 crores, Rs. 6 crores represents subsidy to agriculturists. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Mover to this point that out of Rs. 9 crores, Rs. 6 crores represents subsidies to the agriculturists in some form or other. I have tried to work out that figure myself from the various data. It is extremely difficult to get an exact figure but I find that Rs. 6 crores out of the expenditure will go to the cultivator in the shape of subsidy in some form or other.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: What is the area under cultivation in India?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: About 200 million acres in British India. I am coming to that.

Now, Sir, I would like to point out that the proposal in the Resolution is for raising a loan of Rs. 10 crores for subsidizing agriculturists.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: In one year.

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: It will be seen from the above that the principle of subsidy has been accepted and as I have said Government will be prepared to consider any other schemes of subsidy or assistance in any other shape that may be sent up by the Provincial Governments.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of area that has been raised by the Hon. Mr. Hossain Imam, I would also like to say a few words on the area brought under cultivation and the results attained. The figures of the area brought under cultivation have been the subject of considerable criticism. We have been trying our best to get at a figure which we can accept as reliable and place before the House. I want to give some calculation to satisfy the House that the figures we have arrived at are safe figures. As I said before, the total cotton land brought under foodgrains is 9 million acres. This is an absolutely reliable figure as it all relates to temporarily settled areas where careful and up to date records are maintained.

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Out of how much is that?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: Out of a total of 24 million acres.

Now, coming to the other additional area which has come under cultivation as a result of our efforts, and I should say also as a result of the high prices, I think the following conclusion can be fairly drawn. We have got returns from the Provinces showing culturable waste-land. We find that the culturable waste-land in temporarily settled areas has gone down from 77.5 to 75.2 million acres, i.e., by 2½ million acres in the first two years of the Grow More Food campaign. We have got figures up to 1943-44 and later figures are not yet available but even accepting those figures we find a decrease of 2½ million acres. I propose to leave out the permanently settled areas of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa where we have got absolutely no reliable records and I can vouch for that coming from that area. But taking the temporarily settled provinces alone, we find that the culturable waste-land had decreased from 77.5 million acres to 75.2 million acres, giving an increase of 2½ million acres in cultivated land.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: During what period ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: Up to 1943-44.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: What does the Hon. Member compare it with ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: With 1938-39. That is really the average of two or three years up to 1938-39. Comparing that with the position reached in 1943-44, we find a decrease of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million acres in culturable waste-land, which is mostly marginal land, which has come under cultivation.

THE HON. MR. M. THIRUMALA ROW: How do you arrive at these figures ? Have you had a survey made ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: These are taken from reports in respect of temporarily settled areas. On account of the revenue, careful records are maintained in respect of these areas. As I said, I have excluded the permanently settled areas where no records are kept. I am referring only to temporarily settled estates.

THE HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: How much of it was not cultivated ? In other words, have you compared the area sown in 1938-39 with the area sown now ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: I am coming to that. I will explain it. That is our check.

Then, Sir, there is another head which was also referred to by some Hon. Members. That is current fallows. Now, we find, again with regard to the temporarily settled estates, that the current fallow has gone down from 33.9 million acres to 32.6 million acres, which means a reduction of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres—it is a little more, but I will stick to the lower figure—in current fallow: in other words, an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres in cultivated land. So, the two together give an increase of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres in cultivated land. That much additional land has been brought under cultivation.

Coming now to the point raised by the Hon. Pandit Kunzru, we had the above figure checked back with the actual area cultivated. Having got the figure, we wanted to be sure that it is not entirely wrong. Taking the cultivated area, again with regard to the temporarily settled estates, we find that the area of cultivated land has increased from 162 million acres—excluding Bengal, Bihar and Orissa—in the same period to 166 million acres, showing an increase of 4 million acres. So, working from the additional land brought under cultivation, we are getting $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, and working on the additional marginal area sown during the same period, we get 4 million acres. So, I would submit that we can safely accept $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres—the lower figure—as the addition to our cultivated land.

Now, taking the 9 million acres of cotton land diverted to food crops, which I have given previously, and this $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres which I have just given, we get 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ million acres which represents the addition to our cultivated area, and which is about 6 per cent. of our cultivation. Now, Sir, that 6 per cent. sounds very small. But when you think of the problem—I do not say that we have achieved all that we wanted to—it is not inconsiderable. As I pointed out, in England, from 11 per cent. cultivated land they have made it up to 20 per cent.; we have made up from 36 per cent. to 39 per cent. But considering the magnitude of our problem and the difficulties that we had with staff, with machinery, with everything that we have come up against, and the shortage of land, I think it has to be conceded that some progress has been made.

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: What is the total area of culturable waste-land for the whole of India ?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: The total area for the whole of British India is about 92 million acres, as pointed out by one of the Hon. Members in this House

this afternoon; and 45 million acres is the current fallow. It is of that that I was speaking. I am overlooking altogether Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and I am then arriving at the figure of 12½ million acres.

It is not possible to assess correctly the increase in yield obtained from better irrigation, better seeds and manures. But here also I would say that there must have been some appreciable result. We have seen ourselves—and I was dealing with the problem in Bihar—that wherever fertilizers have been used the yield has gone up considerably; we have seen that the application of one maund of ammonium sulphate per acre very definitely increased the yield by at least 25 per cent. One suggestion was made, again I think by the Hon. Mr. Hossain Imam, that most of the fertilizers went to the cash crops. I can assure Mr. Hossain Imam from my experience in Bihar that we have definitely earmarked not more than a certain quantity for allotment to the factories for sugarcane or for cash crops, and the rest is being put down for growing paddy.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Do Government claim that the entire increase in the cultivated area since 1938-39 is due to the Grow More Food campaign?

THE HON. MR. S. M. DHAR: I think I qualified myself right at the beginning. I anticipated this question and I had said "the Grow More Food campaign and the increase in prices". Along with the prices, we have also, I think, to give credit to the Grow More Food campaign. Much of this area has been brought under cultivation because of the irrigation facilities and the seeds and other facilities which have been subsidised by Government.

As I said before, we have made only a beginning, and there is yet much to be done. What we require most is organisation, staff, machinery and utilization of the resources of the country in producing power, fertilizers, implements, etc. As I have said before, the problem is not one of finance, for we have been able to find all the money that we require. This Department will be prepared to consider proposals for any other suitable form of subsidy sent up by Provincial Governments, and the question of finance is not expected to stand on the way. I submit, in the circumstances, that the Resolution as it stands is not necessary.

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES (Finance Secretary): Sir, the object of this Resolution, as defined by the Hon. Mover, is to induce the agriculturist to grow more food as a matter of immediate urgency. That objective, Sir, as my Hon. friend Mr. Dhar has said, is also the Government's. Relying on the terms of the Resolution, and as shown by the debate, another implication of this Resolution is that financial considerations should not be allowed to stand in the way of the attainment of the objective. Again the Government unreservedly and wholeheartedly agree. But when we agree that financial considerations should not be allowed to stand in the way of the attainment of that objective, that does not necessarily mean that financial considerations should be entirely disregarded and thrown to the winds. For instance, we conceived it of some assistance to subsidise the switch from cultivation of short-staple cotton to cultivation of foodgrains, and we gave a direct cash subsidy for that purpose to the short-staple cotton growers of Rs. 2 an acre, which has now been enhanced to Rs. 4 an acre; and we have secured extremely valuable results from the expenditure of that money. If we were to do the same thing in Bengal to stimulate a switch from the cultivation of jute to the cultivation of rice, that money would be entirely wasted so far as advantage to the public is concerned, because, as things stand at present, the cultivation of paddy in Bengal is so highly remunerative that whatever target of production of jute the Bengal Government lay down is not reached for the simple reason that it is more profitable to grow paddy. Therefore, Sir, I maintain that while we take the line that we will not allow financial considerations to stand in the way of dealing with the present food emergency, we must couple it with a caution that the money is well spent on useful schemes and that financial considerations are not entirely disregarded.

As I mentioned just now in a temporary interlude in this debate, the Resolution, as worded, has a financial basis or aspect which throws upon me the onus of replying to the debate, and while listening to the discussion I got the impression from certain

[Sir Cyril Jones]

speakers that they are proceeding on the basis that money is all that is required to solve our present difficulties. That, Sir, is obviously not true. Money may be a powerful weapon but there is much that it cannot do. For instance, the Hon. Mr. Hossain Imam said, "God has given us land and God has given us men" and he had the strongest objection to going with a begging bowl to the Combined Food Board in Washington asking for rice. God has given us land and God has given us men, but if God withholds his bounty of rain and if the waters of the Cauvery cease to flow and the Mettur Reservoir runs dry it does not matter whether we make a provision of Rs. 10 crores in this Budget or Rs. 100 crores or Rs. 1,000 crores, the Tanjore Delta will not produce its bounty of rice and paddy. That, of course, is rather stressing the obvious. But I submit, Sir, that the same considerations apply in other directions in this field. Provision of money will not enable manure to be produced *ad infinitum*; provision of money will not enable tractors to be brought into the country or made in the country or utilised when there is a world shortage of tractors. Unlimited provision of money will not promote the development, production and distribution of improved seeds beyond what our trained man-power resources can supervise and bring about. But, during the course of the debate, I was forcibly struck by the aspect which was stressed by the Hon. Raja Charanjit Singh; in particular, that certain speakers talk loosely about giving a subsidy without defining what they have in mind, on what basis they would give the subsidy, by whom it should be distributed and so on. Members talk rather loosely about agriculture being un-munerative and ryots not being able to cultivate at a profit. Both the Hon. Mover and the Hon. Et.-Lieut. Rup Chand said, "Give a subsidy to the agriculturist and he will cultivate his existing lands more intensively and he will bring new lands, at present uncultivated, under cultivation" which seemed to imply that they had at the back of their minds the grant of an overall subsidy on the production of all foodgrains, so that the production of foodgrains may be made more profitable. Now when we equate this to the demand that Rs. 10 crores should be raised by loan and distributed by way of subsidies, if it were on that basis, I have made a rough calculation which shows that we could give the cultivator an extra one anna a maund for his produce, or perhaps a little less, but certainly not more. That again, I would submit, Sir, would be a sheer waste of money. I hold firmly to the view and I understand that the Hon. Pandit Kunzru, by his recent interjection when the Hon. Mr. Dhar was speaking, shares that view, that the biggest and the most direct incentive to foodgrain production at the present time is the existing high level of agricultural prices. The very high level at which foodgrain prices stand at present should ensure that all the land which is normally cultivable is fully cultivated according to present agricultural practice. But Governments, both Central and Provincial, are out to improve very much on that position. They are out to improve both the yield per acre of existing lands and to bring under cultivation lands at present uncultivated and that is where, with discretion and judgment, financial assistance can most usefully be employed, and where it is an actual fact being employed. As my Hon. friend Mr. Dhar explained, we are in fact subsidising an increase in the area under foodgrain cultivation by paying very substantial subsidies towards the cost of anti-erosion measures, contour bunding, ridging and so on, jungle clearance and other forms of land reclamation, and grants for switch-over from cash crops to foodgrains. We are also giving considerable assistance to various means of improving the yield per acre, such as by concentrating on maximum efforts towards the production and distribution of improved seeds; increased supply of fertilisers and manures of all kinds; free distribution of seeds for green manure plants; by subsidising the construction of wells and other minor irrigation schemes; and last, but not least, by training and employing the additional agricultural staff which will supervise these various activities and also assist in the control and prevention of pests and diseases of crops both in the field and in storage. These are the lines on which Governments are moving. The measures are essentially within the Provincial field and the Centre has to rely largely on the Provinces for initiative and action. But the Central Government is giving every assistance and every encouragement to Provinces to produce schemes and to get ahead with them on practically a standing assurance that whatever the cost of them, the Centre will go half-and-half. That, briefly, Sir, is the line on which Government are acting.

And now I would like to come to the terms of the Resolution. The Resolution asks Government to float a loan for Rs. 10 crores. I ask, why Rs. 10 crores, because I have got no answer to that question during the debate. Rs. 10 crores might be less than the amount that can be usefully spent in the coming year or it might be more. It would be the flukiest of flukes if the amount that you can raise by loan at a given time happened to be just the right amount that you can usefully spend for a given object. What is the purpose of suggesting that we should raise a loan of Rs. 10 crores? As the House is well aware, the Government of India are, and for some time have been, engaged on an all-out borrowing programme. We are borrowing from the Indian people and the Indian market every rupee that we can raise by way of borrowed funds. By floating a separate loan, an *ad hoc* loan, for 10 crores at the present time we should get no more loan money, no more resources, while for the reason that our borrowing programme is designed on an over-all basis both as regards terms and as regards timings of our various loans so as to raise the maximum amount of loan money, the intrusion of a particular loan of 10 crores on our over-all borrowing policy would hinder rather than help the raising of loan money. Then I would ask, what object would be gained by earmarking the proceeds of a particular loan for a particular purpose? It seems to me essentially unsound to create special channels of receipts in the public fisc which would run direct into expenditure. We hear proposals from time to time that we should earmark such and such revenue for such and such purpose, that we should earmark the receipts from petrol duty for road construction works, that we should earmark the profits of the Reserve Bank for agricultural development, and now we are asked to earmark the proceeds of a particular loan again for a particular purpose. I submit, Sir, that if that process were accepted and adopted and carried through to its logical conclusion our whole budgetary system and our whole system of public finance would very quickly be reduced to chaos. Public finance is based on the well-known principle that all receipts go into the common purse, and from that common purse money is taken for such desirable and approved objects of expenditure as may be determined on a broad view of what the money should be spent on and how much in each case. We have a purse of two compartments, one to cater for loans and capital expenditure, and the other for revenue and revenue expenditure; but there is an intercommunicating door between the two and if our revenue expenditure happens to exceed our current revenues it is possible to filter loan proceeds from the capital compartment into the revenue compartment. My view, therefore, and the view of the Government, is that nothing is to be gained, but on the other hand there are objections of principle, to the earmarking of funds, whether loan funds or revenue funds; and the Government would find it quite impossible to accept the suggestion that we should earmark the proceeds of a particular loan for a particular purpose. That is not to say that the Government are not sympathetic towards the object underlying this Resolution. I do not know if the Hon. Mover is wedded to the terms of his Resolution. If he is, I am afraid, Sir, that in the form in which the Resolution stands we must oppose it. But the last thing we want to do is to oppose a Resolution of this nature calling for energetic action, without being hindered by financial considerations, in the interests of increasing the food supply of the country. We do not want to be forced to oppose a Resolution with this underlying object, because we whole-heartedly endorse it and it expresses the very object which is near and dear to the heart of the Government at the present time; so if the Hon. Mover is not wedded to the particular form in which the Resolution stands at present and is prepared to accept the assurances that my Hon. friend Mr. Dhar and I have both given, that the Government will devote and bend all their energies to this supreme task and that they will not allow financial considerations to deter them from any useful step that can contribute to a solution of the present emergency, then, Sir, I trust that my Hon. friend the Mover will be so good as to withdraw his Resolution.

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR (to the Hon. Sir Cyril Jones): Would you suggest an amendment to this Resolution which would be acceptable to the Government? If that amendment is acceptable to this side, we shall accept the amended Resolution.

THE HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR : May I suggest an amendment for your consideration, Sir ?

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a sum of Rs. 10 crores and if need be more, be made available during the Budget year for the purpose of subsidizing agriculturists to grow more foodgrains.”

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Let the Government Member propose the amendment.

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : The difficulty about it is this. We do not know the extent to which we may be able usefully to subsidize Grow More Food schemes. But I give my assurance that, whether more or less is provided, whatever amount can be usefully spent will be spent. I would suggest something like this :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that all possible steps be taken to increase the production of foodgrains and that such funds as may be necessary for the purpose be provided.”

THE HON. SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : Kindly use the word “ subsidizing ”. That seems to be the purport of his Resolution. We should say that such sum as may be necessary or available for subsidizing the agriculturist in order to grow more food be provided.

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR : May I suggest to my Hon. friend to accept the amendment suggested by Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar ?

THE HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR : I am not very much wedded to the mention of the 10 crores which, I believe, is what the Hon. Sir Cyril Jones takes objection to. We should put it in a more general form.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Let the Hon. Member in charge of the Resolution suggest an amendment.

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to make available such sum as can be utilized for subsidizing or otherwise encouraging the increased production of foodgrains.”

THE HON. SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : “ Subsidizing or otherwise encouraging agriculturists.”

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : We have to work through Provincial Governments. Whatever subsidies the Provincial Governments give we share half and half.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) (to the Hon. Sir Cyril Jones) : Will you read your amendment ?

THE HON. SIR CYRIL JONES : Will this, Sir, meet the wishes of the House :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that all possible steps be taken for encouraging by subsidization or otherwise increased production of foodgrains and that whatever funds are required for that purpose be made available.”

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : It is not necessary to put the original Resolution to the vote. I will put the amended Resolution to the vote. Resolution moved :—

“ That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that all possible steps be taken for encouraging by subsidization or otherwise increased production of foodgrains and that whatever funds are required for that purpose be made available.”

THE HON. MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Made available from where ?

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : That is understood.

The amended Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE POLITICAL STATUS OF AJMER-MERWARA

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : I beg to move the Resolution which stands in my name. It runs thus :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee consisting of a majority of elected Members of both the Houses of the Indian Legislature to report on the best solution for raising the political status of Ajmer-Merwara to the level of other Provinces.”

In the language of the Constitution of 1935 there are the Governors' Provinces on the one hand and also the Chief Commissioners' Provinces on the other. We have as many as five Chief Commissioners' Provinces. Ajmer falls under the category of the Provinces of the latter type. To mention them in alphabetical order, Ajmer-Merwara is one, Baluchistan is another, Coorg is third, Delhi is fourth and Panth Piploda is the fifth.

THE HON. SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : I think it is Pant Piploda. I don't know what the correct pronunciation is.

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL : You may pronounce it as you please but as far as I know it is Panth Piploda.

These Provinces are administered directly under the Centre. I shall deal much more with Ajmer-Merwara than state how the other Chief Commissioners Provinces are governed.

Ajmer is administered directly by the Centre through the A.G.G., that is the Agent to the Governor General, and they have also a Commissioner there. Ajmer has a certain amount of importance of its own. I will not go into a discussion of the ancient history of this place, for much of it will not be relevant to the purposes of the discussion of the Resolution under consideration but recent history is much more relevant and I shall have to refer to that.

The importance of Ajmer is due to the fact that it was the seat of that vast kingdom of one of the most illustrious Rulers of those days, namely, Prithwiraj Chauhan. That is its ancient history, but Ajmer has come to be renowned much more because there are two great shrines within that area. One is Pushkar Raj, a well-known place of Hindu pilgrimage where the orthodox people resort to, and the other is the Durgah of Hazrat Mueenuddin Chishti, and Muhammadans from various places of India visit that place for that reason. It is a place where one could find Hindu-Muslim unity. Not only the Muslims but Hindus also pay a visit to that Durgah if not as followers but as admirers of that great saint after whose name the Durgah was founded. That has given AjmerMerwara a particular importance. Its area is 2,700 square miles. It is a small Province with a population of about six lakhs of people. It passed under British rule sometimes in the year 1841 and from 1853 to 1858 it was governed from the Centre. Then this particular area was on to what was in those days known as the North West Province which later on came to be known as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The Government of India of those days felt that they had to deal with the Rajputana States and the A.G.G., that is the Agent to the Governor General who was stationed in Ajmer was also the Chief Commissioner and as such he was subordinate to two authorities : one authority was that of the Governor General and the other of the Lieut-Governor of that Province, for in those days that Province was governed by a Lieut-Governor. This Agent to the Governor General was dealing with the States and they thought that if that officer was under the control of or was subordinate also to a Lieut-Governor he would not have the same weight and influence with the States as he would otherwise have if he was subordinate only to the Governor General. For these political reasons they separated those two districts from what I should now call the United Provinces. I suppose this took place in the year 1870, and since then it has continued to be a Chief Commissioner's Province. It was, and it still is, a non-regulated Province : that is, all the laws which obtain in other parts of India, in the provinces, do not apply there in the ordinary course, but only when they are applied there by the persons who are in authority there. This officer also used to be the highest judicial officer, and he himself felt that, having been appointed

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from the ranks of the Political Service, he could not do justice to judicial questions which went before him for decision. The people, on the other hand, were getting restive and were not satisfied with the conditions as they then obtained, and representations were made to the Government to improve the political conditions of the people of this area. As early as 1921 a committee was appointed, known as the Ashworth Committee. This Committee had one I. C. S. gentleman as a member, and the other two members were non-official Indians. The report which that Committee made in 1921 is interesting and also sheds light on the problem we are now discussing.

The terms of that Committee were :

"With a view to enable Ajmer-Merwara to participate in the reforms and on other grounds would it be advisable that Ajmer-Merwara should be retransferred to the United Provinces both administratively and judicially ? "

I need not read the other terms of reference. In their report they said :—

"Ajmer-Merwara is an isolated British province in Rajputana. It formerly consisted of two districts, Ajmer and Merwara, but since 1914 these have been merged into one. The area is 2, 711 square miles, with a population of a little under half a million."

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Please cut it short.

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL : I am reading the relevant portions so that the House may grasp the issues that are before it. The report goes on :—

"The province is therefore somewhat larger in area than the average districts of the United Provinces but there is a considerably smaller population."

Then, Sir, the report goes into the historical retrospect. The authors of the report say :—

"For the purpose of this inquiry a brief retrospect of the administration of Ajmer-Merwara is desirable."

But what I would say is, as I have already mentioned, I need not go into that. But what is of importance is this, that the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana could not spare sufficient time for the constant correspondence which his position as Commissioner under the Local Government entailed, while his subordination as Commissioner to a Local Government was detrimental to his influence as Agent with the Indian Princes ; that is, his influence with the Indian Princes was not considered to be of sufficient importance if he was subordinate to a Lieutenant Governor. Then they recommended :—

"The result of the administrative changes of 1914 is that the Province of Ajmer-Merwara is administered very similarly to a normal district of the United Provinces except that the Collector and Magistrate is not sure what functions of the High Court are performed by the Chief Commissioner. The merger, therefore, of the Province in the United Provinces as a district would entail no considerable dislocation of the administration."

They have given various reasons and their conclusion is :—

"Merger is the only means of securing to the Province complete participation in the reforms and administrative efficiency. An Advisory Board to the Chief Commissioner is not likely to satisfy political agitation for long, and a Legislative Council for Ajmer-Merwara is impracticable on various grounds. Immediate merger, however, is not desirable in view of the inability of Ajmer-Merwara to participate in the reforms during the life of the present Legislative Council of the United Provinces."

Therefore, they recommended that two years after that period, when elections might be held in the United Provinces, merger might be effected.

That happened in 1921. For some reason or other the recommendation was not carried out. I think a particular reason was that this Province was situated in the centre of States where the Governor General wanted an influential Agent.

That seems to be the reason why effect was not given to the recommendation of the Committee. I must also mention that the people of that area were not very enthusiastic, or united on this question. Some of them said that if they could have a small body of their own which would be able to influence the administration, they would prefer to have it. We have before us the example of the Chief Commissioner's Province of Coorg. It is a much smaller province. Its population is about 2 lakhs. This area also was then offered the choice of amalgamation with Madras or standing out and having a council of its own. For reasons of which they were the best judges, they preferred to have a small council of their own. Their territory was adjoining the territory of Madras, and merger would have been much easier in their case than in the case of Ajmer-Merwara. However, they took the decision; and implementing the decision, the Government of India gave them a small council of 20 members, 15 of whom are elected members and 5 are nominated members—of which this Government is so fond. This constitution is still functioning.

Now, Sir, it should not be a mere matter of sentiment which should decide these questions. What are the advantages and the disadvantages of having a separate constitution? How will the area be in a position to function? Should it remain attached to the Centre—which soon promises to be something very different? These are the problems which have got to be considered both by the people and by those who are to make the final arrangements. So far as the expenditure and revenue of this Province are concerned, the latest figures show that in 1946-47, there is a budget provision of about Rs. 52 lakhs as expenditure and the revenue is about Rs. 30 lakhs. I do not think that the income-tax derived in that area is included in this revenue. It is purely a Provincial revenue but taxes on income are also derived from the people and the industry in that area. There are three ways of looking at the problem, whether to go over to the U. P., or to remain as it is and to have some form of representative institutions or to continue as a part of the Governor General's Province. These are questions which cannot be answered off-hand. 20 years have gone by since this Report was made. Lots of changes have taken place and India is now on the threshold of having a sovereign Central Government of its own. All these will alter the situation. To answer all these questions satisfactorily a Committee should be appointed. The representative of that area in the Assembly, Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarada, who represented that constituency with very great credit, moved a Resolution in the Assembly when he was a member of that House. In 1937 or 1938 proposals were afloat for affiliation of this area with the U. P. Certain events happened and that did not materialise. The people of that area have again got to consider this question. The representative now from that area gave notice of a similar Resolution in the other House, but it is not so easy to get a Resolution discussed in that House and so he is not sure when it may come up. But this is the demand of the people now. They cannot remain satisfied with the present arrangement. The Government of India are the highest authority. The Government of India have been impressing on the States that they have got to come in line with the times. Indian States, the largest of them being Jaipur and Jodhpur, have also provided some sort of constitution. I am not quite aware of all the details of that constitution, but they have provided popular Assemblies. Would it now be in the fitness of things that the area which is now administered by the Government of India should remain without any representative institution? In the proposed Federation one seat was provided in the Lower House and one in the Upper House for that area. Every Province has representation in the Federation as well as in the Provincial House. These two seats are nothing to compensate for having some sort of control over their local affairs and that would be a very healthy thing to do. I am not saying that they should have a Provincial Council. The Committee has got to consider whether their resources, development, and stage of evolution would warrant the working of an institution like that. All these various questions require consideration. For that purpose a Committee should be appointed so that it may go into the various details, collect data and present them before the constitution-making body. It will be ready and handy material which will come before the constitution-making body and would naturally receive due consideration. Sir, this is the proper time for appointing such a committee.

THE HON. SIB MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House): Sir, I have listened to the speech of the Hon. Mr. Motilal with very great interest. The House should be very grateful to him for the wealth of information that he has placed before it, but he has omitted to mention certain glaring facts which alone should decide the fate of this Resolution.

The Mover of the Resolution recommends the setting up of a Committee consisting of a majority of the elected members of both Houses of the Legislature to report on the best solution for raising the political status of Ajmer-Merwara to the level of other Provinces, which I take it, means the same status as the Governors' Provinces. Ajmer-Merwara is a very tiny Province with an area of 2,400 square miles and a total population of 583,693. The revenue derived from the Province is quite inadequate to meet the expenditure that would be necessary if Ajmer-Merwara is elevated to the status of a Governor's Province.

2. In 1921 the Government of India set up a Committee to consider and make recommendations regarding the administrative and judicial arrangements for Ajmer-Merwara. The Committee considered that the establishment of a Legislative Council for the Province was out of the question and that the most suitable arrangement would be to amalgamate it with the neighbouring United Provinces. The Government of the United Provinces, however, was at that time against such an amalgamation. In the end it was decided that one seat in the Central Legislative Assembly should be provided for Ajmer-Merwara. In 1925 Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly recommending the establishment of a Legislative Council for Ajmer-Merwara. The resolution was debated at length and rejected by 41 votes to 26. It is true that Coorg, which is a smaller Province than Ajmer-Merwara, has a Legislative Council, but that Province is self-supporting whereas in 1943-44 the total revenue from Ajmer-Merwara was Rs. 23,48,000 and the expenditure Rs. 29,57,000.

3. So much for the administrative difficulties. Turning to the practical aspect, the question of the status of Chief Commissioners' Provinces, including Ajmer-Merwara, in a future India is one of the matters which will have to be considered by the Constitution-making body which it is proposed to set up. This being the position, no useful purpose will be served by setting up a Committee at present to consider the question.

4. In the circumstances I would request the Hon. the Mover of the Resolution to withdraw it. If, however, the Motion is pressed to a division, the Government would oppose it.

THE HON. MR. SURPUT SING (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, although I come from Bengal, yet as I have retained some interest in Ajmer-Merwara, I have to support the Resolution which has been moved by the Leader of my Party. Sir, from the outset of the new Indian Constitution, the political status of Ajmer-Merwara has been agitating the minds of those interested in the affairs of that small minor province. So far back as 1922 on a cut motion by Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas in respect of Ajmer-Merwara, to be found in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of 18th March 1922, Mr. Denys Bray in reply thereto said that the Government were making every effort to retrench Ajmer-Merwara entirely by foisting it on to another province but had not yet succeeded. Then, Sir, again on a question in the Central Assembly regarding the political status of Ajmer-Merwara by Mr. Badridutt Pande, on the 10th February 1938, Sir Henry Craik, although, trying to avoid the question whether the people wanted to be merged with U.P. indirectly admitted that he had received an advance copy of a representation to that effect. Finally, when again the self-same question of the political status of Ajmer-Merwara was raised by Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar in the Assembly, the then Home Member, Sir Henry Craik, had to admit that the question of the future constitution of the province arose indirectly in course of his conversation with a number of local people whom he met in Ajmer when he had occasion to go there to hold some administrative enquiry. Thus, Sir, from 1922 onwards up to 1938 the question of the political status of Ajmer-Merwara was kept alive by some person or other

interested therein in the Central Legislature. But, unfortunately, although there was the admission that there had existed an urge for the change of the status of Ajmer-Merwara, nothing was done so far. Then came the Statutory Commission, which also went into the question. But the demand for a separate province for Ajmer-Merwara was turned down by them, first as it was too isolated a place to be included in any of the Governor's Province and inasmuch as in their opinion no Legislative Council could be made for so small a province and also because the distance from the nearest Governor's Province precluded its amalgamation with the nearest Governor's Province. And also because of differences of law, customs, and administrative interests, a large number of people preferred the existing order of things. So the whole question was dropped for the time being, despite a very strong body of vocal opinion to the contrary. But with the advance of knowledge and information, with the progress of ideas and trends of political thought, a large section of both vocal and unvocal people have been sighing for a change. In their opinion the province has outgrown its state of tutelage and requires to be placed in the category of a full-fledged province, or in default to be amalgamated with one such province. Improvements in many aspects are urgently called for, especially in the matter of irrigation to ward off periodical famines and in that of tenancy legislation to improve the condition of rack-rented tenants and in rural education to remove the ignorance of the mass. The agitation of the people has found expression in many ways. So when there is a talk of re-constitution of the different provinces, the question of the future political status of Ajmer-Merwara naturally comes to the forefront. There is the growing aspiration of the people combined with the talk of the impending changes. In such circumstances the recommendation of my Hon. friend is most opportune and should find acceptance in this House.

THE HON. MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Sir, I want to say a few words by way of reply to the Hon. the Leader of the House. What he has said on this occasion disclosed perfectly and quite clearly that in spite of the new orientation this Government remains as die-hard as it has been during the last 20 years. If the Government has any desire at all to help the constitution-framing body, they should have welcomed this Resolution and appointed a committee straightaway with one, if I may be permitted to mention the name of an eminent colleague of ours, like Pandit Kunzru as the Chairman of the Committee. That Committee would have done very useful work and collected the necessary data and enabled the constitution-framing body to take that into consideration and go ahead. But that facility is not to be afforded to the constitution-making body as far as this Government can help. This is the plain meaning of the Government's answer. Do we not know that a smaller province than Ajmer-Merwara, namely, Coorg, has got a Council of its own? Then where is the force in the Hon. Member saying it is a small tiny province? I have myself stated that. I am not saying that you should necessarily have that small tiny province altogether separate. Why cannot the same financial treatment be continued in the case of Ajmer-Merwara which it is now receiving and which other provinces receive? Subsidies are given to other provinces. But I am not advocating it today. All that I am suggesting is that a committee be formed to consider all this and make recommendation and place the data before the constitution-making body. Very clearly, I say, this Government is not prepared to render that help. Well, Sir, in the circumstances we shall vote for the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Resolution moved :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee consisting of a majority of elected members of both the Houses of the Indian Legislature to report on the best solution for raising the political status of Ajmer-Merwara to the level of other provinces."

The question is that the Resolution be adopted.

The Motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION *RE* ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO KENYA

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I beg to move :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to urge His Majesty's Government that—

(a) as the war is over the entry of Indians into Kenya should not be subject to any direct or indirect restrictions ;

(b) in the reorganised Executive Council of Kenya, Indians should be appointed to hold charge of portfolios to the extent that non-official Europeans are ; and

(c) in any arrangements made for the establishment of an inter-territorial organisation in East Africa, Kenya should not be allowed to occupy a predominant position.”

Sir, it is a quarter to five now. May I suggest that I may be allowed to reserve my speech till the next non-official day ?

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Is Government agreeable to adjourning the House ?

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House) : Yes, I think so.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : The debate on this Resolution will proceed on the next non-official day.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : I have a message to deliver to you. With reference to the announcement made by the President on the 20th March 1946, regarding nominations to certain committees, I have to announce that the following Hon. Members have been nominated for election to the following Committees :—

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE FOOD DEPARTMENT

1. The Hon. Mr. V. V. Kalikar.
2. The Hon. Mr. S. K. Roy Choudhury.
3. The Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal.
4. The Hon. Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.
5. The Hon. Mr. M. Ct. M. Chidambaran Chettyar.

There are five candidates for five seats and I declare them duly elected.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

1. The Hon. Mr. P. N. Saprú.
2. The Hon. Mr. S. K. Roy Choudhury.
3. The Hon. Hajee Syed Mohamed Hussain.

There are three candidates for three seats and I declare them duly elected.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

1. The Hon. Mr. M. Thirumala Row.
2. The Hon. Pt. H. N. Kunzru.
3. The Hon. Mr. Mohendra Lal Das.
4. The Hon. Sir K. R. Menon.
5. The Hon. Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.

There are five candidates for five seats and I declare them duly elected.

**STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

1. The Hon. Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha.
2. The Hon. Mr. J. M. B. Gibbons.
3. The Hon. Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.
4. The Hon. Mr. Hossain Imam.
5. The Hon. Mr. Surput Singh.

There are five candidates for five seats and I declare them duly elected.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Hon. Mr. P. N. Sapru.

There is one candidate for one seat and I declare him duly elected.

In regard to the following Committees as the number of candidates nominated is more than the number of seats for these Committees elections will be held on Wednesday the 3rd April, 1946 :—

1. Standing Committee for the Home Department.
2. Standing Committee for the Labour Department.
3. Standing Committee for the Agriculture Department.
4. Advisory Board of Archaeology.
5. Indian Central Tobacco Committee.
6. All India Council for Technical Education.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House): Sir, I suggest that we meet again on Friday, the 29th, when it is hoped that the Finance Bill will be taken up for consideration. We are not sure when the Finance Bill will come up but we hope it will be ready on Friday morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal): That is a good suggestion.

THE HON. SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated Non-Official): I suggest that we be informed on Thursday evening whether we shall have any work at all on Friday.

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN: In any case, we can answer the questions. I think we should not lose the question hour. There are so many questions to be asked. Let us meet and dispose of those questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We agree that the questions should be disposed of.

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern Non-Muhammadan): Does the Hon. Member suggest that the debate on the Finance Bill will be taken up on Friday or that the Bill will be laid on the table?

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal): The Bill will be laid on the table and the debate will continue. The President has the power to waive the time-limit for laying the Bill on the table of the House.

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN : I think we all know the procedure. If the Finance Bill is received late the President can waive the usual time limit and discussion can start immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Hon. Mr. M. N. Dalal) : The 31st is a holiday again.

THE HON. SIR MAHOMED USMAN : The discussion on the Finance Bill takes two days and if the Bill is received by Friday morning we can have a discussion on Friday and Saturday. I do not think it will be possible to take it up either tomorrow or the day after but it may be possible for us to take it up on Friday morning.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 29th March, 1946.