

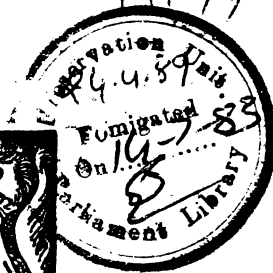
**THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

Official Report

Volume V, 1944

(14th to 21st November 1944)

**TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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

Deputy President :

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Panel of Chairmen :

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

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Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal :

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

Monday, 20th 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.

MEMBER SWORN:

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR TATA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

564. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if, in virtue of a statutory provision, a Committee is appointed to review the work and administration of the Tata Research Institute at Bangalore;

(b) when such a quinquennial reviewing committee was last appointed and what were the suggestions of this Committee, and if effect has been given to any of these suggestions; if not, why not;

(c) if any attempts are made to see that there is continuity of policy and outlook in the matter of research and administration, if so, what attempts are made;

(d) if the Government will satisfy themselves that the Institute is not losing its All-India character and the research tradition and continuity; and

(e) how many schemes were sent by the Government of India for research work since 1940 to this Institute, and of these how many were worked out fully; how many have been stopped by the Government and how many were stopped for want of chemicals necessary for research work?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) There is no statutory requirement but, under the Regulations of the Institute, a quinquennial review of the working and progress of the Institute has to be conducted by a committee appointed by the Visitor for that purpose.

(b) The last quinquennial reviewing committee was appointed in 1936. The suggestions of the Committee are contained in their Report which was published with the Department of Education, Health and Lands Resolution No. F. 53-3/36-B, dated the 21st November 1936, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Many of the recommendations were accepted. A reference is invited to a statement laid on the table of the House in reply to Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 469 on 1st October 1937. The next review has been unavoidably postponed until after the war.

(c) This is the direct concern of the Council of the Institute on which the Government of India is represented, and the Reviewing Committees are also asked to report on this aspect of the Institute.

(d) Government has no reason to believe that the Institute is losing its All-India character or its research tradition and continuity.

(e) The information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

Name of the Department	Number of schemes sent by the Government since 1940	Number of schemes worked out fully	Number of schemes stopped	Remarks
General Chemistry Section .	16 (B. S. I. R.)	6	One scheme has been stopped for lack of proper equipment.	9 schemes are under progress.
Organic Chemistry Section .	6 (B. S. I. R.)	2	One scheme was discontinued to stop duplication as the products were being manufactured by the Tata Oil Mills and the Calcutta Chemical Co.	3 schemes are under progress.
Biochemistry Department .	6 (I. C. A. R.) . 2 (B. S. I. R.) . 1 (I. R. F. A.) . 3 (Food Dept.) . 4 (Medical Dept.) . 1 (Paints Gases rectorate)	Supply Dept. All the 17 schemes have been worked out fully.	Nil.	One of the schemes has been developed on All-India basis.
Electrical Technology Department	6 (B. S. I. R.)	5	Nil.	One scheme is being continued.

B. S. I. R. = Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.
 I. C. A. R. = Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
 I. R. F. A. = Indian Research Fund Association.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It has been said that most of the recommendations were accepted. I wish to know about two recommendations. Was it recommended that the scholarship of the students should be increased?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If the Honourable Member will let me know the two matters he is interested in, I will make a note of them and let him have a reply. There are a very large number of recommendations.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There are only two recommendations about which I wish to inquire. The first is about the scholarship. So far as my impression goes, it was recommended that the scholarship should be 100. It was brought down to 60 and it has since been reduced to 40 in these hard days. Is it considered desirable to carry out the recommendation in this fashion?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I must ask for notice. I will look into it certainly.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Another recommendation is about the complete bifurcation of the administrative and academic work. Has that been carried out? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will look into that too.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who were the members of that Committee on behalf of the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The reviewing committee is an *ad hoc* committee appointed every five years and consisting of three experts. There is no standing committee. On the last occasion, it was Sir James Irvine, the Vice-Chancellor of Saint Andrews University, Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar and Dr. Mackenzie who was once D.P.I. in the United Provinces and was at that time, I think, the Vice-Chancellor of the Osmania University. That was the last committee of review.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why work on aniline dyes, crinoline and wireless was stopped?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The details are in the statement. If these points are not covered by the statement, I will find out and let the Honourable Member know.

AMALGAMATION OF PURCHASE AND PLANNING SECTIONS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

565. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly say whether it is a fact that Purchase and Planning Sections dealing with supply of foodstuffs to Defence Services have been amalgamated?

(b) Is it a fact that officers and staff now deal with Purchase as well as Planning work?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Directorate General of Supply Purchase and Planning work is done by two different Sections?

(d) Is it a fact that Superintendents promoted as Assistant Directors in the Directorate General of Supply receive Rs. 100 per mensem in addition to their pay in the scales of Superintendents?

(e) Is it a fact that Superintendents promoted as Assistant Directors in the Food Department (III) are not given Rs. 100 per mensem in addition to their pay in the scales of Superintendents? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (d). The Honourable Member is apparently correctly informed.

(e) Yes. When the new scales were considered and sanctioned it was decided that the additional responsibilities of the Assistant Directors do not call for an increment of Rs. 100.

FOOD DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

566. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state whether it is a fact that in the Food Department an Establishment Committee has been formed which deals with promotion and recruitment of staff?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim on this Committee to look after the interests of the Muslim Community? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) The Officers comprising the Committee can be relied upon to observe the rules on the subject. Moreover, their recommendations are subject to the final orders of the Secretary and of myself in all important cases.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the scheme that the Honourable Member was making for the procurement and distribution of food in the provinces is ready?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I submit that does not arise out of the question on the Order paper.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT (III)

567. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that on the Secretariat side of the Food Department (III) there are at present four officers and none of them is a Muslim?

(b) Is it a fact that a post of a Deputy Secretary has recently been sanctioned on the Secretariat side of the Food Department (III)?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to fill this vacancy by a Muslim so that the Muslim Community may also be represented on the Secretariat side?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) There are five such Officers. None of them at present is a Muslim.

(b) Yes.

(c) The post has already been filled.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: The Honourable Member said that out of five officers none is a Muslim. He gave no cogent reasons. May I know why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: For the simple reason that I have not been able to secure a suitable Muslim.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Is it not too late in the day for the Honourable Member to say that suitable Muslims are not available?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The position is that these posts are filled by officers drawn from the services, the I.C.S. particularly. It is very difficult for me to get the man I want from the provinces.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Has the Honourable Member written to the provinces, particularly Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would like to tell the Honourable Member that I myself mentioned the names of two Muslims from the U.P. and I could not get them.

DEPUTATION OF OFFICERS TO UNITED KINGDOM FOR STUDY OF DEHYDRATION PROCESSES

568. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that two officers of the Food Department (III) have been sent by air to the United Kingdom to study methods and processes of dehydration of foodstuffs there and on return to this country guide the Dehydration Industry in India?

(b) Is it also a fact that two experts in dehydration have recently been imported from the United Kingdom to guide the Dehydration Industry in India?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for taking double action?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Food Department has to meet urgent demands from the Defence Services for dehydrated food stuffs, and in order to plan new factories and bring existing factories thoroughly up to date it was necessary to import two men with actual practical factory experience of the latest methods quickly and temporarily. One of them has been recruited for one year, and the other for six months only. Since, however, it is also desirable that we should in future be dependent to the smallest degree possible on experts from outside India, we decided to send two Indian Officers to the U.K. to investigate modern methods of food technology, with special reference to the processes of dehydration and to modern methods of packing. Their experience on return will be of permanent benefit to the Department and to the Industry.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member kindly mention the names of the two candidates who have been selected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: They were two officers of the Department. One is, I believe, Dr. B. C. Guha, who is now our Chief Technical Adviser. The other name I have not got here with me. I will give that name to the Honourable Member later.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah: May I ask whether these two officers were promoted or they were directly recruited?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no question of promotion or recruitment. They are officers of the Department and they are simply being deputed to U.K. to learn the modern methods. That is all.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether these two experts have been imported from outside and were none available in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already replied to this question.

IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS

569. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what those consumers goods are that the Government propose to give preference now that some shipping space is available?

(b) What is the extent of their imports in the present financial year?

(c) To what extent have they affected the manufacture of those articles in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The main civilian consumer goods for which import licences are granted are:—

Drugs and medicines, toilet requisites, paper, stationery, books, artificial silk fabrics, woollen fabrics, glass-ware, crockery, hardware, cycles, photo-goods, hurricane lamps, clocks and watches.

(b) The imports of the above mentioned articles during the four months April-July 1944 were of the value of about Rs. 9 crores. It is not at present possible to estimate the value of the goods that might come forward by the end of the current financial year.

(c) There is no reason to expect that the import of these items which are either not produced in India or produced in inadequate quantities, will adversely affect Indian manufacturing interests.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the facts they took into consideration in allowing these imports?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, the preliminary thing is whether there is enough supply and, secondly, whether there is enough production within this country and also the need of the consuming public. Taking all these factors into consideration and also having regard to the primary fact that they do not adversely affect the Indian industries, we decided on these licences.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar. May I know whether the Government took into consideration the fact that the toilettes are not a very essential thing just now in this country and that more essential goods can be imported?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir. But it is very difficult to make an estimate as to which article is essential and which is not. "Toilettes" include quite a lot of things and the list is quite heavy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why have they imported two millions of hurricane lamps when kerosene is not available in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The hurricane lamps are needed at least to the extent to which the kerosene oil is supplied.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are not medicines quite as important as toilette requisites?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Drugs and medicines are given primarily the first place.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are not hurricane lamps available in India?

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

AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURING COMPANIES.

570. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many companies have been floated for the manufacture of automobiles?

(b) Have they approached the Government for any sort of help?

(c) What has been the attitude of Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Two.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have always given all assistance and help to the different concerns.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the sort of assistance they have asked for?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: One of the companies asked for dollar exchange facilities to cover the salaries and the travelling allowances of the technical personnel to be selected. These facilities were granted to them. Then, assistance was also sought and given for securing air priority passages for their representatives proceeding abroad for selecting technical engineers for their firm and for two trainees proceeding for training.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Government expect these things to be a going concern?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That, I am afraid, I am not in a position to say because I am not in possession of the facts just now. But we are giving them fullest facilities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any of these concerns asked for financial assistance? Have they asked that Government should take a portion of their shares or should lend them certain funds?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the question of granting tariff protection to this industry under the consideration of the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question of granting the tariff protection to all the industries is now under the consideration of the Government.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEWSPAPER PERMITS

571. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many applications were received for permits to start new newspapers since the control has been instituted?

(b) For how many permits were granted in each of the Provinces and details as to the English and local languages to be separately given?

(c) On what basis were the new permits usually granted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not clear to which "control" the Honourable Member refers. Under any control affecting new newspapers the collection of information asked for will involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government do not consider justified in present conditions.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many papers have been refused permission under the Paper Control Order?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that question.

SHORTAGE OF SPECTACLES GOODS

572. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the shortage, if any, of Spectacle Goods in India;

(b) if he is aware that in rural areas people cannot buy spectacles even at 10 times the pre-War prices due to opticians having almost no stock; if so, what steps Government has taken to make spectacles available;

(c) if there are any firms in India engaged in the mass production of Lenses, Frames, and spectacle cases, for civilian consumption, if so, what their names are; and

(d) if any firm or firms (if possible please state names) has applied for any assistance from Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India, if so, what kind of assistance they have asked for, and how their applications have been disposed off? (Please state names of the firms who have been helped by the Government.)

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There is a shortage of optical goods in India.

(b) All possible steps are being taken to increase indigenous production and imports.

(c) There are none.

(d) Certain firms engaged in the production of cheap quality spectacles have applied to Government for assistance. The firms of Messrs. Takandas H. Kataria and H. Kataria of Karachi and Messrs. Kundan Lal Ramlal of Amritsar have applied for and received import licences for celluloid and other plastics for the manufacture of spectacle frames. Messrs. Mumick of New Delhi have recently applied for assistance in obtaining electric power and steel for the manufacture of spectacle cases.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Does not the Government think that this is one of the most necessary articles and therefore the Government should give a sort of subsidy to the people who are making frames and lenses?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly: we want better eyesight for everybody.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if they have asked for any subsidy and whether any subsidy has been given to them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of this question.

ADVANCE REALIZATION OF SAUDI DUES FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

†573. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to a note published in daily *Inqilab* of Lahore dated 26th October, 1944 on page 3, with regard to the payment of Saudi dues being realised from Hedjaz pilgrims before embarkation from Indian port?

(b) Is it a fact that every pilgrim had to pay Rs. 444-8-0 instead of Rs. 292-8-0 actually due according to current rate of exchange?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to sanction the refund of the excess amount realised and order to abolish the system of advance payment in India; if not, why not?

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

(b) According to the rate of exchange of sovereigns the dues might have been Rs. 292-8-0. Payment could not, however, be received in gold as, owing to existing restrictions, gold could not be exported for making remittances to the Saudi Arabia Government. In accordance with the decision of the Saudi Arabia Government, the proceeds of these dues have to be remitted to them in rupees. The rupee exchange rate of Rial had been laid down by the Saudi Arabia Government and this exchange rate was binding on us. According to this rupee exchange rate Rs. 444-4-0 had to be recovered per head for these dues.

(c) As regards the first part, attention is invited to my reply to part (d) of starred question No. 424. As regards the second part, the system of advance payment had to be adopted in accordance with the instructions of the Saudi Arabia Government. It was enforced also in other Muslim countries from which Haj pilgrims proceeded. The Government of India are not in a position to abolish the system.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR BICHROMATE OF SODA

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

(a) for what quantities of Bichromate of Soda and to how many people import licences for the same were given since 1st July, 1943;

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

(b) the procedure followed by the Department before granting import licences for such chemicals;

(c) if the authorities satisfy themselves that local production is inadequate, before import quotas are assigned; and

(d) whether other Departments of the Government of India are consulted before the Commerce Department takes action in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Licences were issued to one firm for 1,500 tons in each of the shipping periods July-December 1943 and January-June 1944. No licence has been issued for the current half year July-December 1944.

(b) Applications are considered on merits with due regard to the total requirements of the country, stock position and the extent of indigenous production.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. Other Departments concerned are consulted.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly disclose the name of the firm to which licences for imports have been granted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of people to whom licences are granted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it a British firm or an Indian firm?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think it is a British firm.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he has really satisfied himself that the factories which are now engaged in the production of Bichromate of Soda in this country are not working up to their full capacity?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it that the Departments whom we consult on all these matters take all these facts into consideration. The Commerce Department is only concerned with the issue of licences on the material available and the opinions received.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if his Department or any other allied Department has definitely gone into the question that these factories are or are not manufacturing Bichromate of Soda to their full capacity?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid it is not within the scope of the Commerce Department to go into this question. I cannot say for others.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the firm concerned, to which this special quota has been assigned, happens to be the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have already said that it is not in the public interest to disclose the names of the firms to which licences have been issued. If I mention the name of one firm, I shall have to mention the names of other firms too. So, I am not prepared to tell my Honourable friend the name of this firm.

Mr. K. G. Neogy: The Honourable Member said that he had not got the information on one of the points mentioned by my Honourable friend in his capacity as the Commerce Member. May I know whether in his capacity as the Member for Industries he has any special responsibility in these matters?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am going into that question in the Industries Department.

POLICY RE IMPORT OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

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

(a) the policy of the Government with regard to the import of capital equipment;

(b) the total number of applications and their aggregate value received for the import of capital equipment since the beginning of 1944; and

(c) the number of applications and their aggregate value to which permission has been accorded for import?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The present policy of Government is to afford all facilities for the import of capital equipment required for industries producing goods which are considered essential by war-time standards. A press note, however, will issue shortly explaining the policy of Government regarding the import of post-war requirements of capital goods.

(b) and (c). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 20, INSURANCE ACT

576. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether any penalty has been directed to be paid under section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938, in respect of contravention of section 40 of the said Act during any of the years 1939 to 1944 (both inclusive); if so, how many?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No one has been prosecuted between 1939 to 1944 under section 102 of the Insurance Act for contravention of section 40 of this Act. The second part of the question does not arise.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Am I to understand from the reply of the Honourable Member that no proceedings have been instituted at any time under this or under any of the penal sections for contravention of section 40 of the Insurance Act?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not to my knowledge. I cannot say more than that.

DETERIORATED FOODGRAINS LYING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS AT HAJIGUNJ, ETC.

577. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that 80,000 maunds of foodgrains have been lying in the Government godowns at Hajigunj, Narayangunj, Godnyle, etc., in a decomposed condition and unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether a notice has been issued by the Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, Region VI, Dacca to thirteen Hindu and seven Muslim traders asking them to purchase the said foodgrains;

(c) if it is a fact that on their refusal to purchase the same on the ground that they are unfit for human consumption, notices have been served to them by the Deputy Director of Civil Supplies, Region VI, Dacca, to show cause as to why their license should not be cancelled; and

(d) if the Honourable Member has seen the press reports about this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) I have seen one such report and that I have found to be completely unreliable.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give the correct version of this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The allegations, as I have said, are not reliable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the correct position?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is there absolutely no foundation whatsoever for this complaint?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member tables a question, I shall try to answer it.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The question is already there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That question has been answered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government made any enquiries? What is the correct version as regards the allegation whether they were forced to purchase?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will table a question. I will try to answer it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The question is already there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India got any special staff to examine the grain stores to see what portion of it is spoiled and to take necessary steps to see that the grains do not get further spoiled?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Government are always exercising vigilance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any special staff detailed for this specific purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot catch what the Honourable Member says.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I have put a specific question in part (b): whether a notice has been issued by the Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, to 13 Hindu and seven Muslim traders asking them to purchase the said foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have given an answer to it, saying, 'no'.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know if the Honourable Member's Department depends entirely on the Provincial Governments for making enquiries into these matters, or has he got any independent agency to find out the truth?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the Honourable Member knows, this was the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That explains the position. You are merely acting as a post office.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If it is not a fact that 80,000 maunds of foodgrains have decomposed, may I know if 79,999 maunds of foodgrains have got decomposed? Surely he understands this, and he need not quibble about this.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That too is not a fact.

FALLOW LAND IN COASTAL BELT OF CONTAI SUB-DIVISION (MIDNAPUR).

578. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a vast area of 70 square miles in the coastal belt of Contai Sub-division in the district of Midnapur has remained fallow since the cyclone of October, 1942;

(b) if the said area is culturable land and has always grown food crops;

(c) if it is a fact that it has remained fallow due to cumulative effects of cyclone particularly for want of agricultural labour, implements, cattle and seeds;

(d) if no steps have been taken by the Grow More Food Department of the Government to bring the said area under cultivation; and

(e) that this has caused a loss of Rs. 48,00,000 annually to the ryots according to the estimate of local officials?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A part of this area remained fallow during 1943. It is reported to have been fully cultivated during 1944.

(b) Yes, the bulk of it has been used for raising food crops.

(c) It remained fallow in 1943 owing to the shortage of labour and cattle. Owing to the destruction of houses, there was inadequate accommodation for labourers. Seed was supplied whenever required.

(d) Steps were taken by the Provincial Government to rehabilitate cultivation and these have met with success in 1944. Action is being taken to bring in labour from the north of the district for harvesting operations.

(e) No estimate of the loss in the value of production can be given.

REFUSAL OF FACILITIES TO ALL INDIA WOMENS CONFERENCE FOR STUDYING THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN COAL MINES

579. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Women's Conference approached the Government for facilities to send an investigation Committee for an impartial

study of women in coal mines and that on the 3rd May, the Government of India informed the aforesaid organization that there was no objection against such investigation, and the time was not suitable at present; and

(b) if it is a fact that subsequently on a repeated request from the All-India Women's Conference on the 26th May, the Government of India again refused the facilities and informed them that Government would let them know when the time was suitable and that upto now the All-India Women's Conference has not heard from the Government; what the causes are which led to this course of action?

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

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reasons were explained in the Government of India's letters to the President of the Conference.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know the reasons which led the Government to pass the order referred to in part (b)?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The time was not suitable.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What does the Government mean by saying that the time was not suitable?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think the word 'suitable' is a very simple word. Everybody can understand it. I do not think I can further simplify it.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is it a fact that the Government allowed the Regge and the Health Survey Committees to go and investigate during the same period? Is it a fact that the All-India Women's organisation has not been given similar permission till now? If so, what is the basis for such differentiation? Why is it that a responsible body like the All-India Women's organisation who are interested in the welfare of women has not been allowed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are official bodies which were allowed.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Health Survey Committee an entirely official body?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Are not the Members of the Legislature on that Committee?

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Why are women stopped from going into the mines and investigating? Why should Government consider that the time is not suitable only in the case of Women's organisation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member can draw his own inference.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a fact that Government do not consider the time suitable because the conditions in the mines are so bad that they do not like investigation being made by an impartial body?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member is at liberty to draw his own inferences.

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

SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN COAL MINES DUE TO MALARIA.

580. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the shortage of labour in coal mines, particularly during the months of August and September was due to a large proportion of mining labour suffering from malaria and that no adequate treatment was possible due to the inadequate supply of quinine; and

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware of the fact that mining labour is suffering so acutely from the effects of diseases and mal-nutrition that this has seriously affected their efficiency; if so, what steps taken to remedy this are?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The coal-mining labour is not immune to the seasonal incidence of malaria, but it is not correct to say that a large proportion of this labour suffered from the disease during August and September. The incidence of the disease per thousand of the average daily labour force employed in the Jharia Coalfield was 81 and 80 for the month of August in 1943 and 1944 respectively and 111 and 74 for the month of September in 1943 and 1944 respectively. Every effort is made to provide adequate facilities for treatment and sufficient supplies of quinine and its substitutes.

(b) It cannot be said that mining labour is suffering acutely from malnutrition. As regards their health all collieries employing 30 persons or more are required to maintain a dispensary and distribute medicines through their doctors. Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund has recently been set up from which measures for prevention of disease in the mining population and improvement of medical facilities will be financed.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the point about malnutrition, will the Honourable Member please make a statement as to whether it is not a fact and an admitted fact that apart from the shortage of labour in collieries, individual output of work has gone down due to malnutrition?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not certain about the facts mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry from the Honourable the Supply Member, who, I understand made a statement to this effect on a recent occasion when he met one of the Chambers of Commerce.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no need for an enquiry as the Honourable Member seems to be in possession of the fact.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member convince himself about the truth of this position?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, I know there has been some fall in production, but I understood it was entirely due to the fact that there was lack of machinery.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: As the Honourable Member has told us about dispensaries in the different mines, will he kindly investigate and find out what the medical facilities are and how far the dispensaries are working and giving medicines in the mines at Ranigunj and Jharia? My information is that some of them cannot work because there are not enough medicines.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, it was because in the opinion of Government the facilities were not sufficient that Government established the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

CASES OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ON UNDERGROUND WORK IN MINES

581. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the fact that there are a growing number of cases of violation of the Act prohibiting children in underground work in mines?

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what the steps taken to ensure the enforcement of the Act are; and

(c) if the answer is in the negative, will the Honourable Member kindly investigate the matter and take effective steps to put a stop to any such illegal practice that may prevail?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Inspections are regularly made by the Officers of the Department of Mines to enforce the provisions of the Indian Mines Act regarding the prohibition of employment of children in mines and effective steps will be taken as a matter of course if any such illegal practice prevails anywhere.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a growing number of cases of violation in some of the mines in Jharia and Ranigunj coalfields and that children of 14 and 15 are signed up as adults and actually go down the mines? And what does the Honourable Member propose to do about it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member has any specific cases having reference to specific mines and will bring them to my notice, I will certainly take the matter up.

UNDERGROUND WORK IN MINES BY PREGNANT WOMEN

582. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the fact that pregnant women usually work underground in mines until the ninth month and again a fortnight after child birth, and that in mines where maternity benefits are not given they work even longer?

(b) the steps Government have taken to stop pregnant women from working underground;

(c) if it is a fact that there have been a certain number of accidents to women working underground within the last year and there is no way of ascertaining how many of these accidents have occurred to pregnant women; and

(d) if it is a fact that maternity benefits are given only in some mines; what steps Government intend to take to make maternity benefits compulsory for all women working in mining areas?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) I am not aware of the basis for this allegation. Under section 3 of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, employment of a woman for a period of four weeks following her confinement is prohibited. Further a woman is entitled to leave of absence for a period of one month before she expects to be delivered of a child. Inspections under this Act are regularly made by the Labour Inspectors under the Chief Inspector of Mines, all of whom are doctors, with a view to enforcing the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(b) As already stated, pregnant women are entitled to leave of absence for a period of one month before the date of delivery; and the object of the employment of Labour Inspectors under the Chief Inspector of Mines is to make known to these women their rights under the Act and to assist them in securing the benefits of that Act.

(c) Yes, but no information of any of these women being pregnant has been received. During enquiries following accidents, the evidence of the colliery doctor is invariably recorded and if a woman were pregnant her condition would be disclosed and recorded.

(d) The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 applies to all mines in British India except:

(i) certain stone crushing plants forming part of mines in the province of Bombay;

(ii) iron ore mines worked without mechanical power, the whole of the ore from which is supplied locally to village smelters and blacksmiths; and

(iii) those mines in which excavation is being carried out for prospecting purposes only, provided not more than 20 persons are employed in or about such excavation and subject to certain other conditions.

It is not considered necessary to make maternity benefits compulsory in these small mines.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have there actually been any cases of pregnant women having suffered?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, there have been some.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Since they started working. These accidents are often occurring in the coal mines.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether the best way of preventing pregnant women from going down the mines would not be to restore the ban on women working underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I entirely agree, provided the circumstances were propitious.

RESTORATION OF BAN ON WOMEN WORKING UNDERGROUND IN COAL MINES

583. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) when the Government of India intend to restore the ban on women working underground in coal mines in view of their former promise; and

(b) how far the employment of women underground has increased coal raisings?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Government are most anxious to re-impose the ban as soon as production of coal reaches a figure which makes possible such re-imposition.

(b) Coal raisings have increased appreciably as a result of the employment of women underground, but no exact figures can be given as other factors are in operation at the same time.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that a very infinitesimal proportion represents the increased raisings helped by women working underground and does he consider that the violation of an international code and moral convention is compensated by the increased raisings that is due to women working in the mines even from the point of view of increased production?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My information is to the contrary.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know what is the target of production aimed at by Government in order to restore this ban?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am unable to say.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that the woman acts as loader underground and the man as cutter, and so the rate of progress of each tub is much slower because a woman cannot act as cutter, and the result is that the man has to rest, whereas the rate would be much faster . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I should like to know if the Labour Member does not consider that the rate of progress of the work per tub is much slower because women work as loaders and cannot work as cutters.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am glad to have that information, but I am passing no opinion either on the reliability of the statement or the feasibility of the suggestion.

STAFF OF AND LEASES BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

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

(a) the total number of persons serving under the Delhi Improvement Trust upward from Patwari to Land Officer and the number of Muslims under each category;

(b) whether it is the policy of the Government not to lease land taken from Muslims to Muslims;

(c) the necessary conditions upon which the lands are leased and if any concession in favour of the original proprietor of the acquired land is shown; if so, what its nature is;

(d) if any particular instruction has been issued by the Central Government to lease land in Delhi and whether any proportion of a particular community has been suggested;

(e) the number of leases executed by the Improvement Trust in Daryaganj in old Delhi and the number of leases granted to Muslims; and

(f) the total number of acquisitions of land made in Daryaganj up till now and the number of Muslims whose lands and buildings were acquired?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) and (c). I will supply the Honourable Member with Specimen form of the leases generally used by the Trust. Acquired lands are sold by the Trust

by auction or tender to the highest bidder or tenderer, and no question of showing any concession in favour of the original proprietor or to any particular community arises.

(d) No.

(e) 114 plots were leased by the Delhi Improvement Trust in Daryaganj. Among the successful bidders, 8 were Muslims.

(f) No land has so far been acquired by the Trust from private persons in Daryaganj.

Statement.

Lands Officer. 1 (Hindu).
 Accounts Officer and Secretary to Chairman. 1 (Muslim).
 Tehsildar Nazul. 1 (Hindu).
 Architectural Assistant. 1 (Hindu).
 Office Superintendent. 1 (Hindu).
 Accountant. 1 (Hindu).
 Land Acquisition Naib Tahsildar. 1 (Hindu).
 Head Assistants. 3 (two Hindus and one Muslim).
 Steno. to Chairman. 1 (Hindu).
 Steno to Lands Officer. 1 (Muslim).
 Senior Grade Clerks. 4 (Two Hindus and Two Muslims).
 Rent Collector (Clerk). 1 (Hindu).
 Overseers. 4 (Three Hindus and one Muslim).
 Draftsman. 2 (One Hindu and one Muslim).
 Senior Accounts Clerk. 3 (One Hindu, one Muslim and one Christian).
 Cashier. 1 (Hindu).
 Tracers. 2 (One Muslim and the other vacant).
 Sanitary Inspector (Temporary). 1 (Hindu).
 Clerks (including three temporary). 22 (14 Hindus, six Muslims and one Christian, one post vacant).
 Routine Division Clerks (including one temporary). 10 (5 Hindus and 5 Muslims.)
 Typists. 3 (One Hindu and two Muslims).
 Girdwar. 1 (Hindu).
 Ferro-Printer. 1 (Hindu).
 Patwaris. 9 (Six Hindus and three Muslims).

LAND OFFICER IN DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

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

(a) the normal period for the transfer of Land Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust;

(b) the period of the present Land Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust;

(c) when the Land Officer in Delhi Improvement Trust is expected to be transferred back to his original service in the Punjab; and

(d) if it is a fact that no Muslim Land Officer has ever been appointed in the Delhi Improvement Trust and the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No tenure has been fixed for the post of Lands Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust.

(b) Since the 3rd March 1937.

(c) The reversion of the present incumbent of the post is not at present contemplated.

(d) The present incumbent, a Hindu, is the first officer appointed to the post.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How many extensions have been given to the present Land Officer in Delhi?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As there is no tenure, no question of extension arises.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is his present age?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall require notice of that.

POST OF LABOUR WELFARE OFFICER FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

586. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Labour Welfare Officers for the Government of India Presses was advertised; if so, when and how;

- (b) whether any selection has been made;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the post was reserved for a Muslim;
- (d) the number of persons who have been appointed as Assistant Labour Welfare Officers during the last two years; and
- (e) what their academic qualifications are and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) One posts of Labour Welfare Officer for the Government of India Presses has been sanctioned and it was advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission in the approved newspapers in June last. Applications were due to reach the office of the Commission by the 10th July.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) One lady Assistant Welfare Adviser was appointed directly under Labour Department.

(e) She is M.A., M.Litt., and is a Hindu.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these officers appointed for the Central Government presses or also for the provincial Government Presses?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: For the Central Government presses.

DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government intends to develop the Archaeological Department and recruitment is going to be made to train men for that purpose; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to lay on the table full particulars of such a scheme, explaining the requisite qualifications of candidates to be recruited?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Proposals for the reorganisation of the Archaeological Survey have been received.

(b) It is not proposed to lay them on the table of the House. The qualifications suggested vary with, and depend on the nature of the posts. For most officers of the higher grades, a University degree will be required, representing advanced study in history or languages, and practical experience in Archaeological work.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer to the next three questions—588, 589 and 590—will be laid on the table as they are in excess of the Honourable Member's quota.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I have asked only four questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not matter. You were absent when the first question in your name could have been asked.

NON-SUPPLY OF SUJI AT DELHI RATION SHOPS

†588. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state:

(a) why suji or rawa—wheat preparation—is not supplied to persons taking rations from Ration shops in Delhi; and

(b) what steps he intends to take to ensure such supplies in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Supplies have been made when available but owing to limitations placed by the Punjab Government on the production of fine grain products it has not been possible hitherto to give a continuous supply.

(b) Action is being taken in consultation with the Punjab Government to ensure increased supplies.

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

STANDARD CLOTH OF INFERIOR QUALITY

†589. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of standard cloth of inferior quality supplied by mill-owners;
- (b) the time of detection;
- (c) the steps taken to punish the wrong-doers;
- (d) the names of the mills, together with the quantity of such cloth supplied by them; and
- (e) the amount of loss incurred by Government in such transaction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 163 bales.

- (b) Early in April last.
- (c) A rebate was recovered representing the difference in value between the cloth as it was and as it should have been, and the Standard Cloth manufactured by these mills is now subject to pre-inspection by the Inspection staff.
- (d) The names of the mills and the quantities of defective cloth supplied by them were as follows:

1. Birla Mills Ltd., Delhi—9 bales.
2. Sutlej Cotton Mills, Okara—14 bales.
3. Jiyajirao Cotton Mills, Gwalior—31 bales.
4. Vijayalaxmi Cotton Mills, Cambay—73 bales.
5. Dayalbagh Spinning and Weaving Mills, Amritsar—21 bales.
6. Rajnagar Mills, Ahmedabad—15 bales.

(e) Nil, as the rebates allowed to consumers by the Delhi Administration for the defective cloth supplied were fully covered by the rebate recovered from the mills.

DIRECTORS, INSPECTORS, ETC. IN INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

†590. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please to state:

- (a) the total number of (i) Directors, (ii) Assistant Directors, (iii) Inspectors and (iv) Assistant Inspectors employed in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies;
- (b) the number of (i) Graduates, (ii) Intermediate Arts and Intermediate Science, and (iii) Matriculates under each category in (a) of the question;
- (c) the minimum period required for the training of officers in (a) above;
- (d) the standard by which their efficiency is judged;
- (e) the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors posted at present in every province;
- (f) the period for which the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies will continue; and
- (g) the nature of the work entrusted to officers in part (a)?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the Cotton Textile Directorate and the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies under the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. If so a statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Statement

(a) (i) Directors	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
(ii) Assistant Directors	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
(iii) Inspectors	.	.	.	.	.	.	61
(iv) Assistant Inspectors	.	.	.	.	.	.	74
(b) (i) Graduates.—							
(1) Directors	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
(2) Asst. Directors	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
(3) Inspectors	.	.	.	.	.	.	47
(4) Asst. Inspectors	.	.	.	.	.	.	59

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

(ii) *Intermediate Arts & Intermediate Science.*—

(1) Directors	1
(2) Asst. Directors	3
(3) Inspectors	4
(4) Asst. Inspectors	7

(iii) *Matriculates.*—

(1) Directors	Nil.
(2) Asst. Directors	7
(3) Inspectors	5
(4) Asst. Inspectors	6

(iv) *With Technical Qualifications.*—

(1) Director	1
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(v) *Non Matriculates.*—

(1) Assistant Director	1
(2) Inspector	1

(vi) There are four Inspectors and two Assistant Inspectors who are retired. Government servants and their educational qualifications are not readily available.

(c) There is no training period for Directors and Assistant Directors. Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Civil Supplies, before being posted to any mofussil stations are given training or a period of about two or three weeks at the headquarters of the Regional Deputies Controller Generals of Civil Supplies.

(d) Promptness, accuracy of decision on matters entrusted ; integrity and general suitability.

(e) *Bombay.*—

(1) Inspectors	18
(2) Assistant Inspectors	24

Central Provinces and Berar.—

(1) Inspector	1
(2) Assistant Inspectors	4

Punjab.—

(1) Inspectors	8
(2) Assistant Inspectors	11

Sind.—

(1) Inspectors	4
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2

N. W. F. P.—

(1) Inspector	1
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United Provinces.—

(1) Inspectors	6
(2) Assistant Inspectors	5

Bengal.—

(1) Inspectors	11
(2) Assistant Inspectors	18

Assam.—

(1) Inspector	1
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Madras.—

(1) Inspectors	6
(2) Assistant Inspectors	4

Bihar.—

(1) Inspectors	2
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2

Orissa.—

(1) Inspector	1
(2) Assistant Inspector	1

Baluchistan.—

(1) Assistant Inspector	1
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Delhi.—

(1) Inspectors	2
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2

(f) If the reference is to the organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies then it will continue for as long as it may be necessary.

(g) (1) *Directors* are the executive heads and are responsible for smooth and efficient running of the sections under them. They are entrusted with more responsible work within their sphere of duties than the Assistant Directors.

(2) *Assistant Directors.* Less important work than the Directors.

(3) *Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors.*—

(a) to act as intelligence and investigating officers in matters connected with articles falling under the Hoarding & Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.

(b) to act as Inspectors under the Removal of Factories Ordinance.

RESTRICTIONS ON SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

†591. *Bhai Parmanand: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

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

(a) if it is a fact that by a Notification No. 1607, dated the 12th July, 1944, the Government of India placed restrictions on the slaughter of cattle and directed the Provincial Governments to follow them;

(b) the Provincial Governments which have acted upon that notification and which have not; and if the Government propose to direct such Provincial Governments to follow the notification; and

(c) the number of cattle that have been carried from North Western Railway stations and Bombay, Baroda and Central India from the Punjab?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The communication referred to is not a notification but only a letter in which the Government of India have announced the restrictions agreed to by the Army authorities on the slaughter of useful cattle, and have asked the Provincial Governments to issue similar instructions.

(b) Seven provinces, *viz.*, Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Orissa, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Assam have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules prohibiting the slaughter of useful cattle; the others have the matter under their consideration, and in the meantime in one other province, *viz.*, Bengal, two meatless days a week have been introduced.

(c) Government have no information and its collection will entail an expenditure of time, labour and money which would not be justified by the results.

PURCHASES OF JUTE PRODUCTS BY SOUTH AFRICA

592. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member furnish the following figures for the purchases of jute products by South Africa from India in the years 1942-43 and up to the 1st November, 1944?

(b) Were all the purchases exported to South Africa?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I have no information about the purchases made in India for the purpose of export to South Africa. Nor am I in a position to say whether the goods purchased with this object in view were actually exported to South Africa.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were these purchases by South Africa being made at the world price parity prevailing for jute, or at any concessional rate that the Government of India might have fixed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said, I have no information about any purchases made in India for South Africa.

DISSATISFACTION OVER PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSING ARECA NUT CESS

593. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is aware that:

(a) the Malabar Areca nut producers and dealers are discontented with the procedure adopted by Government in assessing the Areca nut cess and in collecting it;

(b) the objections he has to lower the cess in proportion to the normal price of the nuts;

(c) if he is aware that usually 25 per cent. of the stock gets spoiled during the process of preservation and if so, whether he is prepared to reduce the incidence of the cess to a corresponding degree or not;

(d) the objections he has to impose the cess in proportion to the weight of the kernel of the nut, that is, excluding the husk;

(e) if he is prepared to collect the cess from the wholesale dealers, and, if not, why not; and

(f) if he is prepared to order a departmental enquiry into the above matter and other grievances of the producers concerned as stated in their printed representation (enclosed herewith)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member who will reply on the 21st November 1944.

APPLICATIONS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE

+594. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

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

(a) the total number of applications for Haj Pilgrimage received this year province wise and how many of them have been rejected;

(b) the number of Haj pilgrims who returned from Karachi though they were issued cards;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who arrived at Karachi on or before the 30th September, 1944, how many of them were provided with accommodation on board the ships and how many of them have been disappointed and detained at Karachi for the second sailing;

(d) if the Government are prepared to pay compensation to those pilgrims who have been disappointed and detained till second sailing; if not, why not;

(e) the total sum forfeited by the Government for failure on the part of pilgrims to reach Karachi port by the specified date or for other reasons; and

(f) the total income of the Government by way of money order commission, registration fees, postage and telegraph charges paid by the intending applicants?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Information is being collected.

(b) None except those who might have voluntarily decided not to go.

(c) The number of pilgrims who arrived and were provided with accommodation cannot be disclosed at present for security reasons. All those who arrived were booked and none was disappointed.

(d) No. Pilgrims who were left behind arrived after the prescribed date.

(e) Nil.

(f) The Government do not consider it necessary to collect the information as the time and labour involved would not be commensurate with its importance.

BUFFALOES AND COWS PURCHASED FOR MILITARY FARMS

†595. ***Bhai Parmanand:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the number of buffaloes and their calves and the number of cows and their calves respectively, purchased from 1st October, 1941 to 30th September, 1944 for the requirements of Military Farms in India;

(b) the number of calves both male and female destroyed, and the number of those that were supplied to the Supply Department in order to provide veal to the American, European and other troops, during the said period;

(c) the number of calves both male and female preserved and reared, during the same period;

(d) the number of calves both male and female that were born during the said period, and what became of them, namely the number of those destroyed, those supplied to the Supply Department and those preserved and reared;

(e) if the Government is aware of the fact that in recent years and particularly during the War period a great economic need for the preservation of cattle has been felt; if so, how the practice of destroying or slaughtering of a large number of calves will effect the said economic situation;

(f) if the Government is aware of the fact that the market price of the cattle has enormously increased in recent years and the act of destruction and slaughter of the young cattle will worsen the position;

(g) whether the Government has, in continuing the practice of the destruction and the slaughter of the calves taken into consideration the needs of the agriculturists and the feelings of the Hindus; and

(h) whether the Government intends to stop the practice of the destruction and slaughter of the young cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Between 1st October 1941 and 30th September 1944 the Military Farms Department purchased about 48,000 buffaloes, mostly with calves, and about 500 cows.

(b), (c) and (d). Detailed statistics required to answer parts (b) to (d) are not available. All female cow calves and all female buffaloes calves from dams giving an economic yield are reared by Military Farms. The number of young stock at present being reared on Military Farms is approximately 6,000. Calves unwanted by the Military Farms are given away for rearing, and only

when no other disposal is possible they are destroyed. The number issued for veal has not been more than a few hundreds and the rearing of calves for veal has been discontinued. Provinces have been informed that the Military Farms Department have a number of calves available for disposal and have been requested to state whether they can take them over for rearing. Two enquiries have already been received.

(e) The Government of India are aware of the need for the preservation of all useful cattle. The effect of the slaughter of calves on the economic situation will depend on whether the animals are useful or otherwise.

(f) Government are aware of the increase in the market price of useful cattle. There is no reason to suppose that the non-rearing of stock which will not be economically useful will worsen the present position.

(g) The needs of agriculturists are borne in mind when deciding the policy to be adopted. Government have to consider the feelings not of one section of the community but of all.

(h) The question how to make effective the prohibition against the slaughter of useful young stock is under examination.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ANTIQUITIES OF NAGARJUNAKONDA

596. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if there is any proposal to remove the antiquities of Nagarjunakonda in Guntur District, the biggest single area in this country to yield Buddhist relics; if so, why;

(b) whether the Government of India realise the loss of historical and natural setting by excavating the relics and removing them from the place of finding;

(c) if it is not a fact that the excavations though on a limited scale, bring to light the existence of the capital of a dynasty that held sway over East Andhra in the third century;

(d) if the Government of India is aware of the agitated feelings of Andhras about the proposal to remove them to a museum—perhaps to Calcutta;

(e) whether the Government of India intend to promote the historical scholarship by commencing a new series of excavations at the site than to remove the relics already found; and

(f) if the Government will acquire the site in trust for the nation as is so frequently done in Britain?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India have no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The remains excavated relate to the Buddhist period. I am not in a position to give more detailed information regarding the archaeological interpretation of the material excavated.

(d) Government are aware that there is some local feeling against removal.

(e) No new excavation at Nagarjunakonda is at present contemplated.

(f) The site is protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. The question whether it is necessary and practicable to acquire the site will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what he has said in a letter that the recent removal of some of the finds from that place is only a temporary thing, and all those finds are expected to be sent back to Nagarjunakonda and are not expected to be permanently transferred to Madras?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. As I have informed the Honourable Member, Professor Ranga, it has been ascertained that the local Superintendent has arranged for the removal of a number of small antiquities temporarily to Madras for exhibition at the forthcoming History Congress. This is in accordance with the ordinary practice of making arrangements for selected archaeological exhibits of great interest to be on view at exhibitions held in connection with meetings of bodies which are interested in archaeology, and it is the intention that these antiquities, which have been or are being removed temporarily

to Madras, shall be returned to Nagarjunakonda as soon as the History Congress is over and transport arrangements can be made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of getting back as many of the Amraoti finds as possible which are kept in the London Museum.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That will no doubt be considered.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ANTIQUITIES OF NAGARJUNAKONDA

597. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if the Government of India is aware of the fact that the marble sculptures unearthed at Nagarjunakonda belong to the later Amaravati School and constitutes the pride of Andhradesa;

(b) if the Government of India is also aware of the fact that Nagarjunakonda is now a pilgrim centre visited by numerous batches of the public from far and near and by teachers and students of all the colleges in the Andhra area and that the proposal to remove them alarms the scholars and the public;

(c) if the Government of India is further aware that the public of Andhradesa apprehends that the marbles of Nagarjunakonda will share the same fate as those of Amaravati since the best part of the Amaravati collection was taken to London;

(d) if it is not a fact that the Government have already presented the tooth relic of the Buddha discovered at Nagarjunakonda to the Mahabodhi society and intend to distribute the other antiquities of Nagarjunakonda, all at the expense of the Andhras;

(e) if the Government of India is aware of the protest by such responsible bodies as Andhra Maha Sabha, Guntur District, Andhra Maha Sabha Teachers and Students Associations of Andhradesa; and

(f) if in view of the above facts the Government of India would abandon the idea of removing them and publish their decision at the earliest opportunity to allay the agitated feelings of Andhras?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government are aware that the sculptures relate to an important stage of the Buddhist period.

(b), (c), and (e). Government are aware that the site has been visited by teachers and students and others interested. They are also aware that there is some local feeling against the removal of the finds from Nagarjunakonda and that some local organisations have sent protests to the Archaeological Department.

(d) It is understood that a relic of Lord Buddha discovered at Nagarjunakonda was presented to the Mahabodhi Society some time ago to be enshrined for worship by the Buddhists. No proposals to distribute the other antiquities discovered at Nagarjunakonda are under consideration.

(f) The Government of India are not considering any proposal to remove the finds from Nagarjunakonda.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (f), there is a specific question, namely whether the Government of India would abandon the idea of removing them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It has not been seriously considered at all. I am not prepared to say that they will abandon the idea, therefore, but in any case they would not remove them all. There would in any case be left a representative collection of finds at the site. The matter has hardly been considered at all yet.

BAD SANITATION OF DELHI-SHAHDARA MUNICIPALITY

598. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if the reports about the bad sanitation arrangements of the Delhi-Shahdara Municipality have reached the Government and if there is a general discontent about the same; and

(b) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry about the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

SUGAR AND GUR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF DELHI-SHAHDARA

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

(a) how much gur and sugar came to Delhi-Shahdra from the United Provinces over which the terminal tax was charged;

(b) how much gur and sugar were exported from Delhi-Shahdra to Delhi and other places;

(c) if it is a fact that the quantity of sugar and gur that went out of Delhi-Shahdra is more than what appears to have come to Delhi-Shahdra from the terminal tax account; and

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, what the reasons can be for the discrepancy and who would be responsible for the loss of terminal tax?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An inquiry has been made from the Delhi Administration and the information, when received, will be laid on the table of the House.

STATISTICS RE PRIVATE NEWSPAPER OWNERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

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

(a) if the Government have obtained any statistics about the number of private newspapers owners and the persons employed by them; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, do the Government propose to obtain the statistics with a view to afford relief to such employees with regard to (i) rules of leave, (ii) list of holidays, (iii) grades of salaries and (iv) dearness allowance?

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

(b) The Labour Investigation Committee is collecting general information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses. The question as to what additional information should be collected and as to the feasibility of legislating to govern the conditions of employees of newspaper organisations will be considered in due course.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: May I know if Government can at least obtain the figures regarding Delhi Printing Press?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it would be better to wait in order to know what the Labour Investigation Committee is doing in this matter.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Delhi is a small area of which the Honourable Member can get . . .

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

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH

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

(a) whether it is a fact that extension after extension in service is allowed in many cases in the Government of India Press, Aligarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that every year the Manager of that Press recommends a lot of cases of extension to the Controller of Printing and Stationery in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that fully trained and qualified men are available in that Press to work in the places of these men whose extension has been recommended by the Manager and who are on the verge of retirement;

(d) whether it is a fact that the claims of some of the qualified men for the posts of these retiring hands have been blocked due to these recommendations for extension in service; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, has the Honourable Member considered the advisability of issuing instructions to the effect that no further extension be granted in future under any circumstances?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No. Only a few cases are recommended.

(c) In some cases qualified men are available, in others not.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Do I understand that the answer to part (a) of the question is in the negative, and he has not been recommending any extensions whatsoever?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said, only a few cases are recommended.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmed Kazmi: Has the General Manager been granting any extensions, or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Manager has been granting extensions.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I know why these extensions are granted when qualified persons are available?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not prepared to admit that extensions are granted notwithstanding that qualified persons are available.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I understood the Honourable Member to say that sometimes extensions are granted even when qualified persons are available.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in a very few cases.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I know the reason for which extensions are granted to people even under those circumstances?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I understand that the general reason why these extensions are granted in the cases referred to by my Honourable friend are entirely governed by the fact that some people lose their pensions if they are not given a year or two's extension.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is that the only reason, or is there some other reason also?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not aware of any other reason.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable be pleased to enquire whether the extensions that were given in the cases referred to were solely for this reason or for some other reason?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have made enquiries and that is the information I have.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know the names of persons included in those 'few cases'?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no names of persons, but I have a certain number of cases before me.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What community do they belong to?

(No reply.)

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

TIME SCALE OF PAY FOR BINDERS AND WAREHOUSEMEN OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has sanctioned the Time Scale of pay for which the Binders and warehousemen of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, had been representing;

(b) whether it is a fact that these people have been representing their case for this purpose for the last fifteen years approximately:

(c) whether it is a fact that some warehousemen who have been serving for the last fifteen and twenty years and whose pay is only Rs. 25 per month at present, are not benefited at all by this Time Scale of pay at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that not a single increment has been sanctioned to any man immediately; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please consider the advisability of sanctioning at least one increment to all Binders and warehousemen just at the time of introducing the Time Scale of pay so that some immediate relief may be gained by these men who have been waiting for the last so many years?

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

(b) Yes, for some time past.

(c) Yes, but they will be benefited as soon as they earn their next increment.

(d) Yes, because no increment has been yet earned since the 22nd June 1944 when the Time Scale came into force.

(e) No action as proposed is necessary, as the men will earn their increments next year.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider that some persons will be on the verge of retirement and will not be able to get any benefit from this time-scale. Isn't it proper in such cases for the Government to give them some increment in lieu of their past services?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think it is prudent to alter the law in order to meet hard cases!

PROHIBITION OF BURIALS IN CERTAIN MUSLIM GRAVEYARDS OF DELHI

603. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the burial of dead bodies in old Muslim graveyards, viz, Qabrastan Mehndian and Chausath Khamba, has been prohibited under orders of Government;

(b) if it is or is it not a fact that there were till recently no residential buildings within a radius of about half a mile from these graveyards;

(c) if it is or is it not a fact that even now there are no buildings whatsoever, on the eastern side of these graveyards;

(d) the reason of the prohibition of the burial of dead bodies in these graveyards;

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that great resentment prevails among old Muslim residents of Delhi for their being deprived of the privilege to bury their deads in those graveyards in the vicinity of the shrines and graves of eminent religious heads;

(f) if the prohibition is based on the ground that around the aforesaid graveyards, Government buildings have been built; and state why the graveyards have been in similar circumstances allowed to be built in New Delhi for the Europeans and other communities, who enjoy the privilege of burying their deads therein; and

(g) whether Government have considered the advisability of reconsidering the cases of the Muslim grave-yards referred to in clause (a) above and allow the Muslims to renew the burial of their deads on such conditions as may be deemed necessary to meet the sanitary requirements?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The necessary information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

CATEGORIES OF TITLES FOR INDIAN NATIONALS

604. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly give a list of titles, both English and Indian, that are or can be bestowed on Indian nationals?

(b) Are any titles reserved for particular communities and bestowed on members of those communities only?

(c) Is it a fact that the titles of Khan Bahadur and Rai Bahadur, on the one hand, and those of Khan Sahib and Rai Sahib, on the other, are of equal

status, and that the titles of Khan Bahadur and Khan Sahib are given to Muslims and Parsis, and those of Rai Bahadur and Rai Sahib to Hindus and Indian Christians? Why is this distinction maintained?

(d) How many muslims, at present, have the title of Raja, and how many Hindus that of Nawab?

(e) Is there any publication by Government which gives a description of the medals, cloths, sashes, swords, etc., that the recipients of various titles are entitled to decorate themselves with; and what portions of these does a title holder receive as free gifts from Government and for what do they have to pay themselves?

(f) Under what budget head is the expenditure on titles provided?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) A list of titles is laid on the table.

(b) There are some titles which are usually granted to members of particular communities.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The distinction mentioned is based on well-established usage and custom.

(d) The information is not readily available.

(e) There is no such government publication. The insignia of the Orders of Knighthood and the Indian titles consist of sashes or ribbons and badges or stars. These are given free by Government except the Knight-Bachelor Badge which recipients purchase through the Imperial Society of Knights-Bachelor. The recipients of literary and medical titles receive *khillats* which are presented by Government.

(f) Expenditure in this respect is provided for under the head "Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor-General."

List of Titles, both English and Indian, that are or can be bestowed on Indian nationals.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. G.C.B. | 19. Raja. |
| 2. K.C.B. | 20. Begum. |
| 3. G.C.S.I. | 21. Rani. |
| 4. K.C.S.I. | 22. Shams-ul-Ulama. |
| 5. G.C.I.E. | 23. Mahamahopadhyaya. |
| 6. K.C.I.E. | 24. Hazik-ul-Mulk. |
| 7. G.C.V.O. | 25. Diwan Bahadur. |
| 8. K.C.V.O. | 26. Sardar Bahadur. |
| 9. G.B.E. | 27. Khan Bahadur. |
| 10. K.B.E. | 28. Rai Bahadur. |
| 11. Knight Bachelor. | 29. Rao Bahadur. |
| 12. Maharajadhiraja. | 30. Shifa-ul-Mulk. |
| 13. Maharaja Bahadur. | 31. Vaidyaratna. |
| 14. Maharaja. | 32. Chikitsakratna. |
| 15. Maharani. | 33. Sardar Sahib. |
| 16. Nawab Bahadur. | 34. Khan Sahib. |
| 17. Raja Bahadur. | 35. Rai Sahib. |
| 18. Nawab. | 36. Rao Sahib. |

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the List so large that it cannot be read out to the House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Thirty-six designations are given there!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are they arranged in order of merit?

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I really want to know because there are many people interested in them.

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

TITLES, ETC. CARRYING FINANCIAL BENEFIT

605. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the insignia of the titles and honours have to be sent back to Government by the family of the persons receiving them after their death;

(b) if there is any financial payment made to persons receiving the Victoria Cross; and whether this payment is continued to the family in the case of its posthumous award;

(c) the titles, if any, which carry any financial payment with them; if so, what the amount paid with each is; and

(d) under what budget head these payments are provided for?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Except in the following cases the insignia need not be returned on the recipient's death:

G.C.B. (Collar and Collar Badge only).

G.C.S.I.

K.C.S.I.

C.S.I.

G.C.I.E.

K.C.I.E.

C.I.

G.C.V.O. (Collar only); and

G.B.E. (Collar only).

(b) A monetary allowance is granted to recipients of the Victoria Cross but Commissioned Officers other than V.C.Os. are not entitled to it. On the death of the recipient of the Victoria Cross the monetary allowance is continued to his widow until her re-marriage or death.

(c) The literary titles of Shams-ul-Ulama and Mahamahopadhyaya both carry an annual pension of Rs. 100.

(d) These payments are included under the Demand "Miscellaneous" (*vide* Demands for Grants for 1944-45, *see* page 203).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who meets the expenses for the return of these Insignia?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are the Insignia and Titles granted free to the recipients or is anything charged for them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That has been answered. I am sure my Honourable friend was not listening.

(Mr. Kazmi and Mr. Deshmukh stood up).

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether, in case the widow dies and has not, in her short life time been able to enjoy the pension, and she leaves behind small children, the monetary allowance is continued and if not will it be continued to the children?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is not continued.

(At this stage several Honourable Members stood up).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has read out a large number of the letters of the alphabet in connection with these Titles, will he please enlarge them so that we may fully understand their significance and hear their resounding sounds!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I will leave that to the Honourable Member.

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

RESTRICTION ON SIZE OF NOTE PAPER FOR PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

606. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that some Provincial Governments have imposed a restriction on the size of note paper to be used for correspondence by private individuals;

(b) if it is not a fact that a good lot of stationery sold by the Legislative Department is larger than the prescribed size;

(c) if Government got an exemption for the use of such stationery from the Provincial Governments concerned;

(d) the sizes laid down in various Provinces; and

(e) if Government propose to advise Provincial Governments to withdraw their orders against the use of note paper of above particular size in private correspondence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, but the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, issued by the Central Government lays down the maximum permissible size of letter paper as 63 square inches.

(b) There is a small balance of the stock of letter paper having an area greater than 63 square inches, from earlier supplies. This is supplied to the members of the Indian Legislatures if specifically asked for.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In all Provinces the maximum permissible size is 63 square inches.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know why this mystic figure of 63 square inches has been fixed? It is really a most inconvenient size and will the Honourable Member show us what a piece of paper of 63 square inches will actually look like?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend can see any ordinary letter paper nowadays and he will find it is 63 square inches. We have had to give some figure and any figure would have been criticised by my friend as mystic.

(Several Honourable Members including Mr. Sri Prakasa stood up).

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What happens to the old stocks in our possession?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have been permitted.

DEVELOPMENT OF MAHANADI PROJECTS IN ORISSA

607. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that Sir M. Visveewaraya Committee's report on Mahanadi to stop the ravages of floods in Orissa has suggested the development of Mahanadi projects and a system of irrigation canals to irrigate huge areas of land in Cuttack, Sambalpur, Puri and Balasore Districts;

(b) if such a scheme was estimated to cost about rupees four crores in 1938-39; and

(c) whether Government of India will consider the advisability of taking the initiative and developing that scheme, in view of the financial disabilities of the subvention province of Orissa and also of the great need of India for more rice production?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No. Information on the subject has been called for.

(c) Government cannot give such an assurance at this stage without a careful examination of the scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is Government prepared to examine this scheme carefully?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it form part of the investigations of one of the various sub-committees or the National Planning structure of committees?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot say as regards the procedure that Government should adopt. But I shall examine the thing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Thank you.

STEPS FOR PROPER UTILIZATION OF FUND FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

608. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which are being taken by the Government of India to ensure that Provincial Governments and other agencies which are entrusted with the administration and utilisation of fund for the Grow More Food campaign are being properly and effectively utilised; and

(b) whether they will consider the advisability of constituting Food Committees with non-official peasant majorities, district by district, under whose direction the policy of Grow More Food may be executed, in accordance with local conditions and with the least wastage?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Reports on the progress of the 'Grow More Food Schemes' sanctioned by the Government of India are received at stipulated intervals from the Provincial Governments concerned and examined by the Staff of the Department, with the idea that if anything is found unsatisfactory in a report the matter may be brought to the notice of the Government concerned. Some of the officers of the Department also tour the Provinces to examine the working of the various schemes on the spot and more attention will be paid to this aspect when the Department is fully manned.

(b) The suggestion that Provincial Governments should constitute district associations consisting of representatives of the interests concerned to assist in the development of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' has already been made to them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government see to the advisability of publishing yearly or half-yearly reports of the progress of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in the provinces and supplying them to the Members of this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will consider that.

DAMAGE TO TOBACCO CROP BY A PARASITE

609. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if the tobacco crop is now being affected by a parasite known as orobanche or tokra and that it does considerable damage to the crop;

(b) if he is aware that the Guntur Tobacco Growers Association has announced a prize of Rs. 3,000 for the successful method of eradication of this parasite within the reach of cultivators; and

(c) if Government have taken or propose to take any effective steps in the way of setting apart some research workers for this important and urgent problem?

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

(b) Government are aware of the prize announced by the Guntur Tobacco Marketing Committee but not of any prize announced by the Tobacco Growers' Association.

(c) Provision has been made for research on this important problem in the All-India Tobacco Research Scheme which is under the consideration of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has work been started?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I should think not, because it is not clear whether the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has yet passed orders on the scheme.

HAJ PILGRIMS

610. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims for whom sailings were arranged this year;

(b) the number of pilgrims who applied with the necessary amount of money for the passage;

(c) the number who actually left Karachi and the number of ships carrying them, with the dates of the sailing of each ship and the number of pilgrims thereon;

(d) if he is aware that notifications were issued by the Department on the occasion of both the sailings, asking intending pilgrims who have remitted the money, to reach Karachi before a given date with the money order receipts and acknowledgment coupons even if they have not received their reservation cards;

(e) if it is a fact that a large number of such people who reached Karachi in response to the above notification were left behind on both the occasions;

(f) how many were left behind on each occasion;

(g) if the Honourable Member has seen the statement of the Honourable Mr. Gazdar published in the *Dawn*, dated the 2nd November, 1944, that 600 intending pilgrims were left in Karachi;

(h) if it is a fact that there was enough room for these remaining pilgrims in the ships but they were refused accommodation because of the interference of Naval Authorities;

(i) whether military personnel was also carried in these ships; if so, the percentage of space occupied by them; and

(j) in view of the very strong sentiment that obtains among Muslims, whether the Honourable Member would take immediate steps to arrange for the embarkation of the stranded pilgrims? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) (b) and (c). For reasons of security the information asked for cannot be disclosed.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) The number of those pilgrims who came after the prescribed date is being ascertained.

(g) Yes.

(h) No. On the other hand more than the originally prescribed number of pilgrims was permitted to be carried.

(i) No.

(j) No pilgrims are now at the port of embarkation. The question does not therefore arise.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: As I understand the Honourable Member's answer to (d), is it a fact that these pilgrims who spent lots of money came down to Karachi but they have not received back their money. Who is responsible for the return of their fares?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information. If the Honourable Member puts in a question I will reply.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: When the tickets and passes were issued, was there any idea as to the space that would be available in the ship and was that not considered before issuing these tickets and passes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: So far as I know nobody has been left behind who came before the proper date.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that there was lack of efficiency and co-operation between the India Haj Committee and the Government organization there?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir, On the contrary, Sir, I will read to the House an extract from a private letter of a Haj Pilgrim an educated Muslim to his relatives in India from Kamaran. It says: "Arrangements made by the benign Government for all pilgrims from all districts are praiseworthy and excellent."

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Has the Honourable Member read the statement of an ex-Member of this House Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin to the effect that though he was at Karachi a few days before and made his best efforts to ascertain the time of the arrival of the steamer, it was only about half an hour or an hour before the steamer actually left that he came to know of that fact?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already given the answer to that question.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In reply to part (a) of my question the Honourable Member has said that for security reasons the information asked for cannot be disclosed. I want to call the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that I have only asked what is the number of pilgrims for whom sailings were arranged this year: where does the question of security enter into it at all?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot add anything to what I have already said.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member give the number of pilgrims left behind at Karachi?

(No answer)

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF RICE TO COLLIERY LABOUR IN BIHAR

611. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to explain in detail the arrangements that are in operation in the province of Bihar in the matter of supplying rice to colliery labour?

(b) Has the Honourable Member received any complaint that the Bihar authorities are charging some of the collieries prices for rice to be supplied to their labour force which are higher than the control prices and that the quality of rice supplied is also bad? If so, what are the different points raised in these complaints, and what are the ascertained facts relating thereto?

(c) How does the system in Bihar in this matter differ from the system introduced in the Bengal collieries?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to remove the complaints made on behalf of a section of the Bihar collieries in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Under an order issued by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, under the Defence of India Rules dated the 20th April 1944, every colliery worker is entitled to buy from the colliery shop at prices equal to the controlled prices fixed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, an amount of foodgrains not exceeding a total of four seers of foodgrains per week (of which not more than two seers shall be rice) for himself and each adult dependent, and two seers (of which not more than one seer shall be rice) for each minor dependent. In addition every heavy worker is entitled to half a seer of free ration in rice for each attendance; but miners who prefer may draw the whole or some part of the free ration in other grains.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The facts are that the Bihar Government have charged the Colliery Associations the actual cost of rice supplied up to the 1st November, 1944. The bulk of these supplies originated in Nepal where the Bihar Government had to purchase above their control rate. Consequently supplies of Nepal rice have been made to the Colliery Associations at approximately Rs. 1-8-0 above the local wholesale control rate. From the 1st November, 1944, the Bihar Government have decided to charge the local wholesale control rate plus four annas administrative charge and to bear the resulting loss. The facts relating to the complaint regarding quality are being ascertained.

(c) In the Bengal collieries there is no rationing system but employers of more than 1,000 workers must buy their supplies of grains from the Civil Supplies Department of the Government. In Bihar every colliery is required to buy through the Rice Administrator, Indian Mining Association or the Secretary Joint Supply Pool.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of the question.

CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT LODI ROAD, DELHI

612. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for the construction of clerks' quarters at Lodi Road for about Rs. 28,60,000 was given to a higher tenderer instead of lower tenderer who quoted 11.25 below the schedule of rates;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative what was the total excess amount the Government had to pay over the lowest tenderer;

(c) if it is a fact that the same firm was given another contract for a similar construction at the very place for about Rs. 50,00,000 at 5 per cent. above the schedule of rates, rejecting the lowest tenderer; and

(d) were the above tenders examined by the Department before they were accepted?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. A portion of the Lodi Road project was given to this firm as its tender rate was low in comparison with that of others.

(d) The tenders were examined and accepted by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department who is the competent authority in such cases.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CYCLE INDUSTRY.

613. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to the British Cycles Manufacturers' memorandum in which it has been pointed out that the output of British cycles can be increased to six million a year within twelve months of the end of the war?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the statement of Mr. R. D. Birla with regard to the said memorandum?

(c) Will the Government give an assurance to this House to support this national industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports of statements said to have been made by the union of cycle and motor cycle manufacturers in the United Kingdom and by Mr. R. D. Birla.

(c) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the question of protection for the industry against unfair competition from abroad. Government are considering what policy should be followed after the war for the protection of industries.

HAVOC BY CHOLERA AND MALARIA IN NORTH BIHAR.

614. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if the Government are aware of the menacing and distressing situation prevailing in North Bihar due to Cholera and Malaria epidemics;

(b) if his attention has been drawn to some suggestions in this regard published in the *Indian Nation* of Patna in its issue of 30th October, 1944, under the caption "North Bihar Situation";

(c) if it is not a fact that the situation is generally worsened on account of the floods caused by the rivers Koshi and Gandak, which the Provincial Government have not been able to cope with;

(d) if it is not a fact that the sources of these rivers lie in the territory of Nepal and experts, in order to investigate into the matter, require the assistance which is beyond the scope of the Provincial Government both with regard to finance and jurisdiction;

(e) the approximate population that suffer in this area of North Bihar due to vagaries of these two rivers; and

(f) if the Government propose to investigate into the matter with a view to mitigate the suffering of the people as also to find out the possibility of generating Hydro electric energy from the headworks of the Koshi and Gandak which will help both agriculturists and industrialists and would become self supporting?

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

(c) to (f). The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House on receipt.

FOODGRAINS SUPPLIED TO MADRAS PRESIDENCY

615. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hagde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of foodgrains supplied to the Madras Presidency by the Government of India in the year 1944;

(b) how the deficit in the Madras Presidency of 500,000 tons of foodgrains (as reported by the Foodgrains Committee) excluding Travancore and Cochin was met in the year 1944;

(c) what the export of rice from Madras Presidency to Native states and Ceylon was in the year 1944;

(d) if it is not a fact that on account of the failure of the South-east monsoon the first crop of the year 1944 is reported to be bad in some districts of Madras Presidency; and what those districts are;

(e) the deficit districts in the Madras Presidency;

(f) if the Central Government will supply the necessary quota to make up the deficit in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 171,207 tons up to 2nd November, 1944.

(b) It is not clear which figure of 500,000 tons the Honourable Member is referring to. He must be aware that deficits differ from year to year depending on the size of the crop.

(c) Ceylon—*Nil*.

Travancore/Cochin—47,174 tons.

Information regarding exports to other States, if any, is not available. In any case such exports could not have been large.

(d) If the Honourable Member refers to the failure of the South-West monsoon, the answer is in the affirmative. The districts where the crop has suffered from lack of rain are Malabar, Coimbatore, Tinnevely, Ramnad, Madura, Vizagapatam and Chingleput.

(e) Taking into account the net production and consumption figures of rice, *cholum* (*jowar*) and *cumbu* (*bajra*), the following districts are deficit:—

Vizagapatam, Anantapur, Madras, Chingleput, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Malabar, South Kanara, The Nilgiris.

(f) The Government of India are watching the situation and will give such assistance as is necessary and possible. I have myself personally visited the Presidency very recently and shall give it my constant attention.

'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN' IN MALABAR AND SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

616. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) under the Grow More Food campaign, whether the Government of Madras have taken any steps to increase the Food production in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara under the following heads; if so, what the result achieved is;

(i) production of compost from night soil and town refuse;

(ii) distribution of improved seed;

(iii) production of ammonium sulphate;

(iv) promotion of such irrigation and drainage schemes as promise quick results;

(v) the total number of acres of waste lands brought under cultivation of food grains;

(vi) introduction of tractors;

(vii) the total number of acres of lands of culturable waste brought under food grains cultivation; and

(viii) any scheme of research which have a bearing upon the immediate short range problems of food production?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House in due course.

DEFICIENCY OF FOODGRAINS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

617. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district of South Kanara is not treated as a deficit district;

(b) what the total quantity of foodgrains exported to this district in the year 1943-44 is;

(c) whether it is not a fact that in the following areas in the year 1944 rice was distributed at the rate of 7/8 of a lb. for three days in a week:—

(i) Pannambur,

(ii) Surathkal,

(iii) Kaup;

(d) whether rice was distributed in other urban areas where there is no statutory rationing throughout every week in the year 1944 in the district of South Kanara;

(e) whether it is not a fact that Kasargod rural area in the district of South Kanara did not get rice at the rate of 7/8 of a lb. for more than 3 days in a week in the months of July to Oct. 1944;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have informed the district authorities of South Kanara that no rice would be sent to that district in the year 1945; if so, how this policy is viewed by the Central Government; and

(g) if the Government is aware that the quota of 1,500 tons promised to the district of South Kanara has been stopped by the Madras Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, it is slightly deficit.

(b) 16,295 tons.

(c), (d) and (e). Information has been called for from the Madras Government.

(f) The Madras Government informed the Collector, South Kanara, that no rice would be supplied to the district after October 1944, in view of the harvest due to be gathered in September and October. It is not possible to say at present what view will be taken with regard to quotas to South Kanara, later in 1945 as this would depend on the harvest.

(g) Yes.

DRAS GOVERNMENT ORDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN DEFICIT DISTRICTS

618. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Madras Government have issued an order for procurement of foodgrains in five deficit districts including the districts of South Kanara;

(b) if it is the policy of the Government to procure grains from the cultivators irrespective of his own needs;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether the Central Government would issue directives to all provincial Governments that they ought not to acquire under any process of Law any foodgrain from the cultivators which is required for their legitimate needs of maintenance of their family, agricultural labour and expenses?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The Honourable Member has stated the policy already accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments I shall endeavour to ensure by all means open to me that it is carried out.

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL OF INDUSTRIALISTS DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM

619. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state on what considerations the selection of the personnel of the proposed industrialists delegation to United Kingdom was based?

(b) How is it that industrialists from more than one community happened to be selected?

(c) Was any Sikh industrialist considered for inclusion in this delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The industrialists concerned were invited in view of the position they occupy in the Indian industrial world.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

RETURN TO PREVIOUS OWNERS OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

620. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question No. 136 of the 7th November last and state:—

(a) the number of boats that were actually returned to their previous owners before the onset of the rains;

(b) the reasons that stood in the way of the Government of Bengal fulfilling the promise given by the Government of India in this behalf; and

(c) the programme which Government of Bengal propose to follow with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Statistics are not available of the exact numbers of boats actually returned to their previous owners before the onset of the rains but the breakdown of the figure 5,984 (previously stated in reply to Question No. 136 on 7th November, 1944) is as follows:—

(i) 836—definitely known to have been returned to previous owners.

(ii) 149—free gift to indigent fishermen and potters.

(iii) 223—sold on instalment system to fishermen and potters.

(iv) $\frac{4,776}{5,984}$ —sold in auction.

It is not known how many boats out of items (ii), (iii) and (iv) actually reached their previous owners.

(b) It is not quite clear what promise the Honourable Member is referring to but if the reference is to the statement made in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen that the Bengal Government had taken in hand the repair of about 10,000 boats and that the boats were expected to be ready before the rains, the latest position of about 26,000 boats surrendered at the various reception centres is as follows:

(1) Returned to previous owners or otherwise restored to the civil population	5,984
(2) Made over to Military and other Government authorities including the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of Bengal	3,427
(3) Dismantled and sold as timber	9,435
(4) Report still awaited, but it is believed that a large proportion of these will not be in a fit state for salvage	7,154
Total	26,000

(c) From the answer to clause (b) it will be seen that most of the boats taken over by Government have been accounted for already, but if there are any which are still capable of being salvaged, they will be repaired and returned to indigent fishermen and potters.

In addition the Bengal Government have in hand the construction of 10,000 boats of varying capacity.

HIGHEST PROPORTION OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED IN BENGAL

621. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to refer to his reply to my starred question No. 137 of the 7th November last and state:—

(a) the reasons why the proportion of cattle slaughtered in Bengal was the highest among all the provinces of India; and

(b) the exact nature of improvement in this matter, if any, that may have taken place of late?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been asked for from the Provincial Government. It will be laid on the table of the House when received.

SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE, DELHI

622. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please refer to his reply to starred question No. 134, of the 7th November, 1944, regarding the death of a Student of the Lady Hardinge College, and state:—

(a) whether the report of the incident was widely published in the Press of Bengal, United Provinces, Delhi, Punjab and Sind;

(b) whether the College authorities issued any statement giving a full and authentic version of the incident; if not, why not;

(c) whether the Government realise that this news has deeply affected the relatives of the medical students who come from all parts of India; and

(d) whether the Government now propose to instruct the College authorities to issue a full statement to the Press regarding the case so that the anxiety created in the minds of the students' relatives may be removed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Yes. A Press Agency report received considerable publicity. This report was accurate and reasonably detailed and the College Authorities did not consider it necessary to issue any statement.

(c) No. Government have received no representation in the matter.

(d) No.

USE BY SOLDIERS OF SWIMMING BATH AT LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE, DELHI

623. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:—

(a) with reference to the practice which was brought to the notice of the Government in this House during the last session, of allowing the swimming bath at the Lady Hardinge Medical College to be used by soldiers, the action taken by the College authorities to stop the practice; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Warden of the Students Hostel has been allotted rooms right inside the Hostel, and she is allowed to receive her male relatives and friends at her rooms; if so, has this practice the approval of the authorities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) As stated in reply to part (a) of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh's question in the Council of State No. 107 of the 20th November 1943, the Swimming Bath Committee of the College accepted a proposal that on Saturday evening during the long vacation, when the bath was reserved exclusively for the staff, members of the staff should be permitted to invite guests, both men and women. These guest nights were held only on one or two occasions. On two occasions the Committee also invited expert male swimmers to give swimming, diving and lifesaving demonstrations for the students. The College Swimming Bath Committee has stopped the practice of inviting outsiders since July 1943.

(b) Yes. She has a separate entrance to her rooms and a separate garden where she is allowed to receive her friends like other members of the staff.

LICENSES FOR RAW FILMS

624. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the conditions which entitle a producer to an allotment of raw films?

(b) Have raw films been allotted to any producers who were not in production on the dates laid down under the Film Control Order; if so, what their names are and on what grounds were the exceptions made in each such case?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the allegation that some producers start fictitious or shadow companies under different names in order to get separate quotas for each such company?

(d) Is it a fact that some producers who were in production on the dates specified under the Film Control Order, have been refused licenses for raw films; if so, on what grounds were they refused?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Raw films have been allotted to producers who qualify under any one or the other conditions set out in the reply which I gave to part (b) of Dr. Habibur Rahman's starred question No. 716 on the 30th March 1944.

(b) Yes, raw films have been allotted to a few as in the list laid on the table. These were cases for which provision was made under the conditions laid down under the Film Control Order.

(c) Yes, but that will not help him to obtain a quota under the Film Control Order in view of the conditions laid down.

(d) It is possible that some producers who were in production on the date of the Control Order may have been refused licences for raw films. No producer, however, has been refused licence who has fulfilled all the requisite conditions referred to in (a) above.

Statement

Krishna Movietone.
 Tajmahal Pictures.
 Bhavnani Productions.
 Sanjeevan Art Productions.
 K. B. Ardeshir Irani.
 Metropolitan Pictures.
 Sobhanachala Pictures.
 Sarathi Films.
 Star Combines & Famous Cine Joint Productions
 K. S. S. Pictures.
 Murugan Talkie Film Co.

PRESCRIBING SET FORM OF RECEIPT FOR RENT UNDER DELHI RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE.

625. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the Government propose to prescribe a set form of receipt to be compulsorily granted by the landlord to the tenants under the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Government have the matter under examination.

DENIAL OF HINDUS' RIGHT FOR CREMATING THEIR DEAD IN BRITISH WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

626. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Hindus in British West Indies and British Guiana have been denied the religious right of cremating their dead since their entry in those colonies and have been forced to bury them;

(b) if it is a fact that since a very long time a persistent and forceful demand has been made by the Hindus there and the representatives sent by the Government of India to those parts now and then and by Indian associations such as Shri Sanatan Dharm Pratinidhi Sabha, Punjab, Lahore, to get this grievance removed, but with no result;

(c) if it is a fact that the West India Royal Commission 1938-39 made recommendations in this behalf "to ensure that, subject to necessary safeguards no obstacle should be placed in the way of the practice";

(d) if the Government of India has ascertained as to what steps have been taken by the Colonial Governments concerned to implement the said recommendations of the West India Royal Commission approved by the British Parliament; and

(e) if he is aware of the fact that Hindu prisoners of war in German Camps are authorised to cremate their dead, if so, why the British Colonies deny this religious right to the Hindus there; what necessary and effective steps the Government of India intend to take to get this grievance removed at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a), (b), (d) and (e). Indian immigration into British Guiana and the West Indies commenced about the years 1838 to 1845. The first report about the lack of facilities for Indians to cremate their dead reached us in 1922. Mr. Tyson, who was sent on deputation to the West Indies, reported that Hindus were asking for facilities to burn their dead and that the authorities were sympathetic. About this time representations began to come from Shri Sanatan Dharm Pritinadhi Sabha, Lahore, and the Government of India took up the matter with His Majesty's Government. They are still in correspondence with them. A final reply has not been received yet.

(c) Yes.

REFUSAL OF OPTION TO MADRAS PEASANTS FOR SUPPLYING PADDY OR RICE ON REQUISITION.

627. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that a deputation of the Andhra Provincial Ryots Association and Andhra Foodgrains Producers Conference had waited on the Civil Supplies Commissioner on the 30th of October and on the Honourable Adviser for Food to His Excellency the Governor of Madras on the 31st October,

(ii) that the deputationists have requested the Foodgrains Requisition Authorities to give the option of offering either paddy or rice to the actual growers, and

(iii) that both the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Adviser have refused to give this option to peasants;

(b) whether he is aware that the Food Department had informed me in January, 1943, while I was in jail that the Madras Government had no objection to peasants supplying either paddy or rice; and

(c) whether it is not a fact that the Madras Adviser has told the deputation above referred to that the millers need the support of Government more than peasants?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) No. The option still continues though in a restricted and modified form.

(b) No information is available.

(c) No.

BAN ON MOVEMENT OF GROUNDNUT CAKE FROM VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

628. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Regional Controller of Railway priorities has banned the movement and export of Groundnut Cake from Vizagapatam District even to the neighbouring districts of East and West Godavari;

(b) if it is not also a fact that, the peasants of the districts of East and West Godavari are, as a result, denied this easy and cheap supply of manure essential for the progress of "Grow More Food" campaign, especially in regard to rice; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to move the Railway authorities concerned, and see that this ban on export of Groundnut Cake is removed and its export to at least the neighbouring districts, is again permitted?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (west) has banned the export of oilcake from stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway North of and including Waltair and Vizagapatam except to stations on that Railway.

(b) It should be possible for the peasants of East and West Godavari to obtain their requirements from other areas.

(c) The Government of India have sent an officer to Madras and Hyderabad to discuss the matter with the authorities concerned and suitable action will be taken in the light of his report.

INADEQUATE RICE RATION TO LAND-LESS LABOURERS IN KASARAGODA TALUKA OF SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT.

629. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that in the Kasaragoda Taluka in South Kanara District, the rice ration of 20 tolas a day allowed to all land-less labourers is not enough even for a single square meal of a workman;

(b) if it is a fact that wheat or gram given to these labourers for four days in a week in pursuance of recent orders, is of a rotten quality unsuitable for healthy consumption;

(c) if it is a fact that these people are refused rice ration even for the rest three days in a week for which it is now being supplied, unless wheat or gram of such bad quality is also purchased along with it which means an extra burden upon the poor labourers whether they like it or not;

(d) if it is not a fact that such steps of compulsion are being taken to exhaust the existing supplies of such bad quality of wheat or gram; and

(e) if the answers for the above questions are in the affirmative, whether he would give an assurance that immediate steps would be taken to remedy the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) It is incorrect to say that landless labourers get only 20 tolas of rice per day.

(b) No. I have no reason to believe that the quality is bad.

(c) Information is being obtained.

(d) I have already stated in reply to part (b) that I have no reason to believe that the quality is bad.

(e) Does not arise.

FOOD COMMISSIONER FOR UNITED PROVINCES

630. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:—

(a) if there is any Food Commissioner for the United Provinces; and

(b) if so, where his headquarter is located; if his headquarter is at Delhi, why so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The United Provinces is included in Region II which also embraces Ajmer Merwara and Rewa State.

(b) The Regional Food Commissioner of this Region has a residence in Delhi which is a convenient centre for his region.

SUPPLY OF CONTROLLED WOOLLEN CLOTH TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN AJMER.

631. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state;

(a) if it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer, has ordered that Government controlled woollen cloth and blankets are to be supplied only to Government servants drawing over Rs. 100 per month, and to those who pay income-tax; if so, what the purpose of the order is; and

(b) if it is not a fact that the principle underlying such control is to benefit the middle and poor classes; if so, why they are being deprived of this benefit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My information is that the facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct. The Honourable Member has also correctly propounded the principle underlying our control. Government have the matter under consideration and are in correspondence with the Chief Commissioner. If the Honourable Member so desires, I shall be glad to inform him of Government's decision in the matter when it is arrived at.

THE HONOURABLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S SPEECH AT ELLORE.

632. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if it is true that the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar had exhorted the Harijans in his speech at Ellore, West Godavari District, in his 1944. October, tour to take to violence?

(b) Do Government approve of such speeches from one of the members of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) I have seen press reports of the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar's speech referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) The Honourable Member is asking for an expression of opinion but I would invite his attention to my reply to Starred Question No. 258 by the Honourable Mr. K. S. Gupta on the 10th November 1944.

**PREPARATION OF FRESH ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.**

633. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state whether the preparation of fresh electoral rolls for the Central Legislative Assembly, has begun in the North-West Frontier Province, if not, when the said preparation will begin; and

(b) the date or dates for filling claims and objections?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Yes.

(b) The rolls will be published on the 1st December and Regulation 1 of the relevant regulations in force in the North West Frontier Province requires claims and objections to be presented within 15 days of the date of publication.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF BASIC QUOTA FOR IMPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

634. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Controller of Imports on October 18, 1944, to the Andhra Chamber of Commerce that the basic quota for imports from the United Kingdom is proposed to be increased from 12½ per cent. to 50 per cent. in the case of certain goods?

(b) Has his attention been also drawn to the statement of the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber at its quarterly meeting in Bombay in August, last protesting against the present import policy of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of textiles have been imported from the United Kingdom, and, if so, what has been the total of such imports so far?

(d) What has been the increase in the percentage of quota for imports of soaps, toilet requisites, liquor, bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals, separately?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that the increased imports of such goods may force several industries producing these chemicals or using these chemicals for production of consumer goods to close down? Is it a fact that specific assurances of protection or continued Government assistance were given to some of these industries when they came to the Government's aid at the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have seen the press report of the meeting between the Chief Controller of Imports and the Andhra Chamber of Commerce. This report is however inaccurate and was not shown to the Chief Controller of Imports before publication. The statement made by him related only to the increase in the quota for the import of sheet and plate glass from the United Kingdom from 12½ per cent. to 50 per cent., the Chamber having made a specific enquiry regarding the import of window glass.

(b) No.

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

(d) No licences have been issued for the import of soaps from the United Kingdom and there has been no increase in the quotas for the import of toilet requisites and liquor from that country. Bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals are licensed not on a quota basis but on considerations of merit in the light of Indian requirements, after taking into consideration the indigenous production in the country.

(e) No, Sir, as import licences are granted with due regard to the extent to which the total demand can be met from indigenous production.

As regards the second part of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to parts (a) and (e) of starred question No 145 asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 7th November 1944.

POSTPONED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Postponed from 15th November, 1944)

HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

408. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) when the Handloom Weaving Industry Fact Finding Committee was appointed, and when it submitted its report;

(b) why its report or recommendations have not so far been published; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish them or at least a summary of the report and conclusions, and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I take it the Honourable Member refers to the Fact Finding Committee (Hand-looms and Mills) which was appointed on 25th January 1941 and submitted its report on 28th February 1942.

(b) The report has been published.

(c) This does not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

410. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how much Government have spent over the "Grow More Food" campaign since it has been instituted, giving details for provinces and years?

(b) How much of these funds have actually reached peasants, and in what shape?

(c) Are the results commensurate with the amount spent?

(d) How much of it was spent on propaganda?

(e) What is the extra extent of land brought under cultivation, and what is their estimated total yield?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing commitment, from Central Revenues in aid of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is laid on the table.

(b) The money was given mainly for irrigation works, and seed and manure distribution and has therefore been of actual benefit to cultivators.

(c) The production of the main foodgrains in Provinces and States from which reports are received was, on the average of the three years before the war, 55.6 million tons: in 1942-43, the first year of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' it rose to 57.5 million tons and in 1943-44 to 60.9 million tons. The greater part of the latter increase was in Bengal and may be attributed partly to the 'Grow More Food Campaign' and partly to a favourable season and high prices.

(d) Rs. 2,500.

(e) The extra land brought under cultivation during 1942-43 in British India (excluding Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi and Bengal) was 1.7 million acres. The cultivated area in Assam, C. P. and Berar, Coorg, Madras, and United Provinces increased by nearly one million acres during 1943-44. The total yield from this area during 1942-43 and 1943-44 may be estimated as 6,00,000 tons. Information about other provinces is not available at present.

Statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned to Provincial and State Governments for 'Grow More Food Schemes' during 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45
(upto the 4th November 1944)

Province or State	1942-43		1943-44		1944-45			
	Grant from cotton fund for diverting short staple cotton to Food crops	1	Loan	Grant from Central Revenues	Grant from Cotton Fund	Loan	Grant from Central Revenues	Grant from Cotton Fund
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ajmer-Merwara			9,01,867	70,000	29,185	2,34,250	70,016	21,996
Assam				4,02,585		10,86,100	4,88,150	
Baluchistan				10,376		1,60,000	96,703	
Bengal			62,15,000	12,84,184		23,15,000	11,82,607	
Bihar				9,67,152		9,64,000	13,46,770	
Central Provinces & Berar			39,50,000	11,82,500	5,38,000	31,10,220	6,31,776	50,000
Bombay			3,00,000	5,93,093	2,68,678	8,22,500	25,80,155	13,63,250
Coorg				48,450				
Madras			45,00,000	2,67,000	1,46,606	16,25,000	12,02,992	
N. W. F. P.	28,83,721			1,07,500		12,74,000	8,24,000	
Orissa			5,77,300	1,73,650		14,67,600	5,31,441	
Punjab				3,00,000			15,08,860	
Sind				4,85,335			88,000	
United Provinces				9,37,200			9,02,490	
Baroda State				10,800	4,93,500			7,19,250
Kashmir State								
Kutuh State					8,677			
Rampur State								8,698
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.				1,31,600			2,73,400	
Total	28,83,721	1,64,44,167	69,77,425	14,84,706	1,30,58,670	1,17,27,360	21,63,194	

NOTE.—The full sum sanctioned was not in every case spent during the financial year.

DISCONTINUANCE OF LAND REVENUE REMISSIONS IN PROVINCES.

411. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is aware that certain Provincial Governments have cancelled land revenue remission annually granted to ryots on their land tax for some years previous to the war?

(b) Has this cancellation not retarded the progress of the "Grow More Food" campaign to some extent?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of persuading Provincial Governments to continue the 1939-40 land revenue remissions so as to give the peasants greater incentive to grow more food?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, the land revenue remissions had been granted to prevent hardship arising from the low prices of agricultural produce and were cancelled when the prices of agricultural produce rose.

(b) Government have not received any complaints to that effect.

(c) The Government of India do not consider it possible to persuade Provincial Governments to continue at a time of comparatively high prices for agricultural produce a concession given to prevent hardship due to low prices.

STEPS FOR FOSTERING TANNING INDUSTRY.

427. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if any definite steps have been taken by Government since the beginning of the war to create and foster the Indian Tanning Industry in order to utilise Indian hides and skins in India alone for manufacturing purposes; if so, what those steps are;

(b) what success has been attained;

(c) what proportion of the hides and skins that reach the markets are being exported and what percentage is utilised in the Indian tanning concerns;

(d) whether any new tanning concerns have come to be organised in India since the beginning of the war; if so, the total quantity of skins they are able to utilise;

(e) how many of them and with what percentage of total Indian tanning production are controlled by Indians;

(f) what percentage (approximately) of the Indian Tanning Industry is in the hands of foreign concerns;

(g) whether Government are taking any definite steps to create either under State auspices or under Indian private enterprise Indian Controlled Tanning Industry; if so, what they are; and

(h) whether Government have attempted to manufacture any of the chemicals needed for tanning purposes; if so, what these chemicals are and with what success?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, by restricting the export of most weights and varieties of buff and cow hides and by giving assistance in the supply of materials required for tanning purposes. Of these Government have created a large reserve.

(b) As a result of this assistance the Indian tanning industry has increased its output considerably.

(c) It is not possible to give exact figures, but owing to the export restrictions already referred to a great majority of hides and skins produced in this country are utilised by Indian tanning concerns.

(d) Yes. As many of the new concerns are relatively unorganised cottage industries, it is not possible to give figures.

(e) All tanneries which have come into being during the war are controlled by Indians. It is not possible to give figures of the percentage of their production as compared with total Indian production for the reasons already stated.

(f) It is not possible to give figures but the Indian Tanning industry is predominantly in the hands of Indian concerns.

(g) No.

(h) No. Government have not themselves attempted to manufacture any of the chemicals needed for tanning purposes, but with Government assistance

certain of the chemicals required such as Bichromates, Hypo, Caustic Soda and Sulphuric Acid, are being produced in India in sufficient quantities to meet the tanning industry's requirements in full.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUOTA OF PAPER FOR VARIOUS NEWS AGENCIES

80. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quota of paper prescribed for publishing news by the (i) Reuters, (ii) Associated Press of India, (iii) United Press of India, (iv) Orient Press of India, (v) Associated Press of America, (vi) National News Service, (vii) United Press of America, (viii) Globe News Agency, (ix) Tass News Agency, and (x) General News Agency?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The quantity of paper which any of these news agencies can consume is determined by the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944. No quantities have been specifically fixed by Government in addition to the quantities referred to above.

ELECTION OF NEW SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

81. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for not holding the election of the newly constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The necessary proceedings preliminary to the holding of the election are being pushed on as quickly as possible. There is no question, therefore, of not holding the election.

EXTENSION OF TERM TO NOMINATED MEMBERS OF OLD SHAHDARA (DELHI) NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE

82. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for extending the terms of the nominated members of the old constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Notified Area Committee and not replacing them by elected members?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The term of the members of the Old Shahdara Notified Area Committee has not been specifically extended, but under the provisions of subsection 7(a) of section 4 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the former members continue in office until the election and appointment of the new members are notified.

HIGHER PROPORTION OF NOMINATED MEMBERS IN SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

83. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for fixing the number of nominated members more than in proportion to the elected members against the provision of the Punjab Municipal Act of the Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality under the new constitution?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to the unstarred question No. 155 put by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali in the last Session. Under the proviso to section 12 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the Local Government has the power to vary the proportion of appointed members. There is no question, therefore, of any infringement of the provisions of the Act.

NOMINATION OF SANITARY INSPECTOR TO SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

84. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for nominating the Sanitary Inspector, Rural Area, to the Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality in addition to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Shahdara, who is also in charge of the sanitation of the town?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Sanitary Inspector has been nominated in order that there may be on the Committee a sanitation expert. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon is primarily concerned with medical relief.

ANTI-MALARIA MEASURES FOR SHAHDARA (DELHI) TOWN

85. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the extent of the measures adopted for the Shahdara (Delhi) Town under Anti-Malaria Scheme?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Malaria control measures in Shahdara Town are carried out by the Shahdara Municipality as far as its funds permit and take the form of sprinkling diesel oil on pools of stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding during the malaria season.

CLOSING OF HAJ OFFICES ON EMBARKATION DAY

86. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to an editorial of the *Adil*, Delhi entitled "Musalmanon ke Shaaer Mazhabi men khuli madakhilat";

(b) the circumstances under which Hajj Office, Hajj Booking Office and Port Hajj Committee Offices were locked up on the day of departure of the first batch of steamers; and

(c) the action taken against officers responsible for closing down the Hajj Offices; if none, why?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Attention is invited to the replies to parts (a) to (c) of starred question No. 430.

HAJ PILGRIMS NOT PERMITTED TO COME OUT OF DOCK AREA TO MEET FRIENDS, ETC.

87. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state the circumstances under which pilgrims in possession of valid pilgrim passes are not permitted to come out of dock area to see their friends or relatives after once entering dock areas?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Attention is invited to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 430.

ENQUIRY OFFICE AT KARACHI HAJ CAMP

88. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that an Enquiry Office was opened at Hajj Camp, Karachi in open air;

(b) if it is a fact that no arrangements for the delivery of telegrams and post were in existence in the Hajj Camp;

(c) if it is a fact that all incoming post used to be placed at Enquiry Office table uncared for;

(d) if it is a fact that no responsible person was put in charge of Enquiry Office table; and

(e) if it is a fact that the Hajj Officer has no previous administrative experience to his credit?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) to (d). Attention is invited to the reply to starred question No. 431.

(e) He has considerable office and administrative experience of Haj work and had successfully arranged Haj sailings in 1941.

GRIEVANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF DEPUTED TO DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

89. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that about 3 per cent. of the experienced clerical staff of Government of India and attached offices was deputed to the Delhi Rationing Office under special orders of His Excellency the Viceroy;

(b) if it is a fact that some of them were returned to their original offices after rationing was started, while others were indefinitely retained in spite of their unwillingness to continue in the Rationing Office; and that no deputation allowance was sanctioned for these officials; if so, the reasons for this;

(c) if he is aware of the fact that parent offices of these officials are promoting their juniors to higher appointments in their absence, and the "next below rule" of the Finance Department is not adhered to in their case, and the deputed officials are deprived of their legitimate prospects in their parent offices without being properly compensated by Delhi Rationing authorities; and

(d) if it is a fact that, in spite of so many qualified and experienced officials being thus deputed by the Central Government, the Rationing Author-

ities are importing outsiders for responsible positions such as those of Rationing Officers, Supervisors, Assistant Supervisors, Inspectors, etc., and some of these posts have been given to persons who are not even Matriculates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, a greater part of the temporary staff employed for Ration Card writing was disbanded or returned to their parent offices when the writing of the first set of Ration Cards was completed. With regard to the second part of the question, service in Delhi Rationing is not foreign service and so the question of paying deputation allowance does not arise.

(c) The orders are that permanent Government servants transferred to Delhi Rationing shall be eligible for the benefits of the "next below rule". In regard to temporary Government servants so transferred, their cases are considered on merits on reference from their parent department.

(d) No. The claims of all clerks either from Central Government or from other sources are considered equally whenever a responsible post is to be filled in. A large number of Central Government Clerks have in practice been appointed to posts of the kind mentioned.

GRIEVANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF DEPUTED TO DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

90. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that in Delhi Rationing officials are treated as on leave without pay for a short late-coming and punished with suspension for minor irregularities, in spite of clear orders to the contrary on the subject;

(b) if it is a fact that a Memorial embodying some of the above grievances was submitted by the deputationists to His Excellency the Viceroy, through proper channel but was withheld by the Chief Commissioner; will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a copy of that Memorial on the table and state the grounds for withholding the same;

(c) if it is a fact that the officials on deputation are not being allowed to appear for any departmental test or Federal Public Service Commission Examination for Gazetted posts which their parent offices were permitting them to avail of; and

(d) if he will direct that all officials on deputation who may be willing to go back to their parent offices, should be relieved after being duly compensated for any loss already suffered by them in service prospects and emoluments?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No.

(b) Yes. The Memorial was withheld by the Chief Commissioner under Home Department Notification No. 106/38, dated 24th August, 1939. I regret I am unable to place a copy of the said memorial on the table of the House.

(c) Normally officials on deputation to the Delhi rationing offices are permitted to appear in the departmental examinations of their original Departments except when the work on which they are employed in the Rationing Organisation is considered to be more important.

(d) No. In view of the paramount importance of their work it is not possible to relieve them for the present. No question of compensation arises.

MEASURES AGAINST PROFITEERING BY WOOLLEN CLOTH HAWKERS IN DELHI

91. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures taken against profiteering by Woollen Cloth Dealers hawking on the foot-paths in the City of Delhi? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Prices have already been fixed in respect of woollen cloth and notified for public information. Staff employed for the prevention of hoarding and profiteering have instructions to take action in all cases of sales above the controlled rates.

EXPORTS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FROM DELHI

92. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quantity of each commodity, distribution and control of which is considered essential for the life of the community exported from Delhi, by rail and by road, respectively during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not clear what commodity or commodities the Honourable Member has in mind. In any case, it is not possible to collect the information required within the time that is available. The value of the information thus collected would, in any case, be incommensurate with the amount of labour involved in compiling the information required.

MEASURES FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

93. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures taken to bring down the prices of commodities essential for the life of the community to pre-war rates? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Government have taken several measures to bring down prices of commodities. It is clearly impossible to attempt to bring these down to the level of pre-war rates since certain elements of cost cannot but rise under the impact of the abnormal war conditions. The measures taken are:—

(1) Controlling prices of commodities either through specific orders relating to individual articles or under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.

The price of practically every commodity which can be described as essential has been controlled in this manner.

(2) Arranging increased supplies of commodities both imported and indigenously produced.

EXPORTS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FROM DELHI

94. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the quantity of each commodity whose distribution and control is considered essential for the life of the community exported from Delhi by rail and by road respectively during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A statement showing the quantity of each rationed commodity, exported from Delhi, by rail during the preceding three years is laid on the table. No export by road is reported.

Statement

Name of the year	Name of essential commodities exported			
	Rice	Wheat	Wheat Products	Sugar
1942-43 . . . . .	..	267 tons	438 tons	..
1943-44	37 tons	360 tons	38 tons	..
April 1944 to October 1944	10 maunds	..	..	..

MEASURES FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS, ETC.

95. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the measures taken to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar and *gur* to pre-war rates? If no measures have been taken the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not the present policy of the Government of India to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar and *gur* to prewar rates. Their efforts have been directed towards attaining a level of prices which in existing circumstances will maintain adequate production without imposing too heavy a burden upon the consumer. The progress, which has been already achieved in this direction, has been brought about by the statutory control of prices supported by importation of foodgrains from abroad and the planned movement of internal stocks to the areas where they are required. In the case of *gur*, a statutory price has not been fixed but ceiling prices for export and control of movement have been instituted by the supplying provinces.

MEASURES FOR HOLDING GENERAL ELECTION OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

96. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the measures taken to hold a general election of the Central Legislature in 1945? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The life of each of the two Chambers of the Central Legislature has been extended upto the 1st October, 1945, and

even if it were now known that His Excellency the Governor General would not effect further extensions, there would be no question of taking measures at this stage to hold general elections.

MEASURES FOR REDUCING ELECTRIC CHARGES IN SHAHDARA (DELHI) TOWN

97. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the measures taken to reduce the present rate of electric current supply charged by Messrs. Martin and Company for Shahdara (Delhi) town to those charged for Delhi City? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

RAISING OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) MIDDLE SCHOOL TO A HIGH SCHOOL

98. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the considerations for raising the District Board Middle School at Shahdara (Delhi) to a High School.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the raising of the District Board Middle School, Shahdara (Delhi) to the High Standard.

ELECTION OF NEW SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

99. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the probable date on which the first election of the newly constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality will be held?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The general election in Shahdara is fixed to take place in the first week of January, 1945.

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING IN CERTAIN CITIES.

100. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the living index has shown an increase in the cost of living by 182 per cent. in certain cities; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the wages of Railway servants working in those cities have not been raised by 182 per cent.; if not, what the correct fact is; and

(c) if the Government propose to increase the wages of the employees in those cities where the cost of living has arisen by 182 per cent. accordingly; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government are aware that the published cost of living indexes have risen in some towns by 182 or more over the index of August 1939.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In regard to the second. Railway workers are compensated for increased cost of living by relief in cash and concessions in kind which together are considered adequate to meet the needs and are adjusted from time to time as the situation demands.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the policy of Government is not to make any comprehensive revisions in scales of pay during the present unstable economic conditions but to meet increases in the cost of living either by dearness allowance or by relief in kind or by both.

REQUESTS FOR ADJUDICATION OF RAILWAY TRADE DISPUTES

101. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of requests for adjudication of trade disputes between the Railway Administrations and its employees recorded during the preceding five years; and

(b) how those requests were disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). I place on the table a statement showing the number of requests made for settlement of trade disputes between Railway Administrations and their employees during the past five years under the Trade Disputes Act or Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, and action taken on them.

Requests for Boards of Conciliation or Courts of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act or adjudication under Defence of India Rule 81 A. in connection with trade disputes between the Railway Administrations and their employees.

Serial No.	Year	From whom the request was received	Nature of request	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5
1	1939	Certain travelling Ticket Inspectors on the E. I. Rly.	Appointment of a Court of Enquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to consider the propriety of withholding a memorial addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy.	Rejected (The trade Dispute Act did not apply as the matter was not a 'trade dispute' for the purpose of the Act).
2	1940	The employees of the G. I. P. Railway	Appointment of a Court of Enquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to investigate the question of grant of war dearness allowance.	Accepted.
3	1943	All India Railwaymen's Federation, Myslapore, Madras.	Appointment of an adjudicator under Defence of India Rule 81A on the question of dearness allowance for Railway-men.	Rejected.
4	1943	The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay.	Do.	Do.
5	1944	The N. W. R. Employees Union, Karachi.	Do.	Do.
6	1944	G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay	Do.	Do.
7	1944	B., B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay.	Do.	Under consideration of Government

PROCEDURE RE APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATOR OF TRADE DISPUTES.

102. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the rules governing the proceedings before an adjudicator is appointed under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules;

(b) the qualifications prescribed for the appointment of an adjudicator for the trade disputes between the employer and its employees; and

(c) on whose report or request an adjudicator under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules is to be appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules. There are no rules governing the proceedings before an adjudicator.

(b) No qualifications have been prescribed and it is not possible to do so because action under Rule 81A is of an urgent nature and it is not always possible readily to obtain persons of any particular qualifications in different parts of the country. The general rule is to appoint the most suitable person available in all circumstances of the case. Persons so far appointed include High Court Judges, District and Sessions Judges, Chief Presidency Magistrates, Labour Commissioners and their Assistants, Workmen Compensation Commissioners and War Injuries Claims Officers.

(c) An adjudicator may be appointed at the request of either or both the parties, or on the initiative of Government.

RESULTS OF PROPAGANDA BY INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

103. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the results achieved from the propaganda by the Federation of Labour from the subsidy of Rs. 13,000 a month?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 7th November 1944 to part (c) of Prof. Ranga's starred question No. 152.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT AND LONG TERM POLICY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MILK AND MEAT SUPPLY

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: In view of an increasing shortage of milk and meat in the country, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is prepared to consider a short and long term policy for the improvement of milk and meat supply, particularly in urban areas, and to convey the following proposals to the Provincial Governments:

(a) As a short term policy:

(i) the examination of the question, which particular breed of goat yields the largest volume of milk, with a view to organising immediately the rearing of such breed in the quantities necessary;

(ii) whether in view of the damage done by goats to vegetation, resulting frequently in wide-spread soil erosion, provincial authorities will see that goats bred with these objects in view, are confined to such areas where damage will be reduced to a minimum;

(b) As a long term policy: the practicability of centres being set up in cattle breeding areas, and where they may be of greatest service for artificial insemination, to which agriculturists and others may take their cows?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b) The technique of artificial insemination has in recent years been considerably developed in certain countries of the world especially the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. Before the Government of India can recommend to the Provincial Governments the adoption of this technique on a mass scale, it is necessary that experiments should be conducted to modify and adjust the technique to suit the Indian conditions. These experiments are in progress at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute under an officer trained specially for this purpose. As soon as the stage has been reached when the technique can

be adopted to Indian conditions, the question of development will be taken up with the Provincial Governments.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Have not experiments already been carried out with a marked degree of success in artificial insemination of cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The only experiments I am aware of are those conducted at Izzatnagar and with regard to them I would not care to say that a very great deal of success has been attained, very largely because of lack of suitable appliances.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY *RE* MICA INDUSTRY OF BIHAR

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a Committee of Enquiry by the Central Government regarding Mica Industry of Bihar has been appointed or is going to be appointed.

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that a constitution of the said enquiry is beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Legislative list?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reason for such encroachment upon the Provincial Legislative List as set out in the Seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, the Committee has been appointed.

(b) and (c). In appointing the Committee the Central Government proceeded on the view that no such encroachment was involved, but the Honourable Member is of course free to form his own opinion.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member please state under what section of the Government of India Act has the action been taken?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Presumably Government have acted upon their own responsibility.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

HUMILIATING SEARCH OF THE PERSON OF AN INDIAN PASSENGER BY DHANUSHKODI CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion for adjournment from Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh relating to "the humiliating search of the person of an Indian passenger by Dhanushkodi Customs officers by ordering him to strip himself of his clothes in the presence of the public".

When did this happen?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Very recently. The news appeared in the Colombo papers (*Ceylon Observer*) on November the 17th and it was received here on the 18th.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Where is this Dhanushkodi?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It is in South India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it a fact that the person was ordered to strip himself entirely naked?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I have no information whatsoever. I presume that the Honourable Member's information is based on the newspaper report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* this morning, in which the *Ceylon Observer* is reported to have stated:

"that sometimes a passenger is asked to strip himself in public in order that his person may be thoroughly searched. We believe that one of these denuded victims was an Indian so that it may not be true that Dhanushkodi customs officers were inspired by anti-Ceylonese animus."

Sir, I cannot find that any definite incident has been reported on any particular date. The statement occurs in the course of an article in the Ceylonese paper, which is complaining that the Dhanushkodi customs officers are unfair to Ceylonese emigrants and the paper goes on to mention, incidentally, that they think that Indians also have been subjected to this sort of examination.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No date or a definite incident is mentioned there.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was because of this incident, Sir, that the *Ceylon Observer* had to write this paragraph.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are Customs Officers authorised to search the person of anyone suspected of smuggling?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. The customs search does include the search of the person and it is very common that smuggling of such articles as gold, for instance, is carried out by smuggling it about the person, even in intimate garments but I do not know whether these searches are conducted in public. In my experience it used not to be conducted in public. If that is what my Honourable friend is concerned about, I can say that I shall have the matter carefully looked into . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think that ought to be sufficient.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Customs people already carefully look into everything! Why need the Honourable Member want to have a peep in?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Finance Member there is no good reason for adjourning the business of the House. I therefore disallow the motion.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 17th November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders, nine nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected, namely: (1) The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, (2) Sir George Spence, (3) Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan, (4) Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, (5) Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, (6) Dr. P. N. Banerjee, (7) Mr. C. P. Lawson.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to serve as members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies: (1) Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, (2) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, (3) Mr. A. C. Inskip, (4) Mr. Manu Subedar, (5) Mr. Muhammad Nauman, (6) Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty.

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION)

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Petitions on the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH LABOUR CONFERENCE AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Fifth Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 6th and 7th September 1943 and the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at Lucknow on the 25th and 26th January 1944.

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

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE FOOD DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, I move: "That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member *vice* Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved: "That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member *vice* Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, during the last Session this Standing Committee was formed. I want to know from the Honourable Member how many meetings there have been and the substance of the proceedings of such meetings, because we are not supplied with the proceedings of this committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As far as I remember, one meeting has been held last July, and it is intended to hold another meeting very shortly. As regards the proceedings I shall look into the matter.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member *vice* Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of the election of one non-official member to serve on the Standing Committee for the Food Department in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, resigned, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 5 P.M. today and that the election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. to 1 P.M. tomorrow. The election will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE BANKING COMPANIES BILL

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

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Till what date?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Yes; you will have to mention the date.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This measure attempts to deal comprehensively with a subject which has exercised the public mind in this country for several years past. Banks, which serve as the repositories of the cash resources of the public and as the financing agents of trade and industry play a vital part in the economic and financial life of a country. The business of banking has therefore been rightly regarded as being in the nature of a public service and this necessitates and justifies legislative safeguards for the protection of depositors and for ensuring the growth of banking institutions on lines which experience has proved to be sound. As the House is aware, many important countries like the United States of America have adopted special laws for the regulation of banking. Even in Great Britain a fairly elaborate Joint Stock Bank Act was enacted as early as 1844, though subsequent developments and the growth of sound banking traditions have made this legislation superfluous in that country. The nature and scope of banking laws in different countries have varied widely according to their individual circumstances and requirements. The problem of banking legislation has presented exceptional difficulties in this country where banking is an indigenous activity

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of long standing which has developed on its own lines with its own instruments for the transfer of value and recording of obligations, so that here it is not merely a question of applying models which might be suitable for other countries. The demand for banking legislation in India is very old. Public attention was particularly drawn to the necessity of such legislation by the banking crisis of 1913-14 and more recently by the crisis in South India in 1938. The extent of public interest in the question was revealed by the evidence tendered before the Central and Provincial Banking Inquiry Committees which reported in 1930 to 1931. The Central Committee recommended the enactment of a comprehensive banking Act covering the organisation, management, audits and liquidation of banking companies. Some of the more important recommendations of this committee were considered by this House when the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936 was passed. Before the passing of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936, which added a separate chapter regarding banking companies to the Companies Act, banks were governed in all important matters such as incorporation, management, liquidation, by the provisions of the Companies Act, which was applicable to banking as well as to other companies. There were, however, a few provisions in this Act which drew a distinction between banking and non-banking companies, such as section 4, which prohibited a partnership exceeding ten in number from carrying on the business of banking unless it was registered as a company, section 136 which required banking and certain other companies to make a statement of their business every half year. The amending Act of 1936 drew a clear distinction between banking and non-banking companies by defining for the first time the scope of business of banking companies. As the House is aware this Act also made certain other important provisions for banking companies, such as the requirement of a minimum capital of Rs. 50,000 before a banking company could commence business, the prohibition on the employment of managing agents other than banks, the prohibition of a charge on unpaid capital, the restriction on the nature of subsidiary companies, and the provision for a moratorium under certain circumstances and for the maintenance of cash reserves and reserve funds by non-scheduled banks.

An event of the greatest significance for Indian banking occurred in 1935 when the Reserve Bank of India was established. Hardly a year and a half had passed since the coming into force of the amending Act of 1936 when the banking crisis of South India in 1938 not only raised, in an acute form, the issue of the relations of banks in the country with the Reserve Bank but also drew again the attention of the public to the desirability of comprehensive legislation on the subject of banking. The difficulties experienced in administering the existing provisions of law also rendered necessary a re-examination of the problem. It was felt that there was a need for legislation which would do for banking what the Companies Act and the Insurance Act had done for companies generally and for insurance. The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India gave their careful consideration to the question and submitted certain proposals for legislation in November 1939. These proposals, as Honourable Members might perhaps recall, were circulated by the Government early in 1940 for public opinion. In view of the abnormal circumstances created by the war and the great diversity of opinions which replies from the public revealed the Government decided that it was inopportune to undertake comprehensive legislation which was likely to prove highly controversial. The Government, however, undertook legislation on certain non-controversial and urgent matters and two interim measures have been passed during the last two years, namely, the Indian Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, relating to the definition of banking companies and the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944, relating to the capital structure and management of such companies. The development of banking during the last four years, more particularly the rapid growth of banking resources and of the number of banks and branches have again drawn attention to the desirability of a comprehensive

Act, the need for which is felt to be ever greater because of possible reactions after the war. Further, the favourable turn of the war situation has emphasized the urgency of devoting attention, in this as in other spheres, to the problems that will arise in the post-war period. For these reasons, the Central Board of the Reserve Bank have reviewed their original proposals of 1939 in the light of subsequent developments and experience and have submitted to the Government a revised draft of a comprehensive banking Bill which is now before the House.

The provisions of the Bill are based on the general principle that the primary objective of banking legislation must be to safeguard the interest of the depositor, as the objective of the Companies Law is to safeguard the interest of the stock holder and that of Insurance law to safeguard the interest of the policy holder. These provisions also attempt to ensure that the development of banking proceeds on sound lines since it is obviously in the interest of the general development of the country that the savings of the community should be deposited with banks as a preferable alternative to hoarding and as a preliminary to investment in Government loans or industrial enterprises. The Bill does not, however, attempt to cover all institutions dealing in credit or all those engaged in the numerous forms of lending operations. In particular, it does not include in its scope industrial concerns which accept time deposits from the public. An attempt to include all institutions and individuals within the scope of a single Bill would be too ambitious in view of the complex credit structure of the country; nor does it seem appropriate in the conditions at present prevailing in India to attempt more detailed legislation covering the various activities of banks such as has been enacted in the United States of America and some other countries. Moreover, even if such detailed legislation were to be enacted, we have not the machinery at present to undertake the responsibility of its administration, such as a sufficiency of experienced personnel for inspection and other purposes.

With these general observations, Sir, I now turn to the main features of the Bill. In the first place, the Bill attempts to prescribe a simple definition of banking. The object is to limit, by connecting banking with the acceptance of deposits repayable on demand, the scope of the legislation to institutions in which funds are deposited primarily to ensure their safety and ready withdrawability. Secondly, an attempt has been made to prescribe a certain minimum capital standard considered essential for a bank in accordance with the scale and area of its operations. Thirdly, the Bill prohibits trading directly or indirectly by banking institutions and provides for certain moderate restrictions on investments to eliminate non-banking risks and to ensure that the loss of a depositor will be limited in the event of the failure of a bank. Fourthly, in the light of the experience of the banking failure in South India in 1938, an attempt has been made to make our banking legislation as much applicable to banks incorporated or registered outside as to those incorporated or registered in British India. Fifthly, provision has been made to expedite liquidation proceedings of banks in view of the cumbersome procedure under the Companies Act. Sixthly, in the light of the experience gained by the Reserve Bank in inspecting banks under section 42(6) of the Reserve Bank Act, a provision has been included empowering the Central Government to call upon a bank for certain reasons to submit its books and accounts for inspection by the Reserve Bank. Seventhly, powers have been conferred on the Central Government to impose certain penalties when it is satisfied that the affairs of a bank incorporated inside or outside British India are being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of British Indian depositors. Lastly, a special form of balance sheet has been prescribed for banking companies and powers have been given to the Reserve Bank to call for periodical returns from banks so that it may have more detailed information regarding the banking situation in the country than it has at present for the purpose of watching over the progress of banking.

This Bill, Sir, represents, as I trust the House will agree, an earnest effort on the part of the Government to ensure, in so far as it can be done by

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legislation, the protection of the depositor and the growth of banking in India on sound lines. The original proposals submitted by the Reserve Bank were, as I have mentioned, circulated for public opinion. Many valuable comments were then received and these have been carefully studied. The banking developments during the interval have been numerous and rapid and the whole matter has been considered afresh. The proposals now made by the Reserve Bank contain some important new features such as the revised definition of banking, the prohibition against trading, the provision for inspection by the Reserve Bank, the powers of the Reserve Bank to call for certain returns and the appointment of the Reserve Bank as official liquidator. It seems advisable, therefore, that an opportunity should be afforded to the public to express their opinion formally on the proposed legislation. For these reasons the motion which I now make is for the circulation of the Bill.

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

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support this motion for circulation. The Honourable Mover has said two things. He has said that it is a comprehensive banking legislation and he has also said that in some matters it is a controversial measure. Therefore, it is only proper that the public should be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion on it. I, therefore, think that it is a very wise motion and I support it.

Sir, I support not only the motion for circulation but I think I am in a position to give my whole-hearted general support to the Bill also. Although in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in the Preamble it is stated that the Bill is for consolidating and amending the law relating to banking, I do not think it is a correct and precise description because it appears from the provisions of the Bill and it also transpired from the speech of the Honourable Member which he made just now that many new important provisions have been introduced. Therefore, the circulation of the Bill is necessary. Although the provisions are new, I think, on the whole and speaking generally, I am in a position to support the Bill subject to comments and criticisms on individual clauses and details.

Sir, the object of the Bill, as has been described by the Honourable Mover, is two-fold: to safeguard the interests of the depositors and to ensure development of banking in India on sound lines. These objects are perfectly acceptable to us. A separate banking legislation has long been overdue.

The main features of the new provisions have been stated at length by the Honourable Mover and they are given also in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I shall make a few comments on these main features of the Bill.

I come first to the definition of 'banking'. I would like to point out that I feel great difficulty here. This definition is given in clause 5(b) of the Bill. It says: "Banking means the accepting of deposits repayable on demand." Now, Sir, there was no definition of 'banking' given in the Act of 1936. In that Act definition was given of a 'banking company' in section 277F. That definition is:

"A banking company means a company which carries on as its principal business acceptance of deposits of money on current account or otherwise."

In other words, it can accept current deposits and fixed deposits. But here in the Bill before us 'banking' has been defined as "the accepting of deposits repayable on demand". What troubles me is whether this Bill is not intended to govern the banks which accept not only current deposits but also fixed deposits, time-liabilities? That trouble becomes all the greater in view of the statement made in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in view of the statement made by the Honourable Mover in his speech. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is said:

"A simple definition of banking with the object of limiting the scope of the legislation to institutions in which the funds are deposited primarily to ensure their safety and ready withdrawability."

The definition of 'banking' as given in clause 5(b) coupled with the limited scope of the Bill suggested in the Statement of Objects and Reasons tend to show that all these new provisions will not apply to a bank, accepting time-liabilities. That is my difficulty. I do not know how to reconcile this definition with the function of a bank in accepting time-liabilities.

Then, as regards the protection to the depositors. I wish to say at once that all the provisions relating to this, namely, clauses 13, 14, 18 and 19, have my support.

As regards the prescription of the minimum capital standard, the provision is in clause 11. I do not object to that principle; there should be a minimum laid down but I do not want at this stage to go into the details of the provision as to what should be the minimum capital. But I feel one great difficulty with regard to the question of minimum capital standard. We have got the Defence of India Rule—Rule 94-A which prohibits the raising of further capital without the consent of the Central Government. The present Bill lays down quite the reverse. Clause 11 says, you must increase your capital upto a certain standard. But Rule 94-A says, you must not increase your capital. So, unless the Ordinance is repealed this provision becomes unworkable. The legislature should not lay down two contradictory principles. This provision relates entirely to small institutions and not to big Banks. Unless the real intention is to kill the small Banks by this provision, Rule 94-A should be repealed forthwith.

Then there is the important question of inspection of Bank accounts by the Reserve Bank. This is contained in clause 28(1). We do not object to inspection. But I am very keen that there must not be interference in the internal management. There is no law giving the right to the Reserve Bank to inspect Bank accounts and papers. But as a matter of fact, the Reserve Bank does inspect. Bank accounts, whenever and wherever they choose to do so and as far as I am aware, no banks have up to now objected to that power being exercised by the Reserve Bank. There are three or four circumstances under which power is given to the Reserve Bank to inspect the Bank accounts. I do not mind all these reasons except one. The reasons given are:

"if it has any reason to believe that the interests of the depositors of a Banking company are in danger."

This is a very good reason for the Reserve Bank to inspect:

"a Banking company is unable to meet its obligations."

That is another good ground:

"has made default in complying with any of the provisions of this Act."

I have no objection to this either. The next ground however is this:

"or that an offence under this Act has been or is likely to be committed by a Banking company or any officer of a Banking company."

I do not think it is fair that in anticipation that a Bank or officer of a bank is likely to do something, you should have a disciplinary measure. I think this is a safeguard which is quite unnecessary. I am not at all against rigid regulations being enacted so that the banking people might be more alert and conform to the banking rules. At the same time I want to make one observation. Many new powers are given to the Reserve Bank and new obligation, however wholesome they may be are cast upon the banks. The question is, what do the banks get in return? What is the corresponding obligation laid upon the Reserve Bank? There is section 42 of the Reserve Bank Act which makes deposits by the Scheduled Banks compulsory. When the Reserve Bank Act was passed, there was vehement opposition to that provision of compulsory deposits by the Scheduled Banks. The Scheduled Banks are not all of them big banks. They are most of them small banks and great hardship is caused to them by such compulsory deposits. Many of the Scheduled Banks are all run on small capital and with small amount of deposits from the public. These small banks take deposits from the public and pay interest

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on such deposits. At the same time, they are obliged to make compulsory deposits in the Reserve Bank on which they receive no interest. This is very unfair. This provision of compulsory deposit should be repealed. Until this provision is repealed, the amount of deposit may at all events be reduced. May I also suggest that the deposits may be allowed to be made in Government promissory notes or other approved securities. Why should it be insisted that the deposit should be in cash? If deposits are allowed in the form of Government securities, then the Scheduled Banks will not suffer, because they will get interest on those deposits. I invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to this hardship on the part of the Scheduled Banks and request him to consider the advisability of giving relief to the Scheduled Banks. An appreciable percentage of the deposits lie idle with the Reserve Bank and inevitably makes the scheduled banks financially weaker.

Sir, this is not the time for going into details but I may say that on the whole I am in favour of the stringent regulations introduced here. There are one or two other points to which I would invite the special attention of the Honourable Finance Member. For instance, clause 8 seeks to impose a prohibition on trading with a view to eliminate non-banking risks. It seems to me that this matter which is very controversial should be examined very carefully because it prohibits any banking company from directly or indirectly dealing in the buying or selling or bartering of goods. Then follows a provision which is very drastic, *viz.*, that no banking company shall engage in any trading: it shall not "engage in any trade, or buy or sell or barter goods or articles of merchandise for others".

Now take a case where some money is advanced by a bank against some goods which are kept in the custody of the bank and suppose the party fails to pay and it becomes necessary to sell the goods,—I do not know if that is prohibited under clause 8. I have not examined the law of other countries on this point but I am told that this kind of prohibition is not provided in the banking law of any other country. It will cripple the activities of banks in this country and the matter requires more careful investigation. Of course, after opinions have been received we will be in a better position to decide to what extent, if any the prohibition may possibly go. Speaking for myself, I am of the opinion that the clause as it stands is too drastic and should at all events be modified.

One word more even at the risk of repetition. A good deal of power and control, as I said, is given to the Reserve Bank, but what will be the compensation for our banks? Is it meant that the Reserve Bank will only exercise control, call for returns and have inspections and large amounts of deposits from the Scheduled Banks? Is it in the contemplation of Government that all these powers and advantages should be given to the Reserve Bank without any corresponding advantages to our banks? I think that if the Reserve Bank wants all these advantages and controls, it should also be the duty of the Reserve Bank to educate and help the smaller institutions. It is one thing merely to control and another thing to guide and help and educate them. Is there any machinery in the Reserve Bank for doing this very important function? It is of course desired that the banking system should be conducted on sound lines; on that there can be no two opinions. But what is done by the Reserve Bank to educate these new and small institutions in this country? So far as that is concerned, I think this Bill places a one-sided obligation on the banks only and no obligation on the Reserve Bank. We do hope that help and guidance will be given by the Reserve Bank, whenever necessary, but there is no provision like that in this Bill.

Sir, I support this motion for circulation. By the way, may I ask the Finance Member when he intends to have the Select Committee and to have the Bill passed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was hoping to move for reference of the Bill to Select Committee some time in the course of the next Session.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, banking today is much more important than it was before. People have got into the deposit habit and into the habit of issuing cheques; and so it is necessary that the Government of the country should come forward with a Bill to regulate it. It is somewhat late in the day, but I am glad it has come at last. For the last fifteen years this matter of banking legislation has been agitating the mind of the people of this country. In going through this Bill I should like to draw the attention of the Finance Member and of the House to three aspects of the Bill; the first aspect is that on which we are generally agreed; the second aspect relates to things on which we think amendments are necessary; and the third aspect relates to things which we think have not been included in this Bill but which we think it advisable to include in it.

Sir, before coming to the clauses themselves I should like to say one word with regard to the definition of banking. Undoubtedly the definition of this word presents problems, and I find that in the banking laws of many countries this word has not been defined in the same way as other words are defined. The Banking Inquiry Committee in their report have said that they have found difficulties in defining this word. While I am not prepared to put forward any definite definition of this word I would only point out the difficulties that will arise from the acceptance of the definition given in the Bill itself. The Bill says:

"Banking means the accepting of deposits to be payable on demand."

Of course it does not limit the work of the bank to that. It can do any of those things which are particularised in clause 6. But our difficulty in accepting this definition is this. I am coming from an industrial area where there are many industrial concerns, textile mills and other things; and what I find in these mills is that in most of these companies for the financing of these industrial concerns deposits are accepted. The Honourable Member will turn round and say that fixed deposits may be accepted because that is not barred by the definition of banking given here. I may point out that in many of these concerns current accounts are held not by cheque books and account books but by what we call book adjustments. I do not know whether he is aware of that system, but we have it in South India where transactions between two parties are done with books; cheques are not issued but through book adjustments current accounts are maintained. The difficulty will be that if this definition is given many of these concerns which are admittedly business concerns cannot do business because people who do this sort of banking cannot under this definition do business at all owing to a later clause. And so I would suggest that a little more elaborate definition of banking may be given; and if I may suggest a few ideas on that matter, I would draw attention to page 453 of the report of the Central Banking Inquiry Committee in which they have quoted with approval Sir John Pagett's definition and suggestions about defining banking. They say:

"No one and nobody, corporate or otherwise, can be a banker who does not take deposit accounts take current accounts, issue and pay cheques drawn on himself or collecting cheques, crossed or uncrossed, for his customers."

If you take these four points in the suggestion together in the definition of banking, this will be a workable definition of banking because every bank worth the name will issue, pay or collect crossed and uncrossed cheques. This is a duty which any bank can discharge and so, Sir, I would suggest for the consideration of the Select Committee which is going to be constituted and for the guidance of the public opinion which is to be sought, that the definition of banking given here may be enlarged.

Next I come to some of the clauses to which I agree: Firstly, clause 8—Prohibition of trading. Certainly banks which have dabbled in trade have come to lose, and in the interest of good banking that must be tabooed.

Secondly, clause 10—Prohibition of employment of managing agents, etc. That also is a thing with which I am in general agreement. Then clause 11 about the enforcement of a minimum capital, while I accept the principle of

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that clause, I would like it to be considered whether the minimum fixed in the Bill itself is small enough for smaller banks in villages to be conducted for the purpose of village trade. Today most of the village trade is conducted by individual bankers or co-operative societies, but co-operative societies do not come within the scope of this Bill. I would suggest whether in a poor country like India where it has to serve lakhs of villages, a smaller amount may not be advisable.

Now, Sir, I come to certain recommendations of the Banking Enquiry Committee which have not been accepted by this Bill. These are the recommendations which I think should be accepted. Sir, I will read what is stated on 457 of the Report of the Banking Enquiry Committee:

"We recommend that there should be a provision in the Act requiring that every institution doing banking business in British India, other than a foreign bank, should have a majority of natural born or domiciled Indian Directors. We are of opinion that such a provision is essential for the regulation of a service of national importance such as banking."

The reason why we think that such a regulation is necessary is this: We have experience of some foreign banks and we have found in some banks that at critical times when the sympathy and help of the bank are necessary in the interest of their customers they have chosen just that time for demanding payment, and it is our experience that some men have fallen down and floundered because of these demands. One of the reasons which we think has been the guiding motive of some of those banks is that there may be a competitor in the field who may not be an Indian—who may be a Britisher—and who may wish to see that this man comes to ruin and these people, Sir, may have an influence with the directors of the bank. Therefore, we feel, Sir, that in a matter of national concern like banking a provision like this is necessary and will be useful. The Banking Enquiry Committee Report further says:

"We consider that some safeguards are necessary to prevent the control and management of such a service passing into foreign hands and that unless non-nationals are precluded from having a preponderating voice in the management of banks operating in this country, it would not be possible to give effect to any national policy that might be evolved for the development of banking in the interest of India."

Then, Sir, I come to clause 13—Reserve fund. The reserve fund as proposed in this clause regulates reserves in this way:

"... before any dividend is declared, transfer of a sum equivalent to not less than twenty per cent. of such profits to the reserve fund until the amount of the said fund is equal to the paid-up capital."

The Banking Enquiry Committee also advocates building up of a reserve, but they suggest something else. They suggest that a portion of the capital itself should be set apart—if I remember aright, it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—as reserve fund, so that whatever may be the profits that accrue to the banking company in a particular year, a reserve will be built up and in lean years the bank will be in a position to face bad times, if necessary.

The Honourable Member said that the general motive behind a banking enactment should be the protection of the depositor. We agree. But we would like to go further and say that the law should make provision for the protection of the poor depositor and for the savings bank deposits. Government must give priority to the protection of these depositors. The Banking Enquiry Committee have not accepted that position:

"It has been suggested that depositors of small amounts should be given protection and preference by law and that in the case of liquidation savings deposits should be given priority over other deposits."

This recommendation, I see, was not accepted by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, but we think that for reasons mentioned in the words that I have read out it is necessary that the poor man should be given a little more protection than the rich man because in the case of the poor man it is all that he has got whereas the rich man may have a lot more. So we think that it should be provided that savings deposits should be given greater protection. In clause 16 I find restrictions on loans and advances. The Banking Enquiry

Committee have recommended that auditors of the banks concerned also should be banned from taking loans from concerned banks. I think that auditors may also be included under that clause.

Now I would refer to another matter. The Banking Enquiry Committee while going into the reasons for the fall of banks has given many reasons. It is not possible to prevent all the risks by legislation. Some risks are inherent in the persons who manage the banks. That cannot be prevented by legislation. But there are certain things which can be prevented by legislation and one of them is at clause (f) which they mention on page 452 of the report: "Utilisation of short-term deposits at long-term loans".

We have found in our part of the country that there are many banks which go under the name of *Nidhis*. They have a paid-up capital of one lakh or so. They do extensive business. They take deposits. Many of them have come to ruin in recent years and when examined we find that one of the reasons why many of these small banking concerns, came to ruin was that their short-term deposits were utilised in long-term loans. They got deposits for one or two years and they gave money on mortgages which covered 8, 10 or 14 years, with the result that sometimes the deposits were asked to be paid, but they could not pay and that undermined their credit and many of them had to be liquidated.

So I would suggest that provision should be made that these short-term deposits should not be used for long-term investments except in a certain proportion as may be laid down in the Act itself; short-term deposits should be given only for short-term loans and long-term deposits for long-term loans. This will be healthy and it will go to build up the real foundations of the bank.

There is one other matter to which I would like to refer and which is not provided for in the Bill. As we all know, if the banking habit is to grow, if the banks are to be conducted properly, we want a trained personnel as in everything else. I would like that provision should be made in the larger banks by legislative enactment, that every one of these banks should give compulsory training to a number of candidates who may undergo the training and be useful to the country at large. I know some banks take people whom they train and engage in their own banks, but that is not what I refer to. What I refer to is the training, after the training those banks may take them or they may not. Such training is of general usefulness to the country. They may get themselves employed in smaller banks or any other business. Their training will be for the good of banking in general. As far as I see no provision has been made for such training anywhere in this Bill and I would think that a provision like that would be useful for the growth of sound banking in this country.

Sir, generally we support this Bill.

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

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

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to congratulate my Honourable friend the Finance Member on having brought forward this measure, notwithstanding the fact that about the year 1939 the enactment of a Banking legislation was abandoned owing to the prevalence of war conditions. Sir, as the speakers before me have mentioned, there is an urgent need for banking legislation. Some of the provisions of this Bill are perhaps such as may not evoke any serious criticism but, again, there are a few provisions which could usefully be modified. Before, however, going into the scope of the Bill, I would like to refer to clause 2 of the Bill relating to "Application of other laws not barred". In itself it appears unimportant but when the Government of India propose to

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enact a legislation in order to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking, one would expect that it will include the activities of all banks in this country, excepting the Reserve Bank of India, which is controlled by a separate Act.

Sir, the House is aware that there is a very big institution in this country called the Imperial Bank of India which, for reasons fairly well known, has developed to a size which is perhaps almost unparalleled anywhere, except in the case of *Banque de France* of pre-war France. In fact in a book which I have before me by Prof. Muranjan published in 1940, the author says that the total amount of deposits or funds available with the Imperial Bank of India is about a third of all the other banking institutions in this country put together. It was a fact that this concern has had to be supported by an Act, because it was doing in the past the business of a Central Bank, acting as the agent of the Government in regard to its treasury and public debt operations. With the coming into existence of the Reserve Bank certain provisions of the Imperial Bank Act had become unnecessary and those provisions were amended in 1934 and with that amendment the control exercised by the Governor General in Council, either in the matter of the appointment of the Central Board or the appointment of the Managing Governors of the Bank, has been withdrawn. But, I believe, certain sections of the Imperial Bank of India Act still give it wide powers in that it can take over the business of certain other banks and for that purpose has facilities for increasing its capital, it can do all that with the consent of the Governor General in Council, so that the position enjoyed by the Imperial Bank of India as a supreme bank in this country still exists in a large measure. Another reason why that bank continues in its importance is that it acts as the Agent of the Reserve Bank of India and still manages the treasury operations of the Government, wherever the Reserve Bank has not got a branch of its own. But this is not the time and place for me to criticise the Government of India for permitting an institution like the Imperial Bank of India to continue to do a large part of its old functions and to earn from the Reserve Bank of India and therefore from the Government of India a sum of 56 lakhs of rupees as commission for the agency operations done by the Bank as it did last year and considering the fact that the total profits of the Imperial Bank last year were in the region of 80 lakhs, Rs. 56 lakhs paid by the Reserve Bank was a very comfortable addition to the funds available with the Imperial Bank for distribution as profits.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The profits of the Reserve Bank of India last year were many crores.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Though I am very grateful to my Honourable friend for the information, an information which is also vouchsafed to us by the Reserve Bank, I nevertheless feel that it does not affect the issue, that 56 lakhs of what was legitimately the taxpayers' money has been put into the pockets of an institution which carries on its business under cover of an Act of the Government of India, which is wholly non-Indian in its control and management, whose outlook is completely alien to the interests of this country and which has not even accepted the recommendations for Indianisation made by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee at the time when it reported and when it also recommended that the Imperial Bank of India should for some time to come act as the agent of the Reserve Bank of India. Sir, if the Government of India thinks that it is time for it to bring forward a banking legislation, I should have expected that they would have conducted a survey of the position in this country, that they would have noted the dominant position of the Imperial Bank of India and that that position still continues notwithstanding the emergence of the Reserve Bank of India. I say, Sir, that 56 lakhs which has been paid by the Reserve Bank of India, which incidentally has no relation to the profits that it makes, would have strengthened indigenous institutions considerably were it put into their pockets. This Act will probably

be passed into law and it would be a very good thing. The Reserve Bank Act is there. The Imperial Bank Act is also there and in my view it need no longer exist as a separate Act once a general Bank Act is enacted. The Imperial Bank of India is a tumour in the body politic of this country which could be very safely excised and taken away without injuring in any way either the financial or the economic structure of this country. I do not want, Sir, at this stage of the proceedings to dilate further either on the inequities of the Imperial Bank or on the inequities of the Government of India which allows it to function without any check after the establishment of the Reserve Bank or on the offences of omission on the part of the Government of India in not extending the scope of the work of the Reserve Bank, so as to embrace much of the work that the Imperial Bank does as its agent or again on that act of omission on the part of the Government of India in not asking the Reserve Bank to employ joint stock banks as its agents at a later stage, a recommendation which was made by the Banking Enquiry Committee. I only hope that by reason of the fact that I have mentioned all the Government of India and the Honourable the Finance Member will use their good offices to see that in the near future, when there will be a possibility of the Reserve Bank of India revising its agreement with the Imperial Bank of India, that supreme position which the Imperial Bank enjoys today as the agent of the Reserve Bank and therefore as the Agent of the Government of India, will cease to exist and some if not a good portion of this Rs. 56 lakhs which is paid to the Imperial Bank by the Reserve Bank be paid to some of the Indian joint stock banks, which are the subject-matter of this Bill. That ends my reference to the Imperial Bank.

With regard to the Bill itself, I said at the outset that I welcome it. But there are a few points where the Bill has departed, I am afraid not very wisely, from the proposals made by the late Sir James Taylor in 1939. Again there are one or two points in which some amendments have been made, which are quite useful. I will take up the question that was dealt with by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore, the question of definition of Banking. The original definition of banking in the proposal submitted in 1939 was—Banking means acceptance of deposits on current account or otherwise subject to withdrawal by cheque. That has been changed. Now, banking means accepting of deposits repayable on demand. I do not say that it will be possible for any of us to devise a definition of banking which will suit all needs. But I do want to say here, because I would like the attention of those people who are going to submit their opinion on this particular Bill to the Government to be focussed on this point of how far this new definition will affect those institutions which receive deposits reference to which was made by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore, and whether it is right and proper for the Government and for the public to allow institutions to continue to exist as Banking institutions which do banking and also do other commercial transactions besides a thing which this Bill seeks to prohibit in clause 8. If the original definition had been stuck to, perhaps it would cover the cases of the larger institutions and leave the smaller ones out. Why it has been expanded now I am not able to understand. But I do not object to it on the ground that it seeks to embrace a larger body of people than what the original draft Bill sought to. In fact, if we are going to have a Banking Bill, let us have a good one; let us not allow any loopholes. I am not one of those who believe that in the matter of credit a considerable amount of freedom must be allowed. In a matter where public deposits are being handled by an institution, no amount of control which will at the same time not vitiate the scope of its operations, is wrong; and so if the Government could devise a definition which will embrace a large number of Banking concerns which are registered as joint stock companies within the scope of the Bill, I see no harm in it.

On the whole, I welcome clause 8, though it is a new one in that form. But in regard to clause 10, I am afraid there is a certain amount of ambiguity. The Government have to make up its mind as to what it wants to be done. In

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the Bill that has been introduced in regard to insurance, I think, the Government seeks to restrict the scope of persons acting as managers receiving commissions. What then is the policy of the Government going to be in regard to banking? As it is, this clause is rather vague. Either we want to have managing agents or we do not want to have them. Let the Government make up its mind straightaway that the Government will permit only such managing directors, as shall be paid a fixed salary. I do not mind if they are appointed for five years in the first instance and thereafter for further period of five years—it is quite reasonable. But the Government will have to make up its mind whether they are to be people who are paid a commission or are paid a salary. It would be much better in the interests of these institutions developing in the future on the right lines that the Government should take courage in its hands and says "Let these people be given a salary, however fantastically the sums so paid may be, rather than make them depend on commissions or on a *pro rata* share in the profits.

One point, however, on which I am afraid I am unable to agree with the text of the Bill is in regard to restrictions on commencement of business and the conditions for carrying on of business. I agree that branch banking must be controlled. I agree that the capital of a bank must be adequate and must bear some proportion, in a very rough way at any rate, to the quantum of transactions that pass through it. But then this question of relating its capital to particular areas on a population basis is a thing which does not appeal to me at all. It is a fact that this kind of classification and restriction is followed in some countries—notably in the United States and this practice existed in Italy and in Japan before the war. But it is not followed in any other country. I think the idea of relating the capital structure of a bank to the population of the area or town or city in which it operates looks to us at first sight as quite reasonable; but does it mean that a bank operates over the entire area of the town in which it is situated? It may be that if there is a bank operating in Delhi, it may operate in New Delhi: all its constituents may be just in Connaught Place or it may operate in Chandni Chowk; and to say that a bank which operates in Delhi should have so much of capital because it operates in such a large city does not look very reasonable as it very rarely operates over the whole area covered by the city. Whatever may have been the reasons which in the United States made them adopt such a system after a long process of trial and error, that does not seem to me to be any valid reason why we should adopt this rigid rule. I am particularly interested in this clause because joint stock banking has developed to some considerable extent in my own province, and there now exist institutions which are conducted reasonably efficiently and reasonably honestly; and to put these institutions in a strait-jacket, similar to what is contemplated in clause 11, is, I think, stifling the growth of institutions which have so far been doing a lot of good work, and is wholly unnecessary. The interests who will have to state their opinion on this particular clause will have to devise some other way of empowering the Central Government or its agent to regulate banking and perhaps by insisting upon a particular proportion of capital and reserves in relation to its total volume of business. But I find even in this clause a significant omission namely the realisation on the part of Government that branch banking has to be controlled. In fact, quite 50 per cent. of what this clause proposes to do could be done by direct licensing and control of branch banking. Much of the trouble in regard to joint stock banks has been that they have been expanding rather rapidly to the detriment of their soundness. There is also another aspect of this question which I think the Government had better take note of. I do not want the Government of India to allow banks to develop freely without any check, let or hindrance. There is no point in every bank going and starting branches now in one province and extending to other provinces and opening branches in all kinds of places whether or not those branches are going to do any good to the people of the locality or whether they

will be cutting into the activities of the existing institutions. If the Government seeks to regulate Banking, it should not set itself the very limited scope of what a police state would conceive it to be just for the protection of depositors: in fact I was rather glad that my Honourable friend who started first by saying that the object of the Bill was to protect the depositors, subsequently said that it was the intention to provide for regulation of banking in the interests of the economic betterment of the country or something to that effect. What I want the Government of India to do is to realise that this function of a police state is definitely secondary and that the more important function is to regulate banking in order to make this country economically stable, in order that banking might serve the country and aid in the task of its economic betterment. With that end in view, I would rather like that clause 11 redrafted or perhaps some other clause put in which gives the Government power to regulate branch banking by means of licences to be given by the Reserve Bank or the Government of India, whichever happens to be the institution that will exercise its discretion, to say to an applicant seeking permission to open a branch. 'Well, there are already lot of banks in such and such a place. We do not want undue competition. We do not want you to go and open a branch there'. Limit the activities of banks when actually they tend to enter the region of cut-throat competition. For one thing, I would like to see this rather arbitrary strait-jacket—of insisting on 5 lakhs capital for such and such a city, 2 lakhs for somewhere else and so on—altered suitably—to make it more flexible. Secondly, I should like that the regulation shall be done by means of using the discretion of whichever happens to be the machinery for carrying out the purpose of this Act, by restricting branch banking and by licensing it.

Sir, I welcome clause 17 not merely because it seeks to protect the British Indian investor and the British Indian depositor from the operation of banks floated in Indian States nearby, on which no vestige of control can be exercised by either the Provincial or the Central Government and which institutions seek to invite deposits by offering high rates of interest and subsequently put the people who deposit money with them in a quandary. I have undoubtedly in mind the debacle that happened in South India in 1938. At the same time, I take it that the licencing of banking companies incorporated outside British India will not merely cover the banks that are floated in Indian States but will cover all banks which are floated outside British India. If that is so, and if my interpretation is correct, I welcome it as being the first step in controlling the activities of all banks floated outside British India, including those foreign banks who carry on exchange operations in this country. In fact, Sir, I would like this particular clause to be split into two. Without really attempting to discriminate against any particular set of banks, the Government of India or its agents in this matter could be given the power to issue two sets of licences, one for those banks which are going to do ordinary joint stock banking and another for those banks which will be engaged on exchange business.

Sir, another clause about which I have a considerable amount of misgiving is clause 18. Clause 18, I see, is an improvement on the original proposals of 1939, which insisted that 30 per cent. of the assets of the bank should be maintained in cash or gold or in any approved securities. This has now been reduced to 25 per cent. In order to approve or disapprove of this condition, I have to take the House into some details of the operations of banks in this country. It is certainly true and it is also just that banks ought to keep a certain portion of their funds in a liquid state. The sole criterion in deciding upon the percentage is what amount would be needed in order that the bank might meet its immediate demands. It may be that most of the big banks in this country could keep or are keeping about 25 to 30 per cent. of their resources in a state of liquidity, either in cash or gold or Government securities but many others don't. One has to realise that, at any rate, in my province the function of smaller banks is largely to finance agricultural operations and the advances made are of a seasonal nature. Whether seasonal advances which are definitely short term, which will be returned within a very short

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period, are liquid or not is certainly a matter of interpretation but that liquidity would not come in within the scope of this particular section. What happens in my province is that for about 7 months of the year, or perhaps 8 months, the smaller banks have nearly 50 to 60 per cent. of their resources in cash or in approved securities. During the season when they have to make advances on grain and perhaps about 80 to 85 per cent. of their total resources are invested and the operation of this clause will compel these banks to limit that very useful function which they are doing now and I think it will react very adversely on the agricultural economy of the country. My Honourable friend might tell me that, if they advance money in the proper form, on bills which could be negotiated or rediscounted with the Reserve Bank or with some of the bigger scheduled banks or by some other means some portions of their assets could be maintained in a state of liquidity so as to satisfy this condition. Therefore why should we not stick to the terms imposed by this clause? The fact is that when the Reserve Bank Act was passed and section 17 was framed and section 17(2) was also included therein, which allowed the Reserve Bank certain scope in the matter of going to the aid of its member banks, it was then felt that the bill habit in this country will grow. It was also felt then that the opening of public warehouses should be encouraged. The idea was that receipts from public warehouses could be made a negotiable security the bills covering which could be rediscounted with the Reserve Bank of India. That was what the Banking Inquiry Committee also had envisaged but today we find that all those ideal conditions have not come into being. The need which has to be filled is still there and if really the country had proceeded on the lines that the framers of the Reserve Bank Act had in mind it would have all been to the good. But that not being the case today and in view of the fact that smaller banks in my province are doing that very useful function of advancing money against seasonal agricultural operations, I think, Sir, the scope of section 18 in this Bill needs revision. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to a book, of which a copy I believe is in the library—'Commercial Banking Legislation' by Allen and several others, which while relating the experience of U. S. A. in the matter of fixing the percentage of liquid assets say:

"After various types of restrictions fixing a definite percentage against time deposits and a definite percentage against demand deposits and so on, they ultimately (I mean the Committee appointed for the purpose by the Federal Reserve Board in 1932) thought the total maximum of 15 per cent. of the gross deposits would be adequate."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is the book the Honourable Member is reading?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: It is "Commercial Banking Legislation and Control by Mr. Allen and several others", a copy of which I believe is in the Library.

While, I concede, that it might be rather an undue extension from 30 to 15 per cent. or further smaller from 25 to 15 per cent. this is a matter 3 P.M. to which the attention of the interests concerned should be focussed. And if the Government of India or its advisers feel that they cannot reasonably enlarge the scope of this particular clause, there must be some complementary legislation enlarging the scope of section 17 (2) of the Reserve Bank Act which will enable the smaller banks in my province to avoid suffering unduly because of the restrictions imposed by clause 18.

In regard to the question of controls, I must say that I am disappointed with this Bill. I think the genesis of this disinclination to exercise control where it was necessary and to refrain from exercising that measure of control which is all to the good arises from the report submitted by the late Sir James Taylor in 1939 as a preface to his draft Bill. In paragraph 37 he has discussed the possibility of the appointment of an officer analogous to the post now held

by the Superintendent of Insurance. He has also discussed therein the possibility of the Reserve Bank being clothed with powers of inspection more rigid than those contemplated in this Bill. He says:

"At the same time, as we have said, we are doubtful whether such an appointment will be necessary or desirable at the present stage. Our object is to make a practical beginning on lines which will be as safe and automatic as possible and will not give much scope for evasion. Later on as banking develops such a department may become necessary."

War and other things that have happened in this country have made the necessity for Government control which would have been necessary after a period of 25 years of peace time, necessary after a period of 4 years. I would like to tell the Honourable the Finance Member that the situation which Sir James Taylor visualised might arise has already come and there is no need for us to be faced or for the successor of this Legislature to be faced with the task of further amending Bill later on. Let us have a comprehensive suggestion or proposal for control; let us have a Department established under the Reserve Bank for this purpose so that there should not be a question of division of functions between the Reserve Bank and the Central Government, the Central Government authorising the Reserve Bank to do one thing and the Reserve Bank doing something else by itself, and yet both of them not doing something which is very necessary. Let us straightaway act on the experience that this Government has gained in the Insurance field and put into operation a measure of control in the field of banking where it is far more necessary not only in the interests of the depositors but also in the interests of future economic position of this country.

Sir, I would like the Honourable Member, when he brings back the Bill to us, perhaps to refer it to a Select Committee to place concrete proposals before us about the establishment of a special branch of the Reserve Bank, which will be alive, not act merely as a policeman but which will keep in touch with the pulse of the money-market in this country, which will come to the aid of such institutions as and when they deserve help and which will try to lighten the rigours of the law enacted where it is very necessary in the best interests of the country. Such agency as is appointed should exercise rigid supervision and I do not think it is worth while giving any discretion in this matter, because once discretion is given either to the Central Government or to the Reserve Bank or to any other agency the position will be that where the Central Bank or the Reserve Bank exercise its discretion, it will mean in the eyes of the public that the bank concerned is not in a solvent state. Inspection and control must be automatic and perennial and no difference should be made in this matter between the one bank and the other. It is only then that rumours won't be started that the Inspector of the Reserve Bank has come down to inspect the accounts of a particular bank because the Central Government has authorised him to do so and there was something wrong with the affairs of the bank concerned. The very idea of empowering either the Government or the Reserve Bank with discretion in this matter is dangerous in the interests of the stability and well-being of banks. There must be one uniform method of inspection and, however rigid it may be, I do not think it is likely to affect materially the working of a bank. A few more returns might probably require a few more clerks, and I wish it were possible under this Bill to impress on banks the need to pay its clerks well.

Sir, I come now practically to the end of what I have to say. I shall only draw the attention of my Honourable friend to one aspect of this Bill to which greater attention should be given. Section 39 envisages an amendment of the Reserve Bank Act. It envisages the amendment of section 17 and the addition of sub-section 15(a) thereto, which will lay an obligation on the Reserve Bank to see that the Banking Companies Act is properly worked. As somebody mentioned before me—perhaps it was Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar or you yourself, Sir, when you were speaking, if you impose obligations on banks, as such by this Bill you must give them some concessions. I do not mean to indicate a concession that is to be granted in any *ex-gratia* spirit but that

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a definite obligation must rest on the Reserve Bank to go to the help of joint stock banks in time of need. In 1938 I was in close touch with the banks in my province which were undergoing severe strain merely because one of the banks had crashed. The late Sir James Taylor was in Madras and we met him several times. We had several discussions with him on how best the Reserve Bank could help. Notwithstanding the fact that he and his advisers wanted to help the banks which needed help, they were not in a position to do so because of the rigidity of the provisions of section 17(2), the framers of which envisaged an ideal condition which has not yet come into being in this country. The bill habit is not there and therefore little advantage could be taken of the provisions of section 17(2). All that the Reserve Bank could do was to ask the commercial banks to go to the Imperial Bank and ask for their aid. How could they go to the Imperial Bank and ask for an advance on the securities that they held or on the bills that they held because, if once they divulged their secrets to the Imperial Bank, which happens to be a very serious competitor of theirs, their business would be lost. And, in fact, what happened in the sequel was that such banks as had to go to the Imperial Bank did lose some of their business ultimately.

Sir, if my Honourable friend could envisage an amendment of section 17 for one purpose, I want him at the same time to liberalise the wording of section 17(2) which will help the Reserve Bank to go to the assistance of its member banks in times of need.

Lastly, I would like to urge a word of caution. We in South India are proud of having made a certain amount of progress in the matter of Joint Stock Banking especially in the field of the smaller banks which are now performing a very useful function. By virtue of the situation in which they are placed the management of the smaller bank know their locality very well and their people as well, so as to be able to exercise a certain amount of judgment in the matter of helping these people who needed the help. They are, in times of scarcity of money, not in times of inflation such as the present, performing a very useful function in increasing the velocity of the currency. Anything that is done to the detriment of those institutions, I shall protest against vehemently. If in order to have a symmetrical Bill which looks compact and beautiful, which has no loopholes, where no caution need be exercised by the supervising authority, you produce an Act which will tilt these banks or for that matter even stifle them, I shall protest against the measure. After all, if my Honourable friend wants to place on the Statute book an Act which would help—I would say again—the economic progress of this country, let alone the police duties of the State, then the small banks will form, for a very long time to come, an integral portion of that particular economy which you seek to foster. I see with apprehension the growth of the big banks, which taking advantage of the present cheap money conditions, want to exploit the country for the benefit of the promoters. Big businessmen have tried to float big institutions. If they could, in course of time, displace foreign institutions like the Imperial Bank of India, well and good. But if they are going to follow the same policy as of all big institutions all over the world and stifle the smaller institutions, then I must ask the Government to take steps to protect these smaller institutions which are very necessary for the economy of the country at any rate until such time as you or your successors, whether now or fifty years hence, will take charge on behalf of the state of the entire credit mechanism of the whole country, if that condition should ever come into being.

In the meantime, I suggest that the Government of India should ask the Reserve Bank not merely to send a copy of this Bill to every banking institution, but also to send an important officer of the bank round to the places where these banks function and ask him to listen to the difficulties that these banks might feel in regard to the proposed provisions, to the suggestions regarding suitable amendments to the Act to remove those difficulties and the

form of aid which these banks expect from the Government or its agents, so that some of these suggestions if they are found reasonable might be incorporated in the provisions of the Bill before it becomes law. I hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member will be in a position to give me that assurance.

Finally let me congratulate him on having brought forward this measure and I should like to ask him to tell us when he proposes to ask this House to take the Bill into consideration or ask the House to refer it to the Select Committee. The motion as it stands now does not indicate what will be the last date by which opinions will be received.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): I have got only a few remarks to offer. Safeguards have been provided in clause 10 of the Bill against disproportionate remuneration, commission or share of profits of the banking company. But all these safeguards are relaxed by the second proviso to this clause. In the first instance, the period of managing agency is fixed for five years at a time. By the second proviso it is laid down that the contract for managing agency may be renewed or extended for a further period not exceeding five years at a time, if and so often as the directors think fit. So, virtually there is no time limit up to which the term can be extended, five years at a time. The directors can extend the term for as many five year periods as they think fit. I think some limit should be placed. I suggest that in the first term, it may be five years, the second term should be only three years in the interest of the depositors and other persons interested in the bank. There may not be more than one extension, i.e., eight years should be maximum period of the managing agency.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I welcome the Banking Bill that has been placed before the House. I also remember when I served on the Select Committee of the Indian Companies Act, how even such a resourceful Law Member as Sir Nripendra Sircar found it rather difficult to bring in a proper definition of banking which would not injure or affect one or the other of the prevailing customs or interests in banking in this country. That after eight years, since that happened, the Honourable the Finance Member has brought forward this Bill is no doubt a matter for congratulation. As has been very pertinently observed by my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, the provisions of this Bill are in the nature of mere policing administration rather than real effectuation of the objective, namely the successful financing of commerce and trade in the country. I do not think any banking legislation would be satisfactory, if merely you impose certain conditions either with regard to its paid up capital or preparation of balance sheets or employment of managing agents or even having in possession of fluid capital a certain percentage to meet urgent requirements. What the country requires is full credit facilities for the speedy exchange of commodities, for being able to store agricultural or industrial products up to a point when it would be best to dispose of them in the markets and to see that no easy exchange of trade transactions is impeded by heavy rates of interest. I put it to the Honourable the Finance Member whether any of these conditions are satisfied or at any rate taken up for satisfaction or for meeting them in this Bill, I am afraid, not.

There are four important essential requirements of this country in the matter of banking. Industrial transactions, agricultural transactions, small borrowings and commercial transactions. Most of the banks which are in existence now, are engaged purely in commercial transactions. In fact, other kinds of transactions are viewed with a good deal of doubt and suspicion. In fact, true, some banks do lend monies upon agricultural products when they are stored in the bank's godowns. These are indeed very few and even these the banks feel that their monies are practically locked up in transactions of that nature. If today you have to be satisfied only with this legislation I do not think you are doing any service to the country and to the conditions of

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cheap credit in respect of any of these transactions. I do not know what prevented the Honourable the Finance Member from taking this opportunity to liberalise the provisions and even to enlarge the scope of this legislation in order that there may be four categories of banks; one, for industrial products and undertakings, second, for agricultural commodities, third, for commercial transactions, and fourth, for small borrowings. It is in respect of these small borrowers that the little joint stock banks, of which we have rather quite a considerable number in our presidency, serve them indeed very usefully. The provisions of your Bill practically discourage such banks from functioning. I think the lacuna in these matters must be attended to; otherwise a mere police Act like this, as in the case of the insurance companies, would not be of much use. In fact the definition of the word 'bank' which excluded transactions of small or private investors with business concerns gave them a great disadvantage. That disadvantage was overcome by inclusion of the phrase "by cheque" in the previous definition which was under discussion. That is now removed in this definition which practically, therefore, excludes private investors from putting their money in any commercial or industrial concerns and demanding payment at the proper time. This will undoubtedly affect many commercial concerns, not to speak of many industrial concerns as well. I realise, Sir, that at the present stage it is more the lawyers who have to look into the actual wordings of these clauses than business men; but I make these suggestions in order to know what difficulties there are for Government to enlarge the scope of the Bill so as to include provisions which would make credit easily obtainable on no doubt good security.

Then with regard to these police or punitive provisions I am afraid the experience of recent banking crises has not made the Finance Member bring the law in common with the States, in regard to liquidation or payment of dividends of these banking concerns when an unfortunate liquidation has to take place. The Honourable Finance Member pretty well knows that with regard to a particular bank, the crash of which was very unfortunate and affected constituents all over the country, the matter of division of the amounts available became a controversial point between the courts in British India and the courts of the Indian States. I do not see any provision in this Bill which would obviate that kind of difficulty.

I wish to make or hazard one more suggestion. I consider that insurance and banking are the two things that can be nationalised or socialised at the earliest possible moment. It may look rather a wild suggestion at present but I think we must explore the possibilities of such a thing as that. After all it is upon Government credit that all the banking institutions ply their trade; and I do not see why the State cannot run a nationalised credit system all over the country. But it is no doubt a fantastic hope when the Government of India, even after constituting the Reserve Bank, should still be paying to the tune of 56 lakhs of rupees a year to a private concern as agency commission. To a Government of that sort it is no doubt a fantastic suggestion that I make. Still I content myself with making it in the hope that in time to come it may mature.

Sir, I support the motion for circulation of this Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I rise to support the motion for circulation and I am glad that the Finance Member has thought it necessary at this stage to bring in a Bill which was rather overdue. We find that the banking institutions are now rapidly growing in India and people are becoming bank-minded and looking to this side of business with more confidence. I do not propose to deal with the clauses in detail because after circulation we will know the feelings of the people and the views of financiers and their reactions to the different clauses. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has made certain comments on which I will touch briefly because I do not agree with all that he said. Before I say anything on that, I find a significant omission of any

clause which would encourage the growth of indigenous banking in this country and, in particular, the support that this Government would themselves offer or give through the Reserve Bank. I could not get any book in the Library as regards the efforts of the Australian Government when they gave pecuniary help through subsidies towards the growth of banking institutions in that country although I know that the Australians did give special treatment to banking and insurance organisations. It is also the duty of Government to give an impetus to that particular branch which would benefit this country in developing trade and industry.

I will now deal with one or two clauses and I will first take up clause 10. I certainly welcome that they should do away with the idea of managing agents for banking corporations and banking institutions. I suggest that those **banking institutions which have got agreements** of managing agencies at present should terminate the agreements within a reasonable period say, of two years on commencement of this Act. My personal view is that all these banking institutions should be managed and their policy governed by a board of directors and nobody else. Certainly the directors should be those who have the highest number of shares and largest interest in that particular banking institution. The duration of term should also be settled; it should be laid down whether it should be 3, 4 or 5 years. It is immaterial at the moment what period is suggested.

With regard to clause 11, I do not appreciate the value, like my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who agrees with me on this. What is the idea of requiring certain banking institutions to provide a certain amount of capital for their branches in relation to the population of the areas in which they will operate? In this country, it may be that a bank in a certain area with a population of one lakh may have twenty times more business activity than a branch office in another area with the same population. Probably the Honourable the Finance Member will agree with me when I say that the financial position of different areas in this country—as probably in other countries as well—differs so much that it will be inadvisable to put those institutions in a strait-jacket, as my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has said. I think that this particular clause requires a very careful alteration. It is also a matter of opinion as to whether any such clause is at all necessary under the conditions that prevail in this country.

Now, I come to clause 14, which says:—

“Every banking company not being a scheduled bank shall maintain by way of cash reserve in cash a sum equivalent to at least one and half per cent. of its time liabilities and five per cent. of its demand liabilities and shall file with the Reserve Bank before the tenth day of every month. . . .”

I could not understand what exactly is the purpose behind this provision unless it be, as the last speaker has said, that it is meant to stifle the small indigenous banking institutions which exist today. I have no desire to make any comments for or against, but at the same time I certainly support the view that no attempt should be made to stifle the reasonably good banking institutions. Of course a certain capital may be compulsory but at the same time in the case of those smaller institutions which have a good record of business and against whom nothing can be said, restrictions should not be placed and they should not be stifled. As my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has said, these small institutions are very helpful to small people—agriculturists especially—for short term advances.

Then, Sir, I wholeheartedly support clause 17, but at the same time I would suggest that there should be a clause providing that those countries which would not allow Indian banking institutions to operate in their country should not be permitted to have their banking institutions in this country. We know that institutions like Mitsui Bhuson Kaisa were carrying on big banking business in this country—exchange business and so on—but at the same time Japan did not permit an Indian bank to operate in Japan or even to have a branch agency for the matter of that. Therefore, I say, Sir, that a

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clause should be incorporated in the Bill which would restrict opening of banking institutions in India to British Indian subject, States and the dominions and such other countries which would give us reciprocal facilities to have Indian exchange banks in their countries if Indians so desired. I am not here to enumerate the difficulties which our businessmen had to face when they wanted to establish any such institution in foreign countries,—I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member knows fully well of these things and I urge that at this stage, when we are enacting a Banking Bill, it would be proper to make a statutory provision that only such countries should be permitted to operate their banking institutions in India which in their turn would permit Indians to have banking institutions in their countries.

I do not propose to discuss things like accounts and balance sheets, but I would just touch upon one point which was brought forward by Mr. Krishnamachari—namely agency of the Reserve Bank to Imperial Bank of India. At present the Imperial Bank are sole agents of the Reserve Bank out of which they receive fifty-six lakhs rupees per year. As soon as the present agreement is finished, I think that an opportunity should be given to other banking institutions also to become the agents of the Reserve Bank; the Imperial Bank should not hold a monopoly as it has been the practice so far. There are many Indian banks of good standing and I am sure the Reserve Bank can safely rely on those without running any risk. I cannot understand why the Reserve Bank should choose the Imperial Bank alone to be their agents and no others. Perhaps it was all right in the earlier stages, but now, as I have said, when Indian banking institutions with sufficient resources and big capitals have come into existence, it is time that a share should be given to Indian banks on more liberal lines in the same manner as it has been given to the Imperial Bank of India. This can be done by putting a clause in the Bill. That is the only comment which I can make at this stage of the Bill. It will be rather too much for anybody to try and discuss all the clauses because we do not actually know how this Bill is to be received in the country and what opinions we are going to receive.

With these few words, Sir, I support the circulation of the Bill.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the motion for circulation of this very important Bill. There are, as everyone in this House is aware, very good reasons why this Bill should have been introduced at a time like this. During the last 20 years and especially during the last four or five years, there has been a very large increase in the habit of deposit banking and in branch banking throughout India, and, as various Members have explained, there have been serious cases of banking failures, and obviously these have brought a spotlight to bear on the whole system. It is clearly of the first importance that there should be sound banking in any country that hopes to develop its industrial and trading system, as we hope India is going to develop her trade and industry during the next few decades. But to make sound banking you need two things. First of all, sound law—commercial law generally and banking law in particular: secondly you need good bankers.

Well, Sir, good or otherwise as it may be banking law obviously is not in itself going to make good bankers, but it may, and we hope that it will, go some way to ensure good banking if good banking law is established in this country.

There is just one point of detail to which I should like to refer and that is in clause 20. As I understand clause 20, it is proposed that every banking company should make a certain class of return to the Reserve Bank. I presume that what Government have in mind is that the return to be made should be somewhat on the lines now in force in the United Kingdom, where banks such as Lloyds Bank make a monthly return, which they also incidentally display in all their branches and at their head office. The point of my enquiry is this. Is it the intention of Government that the return to be made monthly

should also be displayed at the head office and at the branches of the banks, because there is no doubt whatever that one of the prime causes for the success of sound banking in the United Kingdom has been this very factor of good publicity. By that I do not mean the kind of advertisements we see everyday in the papers here where banks advertise their huge capital and their enormous—as they call it—Working Capital in the case of a bank whose inherent position we know to be unsound. By good publicity I mean just this: that the depositors and all who deal with the banks should know where they stand. One of the main recommendations of the MacMillan Committee which reported in 1931 was that every banking company should make a monthly return such as is presumably contemplated here and that the return should be adequately displayed at their head office and at all their branch offices. That would then enable the public to know where exactly they stood. They would know where the assets of the banks were; what its liabilities were, and really they would be able to tell at a glance the degree of liquidity of its resources. That, Sir, to my mind is a very important feature if you are going to have set up a sound banking system and I should like to hear what the Honourable the Finance Member has to say on that in his reply.

With regard to the other clauses of the Bill, I do not propose to comment at this stage. They are mostly technical and I am afraid I have not had the time to study them all. But no doubt we shall all have ample time to do that at a later stage when the Bill is referred to Select Committee.

Sir, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am sorry to find that this Government does not try to grow wiser from day to day. On the other hand it grows more and more stupid and for this reason . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): You would make excellent company with the Leader of the House!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I would certainly be excellent company with the Leader of the House. Bihar and Andhra are both emotional and therefore they would be a match for each other!

The other day I told the Commerce Member of the need for the Government to go into the question of the advisability of nationalising such big industries as insurance and banking and in spite of it my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, comes here to day quietly introducing this Bill and making his speech, without adding even a word as to what Government is going to do in regard to the future of this great business of banking. This Government has been talking quite a lot about its planning department and post-war reconstruction. The cat is out of the bag today. Here are two big businesses in this country and in regard to them Government comes here and remains mum as to their plan and policy for the future. It becomes clear that this Government's idea of post-war planning is either not honest or is purely bogus. If the Government say that they are not aware of the views as well as the intentions of the public in this country, then I can only charge it of culpable ignorance, because again and again the National Planning Committee had made it clear at its successive sessions that it was in favour of socialising these two great industries. The Indian National Congress also has reiterated through its Karachi Charter of Fundamental Rights and through its election manifesto which was published to the masses from one end to the other of the country that it is in favour of the socialisation of these great big businesses. Government cannot also plead that this is not a business proposition. I made it clear the other day that my idea of socialising insurance is a really sound business proposition and today my Honourable friend, one of the most experienced businessmen in this country, Mr. S. Vencatachalam Chetty himself comes forward and hazards a suggestion to the Finance Member that this big business of banking ought also to be socialised. But what are the plans of the Government? Yes, I could understand my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque when he said that surely it is not this Government's business to make plans and propose socialisation of such industries. But I cannot agree with him. It

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is still possible for this Government to prepare plans for the socialisation of these industries. The decision may be left to the future Governments whether their plans are to be accepted or not. But plans there must be and if they do not want to plan at all, let them scrap this new Department of Planning and let them send my Honourable friend, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, to his more remunerative and useful job. Instead of that they want to play with the imagination, the feelings and ideals of the people of this country by saying they are having a plan and bringing a very busy businessman and asking him to waste his time there and deceiving the public with the impression that the Government is busy doing something very big and very useful. I protest against this sort of game, if not a sham. Sir, banking is a much more important business than insurance. It is true that insurance yields large incomes every year which can be made available for investment. But banking is much more. It is the one business which caters to the needs of the commercially minded people and industrially minded people and agriculturists in the country.

But my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, comes and says that sound banking can be ensured only in two ways, one by sound law and the other by good banking. What he meant by sound banking can be understood from what my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, has said this morning. It is to look after the deposits of the depositors. Is that all? Is not the more important function of banking to look to the development of industry and commerce of the country? Sir, my Honourable friend seems to be still labouring under the impression that he has formed when long, long ago, he was in his University, when *laissez-faire* was the governing theory of the West. Deposit banking was the general governing policy of British banking but British banking practice has changed in the last fourteen years, that is ever since the last economic depression. In England those orthodox bankers have come to heed the advice of people like McKenna and others and they have come to realise that their function is also to try to finance and promote British industry as well as British commerce. My Honourable friend comes here and says "There is great danger, grave danger, in Indian banks indulging in trade or interesting themselves in trading." Why does he not then point out what is happening and what is being done in England? There in recent years they have begun to form a number of corporations with hundreds of millions of pounds as their capital that has been supplied by these banks themselves, whose interest is to safeguard the interests of British exporters over the vicissitudes or fluctuations of exchange. It is called Exchange Equalisation Fund and so on.

Then there is the question of industrial development of England. The English manufacturers themselves have come to be thoroughly dissatisfied with the old orthodox policy of their banks and banking. Therefore they have formed what is known as the Federation of British Industries. They have begun to agitate and with so much success that today the British Government as well as the Bank of England have come forward to encourage the 8 or 9 principal banks of England to come into the industrial field, to come into the commercial field and offer long term credits for these commercial and industrial concerns. That is what is happening in England.

But my Honourable friend, who has come from England is trying to forget or to ignore what is happening in England and wants us to go to the England of 1910 or 1900 and restrict ourselves to the simple deposit banking. He would be satisfied I suppose with a sort of police government. We have had so much of policing in every other field in this country that naturally he wants the same kind of police government in this matter also. But I am afraid this policing is going to work just as disastrously in this as it has worked in other fields. He is going to prevent the emergence of an ever-increasing number of small banks in various rural and semi-rural areas in this country by stipulating that greater funds must be held by these banks and that a greater proportion of their deposits must be placed as security with the Reserve Bank of India and

so on. The crying need of this country is for more and more banks, for more and more banking facilities. For a very long time it was the Imperial Bank of India which held the field and which thwarted the growth and development of our industries and commerce. After great trouble the public were able to force the Government of India to realise the necessity of helping of some other banks also. And now the Imperial Bank has been pledged to open some rural branches also and some Indian banks have come in. Mr. Chapman-Mortimer is rather unhappy because during recent years very many more banks have come into existence and he is afraid that there must be something wrong in the State of Denmark. What is wrong with these banks? What are the facts at his disposal and at the disposal of the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill which justify his proposal that the smaller banks shall be kept down by all these onerous conditions that he is stipulating? He has not provided us with any statistics. Supposing there is something wrong with these smaller banks what is he to do? Should he not come forward with his own offer of assistance to these banks?

There was a proposal made by the Industrial Commission, appointed during the last war, also as a sort of sop to the nationalists of those days, to the effect that there must be industrial banking in this country and that the State should come forward to encourage Provincial Governments to form Provincial Investment Boards in the various Provinces and place certain funds at the disposal of these boards and also encourage the various banks to place some of their funds at the disposal of the investment boards. And they expected these investment boards to offer credit to the various industrial concerns on condition that those industrial concerns would accept two or three directors nominated by this Industrial Board. What have the Government of India done in regard to this recommendation? Why is it that the Government of India have not done anything to develop industrial banking in this country? Is it because industrial banking was very well developed in Germany and the present Government is so much opposed to Germany? Long before 1940, when this Government was flirting with Nazism and Fascism, it was open to the Government to have come forward with the necessary legislation in order to develop industrial banking in this country. Is it not a fact that our industries are crying for more and more capital? Is it not a fact that their needs have not been properly attended to by the Imperial Bank or other banks that have been there in this country? What have the Government done? What do the Government propose to do even now? It does not want to do anything except this. Even these banks which are trying to lend some money to some of these industries on a long term basis should be controlled: they must be kept down, otherwise industries may spring up anywhere and everywhere with plenty of funds at their disposal.

The time at which this Bill is being introduced is very significant. This is just the time when the Government is trying to prevent the development of more and more industrial concerns as well as joint stock companies in this country. There was a time when economists used to cry aloud that Indians would not take to industry, Indians would not take to business, Indians would not deposit their money in these banks and other concerns. But now the Government comes forward and says "Banks and industrial concerns are coming up like mushrooms, and everywhere joint stock companies are being floated. Therefore we come down with our heavy hand and prevent the floating of these new companies and also prevent the flourishing and the prosperity of these banks". If that is the game of the Government I am here to tell them that this country anyhow will not have anything to do with that sort of game.

Why is it that the Government is so much opposed to the idea of developing commercial banking? They say that they can have deposits, they can lend money on the *hundies* and securities, they can under-write a number of companies, they can also help some of these industrial concerns but they should not do business. Does not the Imperial Bank of India lend huge sums to companies like Volkart Bros., Gordon Woodroffe & Co., and so many other

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

companies managed and controlled by Europeans, huge sums not covered by the assets of these companies nor the deposits held by them in the Imperial Bank. There were many occasions when this Government itself used to come to the rescue of the Imperial Bank of India. When that was the case, why is it today the Government has suddenly grown wiser just when Indian banks have begun to take interest in Indian trade, business and industries?

Sir, it is the responsibility of the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman to dispel these doubts. It is quite possible that many of these doubts are not well-founded. How can we be sure, when we know that this Government

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has not been interested at all in the development of the industry and commerce of this country? Even in England, experienced bankers and financiers have come to the conclusion that English banking practices have to be changed and English banks should be encouraged and even prodded to take more and more interest in industry. Therefore, they want them to pursue the policy of the industrial banks. Will the Government be prepared to consider this view of the British financiers? These are some of the questions which I pose here to the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman in the hope that he may try, at this late hour even, to address himself to these questions and the problems that underlie these questions and try to give an idea or an inkling of the mind of this Government. Sir, I support this motion for circulation in the hope that on these points also in the light of what the Honourable Member is going to say, the public may have an opportunity of expressing their views and making itself felt on this wooden Government.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, until the last speaker addressed the House, I thought that I should be able to express my gratification that every speaker had not only supported the motion but also as far as I could see had supported the principle of the Bill. As regards the Honourable Member who spoke last, I experienced the same difficulty as he did himself in determining whether he was supporting or opposing the principle of the Bill.

A number of observations have been made both of a general character and on particular clauses. I do not intend to traverse those observations. I would rather take time to study them before this Bill comes to the House again. The general feeling was that the Bill contained many desirable features, but there were Honourable Members who thought that in some respects it did not go far enough and in others it went too far. I am not surprised at that. Any measure which attempts to safeguard the interests of the general public and at the same time to encourage the growth of sound institutions is bound to have a restrictive aspect, and if you are to look at it from the point of view of preserving the maximum freedom to the individual who may wish to embark on this form of activity, then clearly you will find reasons to criticise the measure. My Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, for instance, seemed to me to be trying to make the best of two worlds, which were by no means identical. On the one hand he said a good deal which was in favour of the Bill and of the provisions of the Bill, and he expressed his strong inclination to support more drastic measures of control. I was very glad to hear that he was so confident about the way to tackle this problem; but he finished up before he sat down by saying that anything which militated in any degree against certain small banks which existed in the part of the world in which he is most interested would have his uncompromising opposition or at any rate that he would protest strenuously against it. I find myself in the familiar position of having to make an omelette without breaking any eggs whatever

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am unable really to understand how that is a position which cannot be got over. I think we can have controls and at the same time allow a certain amount of flexibility in the restrictions that you impose. I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member; but if the Honourable Member would like me to say how, I shall gladly tell him.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Theoretically it is always possible to say that what is wanted is control, more drastic control, more complete

control, and also to say that it should be accompanied by infinite flexibility so that nothing is really done to anybody who is controlled. But in practice, unfortunately, when it comes to legislation and you have to put those ideas into rather clumsy words, when it comes to legislation, you have to make up your mind whether you are really going to do, not merely say, something—you have got to make up your mind whether you actually intend something new being done and how much freedom you will allow to the smaller banks to follow practices which may be detrimental to the interests of the depositors and to the growth of sound banking principles. But I do not wish at this stage to commit myself in any way about either this or any other of the points raised. I was merely indicating the general difficulty which is bound to face an attempt to draft a banking measure for the regulation of banking.

There are obviously the two interests—there are the interests of the depositors, and on the other hand there are the interests of the bankers and there are the interests of those who borrow from the banks rather than lend to or deposit with the banks. I was not surprised that my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, took a refreshing line on this measure and harked back to some very fundamental first principles—but I ask him in all seriousness whether he expected me at this time to bring forward a measure for the complete nationalisation of banks in India

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No: to tell us whether you are planning at all for the future.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not even prepared to take this occasion to do that. I understood that in matters as fundamental as that the attitude of my Honourable friend and of his party was that this Government should do nothing of the kind—that it certainly should not breach the integrity of any of the fundamental principles by undertaking plans which would tie the hands of any successive Government

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then abolish the planning department!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There are certain things which can be usefully done by the present Government by way of planning; but I do not think that a plan for the complete socialisation of insurance and banking would be regarded as one of those innocuous preliminary steps which any succeeding Government would be quite happy to inherit

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They won't make any change once you do it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I personally am concerned, that might seem quite an attractive proposition; but at the moment we are talking about the attitude of Government and what is possible in relation to the present situation. It will be quite open to my Honourable friend at some later stage to introduce a measure far more sweeping than this and I shall wish him good luck when he does so but my own object at the moment is much more limited. As I freely admitted in my speech, I did not intend to be too ambitious. My object was to deal with some of the more clamant needs of the immediate situation and to attempt to secure a measure which will safeguard the depositor against certain grave perils and which will safeguard Indian banking against certain unsoundnesses which undoubtedly are liable to develop. I think we shall find when we next come to consider this measure that even a Bill as modest as this one, has evoked a very considerable diversity of opinions and I will not attempt to anticipate that.

In regard to queries as to the time by which the opinions would be elicited, the intention of the Government is, if possible, to move for the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee in the course of the next session and I hope that by that time we shall have the opinions of the general public before the House.

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

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* CONSTITUTION OF THE PERMANENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations."

The brief and businesslike document which the House is going to discuss today—the Constitution of the proposed Food and Agriculture Organization—has a history and I believe Honourable Members will wish to be reminded of the course of events which led to its being drafted, as it cannot properly be considered apart from its background. On the 18th May last year, 1945, on the invitation of the Government of the United States of America, delegations from 44 Governments met in plenary session at Hot Springs, Virginia, for the opening of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture.

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

It was, I believe, the first conference attended by delegations from all the United Nations and its task was to consider food and agriculture as world problems with a view to ensuring that, when peace is restored, the goal of freedom from want, more especially from want of food suitable and adequate for the health of all the peoples of the world, can be pursued and in time achieved. I should like to emphasize, Sir, that the problem before the Conference was not the organisation of war-time relief or immediately post-war relief. That is the function of another organisation altogether. Its function was to devise steps for a concerted effort, on a permanent basis, for a national and an international attack on hunger and malnutrition.

The Conference was intended to be exploratory and the invitation indicated that representation should be by a small number of technical and expert representatives. From India, we sent the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Sir Pheroze Kharegat, and the Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories of the Indian Research Fund Association, Dr. Aykroyd. In America, they were joined by the Agent General for India, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, who is no stranger to this House, and who was invited to lead the Government of India delegation, and by the Indian Trade Commissioner in America, Mr. H. S. Malik. It so happened that Sir David Meek, the Indian Trade Commissioner in London, was in the United States on other Government business at the time and the opportunity was taken to secure his services also for the Indian delegation, which thus consisted of five persons,—none too many, as it proved, for service on the various committees into which the Conference at once resolved itself. I think all our delegates were on more than one committee and the Leader of our delegation was Vice-Chairman of one of the four main sections into which the Conference divided itself—Section II, which dealt with the expansion of production and adaptation to consumption needs. He was also a member of the small but important "Steering Committee" of 11 Leaders of delegation, which was set up by the Executive Committee of the Conference. Dr. Aykroyd was the "rapporteur" of Section I of the Conference—on Consumption levels and requirements.

The Conference lasted from the 18th May to the 3rd June when in a last plenary session it unanimously adopted what has been termed the Final Act of the Conference—a document embodying in the form of a declaration and a series of recommendations the conclusions at which the Conference had arrived,—I would repeat, with unanimity. As I have said, the Conference was exploratory; there is nothing binding in its conclusions: but the unanimous conclusions of a Conference, attended by the representatives of 44 Governments, on a matter vitally affecting the future of the human race are not lightly to be disregarded.

I will not stop to examine in detail the recommendations made in this Final Act. I hope Honourable Members have had time to read them. They form the third section of the pamphlet that has been circulated. In effect, they cover

the whole field of Food and Agricultural policy. Improvement of nutrition and of standards of living are put in the forefront and it is recognised that these can be achieved only by well co-ordinated measures, covering such matters as land improvement, agricultural credit, co-operative movements of various kinds, revision of land tenures, improved arrangements for marketing. An economy of abundance is accepted as the aim and a world-wide industrial and agricultural expansion—with special attention to backward areas—as the means. Success, they felt, could only be achieved as a result of organised international collaboration. To educate, to advise and to persuade, with these ends in view, a permanent international organisation was essential. These are the main recommendations, as I see them, of the Final Act. Sir, as I said, they are not in themselves binding on any one but they form the basis and the background of the constitution which it is our duty to examine today. I would only refer in detail to the first recommendation of the Conference, as it explains the next step that was taken. On page 44 of the pamphlet, the second Resolution recommends:

"First, that the Governments and authorities here represented recognise and embody in a formal declaration or agreement the obligation to their respective peoples and to one another henceforth to collaborate in raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of their peoples and to report to one another on the progress achieved;

Secondly, that the Governments and authorities here represented establish a permanent Organisation in the field of food and agriculture."

That was their recommendation.

Now, for the drafting of this formal declaration and for devising a scheme for a permanent organisation, the Conference resolved to continue itself in the form of an Interim Commission composed of one representative of each of the Governments represented at the Conference. They were to meet and take up their work not later than within six weeks, the 15th July, in Washington. Accordingly the Interim Commission met for the first time in the middle of July 1943. The Government of India's representative was the Agent-General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, and it is, I think, a tribute to the part our Delegation had played at the Conference and to the position he himself has won at Washington that he was chosen to be Chairman of one of the four Committees in which the Interim Commission decided to work. The particular interest of that selection to us here today is that it was on this particular Committee—Committee B—of the Interim Commission that the task was laid of drafting a constitution for the permanent organisation. Assisted by two panels of experts—one scientific and the other economic,—Committee B duly produced the draft Constitution which, after close scrutiny and long deliberations, the Interim Commission has unanimously adopted in the form in which we now have it. It is recommended to us by 45 Governments of the United Nations for acceptance and, again I would repeat, it has the sanction of unanimous recommendation.

I come now to the document itself which is printed on page 25 of the pamphlet circulated to Honourable Members. It consists, as the House will see, of a preamble and 26 articles and two short annexures, in all about five pages of the pamphlet. It is accompanied, and in this pamphlet preceded, by the First Report of the Interim Commission which, in fact, sets out to explain the Constitution. I hope Honourable Members have had time to read them both, or rather to read the one in the light of the other,—the Constitution in the light of the Report. I would first invite attention to Article XXI of the Constitution, on page 28, especially to clauses 1 and 3. "This Constitution shall be open to acceptance by the nations specified in Annex. I". (The nations specified in Annex. I are the 45 United Nations. I should explain that originally there were 44 nations. A representative of Denmark was invited to attend the Conference at Hot Springs and he attended, I think, in his personal capacity, but, I suppose, since then his attendance has been ratified by his Government. At any rate, I find Denmark in the list of United Nations, and that is why the number has now gone up to 45).

Mr. Abdul Qayum (North-West Frontier Provinces: General): Was Italy invited?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir. At that time (July 1943) Italy was on the "wrong side of the line". Clause 3 of that Article says:

"Upon the receipt by the Interim Commission of 20 notifications of acceptance, the Interim Commission shall arrange for this constitution to be signed in a single copy by the diplomatic representatives, duly authorised thereto, of the nations who shall have notified their acceptance and upon being signed on behalf of not less than twenty of the nations so specified in Annex. I, this Constitution shall come into force immediately."

To dispose of the Interim Commission I might say that the last article of all (Article 26) provides for the dissolution of the Interim Commission on the opening of the first session of the Conference, the Governing Body of this Organisation.

Now, Sir, the Constitution has been sent to us at this stage for our acceptance or rejection. I wish to make it quite plain that we cannot now usefully suggest alterations or modifications in the Constitution. We can accept it and join the Organisation or we can reject it and stay outside. We cannot usefully say "We will accept it if you make such and such changes in it". That would be rejection for the time being, rejection either till we changed our own minds or till those who joined the Organisation adopted our view and modified the Constitution in the way suggested.

I should like now to refer, as briefly as I may, to certain salient features in **the scheme of the Constitution**. I have shown how the Organisation will be set up when 20 of the United Nations Governments signify their acceptance of the Constitution. The membership is open to all the 45 nations mentioned in Annex. I, the United Nations. To be completely effective, such an Organisation as this should be as nearly as possible world-wide and a provision is made for the admission of new Member States,—neutrals and our present enemies,—with the approval of two-thirds of all the then existing Member States, on acceptance, of course, of the Constitution and its obligations as they may be at that date. A Member nation can give notice of withdrawal from the Organisation but only after four years from the acceptance of the Constitution; and the notice shall take effect one year after its receipt by the Organisation. In effect membership is, therefore, for a minimum period of 5 years, and the Member nation must meet its obligations to the Organisation for the whole period before withdrawing.

The Governing Body of the Organisation will be called the "Conference". I think it is worth mentioning that particularly, because hitherto we have been applying the word to the Conference that met at Hot Springs, but now the Governing Body of the Organisation, when it is set up, will be called the "Conference". The Conference and its functions are described in Articles III and IV. On the Conference each Member nation shall have only one vote. The Conference, therefore, is a body representative of Governments and not of interests,—not of consumers or producers or co-operatives or capital or labour: but "any public International organisation having responsibilities related to those of the organisation" may be invited by the Conference to be represented at meetings of the Conference, without, however, a right to vote. The right to vote in the Conference is reserved to the Member nations.

Next, Sir, as it is not regarded possible for a body like the Conference to remain in session perpetually, power is given to it, and the duty is imposed on it, to appoint an Executive Committee of from 9 to 15 members, not more than one from any single Member nation, and, subject to certain important exceptions laid down, to delegate to that body such functions as it deems fit. Now, Sir, membership of this smaller body is limited to 15 at most. It is clear that on this body, unlike the Conference, all the Member nations cannot be represented. Article V prescribes "that subject to their being qualified by special administrative experience or other special qualifications to contribute to the attainment of the purpose of the Organisation", regard shall be had by the Conference, in appointing the Executive Committee, "to the desirability that its membership should reflect as varied as possible an experience of different types of economy in relation to food and agriculture". That is obviously designed to secure that different parts of the world shall be represented

on this body, which cannot under the Constitution exceed fifteen in number. This committee, of course will have no executive functions *vis-a-vis* the Member nations. The whole function of the Organisation, even at the Conference level, is advisory so far as Member nations are concerned. I should like to draw attention also to clause 4 of Article V. "The members of the Executive Committee shall exercise the powers delegated to them by the Conference on behalf of the whole Conference and not as representative of their respective Governments".

The permanent staff of the Organisation will work under a Director General. This staff, again, will be selected on as wide a geographical basis as possible, "subject to the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and of technical competence". Once appointed, they are to be the servants of the Organisation and their responsibilities are to be international. In fact, the Governments of the countries to which they belong by nationality are not to pay any extra salaries over and above what the staff will draw from the Organisation or to seek to influence them in any way. They are to be the servants of the Organisation. The Conference, that is the governing body, may appoint technical and regional standing committees or committee to study special subjects and may convene general technical, regional or other special conferences and invite representatives to these of other bodies, national or international concerned with nutrition, food or agriculture. For the better maintenance of liaison, it may establish and maintain regional offices. It may also co-operate with other "public international organisations" and may, subject to the approval of the Conference, constitute a part of, that is to say actually join, any general organisation entrusted with the co-ordination of activities of international organisations having, like themselves, specialised responsibilities.

These powers and this machinery are to enable the Organisation to carry out the objects of the Organisation which are very succinctly set out in the Preamble of the Constitution. They are as follows:—

- (a) to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living among the peoples of the world;
- (b) to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products (and that, under the Constitution, includes fisheries, marine and forest products, and non-food agricultural crops);
- (c) to better the conditions of rural populations; and
- (d) by these means to contribute towards an expanding world economy.

The methods to be employed for the furtherance of these objectives will include the promotion of research, the collection, collation and dissemination of knowledge, the exchange of services and the making of recommendations for national and international action. This last will be effected by means of "recommendations" or "conventions" forwarded to Member nations for their consideration, after approval by a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the Conference itself—the governing body. In other words, the Organisation will operate by tendering advice and on occasions, assistance, but not by executive action over-riding national susceptibilities. The Constitution contains in Article XX the machinery and power for its own amendment. A two-thirds majority of all the Member nations is required for an amendment of the Constitution and no amendment which imposes new obligations will be binding on a Member nation until its Government accepts that obligation. The effect of this is that every Member nation knows what obligations it is accepting when it joins the Organisation and that these cannot be increased without its consent. The only exception is a financial one. This does not apply to the financial burden and I propose to deal with this as my last point on the Constitution.

The annual budget of the Organisation is to be settled by the Conference. It will decide not only what it is going to spend, but also how to collect it,—in other words, how much each Member nation is to contribute. By joining the

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

Organisation, we accept the liability to find year by year the funds which the whole body of the Conference may by a majority decision allocate to us as our share. Now, Sir, that is undoubtedly a surrender of sovereignty. At the same time we shall have exactly the same voice as every other Member nation in assessing our own and every other nation's share. It is a democratic arrangement which allows of consideration being given to changing conditions from time to time, which I think a fixed formula could not do. So far as one can see, the burden is never likely to be very heavy and the organisation is one from which India, as a great, but in some ways backward, agricultural country, probably stands to gain great benefit. The normal budget for the first five years is expected to be of the degree of five million dollars. For the first year, the figure adopted is $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, and the Government of India's share has been assessed at 4.25 per cent., which, I think, works out to about three lakhs of rupees. As countries at present under enemy occupation or severely laid waste can be set free and gradually recover their prosperity, the proportionate share allocated to them may be expected to increase and India's proportionate share may to that extent be reduced. I believe I am correct in saying that our contribution to the League of Nations is at the rate of about six per cent. of the total requirements of that body.

Sir, I am afraid it has taken me some time to describe the Constitution, but I submit that, in itself, it has the merits of brevity, simplicity, clarity and flexibility. It is flexible for two reasons. In the first place, it contains the machinery for its own amendment, subject to safeguards which a Member nation is free to invoke or not as it thinks fit. Secondly, it is flexible because it is singularly free from embarrassing detail which, if it were there, could hardly take account of every future possibility and might without its being intended, fetter the Organisation in its attempts to adapt itself from time to time to the conditions of a changing world.

This Constitution comes to us with the unanimous blessings of the Interim Commission on which the Governments of all the United Nations, including India, were represented and equally represented. India has much to offer to such an Organisation, I believe she has also much to gain from it. For both these reasons, the former no less than the latter, I would respectfully urge the House to accept my Motion and show that India is prepared to play her part with a world organisation to bring to mankind freedom from want. Sir, I move.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

"and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers."

The motion is self-explanatory. Sir, I move.

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

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

"and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers."

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

"on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organization in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature."

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

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

"on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organization in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature."

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, by heart and training we are always opposed to anything that emanates from the Treasury

Bench, but it will be surprising that, I as one of the Congress Members, am going to support this motion. We are prepared to accept anything that conduces to the welfare of the Indian community and improving the agricultural conditions of this unfortunate country. In these days of global wars, global planning and international politics we cannot remain isolated, and we are therefore prepared more and more to take part in these international organizations that would help us to get out of our difficulties. The constitution of the Organization under discussion has for its objects the raising of the levels of nutrition and raising the standards of living of the peoples in their respective jurisdictions as such, securing improvement in the efficiency of production and distribution of all food and agricultural products and bettering the conditions of the rural population; and as such I think we cannot but give our honest support to an Organization like this.

Sir, in India we have a population of about 388 million depending entirely on agriculture and we have seen instances, in Bengal for instance, where for want of food half a crore of people died within a few months. So we cannot be indifferent to any organization which will help us to find a solution of our difficulties. In any other country such a situation would have provoked a rebellion but, situated as we are, we could not do anything but bow down to the divine dispensation and submit to the will of the ruling power. If we had the power and the organization such a situation as that could not have occurred. And having tried our best we come to an organization which will, of course, probably give us very little; and being members of a subject nation our fate on this body will perhaps be the same as in other similar bodies. But it is necessary still that we should take greater and greater part in these international organisations, so that the world may know the difficulties and the starvation through which we in India have been passing. Can we imagine any other part of the world where people would die in their thousands in the streets, as in Calcutta, thousands dying for want of shelter and shivering for want of clothes? This could not happen anywhere else except in India where the vitality of the people has been sapped entirely. Therefore we should utilise the machinery of this organization and that is why we support this proposal. It is believed that India produces sufficient rice which is the staple crop of the people in the different provinces. We had 72 million acres of land under rice and we produced about 27 million tons of rice, in 1939-40. In 1940-41 we had 69 million acres under rice, giving a production of 21 million tons. So practically we are short by about 10 million tons. We imported a small portion, 1.34 million tons of rice from Indo-China and Siam, and there was a considerable import also from Burma. It is wrongly believed in this House and also outside that Assam has extensive lands where people from Bengal can go and grow food. We have about 54,000 square miles of land of which more than 60 per cent. is covered by hills, and only 20 per cent. of that is available and it is almost entirely cultivated. It is wrongly believed that the uncultivated area can be occupied by immigrants from Mymensingh.

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

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: It is relevant in this way that if proper methods are adopted even in Bengal and lands are drained, they will have less reason to go to Assam and we can solve our problem

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the proposition before the House.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: I understand. I am coming to that point. In Bengal, five million acres is under jute—they have reduced now by restriction to 2.13 million acres

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member not to discuss a question like that. It does not arise out of this motion.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into it.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir. I am only suggesting that in place of jute

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member not to go into that question.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: All right, Sir. If the low lands of Bengal can be drained and

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member is again going into questions that do not arise. There is no question of Bengal, or Assam or waste lands before the House.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: But I am trying to establish that if this Organisation can give us help in the matter of irrigation

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): After membership of the Organization has been accepted and when that question arises, then the Honourable Member can discuss it, but not now.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: I hope that this Organisation will give us help in irrigating our low lands and in finding out methods by which land can be improved and every province can be self-sufficient. We want rice in our Eastern provinces and we want to find out methods which will be useful to us so that we may bring this question before the Organization of the United Nations. That is why I want that there should be more rice production in India and especially in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

The Government of India has admitted that out of the 288 million acres only fifty-seven and odd million acres is irrigated and there is still a lot more to be irrigated

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member is again dilating upon the same question.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir. The Honourable Mr. Tyson has given us a lucid exposition of the entire constitution; it is no use repeating it over and over again. Will this Organization improve our fisheries, will it improve our forestry? That is very necessary. We will very much appreciate if this Organization can help us in these directions, and also if this Organization can help in raising the levels of nutrition which is necessary. Livestock have also to be improved. In the Eastern provinces we find that the nutritious value of grasses is so low that even cattle are like pigmies. We have in India 380 million heads of cattle. If they can help in improving the breeds of our livestock they would be doing a great service.

There is another question which should be considered—research in different branches of agriculture and allied subjects. Research in order to improve also fisheries, forestry, etc., and how it should be done. And then there is the question of helping the agricultural population by agricultural credit. They should have a proper plan for that. This question should be discussed in a proper committee and go to the international credit agencies for help. Sir, I am being hampered by the difficulty that I am not able to discuss the problems which face our own country, but these are the questions which will have to be tackled in spite of the fact that the Organization discusses the question as a whole.

Sir, it is of the greatest importance that levels of nutrition and standards of living of our people should be raised within a limited period and that brings us again to the problem of housing. Have we evolved any solution how 380 millions of people should be housed? Have they tried to place any material at our disposal, have they considered how it is to be done. These questions should be gone into so that we may be able to take these points for discussion before the United Nations in order that they may help in giving us better housing than before. (*Interruption.*) If the Honourable Member feels inconvenient even in these palatial houses how very necessary it is to consider these

questions in the case of those who are in the streets and who are feeling difficulties of food and raiment and who have no shelter over their heads. Therefore it is essentially necessary that this question should be tackled seriously and taken to the Organization for discussion.

With these few words I support the Resolution which has been ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson and who has given us a very good idea of the entire constitution. With these words of appreciation and also with our support, I recommend that this Constitution be accepted.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure that the whole world has been interested in the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists in India. Poverty is the only political problem of India; it is hampering the progress of India in all spheres—social, political and economic. The basic industry of agriculture, on which every other industry depends, is in such an undeveloped state that if any visitor from outside, any expert from outside, will come and see, Indians will have to hang their heads in shame when they compare the conditions prevailing here with the conditions in other countries.

Sir, the constitution, as the Government Member has put it before us, is very good. We have got the constitution of the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration also. In connection with that boards were constituted, committees were formed, but when the question of application of those facilities to India was considered, we could not find how we could be helped. In this case of course we find that a better attempt has been made. But the Final Act of the United Nations Conference says that the primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health. Steps to this end are for national determination. The whole responsibility is on the Government of India. Our Government is responsible for the food of our people. Our Government is responsible for the health of our people. So if the Government of India does not lay out a proper policy for developing the country on the lines suggested by the United Nations, then we gain nothing by being a member of the United Nations Organisation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is 5 o'clock now. The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 21st November, 1944.