

3rd November 1944

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

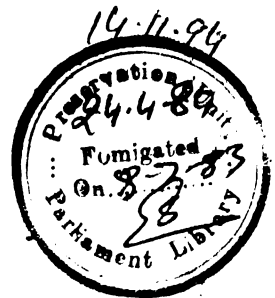
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Volume IV, 1944

(1st to 13th November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1944

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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Deputy President :

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Panel of Chairmen :

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Mr. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

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

Committee on Petitions :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A. (*Chairman*).

Nawabzada MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, M.L.A.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 3rd November, 1944

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

STARRED QUESTIONS, AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RELEASE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

50. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if the present release of Mahatma Gandhi is conditional or unconditional?

(b) Have any restrictions been placed on Mahatma Gandhi?

(c) Did the Mahatma or any one else ask Government to release him? If so, who?

(d) Did the Mahatma object to his release unless a National Government was established at the Centre?

(e) What are the grounds for the Government's belief that if the arrests of Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Leaders had not taken place in August, 1942, the Congress would have negotiated on their own with Japan in the face of Mahatma Gandhi's clear repudiation of such a belief?

(f) Is there any likelihood of the Mahatma's meeting with His Excellency Lord Wavell? If so, when? If not, why not?

(g) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the *Daily Worker*, London, dated the 24th June, 1944 to the effect "Cannot statesmanship be found—Mr. Amery or do Amery—to begin a new chapter to replace hostility and bitterness by equality and co-operation"?

(h) What steps do Government propose to take in order to take advantage of such advice and remove the present deadlock? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The release was unconditional.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) Government have never had that belief.

(f) That is for His Excellency and Mr. Gandhi to decide.

(g) Government have seen the cutting.

(h) Government are not in the habit of taking advice from the *Daily Worker*. In the present case the nature of the advice which they offer is not clear.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know if Mahatma Gandhi was willing to come out of jail before the deadlock was removed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was any communication made by him to that effect?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Did the Honourable Member say that no communication was made?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has answered the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, the answer was not clear.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member repeat his answer to part (e) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have never had that belief.

WAR SITUATION

61. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the War Secretary, be pleased to lay on the table a full and detailed statement as to the progress and success of Allies on all fronts of War and particularly on the Assam-Burma and Indian borders since the last session of the Indian Legislature.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I lay a statement on the table.

Statement.

Introduction—Need to redouble effort.—Since the last statement in this House on the course of the war, great events have happened. In the West, Germany has suffered mortal blows under which she is now reeling; in the East the Japanese have been soundly thrashed and must have few illusions about the fate in store for them. The more reason for all, and particularly us in India, to redouble our efforts and ensure that this titanic struggle which has cost so much in lives and material shall not be protracted one day longer than is absolutely necessary.

Review of war—The West.—To review briefly the progress of war in Europe, the South West Pacific and the South East Asia theatres. As the House is aware, the combined Anglo-American onslaught in the West has not only broken down the so-called Atlantic Wall but has driven the Germans out of France and Belgium, deep into Holland until now our Allied Armies are storming the Siegfried Line and carrying the war into the heart of Germany. Under the Supreme Commander General Eisenhower, the combined might of Britain and the United States of America, aided by French Forces of the Interior and from North Africa and contingents of Canadian, Polish and other forces have conclusively exposed the myth of Nazi invincibility.

Italy.—No early collapse of the Nazi war machine can be anticipated. The likelihood is that we shall have to fight our way forward through the German countryside. In Mr. Churchill's eloquent phrase, the red-hot rake of war will be drawn across the face of Germany just as it has been drawn across that of Italy. It is more than a year since the Allies landed in Italy, a year of hard and dogged fighting. General Alexander's forces are now on the threshold of the Plain of Piedmont with its important industrial areas. In this offensive, three Indian Divisions—the 4th, 8th and 10th—are playing a notable part and have enhanced the great reputation which Indian soldiers have earned during the past five years. This campaign has contained many German Divisions and undoubtedly had a profound influence on our later successes in the West.

Russia.—As in the West, so in Eastern Europe the Germans and their satellites are being swept back by the onslaught of Allied arms. Our Russian Allies have accounted for Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland. The British have liberated Greece and cut off large German forces in Crete and the Aegean Isles. The Russians have entered Yugoslavia and Hungary; they have invaded Poland in depth and have reached the gates of Warsaw. They are now fighting within East Prussia. Soon they will be hammering on the doors of Germany proper and retribution will strike the misguided people of that country. But I should not like to express an opinion on when the struggle in Europe will end; the Nazis are fighting with fanatical desperation and it may be several months before they are finally beaten.

Pacific.—If the beginning of the end is apparent in Europe, in Asia and the South West Pacific the end of the beginning has come. Between them, Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur have established supremacy over a great expanse of the South West Pacific until now American troops have landed on Leyte, in the Central Philippines, and established a firm base there. This is not only athwart Japan's link with her conquests in the East Indies and Malaya, but brings Formosa well within bombing range of U. S. land-based planes. The American Navy has just won a great sea victory over the Japanese in the Battle of Philippines. As the full might of the Anglo-American fleets grows in the Pacific so does Japan's hold upon the territories she has over-run become more tenuous. Soon, the Allies should be in a position to wrest these territories from the enemy and liberate them.

Burma.—On the mainland of Asia, the picture is in some respects brighter and in others darker. In recent months we have witnessed a triumph of Allied arms along the Indo-Burma border, where the rash Japanese attempt to invade India has been flung back with heavy loss. The Japanese have suffered no fewer than 50,000 killed; their total casualties cannot be computed. What is certain is that their plans have been frustrated.

I will not speculate upon future developments in this theatre which is the responsibility of South-East Asia Command. But I know this—that we can continue to rely upon our Indian soldiers to wage war against the Jap with the same determination and skill as they have shown in recent months. Aided by British formations and by British troops within our Indian Divisions, and by American and Chinese forces they must undoubtedly spell disaster for all the Japanese remaining in Burma and in fact, in the conquered territories. The Allied Air Forces, British and American and Indian are supreme over Burma and the Eastern Fleet with growing strength has been striking hard towards the East Indies.

China.—But we must expect a long and bitter struggle before this comes about. In recent weeks the Japs have strengthened their hold on the mainland of China by driving forward into the heart of South China and depriving the Allies of some of the forward airfields from which American planes have bombed Japan and Manchuria. That shows that the Far Eastern Fascists still have great reserves of strength—reserves which will need to be dissipated bit by bit by our offensive skill, tenacity and courage.

India as a developed base.—As members of this House are perhaps aware, India has been developing into a mighty base from which large scale offensives may be launched. The training of the Indian armed forces in the peculiar form of warfare necessitated by the difficult terrain over which they will have to fight has proceeded apace. That this training is efficient is shown by their recent achievements. Not only on land, but in the air and at sea, India's

fighting men have acquitted themselves nobly. The Indian Air Force has continued to range far and wide over Burma and reconnaissance and dive-bombing. The Royal Indian Navy continues to harry the enemy's flank off the coast of Burma, and also to help the Royal Navy in meeting the menace of underwater attack in the Indian Ocean.

As to the Indian Army, it is a fact that those who are in the best position to judge of the morale and fighting spirit of our men are not only satisfied with them but are proud to fight with Indian troops. Actions speak louder than words and the renown in which India's warriors are held throughout the world has never been higher. From the Prime Minister of England downwards, fitting tribute has been paid to their feats.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member kindly give us a summary of that statement so that we may be in a position to put supplementary questions?

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

POST-WAR INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN PREPARED BY CERTAIN INDUSTRIALISTS.

62. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development, be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to a plan prepared by certain Industrialists for the post-war industrialization of the country at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,500 crores? If so, what are the main features of the scheme?

(b) What are the Government's views thereon, and what steps are being taken to examine the same in collaboration with the industrialists?

(c) What other measures do Government propose to adopt to industrialize India after the War? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Government are not aware of a post-war industrialisation plan at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,500 crores. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to a plan of economic development for India prepared by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. J. R. D. Tata and others. Government have seen this plan and a copy of it is available in the Library.

(b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the "Second Report* on Reconstruction Planning" a copy of which I place on the table of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether the Government converted the Honourable Member who was one of the authors of the Plan or whether he converted the Government?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Member tell me what are the Government's views on the Industrialists Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government have accepted the objectives of the Industrialists Plan, but they are preparing a plan of their own on their own lines. When the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin comes up for discussion we will go into further details.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask the Honourable Gentleman if the Government have accepted the objectives of that Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is not that plan very damaging to the country?

(No answer)

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I ask if the Government have accepted the position that the income of the agriculturist will be increased by 1½ per cent. and that of the industrialist will be increased by three times?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It is the output of the industry and the output of agriculture and not the income of the industrialists and the agriculturists.

*Not printed in these debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House.—
Ed. of D.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The objective laid down in that Plan was to increase the income of the industrialists and the town people by three times and that of the rural people by 1½ per cent. Is it not so?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: No, Sir. I think the Honourable Member is labouring under some misapprehension, but all these difficulties will be cleared up when we discuss the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be discussed now.

INSULT TO MR. FRANK R. ANTHONY BY A MILITARY OFFICER AT JUBBULPORE RAILWAY STATION.

63. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the conduct of a military officer at Jubbulpore Station on or about the 19th August, 1944, in insulting Mr. Anthony, an Honourable Member of this House, and not allowing him to occupy the berth reserved for him?

(b) Is it a fact that that passenger actually threatened to shoot the Honourable Mr. Anthony with his revolver?

(c) Why was not such a passenger arrested then and there and handed over to the police?

(d) Is it a fact that he defied a British G. M. P. who tried to interfere and persuade him to yield?

(e) Is it a fact that one R. T. C. Capt. Kapoor provided Mr. Anthony a berth in another compartment?

(f) Who was the concerned culprit? Was he a British or an American?

(g) What action have Government taken against him?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (f). The incident has come to my notice, but the facts are otherwise than as originally reported.

One Major Ruggles of the U. S. Army and three other officers were travelling in a four-berth compartment in a coach reserved for the personnel of the Defence Services which arrived at Jubbulpore at 7-30 p.m. on the 16th August. All of them had made reservations. A couple of days previously, my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony, had asked a friend employed on the Railway to make a reservation for him to join the train at Jubbulpore, but through a mistake on the part of the Railway authorities Mr. Anthony's reservation card was placed on the door of the compartment in which the four officers concerned were travelling. Mr. Anthony entered the compartment when three of the occupants were in the dining car. These officers, including Major Ruggles, returned to the compartment and asked Mr. Anthony to leave as there was no place for him. Mr. Anthony contended that accommodation had been booked for him in the same compartment and in the resultant argument, Major Ruggles, who had Mr. Anthony's luggage removed from the compartment, made use of some forceful language. No violence was offered to Mr. Anthony, who was then found accommodation in another compartment.

(b) No, Sir. Mr. Anthony himself has denied this allegation in his statement.

(c) and (g). Do not arise in view of the facts stated in reply to (a) above, but I should add that on arrival at Bombay, Major Ruggles was detained by the United States authorities, but later allowed to proceed to U. S. A. after investigation which established that he had not committed any offence.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member who is present here make a statement as there is a difference between the statement of the Army Secretary and the facts that I have given? If the Honourable Member chooses to make a statement, he might do so.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, have I your permission to make a statement?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot answer the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that the officer went to his bed and took out the revolver when Mr. Anthony left?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. Mr. Anthony himself has denied this in his statement.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Mr. Anthony himself told me that the officer did bend down.

(No answer).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What sort of words were used because the Honourable Member has said that forceful language was used?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Of course, I have said that the language used was forceful and my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony will bear me out that he himself also used forceful language.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: That is not correct. It is entirely incorrect.

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: But, Sir, the Honourable the Army Secretary has not given me the words actually used. I did not ask whether the Honourable Member (Mr. Frank R. Anthony) also used a forceful language. Did the military officer at the time of using the word point to the revolver or the pistol?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I have already said that Mr. Anthony has denied this allegation in his statement.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES.

64. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please lay on the table, with reference to the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, a statement for the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, showing by Cantonnments the number of applications received for the grant of lease in form Schedule VII of the said Rules, and the number of applications rejected?

(b) Is it a fact that, although the Rules leave the disposal of applications for leases in form Schedule VII to the Military Estate Officers at their discretion without any reference to any superior authority, these officers are, by executive orders, required to submit all applications to higher authorities?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please quote the authority enabling the Government to override the provisions of the law on this point, viz., Rule 27 of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937?

(d) Will the Honourable Member also please lay on the table a copy of the orders requiring Military Estates Officers to refer to higher authorities all applications received for the grant of leases in form Schedule VII of the above Rules?

(e) Is it a fact that when the above Rules were before this Assembly, Government had given the House an assurance that the Rules would be interpreted in action in a liberal spirit and leases in the above form would be issued freely and that it was on the strength of this assurance that the Rules were adopted by the Assembly, and which assurance, consequently, on the adoption of the Rules by the Assembly, constituted for Government their guiding policy as approved by the Assembly?

(f) Is it a fact that Government have since then adopted a policy of restricting the grant of leases in form Schedule VII as much as possible?

(g) If the answer to (f) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please quote the resolution of this Assembly, if any, authorizing such variation of the policy approved by this House?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Information has been called for and will be laid on the table when received.

(b) and (c). An executive instruction was issued which would at first sight appear to be in conflict with rule 27, as rule 27 says that an Estate

Officer may without reference to superior authority grant a lease. On the other hand, it must be remembered that all Estate Officers work under the general supervision of superior authority, and that they exercise their administrative discretion subject to the views and policies of superior authority. However, in view of the fact that there may be some doubt with regard to the legal position Government propose to take the necessary steps to amend the rule so as to clarify the position in accordance with the policy of Government as hitherto followed.

(d) It is not in the public interest to publish confidential instructions or correspondence.

(e) No Sir. The Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, were made under the provisions of section 280 of the Cantonments Act, 1924, which empowers the Central Government to make rules referred to therein after previous publication. These rules were, therefore, never discussed in the Legislative Assembly. They have, however, been interpreted in practice as liberally as possible.

It is the duty of all Government Departments to protect the interests of the taxpayer by seeing that no financial interests of Government are sacrificed owing to negligence on the part of any public servant and all steps that have been taken in this direction were always in the public interest.

(f) No Sir. It must, however, be remembered that Cantonments are primarily intended for the accommodation of troops and unrestricted build-ings in Cantonments can lead to such overcrowding as to make the areas unfit and unsafe for the habitation of troops.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the rules he has referred to allow the grant of leases and also authority to them to sub-lease?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have got Rule 27 before me. I am not fully acquainted with all the details but I can read out the rule if the Honourable Member so desires.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES

65. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Is the Honourable the Defence Member aware that the position indicated in the foregoing questions has been responsible for the existence of great discontent and a sense of hardship and injustice among a class of loyal citizens who have rendered and are rendering valuable services to the Army Department?

(b) In view of the above questions, what steps do Government propose to take with a view to ensuring—

(i) that the Rules, in question, are strictly adhered to;

(ii) that executive orders constituting an infraction of, and operating against the spirit of, the legislation are immediately withdrawn; and

(iii) that confidence in the Government's *bona fides* is restored among the landholders in Cantonments by issuing a press note reaffirming the assurance given by Government at the time the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, were passed by the Assembly, and issuing necessary instructions to Military Estate Officers that all applications for leases in form Schedule VII of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules should be freely sanctioned without any reference to any superior authority?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No.

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii). The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to parts (b) and (c) of the preceding question No. 64.

STATEMENT ON FINANCE MEMBER'S WORK RE FINANCIAL SAFEGUARD OF INDIA.

66. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member lay on the table a full statement of the work he did in connection with financial safeguard of the country during his foreign tour?

(b) Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to this Assembly to discuss the statement of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The main object of my foreign tour was to head the Indian delegation to the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods. The results of the work done there will appear in the Final Act of the Conference of which two copies have been placed in the Library of the House and which in due course will form the subject of discussion in the House. Subsequent to the Conference, accompanied by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, I had a preliminary discussion of an informal and exploratory character with the experts of the British Treasury in London regarding India's sterling balance. No decisions were taken, nor was either side in a position to undertake any commitments, and the discussions related mainly to a programme for more formal discussions in the future.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Honourable Member expect to bring the Bretton Woods proposals before this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the Final Act of the conference has already been placed in the Library of the House and that the subject will, in due course, be discussed in the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What does 'due course' mean—this Session or next Session?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It will be premature to consider the subject in this House until we know what is the likely reaction first in America and secondly in Britain, because unless those two countries decide to adhere to the agreement, there will be no scheme for any other countries to adhere to.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make a statement to the House, either now or at any time during this Session, indicating what are the advantages, if any, to India of the adherence either to the Fund or the Bank, considering that India has got an enormous credit balance due from the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will endeavour to have the material prepared for the assistance of members when the debate is likely to take place. I shall endeavour to have some material prepared on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Manu Subedar: To the extent to which the Honourable Member, by his presence and by taking part in the discussions, has already approved of the objects of this Conference, would he not mention to us now in what way these objects will serve India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is hardly a matter which could be suitably dealt with in the course of question and answer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is why I suggested a statement in the course of this Session, if the Honourable Member chooses.

STEPS FOR STABILISATION OF PRICES

67. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what steps he has taken since the last meeting of the Assembly to stabilise the prices in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The policy of the Government of India designed to secure a stabilisation of prices within the country in the spheres of taxation, borrowing, bullion sales, etc., as outlined in my last Budget speech has been pursued with vigour. The Government have the matter under continual review and suitable action is taken as and when conditions permit. Some new commodity controls have recently been introduced which, together with further action under the previously existing controls and under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance have resulted in an appreciable lowering of prices during the last six months. In the vital matter of food, price control is being strengthened, imports are being steadily

increased and reserve stocks built up in various Provinces and ports. Continual improvement is being effected in the procurement machinery of supplying areas and in the speeding up of movement, while the rationing of urban areas is also being steadily extended.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that under the powerful influence of Professor Keynes, England has succeeded in maintaining the price level of 1939 during the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No country has succeeded in maintaining the price level of 1939 during the war, as far as I am aware.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With a very slight modification. They have kept it within ten per cent. of the pre-war price level or very near it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It depends on what is meant by 'very near'.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that India is one of the countries, probably next to China and Persia, which is suffering most from inflation. Has he considered the desirability of stopping the use of the printing press and throwing out several crores of notes every week in addition to the existing circulation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Has my Honourable friend considered whether it would be advantageous for Government to stop all payments including payments to the class which he represents?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that so long as he does not stop this inflation and throwing of additional notes on the people, if he continues this policy of controlling food prices, the peasants are likely to suffer because the prices of all other goods will go up, while their own prices are kept down?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid that is a subject which could hardly be dealt with in answer to a question.

PERSONS IN DETENTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES.

68. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of persons in detention under the Defence of India Rules on the 15th October, 1944—

(i) under the orders of the Government of India; and

(ii) under the orders of the various Provincial Governments;

(b) the number of persons released from the 1st of January, 1944, to the 15th October, 1944, both by the Central and Provincial Governments;

(c) was any condition imposed on the released persons such as periodically reporting themselves to the Police Station; if so, were any instructions issued by the Government of India to Provincial Administrations in this connection;

(d) has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the very humiliating conditions imposed on *ex-deterus* by the Punjab Government, was the Government of India consulted in the matter; if not, will the Government of India make an enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). In respect of persons detained under the orders of Provincial Governments, I have information only upto the 1st September, 1944. I would also remind the Honourable Member that no persons are now detained under the Defence of India Rules. They are detained under Ordinance III of 1944.

The figures are:—

(a) Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces	88
Provincial Governments	5,237
(b) Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces	57
Provincial Governments	5,068

(c) Conditions are sometimes imposed on release if that is considered necessary. Provincial Governments were informed that in the opinion of the Government of India the imposition of suitable restrictive orders on released

detenus in appropriate cases is preferable to asking detenus before release to give undertakings of good behaviour.

(d) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can the Honourable Member give me any figures about the province of Sind and tell me how many people are still under detention and whether their cases have been examined yet.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The great majority of the persons detained in Sind are Hurs.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Apart from the Hurs, does the Honourable Member know that some Members of the Assembly are in jail and they are not being allowed to come out, because the Ministry there wants to maintain its position intact?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can accept no responsibility for the detailed acts of any Provincial Government under this Ordinance.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Central Government has power and if it is also desirable for the Central Government at least to examine those cases which the Government of Sind or of any other Province have refused to send for and see for themselves that justice is done to them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is quite impossible.

Sardar Sant Singh: As regards part (c) of this question, may I know whether the instructions issued to the Provincial Governments for imposing conditions upon those detenus who are released are uniformly issued to all the provinces or only to some of them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As I have already said, instructions were issued to all provinces. That is what I said.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that such conditions that have been issued have been examined by the Central Government to see whether they were fit conditions or humiliating conditions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; the Central Government can accept no responsibility for conditions imposed by Provincial Governments.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am not asking about the responsibility; I am only asking whether the Central Government has examined the conditions to see whether they are humiliating to the self-respect of the detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Certainly not; that is not one of our functions.

Sardar Sant Singh: My question has not been answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that the Central Government has not.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: My answer was "Certainly not".

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know why the Central Government does not examine the conditions under which these releases have taken place?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said it is not the business of the Central Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will take steps to examine the cases of the detenus within six months by an impartial committee instead of by Government officials?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not think, Sir, that that arises.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Honourable Member is aware as to how many Honourable Members of this House are detained under Ordinance III of 1944?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That also, I submit, does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that the Ordinance itself provides for some examination of these cases within six months by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am of course aware, but I do not see how that arises out of this question.

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to the reply to part (d), is it a fact that one of the conditions laid upon those who have been released from detention is that an elected member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is not allowed to attend the Assembly Session though the Governor issues a summons to him to attend?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Part (d) of the question was—

“Has the attention of Government been drawn to certain allegations?”

The answer was ‘No’. My Honourable friend then proceeds to ask me details about those allegations. Quite clearly if my attention has not been drawn to those allegations, I cannot give details about them. I may add that I should have thought that the Punjab Legislative Assembly was quite capable of looking after itself.

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

Sardar Mangal Singh: With regard to the latter part of (d), may I . . .

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

DETENTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 1942.

69. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of persons detained in connection with and after the passing of the Congress resolution on the 9th August, 1942, at Bombay? How many of them are still in detention, and what are the reasons for their continued detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The total number of persons detained at one time or another in connection with the Congress movement was between 17 and 18 thousand of which 2,128 were still in detention on the 1st September, 1944. The reason for keeping the latter in detention is that it is still considered necessary.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How many persons are detained in the United Provinces.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask why Government considers it necessary to detain them still?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The reasons differ in each particular case.

FORM OF CHARGE SERVED ON A DETENU.

70. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay a copy of any charge that may have been served on a detenu on the table of the House? Is it a fact that charges served did not contain any specific information to the detenu and were generally very vague and almost uniform in language?

(b) Were the detenus permitted to consult their lawyers of their own choice by the jail authorities in order to enable them to submit their defence? If not, why not?

(c) How many replies were received?

(d) Were these replies considered by any judicial authority? If so, by whom, and with what result?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I regret that, for the reasons underlying the provisions of section 11 of Ordinance III of 1944, I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request. The statements of the grounds of their detention communicated to persons detained under that Ordinance comply with the provisions of section 7 thereof.

(b) No. For the reason that no question of law arises.

(c) 92 replies were received from persons detained by or at the instance of the Central Government including those detained by Chief Commissioners.

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

Sardar Sant Singh: When these charges are handed over to these people in detention, who are mere laymen, why the Government does not permit them to consult their legal adviser to advise them on the legal position whether they do or do not fall under the Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the reason why the Government declines to allow any help to these laymen in framing answers to these charges? Why are not lawyers allowed to be consulted by these detenues?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that—part (b) of the question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that no question of law arises.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask that, when this liberty of the subject is being restricted under a particular Act, the question of law does arise?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the opinion of the Honourable Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am asking, is the Honourable Member aware that in such cases applications are made to the High Court where the question is gone through?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Perhaps I may make the position clear.

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

POLICY AS REGARDS RECRUITING PERSONNEL FOR CIVILIAN SERVICES FROM THE ARMY.

71. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please make a statement on the policy of the Government of India to recruit personnel for civilian services from the Army?

(b) Has any recruitment actually been made? If so, what are the qualifications of such new recruits (educational, legal, technical)?

(c) What number has actually been recruited, and how many of them are Indians and how many foreigners?

(d) What was the method of selection?

(e) What are the reasons for not consulting the Legislature on this major policy?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) A copy of the Government of India, Press Communique of the 25th July, 1944, which explains the Government policy in regard to the temporary employment with the civil administration of officers from the army, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) As has been stated in the Press Communique, the type of officer being selected is chiefly taken from the class of persons who would have been competing for posts in the civil administration if permanent recruitment had not been suspended. Their individual qualifications cannot be stated, but they will be employed in the posts for which their qualifications make them most suited and where they are most needed.

(c) 39 officers have so far been selected, of whom 12 are Indians, but the ultimate proportion of British and Indians will be 50:50. No foreigners have been recruited.

(d) Selection is made by a Board of which the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission is the President.

(e) The great majority of the officers who have been or will be selected under the scheme will be employed under Provincial Governments. Only in rare cases would these officers be employed under Government of India.

Press Communiqué.

At a time when India's Armed Forces were being rapidly expanded to meet the increasing enemy threat to her shores, the Government of India decided that the demand of those Forces for recruits must be paramount and that permanent recruitment to the Civil Services must be suspended for the time being. A similar policy were adopted in varying degrees by Provincial Governments. The intention was to ensure that the attractions of a civil career should not operate to impede the flow of recruits for Emergency Commissions. It was fully realised that the effect of this decision would be to throw a heavy strain on the civil administration, a strain which would be felt more severely as time passed. A position has now been reached when civil administration can no longer continue without reinforcements and the question has arisen how these can be obtained. Continuing demands made on the open market both by the Armed Forces and by organizations ancillary thereto have seriously reduced the man-power of suitable calibre available for recruitment to civil posts and Government have been obliged to turn to the Army as the only source from which adequate reinforcements can now be obtained. The military authorities have been approached with a request to release temporarily a sufficient number of officers whose services can be lent to Civil Governments in India. Recruitment from this source has the added advantage that it will provide a leavening of older and more experienced men. It should be noted that the type of officer proposed to be selected is exactly the type which would have been competing for posts under the Civil Government had not permanent recruitment been largely suspended in order to give priority to the demands of the Army.

The military authorities have recognised the need for strengthening the civil administration and a special India Army Order has been issued calling for volunteers from the Army on certain terms. These are:

(a) volunteers must be under 50 years of age;

(b) only officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army and British Service Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army will be eligible;

(c) the deputation of officers thus lent will be for the duration of the war in the Far East and probably for a limited further period thereafter.

Such officers will not be members of the regular Services but will be appointed after such preliminary training as is considered desirable to hold posts in the administration for which their qualifications make them best suited. The object will be to maintain and strengthen the general administration and to provide sufficient staff for new and specialised branches of work e.g., work connected with food and Civil Supplies. The candidates are being selected by a Selection Board of which the Chairman or a member, of the Federal Public Service Commission is President. The ratio of recruitment between Indians and Europeans will be 50:50.

Such of the officers selected as are otherwise qualified and willing will be eligible to compete along with other eligible candidates for vacancies reserved for men with war service. Those who are not selected to fill such vacancies will return to the Army on the completion of their service with the civil administration.

It is hoped by these means to enable Civil Governments in India to carry on until permanent recruitment can be resumed.

HOME DEPARTMENT;

New Delhi, the 26th July, 1944.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether civil officers are not available and therefore these are imported?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is the idea behind the scheme.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are they allowed to stand in a competition before the Public Service Commission.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Are persons selected those who have received emergency commission or permanent commission?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Emergency.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the position of these persons who have received emergency commissions and are taken as civilian officers, after the war stops?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As soon as the war stops, they will be returned to the army and demobilised from the army.

STATEMENT ON BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

72. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement as to the result of the deputation to the Bretton Woods Conference in the United States of America with particular reference to the dissatisfaction publicly expressed by Sir Shanmukham Chetty and Mr. W. Shroff, members of the deputation, at the attitude of the United States of America's delegates and British delegates with reference to the several questions relating to India during the discussions in the conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I invite reference to my answer to question No. 66 asked today by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. The report of the Indian delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference has not yet been presented to the Government. When it has been received the question of its release for publication will be considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House whether he voted with or supported the non-official delegates when they tried to raise the issue of sterling balances being returned by the United Kingdom under the scheme of the fund?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly, I took the initiative in raising the issue.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member confirm or deny the allegation contained in the latter part of the question, namely that dissatisfaction was publicly expressed by Sir Shanmukham Chetty and Mr. Shroff in regard to the behaviour of the United States and U. K. Delegations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No dissatisfaction regarding their behaviour, but dissatisfaction at their attitude towards the matter. That is a matter of common knowledge and there is no need for me to confirm or deny it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was there complete unanimity among the Indian delegation over the issue that India should obtain a place on the executive of the world monetary conference that was brought into existence?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position either to confirm the statements made by these two Members of the delegation or describe these comments as petulant? The Honourable Member himself was head of this delegation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The non-official Members of the delegation made fairly long speeches. I am not quite sure to what particular parts of those speeches the Honourable Member refers. But I have no criticisms to make generally on the statements which they made.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member, for instance, confirm what these gentlemen have said in regard to a permanent seat for India on the Fund, namely that India lost the chance because of political influences and because of the fact that India was a subordinate Member of the British Commonwealth of Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a factor which undoubtedly weighed in the decision.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the fact that India failed to secure a permanent place, and that France, China and other countries less deserving have got a place, does the Honourable Member still think that there is a definite advantage to India in joining this Fund under those humiliating circumstances and scramble for one seat with all the little people of the world?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, if the rules for election of Members to the executive directorate are studied, it will become clear that

India cannot fail to obtain a seat on the directorate and therefore the question whether she automatically obtains a place without election seems to me not of very great importance.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: May I know whether in his reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's question he intended to convey that the subordinate status of India did count in regard to the question of a permanent seat being assigned to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know. The Honourable Member can interpret or make such inferences as he likes. The plain fact of the matter is that in regard to the constitution of the first five places, undoubtedly the idea of the big Five which has since emerged in other spheres was operative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that one of the Members of this Delegation has publicly stated that an important Member of the American Delegation told him that the reason why America opposed India's claim for membership to the executive committee was the fact that India was a subordinate part of the British Empire and that Americans would not stand the idea of two seats on the executive committee for the British Empire.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My attention has been drawn to that statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do the Government of India propose to take to see that this sort of difficulty is not presented to India in future sessions of this conference and also in other World conferences where India would be entitled in her own rights to independent membership on the executive committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know what steps the Honourable Member can suggest that the Government of India should take.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I suggest to the Honourable Member to make an application, if he can, to his masters in England that India should be severed from the British Empire so that India can be assured of her rightful place in all the executive committees that may be formed in the World Monetary and other conferences that may be brought into existence in the post-war period?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga. (The Honourable Member has not given a reply to my question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Evidently he is not prepared to reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He asked me specifically for a suggestion and I have made the suggestion.

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

ARRANGEMENT RE LIQUIDATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES.

73. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what arrangement, if any, has been arrived at regarding the liquidation of India's sterling balances between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India? Is the question of India's Sterling balances a question between the two Governments or a question to be decided by the United Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No arrangement of the nature suggested by the Honourable Member has yet been arrived at. The matter is one for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: As I learn from the answer, it may be a matter for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. But the latter part of my question has not been answered. "Is the question

of India's sterling balances a question between the two Governments or a question to be decided by the United Nations'?"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I replied that the matter is one for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact, as has been published in newspapers that these sterling balances will be repaid only in the shape of goods to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not a matter of decision. That is a result which may flow from the facts of the situation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member make it clear to the House in view of the reply given in the Parliament this morning by Sir John Anderson, in what form the sterling balances are at present, under what conditions they can be operated upon or withdrawn and what is the latest available figure of these balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As regards the last point, there is a question later on today and in answer thereto, I shall give the figures. As regards the other point, the actual form in which the sterling balances are held, I require notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did the Honourable Member bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government in England with whom he was conferring the grave concern felt in all circles in this country about the rumoured proposal presented to him for part cancellation of India's sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No proposals of that kind have been presented to me.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said just now in reply to my question that he wants notice. May I enquire if thereby he wants to convey that either he has not got information now or that he is unwilling to give it to the House as to in what form the sterling balances belonging to India are in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is surely aware that this is a matter of investment policy of the Reserve Bank in the Issue Branch in which the greater part of these sterling balances are held. They are of course, for the most part held in the form of treasury bills, but if my Honourable friend wants a detailed answer, I will have to refer to certain detailed reports.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member indicate to us when the negotiations will be resumed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can only say that it will be taken up at the earliest possible moment. As far as I can judge, it is unlikely to be earlier than next spring.

PROGRAMME OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

74. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member of Planning and Development please state:

(a) if the Government of India have now ready any unified comprehensive scheme and programme of post-war reconstruction; if so, whether they will give the House an opportunity to discuss it; if so, when?

(b) if, in view of the end of the war and the breaking down of the Powers being in sight, the Government of India propose to draw up now an All-India plan for the economic development of India and measures to give effect to it; whether they are aware that Nations which are much more involved in war have started it more than a year ago; and

(c) if Government have adopted in a modified form, or partly or wholly without any modification what is known as the Bombay Industrialists Plan for the economic Development of India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) No. The plan is being prepared.

(b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Government's "Second Report on Reconstruction Planning" which has recently been issued.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: These Reconstruction Committees are working for a year and a half. May I know when the unified comprehensive scheme is likely to be ready?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The whole plan of reconstruction and development of the country is a very important business and will certainly take a very long time.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will it go on till the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It might.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that in view of his earlier statement that the objectives of the Bombay plan have been accepted by the Government of India, grave discontent prevails among more than a crore of handloom weavers and many more crores of other artisans in this country, that no effort was made in that plan for providing for the further development and production and rationalisation of these cottage industries of this country?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. The Bombay Plan itself also lays emphasis on the development of cottage industries. When we come up to the Resolution we will go into it, but I might explain that when the general objectives of the Bombay Plan have been accepted by Government what I mean is the objective of raising the standard of living of the people and improving their purchasing power. It does not mean that every detailed suggestion that is made in the Bombay Plan has been accepted by Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then may we take it that the various main heads for the development of industrialisation of this country are not all-inclusive, but on the other hand are only indicative and other heads as can be suggested and are accepted by Government can also be included?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Have Government got any other plan of reconstruction besides the Bombay Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government have got a plan of their own. They are prepared to utilise other plans and take what is good in them, but they are not tied to any particular plan. They are preparing a plan of their own.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: When will that plan be known to this House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I just answered that in reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh.

STEPS FOR FLOATING LOAN TO GIVE SUBSIDY TO AGRICULTURISTS.

75. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps, if any, have been taken to give effect to the motion moved by me and adopted by the House on the 1st March, 1944, in respect of floating loan to give subsidy to agriculturists? In case subsidies are given, will a list be placed on the table showing the amount and purpose of the subsidy received by each province?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government have accepted the resolution in its broad sense; they are doing every thing possible to step up their borrowing on the one hand, and on the other, they are prepared to do every thing that is possible and useful, in order to produce more food, including milk and milk products, as a part of the "Grow More Food" campaign. I place on the table a statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign in 1944-45, up to date.

Statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1944-45

Description of schemes	Madras	Bombay	Bengal	United Provinces	Punjab	Bihar	C. P. and Berar	Assam	N. W. F. P.	Orissa	Sind
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
1. Diversion of areas from cotton to food crops.	..	59,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Improvement and distribution of seeds.	1,20,128	5,26,875	5,11,050	1,08,850	..	2,20,000	1,99,666	2,02,500	1,50,500	1,26,467	..
3. Supply and improvement of manures.	3,91,000	6,21,000	54,000	2,57,140	2,54,910	60,000	3,38,000	25,250	..	85,000	..
4. Irrigation and drainage schemes.	89,250	11,51,830	2,38,095	5,34,500	7,00,000	8,76,970	74,000	1,15,000	6,63,500	1,06,000	..
5. Reclamation of waste lands and improvement of existing lands.	1,98,966	..	..	..	6,00,000	..	70,110	..	..	44,000	..
6. Bunding and Dry farming.	..	15,00,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Increase of fish production.	..	..	21,950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Research.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Miscellaneous.	4,01,900	84,200	2,00,000	2,000	..	1,79,800	..	1,25,400	..	1,45,836	88,000
Total.	12,02,254	29,43,405	10,45,095	9,02,490	15,54,910	13,46,770	6,81,776	4,85,150	8,24,000	5,07,303	88,000

Statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1944-45.

Description of schemes.	Ajmer- Merwara	Baluchis- tan	Baroda	I. C. A. R.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Diversion of areas from cotton to food crops.	21,996	..	4,01,000	..	4,82,496
2. Improvement and distribution of seeds.	61,116	20,653	..	..	22,74,815
3. Supply and improvement of manures.	6,900	13,550	33,750	..	21,50,500
4. Irrigation and drainage schemes	..	30,000	2,14,500	..	48,13,645
5. Reclamation of waste lands and improvement of existing lands.	..	..	52,000	..	9,66,076
6. Bunding and Dry farming	..	..	..	..	15,00,000
7. Increase of fish production	..	..	..	..	21,950
8. Research	..	..	..	2,73,400	2,73,400
9. Miscellaneous	..	32,500	18,000	..	12,77,636
Total	90,012	96,703	7,19,250	2,73,400	1,37,60,518

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that though in the name of the "Grow More Food" campaign the Government of India have been setting apart certain funds, the various Provincial Governments have been cancelling the land revenue remissions that had been ordered as long ago as 1937, and continued year after year and are thus positively discouraging the "Grow More Food" campaign in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If certain land revenue remissions have been cancelled I have no doubt that that is being done on other grounds, but that does not relate directly, in my opinion, to the question of encouraging the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But is the Honourable Member aware that the cancellation of these concessions imposes as high a burden as 75 lakhs of rupees per annum upon a province like Madras, for instance? It certainly discourages the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the Honourable Member's own opinion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: May I know in what way the funds which are placed at the disposal of Provincial Governments for the "Grow More Food" campaign are being utilised?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have laid a statement on the table but, as far as I understand, those funds are utilised for the purpose of encouraging the growing of more food.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: By mere propaganda or by financial help or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think in all possible ways, but I cannot give details. Administration is a matter within the scope of the Education, Health and Lands Department.

MURDERS AND OUTRAGES IN CALCUTTA ON INDIANS BY AMERICANS AND AMERICAN NEGROES.

†76. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please give information on the following matters to the House—

(i) murders and murderous assaults committed by Americans and American negroes on Indians and on sikh motor drivers in Calcutta in 1942, 1943 and 1944;

(ii) outrages on women in Calcutta with particular reference to forcible kidnapping of Indian girls in American jeeps; and

(iii) in the Grand Hotel and Great Eastern, Calcutta, on or about the 5th August, 1944, on the America's Independent Day, what damage was done to the property of these Hotels?

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

(b) Is it a fact that when the Americans were threatened to be informed against, one of them declared that he was the Head of the American Military Police and his companion was another officer in the same and hence no purpose would be served by reporting?

(c) Is it a fact that the matter had to be dropped?

(d) How many times motor drivers struck work there? How long did each strike last?

(e) What action was taken against these activities of foreigners in India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

CABIN RENT PAID BY ROYAL INDIAN NAVY OFFICERS WHEN SERVING AFLOAT.

77. *Sir F. E. James: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that officers of the R.I.N. and its reserves pay rent at 5 per cent. of their pay for their cabin accommodation when serving afloat; and

(b) if this is the practice in the Royal Navy; if not, why it has been adopted in the R.I.N.?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the pay structures in the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy are different. In the Royal Navy, basic pay does not include any element on account of accommodation, which is provided free when afloat, and sometimes also on shore. If accommodation on shore is not provided free, an allowance is given. In the Royal Indian Navy, however, the basic pay already includes an allowance for accommodation; hence the deduction made by Government.

Sir F. E. James: Is my Honourable friend aware that the deduction is made from the pay of the officer, whether he has a cabin to himself or shares a cabin with six, eight or ten other officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That is correct.

Sir F. E. James: Can my Honourable friend tell me whether this practice obtains in any other navy in the world, even in navies whose pay structure is roughly similar to that in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have no information about navies in other parts of the British Commonwealth where the pay structure includes an element on account of accommodation.

Sir F. E. James: Will my Honourable friend look into this matter, because there is a strong feeling among officers of the Royal Indian Navy, which any sensible man would share, that this is a ridiculous deduction to make for this particular purpose?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not agree that this is a ridiculous deduction to make. I can understand the feelings of officers from whom deductions are made, but as pay includes an element on account of accommodation the provision of accommodation necessarily entails deduction of that element.

Sir F. E. James: Is any differentiation made between a deduction made from the pay of an officer who has a cabin in a ship that goes into action, and the deduction from the pay of an officer who has a cabin in a ship which is more or less operating in safe waters?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, no differentiation is made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why is there this difference between the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not see that there is any differentiation in treatment. In the Royal Navy accommodation is provided free and in the Royal Indian Navy the pay element includes an element on account of accommodation. So when Government provide accommodation a deduction is made. There is no differentiation.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have Government considered whether this operates in any way as a hardship on these officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not heard any such complaints.

STEPS FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF RATINGS, PETTY OFFICERS, ETC. IN THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

78. *Sir F. E. James: With reference to my speech on the Finance Bill on the 20th March, 1944, dealing with the Royal Indian Navy, will the War Secretary please state what steps have since been taken or are under immediate consideration—

- (i) to increase the number of trained personnel;
- (ii) to improve the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers, which, in some cases, had not been increased since the last Great War and were only a quarter of I.A.F. rates;
- (iii) to authorise Chief Petty Officers to travel second class on railways, as in the case of V.C.O.'s, and generally to improve their status;
- (iv) to give training allowances and extra pay to junior ratings doing senior ratings' work;
- (v) to provide married quarters for ratings; and
- (vi) to increase the awards for meritorious service, long service and good conduct, and in the case of long service, the amount of the gratuity?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (i) I am glad to be able to inform the Honourable Member that steps to increase the number of trained personnel in the Royal Indian Navy are well advanced. The training establishment for new entries is nearing completion and training is already in full swing. A training squadron has also been formed to give ratings some sea experience before they are drafted out of the training establishment.

It is expected that the new Mechanical Training Establishment will be ready to take over the instruction of engineering personnel by the end of this year, while radar training has already commenced and the new radar school will shortly be ready for occupation.

Since the end of February 1944, when the Honourable Member raised this question in the House, the number of trained active service personnel has increased by about 22 per cent.

(ii) and (iii). These matters are still under consideration. The Honourable Member and the House may rest assured that they will receive careful consideration by Government.

(iv) Chief Petty Officers, Petty Officers and Leading rates have since been granted a training allowance.

The question of paying extra pay to junior ratings doing senior ratings' work is still under discussion.

(v) The necessity for providing married accommodation for R.I.N. ratings has been accepted in principle, but the scheme cannot be implemented until after the war.

(vi) The number of these awards has been increased. Proposals for the increase of gratuity have not yet come before Government.

Sir F. E. James: With reference to the answer to part (vi) of the question, will my Honourable friend state precisely what awards are now given each year?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Fortunately, I have got the details. The number of awards given before the revision in the case of Meritorious Service Medal was 10. It has now been raised to 17. The number of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal awards (with gratuity of Rs. 25 each) before the revision was two; now it is 34 per annum. The number of Long Service and Good Conduct awards (without gratuity) before revision was 1, now it is 17.

Sir F. E. James: With regard to the answer to part (iii) of the question, am I to understand that Chief Petty Officers are still at a disadvantage as compared with V.C.Os. in the matter of railway travel?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I think the answer is yes.

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend will perhaps realize that the matter was raised several months ago and he, on behalf of the Department, promised very early consideration of this matter. May I ask whether that consideration can be expedited in order to remove what is quite obviously an invidious dis-

inction between the Chief Petty Officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the V.C.Os. in the Land Army?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am fully aware of the position in the matter which is receiving active consideration, but I am afraid there are many difficulties chiefly due to lack of accommodation on railways.

Sir F. E. James: Does my Honourable friend really mean to suggest that the reason why he cannot improve the status of the Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Indian Navy in the matter of railway travel is lack of accommodation on the railway trains?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I said 'chiefly'; I did not say that was the only reason.

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend says that was the chief reason. Exactly how many Chief Petty Officers there are in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not got the information. The point is that repercussions of any such step will be great in the Indian Air Force.

Sir F. E. James: May I suggest to the Honourable Member that he should consult the War Transport Member as to the extra amount of accommodation that would have to be made available if this very desirable change were made in the status of the Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The War Department is fully aware of the difficulties of the Honourable the War Transport Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether I understood the Honourable Member correctly when he said that the War Office is not in need of recruiting more officers in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know whether my Honourable friend refers to the War Office or to the War Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is very difficult to say. I mean the Fighting Forces.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It does not arise out of the question. But we are still in need of officers.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If more officers are needed still, is it not desirable to raise the status of these persons whom they want to recruit?

(No reply was given.)

Sir F. E. James: Sir, may I press this question to the Honourable Member. I was indeed shocked at his reply. My Honourable friend suggested that the chief reason why the status of the Chief Petty Officer could not be raised to that of V.C.O. is the lack of accommodation on the trains. Is my Honourable friend not aware that the difficulty of accommodation is far greater in the III class than in the Upper Classes of the Railways, and therefore the transfer of these officers might relieve the congestion in the lower classes?

(No reply was given.)

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: With reference to part (iv).

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I want to ask only one supplementary question.

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

It has been fully discussed. Next question.

STATEMENT ON BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

79. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the floor of the House on the proceedings of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference?

(b) What was the view expressed by the Indian Delegation at this Conference?

(c) What are the findings of this Conference?

(d) If the Honourable Member is not willing to disclose the details, will he give a summary of the work done by the Indian Delegation?

(e) Will the Government give an opportunity to the House to express its views on the monetary policy before commitment of the Government of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (c) and (e). The results of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference have been embodied in a document called the "Final Act" two copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. An opportunity for full discussion of the subject will be afforded to the House in due course.

(b) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Question No. 72 asked today by Sardar Sant Singh.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Finance Member give us an assurance that India will not be committed in any way before the recommendations are discussed in this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In his reply the Honourable Member has said 'An opportunity will be afforded to the House in due course'. Does he mean in this Session?

(No reply was given).

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It may be during the next Session; that does not matter.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

80. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that besides the Deputy Accountant General and one Assistant Accountant General, there are five Assistant Accounts Officers in the Office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

(b) Is it also a fact that out of the above seven officers there are three Madrasis, one Bengalee and three local Hindus?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim officer in the above Office? If so, why not?

(d) Will Government be pleased to replace a Madras officer by a Muslim officer immediately?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) There are two Madrasis, four local Hindus and one Bengali.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. Posting of officers to the offices of the Indian Audit Department is not done on a communal basis. In any event there is at present no Muslim officer who can suitably be appointed to that office.

(d) In view of the answer to part (c), this question does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether any suitable Mohammadan Officer has ever applied?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I am informed, there is at present no Muslim officer who can suitably be appointed and I presume no such officer has applied?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether recruitment to the Indian Audit Service is made on communal basis?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the posting of officers to the offices of the Indian Audit Department is not done on a communal basis. I think in the recruitment of this, as in other services, the communal proportions are observed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Reference has been made to Madrasis in part (b). What community do they belong to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was accepting the somewhat unscientific classification which was put before me in the question.

IMPORTATION OF MADRASI CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

81. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Subordinate Accounts Service cadre in all the Audit and Accounts Offices in India was localised in the year 1929.

(b) Is it a fact that the above scheme is being nullified so far as the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is concerned as in that office as many as four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks have been brought from Madras?

(c) Is it a fact that all these Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks have become senior to a number of local Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks?

(d) Is it also a fact that one of the Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks, has also been confirmed out of turn over and above all the local Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks who were waiting for confirmation in their cadre since a long time?

(e) As there is great heart burning and discontent in the above office on the importing of Madras passed clerks from Madras, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to stop such immigration and also take steps to revert all such men who have not yet been confirmed in that cadre in this office to their parent office? If this is not possible, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Subordinate Accounts Service Cadre was localised in 1933.

(b) Four Madras clerks who had passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination were transferred from the office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs to officiate as Accountants in the Delhi Office on account of the paucity of passed clerks in the latter office. This was necessary on administrative grounds.

(c) Three of the four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks just mentioned were treated as junior to all the Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the Delhi office on the dates of their transfer. Only one of the men transferred was given his normal seniority according to the date of his passing the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination and placed above 2 locally-passed men on administrative grounds. One of the men has been confirmed out of turn as will be explained in part (d).

(d) The answer is in the affirmative. One of them has recently been confirmed out of turn in one of the vacancies in the Delhi Audit Office on account of his outstanding ability and comparative superiority. This has been done strictly in accordance with the rules on the subject.

(e) According to the Departmental Rules, the immigration of passed clerks is not generally permissible and is resorted to only in the most exceptional circumstances. As the dearth of Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the Delhi Office still continues the four men in question cannot in the public interest be repatriated.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member has referred to 'passed clerks'. May I know from him what examination they have passed? Have they passed the Federal Public Service Commission Examination?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid that I am unable to answer any supplementaries on this question because I am barely able to understand what it is about myself.

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

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR STAFF OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

82. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the staff of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi has been declared eligible for Government quarters only from August 1943?

(b) Is it a fact that the above office has been located in Delhi from the year 1903? If so, why like other offices of the Central Government was this office not provided with Government quarters in spite of repeated representations from the staff either to provide Government quarters or to grant some house-rent in lieu thereof?

(c) Is it a fact that inspite of the eligibility of the staff of the above office, to get Government quarters, over 800 men have not yet been able to secure Government quarters for their residences? What are the reasons for not providing quarters to these men, and also what arrangements, if any, are the Government making to build quarters for them as well?

(d) Have Central Government employees in Audit and Account offices living outside Delhi and Simla also been provided with Government quarters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. They have been made eligible for Government accommodation in the general pool in Delhi as from August, 1943.

(b) The office in Delhi was opened in 1900. Its staff was not provided with Government quarters as they were declared to be "non-entitled" till August 1943.

(c) Yes. This is due to the very difficult housing situation in Delhi. Government are trying to meet the abnormal situation as best as they can, and have in hand a building programme for about 5,000 staff quarters.

(d) Yes, to a limited extent at Ranchi and Peshawar and in certain Railway Colonies. Government do not consider it to be either necessary or feasible to embark on a programme of construction to house all this staff throughout India.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

INADEQUACY OF THE DELHI COMPENSATORY HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE.

83. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India, Finance Department, in their Letter No. 44(9)W-44, dated the 21st July, 1944 have been pleased to grant a compensatory house-rent allowance equal to the excess of the monthly rent paid by the Government servants over 10 per cent. of their monthly pay to all those who could not so far secure Government quarters?

(b) Do the Government consider that the grant of this little concession will secure for these employees well ventilated commodious houses in healthy localities like the Government quarters? If not, do Government propose to construct immediately Government quarters for these employees as well, or grant in lieu thereof a flat rate of Rs. 20, Rs. 30 and Rs. 50 to all those getting pay upto Rs. 100 per month, from above Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month and from above Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month respectively? If not, why not?

(c) Why has the above compensatory house-rent allowance not been extended to all Central Government employees working in Audit and Account offices in India except Delhi?

(d) Since the shortage of residential houses is acutely felt in all the Provincial Capitals in India, is it proposed that this allowance should forthwith be extended to them also. If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes, but the allowance is admissible only to those non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Delhi who draw pay up to Rs. 500 p.m. and fail to get Government quarters. The allowance is equal to the excess of the monthly rent actually paid by the Government servant over 10 per cent. of his monthly pay but subject to a maximum of 10 per cent. of monthly pay.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, in so far as the present congestion in Delhi permits. The second part of the question does not arise, but I may mention that a further large building programme has recently been undertaken in Delhi which includes some 5,000 extra staff quarters. In the mean time, in view of the fact that rents are controlled, the existing allowance is considered adequate.

(c) and (d). The allowance has since been extended to non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Calcutta and Bombay and their suburbs, including those working in Audit and Accounts Offices. No general or uniform scale for Central Government servants throughout India would be justified as conditions vary from place to place.

STEPS FOR STABILIZATION OF PURCHASING POWER OF RUPEE.

84. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps he has taken since the last Session of the Assembly to stabilize the purchasing power of a rupee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This question is identical in substance with question No. 67 asked by the Honourable Member today, to which I have already replied.

PROGRAMME FOR POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

85. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) the different schemes and programme for post-war planning and development;

(b) the names of departments under which particular schemes of planning and post-war development have been or proposed to be sanctioned and the details of the development together with strength of staff;

(c) the strength of the organisation to carry out planning and development schemes at the Headquarters and in different places or provinces as the case may be;

(d) the strength of his Secretariat, i.e., the number of

- (1) Secretaries,
- (2) Joint Secretaries,
- (3) Deputy Secretaries,
- (4) Assistant Secretaries,
- (5) Superintendents; and

their salaries and qualifications and the number of Muslims under each category;

(e) whether the various posts under (d) were advertised? If so, when and in what ways?

(f) whether any Selection Board was appointed or Federal Public Service Commission was asked to select personnel under each category? If not, who appointed the officers under each category? In case any Selection Board was appointed, what was its personnel,

(g) the progress of schemes already taken in hand;

(h) whether schemes of post-war planning and development have been sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee or the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (g). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reports on several subjects of post-war development which have been published by Government from time to time and copies of which are available in the Library and also to the Second Report* on Reconstruction Planning, a copy of which was laid on the table of the House this morning in answer to question No. 62.

(b) Each scheme is prepared by the Department of Government concerned with the Planning and Development Department acting as the Co-ordinating Department.

The Honourable Member will observe from the Second Report that the Government of India have not yet got to the stage of considering the strength of staff for executing development plans.

(c) I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course.

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) and (f). The posts were filled in the normal way by promotions and transfers of suitable officers already in service and there was no occasion to appoint a Selection Board or to consult the Public Service Commission.

(h) The schemes have not yet reached the stage of being placed for sanction before the Standing Finance Committee or the Assembly.

*Not printed in these debates, but copies have been placed in the library of the House.—
Ed. of D.

Statement.

Designation of Officer.	Salary.	Qualifications.	Remarks.
	Ra.		
Secretary	4,000	Mily. Officer, Lt.-Genl., British Service.	The Addl. Deputy Secretary is a Muslim and the others are non-Muslims.
Joint Secretary	3,000	} Belong to the Indian Civil Service.	
Deputy Secretary	2,000		
Additional Deputy Secretary	1,900	} B. A., Belongs to the Imperial Sectt. Service, Class II, has put in over 17 years' service.	
Assistant Secretaries (2)	1,000		
	1,050	Non-graduate, is a permanent Superintendent in the Legislative Deptt., C. P. Govt., has put in over 20 years' service.	
Superintendents (2)	600	B. A. (Hons.), has put in over 15 years' service.	
	600	B. A., has put in over 17 years' service.	

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL BACKWARDNESS OF MUSLIM NATION IN INDIA.

86. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether his attention has ever been drawn to the economic and industrial backwardness of Muslim Nation in the country?

(b) What steps has he taken or proposes to take to remove the said backwardness?

(c) Has he appointed or does he propose to appoint an adviser to help him in removing the said backwardness?

The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal: (a) No statistical investigation has been made of the economic condition of the people by communities, but it is generally accepted that Muslims are economically more backward than some others.

(b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to Government's Second Report on Reconstruction Planning which has recently been issued. As explained therein, the ultimate object of all planning is to raise the standard of living of the people as a whole. The ultimate effect of planned development will be to benefit the backward classes to a comparatively larger extent than the more advanced classes.

GOVERNMENT HANDWRITING EXPERTS IN PROVINCES.

87. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether any Provincial Government maintains whole-time or consulting handwriting experts? If so, what are the Provinces?

(b) Was any order issued by the Government of India to the Provincial Government, in pursuance of the answer given by the Government of India to question No. 351 in the February 1930 Session of the Assembly? If not, do the Government of India propose to issue such Orders immediately?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I understand that some Provinces do employ official handwriting experts, but I have no complete information.

(b) The answer to question No. 351 of 1930 did not suggest or promise the issue of any orders; none were therefore issued and the Government of India do not propose to issue any now.

CONSIDERATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES AT THE BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

88. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it has been brought to his notice that Mr. Shinwell raised a question in the House of Commons on the 6th July, 1944, enquiring of the Secretary of State for India as to the authority under which the subject of India's sterling balances was raised at the International Monetary Conference?

(b) Was there any definite commitment by the Government of India with His Majesty's Government with regard to the raising of this question at Bretton Woods Conference and had the Government of India at any time agreed to the exclusion of the consideration of this question from the agenda of the Conference?

(c) Were any instructions issued by the Government of India to their representatives at the preliminary Conference at expert level? If so, what was the nature of such instructions?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India's representative experts at the preliminary Conference did not raise the question regarding the inclusion of the subject of India's sterling balances within the purview of the International Monetary Conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative.

(c) and (d). I am not sure to what stage of the proceedings the Honourable Member is referring, but I can say that it is not a fact that the Government of India's representatives at any stage agreed not to raise this question.

IMPORT OF SILVER FROM IRAN.

89. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arranged to import 500 tons of silver from Iran through an arrangement with the Iran National Bank;

(b) whether it is a fact that the import of this silver has been financed by the British and United States of America Governments whereby the British and the United States of America Governments have offered gold to Persia in exchange for the silver released for India;

(c) the conditions on which this silver has been imported by the Government of India; and

(d) whether the Government of India have paid for these imports in sterling; if so, at what rate this silver has been paid for, or whether the profit margin between the price at which the silver has been acquired and the price at which it has been offered in the Indian market is accruing to the Iran National Bank, or the British or United States of America Governments or to the Government of India or the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: (a) Yes.

(b) The transaction was a straightforward purchase on the part of the Government of India.

(c) Import was made by outright purchase by the Government of India. I regret that I am not prepared to furnish any further details.

(d) Payment for the silver was made in rupees. The remaining portions of the question do not therefore arise.

IMPORT OF SILVER UNDER LEASE-LEND.*

90. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arranged to import about 100 million ounces of silver under Lease-Lend;

(b) whether the Government of India have undertaken to repay ounce per ounce the silver so acquired from the United States of America;

(c) whether the silver so acquired is meant purely for finance purposes or for sale in the Indian market; and

(d) at what price this silver has been accounted for in the Lease-Lend accounts of the United States of America so as to debit the value of silver imported into India, and at what price this silver will be sold in the Indian market?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiqués dated the 15th June and 11th July, issued on this subject.

(d) The question of accounting for the price of the silver does not arise as no payment is to be made and the silver itself is to be returned ounce for ounce. As regards the last part of part (d) I regret that I am unable to supply any information.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST.

91. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) what additional burden would be thrown on Indian exchequer as a result of increases in the emoluments allowed to British troops serving in the East in the recent past;

(b) whether the aforesaid increases in emoluments would be governed by the terms of the agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India regarding the allocation of Defence expenditure; and

(c) what effect this additional obligation of the Indian exchequer is likely to have on the sterling balance to the credit of India in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter is under consideration in consultation with His Majesty's Government.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST.

92. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what increases in the emoluments in the recent past have been sanctioned for the British troops serving in the East;

(b) to what extent these increased emoluments will constitute a charge on Indian revenues;

(c) the difference between the emoluments of a British soldier serving in India and of an Indian soldier; and

(d) with what objects the forthcoming visit of the Earl of Munster is being undertaken, and in what manner his visit is likely to affect the revenues of India by way of further increased charges on account of British soldiers stationed in India and in the East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) A copy of the White Paper issued by His Majesty's Government on the subject is placed on the table.

(b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with His Majesty's Government.

(c) A statement comparing the emoluments of typical ranks of British and Indian soldiers is placed on the table.

(d) The Earl of Munster is investigating the arrangements for the welfare, entertainment and amenities in general for the armed forces. I am unable to anticipate the results of his mission.

White Paper.

Additional Financial Benefits for members of the Forces with prolonged service during the present war and in respect of service in the Far East.

1. His Majesty's Government consider that with the increases in the pay and allowances of members of the Forces and their families announced in the White Paper (Command 6521) of April, 1944, the general provision made for serving personnel was brought up to a satisfactory level. Recently, however, they have been giving consideration to the position of those members of the Forces who have already rendered prolonged service during the present war, and of those who will undertake service in the Far East. The war against the Axis Powers will be one continuous effort until the last of the enemies is defeated, and many men will be required to continue their service either in Europe or in the war against Japan. His Majesty's Government have accordingly decided to introduce, as a war measure, a scheme of special financial benefits in respect of prolonged service during the present war and also in respect of service in the Far Eastern theatre of war.

These benefits, which will not be taken into account for the purpose of contributory or qualifying allotments for Family or Dependents' Allowance, fall into two parts:—

(i) Increments of pay, known as War Service Increments, for officers and men of the Royal Navy, Army and R. A. F., in receipt of British or British India rates of pay, who have given a considerable period of service during the present war.

(ii) Additional pay, to be known as Japanese Campaign Pay, for those officers and men who served in the Far Eastern theatre.

2. *War Service Increments*.—These increments will be given to all ratings, and other ranks and to all officers below the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General, or Air Vice Marshal, who have completed, or who subsequently complete, three years' man's service from and including the 3rd September, 1939. They will take effect from the 3rd September, 1944, and will be at the following rates :—

7s. a week for ratings below Petty Officer and other ranks below Sergeant, after completion of three years' war service, with an additional 3s. 6d. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

10s. 6d. a week for Petty Officers and Chief Petty Officers, Royal Navy, Sergeants and higher N. C. Os. and Warrant Officers of the Army and R. A. F. after three years' war service, with an additional 3s. 6d. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

15s. 9d. a week for officers below Lieutenant Commander, Major and Squadron Leader, after three years' war service, with an additional 5s. 3d. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

21s. a week for Lieutenant Commanders, Majors and Squadron Leaders and above (but not officers of or above the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General or Air Vice Marshal) after three years' war service, with an additional 7s. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

Women members of the Forces will receive these increments at two-thirds of the appropriate men's rates.

3. *Japanese Campaign Pay*.—Officers and men of the Royal Navy, the Army and the R. A. F. serving in the Far East, and in receipt of pay under the British Pay Code, will be granted Japanese Campaign Pay at the following weekly rates, with effect from the 1st November, 1944 :—

	s. d.
Men below Leading Rating and Corporal	7 0
Leading Ratings and Corporals	8 9
Petty Officers and Sergeants	10 6
Chief Petty Officers, Staff and Flight Sergeants	12 3
Warrant Officers, Class I and Class II	14 0
Officers up to and including Lieutenant, Royal Navy, Captain and Flight Lieutenant	21 0
Lieutenant-Commanders, Majors and Squadron Leaders	35 0
Commanders, Lieutenant-Colonels and Wing Commanders	49 0
Captains, Royal Navy, Colonels and Brigadiers, Group Captains and Air Commodores	63 0
Flag Officers, General Officers and Air Vice Marshals and above	77 0

Japanese Campaign Pay will be payable irrespective of the period of service rendered, and will be in addition to any War Service Increments admissible under paragraph 2 above.

4. Japanese Campaign Pay at the rates shown above will also be granted to men below commissioned rank and to officers up to and including the rank of Captain and Flight Lieutenant in receipt of pay under the Indian Pay Code. It will not be paid to officers of the rank of Major and Squadron Leader and above in receipt of pay under the Indian Pay Code, in view of the substantial advantages which they receive under that Code.

5. Women members of the Forces will receive Japanese Campaign Pay at two-thirds of the appropriate men's rates.

6. *Far East Allowance*.—It has also been decided to introduce, with effect from 1st November, 1944, for all officers and men of the Army and R. A. F. serving in the Far East, who are in receipt of pay under the British Pay Code, a tax-free allowance to take the place of Field and Colonial Allowance. This allowance will be known as Far East Allowance and will be at the rates shown below. Far East Allowance will also be granted to officers and men of the Royal Navy serving ashore in the Far East, except where provision for the grant of a Naval Colonial Allowance is already in existence.

	Weekly s. d.
Ranks below Petty Officer and Sergeant	2 4
Petty Officers and Sergeants	3 6
Chief Petty Officers, Staff and Flight Sergeants	4 1
Warrant Officers, Class II	5 10
Warrant Officers, Class I	9 4
All Officers	21 0

7. Women members of the Forces will be granted Far East Allowance at the same rates as men.

8. The effect of these additional benefits, including Far East Allowance where drawn, is shown in the following typical examples (Army rates are quoted for simplicity) :—

Total weekly cash receipts of officers and men and their families. The rates quoted refer to officers and men paid under the British Pay Code.

	Unmarried.						Married, wife and 2 children.					
	Present.			Future.			Present.			Future.		
	At home.	At home.	Far East.	At home.	At home.	Far East.	At home.	At home.	Far East.	At home.	At home.	Far East.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Private, Cl. I, 3 yrs. war service.	1	13	3	2	0	3	2	9	7	4	4	6
Private Cl. I, 5 yrs. war service.	1	13	3	2	7	3	2	16	7	4	4	6
Sergt., 3 yrs. war service	2	9	0	2	19	6	3	13	6	4	18	0
Sergt., 5 yrs. war service	2	12	6	3	10	0	4	4	0	5	1	6
Lt., 3 yrs. war service	4	11	0	5	6	9	7	8	9	8	4	6
Lt., 5 yrs. war service	5	1	6	6	7	9	8	9	9	8	15	0
Capt., 3 yrs. war service	5	15	6	6	11	3	8	13	3	9	2	0
Capt., 5 yrs. war service	5	15	6	7	1	9	9	3	9	9	2	0
Major 3 yrs. war service	9	19	6	11	0	6	13	16	6	12	15	6
Major 5 yrs. war service	9	19	6	11	14	6	14	10	6	12	15	6

In the above table no account is taken of items provided in kind or allowances granted in lieu thereof.

9. In the assessment of War Service Grants, the War Service Increments and Japanese Campaign Pay now approved will be taken into consideration broadly on the present basis, and any necessary adjustments in existing awards will be made as and when individual cases are reviewed.

10. The cost of the above increases is estimated to be not less than £100 million a year.

Statement comparing the emoluments of British and Indian soldiers of the non-tradesmen classes.

British Other Ranks serving in India (i.e. outside their own country).				Indian soldiers serving outside India.			
Rank.		Emoluments per mensem.*		Rank.		Emoluments per mensem.†	
		Rs.	A. P.			Rs.	A. P.
Privates—				Privates—			
Private (after 3 years' service)		119	12 0	Sepoy (after 3 years' service).		44	8 0
Non-commissioned officers—				Non-commissioned officers—			
Corporal		142	9 0	Naik		56	0 0
Sergeant		171	1 0	Havildar		63	0 0
Warrant Officers—				No comparable ranks in the Indian Army. Viceroy's commissioned officers—			
Class II (Sub-Conductor)		262	5 0				
Class I (Conductor)		307	15 0				
No comparable ranks in the British Army.		..		Jemadar		108—5	133
				Subedar		183—10	223

* Includes proficiency pay and post-war credits. Marriage allowance has not been taken into account.

This is admissible to married British Other Ranks at the following rates:—

	Rs.
For wife	30
For wife + 1 child	86
For wife + 2 children	136
For wife + 3 children	161
Each additional child	45

† Includes Proficiency Pay, Deferred Pay, Batta and Expatriation Allowance.

DETENUS RELEASED, ETC.

93. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of detenus who have been released as a result of the six-monthly reviews provided for in the Detention Ordinance;

(b) in how many such cases restrictive orders have been issued or re-arrest and detention effected again;

(c) the total number of detenus now in detention in each province, and whether the process of review has been applied to all these cases; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in some cases detenus who were furnished with the grounds for their detention were refused facilities for securing legal assistance for the preparation of their defence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I have no detailed information in respect of persons detained under the orders of Provincial Governments but as stated in my reply to Question No. 68, 5,068 persons have been released since the beginning of this year. As regards those detained under the orders or at the instance of the Central Government and the Chief Commissioners the number released between January 1st and October 15th was 57. None of these has been re-arrested or re-detained. The movements of some of them have been restricted. Accurate information is not available as to the number of such persons, but it is between 25 and 30.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the position on 1st September, 1944. Later figures are not yet available. It must be remembered that the figures include a large number of persons who have been detained for reasons other than political. The process of review is applied in all Provinces in cases where detention is under Ordinance No. III of 1944. This is clearly laid down in section 9 of the Ordinance.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to question No. 70.

Statement showing the number of persons undergoing detention on 1st September, 1944.

Madras	315
Bombay	343
Bengal	1,281
United Provinces	732
Punjab	107
Bihar	324
Central Provinces and Berar	136
Assam	165
North-West Frontier Province	61
Orissa	127
Sind	1,656
Coorg	
Delhi	21
Ajmer-Merwara	7
Baluchistan	
Total	5,265

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING OF THE CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUE.

94. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how long it is the intention of the Government of India to maintain the present control on capital issue?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that great disaffection prevails as to the manner in which consent of the Government is given to some applicants and refused to others? If so, will the Honourable Member indicate the present policy which is being pursued in the disposal of applications for capital issue, and lay on the table a statement of the number of cases in which consent was granted and of those in which consent was refused?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: (a) It is impossible to foresee precisely when the conditions which necessitated the establishment of control over capital issues will disappear.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The present policy is indicated in the Press Notes of June 21st, 1943, July 10th, 1943, April 28th, 1944, and July 28th, 1944, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The total numbers of cases in which consent had been given and refused up till the 24th October, 1944, are: consents, 2,785; refusals, 78.

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING OF THE CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUE.

95. ***Mr. R. B. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether consent is refused under the present control of capital issues, to register private limited companies also?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, on what ground is such consent withheld?

(c) Is there any other criterion by which applications are judged than that specified in the objects of the Ordinance under reference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Consent for the issue of capital by private limited companies (not for their registration) is necessary and may be refused.

(b) Generally speaking, for reasons referred to in the Press Notes quoted in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 84.

(c) Control is exercised not under an Ordinance but under a Rule made under Defence of India Act. The criteria applied are those referred to in section 2(1) of that Act.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES.

96. ***Mr. R. B. Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the latest amount of India's sterling balance, and what amount thereof is at present held in the Post-war Reconstruction Fund? Are there other proposals pending at the moment for the utilisation of the balance, and, if so, what are they?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: The sterling balances stood on the 13th October 1944 at Rs. 1,149 crores. The entire amount is held in the Issue and Banking Departments of the Reserve Bank of India and no portion is separately held in a Post-War Reconstruction Fund. The question of the utilisation of these balances will, it is expected, form the subject of discussion between the Government of India and of the United Kingdom.

PROPAGANDA BY MEMBERS OF THE VICEROY'S COUNCIL.

97. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is not a fact that the members of the Viceroy's Council tour about India at the public expense?

(b) Are they allowed to carry on propaganda—personal and party?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that Dr. Ambedkar carried on propaganda for the Scheduled Caste Federation?

(d) Is it not a fact that Dr. Ambedkar started the propaganda that scheduled castes form a separate nation? If the answer is in the positive, is it the collective and considered opinion of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

ATTACK BY WAR TECHNICIANS ON CITIZENS OF RAJAMPET.

98. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state if it is not a fact that several peaceful citizens of Rajampet lost their lives and limbs as the result of an attack by War Technicians?

(b) How many lost their lives and limbs? Is there any compensation paid to the sufferers?

(c) What is the action taken by the Government against the culprits?

(d) Is there any police prosecution launched against any of the inmates of the War Technicians Institute Hostel? If so, what is the result?

(e) What are the precautions taken by the Government of India to prevent such untoward incidents there and elsewhere?

(f) Is it not a fact that the citizens were conducting a peaceful procession when the War Technicians in their uniforms and armed with sticks fell on the processionists?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (f). Yes, Sir, an incident did take place. It was in the nature of a riot between members of the Mala caste, who were trainees at the Civil Centre, Rajampet, and members of the Boya and related castes, who had performed a certain dance accompanied by Chindu

music, considered provocative and insulting to the Mala caste. There is, however, no report to the effect that sticks were used. I would add that the music was played in defiance of a local order prohibiting music without previous notice to the civil authorities.

(b) One Boya resident of Rajampet was killed and another was injured. One trainee also was injured. As regards compensation, the matter is under correspondence.

(c) and (d). Of the three culprits tried by the Sessions Judge, Cuddapah, one was sentenced to death for murder, the second to twelve months' rigorous imprisonment, while the third was acquitted.

(e) All military personnel are under orders to take special care that none of their acts violate religious customs and prejudices.

ACTION ON DISCUSSIONS AT THE TOBACCO CONFERENCE HELD AT CALCUTTA.

99. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what decisions have been taken and what orders have been passed on the matters discussed at the Tobacco Conference held at Calcutta on the 26th and 27th June, 1944?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the advisability of publishing or informing the All-India Biri and Tobacco Merchants Federation what changes have been introduced either in the letter or spirit of the Central Excise Rules relating to tobacco and in the working of the system, in the light of the discussions at the Tobacco Conference for the guidance of dealers in tobacco?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The various proposals put forward at the Conference were carefully studied by the Central Excise Department. Some of these matters entailed detailed investigation but except in two instances, where orders will shortly be issued, appropriate orders have been passed and a resumé of the action taken has been sent to the All-India Biri and Tobacco Merchants' Federation.

(b) The Federation have been informed of the action taken.

PRINTING PRESSES CONFISCATED AND NEWSPAPERS SUPPRESSED.

100. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of printing presses confiscated and locked up by police and national newspapers suppressed by the Central and Provincial Governments throughout India during the so-called 'rebellion' of 1942;

(b) how many newspapers have not been given permission to restart; and

(c) how many printing Presses have been released since then, and how many are still locked up?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer so far as the Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces are concerned is:

(a) One printing press was confiscated and locked up by the police in January, 1943. No newspapers were suppressed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The one press referred to in part (a) was released in October 1943. None is still locked up.

GRIEVANCES OF DELHI DETENUS.

101. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the grievances of the Delhi detenues as published in an A.P.I. report which appeared in the *Tribune*, dated the 16th July, 1944, in the form of an interview given by Mr. Ramlal Verma, Editor, the daily *Tej*, Delhi, on his release from detention;

(b) whether the Government have looked into the allegations made therein particularly about the medical arrangements at the Ferozepur Camp Jail Hospital and about the facts that there are frequent complaints regarding the inadequacy of necessary medicines and the indifferent attitude of the Medical Officer;

(c) if it is a fact that the Camp Jail is situated at a very low level, and there being no proper drainage system, malaria is rampant in the rainy season, as the camp becomes a vast breeding ground for mosquitoes;

(d) if it is a fact that there are no bathrooms, and the detenus have to take their bath in the open even in winter; and

(e) that the common latrine ensures no privacy and is quite insanitary?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have seen the report referred. The administration of jails is a provincial matter.

NON-SUPPLY OF DELHI NEWSPAPERS TO DELHI DETENUS AT FEROEZPUR.

102. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state as to why no Delhi newspapers except the *Statesman* are allowed to the Delhi detenus at Ferozepur when there is no bar to such papers being supplied to them while they remain in the Delhi District Jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The newspapers allowed to persons detained in the Ferozepur Jail is a matter for the Punjab Government and the conditions of detention there are regulated by the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules, 1944.

RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON LETTERS OF DELHI DETENUS IN THE PUNJAB.

103. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether any protest has been lodged by the Delhi detenus against the restrictions recently imposed on the writing of letters, according to which a letter has to be confined to 20 lines of a prescribed printed form, and all the names occurring in the course of the letter irrespective of their context have to be properly annotated?

(b) Do Government propose to withdraw the new restrictions which have not been imposed anywhere except the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No such protest has been received by the Central Government.

(b) No.

DESIRABILITY OF TRANSFERRING DELHI DETENUS TO DELHI DISTRICT JAIL.

104. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that the number of the Delhi detenus now lodged in the Ferozepur Camp Jail has fallen below twenty? If so, why can they not be accommodated in the Delhi District Jail?

(b) In view of the fact that the relatives of the detenus who are mostly females, have to suffer great hardships while travelling in crowded trains and also because of their pecuniary difficulties, most of them are not able to avail of their rights to interview twice a month, do Government propose to consider the desirability of transferring the Delhi detenus to the Delhi District Jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The number of Delhi detenus now lodged in the Ferozepur Camp Jail is about twenty. As regards the possibility of accommodating them in the Delhi District Jail the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the answer to his question No. 381 on March 7th, 1944.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BROADCASTING LICENCES.

23. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of broadcasting licences on August 1, 1944;

(b) the total number of such licences in (i) Bombay Presidency, (ii) Bihar, (iii) North Western Frontier Province, (iv) Punjab, and (v) Sind including Khairpur State; and

(c) the normal range of medium wave radio stations of Lahore, Peshawar, Lucknow, and Trichinopoly during mid-day, and the number of Broadcasting licence-holders which each such station serves?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) 1,87,171.

(b) (i) 48,283; (ii) 1,059; (iii) 6,514; (iv) 26,756; and (v) 4,252 (excluding Khairpur and other Indian States. Radio receiving sets in Indian States are licenced by the respective State authorities and the Government of India have no information in regard to these sets).

(c) The range of broadcasting stations varies with the different seasons of the year. Roughly speaking, the reliable range of the 5 k.w. m.w. Stations at Lahore, Lucknow and Trichinopoly during mid-day may be said to be 50 miles. Peshawar with a 10 k.w. medium wave transmitter can be heard upto a distance of 80 miles. It is not possible to give figures of license holders residing within the reliable range of the respective transmitters.

PURCHASE OF VEGETABLES, DAIRY PRODUCTS, ETC. FOR FIGHTING FORCES STATIONED IN BENGAL.

24. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to refer to my starred question No. 292 of the 18th November, 1943, and the reply given by him thereto, and state whether the following conditions, namely, (i) the system of purchase, (ii) the methods of control over prices, (iii) consultation with the civil authorities in regard to local stocks and the prices to be paid, and (iv) making the army to a large extent self-supporting as regards potatoes and fresh vegetables, indicated by him, have applied all along equally to the fighting forces of various nationalities stationed in Bengal? If so, who were the exceptions, and for what reasons?

(b) What has been the average cost of the purchases of vegetables, dairy products, fish, eggs, poultry and meat, made locally for the armed forces of all nationalities stationed in Bengal during the past few months for which statistics may be available?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table any statement made by any Audit Officer or other responsible officials, indicating the nature of control exercised in the matter of local purchases of various foodstuffs indicated above, as promised by him in reply to my question referred to in (a) above?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make enquiries in respect of each district of Bengal and state whether special local purchase officer, referred to by him in his reply to my above-mentioned question, did actually consult the civil authorities in regard to local purchases of vegetables and dairy products and the prices to be paid therefor, and, if so, in which months of 1943 and 1944 did these consultations take place in the case of each district, and with what result?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir, the conditions enumerated by the Honourable Member have applied all along to the fighting forces of all nationalities in Bengal, with one exception in respect of certain fresh supplies purchased by or for U.S.A. Forces prior to the introduction of the present arrangements. Until about August 1943, the U.S.A. Authorities were making their own arrangements for the purchase of fresh supplies and fixed their own rates. The reason for this procedure was that their scale of rations and specifications differed from those laid down for British Troops. In August 1943, however, an agreement was reached whereby the American authorities agreed to accept fresh supplies, with certain exceptions, under normal R.I.A.S.C. contract arrangements. In the case of the exceptions, the chief of which were fruit and vegetables, owing to a wide divergence between American and British specifications, it was agreed that the American authorities should be allowed to make separate contracts subject to prior approval of rates and conditions by the General Headquarters (India). Since the 1st of October, 1944, however, all fresh supplies for the U.S.A. Forces in Bengal are being provided under normal army contracts.

(b) I regret that information for the past few months is not available, but the average contract rates for 1943-44 were as follows:—

Articles	Per	Rates	
		Ra.	a. p.
Mutton	100 lbs.	70	0 0
Beef	100 lbs.	35	0 0
Potatoes	100 lbs.	19	0 0
Onions	100 lbs.	15	0 0
Vegetables, fresh	100 lbs.	24	0 0
Eggs	100 Nos.	10	0 0
Chickens	lb.	1	4 0
Fresh Milk	lb.	0	5 0
Butter	lb.	2	4 0

(c) No such statement appears to have been made but the procedure followed is that contracts for local purchase are sanctioned by authorities of ranks commensurate with the amounts involved and that except in cases of a minor nature specified prior concurrence of financial authorities is obtained. Since February 1944, all Local Purchase of foodstuffs for Defence Services is being co-ordinated and controlled by Command Co-ordination Committees which consist of representatives of the Command, the Food Department and the Provincial Government and which have sub-committees constituted on similar lines at each military station or convenient group of stations in the Command.

(d) It is normal army procedure, observed invariably, to consult the civil authorities in regard to prices before making any contract. I regret, however, that detailed information regarding these consultations is not available as no record of them is kept.

POSITION RE DOLLARS AND DOLLAR SECURITIES.

25. Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement indicating—

(a) the total amount of dollars and dollar securities requisitioned by the Government of India at the outbreak of War under the Dollar Requisitioning Order;

(b) the amount of trade balance between India and the United States of America from the outbreak of war to the present day, year by year;

(c) the accretion of dollars to this country as a result of expenditure undertaken by American forces in India and other United States of America expenditure in this country; and

(d) the total amount of dollars contributed by this country to the Empire Dollar Pool?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (a) and (c). I regret that I cannot give this information as its publication would be contrary to the public interest.

(b) The balance of trade in merchandise between India and the United States of America are shown in the accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(d) Accurate information is not available and in any case could not be published without detriment to public interest.

DOLLARS AVAILABLE IN THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL.

26. Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the amount of dollars available at present in the Empire Dollar Pool; and

(b) the amount of dollars that were available in the Empire Dollar Pool in the years 1941, 1942 and 1943, separately?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are not in possession of information asked for.

UTILIZATION OF DOLLARS IN THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL.

27. Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the Government of India possess exact information as to how these dollars in the Empire Dollar Pool are used?

(b) What is the total amount of dollars made available from the Empire Dollar Pool to India, United Kingdom and other Empire countries, separately, in the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

(c) Has any portion of the dollars in the Empire Dollar Pool been utilised or earmarked for redeeming dollar securities which have been pledged by the United Kingdom Government with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under the agreement between the United Kingdom and this Corporation in 1941, whereby the United Kingdom secured a loan of 425 million dollars?

(d) Has any portion of these dollars been utilised by the United Kingdom for imports from the United States of America on private account?

(e) If the answer to (d) be in the affirmative, what is the amount of dollars so utilised, and did such imports consist of capital or consumers goods?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The dollars in the common Empire Pool are used for meeting Essential import requirements of the sterling area countries.

(b) to (e). The Government of India have no information.

DETENTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES OF STAFF ON SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY.

28. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that a large number of the staff on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway has been detained under the Defence of India Act Rules in the District Jail at Meerut since November, 1943, without trial? If so, (i) when are they to be produced before a Court to stand their trial, (ii) what are the reasons for not completing the investigations of the offences under the Defence of India Act Rules within a period of one year?

(b) Did the Government of India refuse their trial by the Special Tribunal, War Department?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) This is the concern of the Provincial Government. I regret I have no information on the subject:

(b) No, Sir.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

REMOVAL OF LARGE NUMBER OF TELEPHONES FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) how many telephones in New Delhi have been removed in pursuance of 12 Noon the warning issued by the Department of Posts and Air during October;

(b) how many of these telephones are being installed in the houses and private rooms of Members of the Central Legislature for the current session;

(c) the reason for the removal of a large number of telephones from subscribers of long standing in New Delhi;

(d) if one of the reasons is the necessity of supplying private telephones to a large number of Members of the Central Legislature for the duration of the Session, whether these telephones will be restored to permanent subscribers at the end of the Session;

(e) when the new plant is expected; and

(f) when the new plant arrives, whether those permanent subscribers whose telephones have been summarily removed will be given priority in the distribution of the available plant?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) 65.

(b) It is not possible to give a definite reply to this part of the question in its present form as telephones are not transferred as separate entities. The matter is explained further in the reply to the other parts.

(c) The New Delhi Telephone System has been overloaded for a long time and the demand for telephones for urgent war purposes has now exceeded the capacity of the system. In addition it was necessary to provide approximately 80 telephones in connection with the present Session of the Central Legislature. It is also known from experience that a further irresistible demand

will be made before the end of the present cold weather. As it was impossible to expand the System in time, it was necessary to cut off a certain number of subscribers and these were selected on the advice of the special committee which had been appointed for this purpose. Telephones are not requisitioned individually for particular purposes as the System has to be treated as a whole and by obtaining relief in one area it is possible to give telephones in another area.

(d) The necessity of providing telephones for Members of the Central Legislature was taken into account as an immediate requirement but compulsory disconnection would have been unavoidable apart from this demand and requirements as a whole will not permit re-connection of the permanent subscribers in question at the end of the Session.

(e) Some of the new plant has already been shipped and arrangements have been made to instal it as soon as it arrives. There is, however, always the danger that consignments may be lost and in any case it is not possible to bring it into service before the end of April 1945, earliest.

(f) The permanent subscribers whose telephones have been removed will be given priority immediately after demands having prior right either from war necessity or by virtue of compulsory removal at an earlier date.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask my Honourable friend whether I was right in hearing from him that the number of permanent telephones, i.e., telephones of long-standing subscribers which have been removed, was 65 and the number of telephones which the meeting of the Central Legislature involved was 80?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That is correct, Sir.

Sir F. E. James: I take it that the 80 telephones which are being installed as a result of the meeting of the Central Legislature are temporary connections only.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That is also correct. The position is that whenever the Central Legislature meets we have this periodical demand for telephones and we make provision accordingly. I might perhaps explain that at the present time the excess over our safe load in our local telephone exchanges here is 186. It is made up as follows:

80 is the ordinary excess which we had before.

80 connections have been given to the Honourable Members of the Legislature.

Six very urgent Government connections have been made. and 20 more are considered necessary at once.

But I would add as regards the connections given to Honourable Members of the Legislature, that they do not add very badly to the load which we have to carry during busy hours, because Honourable Members are generally occupied here or in another place during those busy hours and the telephones which they have are either at their place of business or at their residence, and they use them in the evenings when we can risk the heavy load which is thus given.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask my Honourable friend whether his Department has considered approaching the Presidents of the two Legislatures with a view to requesting them to ask the House Committees of both Houses to review the telephones which are installed for Honourable Members in order that every possibility of economy might be exercised by Honourable Members in that regard.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The reply to that question, Sir, is in the negative, because the Posts and Telegraphs Department has always considered it as one of the primary obligations of the Department to see that Honourable Members of the Legislature have every facility for communication. I have also already explained to the Honourable Member that these connections given to Honourable Members of the Legislature do not embarrass us very considerably, but if Honourable Members of the House think it necessary, I would be quite prepared to request the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to consider consulting the Presidents of the two Houses as to whether connections could be cut down.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO MR. RAM CHARAN AGARWAL BY THE DELHI POLICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The first adjournment motion for today is Motion No. 40 on the list by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall regarding "the revengeful conduct of the Delhi Kotwali Police in handcuffing Mr. Ram Charan Agarwal, a respectable citizen of Delhi and making him march on foot from the kotwali to the jail and refusing him the use of a pillow while allowing a wrapper and a *gadda* and keeping him without food for a day and a half against the declared policy and practice of the Government with regard to the treatment of political prisoners".

I should like to know from the Honourable the Home Member what the facts of the case are.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): I have taken, Sir, great care to get the facts of the case. I got a report last night from the Chief Commissioner which, owing to insufficiency of time, was not complete in certain details. I therefore saw this morning both the Additional Superintendent of Police and an officer from the Kotwali (Police Station). I have also verified some of the facts from the Deputy Superintendent of Police (C.I.D.) and I have not the least doubt that the facts I am going to place before the House are correct.

Mr. Ram Charan Agarwal was arrested on the 7th of October for breach of a restrictive order passed against him under Ordinance III of 1944. He was brought to the kotwali between 7 and 8 p.m. He was given special permission to bring down his bedding. He had had his food before he arrived at the kotwali. He left the kotwali about 10 a.m. next day (Sunday) and was taken to the cutchery. He had tea before he left.

An Honourable Member: *Khali Cha?*

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No. *Roti bhi diya.*

He was not in police custody for a day and a half. He was there only for fourteen hours. There was no question of the use of a pillow being refused since he was allowed to bring his own bedding. He was also permitted to have food. He was taken from the kotwali to the cutchery on foot, handcuffed. From the cutchery he was taken in a prison van to the magistrate on duty. Being a Sunday the cutchery was not open. That magistrate who is the Treasury Officer lives in Tis Hazari. As I said, Ram Charan Agarwal was taken there along with the other prisoners in a prison van. From there he was remanded to the district jail. The original remand for one day was extended to three days and then he was let out on bail. So the only question that arises is about his removal on foot from the kotwali to the cutchery and his being fettered and whether such action can be considered as revengeful. Honourable Members will understand that when the Police escort a prisoner from one place to another. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I just want to know what the facts of the case are.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The facts are, Sir, that the handcuffing was in accordance with the Punjab Government rules on the subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts stated by the Honourable Member I rule the motion out of order.

FAILURE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING HAJ PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment portion is one by Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha relating to: "the failure of the Government to make arrangements for the carrying of Haj Pilgrims to Hedjaz who had already secured passage in accordance with the directions and rules laid down by the Government, thereby causing great loss, hardship and inconvenience to a large number of pilgrims."

What are the facts in this matter?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): The basis of the motion that I have given notice of moving is a telegram sent by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin (an ex-Member of this House

[Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha.]

and President of the Haj Pilgrim Protection League, Delhi) and also a statement issued by him on the 20th October in the *Dawn* which, if the Honourable the President desires, I should be glad to read out for his information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the present state of things? How many pilgrims have already embarked and how many yet remain?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: I do not know the exact number of pilgrims but there is the statement published in the *Dawn* of the 2nd of this month, in which it is said that Mr. Gazdar, the Home Member to the Government of Sind and Chairman of the Port Haj Committee, in a statement had said that there are nearly 3000 pilgrims in the Haj camp at Karachi. The authorities have made provision for 2,245 pilgrims in the second batch but there are about 600 more who have paid all their charges and are insisting to be included in the second batch and the Committee has asked the Central Government for accommodation for them in that batch. This is, Sir, about the second batch which is to leave or has left. But from amongst the first batch there were about 100 pilgrims who were not allowed to embark the pilgrim ship that was leaving that day. Therefore, Sir, that makes sufficient ground for the house to consider the motion I have moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Do you mean to say that only one hundred pilgrims have not been able to obtain accommodation?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: In the first batch 100 and in the second 600.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): The facts so far known are as follows. Owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing in war time our final decision to organise Haj sailings this year was unavoidably delayed. We could not therefore give longer notice. A party of about 16 pilgrims who had booked their passages was left behind, as they could not arrive at the dock in time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sixteen. The boat was held up for them for about an hour but they arrived too late. The Honourable Member mentioned a telegram from Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin. I got a telegram from him yesterday where he has expressed complete satisfaction with regard to the position and has no complaints to make. Tickets could not also be issued to 200 pilgrims from the Manipur State and neighbouring places. 190 of these pilgrims had been given reservation cards for seats. These passengers also arrived rather late and the necessary pre-embarkation formalities could not be gone through in time. They did not, however, return to their homes but stayed on at the pilgrim camp. They will be accommodated in the boat scheduled for the second sailing. The complaint that a considerable number of pilgrims who had already secured passages have not been provided for seems to be exaggerated. The above facts relate to the first sailing but we have no information as to what has happened regarding the second sailing. Owing to war conditions we could only provide for a limited number of pilgrims and in spite of our best efforts ideal conditions could not be secured for the pilgrims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many had already secured accommodation and have left?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: About 5000.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that the usual number?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes, Sir: that was the number fixed. We had fixed a limit of 5000. The Under Secretary and the Haj Officer in the Department, both Muslims, have been camping out at Karachi as they did on the eve of the first sailing. Full instructions have been issued to ensure reasonable comforts and to accommodate as many surplus passengers as may be feasible. They have been able to arrange for the embarkation of 400 pilgrims in excess of the number prescribed by the Shipping Rules. This is all that could be done.

Complaints have also been made about advanced collections of Saudi Arabian and other dues.

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

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: My contention is that we have done our best in the abnormal conditions prevailing and there is no case on the facts, therefore, for the admission of this adjournment motion. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I point out, Sir, that there are certain facts which are not quite clear. The Honourable Member has said that 5,000 pilgrims have already left the shores of India. Is that correct?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I said that 5,000 pilgrims have been allowed to sail.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That may be so, but how many did actually leave by the first boat? Let me tell him that only 86 have left.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not believe that information, but the full figures have not yet been received by us.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Can you give any figures?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts mentioned by the Honourable Member who is in charge of the Haj pilgrimage, I rule that there is no justification for this motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The facts that he has given are wrong.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee has given notice of an adjournment motion by which he wishes "to set up a machinery to apply economic sanctions against South Africa on account of its growing anti-Indian attitude as evidenced by the Natal Ordinance".

This motion is not in order because it is not intended to discuss any action taken by the Government of India, but the suggestion is made for certain action to be taken. The motion is not in order.

FAILURE TO FRAME AND ENFORCE RULES UNDER RECIPROCITY ACT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is also in the name of Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee. In this motion he wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to frame and enforce all the necessary rules under the Reciprocity Act."

Were the Government of India expected to frame these rules?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is a long history behind it. It is now over two years that we have been asking the Government of India about this matter and they have every time been saying that they are preparing the rules. But I do not want to go into the details as I find the Honourable the Leader of the House has fixed a day for going into these matters. I would like to be told what is the day that has been fixed for this purpose.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): It is Monday, the 6th of November.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is also in the name of Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee. . . .

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Sir, the same remarks apply to this: I do not want to move it now because a day has been fixed for this purpose.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, with your permission I want to inform the House that 1,900 pilgrims have left by the first sailings.

APPOINTMENTS TO SUPERIOR REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS, STORES DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is in the name of Mr. H. M. Abdullah. He wishes to discuss "the appointment by the Railway Board of nine probationers to superior revenue establishment of the Indian State Railways, Stores Department, none of whom is a Muslim or a member of any other minority community, in direct contravention of the Government of India Resolution No. F14/17B/33, dated 4th July 1934".

I would like to know what are the facts.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I do not wish to move this motion.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR REPUBLICATION OF NATIONAL HERALD AND FORWARD

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is in the name of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. He wishes to discuss "the refusal of the Government to permit the republication of *National Herald* and *Forward* and thus using the Paper Control Order to suppress Newspapers for political reasons".

I do not know if the Honourable Member can explain it further.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not move it.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT IN APPOINTING ADJUDICATOR IN TRADE DISPUTE BETWEEN SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY AND ITS EMPLOYEES, ETC.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion stands in the name of Mr. Dam. He wishes to discuss "the unconstitutional conduct of the Central Government in the appointment of the Adjudicator in the trade dispute between the Administration of the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and its employees and further failure of the Central Government in not extending the order on the award of the said Adjudicator to the employees on the East Indian Railway by making cheap grains available at the rates charged by the North Western Railway as made available to the employees on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway".

What is the exact complaint? Does he want that there must be some sort of allowances which have been awarded elsewhere?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the rule says that both parties to the dispute should apply for a reference to the court. That was done and the privileges that were extended to the employees of the North Western Railway were not extended to the employees of the East Indian Railway as regards the cheap grains that were made available to them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You want the same privileges to be extended to the employees of the East Indian Railway.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I oppose the motion and I must say that my Honourable friend is considerably misinformed as to the facts and the circumstances. This adjudication took place under Rule 81A.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The only question before the House is whether the motion is in order.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am stating the facts. This adjudication took place under Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules and the power to appoint an Adjudicator completely vests in the Government of India. Therefore, there is nothing unconstitutional in the Government of India appointing an Adjudicator to settle this dispute particularly when the dispute covered a railway which runs in two provinces, namely, the United Provinces and Delhi and no single Provincial Government was entitled to appoint an

Adjudicator. Therefore, I submit there is nothing unconstitutional in the action taken.

With regard to the second part, my submission is that my Honourable friend is considerably misinformed on the point because the award of the Adjudicator did not exclude any dispute with regard to the other Railway. It was certainly not open to the Government to extend the provisions of the award to a railway which was not the subject-matter of the dispute at all. The dispute concerned only the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and not the East Indian Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There was no such demand on behalf of the employees of the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Certainly not, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The facts stated by the Honourable Member for Labour show that there is no justification for this motion. Therefore, it is disallowed.

SINKING OF THE *S. S. CORMORANT*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion stands in the name of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani. He wishes to discuss "the sinking of the old repairable steamer *S.S. Cormorant* of O. T. Railway in the Ganges near Digha Ghat in Bihar on the 12th September last due to overcrowding and negligence of the Railway authority and the action of the said Railway Authority to conceal losses of lives and goods by one-sided enquiries".

These are general terms. What did actually happen?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, on the 12th September last the steamer *S.S. Cormorant* started from Mahendra Ghat and according to the report of the Inquiry Committee 2,311 tickets were issued till noon at Digha Ghat and 341 tickets were issued at the starting station, Mahendra Ghat. The number of passengers altogether came to about 2,600. Besides these passengers, some passengers also had come from the E. I. R. side. I fail to understand as to how the Committee came to the conclusion that only 600 passengers were on the steamer and there was no overcrowding.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What does O. T. stand for?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Oudh and Tirhut Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that a Company-managed railway or a State-managed railway?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: It is a State-managed railway.

The second point is that the steamer was declared already, according to my information, a damaged one and was fit to be repaired. This was a great negligence on the part of the Railway authorities, to use such a damaged steamer and there was evidently overcrowding.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The sinking of the steamer was due to overcrowding?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Overcrowding and also the damaged condition of the steamer.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): I think I can best explain this matter by reading some extracts from the communique of the Bihar Government which begins by saying:

"A good deal of misapprehension seems to prevail and several ill informed statements have appeared in the press in connection with the accident which happened to the passenger steamer *S. S. Cormorant* on the 12th September 1944. Government consider it desirable to state the correct facts which have been ascertained during Police investigation and the enquiry of the Joint Enquiry Board."

They then proceed to give the facts:

"*S. S. Cormorant* had a carrying capacity of one thousand at the time of the accident was carrying about 600 persons."

To cut a long story short: the bow of the steamer suddenly struck against some hard substance, supposed to be a submerged tree trunk. With great

[Sir Edward Benthall.]

promptitude, the Commander ordered the steamer to be stopped and backed towards the bank and, at the same time, sounded the danger whistle. Passengers then proceeded to disembark on the bank. I have no doubt there was a certain amount of rush but that any number of passengers was lost is not the fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No life was lost?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One child of six years old was missing. The whole of the 37 lifebuoys which were on the steamer were subsequently found intact. It shows that the passengers found no need to use them and there was no occasion for any one to jump into the stream. The danger whistle was blown and help was sent to the spot but was found to be unnecessary. I need not, I think, quote the paragraph in the report which explains why the number of passengers was round about 600 but the report ends up by saying:

"In the above circumstances Government are satisfied that the accident was an accident and no one could be held responsible for it and they see no reason for ordering a special enquiry into the cause of the accident. The sensational reports about the accident that appeared in some newspapers were grossly exaggerated or inaccurate on many important details and apparently published without any care being taken to find out the facts."

There is one other point. The Honourable Member suggested that the ship was in a bad state of repair. The facts are these:

"The vessel has been laid up for survey every year and dry-docked every four years, the provisions of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, (Act I of 1917) and the rules made thereunder by the Government of Bihar being complied with."

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Is it not a fact that the steamer met with an accident before this and was not considered fit to ply? Was it not due to the O. and T. Railway Administration's negligence that this vessel was allowed to ply?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not a fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the facts stated, I must disallow this motion.

INACCURATE GOVERNMENT REPLY *RE* GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is in the name of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. He wants to discuss "the inaccurate, incomplete and misleading reply given by the Honourable Member for Labour to a question asked in the Assembly yesterday about the alleged grant of Rs. 13,000 per month to the Indian Federation of Labour."

The Honourable Member does not specify what the incorrect statement is. I want to know what is the incorrect statement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Government's reply was that the grant of Rs. 13,000 was made to the Federation which I dispute as incorrect.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member kindly read the reply?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have not got the *Hindustan Times* with me but I may tell you . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has charged the Member of Government with making an inaccurate and misleading reply. Surely the Honourable Member ought to be prepared to prove his case. He must give me the exact replies.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must read out from the record of the proceedings. I cannot accept any other statement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I can state from memory the exact reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The record is there. You cannot rely on memory. Heaps of questions were asked yesterday.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If I get a copy of the proceedings . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must resume his seat. He should get hold of the proceedings before he charges any Member of this House with making incorrect, false and misleading statements.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If you will kindly listen to me . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I shall take another opportunity.

RESOLUTION *RE* PROTECTION OF MOSQUES IN NEW DELHI—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Further discussion of the Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on the 30th March, 1944.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): The Resolution is a very modest one. Although the power of controlling these mosques vests in the Majlis under Act XIII of 1943, section 25 clearly says . . .

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): On a point of order. This Resolution raises substantially more than one definite issue. I say that it is out of order under Standing Order 59. It asks that the bungalows should be given to the Muslim employees . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why did not the Honourable Member raise this before.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: A point of order could be raised at any time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It ought to have been raised before. It cannot be raised now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Supposing a wrong thing has been done and allowed to be discussed, is it not open to any Member to raise a point of order at a later stage . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The objection ought to have been taken earlier. Will the Honourable Member resume his seat? Mr. Ghani will proceed with his speech.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I was submitting that under Act XIII of 1943 the Majlis has got full powers of control over all kinds of wakfs in the province of Delhi. The powers given are mentioned in section 25 (1): the general superintendence and control of all wakfs in the province shall be vested in the Majlis; and the majlis shall do all things necessary to ensure that the wakfs are properly supervised and administered. Sub-section (3) (g) says "to give directions for the proper administration of a wakf in accordance with the law governing such wakf and the wishes of the wakifs in so far as such wishes can be ascertained and are not repugnant to such laws".

The Majlis is given full power to repair and take charge of all these mosques in the whole province of Delhi. The Resolution only means that there should not be any friction between the officials and the Muslim public represented by the Wakf Majlis. In order to avoid friction this Resolution has been brought forward; otherwise there was no necessity of bringing in such a Resolution, because already the Majlis has the full control of all these things, and complete mastery over all these mosques is vested in the Majlis. We have, however, said experience of the affairs during the past years, that the treatment of the Government was not good, so far as these wakf properties, particularly mosques, were concerned. It happened sometimes ago that 34 mosques and *khanquahs* with their compounds were leased to the Jama Masjid Committee at a rental of 3 annas per annum, as if the Government were master of all those things. This was resented and the Government took action to remedy them. If you look to the wretched conditions of mosques in New Delhi, you will find that every now and then these mosques and wakf properties are treated very badly. Even those mosques which are under the supervision and superintendence of the Archaeological Department under the Preservation of Monuments Act are

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.]

not in good condition. Take the case of Bhuli Bhatari Sarai which has a mosque also. This mosque, if you go there you will see that dirt and other filthy things are lying inside the mosque. It is not preserved properly but used as a lavatory by persons passing that way. You will find that latrines have been built near the graves by the P. W. D. You will remember, Sir, when Talkatora Mosque Bill was introduced in this House, we then came to know that 16 mosques had already been acquired by the Government, along with temples; and about 39,000 rupees were lying with the District Judge and for the disposal of that money the said Bill was introduced. We objected to the passing of such a Bill and the matter was dropped. So, we are afraid of the bad conditions and mismanagement of the wakf properties here and hence an Act was passed for which we thank the Government for their assistance. Now, the Resolution is a very modest one and I do not think the Department of Labour should have any kind of objection in giving permission for repairs and other things which are in the power of the Majlis. They can say this, that the individuals should not have any right of repairs. It may be so, but after all the Majlis is duly constituted under the Act and it is functioning in this province. One thing can be done by the Government, that all matters connected with all these mosques should be entrusted to the wakf Majlis which is the competent authority to repair them. As regards the offering of prayers I think when the mosques have been once built and used for prayers, nobody can obstruct offering prayers therein; and I think there should not be any kind of restriction in offering prayers. The Government may come forward and say that these mosques which are within the compound of the Government quarters, if used, may inconvenience the occupants staying in those quarters. Government must have been well advised to leave out those mosques outside, however the easy remedy is for the Government to separate the mosque with its compound from the bungalow and then there will be no friction at all. The people will go by the outer road and they will offer their prayers and come away. There will be no friction at any time with the inmates of the bungalows. With these few words, I fully support the Resolution and hope the Government will reconsider their position and will be well advised to accept my suggestion just made.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Again, Sir, on another point of order. Lest I may be too late I want to say at the very beginning that in today's agenda there are a number of Resolutions—one carried over from a previous day, and five more Resolutions. I do not find my Resolution which has been disallowed and which came in the ballot.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it has been disallowed, you cannot raise a point of order on that.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: The point is that it was disallowed on the ground that it raises more than one substantive issue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot argue the matter. The Honourable Member can only make any representation he likes to the Chair; then I shall be very glad to reconsider it.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Let it be considered and revised just now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be done now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What will be the good of my making a representation later on?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows the practice of the House; he cannot do it now; I cannot allow any question or resolution that is disallowed by me to be discussed here.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: When shall I make a representation, that is the point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can write to me or to the Secretary.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But the day for Resolutions is over.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot help it; the order has been passed and cannot be reviewed here.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But it is no use.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order; will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I have got a right to be heard.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member to resume his seat.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If I am given the opportunity

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Your temper cannot cow me down. I am not used to be treated like a school boy. I must be heard.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has been heard; I have given my ruling.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If the Chair gives me an assurance that it is going to hear me, only then I will resume my seat.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will not give any assurance. The Honourable Member can make a representation to me later on.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not believe in Chamber representations. I must be heard on the floor of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot be heard now. Will the Honourable Member obey the Ruling of the Chair?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Only if I am allowed to exercise my right and make my submission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow that.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I must make my submission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already made his submissions.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But I have not been allowed to submit my points.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I find the Chair is not allowing me to make my submissions. I cannot put up with that sort of thing. I am making my protest to the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He should obey the Ruling of the Chair.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But I am not going to take it lying down like a school boy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member accept my Ruling or not?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Yes, but I must be allowed to have my points put before you.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But the Ruling of the Chair cannot be discussed on the floor of the House.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What cannot be discussed?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): My Ruling.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I find that the Honourable the President is losing temper at all times and it is very difficult for me to make my submissions.

Several Honourable Members: Order, order; obey the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I find the Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House. I must ask him to leave the House, as he is persisting in obstructing.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am willing to take the extreme penalty imposed by you. But I am not going to submit like a school boy to your temper. I leave the House under protest.

(Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, left the House.)

Mr. Lalchand Navahrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I intervene in this debate because I find that some of the demands made in the Resolution are fair and reasonable and so far as those portions are concerned, I shall give my support and no further. The Resolution says:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to keep in proper repairs and to protect the mosques situated in New Delhi, he should be pleased to take the following certain steps . . ."

So far as keeping the mosques in proper repair is concerned, and so far as protecting them is concerned, nobody would object to it. The Majlis might surely go and repair them. Not only mosques should be repaired but even all other places of worship, such as *mandirs*, *Tikanas*, etc., should all be allowed to be repaired in the same manner. So far as that portion of the Resolution is concerned, it will have my full support and sympathy.

(Coming to the details what do I find? It is said;

"Instruct the Department concerned to allot all those bungalows in the compounds of which mosques are situated only to the Muslim employees of the Government."

I cannot support this part of the Resolution. I will make another suggestion to bring about the same result. In Sind also there was sometime ago great disturbance involving loss of life regarding the use of a mosque and the device employed was to separate that part for prayers which occupied the mosque. My suggestion therefore is that the portion of the compound of the bungalow in which a mosque is situate should be enclosed by four walls and a separate entrance should be made leading to the mosque from outside. Then there will be no difficulty in people having access to the mosque. It does not matter then who is occupying the bungalow, Hindu, Muslim or Christian. This suggestion of mine if adopted will remove all the cause for rancour and ill-feeling and it will avoid all communal questions.

The next portion of the Resolution says:

"Instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission, without delay on presentation of applications by the Muslims for repairs."

— "who should be instructed not to obstruct or stop their Muslim servants or visitors from saying prayers in such mosques."

There can be no objection to this if the entrance to the mosque is from outside. If the demands are reasonable, there can be no objection. As regards these visitors, they cannot obstruct the occupant of the bungalow since these visitors will enter the mosque only from outside. No inconvenience can be caused to the inmates of the bungalow.

The next portion of the Resolution reads:

"instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal committee that they should give permission without delay on presentation of applications by the Muslims for the repairs of or restoration to the old position or rebuilding with some altered designs of mosques situated either in the compound of any Government bungalow or on any place surrounded by Government or Municipal property."

I think if an application is presented in the ordinary way, the Municipality or the Government will have to dispose of the same. Where they allow alterations or additions, they are all governed by the bylaws and rules framed. If the applications sent conform to those rules and regulations, then they will be considered. If there are cases in which no reply has been given or unreasonable replies have been given, then there are remedies under the Act for the applicant. Government can certainly decide those individual cases. But to say that general instructions should be given that permission should be given irrespective of the fact whether they conform to rules and regulations or not, this is a thing which I cannot accept. If there has been obstruction or undue delay, then those cases only can be dealt with by the Government. I think they will be attended to. The Government or the Municipality will not be unreasonable in dealing with applications. If they are unreasonable, then recommendations can be made that they should not be obstructive. This discussion in the House will open their eyes. If the Government or the Municipality take care of all public places of worship, mosques, *mandirs*, etc., of any community, and build a separate entrance from outside, then I think there will be no disturbance. I support the Resolution to this extent.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, the Resolution before the House falls into two parts and similarly the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Seth Abdoola Haroon falls into two parts. The first part of the Resolution and of the amendment has already been dealt with by the Honourable the Labour Member, and I propose to confine myself to the second part of the Resolution and of the amendment which concern my department. There are three categories of mosques, I suppose, in the Delhi area. There are those in private occupation with the repair of which we are not concerned and I will leave those out of account. Then there are mosques under the charge of the Archaeological Department. I think some 12 out of 66 mosques are in the charge of that department. The repair of those mosques is the duty and responsibility of the Archaeological Department and repair is not entrusted by that department to any outside authority or person; repairs are done as far as the funds at the disposal of that department permit and I do not think, though reference has been made by one Honourable Member to the way in which they are maintained, that that is really the subject matter of the Resolution before the House. I would only say that the right of the Muslim public to worship in the Archaeological Department-controlled mosques is scrupulously guarded and respected. But I think the Resolution before us is directed to the position as regards the third class of mosques which are referred to by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution as "mosques surrounded by Government or municipal property". Those are mosques which have not been regarded as sufficiently important for archaeological reasons to be made protected monuments by the Archaeological Department and for which in most cases there is no regular arrangement in existence for their repairs.

Now, Sir, the Resolution asks the Governor General with regard to this last class to instruct the department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission without delay on presentation of an application by the Muslims for repairs to these mosques. In the first place there are obvious objections and difficulties in the way of acceptance of casual applications from Muslims or members of the Muslim public for permission to repair or reconstruct mosques standing on sites surrounded, as my Honourable friend says, by Government or municipal land. In fact one of the great difficulties that the local authorities have had with regard to this class of mosques is to be sure that the party coming forward is a man of substance, that he will be able to carry through the repairs that he wishes to carry through and that he can be relied upon to stick to the terms arranged for the repair of the mosque. And it was to surmount that difficulty that the late Chief Commissioner proposed to deal through one responsible body, the Jumma Masjid Committee, to put them formally in charge of this category of mosques for the regular repair of which no other arrangement exists. I may say that no financial obligation was placed on the Jumma Masjid Committee, but they were mainly to act in an advisory capacity and to advise the authorities whether the persons coming forward were persons who could safely be entrusted with the repairs. This laudable effort to get the *imprimatur* of a responsible Muslim committee on repair applications and to have its advice in dealing with these applications fell through. It is a pity it fell through because it had made a very good beginning but it fell through on a point to which I do not wish to refer at length here. Since that attempt fell to the ground we have had set up this new body, the Majlis-i-Wakf, and the Chief Commissioner is now dealing with this matter through this body. I am glad to be able to say that it looks as though this body was going to be extremely helpful to the authorities and to the community in their handling of this question of repairs to mosques. I believe that through this body the Chief Commissioner will have some one with whom he really can deal and feel assured that the repair of mosques is in right hands. I am glad to understand also that the point on which the previous arrangement broke down has been met. A formula acceptable to both parties has been evolved and it is probable that the Majlis-i-Wakf will be able to execute

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agreements under which they will be made responsible for the repair of a great many of these mosques. But though, Sir, that will remove one of the chief difficulties of the past that have faced the local authorities, there still remains the necessity, which I think must remain, for the person who wishes to effect a repair or erection or re-erection to comply with the requirements of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. I do not think that it is seriously suggested that that should be waived. There are health requirements and building requirements and they must apply to any kind of building that is put up within the area of New Delhi. There should not ordinarily be great delay in the disposal of these matters. Under the Municipal Act the authorities are bound to give either an express permission or refusal within 60 days of the application. I think, therefore, that now that we have got a body set up who will take up the responsibility of advising about people who are coming to finance repairs, things ought to go better than in the past. I am not prepared to admit that the authorities have been unsympathetic in the past. According to some figures that we got out a few years ago I find that permission had up to a date in 1940 been already granted for the rebuilding of mosques in two cases, other improvements in 15 cases, in 4 cases Government have provided wire fencing and hedges, in 2 more Government have provided boundary walls, and in one case Government have built a complete set of quarters for Maulvi, fitted with sanitary and electric installations and have also provided a private access road. Since then there was the case of the Pandara Road mosque which has been restored partially at Government expense and the community themselves were permitted to make improvements to it; and that permission was given even though the arrangement with the Jumma Musjid Committee had by that time broken down.

I think we may claim, Sir, that the local authorities are not unsympathetic in these matters. In the case of the small Queensway mosque to which reference has been made I think there must be some misunderstanding. The Chief Commissioner informs me that on three occasions within recent years sanction to designs for improving the mosque has been given to persons in charge of the mosque to execute repairs and improvements; and a year or two ago when that very handsome tree fell down and damage was done I believe that alterations and repairs were carried out at the expense of Government to that mosque.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Which mosque?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The small mosque near Western Court to which my Honourable friend referred. I think his point was that there has been refusal to allow them to extend the mosque over the full area of the *chabutra*. If they have got a plan for that and if it is to cover only the *chabutra* and does not involve any impediment below the *chabutra*—on the foot path and the highway—and if it were pressed again, I am sure it would be sympathetically considered.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Thank you very much.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, on another point to which my Honourable friend referred,—I am afraid I cannot agree that the authorities can give up altogether any say in the matter of design of the mosque. Delhi is not in any way an ordinary place and I think the power must be retained to veto obviously incongruous designs.

For the reasons I have indicated, I am afraid we cannot accept the Resolution as it has been put up; still less I am afraid could we accept the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon. It goes much further and asks the department concerned to be instructed to give all facilities, assistance and necessary legal permits to such Mussalmans as come forward to repair, restore or rebuild any existing mosque in New Delhi area. As I have said, we must ensure that only people of substance are allowed to take up such matters and I think the new body which has been set up is going to be very help-

ful to us in that matter. I would reiterate that it is the intention neither of the Government nor of the local authorities, as I have been assured, to prevent any of these old religious buildings being maintained or put into a state of repair and used for their original purpose. But in a place like Delhi, as I have said before, it is only natural and proper that the authorities, including the New Delhi Municipality, should wish to retain an interest in the way in which repairs are carried out. We must, therefore, continue to reserve a right to treat applications on their merits. But I hope that the Honourable Member will not press his Resolution in view of the assurance of sympathetic consideration of applications on their merits which I have given.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I shall deal only with the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department. His speech has indeed raised a very fundamental question which is of vital importance to the Mussalmans. His speech is an indication of how difficult it is for a non-Muslim to understand the true meaning of prayer and the position of a mosque in Islam. It indeed is a pity that in a matter like this the Government as a whole do not consult together. The Muslim Members of the Government should have explained to the Honourable Member in charge of Labour Department as to what is the position of mosques in Islam.

The Honourable Member dealt with part (a) of the Resolution wherein it was stated that the Government houses which have mosques in their compounds should be allotted to Muslims and that no Mussalman should be prevented from offering prayers in these mosques. I think, Sir, that these two parts are interconnected. My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, when he made the proposal that these houses should be allotted to Muslim officers did so because he felt that it might not be liked by non-Muslims if Muslims went and offered prayers in their mosques. The Honourable Government Member has pointed out several difficulties in making such allotments. Sir, I think, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan had met all those difficulties in the sense that he stated in his speech :

"I shall be satisfied if the Honourable Member for Labour Department says he will abide by the terms of the Resolution unless there is some great difficulty. If a Muslim is not found for the house only then should it be given to a non-Muslim and that also only temporarily."

My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin, made it quite clear that in cases where it was found difficult to allot a house to a Muslim then it might be given to a non-Muslim temporarily.

Now, Sir, with regard to the second part; that Muslims should be allowed to go and offer prayers in these mosques, the Honourable Member for Labour said in his speech :

"I feel quite certain that I am not exaggerating the matter that if I were to introduce the kind of stipulation which is mentioned in the Resolution that every man, whether he is Muslim or non-Muslim, should open his compound to anybody who wants to come and say his prayers, it will be anything short of destroying the privacy of the premises and converting it, if I may say so, into a *musafarkhana*."

Unfortunately the Honourable Member belongs to a community that has for generations been excluded from a place of worship and he is naturally not able to understand or appreciate the sanctity of a mosque and that a mosque is open to every Mussalman irrespective of whatever his position may be. If we were to accept what the Honourable Member has suggested, it would mean putting restrictions on the right of the Mussalmans to offer prayers in a mosque. A mosque, may I tell the Honourable Member, is a place which is dedicated as *waqf*; it is the property of God; it does not belong to anybody; and therefore every Mussalman is entitled as of right to go and offer prayers in this house of God.

My Honourable friend is thinking of privacy of the private individuals who may be occupying those houses. May I tell him that before those houses were constructed, these mosques existed there and the Mussalmans had the right to go and offer prayers in those mosques. Therefore the houses that have been constructed and the people who are occupying those houses are doing so under

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the condition that the Mussalmans are entitled to go and offer prayers there. It is not a question that a house was there and later on a mosque was built, and even then, I believe that it would be impossible for the house-owner, once he has constructed a mosque, to stop Mussalmans from going and offering their prayers there.

Now, Sir, this is not a matter which we, the Muslim Members of this House, can take lightly. If we accept this position which has been put before the House by the Honourable the Labour Member then we will be nullifying the whole Islamic conception of prayer and the sanctity of mosques. Sir, I wish to point out to the Government that they should not treat mosques as *musafarkhanas*. They are not *musafarkhanas*. My Honourable friend has hurt the sentiments and feelings of Mussalmans by talking of mosques as if they were *musafarkhanas*. Sir, if the Government find that they cannot allow access to the whole compound, then what they should do is this: enclose these mosques and have a separate entrance so that the privacy of those residents who object to people offering prayers to their God may be safeguarded. But I cannot accept this position that we are to be prevented from going and offering prayers in these mosques. And let me tell the Government and warn the Government that this is not a matter which will end on the floor of the House. This is a matter for which the Mussalmans will have to make greater efforts and whatever sacrifices we may have to make in this connection, we shall not allow the Government to prevent us from going and offering prayers in our mosques.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Not like it was done in Sukkur.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, my Honourable friend cannot get out of the deserts of Sind; his mind is nothing but a desert.

Sir, I was saying that this really is a very serious matter and I warn the Government that they will not find a single Mussalman who will be willing to accept this position that the Mussalmans are to be prevented from going and offering prayers in any mosques. When my Honourable friend the Mover made the suggestion that these houses should be allotted to Mussalmans the idea was that those persons who may be living there may not raise any objection or they may not be put to any inconvenience. But I do not agree. I say that if anybody is occupying that house, he is doing so under this condition that the Mussalmans are entitled to go and offer prayers to their God. If he does not like to live in this house he should leave that house, but we can never accept that position. As I have said before, mosques existed there when the houses were built and we Mussalmans have got a right legally and morally, in every sense of the word, to offer our prayers there. Sir, I appeal to the Government—and I appeal to the Government as a whole, not only to the Honourable the Labour Member because this is really not a matter which only concerns the Labour Department; this is a wider issue—I appeal to the whole Government to consider this matter carefully and not to take any step which might create a serious situation for which they alone will be responsible.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): So far as the question of sanctity of mosques is concerned, it is not a question of sentiment; it is a question of recognising the law which is followed by the Mussalmans. A mosque which is built by a house-owner may be built for his own purposes and may be a private property, but even once if he allows the public to go and offer prayers and treats it as a public mosque it ceases to be a private mosque. And, as a matter of fact, a private mosque is no mosque at all.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: There is no such thing as 'private mosque'.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: You can, in your own house, reserve a room for offering prayers and not allow the public to enter, that would not make it a public mosque. But once the mosque is made public, it ceases to be the private property of anyone; it becomes the property of God. It is *waqf*, and every Mussalman has got a right to go and offer prayers there. It has been fully explained by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I quite agree with him, and the reason why I have risen to say something in this matter is

that there is a general idea in the public here and everywhere—and probably rightly—that the policy of the present Government is not to repair themselves and not to allow Mussalmans to repair mosques in New Delhi and elsewhere. By keeping them under the protection of the Preservation of Old Monuments Act they intend to get them gradually destroyed in natural course. They want to retain them as monuments and if any part of these mosques falls down, they will not repair it themselves nor allow anybody to repair it.

I have found another difficulty. Mosques are in general taken over by the Archaeological Department probably with very good intentions, but unfortunately for ourselves we find that several difficulties and restrictions are put which frustrates the very object for which they were constructed. There are certain mosques, for example one in Mehrauli in which the *moazzin*—the person who calls for prayers and who looks after the mosque—is not allowed to remain there. Nobody remains there except ordinary labourers of the Archaeological Department who cut grass during the day and sleep there at night and thus they use it as a *musafarkhana*. It was brought to my notice that a regular dispute is going on in Mehrauli between the public and the employees of the Archaeological Department over this question. The Muslim public wants to keep the *moazzin* in the mosque at night, whereas the employees of Government do not allow that. My feeling is that Government did a very good thing by enacting the Act for the preservation of monuments and we, as a matter of fact, are obliged for that, but so far as mosques are concerned, they must also know that mosques—whether they come under the Preservation of Monuments Act or whether they happen to be in the vicinity of residential house—continue to be public mosques. Mussalmans have got a right to see that they continue to exist in the condition in which they were made. They have got a right to say their prayers there. If any private houses have been built round about these mosques it is not a question whether they were made under any condition or not, but if the object of building those houses was to prevent people from going to the mosques then the houses have been illegally built. They must be demolished. They cannot be allowed to continue because a public mosque existed beforehand and no person has got any right to make a building near a public mosque and then say that you cannot enter the mosque because I have built a private house here. Building of a private house itself is an illegal thing if it is intended to prevent the entry of the public to the mosque.

The Resolution does not say that the Government should revise their whole policy so far as mosques are concerned. I would like to urge upon the Government to revise their policy not only in the case of those mosques which happen to be situated within the compounds of certain bungalows but also in the case of those which happen to be situated at places near which no buildings of the Government exist and still Mussalmans are not allowed to repair those mosques. They are *waqf* property and Muslims have got a right to go and say prayers there and to repair them if necessary. With these words I support the Resolution.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, after the able speech of my honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League to which the House has just listened, there is nothing much to say except that I am here to support him and vote with him.

Sir, a mosque, as he has explained, is the House of God and no man has any right to stop a Muslim from offering his prayers in that House of God. When the Government first constructed these buildings, they did a serious wrong by including these mosques in the premises. It has therefore become necessary to separate those mosques from the residential buildings and allow the Muslim public to use them for prayers.

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.]

The Resolution is a very modest one. I should have gone much further. If Government do not agree to pay for the removal, I undertake to put in the money required to separate all the mosques from the buildings since come into existence.

In this connection I may mention that a year and a half ago I was asked by a number of Muslim friends in this House to take charge and see to the completion of the construction of the Mosque at Talkatora, which is used by the Muslims employed in the Secretariat. They cannot go very far because they have to be back in office in time. At the beginning there was little response to the demand for fund required, but when I started with my own donation of Rs. 10,000, money flowed in so that I have now in the bank over a lakh of rupees for this mosque, which is being completed and will be completed in another two months. The moment the Muslims found that I undertook to see that not a single penny would be wasted but would be utilised in the construction of this mosque or in repairing all the other mosques in New Delhi, I found no difficulty in finding the money. In fact Rs. 70,000 was collected from Delhi alone.

Now, Sir, after a few months Muslims came to me in hundreds and asked me to try and raise a fund to repair those ancient mosques which are existing in New Delhi. Those mosques, I assure you, Sir, will be repaired and we have already started to repair four mosques. The Chief Commissioner of Delhi, an Englishman, has a Muslim heart. When I approached him for assistance he told me that so far he had not found a single Muslim who would take over the burden of repairing those mosques. He said that I was the first man to have approached him but what amazed him was the dirty and filthy advertisements that were pasted on the back of the mosques and this he disliked. I asked for his co-operation which would certainly enable me to guard against a single mosque being desecrated with these advertisements on their walls. He then pointed out four mosques which should receive my attention at once. He described them to me and advised me how to approach the owners and how to do the needful. This was very nice of him. His heart bleeds that these ancient mosques should deteriorate in this manner. Undoubtedly the Majlis-i-Auqaf will do their duty in this matter. We are not going to compete with them. We can assist them. I have pledged myself that so long as I am alive I shall carry on this work and collect funds from day to day and month to month to restore gradually all the ancient mosques in New Delhi.

The four mosques which he pointed out were, first, the mosque in Faiz Bazar, the second was in Pindara Road, the third in Cornwallis Road, New Delhi and the fourth in the middle of Qutab Road about half a mile south of Qutab Road and Sadr Bazar.

I will not take up the time of this House except to say that the Government should accept this Resolution with good grace. Failing that, as my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League has said, it will not end here but will probably be the beginning of trouble.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I must in the beginning take up the second part of my Resolution which deals with the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and in this connection I must thank my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, for his very conciliatory speech which he made this morning and I must also thank the Chief Commissioner of Delhi for showing such great sympathy as has been referred to by Mr. Tyson in his speech.

Let me deal with the points which he raises. The first was about the protected monuments. Those mosques which come under the care of the Archaeological Department and are protected monuments do not come under the purview of this Resolution nor have I anything to say about them.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend objected to the wording in the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Haroon in which he said that every Muslim may be allowed to repair the mosque. My Resolution does not go to that extent and I quite agree with my Honourable friend. Mr. Tyson, that the repair should be done under the auspices of the Majlis-i-Auqaf, Delhi. When I say Muslims,

I mean the statutory body which has the authority to look after the Muslims works and I never emphasised that individual Muslims should come forward and put in an application for the repairs and they may probably be wanting in funds. I quite agree with this safeguard and I can assure him that my resolution always considered the same points which he wanted to cover in his speech. All repairs will be done through the Majlis-i-Auqaf and I am glad that my friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi has also said that in future everything will be done by him or the persons who have been generous enough to subscribe towards this object through the Majlis.

Now my friend Mr. Tyson referred to municipal bye-laws and that applications have to go through several channels. I think I have made it clear in my speech that the repairs or the restoration of the mosques should be allowed immediately provided the applications do not infringe the municipal bye-laws or laws. I can understand the municipal bye-laws and laws coming in where residential houses are concerned with regard to some area being left out, health restrictions, etc. But so far as the architecture of the mosque is concerned, everybody knows what a mosque should look like. I do not want a mosque which will not look like a mosque. My Honourable friend knows and understands quite clearly that a Church must look like a Church. You cannot have a Church built in the form of a square. If a Church of this kind did exist, there must be a steeple and a place for the parson to conduct the prayers, a place for the organ and it must look towards the east. The same applies to the mosque. Now it is known that every mosque has got at least one dome or three domes. It is usual to have three domes but wherever the space is not sufficient, then there is one dome. Then there must be two minarets or four minarets. No mosque can be different to this. Since Shahjahan's period it has become the fashion to build mosques to this type. But for anybody to say that you cannot build a mosque under this style but have it like a square room to suit the modern Delhi architecture, that is a position which I am not prepared to accept. and I want to bring it to the notice of my Honourable friend that silly objections have been put in by the New Delhi Municipality but I am glad that my Honourable friend says that if I want now to include two *chabutras*, which formerly were refused, it will be favourably considered. Formerly I and my late friend Sir Muhammad Yaqub tried to have that mosque enlarged but permission was not granted. After all that mosque was built by villagers: it had no architectural beauty and it was not according to the style of buildings in New Delhi.

My Honourable friend the Member in charge of the Labour Department knows that this Resolution is a consequence of the fall of a mosque in No. 9 Asoka Road. I find that some authorities said that if you want to repair the mosque you must build it up again in the same architecture as it was built up originally. Well, Sir, we are poor people. Some mosques, which require repairs, have been originally built by very rich people. The architecture is different, the decoration is so expensive that we cannot afford to pay for it. It is probably not necessary that the repairs should be done in the old style. So it is unnecessary that the same architecture should be kept. Mr. Tyson has referred to this in his speech and if it stands then it might be narrowly construed by those people who have not got the same spirit as he has. Those people may never understand and they have not got the administrative capacity or ability to understand these things in the same manner as he does. Therefore I have said clearly that they should not object to the architecture. I can assure him that it is no intention of mine nor will it be the intention of the Muslims who will restore those mosques to spoil the beauty of any architecture existing there. I would like to observe that if the mosque is built in the Tughlak period I should like to keep it in that style. I would not like to have the monuments and domes of the Tughlak period replaced with that of the Shahjahan period.

New Delhi has no architecture at all. No one would call the ugly looking structures all over New Delhi as any kind of architecture. I wonder if any American or European would ever care to have a look at them. If they come to India it is to see the beauty of the architecture of buildings round about Delhi.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]

I do not want to mix up the architecture of a mosque with the architecture which you have got for your modern requirements. The elevation of these buildings may be all right for residential or other purposes but the architecture of a mosque is entirely different. Therefore I would like that it should not be insisted upon that the mosque should have a particular elevation. A mosque should be a mosque and nothing else.

Now I come to the other part of the Resolution. I do not know if I am out of order were I to mention my private conversation with my Honourable friend, Dr. Ambedkar. His conversation with me was totally different from what he has said in his speech here. I do not know whether he had been influenced by his department on that day when he made his speech. He did not know what injury he was doing to my Resolution. Every objection which he raised I had myself foreseen and had replied to them. I do not want to bind the Government to any particular position. I do not mean to say that if any necessity arises or in an emergency, if a bungalow is lying vacant and an officer who is not a Muslim has to be allotted that bungalow which has within its premises an old mosque, he should not be allotted that bungalow. That is not my position. By all means allot the bungalow temporarily provided you stick to the principle that ordinarily the house will be given to Muslims and the mosque will be treated as mosque.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Another point which my Honourable friend has raised is that a stream of people will not be allowed. In my Resolution I had said that the tenant should not object to servants or visitors.

I must deal with one point rather strongly. We understand that a resolution is a recommendation to the Governor General in Council and the entire responsibility is on the whole of the Council. On issues which vitally concern a big section of the population like the present Resolution it should be the clear duty of the Honourable Muslim Members of the Executive Council to take this matter to the Executive Council. They knew full well what the Resolution was. They were fully aware of the reply of my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar. These Muslim Members should have taken the matter to the Executive Council and enlightened my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar, if he did not understand the position properly. Of course Dr. Ambedkar can be excused on the ground that he was ignorant of the Muslim sentiments on this matter. But the Muslim Members of the Executive Council have no such excuse; and what were they doing all the time? Perhaps they had not read the Resolution or had been only sticking to their own respective departments and did not care as to what is happening outside.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I therefore commend my Resolution to the House. I am afraid in spite of the very nice appeal made to me by my friend Mr. Tyson I cannot accept that appeal. If I agree then I lose my principle. I would have accepted his appeal if the reply from my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar had been similar. I therefore have to press the Resolution to a division.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I will first put to vote the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Abdoolk Haroon.

The question is :

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to protect and keep in proper repairs the mosques situated in New Delhi area, he should be pleased to take the following steps :

(a) instruct the Department concerned to allot those bungalows in the compounds of which mosques are situated subject to the stipulation that no obstruction should be offered to their restoration or to the use of such mosques by Muslims for offering prayers therein ; and

(b) further instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee to give all facilities, assistance and necessary legal permits to such Mussalmans as come forward to repair, restore or rebuild any existing mosque in New Delhi area."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Now, I will put the original Resolution to vote. The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in order to keep in proper repairs and to protect the mosques situated in New Delhi he should be pleased to take the following steps:

(a) instruct the Department concerned to allot all those bungalows in the compound of which mosques are situated only to the Muslim employees of the Government, who should be instructed not to obstruct or stop their Muslim servants or visitors from saying prayers in such mosques; and

(b) instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission, without delay, on presentation of applications by the Muslims for the repairs of, or restoration to, the old position or rebuilding with some altered designs of mosques situated either in the compound of any Government bungalow or on any place surrounded by Government or Municipal property."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—17.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Falzi-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.

Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—30.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. D. S.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN PREPARED BY CAPITALISTS OF INDIA

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council not to entertain the programme of 15 years' plan prepared by the capitalists of India in the interests of the people of this country."

I had put down one or two points in the preamble of this Resolution which, according to the rules of debate, were removed. I said it was in the interests of the cottage industries that I desired to move this resolution and if this plan is accepted then it will be the shortest route to turn India to Bolshevism.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Do you object to that?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Bombay plan, has laid down in para. 2 of their report certain conditions precedent. (1) it is said that it is assumed that on the termination of the war a National Government will come into existence; (2) that it will be constituted on a federal basis; (3) that the jurisdiction of the Central Government in economic matters will extend over the whole of India; and (4) that there will be a national planning committee under the Central Government which will be responsible for drawing up the plans.

Prior to this Bombay plan, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru also drew up a similar plan under the direction of the Congress Committee, in which he said:

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

"An essential pre-requisite of planning is thus complete freedom and independence for the country and the removal of all external control."

This was a condition precedent which Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru put in connection with his plan. Now the Honourable Member today told us that the Government had accepted the object of the 15 years plan. I do not know whether the conditions precedent on which this plan is based have already been accepted by the Government. The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal occupies a double position: he is a signatory of the report and he also accepts it on behalf of the Government of India. Before I develop my argument further, I would like to know whether the conditions precedent have been scrutinised by the Government and if so, whether the conditions of the Government have been accepted by the signatories of the report; and if the signatories of the report have not accepted them, its discussion will serve no purpose. I shall sit down. I want a reply as to whether the conditions precedent have been accepted by the Government or not. There is nothing left in the plan, if we do not accept the condition precedent. The Honourable Member of the Government of India, mentions on the floor of this House that the Government of India have accepted the object of this particular plan without accepting the principle on which the plan rests.

Before I develop my arguments there is one thing which I would lay before the economists and financiers in this House. Suppose I do a service and for that service I get one rupee, that one rupee really guarantees certain comforts. If I take this one rupee to the market, then I do not get the comfort of the value of 16 annas but only of five annas. In other words the purchasing power of the rupee I have is only five annas and not 16 annas. Where do the 11 annas go. (*An Honourable Member*: "Into the pockets of Government men".) Some persons say it is really due to inflation. I think this is the catchword of the economists, which is not really understood by the common people. I do not talk in technical phraseology. I talk in simple language. Where do 11 annas go, which I have lost? It goes into the pockets of the middle men, into the pockets of those who deal in the black markets, into the pockets of those who produce these articles and the big merchants. It is distributed all over the place but does not come to me. (*An Honourable Member*: It goes to the 11 Members of the Executive Council".) I call this loss, creative tax, to borrow the phraseology of this report. What is the value of this creative tax on account of the reduction in the purchasing power of the rupee? We have got the figures supplied in the report. The total income as calculated by Mr. Rao and accepted by this Committee, is estimated at about Rs. 2,200 crores. The creative tax which the people of India are paying on this income at the rate of 11 annas per rupee is 1,500 crores per annum. In fact the creative tax is much more as the total income estimated in 1933 has substantially increased in 1944.

Take the case of any peon standing here. For every rupee he pays 11 annas in this creative tax which goes into the pockets of somebody. I am not concerned just now to find who the somebody is. He is now hoping that as soon as the war is over this creative tax will disappear and he will get full 16 annas value for his rupee. The common man undergoes enormous privations and sufferings in order to pay this creative tax to rich men who calls it the miseries of war. There is an accumulative wealth on account of this creative tax, whose minimum value I estimate at 6,000 crores. That is the accumulated value of this creative tax during the war period at the rate of 1,500 crores per annum which is calculated at 11 annas per rupee. This does not include war profits which may be in the neighbourhood of 2,000 crores.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): My attention has been drawn to an incident which happened earlier, when the President was presiding. I have the unpleasant duty of drawing the attention of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal to Rule 17(2). Under that Rule, I am afraid, the Honourable Member cannot sit in the Chamber till the close of the day.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): Did the President pass any order of expulsion?

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): In order to make sure, I called for the record of the proceedings* and I find that the Honourable President did order the Honourable Member to leave the House and the record confirms it. As Rule 17(2) is very clear, I am afraid I have no option but to ask the Honourable Member to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What I heard him saying was.....

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): It is very difficult to enter into argument. I have satisfied myself—I was not here at the time the incident happened and therefore I called for the record—that the Honourable President did ask the Honourable Member to leave and Rule 17(2) is quite clear.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not dispute the rule,.....

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member will co-operate with the Chair by leaving the Chamber.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: So far as the present Chair is concerned, I am clearly in a mood to co-operate but I still maintain my contention that I am leaving the Chamber not in obedience to the order of the Chair under Rule 17 but as a protest against highhandedness and I make mention of this fact that this conduct was not worthy of respect.

(Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall then left the Chamber.)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The object of the whole plan is laid down in Section 36 of the report, to increase the aggregate income from 1,733 crores to 5,300 crores.

Now, the object of the whole report is to treble the income. I like to ask—does this trebling of the income mean trebling the pre-war purchasing power of the people? If this is not guaranteed, Finance Member can treble the income over night. The Finance Member can issue an Ordinance saying—wherever you find 1 rupee, read 3 rupees. Then you increase the income three times at once. (*An Honourable Member*: “Do you mean to say that the Finance Member is a juggler?”) If the purchasing power of the rupee is not to be considered and you simply want to treble the income, then it can be done by Ordinance. We do not require any plan. The Finance Member may issue an Ordinance and the income of the whole country is trebled. I say it is not the way to do it. The real object is that the purchasing power of individual should increase three times of what it was before the war.

Now, money, as admitted by the report, is a measuring rod, and hence it must have a fixed length. A measuring rod must not be like India rubber which you can go on stretching to any length you like. Then it is not a measuring rod. If money is a measuring rod, it must have a definite purchasing power. The report has given a list of the foodstuff that a person can purchase from Rs. 65. They say that every person in India should have every day cereal 16 ounces, pulses 8 ounces, sugar 2 ounces, vegetables 6 ounces, fruits 2 ounces; fats 5 ounces, milk 5 ounces or eggs, meat and fish. This is for the whole population of India, including the villages. May I ask if any one can feed on this menu on Rs. 65 per annum, unless the purchasing power of Rs. 65 is substantially increased. It is also mentioned in the report in para. 13 that the cloth will be sold at 3½ annas per yard. Therefore, the condition precedent, before you talk of trebling the income, is that you fix the purchasing power of the rupee or, as the

*The record referred to by Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum) is the Reporters' copy of the order passed by the President in the morning sitting before it was corrected by him. That order and the subsequent proceedings are as follows:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I find the Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House. I must ask him to leave the House, if he persists in this.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am willing to take the extreme penalty imposed by you. But I am not going to submit like a school boy to your temper. I leave the House under protest.

(Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, left the House.)

For the report of the relevant proceedings as corrected by the Honourable the President when it was submitted to him after the House had adjourned for the day, see page 223 ante.—*Ed. of D.*

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

economists say, you must stop inflation and what I say is that you must stop this creative tax which you are now imposing on everybody in India. Unless this is done first, it is idle to proceed further.

I strongly object to the method of approach in this particular report. What are the problems before India? The problems before India are two. In the first place, there must be employment for everybody. Now, the report does not touch this question at all. They think that probably by creating a few key industries the whole problem of unemployment will be solved. They ought not to forget that after the war, the problem of employment will be very acute. A large number of persons now serving in fighting forces and in auxiliary offices will be out of employment. They must have some kind of employment and the report does not take into account the new situation which is bound to arise. What is the use of a few key industries when there are so many people without employment? What is the use in making all these magnates still richer when the bulk of the people will be dying of hunger? The conditions precedent of all planning, on which the prosperity of the country will depend are two. One is to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee. Secondly, you should make out a plan so that there may be employment for everybody. Both these important questions are left out. How can you have any plan of future reconstruction of India by neglecting these two fundamental principles. What is the principle underlying this report? They want one hundred thousand crores of our credit to be handed over to them so that they may purchase the machinery. They want to stabilise their existing profits. Call a spade a spade. We may be fools but we are not ignorant fools. We understand something about it. The whole object behind the plan is that one hundred thousand crores which is our sterling credit in England should be earmarked for the purchase of the key machinery. And I understand that action has already been taken. They have already selected four key industries, namely, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, artificial silk and aniline dye industries. They have selected their magnates through whom all these things would be given, so that you will make richer those people who are already rich. Whenever I talk of stabilisation, I talk of the stabilisation of the money, of the purchasing power of the rupee. But whenever the industrialists talk of stabilisation, they mean the stabilisation of profits. The thing is this that during the war they have got a certain standard of profit and they want to stabilise this profit even after the war. This is really the object which they have in mind. The whole plan is really drawn up with this object that whatever profits they have been making during the war ought to continue even when the war is over. I will read out passages from their own report to show that this is the case.

The other thing which is conspicuous by its absence in this report is the question of the agriculture. We know that 92 per cent. of the people of India live on agriculture. What has this report provided for the agriculturist except shedding crocodile tears for them? They have not entered into the real question. They ought to know the population of India and take into account the fact that our population increases by 5 millions every year. So, in 15 years time the population will increase by 75 millions. Have you got enough land in India to provide living for everybody? This is the problem which ought to have been tackled. I have got before me the figures of the agriculturist's budget which is drawn up by a person who knows something about agriculture. For want of time I will not give all its details and will only give its result. He says that if a person has one wife and two children, in all four persons of the family, and has got $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, then he just makes both ends meet. His income will be Rs. 353 and his expenditure will be Rs. 351. If you want $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres for a family of four, then you can easily calculate how much more land you will require after 15 years when the population will be increased by 75 millions. Now, this question ought to have been tackled but it has not been tackled in the report. Nothing is suggested about the purchase of Zamindari rights. Country will be more contented if our internal savings of about 8,000 crores are used in purchasing Zamindari rights.

Sir, there is one other point which is very often neglected and even my

Honourable friend who is in charge of labour probably does not realise the magnitude of that problem. Whenever we talk of an agriculturist, a resident of a village, one always understands that he has got some land to cultivate, but 40 per cent. of the population in the villages have got no land to cultivate. They are landless tenants. Nothing has been provided for them. This class of people have been neglected altogether and their number is very large. If you make special arrangement for these village labourers by giving them additional work in the form of cottage industry their condition will be considerably improved.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I am afraid the Honourable Doctor has left his seat. He is standing in the gangway.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am by my books. This is the class of people whom this report absolutely neglects and I think something ought to be done for them.

Now, the other question is about the cottage industries. That has also been neglected altogether. Take the case of one particular industry, the textile industry. 90 per cent. people in the textile industry are supported by cottage industries and only 10 per cent. are supported by the mills. Let me see what these big manufacturers are doing for the improvement of cottage industries. How much yarn do they supply to these cottage industries? Will the Honourable Member tell me on the floor of the House or any of his Colleagues if the mills will agree that half of the yarn which they produce will be handed over to the cottage industry and only half of the yarn will be spun by the mills? This is the only way in which they can help the cottage industries, and, it is a test question of their integrity. The textile magnates are not

4 P.M. prepared to help the cottage industry by giving more yarn. They reserve the entire yarn for their own use. It is the duty of the representatives of the people, who are sitting on these Benches, to see that the interest of the cottage industry is not ignored. If you destroy the cottage industry, then you really deprive a large number of people of their living. If these people are thrown out of employment, they will be a great danger to the country. Mr. D. C. Driver in his presidential addresses said about giant India:

"The giant is now awake and hungry, we will have to feed him and find work for him. We cannot feed him on slogans and eloquent emotional appeals. India now wants work and food to fill its stomach, not so much eloquence and emotion to stir its heart. If we do not give to the giant food and work, the giant will destroy our capitalist system, devour our half baked democracy, and rush the country into the chaos of uncharted communism of imitative, immature experiments before the country is ready for them."

This is the opinion of a very experienced man. If you leave the people alone and do not make any provision for their food and employment, then you will repeat the experiments of Russia. That is a point which has got to be remembered. Therefore the problem of all problems before the Government today is not so much to get machinery for the people who are already rich, but the problem is to make people contented and to get employment for demobilised soldiers and retrenched civilians from auxiliary offices.

The next point is about the system *per capita*. It is contemplated that *per capita* will be Rs. 195 in future and that it is Rs. 65 now. It will be three times afterwards. This is a false calculation. Suppose Mr. Birla has an income of six crores per year. Then how many of these people whose *per capita* income according to your calculation will be Rs. 195 after fifteen years will go without food? This calculation of *per capita* allowing some people to have crores per annum at the expense of other people, is giving a false picture of the economic position of the country. This is just like the analogy of the person who went to a river. He saw the river was 10 feet deep, then he added the height of all the people who accompanied him in the carriage party and then came to the conclusion that they could simply walk over the river. This method of allowing some people to have income in crores and making some other people grovel in poverty and misery and calculating the average *per capita* income of the country is the most unscientific and uneconomic method of calculation. It has already denuded the wealth of the country. If you want to calculate *per*

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

capita income, then you must lay down the minimum and the maximum income for each man, just like the Congress Government did of fixing Rs. 500. If any person gets more, the excess should be put into the public funds. This is the only method of calculating *per capita* income. Our industrialists are not interested in the stabilisation of prices. They are interested only in stabilising their profits. They are not interested in finding employment for everybody so long as they get labour for themselves, indentured or free labour. They are not interested in the development of cottage industries nor in any problem of employment.

As regards the object of the plan, I will read from the Report itself:

"By giving priority to basic industries in our programme of development and by using our sterling balances in the initial stages for importing the necessary plant, machinery and technical experts, it is however, possible to curtail our requirements of external finance."

This has really let the cat out of the bag. One more point. They are going to finance from "created" money. What does this mean? The Finance Member should print notes in large number for circulation. The moment he puts more notes in circulation, the people talk of inflation and the prices will go up. This is a conundrum which can be solved between Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Finance Member and Prof. Ranga sitting together. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Resolution moved:

"That the Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council not to entertain the programme of 15 years' plan prepared by the capitalists of India in the interests of the people of this country."

There are certain amendments to this Resolution. They can all be moved one by one and after they are put from the Chair, discussion will proceed on all of them. The first one is in the name of Mr. Krishnamachari.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay plan, the Royist plan, Visveswarayya plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Amendment Moved:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay plan, the Royist plan, Visveswarayya plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country'."

I have now put the amendment. But I find that the next amendment of Mr. Azhar Ali is really no amendment at all. It is merely a repetition of the Resolution, and the clause at the end of the Resolution demands non-acceptance of the Bombay plan, and in fact the so-called amendment of Mr. Azhar Ali contains all the arguments in favour of the Resolution. That is really no amendment at all. I therefore hold that this amendment is out of order.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The amendment says that in place of the original Resolution, substitute this.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): It is merely an argument in favour and in support of the original Resolution.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

"that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen Members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial with instructions to report to this House'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Amendment moved:

"That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

"that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen Members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial with instructions to report to this House'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I have heard the speech of my

learned friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin. He is a Wrangler and a Senior Wrangler, but I think constructive suggestions are more helpful than mere negative opinions. So in moving this amendment I should like to put before this House a few suggestions about post-war economic, industrial and agricultural development of this country. Firstly, we think that any scheme for the agricultural development of this country must have as its basis certain considerations. The first is that it must be mainly and entirely from the point of view of the masses of this country, from the point of view of the poorest people of this country; and the sole aim and objective of the plan should be to raise their status economically and in every other way. Secondly, if it is to attain this object it must succeed in giving them greater purchasing power. By purchasing power I do not mean its calculation in rupees, annas and pies. To-day by inflation the cost of everything has gone up. The labourer in the fields who was getting five annas before is getting Rs. 1-4-0 today, but in effect he is getting much less than he was getting before. And so what we mean by purchasing power is not inflation and greater money but greater comforts in life for the ordinary man, something more to eat which he does not have today, two square meals a day and all the essential requisites for a good, decent and full existence. Thirdly, it should see that it does not create big industrial establishments which go to make a rich man richer and a poor man poorer. In our opinion, in the opinion of the Congress, big industrial establishments like automobiles, aircraft, machine tools, chemicals and others must be State-owned. It is our view that these establishments must be run with mainly national ideals, from the point of view of the development of this country as a whole and not for profit-sharing and profit making. We do think that private enterprise must have a fair share in the industry and commerce of this country, but it should never be at the expense of the ordinary consumer, of the poor man in the fields and in the factories. Fourthly it should aim at the development of the country as a whole and must be suited to the traditions and genius of the country.

Fifthly, the development that is aimed at in any plan of reconstruction in this country should not be merely industrial but must also be mainly agricultural. And the reason for this is not far to seek. More than 80 per cent. of our people are dependent upon agriculture and unless we can make them produce better and unless we can make them get a fair distribution of the wealth of this country, all our planning will come to nought and it will be a tragedy. So we feel that any scheme worth the name and worth the support of this House and the country must have these five requisites as its basic principles.

I do not want to go into the matter whether the Bombay plan as it has been called satisfies these principles. It is a mere suggestion; as a matter of fact I will congratulate the authors of the Bombay plan. I do not talk about its merits; but they have put forth something before us which has provoked people to think. This has brought other plans into the field. Other people also have got to think about it and even the Government of India have actively begun to think about it. The Bombay plan is only one of the plans which they must take into consideration. If they think that it satisfies these principles, accept it so far as it goes; if it does not satisfy these principles scrap it. So I am not talking about any particular plan. There are many plans, as has been pointed out in Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment,—the Roy plan, the Bombay plan, the Visweswaraya plan, and my friend Prof. Ranga suggests, the Agarwal plan, and a host of other things which any intelligent person with constructive ideas can yet put forward. And our recommendation is that people on whom there is responsibility for planning for this great country should go into all these plans without any prejudice and without any favouritism. Take whatever is good from the point of view of the people of this country and reject whatever is bad from the point of view of the masses of this country.

The second point mentioned in this amendment is this; who should make these plans? It is a very important matter. Government can very well claim that they are in possession of the facts, they are in possession of the experts,

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they have the material, the time, the money and the finance, and therefore they should do it. I want to point out, and Government know it well, that this is not a Government which is going to survive after this war. The people who are going to work it are different from the people who are governing today. It is the people who will have to work the plans that should make the plans. And to this end we suggest what has been suggested in this amendment, that a committee of this House should consider these plans. There are other reasons why I think Government, constituted as it is today, are not in a position and cannot undertake the responsibility of framing these plans. To begin with—and they know it and we know it and every section of the country knows it—they have been looked upon, and rightly so, with suspicion. From past history and experience it is well known that at the back of everything that they propose and profess to do for the people of this country lies the idea of exploitation, the good of the foreign Government and the foreign people. And naturally we wish that future plans for this country should be made by such people about whose motives there will be no room for suspicion. Secondly, we feel that the Government, constituted as it is today, cannot resist the influence of my Honourable friends there. I mean not only the European Group but the constituencies which they represent, that is, the ordinary British industrialists. Many people in Britain, the merchants and ruling classes, believe that India is still and should be kept reserved for their exploitation. I feel, Sir, and rightly, and Honourable Members if they speak out their hearts to me will also agree, that they are not able to resist these influences as well as they may sometimes wish. I do not want to put them in awkward positions. For that reason they are not fit to make a plan like this.

Thirdly, they are not in touch with the people of this country. The people in Delhi are the most unreal people I have met. In no sense do they represent the people of this country. The ordinary man of this country is a poor man suffering untold misery. He gets rotten rice if he gets anything at all. The war has made terrible inroads on him. There they suffer from want of food, but here they suffer from indigestion. How can they make plans for a people they do not know?

Fourthly, by their training and association, they have lost touch with the genius of the people. They do not know what the people want. We therefore feel that the Government constituted as it is today is not fit, is not suited to the great task of planning the post-war reconstruction for this country. I do not mean any disparagement to any particular individual but the system as it is cannot move in one direction. We have come into touch with the Provincial Governments. We have come into touch with the Central Government. When they want to start forces of oppression, it is done at once; but if you want to do something good it takes years and years to put it into action. Only today I heard from one of the front Benches that such measures move very slowly. We therefore propose that a Committee of this House should be constituted for this purpose. Advisedly a Committee of this House does not mean that there are not to be any officials in it. As a matter of fact we welcome some of them because they may be in touch with certain factors with which we may not be in touch, but it must be mainly composed of non-official elected Members who represent wide constituencies who are in touch with the people of this country and who know the sufferings of this country and who know where the shoe pinches with the poor people of this country.

I feel that planning is necessary. There is no doubt about that. The days of *laissez faire* are over and these are days of planning and perfect planning. Mere planning on paper will not do. It must be backed up by the people of this country. Only then will plans mature and come into action. Mere decisions from armchairs in committee rooms and secretariats come to nothing. If you want to get the co-operation of the people of this country, if you want to have the real backing of the people of this country, if you want that these plans should be worked for the good of the people of this country, it must be made by representatives of the people of this country. It must be

made from the point of view of the people of this country, and later on when I hope a National Government will come, it must be worked by the representatives of the people of this country.

I therefore commend my amendment to the acceptance of this House.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I rise to speak on the subject with considerable amount of reluctance because I know that in a certain section of the House the very word "Bombay" is anathema to them and the Bombay industrialists are particularly in the bad books of my friend the gallant and learned Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University. I am not here as an apologist of Bombay because there is no need for me to apologise for our existence or our eminence in the industrial life of this country. I am here to speak on certain aspects of this plan which has been pioneered not by the Bombay people alone. You will find the name of Mr. Birla, a leading industrialist of Calcutta. You will also find the name of Sir Shri Ram, the leading industrialist of this city, and knowing as I do the great work done by the authors of the plan I can tell this House that these two persons have pulled their weight in the formulation of the proposals that are known popularly as the Bombay Plan.

This is just the time that a study of the problems of this country should have been made but not the time to give effect to any plans. We are living in very unreal times. The Honourable the Finance Member has found it very difficult to control the economy of the country which had gone astray as the result of lack of control in the earlier stages of the war. He has done his best. Although I may not agree with him in all matters, I think we can say that certain measures which he has taken during the last 18 months have helped the Government to take control of the situation, not to the extent to which we would have liked, but certainly to a considerable extent.

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

Now this plan has been prepared by certain persons connected with some of the biggest industries in the country. Sir, may I take this opportunity of congratulating His Excellency the Viceroy in having the courage to invite one of the authors of the plan to join his Council of Ministers? I do not think it means that the Government of India have accepted all the principles underlying the plan but it does mean that the Government of India are very serious and sincere in their efforts to promote and prepare a scheme to which, when a National Government when it comes into being, will be able to give effect.

I quite agree with my friends on the other side that without the existence of a National Government it will be very difficult for any Government with the best of intentions to overhaul the economy of the country. In any country the first fundamental requirement is that the Government of the day must be responsible to the people of the country and must have their confidence. I do not think that any of my friends here on the Front Bench are either responsible to the people or have the confidence of the people. But I am prepared to admit that they have undertaken a very heavy responsibility in accepting office when the majority parties are not willing to take office. They are doing their best to serve the interests of the country and with that motive my friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal has taken on the onerous responsibility of the Minister of Planning and Development, not because he thought he had confidence of the country, but because he felt, I am sure when called upon by His Excellency the Viceroy, that he could not shirk that call and he has come and joined the front bench of this House so that he can have something prepared which can form a basis for action by a National Government if and when such a Government comes into existence.

Now, Sir, I come now to my learned and gallant friend over there. What is this plan? It is only the basis for a plan. I believe more literature is going to come on this subject and more concrete proposals will be placed

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before this country. As I read the plan, it is more or less a recital of the objectives, not a plan with definite proposals. With those objectives as a basis I think the authors are going to put forward their proposals for the consideration of the country.

It has been said that the plan would make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I do not think there is any warrant for such an assertion. On the contrary, the very fact that the authors have approached the whole problem of planning from the point of view of the requirements of the population as a whole indicates their anxiety to reduce the poverty of the country. They want to raise the standard of life. We all know that the mainstay of this country are the agriculturists. At the meeting of the Tripartite Conference held in 1943 when the Honourable the Labour Member came forward with the proposals for social security it was urged by us, the industrialists, that unless the agriculturists were included such an enquiry would be incomplete and I actually moved an amendment that within the scope of the enquiry of the Rege Committee agricultural labour should be included. But the Honourable the Labour Member thought that my amendment was outside the scope of the Conference and ruled it out of order. He, however, gave me an assurance that he would move the proper authorities to conduct a similar enquiry for agricultural labour. At the meeting of the Conference held last week I asked him whether anything had been done and he promised to let me know what steps have been taken in that direction.

Sir, we are all aware that the agriculturists form the mainstay of the economy of this country. What happened in 1930-37 when the agriculturists' condition was very depressed? We could not sell our goods and the depression in the agricultural industry was reflected in the depression in all industries, because our main buyer had no purchasing power. It is in the interests of the country, or if you would like to say so from a purely selfish point of view, taking a long range view of things, that we were anxious that Government and every one of us should see that the purchasing power of our best buyers, the agriculturists, is increased. I think that point has been met by my friends who have propounded this plan known as the Bombay Plan.

The next criticism is that the plan is the outcome of an unholy alliance—I think it was Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad who said it outside the House—between the Indian and foreign capitalists. The plan itself on page 47 (Clause 82) makes it clear that foreign capital would only be accepted if it is not accompanied by political influence or interference by foreign vested interests. The reaction of the organs of British Capitalist interest also does not seem to bear out this suspicion. On March 11, 1944, the *Economist* (London) touched the plan as follows:

"The plain fact is that, knowing industry to be the basis of modern power and national independence, they have decided, in the naivest way, that India can be made into a Great Power by 1960 by large-scale industrialisation. In the same way they are led into a kind of economic chauvinism that would throw away most of the benefits of foreign investment in Indian development, in order to cap political with economic independence."

Then, later on, on March the 25th the *Economist* partially retracted from this position but it again stressed its objection as follows:

"It is not true that, as was said in our note, it definitely advocates a policy of self-sufficiency and high protection. But it is true that several sentences place much emphasis upon the need to be as independent as possible of foreign imports, especially of capital goods."

You cannot say that it is an unholy alliance between Indian industrialists and foreign capital.

Then, Sir, there is a fear in some quarters and that fear has been strengthened by the acceptance of office by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, that the assumption that only a National Government can give effect to this plan is merely an eyewash and that the authors want the scheme to be given effect to forthwith. I do not think that that is a fair criticism of the authors of the plan. They have again and again emphasised that the essential condition for the successful execution of any development plan is the existence of a National Government but because there is no National Government it does not mean that we

should remain absolutely idle. It is only with a view to preparing the ground for the National Government if and when it comes into being that these seven or eight leading men of India have set their shoulders to the solution of the problem and for that I think they deserve the thanks of the country.

Mr. Bhulabhāi J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): So that you get the best of both the worlds.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You do that when you form, as you have done in this House, temporary party alliances. I am not ashamed of it, provided I do it in ethical or moral methods. My ambition, in fact it ought to be the ambition of every one of my countrymen, is that we must make the best bargain out of every thing. Because good bargains were dropped or opportunities were given up that we are in the present mess.

The next criticism is that the plan would give no room for provincial autonomy or for regional self-government. Probably the reason for this fear in the minds of certain people is because this plan contemplates the existence of a fairly strong Central Government which would control the whole economy of the country and see that it is put on a proper basis. Probably the recent political controversies that are going on in the country are responsible for this opposition to the plan, which presupposes the existence of a Central Government. I ask my friends, without going into any political controversies, whether anybody who is interested in the welfare of the country, if he wants to think out a plan for the future development of the country, can think of plans province by province. The whole trouble in this country is that controls have failed, because the Central Government finds it difficult to direct the provinces to do certain things. If the Central Government had taken control of the food situation at an earlier stage there would have been no famine in Bengal, at any rate it would not have been felt to the same extent by the people at it was actually felt. It was only after the Central Government came into the picture that the situation has been brought, to a certain extent, under control. If one were to forget his political predilections, can he doubt that any future development of the country is possible in the economic field, unless the planning is done on a national basis? Each province will have its own problems to solve but the main planning must be done on a national basis and not on a provincial basis.

Sir, my time is nearly up and I do not want to take the time of the House, because there are a large number of speakers on this question. But I do want to urge one consideration before this House. Whenever we discuss problems of this nature, it is not so much to arrive at definite conclusions as to provoke people into thinking on the problems. Government have proved their sincerity by appointing perhaps the best man fitted for this job in the whole country, who at considerable personal sacrifice has joined the front Bench. Our attitude in the circumstances ought to be one of helpfulness. We should all tell him "Go ahead with your plans. We in the Assembly of course have the right to criticise your plans according to our lights. But we wish you God speed and God bless you. Please do something for balancing the economy of this country".

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion as moved by my friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do not want to dilate at length on the Bombay Plan as the last speaker himself had made it clear that the scheme has not been out fully as yet. It is more in the form of the objective than any working scheme which is embodied in the plan. We representing the Muslims are opposed to the very principle of it as it envisages a central and unitary government. This is the political consideration and I will also examine from consumers point of view the details of financial effect of this plan. Sir Chandavarkar who has spoken just before me has tried to say that the control and other efforts of Central Government could not be successful because there exists some sort of provincial autonomy in this country who did not do what they were asked to do. I wish to say that whatever success was achieved in the matter of

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

control was due to the co-operation of the provinces in their own interests; the control was defeated by that very group of capitalists who are the authors of the Bombay plan, whose interest it was not to have any kind of control, who thrived on black markets, who wanted that the country should be left to its own fate and that they should make hay while the sun shines. I am sorry to have to make public this secret and I would just like to point out who are the authors of the so-called Bombay plan. They are industrialists of this country. What are their credentials? What is their past history? How have they behaved so far with the consumers of this country? Of course India has not been industrialised to any reasonable extent; but even to the little extent it has been, I am sorry to say that those industries were never willing to repay the obligation due to the consumers of this country and to repay any part of that contribution which the consumers of this country had been made to sacrifice for a period of over twenty years. The Tatas thrived on a subsidy from this country; the sugar industry and the textile industry were made to exist, not by any achievement of their skill; these industries were not capable of selling at world parity prices—they could not have competed with the world markets—but by the contribution in the form of protective tariff that was made by the 400 million people of this country to see that those industries were established by consumer's sacrifice; and what happened? It made the rich richer; it made a few capitalists richer—may be a hundred people, may be two hundred, may be a thousand; and it gave a living wage to another 10,000 or 20,000 or perhaps a lakh or two of the skilled and unskilled labour. But the contribution was made by 400 millions of people for over 20 years and the estimated value would be about rupees two hundred crores per year. Sugar could be imported into India from Java at Rs. 8-8-0 c.i.f.—(insurance and freight) per maund, but the Indian consumer was to contribute Rs. 9-8-0 per maund for the Indian sugar industry and was compelled to buy at Rs. 11 or above Indian sugar per maund. That was a direct contribution in order to make the industry exist, and exist for the good of a few of this country. There was an obligation on the part of those industries to repay consumers in times of prosperity, when industrialists could make only reasonable profit; but they did not do so. When the time came, sugar syndicate was brought into existence, when control was about to be introduced, we all know the way in which this was opposed by industries. So, I am definitely opposed to any sort of planning by this capitalist section of people. Mr. Birla may be a friend of mine: many of the authors of this plan are intimately known to me—I myself belong to the Muslim Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta and personally I come from that section which favours plan to some extent; but as a representative of the people I have got to make my position very clear, that the industries in this country have only got to exist for the good of the majority of its people and they have got to exist on the world parity prices and have got to exist with the full co-operation of the consumers in this country. This Government is not at all competent to come up with any such plan at the moment, constituted as it is. The mere fact that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has been associated with the Government of India and that compliments have been paid to him for bringing out some sort of plan, shall not convince anybody in any part of the world that they are ultimately useful for the masses or the great majority of the people. We have had sad experience in the past. Are we not going to dislodge the foreign capital from this country? The last speaker, Sir Chandavarkar, said there is no unholy alliance between foreign capitalist and Indian capitalist. May not be now. But in practice it will be so. Do you want that an industry like that of Batas should be established to stifle down our old shoe industries? Do you want similar bodies of foreigners from England and America to come out here and establish their industries in combination with Indian capitalists and we to give them all sorts of preference so that they may stifle down cottage industries and take their contribution from the 400 millions of starved people in this country? Do you want that? The whole thing is being misunderstood and

a wrong interpretation is being given to the plan. These good people who are the authors of the Bombay plan can by no means claim to be the well-wishers of this country. By no means can it be shown by their conduct in the past that they have done anything for the uplift of the country. By no means can they say they had not grudged even to give living wages to their labour. Mr. Joshi will bear me out how the industrialists treat the labour and that in how many cases a strike had to be met by force; every moment there were chances of strike, every where the labourers were working under the worst possible conditions—be it in Tatas or be it the Ahmedabad mill-owners or be it the sugar mill-owners. I know these matters. I had unfortunately to associate myself with one labour organisation. Mr. Bari an M.L.A. of Bihar came and told me what was happening in 1937, 1938 and in 1942 in Tatas. Sir Ardeshir Dalal knows in his own conscience how he has treated the labour there; he knows it too well. Now to ask us to contribute and establish industries of that nature in this country with high tariff preferences and with all the contributions by our own people is something which at least I, as a representative of the people and as one knowing some of the conditions in the country, will not be a party to.

I certainly congratulate my friend Mr. Chettiar who has said that if at all a plan is to be drawn up, if at all we have got to get busy with post-war-development scheme, we should have a sort of committee of this House associated with representatives of other Legislatures from the different provinces, who can sit together and I do not mind if you associate those members also who are the authors of the Bombay plan; let them explain, let them come with their own credentials; let them come with their history and say what they have done so far and what they propose to do in future. There can be no more exploitation allowed in this country. It was the exploitation of the foreigner in earlier days of the past; and now it is the exploitation by a few people of their country. I will not be a party to this fraud on the consumers of this country. As Sir Chandavarkar has said, the whole scheme is not out and I do not propose to criticise it industry by industry. I will not even touch the question of the sterling balances, the utilisation and the importation of machinery or otherwise. The time will come and then you will probably not find this country wanting in the necessary brain and the necessary intellect and the necessary sacrifice to give you the right plan at the right time. But I have no doubt that the entire purpose of the Bombay plan is sinister in itself and we will not be a party to this fraud of false development. We are very sorry, if Sir Ardeshir Dalal has been associated with this Government because of that plan, I think it is a reflection on the choice. I think for his own intelligence, for his own great capacity and his valuable experience, if he is associated with the Government of India all well and good; but if there is the idea that his association with this Government is because of that plan certainly I should think it is a reflection on the choice that has been made. I am not casting any reflection at all on Sir Ardeshir Dalal. He is a very capable man and may well deserve it; he is a most intelligent man and I take it he is a practical man who understands all these things; but at the same time he should not be associated with this plan; to say that he has been associated with this Government, because he was one of the originators of this plan, is something which I hope will not be made a case of by anybody. At least I want to understand from Sir Ardeshir Dalal himself that he is here because of himself, not because of anything else or anybody else, not because of any plan or scheme. He certainly could have envisaged many other plans—probably he is capable of producing a better plan in the real interest of the country and in the real interest of the masses. He knows their condition. But I have no doubt in my mind that to say that the industries should be given an upper hand in planning the whole thing, and that the agriculturists and the cottage industries interests should not have any say but be subordinate to them, is something which at least I cannot accept for one minute.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

And I would only impress on this House that the plan as it is and the object which it envisages, such as one Central Government,—I denounce it and denounce it strongly from this platform. With these few remarks, I sit down.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Knowing as we do that the Government were not committed to any particular plan, not even the Bombay plan, and that they are considering several plans, besides promulgating their own plan, it seems to me that much of the criticism that has been levelled against the Government by my friend Mr. Nauman misses the target. I appreciate the remarks of my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, though some of them are characterised by a good deal of prejudice against the Bombay industrialists and though they are the outcome of an incomplete study of the Bombay plan. The authors of the Bombay plan, we must admit, are modest enough to acknowledge that their plan is not complete, that they merely throw out, as they themselves call it, a plan for the consideration of the country and for provoking thought in the minds of people for a post-war reconstruction scheme. In fact, individual Honourable Members of the Government have heroically stated that the country was missing the bus by not formulating plans for post-war reconstruction, that there was no use of mere destructive criticism and that the Government would welcome any proposals for post-war reconstruction. That was the burden of their speeches. Some of us desisted from making any definite proposals, because we knew that behind those utterances there was no strength and that the real object was that the attention of the country might be diverted from the actual politics to what may be called constructive economics. However, the industrialists of this country, while they are national minded and while they are imbued with patriotic fervour, would also like to meet the criticism of Government and would not allow Government to indulge in criticising the country for not proposing a plan or not making out a plan for post-war reconstruction. I should think—I am not in their confidence that that was the object with which they have ushered this plan and I think their attempt has been fully justified by the number of plans that have followed that plan, so much so that even the Government have thought it necessary, at least as a sort of complacency, to appoint one of the authors of that scheme as a Member of the Executive Council in charge of the Post-War Reconstruction Department and collect information or make out a scheme for post-war reconstruction. I think to that extent we ought to be grateful to the authors of the Bombay plan. There may be some in the Muslim League who are opposed to the Bombay plan on account of the objectives of that plan and also, what is more important, on account of political reasons and the Central Unitary form of Government envisaged there seems to be more an anathema to them than the object of the plan itself. There are many outside the Muslim League who do not see eye to eye with or who do not agree with the Bombay plan in all its details. In fact, my Honourable friend who spoke before me from these benches, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, has made it plain that the objects of the plan needed for any economic reconstruction are quite different from those which have been envisaged in the Bombay plan. They may be supplementary or they may be complementary but still the Bombay plan has not met the real want of the country but on that account it does not seem to be fair to reject that plan altogether. It ought to be one of the plans to be considered. Every one of us seems to be agreed that unless a National Government is formed, there is no chance of any plan being successful in this country. I quite agree but it will take a long time for a National Government to be formed and do you expect the National Government to start planning immediately after it is formed. We shall be losing valuable time if we wait till the formation of the National Government and till that government prepares schemes and executes them. We therefore suggest, in the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, that you might form a sort of informal National Government by associating elected representatives of this House with you even in the early

stages and ask it to formulate a plan. Let not that plan be tainted by a merely official approach. You must seek the co-operation and assistance of non-official members even in the very early stages. Do not say that you asked for co-operation and we spurned it. It is customary for the Government of India to spurn public co-operation when it is offered and to make a fake appeal for public co-operation when the public is not in a mood to give it. I think that the amendment proposed by the Congress Bench affords an excellent method of solving a problem like this and it would be a pity if the Government of India would not take advantage of this amendment.

Apart from this, there are one or two points in the Bombay plan itself which ought to be initially objected to. In the first place, it seems to rely upon our getting foreign capital, though it has been qualified by Sir Vithal Chandavarkar by saying that it should be foreign capital unaccompanied by political interests. But is there a single instance in which foreign capital has not been accompanied by political influence? I do not myself see how you can get foreign capital without political influence.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Then we do not want it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: You might say so even now. While the Bombay plan says it is aimed at doubling the national income, it does not ensure the individual security. Therefore it confirms the suspicion of many of my friends on my left that while, under it, the rich man will become richer, the poor man will become poorer. Your national income may be magnified a hundredfold but still the personal income of a single individual, of the average individual, would go down. That is a danger which we ought to avert even in the beginning.

Well, Sir, having said this, I should consider that our ideas of the Central and Unitary form of Government being impediments to any planning ought to be revised in the interests of the country. Whatever might be our political future, I do not think we can escape a Central control and that control must comprise all essential questions like Commerce, Industry, the supply of foodstuffs and so on. With these few words, I commend the acceptance of the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chetty.

(Prof. N. G. Ranga rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Iahim): The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 6th November, 1944.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 6th November, 1944.