

9th April 1945

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report.

Volume IV, 1945

(2nd April to 12th April, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 9th April 1945

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. Chandulal Madhavlal Trivedi, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A.
(Secretary, War Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, will you allow question No. 1734 to be taken up first? The question was asked the other day and was postponed till today. I submit that it may be taken up first.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, you consulted the House and it was decided that it can be done and the Leader of the House also agreed.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If all those Members who have got questions before that forego them I have no objection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the other questions can be expedited, it will be reached.

RECALLING OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FROM, AND ENFORCING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST, SOUTH AFRICA

1688. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether he has considered the opinion of the House that the High Commissioner should be recalled from South Africa and economic sanctions taken against that country;

(b) whether he has considered the vote of the House in throwing out the demand for grant for Immigration—External made for his failure to take such steps; and

(c) if so, with what effect?

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

(c) As I have already stated the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know when the consideration is expected to be finished?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no grounds to expect anything.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the South African Indians themselves have passed Resolutions and sent them to the Honourable Member concerned that the High Commissioner should be recalled?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am aware of that.

CONSIDERATION OF ASSEMBLY'S REFUSAL OF SUPPLIES TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1689. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether the vote of this House—Refusal of supplies to the Executive Council this session has been considered by the Executive Council; and

(b) if so, the result of the consideration?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: This question, which should have been addressed to the Finance Member, will be answered tomorrow.

WITHDRAWAL OF BUILDING GRANT TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN QUETTA

1690. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether the building grant of rupees two lakhs to private schools in Quetta, which he mentioned in the Assembly on the 30th March, 1944, has been withdrawn;

(b) whether this grant was withdrawn for lack of building material; and

(c) whether it is a fact that unlimited building material was available at the same time for the construction of a Residency in Quetta?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No. It will be paid as soon as any private school is ready to start building and its proposals have been accepted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Islamia High School at Quetta has started a building for this purpose?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware of that.

COMMITTEE FOR SELECTING STUDENTS FOR STUDY ABROAD

1691. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether the Committee for selecting students for study abroad has been appointed; if so, who the members of the Committee are;

(b) whether applications from students have been invited; if so, the latest date within which they have to apply; and

(c) whether the selection of students whose expenses are borne by the Provinces are made by the Government of India or the Provinces?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. The Selection Board consists of:

(1) Sir Maurice Gwyer (Chairman).

(2) The Educational Adviser to the Government of India.

(3) Dr. Sir Shanti Sarup Bhatnagar.

(4) Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan.

(5) Captain Sardar Nau Nihal Singh.

(6) Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj M.L.A., and

(7) An expert or experts in each technical subject for which students are to be selected, to be co-opted as occasion requires.

(b) Yes. The last date for receipt of applications, which was originally fixed as the 15th April 1945 has been extended to the 30th April 1945.

(c) The Selection of stipendiary students to be sent for training to meet Provincial demands will in the first instance be made by the Provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is this Committee going to make selections for all over India or is it only for the Centrally administered areas?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The centrally administered areas as such hardly come into it. The selection committee to which I have referred will make selections for the posts which are to be filled under the Central Government, whether at headquarters or in the centrally administered areas. But we also expect that we shall have to invoke their help to check the Provincial Governments' Selections if the Provincial Governments ask for more places than it will be possible to give them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if advertisements for applications from students have appeared in all provincial newspapers also?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir; they have appeared in a large number of newspapers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will selections be made on applications being received by the centre or will they be received by the provinces and sent to the centre? Will there be direct selection also if applications are made to the selection board or the Honourable Member's Department?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not sure that I quite followed the Honourable Member's question. In respect of posts that will be sponsored by the Centre, applications should be addressed to the Department of Education, Health and Lands and they will be placed straight before the selection committee. In the case of

posts sponsored by the provinces applications should be made to the provinces. There is nothing to prevent a person applying to both but he is supposed to inform each authority that he has also made an application to the other one.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: When is this selection committee going to meet? Has any date been fixed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No date has actually been fixed, but they will have to meet very early in May if they are to get through their work in time to get the students placed.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Now that there is a central committee will the Honourable Member implement the promise made in this House and instruct the selection committee to fix a quota for the minorities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The central committee will certainly be told to see that in respect of the central quota as a whole every effort is made to provide for minority candidates according to the generally accepted communal ratio. But this is, of course, subject to candidates coming forward in requisite numbers with the minimum qualifications.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether this committee will also make selections on behalf of the provinces or the provinces will have their own selection committees?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think that has been answered, but I will repeat—the provinces will have their own selection boards. But if, as we think is probable, the provinces ask for more places than we can find, we propose that this committee shall help us to thin down the provinces' demands.

SAFEGUARDING OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ESTABLISHED IN INDIA

1692. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state if Government have noticed the telegram from London, dated the 23rd March, 1945, in the *Hindustan Times*, of the 25th March, 1945, reading as follows:

"Reviewing the India Government's expansion of the list of permitted imports, the *Manchester Guardian's* financial editor declares this is a valuable opportunity for the British exporters to re-establish themselves in the Indian market".

(b) By what measures do Government propose that definite attention will be paid to the requirements and the plight of manufacturing industries established in India, and that such industries will be prevented from going under?

(c) Do Government propose to make a statement of the work done by the Hydari Mission in the United Kingdom, of the items for which orders have been placed and of the items with regard to the importation of which in India, negotiations have been started?

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

(b) The whole question is now under examination by Government and the Honourable Member may rest assured that suitable measures will be taken in good time so that the interests of Indian industries are not adversely affected.

(c) I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the *Press Communique* which was circulated to members of the Legislature on Friday 6th April.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The *Press Communique* does not mention all the items. It mentions only with regard to certain goods. Certain items have not been included and it has two *etceteras*. The consumers, the merchants and the industrialists are all anxious from their own point of view to know what are the articles that the Hydari Mission is arranging to bring, in what way or through what channels they will be effected, what quantities, at what prices

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The channel and the necessary safeguards are now matters which are being looked into but so far as the main articles are concerned they have been mentioned in the *press communique*.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member help the public to understand Government's activities, which may be in the right direction? Will he help the public to understand these activities by giving a detailed list of items arrivals, prices, quantities and values every month?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to answer that question but I will bear in mind the points that my friend has raised in discussing and deciding the future. We have been looking into these matters.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know if all the necessary steps have been taken to see that the existing industries do not go under or are not crippled?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have repeatedly assured this House that whatever might be the programme of the import of consumer and producer goods, Government will specially look to the interests of Indian industries. In the *press communiqué* itself my friend will find as a matter of fact a large quantity of goods which are coming and which are necessary for the purpose of Indian manufactures. The needs of the consumers are also there but we have emphasised very much the need of importing articles which are needed for the purpose of production within India.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if it will be possible for the Honourable Member to arrange for this House to have a discussion on this *communiqué* and also for the House to have the benefit of hearing Sir Akbar Hydari on the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think the Honourable the Leader of the House should be addressed on that point.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I thought the Honourable Member can take the initiative in the matter

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

EXTENDING OF POWERS OF FILM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1693. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state if Government intend to increase the powers of the Film Advisory Committee and give them functions and powers similar to those of the Textile Control Board?

(b) How far has the proposal for a delegation of the film industry to foreign countries progressed and what facilities do Government propose to give? When will this Delegation leave India and who will be included in it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, as the nature and scope of the two Control Orders is quite different.

(b) Government are awaiting joint proposals from the Film Associations in this respect. On receipt of these proposals the questions raised by the Honourable Member will be considered.

LICENCES ISSUED FOR FILMS

1694. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the total number of licences issued for films during 1944/45 and whether any statement as to whom these licences have been issued, has been communicated either to the public or to the producers' organizations?

(b) Have Government heard any criticism of their policy of giving film licence to hiring studios who have not been producers before at all, or who have merely produced an occasional film?

(c) Is not the test for giving licence the record of productions in the past, rather than the possession of physical property in the nature of a studio?

(d) Will Government discontinue any departures which may have occurred in the past of licences being given not to producers but to studio owners, whether they are producers or not?

(e) Why have Government considered it necessary to demand, with the application for licence, particulars of the story, names of stars, name of studio, location of studio, where the film would be produced and more particularly, the name of the party who will provide finance for the picture?

(f) In what manner does this precaution help in discriminating between the applicants?

(g) How many cases of sale or transfer of licence once issued to a party have been brought to the notice of the Department during 1944/45, and on what basis is permission to do this given?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) *First part.*—It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to film production licences. If so, the allotment of film production licences has not been made according to calendar or financial years. The last allotment was made for the period 1st September 1943 to 31st December 1944. The total number of licences issued up to the end of 1944 was 286. The total number of licences issued from 1st January 1945 up to the end of March 1945 under the current allotment is 44.

Second part.—No. Allotment of licences, however, is ordinarily being made in consultation with the Film Advisory Committee on which Producers' Organizations have their representatives.

(b), (c) and (d). The principles governing film licensing have been indicated in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 716 by Dr. Habibur Rahman on the 30th March 1944 and the second part of (b) of starred question No. 460 by Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 21st February 1945. These principles apply to studio-owners as well as to other producers. There has been no departure in the grant of licences to studio-owners from the above policy. There has been some criticism in regard to grant of licences to studio-owners under (iii) of part (b) of the reply to Dr. Habibur Rahman's question referred to above.

(e) Government have not asked for particulars of the location of the studio. They have since agreed not to insist on the submission of the story. The intention in calling for the remaining information is:

(i) to facilitate detection of transactions amounting to sales of licences; and

(ii) to ensure that the producer is really in a position to take up production as soon as the licence is granted to him.

(f) The information is not called to help discriminate between the applicants for licences.

(g) Allegations have been made on a number of occasions that certain producers in whose names the licences were initially granted had subsequently sold or transferred their licences to other parties, but these allegations were not substantiated by any proofs. No permission for this purpose has been granted nor is there any provision in the Film Control Order to permit such transactions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that this is openly talked about and written on by the film journals that licenses have been hawked round and have been sold at very high and profiteering rates, will the Honourable Member look into the matter and arrange for

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is a matter which is just now under consideration and I have myself noticed that such a talk is going on and in view of that I thought it was desirable that we should investigate this matter. As soon as the Assembly is over I have to come to some decision as to how we can keep a watch over these things.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member arrange to see that the license should lapse if the original party does not avail itself of it?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the allegations made against his Department by a magazine called *Hurriyat* in an article, dated the 25th June, 1944, in which he and his Department have been challenged to prosecute the people who have made those allegations? Has anything been done in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not seen it but I will look into the matter.

GROW MORE FOOD CONTRIBUTION GIVEN TO MADRAS GOVERNMENT

1695. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to the Madras Government to grow more food in the year 1944-45 and how much of it was spent by them in the following districts:

(i) The Nilgiris, (ii) Malabar, and (iii) South Kanara, in the year 1944-45;

(b) how many (i) tube wells, and (ii) surface wells were sunk in the above districts in the year 1944-45;

(c) the amount contributed under emergency irrigation schemes to the Madras Government in the year 1944-45 and how much was spent in the above named districts by them in the year 1944-45;

(d) whether there is any place in the West Coast where 1 lb. of ration is given; and

(e) what steps are being taken to increase the ration in the West Coast to 1 lb. per head per day and when the people can expect to receive the full one pound ration in the West Coast?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Loans amounting to Rs. 16,25,000 and grants of Rs. 29,91,396 were sanctioned for Grow More Food Schemes in Madras during 1944-45. Information regarding amounts spent from these in the three districts named has been called for from the Madras Government and will be furnished to the House as soon as available.

(b) The information is being collected and will be furnished to the House in due course.

(c) Grants amounting to Rs. 9,20,000 were given to the Madras Government for emergency irrigation schemes, during 1944-45. Information regarding the amount spent in the three districts has been called for from the Madras Government and will be furnished to the House in due course.

(d) Yes; there are a number of such places.

(e) The only rationed area on the West Coast, where the cereal ration is less than 1 lb. per adult per day is the Malabar District, in which non-producers receive a ration of just over three-quarters of a pound of cereals per adult per day. Allowances are made for producers, however, on the basis of 1 lb. per day. The ration in Malabar will be increased as soon as the supply position permits.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to part (d) of the question, will the Honourable Member please state what is the percentage of people who receive one pound ration per day?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I cannot give the percentage.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: May I know if my Honourable friend is aware that there is a great complaint that most of these grants which are made for the Grow More Food Campaign are used for administrative purposes, such as salaries to the officials and things like that?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think a very small proportion is used for that purpose.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the money is distributed in the Provinces as grants or as loans?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Both as loans and grants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if the Honourable Member has any information as to the total area of additional land that has been brought under cultivation in Malabar and Carnatak as a result of this Grow More Food Campaign?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have no information district by district.

COCOA BEANS IMPORTED FROM CEYLON

1696. ***Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the quantity of Cocoa beans imported from Ceylon in the months of January and February 1945;

(b) whether a controlling Board has been formed in England with the name of "Combined Food Board" which has taken under its control the distribution of the cocoa crop in the Empire countries including Ceylon;

(c) whether it is a fact that this combined Food Board allotted no quota for India;

(d) whether he is aware that industrial circles connected with cocoa and chocolate industry in India are perturbed over the existence and the future of the cocoa and chocolate industry in the country unless supplies of cocoa beans are forthcoming from Ceylon in the immediate future; and

(e) whether the Honourable Member proposes to take necessary steps to help this industry in getting a quota of cocoa beans if there is no quota allotted at present?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The distribution of Cocoa beans produced in the Empire Countries including Ceylon is regulated by the London Food Council and the Combined Food Board, at Washington.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) Necessary steps are already being taken.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether any investigations have been made by the Government to see if in any part of India cocoa beans could be raised.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is not my Department: I cannot answer that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What steps are being taken in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I can tell the Honourable Member that in 1945 a chocolate factory in Poona brought it to the notice of the Food Department that the export of cocoa from Ceylon had been restricted and the allocations of this commodity are now made by the London Food Council. That was the first time we knew of it. This firm asked for the import of 250 tons of beans and the Chief Controller of Imports has been requested by us to get the food import programme for 1945 amended so as to include this item.

We have also asked the Regional Food Commissioners to ascertain the requirements of the country as a whole. On receipt of their replies we will move for further allocations of beans from Ceylon if necessary.

TECHNICAL CENTRES OPENED BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT

1697. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please mention the number of Technical Centres opened by the Labour Department (i) in association with Muslim Institutions, (ii) in association with non-Muslim Institutions, and (iii) in association with independent Institutions not connected with any Engineering Institutions?

(b) How many of the Institutions under (iii) are under Muslim administration, and how many under non-Muslim administration?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to lay on the table of the House the names of all these Centres for Technicians mentioned in classes (i), (ii) and (iii)?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) (i)—5, (ii)—74, (iii)—If by "independent institutions" are meant "private institutions", there are 86.

(b) Of the 86, 2 are under purely Muslim administration.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

I.—TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRES ASSOCIATED WITH MUSLIM INSTITUTIONS

A. Engineering :—

1. Abdullah Fazalbhoy Technical Institute, St. Xavier College, Bombay.
2. Anglo-Arabic College Technical Institute, Delhi.
3. Muslim University Engineering College, Aligarh.

B. Non-Engineering :—

4. Anjuman Industrial School, Madras.
5. Shia Intermediate College, Lucknow.

II.—TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRES ASSOCIATED WITH NON-MUSLIM INSTITUTIONS (EXCLUDING CENTRES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTITUTIONS RUN BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND STATES AND WITH RAILWAY WORKSHOPS)

A. Engineering :—

1. B. P. Chdy. Technical School, Kriahnagar.
2. College of Engineering and Technology, Bengal.
3. D. J. Industrial School, Rajshahi.
4. Don Bosco Technical School, Krishnagar.
5. I. G. N. Co., Ltd., Sonachara Workshop, Narayanganj.
6. K. K. Technical School, Mymensingh.
7. B. C. Technical School, Burdwan.

8. Calcutta Tramway Company, Calcutta.
9. Faridpur Mission Industrial School, Faridpur.
10. George Telegraph Training Institute, Calcutta.
11. Institute of Engineering Technology, Calcutta.
12. Vishnupur Technical School, Vishnupur.
13. Bhartiya Engineering Works, Sahibgunj.
14. Jamshedpur Technical Institute, Jamshedpur.
15. School of Industry, Ratnagiri.
16. King Edward VII Technical School, Dhullia.
17. Nowrosjee Wadia College, Poona.
18. Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay.
19. Berar Victoria Memorial Technical Institute, Amraoti.
20. Delhi Electric Supply & Traction Co., Delhi.
21. A. G. Technological Institute, Vuyyuru.
22. Pioneer Gas Producer Works, Bezwada.
23. St. Aloysius Engineering Works & Industrial School, Vizagapatam.
24. St. Joseph's Industrial School, Trichinopoly.
25. St. Mary's Industrial School, Kumbakonam.
26. St. Xavier's Industrial School, Tanjore.
27. United Motors Limited, Coimbatore.
28. P. J. Orr's and Sons, Limited, Madras.
29. P. S. G. & Sons' Charity Industrial Institute, Peelamedu, Coimbatore.
30. P. T. Lee, Changanaluriya Naicker's Technical and Industrial School, Madras.
31. Rama Krishna Mission Industrial School, Mylapur, Madras.
32. Indian Civil Engineering Institute, Sukkur.
33. N. E. D. Engineering College, Karachi.
34. Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Sukkur.
35. Benares Hindu University Engineering College, Benares.
36. Mirzapur Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Mirzapur.
37. Technical College, Dyalbagh, Agra.
38. Birla College, Pilani.
39. Pioneer Motor Service, Nagercoil.
40. Madras Corporation Electrical Workshop, Madras.

B. Non-Engineering :—

41. Downtown Tyre Service, Calcutta.
42. International Tyres & Motors, Ltd., Calcutta.
43. Ramakrishna Mission Sarda Pitha, Belur Math, Howrah.
44. City College, Calcutta.
45. College of Wireless & Commerce, Calcutta.
46. Dutt & Co., Sanitary Engineers, Patna.
47. South Bihar Sugar Mills, Bihata.
48. Government Aided Royal Institute of Commerce, Muzafrapur.
49. Government Aided Imperial Institute of Commerce, Patna.
50. Government Aided Commercial Institute, Patna.
51. International Tyre Service, Bombay.
52. Tamkankar's Wiremen's Class, Ahmednagar.
53. Bombay Education Institute, Dadar, Bombay.
54. Nasik Commercial Institute, Nasik City.
55. S. P. M. Institute of Commerce, Poona.
56. Oriental Commerce School, Nagpur.
57. B. A. Naidu's Training Centre, Tiruttani.
58. District Board Industrial School, Tanjore.
59. South Madras Agencies, Ltd., Trichinopoly.
60. Standard Construction Co., Ltd., Bezwada.
61. Andra Type Office, Bezwada.
62. P. V. Krishnahya Chowdry's Training Centre, Guntur.
63. Rao Bahadur Gollapudi Technical Training Centre, Bezwada.
64. Technical & Commercial Training Centre, Rajahmundry.
65. Star of India Commercial College, Rawalpindi.
66. Technical Institute, Kurwar.
67. Wesley Technical Institute, Benares.
68. Lucknow Christian School of Commerce, Lucknow.
69. U. P. Institute of Commerce, Allahabad.
70. Indian Institute of Commerce, Mhow.
71. Rasalpara Vocational School, M. C. C., Mission, Mhow.
72. Patel Institute, Nagercoil.
73. Municipal Technical School, Sholapur.
74. Y. M. C. A., Lahore.

III.—TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRES ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

1. Technical Training Centre, Ajmer.
2. Shillong Training Centre, Shillong.

3. Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet.
4. B. G. Technical School, Rangpur.
5. Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.
6. B. N. Railway Workshop, Khargpur.
7. Calcutta Training Centre, Calcutta.
8. E. B. Technical School, Pabna.
9. B. & A. Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara.
10. Ahsanulla School of Engineering, Dacca.
11. Calcutta Engineering College, Ballygunj.
12. Ranchi Technical Institute, Ranchi.
13. Tirhut Technical Institute, Muzaffarpur.
14. Bihar College of Engineering, Patna.
15. P. W. D. Workshop, Dehri-on-Sone.
16. Bombay Technical Training Centre, Parsi Hunnarshala, Bombay.
17. Engineering College, Poona.
18. Robertson Industrial School, Jubbulpore.
19. Government Engineering School, Nagpur.
20. Government School of Handicrafts, Akola.
21. Karolbagh Training Centre, Delhi.
22. Delhi Polytechnic, Delhi.
23. College of Engineering, Guindy.
24. Government Industrial School, Bellary.
25. Government School of Technology, Madras.
26. Government Trades School, Mangalore.
27. Government Victoria College, Palghat.
28. Madras Training Centre, Anantapur.
29. S. I. Railway Workshop, Golden Rock.
30. Government Industrial School, Calicut.
31. Government Industrial School, Madura.
32. Instrument Mechanics Training Centre, Hindupur.
33. Cunningham Technical Institute, Haripur, Hazara.
34. Technical Training Centre, Peshawar.
35. Government High School, Peshawar.
36. P. W. D. Workshop, Cuttack.
37. Textile Refitters' Training Class, Cuttack.
38. Orissa School of Engineering, Cuttack.
39. Craik Technical School, Lahore.
40. Government Industrial School, Gujranwala.
41. Government Industrial School, Jhelum.
42. Government Industrial School, Kasur.
43. Government Industrial School, Ludhiana.
44. Government Industrial School, Lyallpur.
45. Government Industrial School, Multan.
46. Government Metal Works Institute, Ambala City.
47. Government School of Engineering, Rasul.
48. Central Model School, Lahore.
49. Government High School, Amritsar.
50. Government High School, Jullundur.
51. Government High School, Multan.
52. Government High School, Sialkot.
53. Government Industrial School, Ferozpur City.
54. Government Industrial School, Rawalpindi.
55. Government Industrial School, Rohtak.
56. Government Intermediate College, Dharamsala.
57. Government Metal Works Institute, Sialkot.
58. Government Wood Working Institute, Jullundur.
59. North Western Railway Workshops, Moghalpura, Lahore.
60. Punjab College of Engineering & Technology, Lahore.
61. Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore.
62. Allahabad Technical Training Centre, Allahabad.
63. Central Wood Works Institute, Berailly.
64. Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.
65. Government School of Agriculture, Bulandshahr.
66. Government Technical Institute, Gorakhpur.
67. Government Technical Institute, Lucknow.
68. Kalabhavan Technical Institute, Baroda.
69. Government Trades School, Trichur.
70. Jaipur State Training Centres, Jaipur.
71. Jodhpur Railway Workshop, Jodhpur.
72. Durbar High School, Jodhpur.
73. Sir Ali Murad Technical Institute, Khairpur Mira.
74. "V" Institute of Commerce, Khairpur.
75. O'Brien Technical Institute, Kolhapur.
76. Silver Jubilee Technical Institute, Mandi.

77. Mysore State Railway Workshop, Mysore.
78. Engineering College, Bangalore.
79. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
80. H. H. The Raja's College, Pudukkottai.
81. Commercial College, Rewa.
82. Ramgad Technical Training Centre, Ramgad.
83. College of Engineering, Trivandrum.
84. Mewar State Railway Workshop, Udaipur.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the nature of these technical centres?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are centres where technical training is given.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: For what industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: For many of the trades.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is Aligarh one of them?

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

OPENING OF WAR TECHNICIANS DEPOT OR RECEPTION CENTRE

1698. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is the Honourable the Labour Member contemplating to open War Technicians Depot or Reception Centre? If so, at what places?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government of India propose to have a Reception Depot in each circle where civilian recruits after being selected for training may be sent for short periods before being allotted to a training centre. A statement indicating the reception depots already sanctioned, their capacity and location is placed on the table.

Statement showing places in the various circles under the Technical Training Scheme at which Reception Depots for Civilian Recruits have been sanctioned and established

Circles	Sanctioned strength of the Depot	Place of location	Date from which the Depot commenced functioning	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Northern Circle—				
(Punjab, N.W.F.P. & Sind Provinces)	250	Lyallpur (Punjab)	23rd March 1944	
Do.	250	Sonepat (Punjab)	1st September 1944	
Central Circle—				
(Delhi, Amjer-Merwara and Rajputana States and C.P. and Bera)	100	Delhi	11th December 1943	
Do.	100	Akola or Nagpur	..	The establishment of this Depot has been sanctioned and the Chairman National Service Labour Tribunal has been given the option to establish it either at Akola or Nagpur. The exact place of location of the Depot has not yet been decided.

1	2	3	4	5
<i>North Eastern Circle—</i> (United Provinces)	250	Aligarh		The establishment of a Civil Reception Depot for 25 trainees in the Fort at Aligarh has been sanctioned. Necessary additions and alterations to the buildings within the Fort are in hand and the Depot will start functioning as soon as the building operations have been completed.
<i>South Eastern Circle—</i> (Bihar and Orissa)	250	Gulzarbagh (Patna)	25th May 1944	
Do.	100	Cuttack	November 1944	
<i>Eastern Circle—</i> (Bengal and Assam)	120	Hoogly	22nd August 1944	
<i>Western Circle—</i> (Bombay and Western India States)	250	Worli (Bombay)	16th March 1944	
Do.	100	Hubli	3rd January 1945.	
<i>Southern Circle—</i> (Madras)	300	Madras	10th January 1944.	
	200	{ Bezwada Trivanderum }		The establishment of these Depots has been sanctioned. They will start functioning as soon as suitable arrangements for accommodation have been made.
	200			
	300	Coimbatore	January 1945	

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Are there many centres?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member may see the statement and find for himself. I am placing a statement on the table.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is the total number of reception centres?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot make a calculation here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better look at the table.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is not a big list.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is a big list. I cannot read the whole thing unless you Sir, permit me to do so. India is divided into circles Northern Circle, Central Circle, N. E. Circle, S. E. Circle, Eastern Circle, Western Circle, and Southern Circle.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What are their headquarters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The headquarters or centres for training are: Northern Circle,—Lyalpur and Sonapat; Central Circle,—Delhi, Akola or Nagpur; N. E. Circle—Aligarh; S. E. Circle—Gulzarbagh (Patna) and Cuttack; Eastern Circle—Hooghly; Western Circle—Worli (Bombay) and Hubli; Southern Circle—Madras, Bezwada, Trivandrum and Coimbatore.

DEVELOPING OF U. P. TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRES INTO POLYTECHNIQUE

1699. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the technical training Centres in U. P. which Government are contemplating to develop into polytechnique? Is it not a fact that Government have selected two places for developing Technical training centres into

Polytechnique, i.e. Dayal Bagh and Benares University? Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the Aligarh Muslim University Engineering College has been omitted from the list of the Centres?

(b) Is it not a fact that Aligarh Centre was included in the list on the special request of the Muslim League Party? Is it not a fact that one of the Inspectors and Advisers who deal with the War Technicians' class is a Muslim? If the answer is in the negative, what is the number of Muslim Inspectors?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There is no scheme under consideration of the Labour Department at present for developing any training centre, either in the United Provinces or anywhere else, into a polytechnic. The question of selecting any centre for this purpose does not therefore arise.

(b) In view of the reply given to (a) above the first part of the question under (b) does not arise. As regards the rest of part (b) none of the Regional Inspectors under the Technical Training scheme is a Muslim and there are no officers designated as "Advisers".

STARTING OF CANTEENS AND CAFETERIA IN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

1700. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state: (a) whether Government is encouraging starting of canteens and cafeteria in all industrial establishments by the employers where food is made available at cheap rates;

(b) how many such (i) canteens, and (ii) cafeteria are started in the country in 1944-45;

(c) whether Government have offered any such benefits to the workers in the Ordnance Factories in the country;

(d) whether the Honourable Member is aware that the workers in the Aravankadu Factory have demanded such benefits from Government; and

(e) whether Government propose to offer such benefits to their workers at Aravankadu?

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

(b) No statistics of canteens as distinct from cafeteria are maintained. Information available shows that towards the close of 1944, there were 815 establishments for supplying cooked food or refreshments and tea out of which 120 were supplying cooked food and the rest provided refreshments.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) Provision already exists at the Factory for the sale of tea and other light refreshments. The question of providing meals at the Factory will be considered if the demand therefor becomes appreciable.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: How many workers should apply for these benefits?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Certainly, if they express a desire it will be considered?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: What is the number of workers that should apply?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: So far we have not prescribed any minimum for a demand of this kind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it one of the task of their welfare officers to encourage employers to provide these facilities for their employees?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We are thinking of that.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO HAND SPINNING AND WEAVING

1701. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the prevailing cloth crisis Government propose to take special steps to encourage hand spinning and weaving either through the All India Spinners Association or the Co-operative Weavers and Spinners Societies in the Province; and

(b) whether Government propose to adopt measures to distribute, on easy terms, to such villagers as are willing to spin and weave as whole time or subsidiary work, cotton held by Government for the purpose of turning it into yarn and cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have already constituted an All India Handloom Board and taken various steps to improve the distribution of yarn, dyes, etc. to the handloom industry. There is nothing to stop production of yarn by hand-spinning, but no specific measure have yet been taken to assist hand-spinning.

(b) There is no dearth of suitable cotton for hand-spinning purposes. If difficulty is experienced, Government will be willing to consider releasing from stocks held by them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is suggested here whether Government will consider the advisability of encouraging handspinning so that there will be more yarn available for weavers.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This matter is under consideration, as I have said.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has a Handloom Board actually been constituted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, it was on the 12th February that it was constituted. On the Board there are representatives of the Provinces, and we have instructed that a certain number of them should represent handloom weavers. We are now awaiting the replies. Some have come, and some have not, and they may come within a little time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar: Are there any definite proposals to encourage handloom weavers?

NON-CONFERMENT ON INDIAN LEGISLATURE OF POWERS TO ABOLISH APPEAL TO PRIVY COUNCIL FROM HIGH COURTS

1702. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): With reference to the Resolution of Government of India, dated the 15th January, 1945, regarding the enlargement of the appellate powers of the Federal Court will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether the decision of the Secretary of State in which the Government of India have concurred, regarding the non-conferment on the Indian Legislature, of powers to abolish direct appeal to the Privy Council from High Courts in cases outside the scope of Section 205, has been arrived at;

(b) the reasons for which the Government of India have concurred with the Secretary of State in the non-conferment on the Indian Legislature, of powers to abolish direct appeals to the Privy Council from the High Court in cases outside the scope of Section 205 of the Government of India Act;

(c) the reasons for which the Government of India did not consider it proper to consult the Indian opinion and the Legislatures, before arriving at this decision;

(d) whether the decision is revocable or irrevocable; if it be the latter, whether Government are prepared to call for and consider the Indian public opinion in this matter; and

(e) when Government propose to take steps to arrange a debate in the Central Legislature on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). I must leave paragraph 3 of the Resolution to speak for itself.

(c) Consultation on the concrete scheme commending itself to the Secretary of State was obviously calculated to be more fruitful than consultation wholly at large.

(d) It would, of course, be open to the Secretary of State to reconsider the position in the light of the opinions received in response to the publication of the Resolution.

(e) At the next Session.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether any progress has been made since the resolution was published?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Opinions are being received, and if the Honourable Member has read the resolution he would have seen that, after the opinions have been received, the last day for receiving opinions is the 1st of May, the matter will come before this House for debate. Until then, I do not think that any progress can be made.

DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIES OVER INDIA

1703. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to a report on page 2 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 24th March, of the Second Reading of a Government Bill passed without division in the House of Commons for the distribution of Industry in the country and also geographical dispersal of plant vital for defence?

(b) Are Government considering a similar distribution of Industries in this country?

(c) Are any, and if so, what steps are being taken to encourage industries in South India and what are the names of industries and places chosen in the said area?

(d) Is it a fact that permits for textile plants and vegetable ghee plants, to be located in Southern India, are being given to Birlas or Tatas? What steps, if any, are Government taking to encourage local capital and enterprise to come forward to run these industries?

(e) Are these plants obtained under the Lend-Lease Agreement or required to be paid for fully by the applicants for permits?

(f) Are Government aware that Southern India is behind other Provinces in the matter of industrial development, if so, do they propose to consider, the desirability of starting these and similar industries in Southern India on their own initiative and with their own capital in the first instance?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable colleague, the Planning and Development Member, will answer this question on the appropriate date.

SPURIOUS VARIETIES OF PENICILLIN

1704. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if there are spurious products under the guise of Penicillin manufactured or marketed in India; and if so, how many varieties there are and under what name they are sold;

(b) the machinery set up by Government to find if the marketed product corresponds in quality to Penicillin;

(c) if any dangerous effects are produced by the administration of the pseudo Penicillin, and whether the prohibition of such spurious varieties is made purely on grounds of health;

(d) if there are any Government or other authorised manufacturers of Penicillin in India; if so, what their number is and where they are located;

(e) if the reply to (d) be in the negative what steps Government propose to take to manufacture or to encourage the manufacture of Penicillin in India; and

(f) the estimated cost of manufacturing Penicillin locally so as to supply the normal needs of India in a year?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government understand that certain spurious products purporting to be penicillin have been offered for sale on the market. I am unable to give particulars of such products.

(b) To ensure that penicillin placed on the market conforms to recognised standards, Government have issued the Penicillin Control Order, 1945, which was published in the *Gazette of India* on the 10th March 1945. Particulars of the system of control are given in the Order.

(c) As regards the first part, the effect will depend on the nature of the article administered. As regards the second part the answer is in the affirmative.

(d) and (e). As I recently stated in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 420 asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 21st February certain preliminary exploratory work has been initiated by the Supply Department. The Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have recently decided to set up a Committee to advise on the steps to be taken to establish the manufacture of penicillin.

(f) The information is not available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that cover the advisability of starting a factory under the aegis of the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is presumably one of the things they will consider.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Bangalore Institute preparing a substitute for Penicillin?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware.

DISABILITIES OF INDIANS IN CANADA

1705. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the disabilities from which Indians suffer in the Dominion of Canada, particularly in the Province of Columbia;

(b) the steps Government have so far taken to remove them; and

(c) whether Government intend to move in the matter and have the disabilities removed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) About 200 Indians resident in provinces other than British Columbia do not suffer from any legal or political disabilities. In British Columbia, where there are about 1,800 Indians, they are denied the municipal, provincial and federal franchise. Owing to this it is understood that they are subject to the following disabilities:

They cannot serve as trustees in any municipal or rural school district, hold any municipal office or serve as jurors; they are debarred from employment by contractors for the Public Works Department and for the sale of government timber; they are also debarred from holding a foreshore lease and from holding Engineer's certificate under the "Boiler Inspection Act".

(b) and (c). Representations to get these disabilities removed have been made from time to time to His Majesty's Government but without any success so far. Government still continue to pursue the matter.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether anything in this connection was done at the last Commonwealth Relations Conference in London?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe so.

Sardar Sant Singh: Why is this distinction made in the province of British Columbia and other provinces in the matter of citizen rights?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I could not tell the Honourable Member offhand. It is only a question of local prejudice or social prejudice.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member taking or intending to take any reciprocal steps against such States?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The matter has not yet been considered: but certainly the Government has always this end in view.

INCREASING OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE AND SCALES OF PAY OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS EMPLOYEES

1706. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government are aware: (i) that the Unions of the Government of India Presses have formed a Federation of their own; (ii) that a statement has been issued by the Executive Committee of the Government Press Unions Federation, India, narrating the woeful tale of the hardships of the Press employees with some recommendations for an increase in Dearness Allowance and the scales of pay; and

(b) If the answers to (a) are in the affirmative, has any action been taken in the matter since the issue of the statement? If not, when does he intend to take action, and in what way? If not, why not?

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

(b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

BAN ON FISHING AT OKHLA BY PROFESSIONALS OF VILLAGE OKHLA

1707. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Chowdhury** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibur Rahman**):

(a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if by an order of the Executive Engineer the fishing at Okhla by the professionals of village Okhla, who had been fishing there from immemorial past, has been stopped? If so, why?

(b) Have any complaints (protests) been received by the authorities concerned? Who made these complaints? Was there any enquiry made and what was the result of the enquiry? Does the Honourable Member propose to lay on the table of the House a copy of the report of the enquiry made?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The position regarding the fishermen of Okhla village is being ascertained and a reply will be furnished in due course: but the general policy is to discourage the operations of professional fishermen at Okhla in the interests of the preservation of breeding stock.

(b) Enquiries are being made and the information will be furnished when obtained.

BAD STREET LIGHTING IN WESTERN QAROL BAGH, DELHI

1708. ***Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Western Qarol Bagh is not lighted though the locality has got poles set up without bulbs;

(b) if he is aware that owing to lack of lights thieves and burglars are roaming about committing burglaries and terrorising the people of the locality; and

(c) whether Government propose to expedite the lighting arrangements there?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) This is not true of the older portions or Qarol Bagh, but in the areas developed since 1937 the municipal authority concerned (the Delhi Municipal Committee) has not yet taken over or brought into use the street lighting equipment which was provided by the Delhi Improvement Trust.

(b) The want of street lighting may have facilitated the operations of criminals to some extent.

(c) The various municipal services in the Western Extension Area have not yet been taken over for maintenance by the Delhi Municipal Committee because the areas have not yet been completely built up. It is expected, however, that the municipality will shortly take over some parts of the area when it may be possible to take over the street lamps and bring them into use.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the reasons why the lighting in Delhi itself is so defective. Ferozeshah Road has been in darkness for the last fifteen to twenty days.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know about the last fifteen or twenty days. The scarcity of electric bulbs has plunged Delhi into darkness for the past two years.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDIAN INTERESTS IN MICA MINES

1709. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if his attention has been drawn to an article in the *Free Press Journal* of the 16th March, 1945, under the title, 'India Chief Producer of Mica', in which it is pointed out that British and American interests are trying to get control of mica mines in India?

(b) If this is true, what precautions are Government taking to safeguard the interests of those engaged in mica industry at present, and of Indian Joint Stock Companies, who have acquired mica interests?

(c) How many Indian Joint Stock Companies are interested in mica mines in India?

(d) Have any applications been received by the Controller of Capital Issues to register new companies in respect of mica, and has permission been given? If so, to which ones?

(e) Do Government propose to give an assurance that mica interests in the hands of Indians will not be threatened by more powerful British or American interests and that they will not be deprived of the existing rights?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The article in question is not traceable in the *Free Press Journal* of the 16th March 1945.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) According to the annual returns received for the period ending 31st March 1943, the number is twenty. Later information is not available.

(d) Applications have been received by the Examiner of Capital Issues, and permission has been given in some cases. It is not the practice of the Department concerned to disclose the names of the firms with which they have been dealing.

(e) Government are alive to the necessity for putting the Indian Mica industry on a sound footing and they intend to take all possible steps to safeguard the interests of the Indian mica producer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have not attempted to bring the small mica producers together into a combine under their supervision and guidance and why they are making the way open for foreign interests?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We do not propose to take any step until we receive the report of the Committee we have appointed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government permit the small Indian interests to be bought out by these foreign interests?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not wish to prejudice the issue.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Meanwhile what is to happen to this industry?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no need to fear very much on that account.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give an assurance to the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As soon as the report is received we shall take all the necessary measures.

MUSLIMS IN OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, DELHI

1710. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the number of Muslims in every category mentioned in replies to starred question No. 1341 (a) and (b) of the 26th March, 1945, regarding the strength of the office of the Director, Civil Supplies Department; and

(b) whether he has verified the correctness of his replies to part (a) of starred question No. 1350 of the 26th March, 1945, in so far as the period of service of the Assistant Inspector in Bihar is concerned, and whether it is correct that the said period is only three months till December, 1944?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the table.

(b) The information given in reply to (a) of Starred Question No. 1350 on 26th March 1945 pertained to the total period in which the two Inspectors and one Assistant Inspector in Bihar had detected the 56 and 41 cases respectively. It did not purport to say that that was the period during which the present incumbent had held the post of Assistant Inspector, Bihar, or that it was during that entire period that 41 cases had been detected. If the Honourable Member requires information on these points, necessary enquiries will be made.

Statement showing the number of Muslims in each category of the strength of the office of the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, on the 15th March 1945.

Designation	Total number	Number of Muslims
Director of Civil Supplies	1	..
Asstt. Directors of Civil Supplies	4	2
Enforcement Officer	1	..
Permit Officer	1	..
Inspectors	26	12
Sub-Inspectors	36	12
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	6	4
Superintendents	4	1
Accountant	1	1
Assistants	16	5
Clerks	25	10
Qanungos	3	2
Peons	55	30

CONVICTIONS OF KEROSENE OIL LICENCEES OF WARIS ALIGANJ

1711. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he has called for the information about the convictions of kerosine oil licensees of Waris Aliganj, in Nawada sub-division of Gaya District, as promised in reply to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's supplementary question to starred question No. 955 of the 13th March, 1945? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir, on 6th March, 1945.

MUSLIM SALT DEALERS IN BEHAR

1712. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please verify the reply given by him to starred question No. 1349 of the 26th March 1945, in so far as it relates to the Muslim salt dealers in Bihar and lay on the table the verified figure?

(b) When will the information be completed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Complete information has since been received from the Bihar Government and a statement containing the required particulars is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the total number of licensed Salt Dealers and Muslim licensees in Bihar

Particulars	March, 1944	Period March, 1945
1. Total number of licensed Salt Dealers	25,370	25,370
2. Total number of Muslim licensees	1,852	2,522
3. Total number of Muslim licensees in Tirhut Division		
(a) in Muzaffarpur district	133	127
(b) in Darbhanga district	148	157
(c) in Saran district	118	152
(d) in Champaran district	144	216

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the number given by the Honourable Member relates to retail license or wholesale license?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to say. I would like notice of the question. But I presume that it includes both.

GRAIN STORAGE DIRECTORATE

1713. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state: (a) whether the Grain Storage Directorate has been organised; if so, to what extent;

(b) the number and qualifications of the Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Entomologists appointed to officiate during 1944 and 1945, and the amount of each officer's salary, and

(c) the total number of ministerial staff and the number of Muslims above the rank of peons and chaprasis?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 3 gazetted posts out of 9 remain to be filled.

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

(c) 24, out of which 3 are Muslims and three posts are vacant at present.

Statement

S. No.	Designation	No.	Name of officer	Qualifications	Salary per month
1	2	3		4	5
1	Director	1	Dr. F. P. Coyne	B.Sc., Ph.D; formerly Technical Officer (Pest Control), United Kingdom Commercial Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 2300/-
2	Deputy Director	1	Mr. K.R. Sontakay	M.Sc. (Zoology) with Entomology as special group; Lecturer in Entomology at the Imperial College, Nagpur; LL.B.; Entomologist to the Government of C. P. and Berar from 1939 to 1945; has been actively connected with various scheme sponsored by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Central Cotton Committee about control of pests of different species.	Rs. 650/-
3	Assistant Directors	2	(a) Mr I. J. Malhan	B.A.; had put in more than about 14 years service in various offices and Departments of the Government of India, including the Central Marketing Department and the Supply Department before he was appointed as Superintendent in the Food Department; officiated as Assistant Secretary, Food Department; was then selected for the post of Assistant Director.	Rs. 670/-
			(b) Mr. Mohan Singh.	M.Sc. (Hons); worked as Demonstrator in Zoology and Entomology at the Government College, Lahore and Khalsa College, Amritsar; attended a special course on "Fishes" and Applied and General Entomology; In-charge of the Insectary of the Imperial Entomologist from 1938 to 1943; worked as Assistant to the Imperial Entomologist at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; published more than 20 short notes on the observations made on insect pests of various crops; carried out special work on insect pests of stored grain and other foodstuffs; organised locust control work in Mekran and Baroda and Bahawalpur States.	Rs. 400/-

1	2	3	4	5
4	Storage Construction Officer.	1	Rai Bahadur Narain Dass.	Retired Executive Engineer, C.P.W.D.
5	Technical Officer, Storage Entomologists	1	Mr. A. S. Jandu.	Studied for two years for the I.Sc. Examination of the Patna University; was then appointed Fieldman in the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute since August, 1944, he was officiating in the Institute as Assistant on Rs. 100/- in the scale of Rs. 100-5-150-10-250.
				Rs. 550/- in addition to pension Rs. 200/-

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is the number of Muslims in (a) and (b)?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is it a fact that there is no Muslim?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, the statement is there.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I say that there is no Muslim. Will the Honourable Member please see that out of the remaining appointments due share of Muslims is made good?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The position is that we are advertising specifically for a Muslim candidate to fill one of the technical officer posts remaining to be filled.

ESTABLISHMENT FOR POST-WAR EDUCATION SCHEME

1714. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state (a) the number and qualifications of officers appointed in 1944 and 1945 for post-war education scheme;

(b) the total ministerial staff hitherto appointed for post-war education scheme and the number of Muslims;

(c) whether the posts in (a) and (b) were advertised; if so, when and how;

(d) whether the officers mentioned in (a) were appointed by the Federal Public Service Commission or by the Selection Board;

(e) whether any instruction has been issued to Provinces for selecting sites of schools to be opened under new schemes, particularly for Muslims; if not, how do Government propose to safeguard the Muslim's interests in matters of their education; and

(f) whether any arrangement, for religious instructions, is under contemplation; if so, what is it and how it is to be imparted?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) One Assistant Secretary, two Superintendents, seven Assistants, ten Clerks and two Stenographers have so far been appointed. Of these 22 posts five are held by Muslims.

(c) and (d). The posts of Deputy Educational Adviser, Educational Liaison Officer in the United States of America, one Assistant Educational Adviser, Assistant Secretary and Superintendents have been filled by Departmental promotion. The other posts have, pending recruitment through the Federal Public Service Commission, been temporarily filled by selection from a list maintained by the Department in the case of Officers and by press advertisement in the case of ministerial staff. The advertisement was issued some time in March last.

(e) No. The Provincial Governments are at full liberty to take such steps as they deem necessary to safeguard the interests of various communities in the matter of education.

(f) The matter is being considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education.

Statement showing the number and qualifications of officers appointed up to the 9th April, 1945 for post war educational development work

S. No.	Post	Date when filled	Qualifications of of Officer appointed
1.	Deputy Educational Adviser . . .	1-1-1945	M.A., Ph. D. (Lond.).
2.	Educational Liaison Officer in the U.S.A . .	1-3-1945	M.A., B. Litt. (Oxon).
3.	Assistant Educational Adviser . . .	1-1-1945	B.A. (Oxon), Bar-at-Law.
4.	Assistant Educational Adviser . . .	8-3-1945	M.A., LL. B., B.A. (Oxon).
5.	Assistant Educational Adviser . . .	17-3-1945	M.A., Ph. D.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: With reference to the reply to part (e), will the Honourable Member propose to ask the particular provinces to take into consideration the claims of Muslims in matters of education, etc.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We shall naturally use our influence in that direction; if, however, the Province choose to do the thing entirely from their own funds, we have not got any power to compel them in such a matter.

JUDGMENTS BY SPECIAL TRIBUNALS

1715. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state (a) whether his attention has been drawn to an editorial in the 'Sind Observer', dated the 17th February, 1945 to the effect that as special tribunals are appointed for a special purpose, their Judgments tend to lack that impartiality which the pronouncements of Judicial tribunals should possess;

(b) if it is a fact that His Lordship the Chief Judge in Sind while deciding a revision application against the judgment of the special Tribunal said "I have not in my long experience as a Judge in Criminal matters seen a Judgment of this nature or quality from a Session Judge. It is, I am afraid as a judgment, a document of little worth. It would appear that in this case the tribunal was unequal to the burden placed upon it";

(c) if it is also a fact that the tribunal in the aforesaid case had sentenced very respectable men and some military Indian Garrison officers to long terms of imprisonment which the Chief Court set aside completely;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to save people being tried by such tribunals; and

(e) the criterion for selecting cases and for being tried by special tribunals or ordinary Courts?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) I have seen the article.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is a fact that certain contractors and Government servants were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by the Special Tribunal and that the convictions and sentences were set aside by the Chief Court.

(d) The fact that in one particular case strictures have been passed on one particular Tribunal constituted under Ordinance XXIX of 1943 does not justify any inference adverse to the quality of such Tribunals generally and I may invite the Honourable Member's attention to the high tribute paid to another such Tribunal by the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in the judgment reported in A. I. R. (31) 1944 All. 257.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by the Secretary in the War Department to question No. 1090 on the 19th March, 1945.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member is also somewhat responsible to see which kind of cases should go to these tribunals and which should not, and what criterion the Law Department is going to make about them?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: These tribunals have only just recently come under the Legislative Department.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what the House is to understand from the answer? The question says that one tribunal has been adversely commented upon by the Chief Judge in Sind, while the answer says that another tribunal has been praised for its work by another High Court: one involves the other or does it affect the administration of justice?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can draw his own inference.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know how many tribunals are at present working, and is it a fact or not that there are some tribunals presided over by Assistant Judges or acting Sessions Judge, in which only one man sits and he sends people to the gallows? Will the Honourable Member do anything in regard to that?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: There are four Tribunals now functioning, and each one of these consists of three persons sitting on the tribunal; I do not know what my Honourable friend means when he says that one man can sentence somebody to the gallows. Under this ordinance. . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Does the Honourable Member know that the former Khuhro case was tried by an Assistant Judge acting as a session judge and he sent at least five men to the gallows?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That has nothing to do with Ordinance 29 of 1943.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member consider the very real need for giving a right of appeal from the judgments of these special tribunals?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That matter was very carefully considered, and I think my Honourable friend knows that a right of revision has been given to the High Courts; and in a proper case I think the High Court can deal with a matter which comes on revision as if the matter was before them on appeal. I mean, if the High Court feels that the circumstances of the case demand their going into the facts of the case the High Court may do so.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I have personal experience of these tribunals and I would ask the Honourable Member to give this right, because he is perhaps aware that where the facts of the case justify intervention, the High Court will not normally intervene unless there is a very substantial point of law, which may not arise?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I can only say that this matter was very carefully considered, and the decision was come to that a right of revision given to the High Court would be enough.

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

FISHING AT OKHLA

1716. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 820, dated the 26th March, 1945, regarding the grant of fishing licences for Okhla in the Province of Delhi, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether fishing at Okhla in the Province of Delhi is governed by the provisions of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873, and the rules made thereunder? Has the Delhi Anglers' Association any status under these rules to have a hand in the grant of annual fishing permits? If so, what, and under what provision of the Act?

(b) With reference to the concluding part of the reply to part (c) of starred question No. 820, dated the 26th March, 1945, has the issue of annual permits for fishing at Okhla been restricted now as compared to previous years with the object of preserving fish? If so, has such restriction been imposed for preserving fish at the expense of annual permits only or on daily permits also? If no restriction has been imposed on daily permits, why?

(c) What is the criterion for the grant of annual permits to the gazetted and non-gazetted staff of the Central Government? Do Government consult the

Delhi Anglers' Association in the matter of issuing annual permits to the staff of the Central Government, or are their cases treated on their respective merits? If the Association is consulted, why? Is it a fact that in certain cases recommendations from the heads of Departments or certain responsible officers of the Central Government for the grant of annual permits to their ministerial staff have been rejected, while those from the Association accepted? If so, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes: fishing at Okhla is regulated under the Act and Rules mentioned. The Delhi Anglers' Association has no legal status under the Act or Rules. The authorities concerned, however, consult the Association in doubtful cases as a matter of convenience.

(b) and (c). The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA -

1717. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) In continuation of the preceding question, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the total number, separately, of applicants employed under the Central Government who applied for the renewal of annual permits, the number of licences renewed and the number of applications rejected? On what grounds were their applications for renewal of licences rejected? What conditions have the Government servants to satisfy for the grant or renewal of licences?

(b) Has the Delhi Anglers' Association been recognised by Government in the matter of recommending individuals for licences? If so, do Government propose to recognise other private Associations and authorise them to recommend deserving persons for licences? If not, why not? If so, will their recommendations be acceptable as those of the Delhi Anglers' Association? If not, why not?

(c) Are the ex-Members of the Delhi Anglers' Association who had hitherto been granted licences entitled to the grant of annual licences direct or are they required to apply through the Association? If they are required to apply through the Association, why? Are Government aware that they had already been recognized to be *bona fide* amateur anglers while they were in the Association?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (c). Information is being collected and will be furnished as soon as available.

(b) There is no question of any recognition of the Delhi Anglers' Association by Government. It is a private club and is consulted only for the sake of convenience by the licensing authorities. If there are other well established associations, there is no reason why their recommendations should not be given due weight also.

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA

1718. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) With reference to the reply to part (b) of starred question No. 820 for the 26th March, 1945, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether, on consultation with the Executive Engineer Upper Division, Agra Canal, the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, was satisfied that Government servants who applied for, and were granted, annual licences during the year 1943-44 were *bona fide* amateur anglers? If not, on what consideration were they granted licences during that year? If so, what led the Chief Commissioner or the Executive Engineer not to recognise them in the succeeding year as *bona fide* amateur anglers? Were there any complaints of any nature against them, If so, what, and were those complaints conveyed to them while refusing licences? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Enquiries are being made and information will be furnished to the House as soon as available.

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA

1719. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) In continuation of previous questions, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether Government propose to revise the procedure for granting annual

permits to employees of the Central Government, the non-Government servants and men of high social status? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Government are not yet in possession of the full facts but if, when full information is available, the existing system is found to be unfair or unsatisfactory the system will be changed.

ACTION ON SPEECHES OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ON FINANCE BILL

1720. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether the speeches made by the non-official members of the Assembly on the Finance Bill are scrutinised and the points raised therein brought to the notice of the heads of the Departments concerned for appropriate action; and

(b) whether Government propose to prepare in future, a summary giving the list of points raised during the course of the debates on the Finance Bill and the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Honourable Member may take it that speeches made by Non-Official Members in this House, whether on the Finance Bill or otherwise, receive the attention which they certainly deserve.

(b) No. The suggested summary would serve no purpose commensurate with the labour involved in its preparation.

Sardar Mangal Singh: How do we know whether any attention has been paid to the points raised in this House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: You can ask a question on any particular subject and we will answer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what has happened to the suggestion made by me, Dr. Banerjea and Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan with regard to showing the details of military expenditure, which is non-voted, and of which the House knows nothing, to the Leaders of Parties?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If the learned Member gives notice of this question, I will see about it.

PREVAILING RATES FOR FOODSTUFFS IN BIJAPUR DISTRICT

1721. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the District of Bijapur the following rates for foodstuffs prevail and that Government are making huge profits as shown in the table:—

Foodstuffs	Buying rate (per bag of 120 seers)	Selling rate	Profit per bag
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Rice	40 0 0	50 8 6	10 8 6
Wheat	30 0 0	36 3 6	6 3 6
Jowar	18 7 6	22 5 3	3 13 9

(b) whether at the present rate of ration consisting of 25 per cent. rice, 25 per cent. wheat and 50 per cent. jowar an adult pays Rs. 10 per year to Government as the cost of rationing;

(c) whether it is a fact that jowar is purchased in Bijapur at Rs. 30 per bag and the same is transported to Poona and sold at Rs. 45 per bag;

(d) the difference in rates in pre-war years between Bijapur and Poona; and

(e) the reasons for maintaining the higher margin between purchasing and selling rates, and what steps the Central Government propose to take to see that Provincial Governments do not profiteer in foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The purchase rates mentioned by the Honourable Member are correct for Bijapur district, but the selling rates are the retail prices in the rationed town of Bijapur. Retail prices in rationed areas are the actual economic cost including the pooled price of Government's purchases of the particular grain, from whatever source, handling and administrative charges, and the retailer's margin. No profit is made by the Provincial Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The purchase rate of Jowar in Bijapur is Rs. 18-7-6 per bag of 120 seers, and the selling rate in Poona is Rs. 22-8-0.

(d) During the period 1927-1939, prices in Poona were about 12 per cent. higher than in Bijapur.

(e) As the present margin between the purchasing and the selling rates in rationed areas does not result in any profit to the Provincial Government, the Government of India do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India are satisfied with this state of things, as a result of which as much as 50 per cent. additional price is tacked on to the buying price of Jowar and 25 per cent. in the case of the rice consumer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of any case like that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The information is given here: buying rate (per bag of 120 seers) Rs. 40, selling rate Rs. 50-8-6.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Rs. 18-7-6 is the purchase rate and the selling rate in Poona is 22-8-0.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The whole House is grateful to the Honourable Member for having given this information in tabular form. Are we to understand that Government are allowing as much as 25 per cent additional cost to be charged to the buyer on account of marketing?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That was never the intention. I do not know what the Honourable Member is referring to.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member see page 8 of the question list where it is said that the profit per bag is Rs. 10-8-6.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That I have denied. I have not accepted the prices given by the Honourable questioner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the actual facts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have given you the actual facts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any serious effort been made by the Provincial Government or the Food Department to reduce the cost of marketing so that the commodities will reach the consumer cheaper?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Every effort is being made every day. The price that we are charging is the actual cost of the foodgrains plus the handling charges.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The handling charges are too much?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It may be in some cases. I do not know but the Provincial Governments are making no profits.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any others allowed to make profits?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Nobody is allowed to make profits.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: According to the reply given by the Honourable Member, we all understood that he admitted the accuracy of the figures given in part (a) of the question. We would like a definite reply that the figures given in part (a) of the question are right or wrong?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. What I have stated is that the purchase rates mentioned by the Honourable Member are correct for Bijapur District but the selling rates or the retail prices in the rationed town of Bijapur are naturally higher and they are pooled prices. They might include rice bought at higher rates.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the selling rate at Bijapur?

... **The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Sriyastava:** The selling rate is 50-8. I have not denied that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Rs. 10-8-0 is allowed as profit. Is it not too much?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: With this reservation, as I have explained. This is the pooled retail price. It may include rice bought at higher rates.

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the responsibility for this rest with the Food Department or the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Mainly the Provincial Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member give a clear answer, so that it can be accepted or contested. The Honourable questioner has said that rice was bought at Rs. 40 and sold at 50-8-6. The point is whether those figures are right or wrong. The Honourable Member said first that the buying price is correct but the selling price is not. Subsequently he said the selling price is correct. What is the exact position, because this is a matter dealt with by a Provincial Government.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid my Honourable friend has not understood me correctly. What I said was that the buying rate has been correctly stated but the selling rate is the retail price which might include lot of rice bought at a higher rate before. I said: Retail prices in rationed areas are the actual economic cost including the pooled price of Government's purchases of the particular grain from whatever source. It is not a question of Bijapur rice only. They might have got rice from outside which might have cost them more and to that they have got to add the necessary charges but it is a pooled price. The Provincial Government make no profit on it. They may have got rice for example from the Punjab which might have cost them much more. The selling price is the pooled price.

BAD CONDITION OF TIMARPUR QUARTERS, DELHI

1722. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government quarters in Timarpur were built temporarily?

(b) Is he aware that these quarters are now in worst condition, that no repairs can stand for long, and that there is always a danger of some of the quarters coming down at any time?

(c) Is he aware that the New Delhi Government quarters are cent per cent. better than those in Timarpur?

(d) Is he further aware that even in C Type of quarters there is only one water tap, whereas in the New Delhi quarters there are three to four taps?

(e) Is he aware that neither any Executive Engineer nor any higher official has ever gone to these quarters to see whether each one has been properly repaired or not, and that no one looks after the convenience of the tenants there?

(f) Why do Government charge the same rate of rent from those living in much inferior type of quarters where there are less facilities as compared to the New Delhi quarters? Do Government propose to have the case examined and reduce the rent?

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

(b) No, but I am aware that these quarters require frequent repairs.

(c) The New Delhi quarters are much superior to the Timarpur quarters.

(d) Yes.

(e) No. On the other hand my information is that the quarters are regularly inspected by responsible officials of the Department. There is an Enquiry Office at site for the tenants to register their complaints.

(f) It is not possible to lay down different rates for recovery of rent from Government servants for similar type of quarters though the facilities may be somewhat less. The standard rents of Timarpur quarters are lower as compared with the standard rents of similar quarters in New Delhi and consequently a larger number of occupants of these quarters pay less than 10 per cent of their salaries. The question of reducing rents does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any steps been taken to improve the amenities for the older quarters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They have already got amenities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member stated in his question that water taps and other conveniences do not exist. Will the amenities be improved?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will look into the matter.

DIFFICULTY *re* ACCOMMODATION OF SIMLA STAFF PERMANENTLY LOCATED AT
NEW DELHI

1723. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of staff who have come down from Simla to be located permanently at New Delhi?

(b) Is he aware that much inconvenience is being felt by the staff and others for locating such staff far away from the main Branches of the Departments or Offices?

(c) Does he propose to see that each departmental unit is located in one building?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The information is not readily available and its collection does not justify the time and labour involved.

(b) Yes.

(c) Under the present circumstances it is not always possible to accommodate the entire staff of a particular office in one building. Attempts are however made to adhere to this principle as far as possible.

COST OF DEHYDRATED MEAT, ETC., AT CERTAIN GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

1724. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the cost separately, of dehydrated meat per 100 lbs. prepared at each of the Government Factories at Delhi, Agra, Patna, Poona and Madras, the cost separately, of dressed meat and the dehydration charges, and the reasons for the variation in cost prices at each of the above Factories; and

(b) if it is a fact that under the existing arrangements, the supply of dressed meat and dehydration operation is being carried out by one and the same party in each of the above Factories excepting Delhi, where dehydration operations are being carried out by Government themselves?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement showing the analysed cost per 100 lbs. of dehydrated meat produced is placed on the table of the House. Local conditions which affect the price of raw meat and the rates of labour are responsible for the variations in cost. The Delhi Factory was intended to demonstrate certain improvements in production which added to the cost of the product.

(b) Yes.

Statement showing estimated cost per 100 lbs. of dehydrated meat produced at Government Dehydrated Meat Factories before 31st March 1945.

Item	Poona factory	Madras factory	Patna factory	Agra factory	Delhi factory
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cost of Dressed carcasses .	759 14 4	659 14 4	680 3 4	570 5 0	680 0 0
Processing charges .	243 12 0	175 0 0	175 0 0	185 15 0	420 13 4
Profit .	31 4 0	*39 7 4	31 4 0	31 4 0	Nil
Total . . .	1,034 14 4	874 5 8	886 7 4	787 8 0	1,100 13 4

*Includes Sales Tax paid.

TENDER PROCEDURE FOR SUPPLY OF DRESSED CARCASS OF GOAT MEAT FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

1725. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if Government have recently adopted the tender procedure for the supply of dressed carcass of goat meat for the Factories mentioned in the previous question except Delhi; if so, for what reasons; why such tenders have not been invited for the Delhi Factory; and

(b) for how long the contract for the supply of dressed meat will be allotted to each Factory, and whether the contracts will be placed with the lowest tenderers; if not, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. No tenders have been invited for the Delhi factory, as supplies for the current year are already under a contract.

(b) The second lowest tender in case of the Patna factory and the third lowest in case of the Agra factory have been accepted for supply of dressed carcasses for a period of three and six months respectively. The lowest tenders were not accepted in the interests of security of supply as the tenderers lacked adequate organisation and experience in procurement of goats. Tenders for the other two factories are under consideration.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

OPERATION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT MEAT DEHYDRATING FACTORIES BY CONTRACTORS

1726. *Dewan Abdul Basith Chaudury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if Government are aware that numerous experienced contractors are willing to undertake the operation of the Factories mentioned in previous questions at rates lower than the existing rates paid by Government; and

(b) whether Government propose to invite tenders for dehydration operations for all these Factories, if so, when, if not, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Government is unaware of any contractors, barring those already employed in meat factories, who are experienced in the process of meat dehydration.

(b) In view of (a) above the question of calling for tenders for operating contracts does not arise.

HIGH COST OF DEHYDRATED MEAT AT GOVERNMENT FACTORY, DELHI

1727. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that on account of the Government meat Dehydration Factory, Delhi, being operated by Government themselves the cost of dehydrated meat is much higher than that of other such Factories which are operated by contractors; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of inviting tenders for the operation of this Factory or for the supply of dehydrated meat including the cost of meat as well as dehydration charges, etc., for the Delhi Factory as is already being done by Government in case of dehydrated potatoes, dehydrated onions and other dehydrated vegetables; if so, from what date; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes; since the factory was intended to demonstrate certain improvements in production, which however added to the cost of the product.

(b) Yes, the future operation of the factory is under consideration.

STARCH FACTORIES

1728. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the number of factories in India manufacturing Starch;

(b) the production of Starch in 1938-39 and 1943-44;

(c) whether there was any import of Starch in 1943 and 1944; and, if so, the quantities in each year;

(d) if it is one of the industries to be encouraged by Government in the post-war planning; and

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, to what extent?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The number of starch factories in British India is 15.

(b) No figures of starch production in 1938-39 are available. Production of maize starch by the 15 factories licensed in British India during the period 1st September 1943 to 31st August 1944 was 21,280 tons.

(c) Yes, Sir. Imports of starch, dextrine and Farina during the financial year 1943-44 amounted to 6,400 cwts. Imports for the period from 1st April to 30th November 1944 were 4,516 cwts.

(d) and (e). Development of the starch industry will be considered by one of the industrial panels set up by the Planning and Development Department.

EXPORT OF CLOTH

1729. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether there was any export of cloth in the year 1944 and up to now in 1945 from India to any other country or countries including those which were recently occupied by Allies; and

(b) if so, what those countries were and what the respective quantities of cloth exported were?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

Statement

Countries	Exports in tons	
	During 1944	During January and February 1945
Aden including Yemen, Hadramaut	4615	672
Saudi Arabia	919	357
Ethiopia	1024	Nil
Eritrea	399	21
French Somaliland	63	17
Afghanistan	2378	226
Arab States in the Persian Gulf	873	146
Australia	3544	761
Belgian Congo	145	53
British East Africa, Nyasaland and Italian Somaliland	6440	78
British West Africa including Nigeria	2144	911
Ceylon	4166	375
Cyprus	99	28
Egypt	Nil	Nil
Free French Africa	317	93
Iraq	1959	544
Mauritius	567	Nil
New Zealand	467	75
N. & S. Rhodesia	479	Nil
Palestine	667	65
Transjordan	105	54
Persia	1281	296
Portuguese East Africa	36	1
Seychelles	51	Nil
Sudan	5432	897
Syria and Lebanon	5	44
Turkey	2271	245
Union of South Africa	3695	238
Nepal	4403	521
British Pacific Islands	128	20
French Pacific Islands	Nil	Nil
Madagascar	1101	349
Reunion	16	3
Total	49789	7090

SCHEDULED CASTE CANDIDATES RECRUITED FOR SUPERIOR POSTS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AT CALCUTTA AND NEW DELHI

1730. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of scheduled caste candidates recruited in the superior industrial and clerical branches of the Government of India Presses at Calcutta and New Delhi during the last three years?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no representation of scheduled castes in the permanent and temporary cadre of Proof Readers, Monotype and Linotype Operators in the Government of India Presses at Calcutta, New Delhi, Aligarh and Simla? If so, do Government propose to provide for due representation of scheduled castes in that cadre by direct recruitment? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) No. Recruitment of scheduled castes is now made in accordance with the rules for communal representation in the services.

Statement showing the number of scheduled caste candidates recruited in Calcutta and New Delhi Presses during the last three years

Name of service	Calcutta Press			Forms Press, Calcutta			New Delhi Press		
	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
1. Clerical .. }		7	11	{ 2	..	..	..	1	2
2. Industrial 1.. }				{	6	6
Total	..	7	11	2	..	..	..	7	8

†1731.*

RESIGNATION BY EUROPEAN INSPECTRESSES OF SCHOOLS IN BALUCHISTAN

1732. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) whether two European ladies appointed as Inspectress of Schools in Baluchistan left that service one after another within one year causing great dislocation in the progress of female education in that Province;

(b) if this post is reserved for European ladies; and

(c) whether Government now propose to appoint an Indian lady who knows the people and conditions in Baluchistan, with some degree of assurance that she will continue for sometime and look for the advancement of female education in Baluchistan?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The facts are that Miss G. J. Low, who was appointed to the post in June, 1940 left to join another post after about a year. The vacancy was advertised through the Federal Public Service Commission but as no suitable candidate applied, Miss M. C. Franklin, formerly of the I.E.S. and an ex-Inspectress of Schools, Burma, was appointed to the post in September, 1942 temporarily for one year. She handed over charge after completing her term of appointment.

(b) No.

(c) The question of recruitment to the post is under consideration. The Government of India would be only too glad to appoint an Indian Lady to this post but they have not so far succeeded in securing the services of one with the requisite qualifications and experience.

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATIONS USING COAL IN MADRAS PROVINCE

1733. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of Electric Supply Corporations which generate electricity by using coal in the Madras Province and the cities they serve;

(b) the amount of coal allotted to each of them per annum; and

(c) if this coal consumption could be saved by linking up these electricity installations with any of the Hydro-Electric Power Supply Stations in that Province; and if so, whether Government propose to take steps to save coal consumption in this respect?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Of the three Power Stations mentioned in the statement, Madras is likely to be linked up at an early date with the Mettur Hydro-Electric System. Bezwada and Vizagapatam are too far away from the existing Hydro-Electric Systems for an interconnection but when the Machkund Scheme is completed Hydro-Electric Power will take the place of Thermal Power in the Madras Presidency.

Statement showing the number of Electric Supply Corporations in Madras Province generating electricity by using coal, the cities served by them etc.

Number of Electric Supply Corporations in Madras Province	Amount of coal consumed in 1944	Cities served by them
Three viz.	Tons	
(i) Madras	64,135	Tiruvottiyur, Sembiam, Madras City, Villivakkam, Saidapet, Allandur, St. Thomas Mount, Pallavaram and Tambaram.
(ii) Bezwada	14,445	Guntur, Tadepalle, Narasaraopet Tenali Repalle, Bapatla, Masulipatam, Gudivada, Nuzvid, Ellore, Pedana, Sitarampuram and Bezwada.
(iii) Vizagapatam	6,004	Bobbili, Salur, Donkinavalasa, Ramchandrapuram, Venkatapuram, Penuvarti Vizianagaram, Chittivalasa, Anakpalle, Bimlipatam and Vizagapatam.

SOLUTION OF POLITICAL DEAD-LOCK

1734. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether correspondence has been going on between the Central and Provincial Governments for ending the political dead-lock in India; and

(b) whether the departure of Lord Wavell to England is in connection with finding a solution for the political dead-lock?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No.

(b) I have nothing to add to the official announcement on the subject which appeared in the Press of the 22nd March.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TERMS, PAY, ETC., OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF VICEREGAL ESTATES TRANSFERRED TO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

135. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: With reference to the reply to starred question No. 1224 asked on the 21st March, 1945, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions offered to the officials mentioned in the list at the time of employment in the Viceregal Estates, and the pay drawn by each of them before their transfer from the Estates Division;

(b) the pay given to each of them on their transfer to the Central Public Works Department, and the status on which they were transferred;

(c) the present pay and rank of these officials in the Central Public Works Department; and

(d) what steps were taken by the Honourable Member to determine the loss of concessions previously enjoyed by each of them in the Viceregal Estates, and how far the provisions of rule 22, part II, Civil Service Classification Control and Appeal Rules, were applied in their cases?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

ALLOWANCES TO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STAFF IN SIMLA

136. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: With reference to the reply to starred question No. 1225 answered on the 21st March, 1945, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the date after which the staff posted to, or appointed in, the Simla Central Division is being treated as 'new entrant' for the purposes of grant of Winter Allowance; and

(b) whether the desirability of extending, to the Ministerial and Inferior staff of the Simla Central Division, the same concessions as enjoyed by such staff of the Viceregal Estates Division, Simla had been or is being examined, if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The 16th July, 1931.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

INCREASE OF PAY TO WORK-CHARGED ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

137. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: With reference to the answer given in this Assembly in reply to starred question No. 218, asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 15th August, 1938 regarding work-charge establishment of the Central Public Works Department, will the Labour Member please state whether the small increases of pay recommended by the Divisional Officers, in accordance with the general practice, have been granted to the staff for the year 1944? If not, the reason for the same?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The latter part of the question does not arise.

WIREMEN AND FITTERS (WORK-CHARGE ESTABLISHMENT) OF CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

138. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state.

(a) the number of wiremen and fitters work-charge establishment of the Central Public Works Department separately, who are in continuous service for the last 30, 25, 20 and 10 years; and

(b) whether the establishment in question is entitled to pension; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The particulars asked for by the Honourable Member are given below:

	<i>Period of continuous service</i>			
	30 yrs.	25 yrs.	20 yrs.	10 yrs.
Wiremen	5	4	21	44
Fitters	5	7	50	40

(b) No, because the posts of work-charged establishment are not permanent posts.

DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND INDIANS AS REGARDS FISHING AT OKHLA

139. Mr. S. K. Hosmani: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that only Europeans are allowed to fish beyond the gate at the Okhla mound (Delhi Province) and that Indians are prohibited from crossing the gate? If so, why? If not, do Government propose to enquire into the racial discrimination policy?

(b) Are Government aware that Europeans are never prevented from violating fishing rules at Okhla and that Indians are not allowed to fish side by side

with Europeans? If so, why? If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware that when the violation of fishing rules by Europeans is brought to the notice of the Executive Engineer by the Fishing Guards he takes no notice?

(d) Are Government aware that the Fishing Guards have stopped checking Europeans or even going near them?

(e) Are Government aware that the Executive Engineer has issued verbal orders to the Fishing Guards to check only the Indian anglers while fishing? If so, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (e). So far as Government are aware no racial discrimination policy is followed in the control of fishing at Okhla; but enquiries are being made and a reply will be furnished when full information is available.

DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND INDIANS AS REGARDS FISHING AT OKHLA

140. Mr. S. K. Hosmani: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state, in continuation of the preceding question, whether the European Members of the Delhi Anglers' Association have been authorized by the Executive Engineer to check annual fishing licences and daily permits of the Indian amateur anglers?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps with a view to removing racial discrimination between a European and an Indian and redressing the grievances of the Indian amateur anglers who are hard hit? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Information has been called for and will be supplied as soon as available.

MEMBERS OF THE SELECTIONS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

141. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number, community wise, of each of the Members of the Selection Committee appointed by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, for considering matters connected with appointments and promotions?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Particulars asked for by the Honourable Member are given below:

<i>Community</i>	<i>Number</i>
European	1
Hindu	2
Muslim	2
Sikh	1

CARETAKERS IN DELHI AND SIMLA

142. Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of Caretakers in Delhi and Simla, separately, and how many of them are Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs?

(b) How many vacancies occurred during 1944 and in the current year and how were these appointments filled up?

(c) Which community is unrepresented in this cadre, and what steps were taken by the Honourable Member to afford them representation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The total number of Caretakers in Delhi and Simla is 10—8 in Delhi and 2 in Simla. Of these, 5 are Hindus, 3 Muslims and 2 Sikhs.

(b) Two vacancies occurred during 1944 and the current year, of which one was filled by the appointment of a Hindu and the other by a Muslim.

(c) Communities, other than the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities, are not at present represented on the cadre of Caretakers. Apart from such steps as are required to be taken under the general orders issued by Government for securing adequate representation for the minority communities in the public services, no special steps were taken or can be taken to secure representation on the cadre of caretakers for each of the communities which are not now represented therein.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RECRUITMENT TO I.C.S., I.P.S., AND I.M.S., IN IMMEDIATE FUTURES

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

(a) whether any initiative was taken by the Government of India in regard to a consideration of the question of recruitment, in the immediate future, to the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police Service and the Indian Medical Service, and whether any communication was addressed on the subject to the Secretary of State;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, whether the Secretary of State took the initiative in this matter, and what the reaction of the Government of India thereto was;

(c) whether India was recently visited by a deputation consisting of representatives of British Foreign Office, Colonial Office and the British Civil Service Commissioners, and whether they had any discussion with the Government of India on the above subject;

(d) the immediate reasons that led to the visit of the Honourable the Home Member and the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department to London; and

(e) whether the Government of India have given to them any instructions as regards the views of the Government of India to be expressed in the course of "consultations" in London; if so, the purport of such instructions particularly on the following points:

(i) the future position of the services concerned, should the Cripps declaration or any substitute thereof in regard to the future constitutional position of India become an accomplished fact;

(ii) the need for revision in regard to the authority for recruitment and control of the services in the immediate future; and

(iii) the determination of the future proportion of European and Indian elements in the said services?

Sir Richard Tottenham: (a) to (e). Some months ago the Secretary of State intimated his intention as soon as the war in Europe was finished of reopening recruitment to the I. C. S. and the I. P., which has been suspended during the war, and in doing so of honouring the pledges which were given in the *press Communiques*, dated 13th March 1941 and 19th December 1942 about the reservation or vacancies in those Services for candidates with war service. Other Civil Services under the Crown, both in the United Kingdom and the Colonies, were in a similar position, but not the Indian Medical Service. During the cold weather a deputation visited India for the purpose of consultation with the Civil and Military Authorities in this country; and this deputation included representatives not only of the India Office, but also of the Colonial Office and the Civil Service Commission in England. With the rapid progress of the war the whole matter has now become most urgent. Quite recently the Secretary of State himself invited the views of the Governor General in Council on his proposals and after these had been communicated by telegram he suggested that it would help him to reach decisions if the Home Member and Mr. Conran-Smith could proceed to London at once for personal discussion.

I am afraid I am not at liberty to give details of the advice tendered by the Governor General in Council but I should make it clear that the immediate reason for the visit is to discuss the filling of "war service" vacancies and not the larger matters referred to by the Honourable Member at the end of his question.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Member will be in a position to divulge to this House whether any portion of the instructions given to the Honourable the Home Member and the Home Secretary had provided against arrangements being made in such a manner as to prejudice the larger issue of India's ultimate control on their own officers?

Sir Richard Tottenham: No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: Since these *communiques* were issued, one in 1941 and the other in 1942, is it not a fact that the "Cripps' Proposals" came in?

Sir Richard Tottenham: I think the Honourable Member knows as well as I do when the "Cripps' Proposals" were made?

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that after the "Cripps' Proposals", the situation has changed immensely and the following Resolution was passed by the Sapru Committee with regard to this

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I disallow that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am putting a question, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have disallowed the question. The Honourable Member must resume his seat.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that apart from the question of filling war services vacancies, the question of increasing the strength of the cadre of these services is also under active consideration?

Sir Richard Tottenham: It is not on that matter that the Home Member and the Home Secretary have gone to London.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is not my point. Is it or is it not under active consideration at the present moment?

Sir Richard Tottenham: If the Honourable Member wanted to know he might have included it in his question. I must ask for notice.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Government of India state whether the Government of India Act had not provided that the question of recruitment to the all-India services, the Indian civil service specially should be reviewed at the end of five years period after the new constitution was inaugurated?

Sir Richard Tottenham: The Honourable Member is as well aware of the provisions of the Government of India Act as I am: It does not affect this question.

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

CONSUMER GOODS TO BE IMPORTED.

Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what those consumer goods are for the importation of which arrangements have been made and which are arriving during the next few months and what their value is?

(b) Do Government expect any effect of the importation of these consumer goods on industries established in India? If so, in which directions?

(c) Have Government instituted any machinery for watching that industries established in India will not be adversely affected through the continued importation of consumer goods after the public wants are satisfied in the first few months?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) For the main articles of consumer goods, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to part (b) of starred question No. 259 on the 10th November 1944 in the Legislative Assembly.

The answer to the last part of the question is not readily available, and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

(b) and (c). The policy of Government is to import only such goods as are available and necessary to meet the requirements of the country with due regard to the position of indigenous industries and their ability to meet that demand. The question of setting up any special machinery for ensuring that indigenous interests are not adversely affected does not therefore arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that after the last war, many hundreds of factories were thrown into liquidation, may I know whether the Government will institute a special machinery of the kind suggested in order to be forewarned and be prepared in advance?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is a question which I have said in answer to another question is under examination just now. So far we have not got anything which is likely to adversely affect in any way Indian industries, rather it would help Indian industries, because we are importing a large amount of what I may call producer goods.

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

ADVISABILITY OF EXTENDING TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS TO ADVANCED
TECHNICAL STUDIES

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Government of India propose to send abroad some students for advanced technical studies;

(b) if it is a fact that recently towards the middle of March, an advertisement appeared in all the newspapers inviting applications for obtaining copies of pamphlet, etc., from the Government Press, Delhi;

(c) if it is a fact that a large number of applications was received from distant places like South India, many of which have not yet been complied with;

(d) if it is a fact that copies of pamphlets which were printed were all exhausted very speedily and that several applicants who apply personally at the book depots which are Agents for Government of India publications, are given a negative answer;

(e) if it is a fact that the last date fixed for submission of applications by students to the Secretary, Selection Board is "so as to reach not later than the 15th April";

(f) in view of the shortness of time at the disposal of prospective applicants and, in view of the long distances from which applications have to be received, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of extending the period of submission of applications till the 15th May; and

(g) if the answer to (f) above is in the affirmative, whether Government propose to issue a *Press Communique* immediately to that effect?

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

(b) Advertisements inviting applications and calling attention to a brochure giving the necessary information and containing an application form appeared first in Indian newspapers on the 15th March 1945. Intending applicants were advised to obtain copies of the brochure from the Manager of Publications, Delhi.

(c) I understand that all prepaid requests for copies of the brochure "Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for advanced studies (1945)" are being complied with as received by the Manager of Publications.

(d) The brochure has been and is being reprinted from time to time as required and copies are available with the Manager of Publications. Government have no information regarding the supply position in the hands of local Agents. In a fresh advertisement just issued by Government, those interested have been advised to apply direct to the Manager of Publications, Delhi.

(e) Yes; the 15th April was originally fixed as the last date for the receipt of applications for stipends under the scheme.

(f) The period for the receipt of applications for stipends under the scheme has now been extended to the 30th April 1945.

(g) Full publicity has been given to the extension of time through the Press and the All-India Radio.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Manager of Government Publications does not send these brochures by V. P. P. but insists on pre-payment, has it been stated in the new advertisement that pre-payment will have to be made, also the price of the pamphlet stated?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think it has been stated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then will Government consider the advisability of issuing either a *Press Communique* or another advertisement stating quite clearly that pre-payment is necessary? Otherwise, most of the people would not know, and I myself have made that mistake several times in the past. I asked this gentleman to send it by V. P. P. and he refused.

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

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware that these copies are not available? I have been trying for the last one week to get copies of these application forms but I could not get them either from Simla or from

Delhi. I suggested that I could get these forms printed in our own press, but he refused.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know what steps the Honourable Member took to try and get the forms. I can only say that up-till the 4th April no less than 20,500 copies of this brochure had been printed by the Manager of Publications. If my Honourable friend, as I understood him to say, applied to somebody in Simla he did not comply with the advice in the original advertisement.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I sent an application to Simla on the suggestion of the Department of the Honourable Member himself, and not on my own initiative. And if so many copies were printed I can assure him that they have gone somewhere underground and have not come to the market.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government consider the advisability of extending the time for receiving applications till the 15th May, as suggested by the Honourable Member?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir, we cannot possibly go beyond the 30th April, because if we have to place about 10 or 12 thousand of these applications before the selection committee, and if applications are allowed to come in till the 15th May, there will not be time for the selection committee to do justice to the applications, if we are to get the students sent overseas for the academic Session beginning about the middle of October.

WORK DONE BY HYDARI MISSION

Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Does the Honourable the Commerce Member propose to make a statement for the information of the public of the work done by the Hydari Mission in the United Kingdom?

(b) Has any agreement been made by the Hydari Mission? If so, with whom?

(c) What are the (i) consumer goods and (ii) capital goods, for the importation of which arrangements have been made through the Hydari Mission, what is the total value and when are they expected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the *Press Communiqué* issued last Friday evening which was circulated to Members of the legislature. I will only add that the ultimate release which we are expecting will be about 120 crores of rupees of which 70 crores will be in Indian production, 25 crores will be in the nature of producer goods which will go to help Indian industries and 25 crores of the nature of consumer goods. So far as Indian releases are concerned, they are such essential articles like steel, of which 300,000 tons will be available for civil consumption, 500,000 tons of timber, 11 million pounds of woollen textiles, and 600,000 tons of cement, quite apart from the textile releases which we expect in 1946.

Mr. Mann Subedar: I am obliged to the Honourable Member for the information. May I know whether Government will consider issuing a more detailed statement giving the volume, value and per unit cost and the channel through which the goods will come from abroad and will be distributed? Will such a statement be issued every month?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Part of it has already been answered by the open general licenses which we have issued on the 2nd March in which we have stated that these are the nature of the articles which any importer can import without any import licenses. But what will be the quantum of that is a matter which we will have to watch and we propose to watch them.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: In view of the question just asked does the Honourable Member propose to issue a monthly statement on this subject, giving fuller information about this?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think it will be possible for us to issue a monthly statement, but I can say that a monthly if possible, but regular watch will be kept over all these imports which are coming to this country.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Are the consumer goods mentioned in the statement of Government coming through Government channel or coming through private

trade? And if they are coming through Government channel, will Government make it quite clear how much are coming, at what price, and through which channel they will be distributed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, very little is coming through Government channels except such articles as drugs and medicines which, under the circumstances, we required and we did import them. Otherwise most of these will come through ordinary trade channels; but if the trade does not function to the extent of importing the requisite quota which is necessary for the purpose of relieving the consumer goods situation in India, we shall have to consider whether Government may not step in with a view to import it. But all these questions are now being considered.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

MISREPRESENTATION OF INDIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION BY THE HONOURABLE SIR FEROEZ KHAN NOON AT THE EMPIRE CONFERENCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice from Nawab Siddique Ali Khan that he wants to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, deliberate gross misrepresentation at the Empire Conference of India's present constitutional position by the Honourable Sir Feroze Khan Noon, one of the representatives of the Government of India to the San Francisco Conference in stating that India already enjoys Dominion Status, and further that he and his colleagues represent India whereas the fact is that the people of India had no say whatsoever in their selection as delegates to the San Francisco Conference.

I have received an order of the Viceroy and Governor General disallowing the motion on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest.

FAILURE TO TACKLE ACUTE CLOTH SHORTAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment motion is in the name of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya who wishes to discuss 'the failure of Government to tackle the acute cloth shortage in Bengal specially and in the country in general'.

The Honourable Member knows, and everyone else knows, that this matter has been engaging the attention of the House for several days. It is neither recent nor urgent within the meaning of the rule. The motion is disallowed.

FAILURE TO GRANT SPECIAL WAR PAY TO INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also received a notice for an adjournment motion from Mr. Frank R. Anthony, who wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government to grant to Indian Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army Medical Corps a special war pay which they have decided to grant to other Indian Commissioned Officers".

I do not know what it is about.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary, War Department): The principle adopted in the decision regarding the revision of the pay of the Indian Commissioned Officer which was announced on the 7th April was that any feeling of racial discrimination on the part of Indian officers should be removed. As a result of this decision, the Indian Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army has been given a special war pay so as to make his pay equal to the pay of the British officer of the Indian Army *minus* the Indian Army allowance granted to British officers of the Indian Army.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are these the officers mentioned in this motion?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I will explain this in a moment. This allowance may be said to correspond more or less with overseas pay. In the Indian Army Medical Corps, which is composed of I. M. S. officers seconded to that Corps,

and licentiates commissioned direct in that Corps, the basic pay of Indian officers is the same as that of British officers and the question of a special war pay to the Indian officers of the Indian Army Medical Corps does not therefore arise. Sir, this point has been made clear in the announcement which was published on the 7th. If my Honourable friend contends that the pay of officers in the Indian Army Medical Corps is not adequate, that is a different matter and cannot be said to be a matter of urgent public importance, since the pay of the I. M. S. was fixed several years ago and that of the licentiates over two years ago. Sir, I submit that the adjournment motion is not in order.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): While racial discrimination between European and Indian has been done away with, discrimination between Indian and Indian has been introduced.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When was this war pay fixed?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It was announced only the day before yesterday. It is urgent because under this discrimination you will not get a single doctor joining the Army.

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

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: These are the facts.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand the basic pay is equal.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Not even the basic pay.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I challenge the statement that the basic pay of the British and Indian officer in the I.A.M.C. is not the same.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am not talking of the Britisher. The discrimination is between the Indian and Indian. In the case of a Lieutenant with a wife and two children, an Indian M.B.B.S. in the I.A.M.C. will get Rs. 450 whereas a matriculate Indian in say the R.I.A.S.C. will get Rs. 675. In the case of a Captain, an Indian matriculate in a non-medical unit will get Rs. 780 whereas an Indian M.B.B.S. in the I.A.M.C. will get Rs. 500. In the case of a Major, a matriculate in the R.I.A.S.C. will get Rs. 1,125 whereas an Indian M.B.B.S. in the I.A.M.C. will get only Rs. 800.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): By matriculate, you mean European matriculate?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: No, as between Indian and Indian.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): The basic pay of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps has not been increased at all. That is a definite distinction between one arm of the Indian Army and another. The War Secretary shakes his head but will he make it clear.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This revision of pay has been introduced in order to remove any feeling of racial discrimination between the Non-Indian and Indian. In the Indian Army the basic pay of the Indian Commissioned Officer was not the same as the basic pay of the British Commissioned Officer. As a result of this decision the basic pay of the Indian Commissioned Officer has been made the same as that of the British Commissioned Officer. In the Indian Army Medical Corps this question did not arise because the basic pay of the Indian Officer was the same as that of British officer.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What about the Indian Army Veterinary Corps? No answer?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must hold that this motion is not in order as the statement of the Honourable the Government Member is that the basic pay is the same and there is no question of racial discrimination. It is merely a matter of administrative arrangement which cannot be discussed in an adjournment motion.

HARSH CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF INDIAN TROOPS IN MIDDLE EAST AND ITALY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment motion is in the name of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari who wishes to discuss "the

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unnecessarily harsh conditions of service of Indian troops in the Middle East and Italy as described in the article by the Special Representative of the *Hindustan Times* in its issue of the 6th April 1945''.

Mr. Ram Ohandra (Secretary, Defence Department): Sir, I submit that whatever the head-lines of the article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 6th April may be, the article really contains suggestions for the consideration of Government. For instance, it is suggested that more newspapers should be supplied, a different kind of entertainment should be provided, the quality of cigarettes should be improved, Indian soldiers when they return should not be asked to revert to the use of the turban and should be allowed to wear the beret and the hat which they have been wearing overseas, they should be given leave once every two years, and so on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will Mr. Krishnamachari explain what are the harsh conditions?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): When this particular gentleman representing the *Hindustan Times* interviewed the Commanders and the Welfare Officers in this connection they blamed India for letting down the men. They stated that the Government of India had undertaken the responsibility for the welfare and amenities of the Indian troops and naturally it is very surprising since we have been told all along that this is a matter in which the financial responsibility is really the concern of Britain. The article in question is not really in the nature of suggestions. It deals with grievances.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What are the harsh conditions?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: That the food is bad. The *atta* given to troops was old and weevil-infested and the *Chapattis* which this gentlemen tasted were abominable. There is a whole list of greivances rather than suggestions. If my Honourable friend reads only what suits him they might appear to him as suggestions. I think the House has to take some notice of it all so as to bring pressure on the Government to act immediately.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As objection has been taken will those Members who are in favour of leave being granted please rise in their seats?

(As more than twenty-five Members stood up.)

The adjournment motion will be taken up at Four of the Clock.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 4th April, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for Roads eleven nominations were received. Subsequently three members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, Mr. K. Sitarama Reddiar, Raizada Hans Raj, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan and Mr. A. C. Inskip to be duly elected.

THE BANKING COMPANIES BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume consideration of the motion that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I was referring to the definition of banks in the Banking Bill, that its scope was very limited, and that it does not admit of banks which do not receive demand liability but only time liability. In Indian

language we are accustomed to call demand liability as current deposit and time liabilities as fixed deposits. We shall assume that there are certain banks which take only fixed deposits and give long term loans on them. These banks do not come within the purview of this Bill, nor are they included in the Indian Companies Act which was designed for this purpose. In the Indian Company Law there is no provision, as is insisted in this Bill for the creation of a reserve fund, no provision for a cash reserve, for assets, for inspection, etc. Therefore I say that the scope of the Bill ought to be enlarged. If the definition in this Bill is made as comprehensive as the definition in part 10 (a) of the Companies Act, that will serve the purpose or a new definition or a new chapter may be introduced to cover these in the present Bill itself. That is my suggestion: otherwise 600 and odd banks with a capital of over one lakh each will be excluded from the operation of this Bill and they are the banks which serve the villager and the poor man. Therefore the Bill ought to be amended suitably in the Select Committee.

I next come to the enlargement of the scope of the Bill so as to include within its purview indigenous bankers and indigenous banks. The Insurance Act refers to individuals, partnerships, associations, companies and corporations also. Why not this Banking Bill also refer to individual bankers, indigenous partners for corporations, etc.? That is my second objection.

My third point is, I do not know if the Imperial Bank comes within the operation of this Bill. I believe it does not. I do want that it also should come within the operation of this Bill, because it takes one third of the deposits of all the banks put together. That much so far as scope is concerned.

Now I come to money-lenders, money-lending and co-operative societies in the provinces. Money-lenders and money-lending are no doubt a provincial subject as was referred to by the Honourable the Finance Member but though they are provincial subjects and the Provincial Governments have taken every step to rectify the defects in the administration or vagaries of money-lenders, without banks to help the village population nothing could be done. Therefore banks have to be introduced in every village. Then alone money-lending will be controlled. Provisions have to be made in this Bill for this purpose also. Not that I do want that more power should be given but all that I say is that I want private money-lending to disappear from this country and for that purpose banks ought to be introduced in every nook and corner of this country.

Then, again, any number of restrictions may be placed upon the working of private banks but unless the whole banking system is nationalised, it does not serve any purpose. It will only mean a reform here and a reform there. Nationalisation may be a far off cry but till then I would ask that stringent provisions ought to be made wherever necessary and provisions ought to be relaxed, wherever necessary. But this Bill imposes restrictions where they are not necessary and removes restrictions where they are necessary. That is unfortunate.

Let me come to the provisions of the Bill. There are four important groups of sections: one relating to formation, another with respect to operation, a third with respect to supervision and a fourth relating to winding up or liquidation. First, with respect to formation, too much of capital is expected from the company. With respect to supervision the Reserve Bank has been placed completely in charge. In regard to winding up also the Reserve Bank is made the sole dictator. I want that the Local Government must also be co-opted in certain circumstances and I hope that in the Select Committee these defects will be remedied.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I wish to say a few words on this important measure which, I think, has been badly needed for a long time in the economy of this country. During the last thirty years I have had very detailed experience of the working and the failure of a few banks, I am talking of the bigger ones, with which I have been very familiar and I wish to give a short account of the

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conditions which led to these failures so as to enable this House to appreciate the provisions and the additions which are necessary to be made in that behalf.

The Indian Specie Bank was about the biggest bank and the biggest failure we have had in the city of Bombay. Throughout the course of its winding up I was associated with it, because I acted as counsel for the liquidators at the express desire of the winding up judge. One of the main reasons for the failure of that bank was that notwithstanding the ability of Mr. Chunilal Sariya who was one of the ablest bankers in this country, he allowed himself and the organisation which he was controlling to enter into the speculative market in silver. It is true that had he not died a fortnight earlier the turn of events clearly showed that not only would not the bank have to be wound up but probably it would have added a great deal to its prosperity, and from the point of view of money too a great deal of strength would have accrued to the bank. But whatever may have been the cause—whether it be accidental misfortune or otherwise—the fact remains that for a long period of time that bank had been going on, unknown to its share-holders, speculating in silver on a large scale in the city of London, a matter which means clever window-dressing. Therefore in so far as the banks here are concerned, if we are going to get real advantage out of the institution of banking in this country, great care has got to be taken to define the scope of the business of banking, which is attempted to be done by clause 5 of the present bill. It is quite clear that if banking companies are not strictly prohibited from entering into trade or speculation, I am afraid banking in this country will come to a very sorry pass, and for that reason I am glad that what is called “private bankers” in this country is not within the scope of this Bill. There are two reasons. One of them is that without this private banker or shroff the economy of this country cannot continue, particularly in the case of large rural and even small urban areas. At the same time if it were attempted to bring that large class, called by the very blameworthy name of money-lenders, within the purview of any banking legislation in this country, the administrative machinery would be taxed to an almost impossible extent, and the individual himself will not be able to carry on his trade. At the same time in the case of that kind of private banking it is difficult to dissociate or separate it from what may be called non-banking business, and it must be left, therefore, to him to and to the people who trust him by lending him money in their own turn, to bear the burden of the business which he does.

But, when you come to limited companies carrying on banking business which comes within the scope of this Bill, I think it is essential to remember that no business except strictly banking business is allowed to be carried on by those who fall within the purview of this Act. I therefore want to sound a note of warning as regards clause 6(r) which is dangerously lax. Among the businesses which banking companies are allowed to do occurs the following:

“any other form of business which the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette specify as a form of business in which it is lawful for a banking company to engage.”

I think it is giving a very larger charter to any executive Government, however highly representative it may be, to give such a power, because it has always an inducement to yield to importunities, and I do not desire myself that such power should be allowed to remain in this Bill, unless very strictly limited in some form.

Sir, the next bank with which I was concerned was the Credit Bank. One of the causes of its failure was undoubtedly the repercussion arising out of the failure of a large sister bank, the Indian Specie Bank, but the real cause of its failure was insufficient experience of banking on the part of those who floated and managed that bank. I am glad to find that in this Act the managing agency system has been abolished as a form of management for a bank. As has happened, what is likely to happen, is that in the inflation of today and the apparent prosperity of the time in the money market, a number of people as

promoters may easily attract unwary depositors, and it is necessary to see that we do not put into the hands of those who are no fit to manage a banking concern this power. That, Sir, is a lesson one derives from that particular failure.

That, Sir, brings me next to another banking failure on a very large scale, and that is the People's Bank of Northern India. I have very great admiration for Lala Har Kishen Lal for his organisation of industry in the Punjab, and if he had only remained an industrialist or an insurer, he probably would have left a great name in the world of industry. The use of the People's Bank for the purpose of financing every concern in which directly or indirectly he was interested, was the real cause of the failure of this Bank, and I am glad to find that there is a provision in the proposed Bill which says that bank may not be used indirectly by persons who are traders in order to finance themselves, and great care has got to be taken to specify the provisions beyond the four provisions made in one of the sections—clause 8 of the bill—because it became quite clear when the liquidation of the People's Bank took place that most of the money was locked up, and that when the run came, it was impossible for the Bank to continue to keep open its doors.

There are provisions in this Act with regard to the maintenance of cash and reserves. There is, in addition, of course the advantage, if you are a scheduled bank, of support by the Reserve Bank if you are otherwise a sound concern. But it is important to remember that individuals in the name of bankers may utilise the reserves, may be their own expectations were good, their intentions may have been honest, and lock up long term money in a business without anybody understanding how a particular institution is being used. This is a matter on which great care is necessary, and though it is not directly germane to the subject, from what I have seen recently in the city of Bombay and the other places I have visited, I should sound a note of warning as regards the use that is being made of the reserves and funds of certain insurance companies. I shall say this: one has got to be very careful. Of course, there are provisions in the Insurance Act with reference to a certain proportion of the reserve being held in what is called approved securities, but nonetheless the growth of large funds in the hands of those who manage insurance companies has led to a temptation which ought to be guarded against. But for the moment to revert to the banking interests it is essential that unless it is well-known and well-understood and unless it is a proper industrial bank, and unless its limitations are carefully understood, it should not be used as an instrument of what I may call financing of many other subsidiary companies in which the manager or the managing agent may, be interested.

Then the next banking company and the lesson to be learnt therefrom is the failure of the Travancore National Bank. It is a failure which has taught and I hope will teach many lessons in order that those who are engaged in the examination of the detailed provisions of this Bill will take care. The first and foremost reason was that it functioned both in British India and in a State, and the influence which these smaller States have though they appear small on paper, is out of proportion to their income, because it is a very narrow expense; the influence in this particular case of a difference of political views between those who were in the management of the State and those who were in the management of the bank was the primary cause of its failure. That bank need never have failed at all as was afterwards made clear by the Reserve Bank and ultimately in its liquidation by the High Court of Madras: but there is one other reason why I wish to take that as an illustration, so that when provision is made here one must be careful to see to what extent that provision is adequate and to what extent the matter must be left to international law. That is a provision to be found in clause 19:

"At the close of the last working day of each calendar year the assets in British India of every banking company shall not be less than seventy-five per cent. of its time and demand liabilities in British India."

Experience shows that in a country like ours where there is an amphibious feeling between banks incorporated in an Indian State and also functioning in

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British India or vice versa, the difficulties are very great in the course of liquidation, except by means of some form of reciprocal understanding, if the assets are not pooled; each State calling itself an independent State with the subordinate sovereignty of today which the Indian princes claim, there is almost a tug of war between the creditors in an Indian State and the assets in the Indian State and the creditors in British India and the assets in British India. There are provisions in international law; but they will largely depend, so far as its operations are concerned, on the good will between the courts of the two countries. Otherwise the pooling of resources becomes difficult, and therefore I wish to say that while to the extent to which the provision has been sought to be made in clause 19, I desire that the matter should be considered in greater detail in the time of the Select Committee, so that we may see that in so far as any banking institution works both in British India and in an Indian State the relations between the assets and the liabilities should be so adjusted so that we may not see the kind of ramp which sometimes arises under these conditions.

I am glad to be able to say before this House that after careful study of the provisions of the draft Bill it is perfectly obvious that though these particular instances may not have been before the draftsmen, they have tried to a large extent at all events to incorporate the provisions which the lessons of one's personal experience of the failure of large banks have to teach.

The next one is the failure of the Tata Industrial Bank; an extraordinary case of a sound bank failing. It failed under most curious circumstances. If there are agitators persistent enough to spread rumours every third or fourth day that the bank will not be able to meet its liabilities, you either precipitate the failure or make the management so utterly despondent that they agree to a voluntary winding up. That was the case of the Tata Industrial Bank to my own knowledge. It was indeed a sad reflection that a sound institution by mere clever manœuvring has had to shut its doors, because now at all events there is this satisfaction which in those days we had not, that in all probability if the assistance of the Reserve Bank were available, that bank would never have failed and ought never to have failed. But I see a provision made in this Act for the maintenance of what you may call the daily needs, as well as needs in an emergency to the extent of 25 per cent. of what you may call its realisable assets. Whether or not it is an adequate amount it is not for me to say. I do not claim to be an expert but it is a matter which must be examined because you will have to reconcile the two points of view. You will first have to see that the bank has enough assets to trade with; otherwise the bank has no real value of its existence, and that at the same time it is not so denuded of all that it collects that at a given time it is unable to meet its liabilities if there is a pressure. Some provisions have been sought to be incorporated, and I believe that the fate which overtook the Tata Industrial Bank will never be met by any sound concern in future. This much I wish to say with reference to the experiences that I have had of the failures of some of the larger banks in this country and of the lessons their failure taught; but after all I must rely on the limited knowledge that comes one's way during the course of a long professional practice.

I have next to say a few words with reference to clause 3 of the Act which says:

"Nothing in this Act shall apply to a co-operative bank registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, or any other law for the time being in force in British India relating to co-operative societies."

I desire that that clause should be amplified and I say this that in course of time it must be the duty of the Government, whichever is in power for the time being, that in addition to our co-operative banks which do to a certain extent serve rural areas and particularly the big agricultural community which is the largest in this country, there will have to be organised an agricultural bank, because without the foundation of some such institution studded all over the country and backed by the credit of the state, the condition of the indebtedness of the large mass of this country will never improve; for it is not enough to

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restrict its credit without providing some means of being able to carry on. A great deal of our legislation has proceeded in the direction of cutting down indebtedness by putting restrictions in two ways: first putting restrictions on the lender in order that his bargain may not be unconscionable; and secondly, by putting restriction on the borrower by preventing him from alienations of different types—proceeding from an altogether prohibition of alienation and probably smaller restrictions as in the Punjab and other places by means of local legislation. But that is a very wrong way of dealing with the evil, because there are those everywhere in this world and particularly in this country who have to live, not only from hand to mouth, but probably on credit to a very large extent, and if that credit is not forthcoming, merely reducing his power to

1 P.M. borrow only spells ruin. When you combine the two—restrain the power of borrowing recklessly and restrain the cupidity of those who lend on unconscionable terms, unless you add to that some source by which he is able to tide over the period of his credit, you probably find that you have not met the evil at all and hence it is, Sir, that though it is in a negative form I do wish to call the attention of Government to the necessity of having legislation for the purpose of enabling agricultural banks to function with undoubtedly the support of the State to its credit. I do not desire that that institution shall be a private banking institution at all and it is for that reason that I am touching on clause 3 of this Act.

Clause 4 gives me a great deal of undue suspicion, undue because I wish to make allowance for my ignorance of not being able to understand why it is being introduced. That clause deals with the suspension by the Central Government on a representation made by the Reserve Bank for a period not exceeding 60 days the operation of any of the provisions of this Act either generally or in relation to any specified banking company. This is a question of the exercise of power and I am not at all of the view that in a legislation of this kind salutary restrictions should not exist. One must not always distrust some form of authority which has got to regulate business if it is going to conduce to public interest or public good, but at the same time I cannot myself see the necessity for a very wide and sweeping provision of this kind in clause 4; and I hope and trust that unless the Committee is perfectly satisfied it will see to it that in a light-hearted way the provisions of a very useful Act are not suspended. I have already dealt with, in passing, clause 6 with reference to the scope of a banking business but before I go to that I am by no means satisfied with the definition of banking which is to be found in clause 5(b) which says 'banking means the accepting of deposits repayable on demand'. By itself it is a very insufficient definition because there is no bank that I can think of that will merely receive deposits repayable on demand. A great deal of the business of banking is a very mixed one, apart from its lending side. I am now talking of its borrowing side and there are banks which hitherto at all events, until money became so cheap, would want it or which, until it became so plentiful, could not lend it, if they had it. Until that time arrived, my experience at all events, as counsel for many banks in Bombay, is that they used to accept the time deposits and the definition here is insufficient for this reason, but I do not like that it should lend itself to any misconstruction. I know that the word 'only' is not there but since it is not there, it means the accepting of deposits repayable on demand only but none the less standing as it does in that bald form I am very apprehensive as to its true application.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I know whether mills who borrow money would not come under that definition?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I will answer that question. I have never known any such mill company as far as I am aware. Recently the mill companies in Ahmedabad have almost stopped taking private deposits. They generally rely

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on the banks with a view to maintain a certain amount of stock and borrow money on it from time to time but I am aware that until say 12 years ago the Ahmedabad mill companies had many crores of deposits from private individuals but they used to be time deposits. Whether the Bombay companies are borrowing monies in this form is another matter. I suppose the difficulty there would be to reconcile the definition in section 5 with the restrictive form of business in section 6. How you are going to work that out, it will be for those in charge of this particular Bill, because as far as I know any individual doing business who receives deposits repayable on demand would literally come within the definition of carrying on the business of banking and yet by a reverse process he could not carry on the very business in reference to which he takes deposits repayable on demand. How therefore the two things will be reconciled when it comes to drafting is a matter to be considered. In other words, the result which is intended to be attained is: a company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act which carries on no business other than that provided in clause 6 and receives deposits mainly by way of 'repayable on demand'. I would say even banks very properly carrying on the business of banks do receive deposits repayable after a time. (Interruption by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.) Anyway my Honourable friend is going to make a very exhaustive analysis of this and I hope we shall be able to profit by that. What I am attempting to make out is that there must be some connection in the Act itself between the definition in clause 5 and the restriction of business which a bank may do in clause 6. I believe my Honourable friends on the other side have enough talents and ability to be able to achieve the result which I am only trying to visualise. The result which has got to be achieved is this. The business will be restricted to what is found in clause 6 and in relation only to that business in regard to which you receive monies or deposits repayable on demand you would probably attain the result. I am only pointing that out because once the bank receives deposits and becomes a banking company you get into a difficult paradox inasmuch as it receives monies on demand and therefore it cannot do any other business than that mentioned in clause 6. How is that to work? Therefore you will have to reserve the process. You will have to say that no banking company could do business other than that provided in clause 6 and that any such company receiving deposits repayable on demand would be a banking company. It is only by combining the two conditions that you will be able to exclude what my Honourable friend asked me just now—the class of people who borrow monies for their own business, because literally any man borrowing money for his own purpose would be a banking company, if it is a limited company incorporated under the Act. That is, Sir, what I wish to say with reference to clauses 5 and 6. I have read a large number of opinions, but I must say none of them throws any light on this somewhat very difficult question.

I wish to say a few more things within the short time I have allowed to myself. I am not at all apprehensive about the misuse of powers given to the Reserve Bank in order that our banking may remain and be carried on on sound lines and on honest principles. I would certainly be careful, and I would ask the House to be careful, I would ask those of us, who have to lend some assistance that we can at the time of the Select Committee, to be careful about the powers we give to the Central Government. I wish to distinguish between the two. It may well be said that the Reserve Bank is to a certain extent influenced by the Government, but that is I think a somewhat remote criticism. It is a shareholders bank, and I trust that those who are its directors will, apart from any influence, direct or indirect, which may be exercised upon them, still be sufficiently independent to see to it that the function of the Bank are carried out in a manner so that public interest would be served. But it is often said, "but, oh! how can you make a public statement of your liabilities or deposits or assets and so on". But those of us who are familiar with the working of banks in other countries, particularly in England and Scotland, know full well

that in fact, the greater the publication the greater is the security for the growth of the bank. We have been accustomed from time to time to a system of supposed secrecy which is supposed to be good and that anybody trying, as it is called wrongly, into your affairs is doing wrong to you. But if a bank really wishes to attract customers, it will only do so when it publishes its weekly balance sheet of its assets and liabilities, as is done in the case of the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank, so that one knows what is happening. There are three functions which have to be discharged by a bank if it is to function properly and efficiently. As was pointed out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, one—undoubtedly which was hitherto done by companies—is the protection to shareholders. The next that is sought to be done by this Act is protection to depositors. In addition to both these, there is the advance of the country also to be looked after. After all does it really matter if you protect the shareholders, and if you protect the depositors only? Why, do they alone exist in the economy of the State? They exist in the economy of the State, only so long as you extend protection to the public and the banks side by side with seeing that the country advances in commerce, in industry, in agriculture and so on. Unless all these purposes are served simultaneously there is no mere purpose in saying that a man who has paid his money is secure, the shareholders who put the money in order to float the bank is secure. No, the larger and the over-riding purpose of a bank must be in its aggregate result, the advancement and increase of wealth of the land, so that a man may prosper better than he is today. With these words, I support the motion for referring the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):—The House will now adjourn for Lunch. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir will speak first after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till half past Two of the Clock.

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

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has given us a very lucid exposition of the many failures of banks during the last 25 years—if not in the whole of India, at least in my unfortunate province. He then went on to explain the lessons that we ought to have learnt from these failures. I can only say that if we had really learnt all the lessons that he himself as a leading Counsel in my part of India had learnt from being associated in his legal capacity with these failures, then such a Bill as this might not have been required. But it is because our memories are short, it is because we go on repeating the same mistakes that we made in the past—mistakes which cost not only the shareholders but the public at large, the whole commercial community in India, loss and a great commercial shock—that such legislation is necessary. And I think he tried to argue—a point with which I am in complete agreement—that this legislation is by no means too early. We are again facing times such as we faced after the last war when many of these catastrophes took place; and if this Bill, when it becomes an Act, can in any way help to avert such catastrophes we shall have done a very good piece of work.

Another most gratifying aspect of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition was its conservative character. The banking business is an essentially conservative business and there is not much room for imagination, for experiments or for short-cuts to large profits. If any of our friends in any part of India propose going in for banking or who are already interested in banking believe that this class of business will lead to large profits in a short time, not only are they mistaken, not only are they likely to be most disappointed but—much worse—they will cause great disappointment to large numbers of other people. And therefore I would commend to this House the very conservative nature of the speech that has just been delivered. If I had ventured to make some of the criticisms that were made by my Honourable friend, some of my Honourable friends would have accused me of a desire to kill.

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

small banking. Sir, I do not really know what they mean by small banks. Do they mean banks with small capital? Do they mean a very small volume of business or do they mean small efficiency?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions; Non-Muham-madan Rural): Those who serve smaller people.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then I may point out that big banks perhaps serve the smallest people in cities. I am not talking of the agricultural population but of people earning Rs. 50, 60 or 100. The safest places for them to go to for borrowing money are the banks but they must be able to furnish security. But if small banks are prepared to give loans to the very small man without proper security, I contend that they are not only small in capital, small in volume of work, but they are also small in efficiency. Therefore it is that to prevent things of this kind such a Bill is necessary. I think there is not the slightest intention on the part of Government or any one else to try and kill the so-called small bank. Let that small bank flourish, work slowly and quietly on banking principles till it ceases to be a small bank and becomes a big one. Many a big bank has started in that way and has developed its business, and this Bill is one that will enable them to start small, and in the course of years develop into big, business. Therefore I would ask a good number of my Honourable friends who have apprehensions on this score not to be prejudiced but to help to make this Bill of a character that will help these small banks in the direction I have stated and in the directions indicated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Sir, I do not desire to take much time of the House; I do not desire to enter into criticisms of certain clauses of the Bill. I have certain criticisms to offer and those will be offered at the proper time and on the proper occasion. All I can say is that this is a Bill worthy of support, not exactly as it stands but after it is amended, as we trust it will be. Now, Sir, I would just like to refer to an Honourable Member of this House who is not here at present—I mean the Honourable the Finance Member. This perhaps may be his last day in this Honourable House. We have heard several Members speak about the five years' tenure of his office, and since he is not here just now, I may be allowed to speak a little more freely than I would have done if he had been present. This is the last measure that he will bring before this House as Finance Member and if it turns out, after it becomes an Act, to be as useful a measure, as has been his services to the country during the last five years, it will truly serve all the classes of people in this country.

Mr. Deputy President, as we all know, the Finance Member is a member of the Indian Civil Service. He is an Englishman and I sincerely believe, as has been said by many inside and outside this House, that he has acted as a Finance Member to the very best of his ability considering the conditions under which he had to work, and I venture to say that no Indian if he had been in his place would have been able to serve India under present conditions any better than he has served India. He has put up a very strenuous fight on behalf of India during these years of war and I am sure more light will be thrown on the services he has rendered in the years to come. I would like to wish him a long life—he is still a young man—of happiness and contentment in his own country and may he continue to work, perhaps for others, with the same faithfulness, sincerity and honesty of purpose as he has worked for India during his long service in this country!

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): This House will permit me to recall on this occasion that the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee worked on the whole problem of banking for a period of two years. I am the only member of that Committee in this House and indeed there are only five or six of us now alive. Not only was the Central Committee working but there were eleven committees which worked in the eleven provinces. There were 150 members of these Committees put together; there must have been between two and three thousand witnesses who

placed before these committees the entire situation as to the financing of agriculture, commerce and industry, and the conclusions which were reached were very weighty conclusions except for a difference between myself and my colleagues of which I shall speak a little later. No less a man than Sir B. N. Mitra, who is the only Indian who has held the high office of Finance Member, was the President, and Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas was the Vice-President. I am mentioning all these things, Sir, because I really do not know why this Government has chosen to ignore the considered recommendations of this committee not at one place but at several places as I shall point out.

This Bill is really Sir George Shuster's baby which he left as an orphan. Sir James Grigg did not do what he should have done with it and, I am afraid, I cannot congratulate the Finance Member with having paid proper attention to this Bill. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, said this is a 'Policeman Bill'. In other words, there are only the controlling clauses. Where are the other clauses by which you will help, guide and assist banks? My Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, referred to what he said 'the confidence trick' at the time of Sir George Shuster, namely that many assurances were given in the Bill, many others were given outside and some of those assurances at the time of the Reserve Bank Bill have not been carried out. This Bill bears the mark of neglect; it bears the mark of correctness according to small men with small minds in the Secretariat, but it has missed the very big problem and the very big point which the Central Banking Enquiry Committee went into, and I am very sorry that that should be the case.

Sir, it is not merely the neglect which this Bill has suffered, but there are signs that major influences of European banks and larger banks have been responsible for the form in which this Bill has come to us and for the major departures from the recommendations of the Central Banking Committee. Sir, banking in India is fortunately more varied. It is not as in England where the four great banks practically control the entire field. We have got banks of different sizes and resources, we have got the problem still of the hoarding habits amongst certain sections and we have difficulty with regard to cheque habit which we have to introduce among many sections.

Sir, the principal object of this Bill has been mentioned by the Finance Member as the protection of the depositors. Now, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition pointed out this morning that the principal object is not either the shareholders or the depositors, but the welfare of this country. After all, money in the bank is idle money so far as many people are concerned which they do not immediately need. It goes to the bank; the bank is merely the machinery for the active utilization of this money by the producing sections of the community. In what manner and to what best advantage of this country will this money reach the producing sections? That is the problem. The problem is not the protection of the depositors. Anyhow it comes with very bad grace from this Finance Member and this Government to say that it is for the protection of the depositors. By the artificial enforcement of low money rates, the depositors in this part of the world have been practically ruined. They are receiving now no interest on current accounts or it is about $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. They are receiving very low interest on fixed deposits and it is the banks which have benefited at the expense of the depositors because the margin between lending and borrowing rate is very high. Where was this Government now trying to protect depositors when they themselves deliberately enforced a low money rate policy which, as I have said, at the expense of the depositors had enriched all the banks. Even that reference about the advantage to industry, commerce and agriculture, which was the principal problem before the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, has trickled down in this Bill in clause 20 in which it is provided that the Reserve Bank may ask for information—may ask, mark the words—as to advances made to commerce, industry and agriculture. That is the progress which we have made in fifteen years! Half a generation has gone and

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this matter has been neglected. There have been these delays, I urge, entirely due to pressure, due to pressure from quarters which do not want this Bill. Even now the Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce very clearly points out that they are not in favour of this Bill. "It was the Committee's conviction that they would be positively harmful as regards our business without conferring any benefit or at least any commensurate benefit on any other section of the public", he says. In other words, they do not want this Act. They do not want a separate banking law; they do not want any controls; they do not want even the assistance which I am going to urge in the course of my remarks as essential accompaniment of the Bill. When you put limitations, when you put penalties, when you put restrictions, you must accompany such controls, restrictions and penalties by assistance and guidance and help to those for whom it may be necessary.

Now, Sir, there were other problems before the Central Banking Committee. There was the problem of the money market as a whole: there was the problem of creating a Bill market: creating rupee bills: creating intermediate securities: warehouse receipts: problem of supporting and bringing into existence influential bill broking houses, discount houses, acceptance houses: the question of progress of banking service as a whole and consolidation of banking. There was, the protection of Indian banks against foreign banks and of small Indian banks against the bigger Indian banks. All these problems have, I am sorry to say, have been neglected both in practice and in the policy of this Government and the Reserve Bank and in the course of this Bill which has been brought in, not received sufficient attention and not received the place which they should receive.

The principal necessity for this country is that we should have a proper central controlling authority. Control of these matters must be with some people, and in this Bill I find that they are placed with the Reserve Bank. Many sections give the Reserve Bank authority, power, consultation, action. These clauses are 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 37, 38, practically all over the Bill. In other words the controlling authority and additional powers have been given to the Reserve Bank. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce wanted this Bill to be called the Reserve Bank Amendment Bill, which in my opinion also should have been the proper name. Then it would have enabled us to amend some sections of the Reserve Bank Act and bring that great institution into line to discharge the functions which we expect of it. You want a central controlling authority commanding confidence but the Reserve Bank itself is very deficient in this matter. In the preamble of the Reserve Bank Act, the only purpose which is mentioned there is "with a view to securing monetary stability in British India and generally to operate the currency and credit system of the country to its advantage". This is a very feeble outlook for a principal apex institution and it is an outlook which has not hitherto proved sufficient.

In contrast, let me read the object of the Reserve Bank of Australia. It was introduced to further the Commonwealth banking policy. At the same time section 8 defined the functions of the Commonwealth Bank as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the Commonwealth Bank within the limits of its powers to pursue a monetary and banking policy directed to the greatest advantage of the people of Australia and to exercise its powers under this Act and the Banking Act of 1945, in such a manner as in the opinion of the bank will best contribute to (a) stability of currency of Australia, (b) maintenance of full employment in Australia, and economic prosperity and welfare of the people of Australia."

These are functions which I should like the Reserve Bank to have at the same time that they have, all these enormous powers given to them under this Bill. The Reserve Bank at present are Government bankers. They issue notes and they are the custodians of the bankers' reserves. These three functions they are performing in a routine manner. But they should be also the controller, regulator and supporter of sound banking. It is in connection with this that the Reserve Bank would not only have to expand its staff, but it would have to create an All-India Curator of Banking, and a Curator for every province. Such a Curator would take care of the tendencies and difficulties which provincial types of banking may have and he will have to see which of

them are sound and which of them are unsound. Those that are very unsound and beyond redemption, he would have to cancel. I want the Reserve Bank to have these large powers but I want them also to understand what is expected of them.

Now, Sir, the Reserve Bank has failed entirely as an instrument of national policy. It is not a national institution as it stands. Over and over again we have been told that the Reserve Bank are the financial advisers of the Government of India. When it suits the Government, they shelter behind the Reserve Bank and when it suits the Reserve Bank they shelter themselves behind the Government, and between the two it is the public and the taxpayer who are victimized and penalized. This claim of the Government of India that the Reserve Bank are their advisers is a fraud. I would like to read from the latest issue of the Eastern Economist in connection with an issue to which I will revert presently. With regard to the printing of notes, with regard to the issue of additional notes, with regard to the taking of sterling to the United Kingdom, with regard to the holding of it in the form of cash or investment—whether it is cash or investment not being explained—this paper says:

“It is no secret that some at least of the Reserve Bank Board objected to this method and desired that a more direct agreement between Britain and India should be arranged. Had this been done Britain would at least have had some regard for India's opinion. Sir Jeremy Raisman has repeated several times in recent months that inflation was inevitable in war. But it is all a matter of degree.”

Even the advice of the Reserve Bank Board, as the Government has told this House, has not always been taken. Is the Reserve Bank at present controlling properly? Is it assisting institutions? Is it organising or guiding banking on sound lines? It is doing nothing of the kind. It is just a Government department. That is not what we want.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): And a black market for the sale of foreign gold!

Mr. Manu Subedar: Yes, a black market for the sale of foreign gold to the advantage and profit of the foreigner. We were told that it is desirable to keep the Reserve Bank separate from the Legislature. It is for this purpose that the Members of the Legislature are not permitted to be members of the Reserve Bank and *vice versa*. But is there any particular charm in the constitution of this Bank? How are the holders of its five crore capital separate from those who hold fifteen hundred crores of other rupee securities in this country? They are in the same position. In other words, why should we expect that from a particular lot who is holding these Reserve Bank shares a better efficient or patriotic class of people would turn out than any other. That is an expectation which is absurd to start with.

With regard to the Directors, four are nominated by Government. The Governor and Deputy Governor are appointed by the Government. They are Members of the Board and eight people who are selected. But who are these people? Some of them are good. But are you sure that their children will be good? They are cornering the shares with a view to becoming Directors, they are busy-bodies. They are public men with a different purpose than the purpose which we would have, if we could have two Directors of the Reserve Bank appointed by this Honourable House of the Legislature. How do we

secure at the hands of these Directors of the Reserve Bank a national economic policy good for this country? How do we make sure that it will not be influenced either by their private interests or by other influences to work against the interests of this country, or, at all events, at least to tolerate injury to India. These men have been tame Indians, puppets in the hands of this Government and they have tolerated a policy at the hands of this Government during the last five years, which no self-respecting Indian should have tolerated for one day. I maintain this: that the Reserve Bank has therefore entirely failed us as a national institution.

Reference has been made to I.C.S. control, I have no objection in general to I.C.S. control, much less to these two members of the I.C.S. who are in

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the Reserve Bank. They are both personally known to me and they are friends of mine. That fact does not make me blind to this. By what process are we to be assured that these gentlemen will be imbued with the same keen feeling, with the national feeling for the apex institution so that it would take care of the true interests of the people of this country, it will take care of the interests of agriculture, trade and commerce of this country and it will push them forward, it will support not only the currency and credit of this country in a sound manner but it will always be the watchdog of the economic interests of this country? How do we secure these things when the institution claims to be a private institution. These gentlemen can rightly claim that so long as the share-holders are satisfied, so long as the directors are satisfied, it is nobody's business what they are doing. I would not be able to dispute that. But I do feel that something is radically wrong with this institution and since we are giving very large powers to this institution, we must also insist that it should be brought to the awareness of the importance of those functions, which central banking institutions everywhere in the world are carrying out and we must tell all who are concerned, including this Government, that we want in our country a bank which will play the same role as the Bank of England with regard to England and as the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

The Reserve Bank of India has failed to develop the mechanism for the advancement of agriculture, of exchange banking and of the financing of industries. The Reserve Bank has failed in the matter of indigenous bankers and is working only as a bureaucratic Department rather than a pivot or fulcrum of national economy. If we place some definite obligations on the Reserve Bank, if we ask them to help small banks, if we ask them to incur some expenditure, if we ask them to institute the necessary staff, it is not that we are throwing the burden of a private institution. I would ask the Reserve Bank to take some risks in developing the functions which have been entrusted to them under section 17 such as discounting trade bills, promotes signed by scheduled banks and others and if I ask them to take some risks, it would not be their risk, because the Reserve Bank is an institution, of which the surplus profits come to this Government. Last year they gave this Government, if I am right, about 7 crores. It is therefore legitimate for us to expect of the Reserve Bank the taking of risks also, where it is risky, the engaging of the necessary staff and the assuming of the functions of advising, guiding and helping the small institutions in banking in India even with finance at some cost, it may be, because I maintain that the cost comes out of the Government. It is coming out of the surplus profits of the Reserve Bank which come to the Government treasury.

Coming back to the Bill, may I say what a hash they have made? The Finance Member spoke only of big business, of small banks, as if that was the only classification. That is not so. We have got first Indian Banks and non-Indian Banks. Among non-Indian Banks we have got British, foreign and Banks of Indian States. Then there is the Imperial Bank of India, the Indian joint stock banks—big and small. Then there are provincial institutions like loan offices, Nidhis and chit funds. We have also the Postal Savings Bank, the Co-operative Societies and the indigenous banker. My submission is that the law should be the same for all banks, that no matter what their other characteristics may be, the basic law should apply to all and the basic license as required by the Central Banking Committee should apply to all of them. There are banks of other classification—the scheduled banks—over which large powers have been given by section 42 of the Reserve Bank Act. Then there are the banks which commence their business hereafter and there are the banks which are already in existence. Then according to the Bill there are banks which hold licenses and there will be new ones and old ones which are already operating holding licenses. All must be registered and must be controlled. All should have the privilege of guidance and help, and not merely the scheduled banks. It is true that the big ones do not want help but when

you are making the law, say for the control of hotels in New Delhi would you merely say that the Hotel Imperial and the Marina Hotel being well managed institutions do not need any interference and therefore there is no law necessary. You would have to come down to the smallest and frame your law according to the requirements all round. Therefore I say that this pressure from the big banks, the pressure from the European banks that this law is not necessary, that the control should be superficial and not deep, I say that this pressure should be resisted, that we should make a law which will serve the country in good stead for many years. Even this Government has taken after the very comprehensive enquiry, as much as fifteen years to bring up this Bill and it is a pity that they should have brought it in this sketchy and unsatisfactory manner. I submit that there should be a common license for all and that sections 11 and 17 should be so recast that it is a common license for all and the conditions of the license according to the category of these people would be applicable with regard to capital structure, accounts, audit, sending of returns, cash reserve liquidity, maintenance of assets in India, etc. The Reserve Bank's record of the last ten years has been in my opinion extremely poor from many points of view and in no direction less poor than with regard to section 55 (1) (a) and (b), which requires of them certain services to be done. I will come to that when speaking on indigenous bankers.

In their issue department the Reserve Bank has been a mere blind and dead instrument in the hands of this Government. It was their duty to resist the issue of notes in the manner and for the purpose for which it has been done. On the banking side they have failed, as I said, to develop their obligations under section 17 (2) with regard to trade bills and entirely with regard to rediscounting. Sir, the linking up with the Imperial Bank who are the agents of the Reserve Bank is suspect. It was the universal opinion in this country that this linking up was not right, and that other banks who do equally good work and who are equally qualified, should be given an opportunity to serve as the agents of the Reserve Bank. This aspect of public opinion still remains unsatisfied.

Then, Sir, with regard to foreign banks, the Reserve Bank has not got any control over the market, it has no control over these big institutions which have come into existence before the Reserve Bank, and which are functioning in a very large and imperial manner in this country. The Reserve Bank has not even got, according to my knowledge—I speak subject to correction—a branch in New York.

Mr. Ram Nath (Government of India: Nominated Official): No, there is no branch in New York.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Now, Sir, anybody who knows anything of finance and who has been watching the situation as it develops in the world, knows today that London has ceased to be the financial centre of the world. It is definitely New York which has become the financial centre of the world, and that all the world should run to America—to Bretton woods—San Francisco—Dumbarton Oaks—and that Great Britain should beg on its knees the United States for financial assistance with regard to post-war period, is a very significant thing. Yet, this premier institution claiming to be the Central Banking institution of this country has not got a branch in New York. The Honourable Finance Member told us that His Majesty's Government had very generously—His Majesty's Government take away all the dollars that belong to us and then return a few—that His Majesty's Government has very generously promised to give us 20 million dollars, and that this 20 million dollars will remain at the credit of the Reserve Bank in the Bank of England, London. Sir, this is most extraordinary.

Mr. Ram Nath: May I point out that, according to the usually accepted practice, central banks do not have branches outside their own countries. For example, the commonwealth Bank of Australia has no branch here, nor has the Bank of England a branch here. Central Banks usually employ the central banks of other countries as their agents in those countries for any business

[Mr. Ram Nath.]; they may have there. That was the generally accepted position when the Reserve Banks Bill was drafted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You may not have a branch, but could you not have an account with your agent in New York? Should we allow this 20 million dollars to remain in the doubtful pockets of His Majesty's Government? Could we not have it in our possession with our agent in New York in our account? That, Sir, is a legitimate demand.

My friend will doubtless have plenty to explain when he gets on his legs, but let me put one more sin at the door of the Reserve Bank before I go on to my next point. That is with regard to sterling. They have been, as I said, instrumental for an excessive issue of notes, but having done this, they have kept the whole of this sterling in the United Kingdom. What is this sterling? When we ask the Government of India—will you tell us how much it is, where it is, how it is invested, they say they do not know because they claim that these funds belong to the Reserve Bank. If that is so, may I know whether it is in cash or whether it is on loan to England. If it is cash, it is absolutely unintelligible as to why I cannot withdraw from my bank as much cash as I have put there. If, on the other hand, it is blocked cash, at what time and in what manner it has become blocked. That we were never told, though repeatedly questioned.

Then, Sir, there is a clear loss of interest. There is between 1,800 to 1,400 crores of rupees worth of Indian money lying in England at little or no interest at all. I reckon that India is losing about 20 to 30 crores of rupees a year by way of interest all this time. Therefore, I say that the Reserve Bank has not done its duties entirely to our satisfaction, and I hope—I am not saying this in order to pull them down—that they will be watchful and mindful of what we are saying and try to adjust themselves to the requirements of a central institution of a free country.

Now, Sir, I am of the opinion that once we have got a proper central controlling authority in whose functions and in whose constitution we in this Legislature have the fullest confidence, we should not hesitate to give them power. I would go further, as I have done in the case of the separate and minority report which I was obliged to write for the Central Banking Committee and say that supervision of opening of branches and closing of branches should be also in the hands of the Central Bank.

We are talking already of a major plan for the post-war world. Can any plan dealing with industry, agriculture and commerce be put through without finance and a suitable banking machinery behind it? And yet I am afraid my friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal is entirely innocent of these problems, and in all the Planning Department papers, as far as they have been produced so far, I find no place whatsoever given to banking at all, and I really do not know how and what part and which banks are going to play, and what particular part the Reserve Bank as the central institution is going to play with regard to the post-war period.

Sir, as I mentioned before, Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, Sir Purshotam Das Thakurdas, Mr. N. R. Sarcar, Sir Shanmukham Chetty and many others—these are the only persons I shall mention at the present moment, and they were moderate men on the Committee in the entire confidence of Government, recommended that all banks should be licensed. And yet this Government, in framing their Bill, have gone out of their way to ignore recommendations of these people, for what reasons they have not explained. There was not a word in the Finance Member's speech explaining this and I call it nothing short of an affront to this House that he should not have clearly stated what he has done with the principal recommendations of the Central Banking Committee, on whose report this Bill is based and why these have been departed from.

Sir, not only should the Reserve Bank have powers of supervision with regard to opening of new branches or expansion, but also with regard to acquisition of small banks and also with regard to amalgamation. Some times

these things are good for the institutions or for the country, and some times they are not either for the institutions or for the country. It must not therefore be done mechanically as now, that is, we must not let anybody acquire anything at any time, no matter what the consequences to the country may be. That anarchy should end, and I hope we shall sufficiently revitalise this Bank, which is the proper central authority, in order to place proper powers in its hands.

Now, Sir, I will say a few words with regard to the Imperial Bank. The Imperial Bank is truly imperial. First of all, is there any reason for a special act, is there any reason for a special law? Would you permit a millionaire to say that he wants a different law and make a special act for him? Sir, I know there may be historical grounds why they have this Act. In my opinion, all these grounds have now disappeared, and the time has come when the Imperial Act should be repealed at the earliest opportunity, and they should be requested to register themselves as a joint stock company under the law of the country. It is said that the Imperial Bank being Government bankers and being agents of the Reserve Bank have very special limitations imposed upon them; but these limitations are upon them not because they are a bank but because they are agents of the Reserve Bank and they are the custodians of Government finance. It is part of the agreement and while the agreement lasts such restrictions as you wish to impose on them might well be imposed. There is however no reason why they should enjoy this big privilege of a special Act and Charter which gives them a right to do various things, differently from other banks. They are the most favoured bank in this country; they are not, I am sorry to say, sufficiently Indianised with regard to their staff, and more particularly with regard to their outlook; and I should very much like to see the day when this institution will play the proper role. This bank has in the past not acted altogether correctly. It was this bank which was financing the Japanese firms so freely so that with Indian money they could go to the fields and buy direct. The elimination was that of the Indian middleman, to the great disadvantage of the cultivator, because the Japanese, while they were trying to buy in the interior, hammered this market and reduced the price of cotton and they did all this, I maintain, through the assistance of the Imperial Bank of India. With regard to the opening of branches which the Imperial Bank took on at one time as almost the only means of extending banking in this country that obligation has also lost significance. The Imperial Bank is, I believe, now curtailing some of their branches; but in any case we have got new banks and branches galore; and we do not now need these. Therefore all special rights and privileges of the Imperial Bank should now be terminated, and it would be a great advantage to this country if this was done at the earliest opportunity. It was expected of the Imperial Bank at the time of the Central Banking Inquiry Committee that they would function as an exchange bank—I believe they have got an office in London; but I do not know whether they have launched themselves out sufficiently in the exchange field; but if they have not, then certainly they have belied one of the great expectations which was made of them at the time of the Central Banking Committee when the present managing Governor of the Imperial Bank was one of our colleagues.

With regard to these exchange banks, the name of exchange bank is a misnomer: they are no more exchange banks only; they have got branches in the interior; and I have never been able to understand a country which would permit a foreign bank first of all to come here—I have never been able to understand a country which would permit a foreign bank not only to come in at the ports but to penetrate right inside and establish branches and to do internal banking business for the people of this country. These institutions are big and powerful—the most powerful among them being the Lloyds Bank, which is one of the biggest banks in the United Kingdom; with their experience and with their personnel and with their superior power they have got the ear of this Government. In every matter they are competitors who have always given trouble to Indian banks. It is well known—I am talking of twenty five years ago fortunately, because now the Indian banks are strong enough to

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defy these exchange banks—but 25 years ago, it was well known that the spring of all the rumours which caused runs on the Central Bank of India and even on the Bank of India at one time—two of the biggest Indian banks today—was from the exchange banks. Sir, these banks have prevented the growth of the rupee bill market in India. This is the only unfortunate country in the world in which everybody who sells to us sells in pounds, everybody who buys from us buys in pounds—in other words, there are no rupee bills. If there are no rupee bills, there is no rupee bill discount market and therefore your money market is entirely undeveloped. This great injustice to this country from the continued operation of the exchange banks in the last thirty years is one which will be remembered in future and which it was attempted by the Central Banking Committee to cure—but in which I am sorry to say the Reserve Bank has completely failed to realise its obligation. These British banks have helped British shipping and British insurance companies. They have made it impossible for shippers to use Indian companies; they have made difficulties with regard to shippers and to borrowers to use the services of Indian insurance companies, to the disadvantage of this country and that is one of our grievances. They do not always keep their funds which they raise in India in this country; it was notorious in fact at one time that they took enormous amounts of cheap deposits from this country and took it outside this country, to the Far East and earned very much higher rates of interest that were prevailing there.

Now, my friend Mr. Krishnamachari said the other day that I was opposed to the system of licensing, but he omitted to say what I wanted. When these foreign banks come here they do not bring much money or material to this country: they raise deposits in this country, deposits belonging to the Indian people. These deposits are placed there at a cheap rate and they are lent out to European firms at a cheap rate—European firms who are competing against our traders; and by this competition not merely our bankers suffered; it was not merely the Indian banks who were the victims of this unfair competition which they were enabled to inflict by means of Indian money; it was the Indian traders and the Indian businessmen who also suffered: the Indian businessman when he went to his bank had to borrow at a heavier rate because the Indian bank in its turn had to pay a heavier rate on deposits. The English businessman when went to the exchange bank was able to borrow one or two per cent cheaper and lower. This perpetual favoured position with regard to the money rates in favour of foreign business in India has been a feature of the life of this country for the last thirty years, and this is the thing which I wanted to destroy. I had the precedent of no less a country than the richest country in the world namely United States of America, which is prohibiting any foreign bank from establishing branches in America and borrowing there. You can have a branch in America and take your own money there or lend; but you cannot have a branch in America and raise deposits: they are prohibited even from becoming trustees. So strict is the vigilance of the American people that not one dollar of American money will be used by foreigners against American trade in America itself. This is the unfortunate position in which this country is. This was the major point of difference between my colleagues and myself on the Central Banking Enquiry Committee—there were no other major differences. Were they or were they not for prohibiting foreign Banks (including British Banks) from raising deposits in India? If as I wanted only banks registered in this country can raise deposits in this country, then there was no question about licensing foreign banks, because the registration business would have brought every institution under the operation of all the laws which applied to banks, and there was no need to license the foreign bank who could lend but not borrow in India. But you cannot do this while these sections were there—against which I made my humble fight the other day in this House; you cannot do this while the discriminating sections, 111 to 121 of Government of India Act exist. Therefore I say that the next best thing which was unanimously reported by the Central

Banking Inquiry Committee, presided over by the only Indian who has held, though for a very short time, the office of the Finance Member in this House—it is surprising that this Government should have rejected, and rejected without any explanation to this House the unanimous recommendation to them of a license applicable to all banks.

Now, there will be other foreign banks also, banks from other countries, such as Portuguese, Japanese, French and American; and indeed the reciprocity clause which is put in here is very clever though unsatisfactory. There is a very important American Bank functioning in this country, the National City Bank of New York. Being an existing bank, it would not come under the license, but otherwise it would come.

Now, Sir, we are all running to American conferences—to San Francisco, to Bretton Woods, to Dumbarton Oaks and so on and so forth. Have we considered the full implication of doing something so serious—so as to penalise an important American Bank or others that come hereafter—with regard to United States of America? I am sure as I mentioned at the beginning that this Bill has not received proper consideration from the quarters which should have given proper time to it.

I want to speak a few words with regard to the Indian States. I have never seen such an enormity of error as I see with regard to the treatment of Indian States in this Bill. The Indian States are regarded as foreign! The Indian State Bank is grouped with the same institutions as if it came from Portugal or France and further as if it came from Germany and Japan as they may be after the war has ended! Is this the treatment and the consideration that we give to territories which are contiguous, with which not only social and economic but even political relations of this country are of a peculiarly intimate kind. Have we not as British India profited in the past, enriched our money market at the expense of these Indian States who came down to Bombay or Calcutta to buy securities and to send their money on deposit? Have we not profited? Have they not welcomed your banks in the past when they had no banks of their own? Has not the Imperial Bank so many branches in so many Indian States functioning profitably for so many years? Is this the kind of treatment which we want to accord to banks hailing from the Indian States? I know there are practical grounds which will be put forward in justification of what is being considered and we shall at least go into those practical grounds. I will mention one or two of them. For one thing, if the Reserve Bank can act as a Reserve Bank for the territory of Burma, is there any reason why the Reserve Bank cannot act in this capacity to all the Indian States. Has the Government ever made a proper approach to the Indian States to get them to accept the position of the Reserve Bank as such and also to accept and to adopt similar banking law in their own territory which would render entirely unnecessary the kind of humiliating treatment which we propose to give to them. The Government of India when it suits them regard the Indian States as subordinate and as *patti* in their own hands. For the purposes of this House and when it suits them, they regard them as absolutely sovereign and independent powers, so sovereign and independent that their banks must be regarded as foreign when they come to British India! It is high time this absurdity is ended. I understand the practical difficulties in the event of liquidation, namely, the difficulty with regard to the jurisdiction of the respective High Courts in Indian States and in British India. I am sure this is an issue which could be easily settled. If any bank from an Indian State is anxious to establish a Branch in British India, it should not be difficult for that particular Indian State in respect of that bank to accept the position that the High Court in British India will operate in the event of liquidation and also that assets both in the State and outside the State would be equally divided. It is true that some unfortunate difficulties with regard to these assets had occurred with regard to the Travancore Bank but one swallow does not make a summer and I would request the House to put it on the highest ground. In the relations between British

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India and Indian States, there have been many gives and takes. The Indian States are paying customs and railway revenue. They are bearing enormous other burdens which come to the pockets of the British Indian treasury for which there is no visible return. Having regard to the fact that our banks have worked there in the past and that their monies have enriched the Indian money market all these years, it seems to me really most extraordinary that this Government should have so thoughtlessly tried to inflict on them a humiliating position, grouping them with all foreigners and with everybody who may be an ally or even who may have been an enemy.

If a bank working in an Indian State came to British India and took out a license which I have suggested, then it is very easy. In the case of those States which do not agree to adopt similar law and to accept the Reserve Bank's authority, branches of those banks hailing from those States would have to come under the operation of clause 19 with regard to the assets in British India as part of the license given to them, as one of the conditions imposed on them with regard to those licenses.

I would like to speak a few words with regard to the Indian joint stock companies. Considerable progress has been achieved in this country and we have not only a few new banks, small ones but we have also a few large ones. Many new branches have been opened, and as I said banking has prospered at the expense of the deposition and on account of the heavy differential rate between the borrowing and the lending rate. The result is there. Numerous new banks and more branches have come about but this development which we rejoice at from one point of view brings up immediately large problems some of which were referred to by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. It raises the evils of interlocking finance. With regard to the indigenous banker, the Finance Member told us the anxiety of Government to separate trading from the banking functions. How can you insist on separating trading from the banking side with regard to the small men when in the interlocking system a man can buy insurance shares with banking funds and bank shares within insurance funds all on system of margins—and he can use the funds acquired by both these operations for his private gain. I am not sure how far the clause which we have in the Bill—and very rightly—restricting advances, would operate to check this evil. It should in my opinion not be modified as the Finance Member suggested but strengthened because no company today could claim that they are unable to get the necessary advance, because the number of banks is very large. If one of their Directors is on the board of one bank, they can go to another bank, if they have got proper assets and credit. Therefore I do not think there is a grievance, unless you come to this, that we have got vicious system of multiple directors. I know in Bombay there are persons who are directors of a hundred companies! Is it physically possible for anybody to know the affairs of or supervise the concern of a hundred companies? Is it possible to be familiar with one hundred different kinds of trades and activities? Is it possible to give the necessary time to these companies and yet we have this vicious system, in which these self-appointed leaders of the public companies are multiple directors. The cure for this is to prevent a man from becoming a director of not more than a stated number of companies. It may be 6 or 12. Somewhere or other you will have to draw the line and after that it ought not to be very difficult. What has happened is that various groups of people are dominating banks as well as other businesses and this dominance creates the same problem as the mixing up of trading and banking in the case of the indigenous bankers. In other words, according to the strict letter of the law, a bank is a bank but according to the direction and control exercised from inside it may be an institution indulging not so much in banking alone as in other prohibited activities.

Sir, we have the problem also with regard to under-writing; dealing in shares is one of the permitted businesses of the banks. If that is so, how can a bank undertake under-writing if the number of shares which a bank can

acquire in any one company is limited. Therefore, this is also something here which we will have to see. I have already mentioned about amalgamation. There again large banks will be looking out for small banks in the same manner as insurance companies. This amalgamation is not a new idea. It has occurred in U. K. par excellence during the last thirty years when small banks have been absorbed. Where they refuse absorption, there is unfair competition by the big one, which opens a branch next door and makes advances and gives terms and conditions which are so extremely favourable that the small banks, however efficient they may be, have to close down in due course. This game has gone on at the expense of the community. I want the Reserve Bank to take powers, which we shall gladly give them, to see that amalgamations are not forced, to see that competition offered is reasonable and to see more particularly that the powerful ones do not try to edge out of existence the small or the moderate sized institutions. With regard to the moderate sized institutions and the small ones, my suggestion is this and this is what I would like to be brought into this Bill as well as brought into the policy of the Government by means of negotiations with the Reserve Bank. We give you control. I would tell the Board of the Reserve Bank, we give you control, we give you extraordinary powers, we also impose on you the obligation to help small institutions, to guide them, to make them survive, if they are capable of surviving. As I mentioned, we would have to have a provincial Curator—that is the term used in Canada with regard to the officer who has control over banks. This provincial Curator will take note of the activities of banks in that province, particularly the moderate and small sized banks, and those that are, after warning, incapable of coming up to the required standard will be weeded out, they may be permitted to die out, if they cannot come up to a certain standard, but with a little genuine effort and with an outlay of certain funds by the Reserve Bank, even at some risk, to help the banks, in some cases, it would go to improve an individual institution. In other cases, the Curator would bring about matching and amalgamation of small banks into one consolidated and healthy body. These are the things which are necessary. You may call it spoon feeding, if you like, but our country has a large variety, from the direct poverty of the humble villager to the riches of a Nizam. This is how wealth is distributed in this country, and the same contrast applies to banking institutions in particular. I am concerned with those which call themselves banks and who are at present helping somebody or other, who do not come within the definition of minimum capital requirements. I want to know what are you going to do with regard to them? Are you just going to permit them to die? Or, are you going to guide them into something so that their experience, their money and their activities will function in a manner which is not harmful to the community but which will definitely be advantageous to them.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): What is the Honourable Member's suggestion regarding small banks, if they do not come within the minimum standard required?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I suggest amalgamation of two or three small banks. I would like first of all that the bank should be given an opportunity to increase its capital in order to come up to the required standard. If it can do so, well and good. I suggest that you give the bank twelve months time. If even within twelve months time, the bank is not able to come up the minimum standard, then I will tell the bank, here you are, you are going into liquidation, why don't you, two or three small banks, meet together and amalgamate. The Curator will be the official conciliator and arbitrator between these small banks for purposes of valuation of assets. He will help in collecting all the assets together and bring out a new institution, instead of killing all the two or three small ones. That is the sort of thing I am conceiving.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: When you suggest amalgamation, who will be the authority who will force these small banks to amalgamate themselves. If they do not agree, are you going to bring in legislation?

Mr. Manu Subedar: The party who would guide, help and assist including even financial assistance will be an official of the Reserve Bank who will be created and whom I call the curator.

Now, Sir, I will say a few words with regard to indigenous bankers. It is well known that we had in Europe the Rothschilds and other big bankers who financed the Governments of many countries. Here in India also we had big bankers who financed the armies of Scindias, who financed the Moghul Emperors and the Nizams. We had these big bankers at one time. We have still their survivals in the present day in such cases as my Honourable friend Sir Bhagchand Soni who is the Treasurer of the B., B. & C. I. Railway. We have this institution even now in a large way. I am sorry to say that the great role which they play, the personal knowledge which they bring on the situation, the quick accommodation which they give, the privacy with which the transactions could be done with them, all these have been ignored by Government in framing the Bill. In fact, they were a great blessing to this country. People knew them, and what is more, they knew the people. This was an institution, still is an institution of the greatest importance, and while we have created the Reserve Bank at the top, as the apex of the pyramid, we have not taken care about the bottom of the pyramid. The bottom of the pyramid is literally the hundreds and thousands of rich people who are called money-lenders, sahu-kars, shroffs, mahajans, etc., who are given different names in different places. They all use their own money, and their method of remuneration is not merely the interest which they charge, but they charge a little commission. After all, what is wrong about it? Why is it that the Reserve Bank is so sensitive about the method of remuneration which these people take. Sometimes these people do indulge in what I call jobbing, just as there is a broker in shares and a fobber, so also there are these bankers and financiers who occasionally take these commodities and keep them in their own accounts and sell them. It is true that sometimes, these transactions do get mixed up, but the manner in which they have been treated in the past is not the manner in which they should now be treated. It is in this connection that I want to read the obligation which has been imposed on the Reserve Bank under section 55(1):

"The Bank shall, at the earliest practicable date and in any case within three years from the date on which this Chapter comes into force, make to the Governor General in Council a report with proposals, if it thinks fit, for legislation on the following matters, namely :

(a) the extension of the provisions of this Act, relating to scheduled banks to persons and firms, not being scheduled banks, engaged in British India, in the business of banking."

This was definitely an obligation on the Reserve Bank and I have no doubt that before the expiry of the statutory period they made this report. But this Government has completely failed to bring forward the necessary legislation. The Finance Member told us in his speech that there were differences between the Shroffs' Association and the Reserve Bank and therefore they could not proceed. This is not the line; this is the Amery solution of the deadlock and I say it is most objectionable. It is the business and the duty of this Government, it is the business and duty first of the Reserve Bank itself to deserve the place and the function which it has taken; and then it is the duty and function of this Government to take up the problem of the indigenous bankers and to harness them under the control of the Reserve Bank. And if you harness them under the control of the Reserve Bank, if you put any limitations or restrictions on them, you have to give corresponding benefits and privileges and advantages to them. Create these benefits and advantages and privileges and I guarantee that you will find bankers of this type quite ready to fall into line with you. What they (i.e., Reserve Bank) are trying to do is the wrong thing, that is, they are putting restrictions, calling upon these people to get registered and they are saying that there are no privileges attached but if they like to come on the Schedule they can do this. That is a wrong method and I hope it will be corrected.

What has happened is that there has been an undue restrictive policy with regard to the banks in the past about eligible assets. The Reserve Bank has not helped in liberalising the practice or the traditions with regard to all these things. In fact the Reserve Bank has not conceived it to be its business to go into these matters. The common interests of society in better organisation, in the creation of a bill market, of acceptance houses, of discount houses and the creation of intermediate securities, investment trusts and bonds issued by them, land mortgage banks and bonds issued by them, industrial trusts and bonds issued by them,—these are some of the topics which have been hitherto woefully neglected.

Now, Sir, Part II proposes to impose numerous restrictions on banks. It deals with sections into the details of which I shall not enter here but I shall have much to say in the Select Committee. With regard to winding up in part III I am very happy the Leader of the Opposition has already dealt with it. We have not taken advantage in this country of all the lessons which arose out of the windings-up and liquidation reports of banks in the past; and it has been nobody's business in particular. When we ask Government they say, "Let the Reserve Bank who are our financial advisers do it"; when we ask the Reserve Bank they say, "Government have not referred it to us or told us anything". This kind of sending us from pillar to post must stop.

Sir, I will say one thing with regard to clause 28. Is it not clear to Government what sort of bogey and Frankenstein they have created of themselves that people are afraid of legitimate inspection? I have never heard my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh speak so eloquently and with so much sincerity as when he spoke with regard to this inspection. Why did he object to it? Because you have created this Frankenstein and bogey. In the Reserve Bank, if you have a friend, a guide and a party who will assist, and not a party that is dangerous, there would not be this feeling of fear. And with regard to the specific issue which my friend raised it is very easy to get that over. The Reserve Bank inspection should be regularly for all, once a year at fixed periods and once at least at the convenience of the Reserve Bank officers, with the result that when there is inspection in this manner, it will not attract that notice or arouse that suspicion affecting credit that there is something wrong with that institution.

Sir, the rule-making power of Government is most important and should be used to bring in loose ends left out in this Bill. In particular I want clause 39 which amends section 17 of the Reserve Bank Act to be considered. I want several portions of the Reserve Bank Act to be amended. We have got section 17 at least and what with the definition and what with modification of section 17 I trust I shall convince the Select Committee of the importance of bringing in the indigenous bankers into the fold of the Reserve Bank.

Sir, in conclusion I would like to say one word. Good banks have nothing to fear from laws, however strict they may be. Those who are dishonest, those who manipulate the machinery to their profit and personal advantage, those who try and mislead the shareholders and depositors as well as the public and the State should beware; but others need not be afraid. If you accept guidance, they may have some form of check here and there but they will also be assisted if they are not mala-fide. This should be the objective of Government policy and this should be the objective and the policy of the Reserve Bank. In all countries at some time or other, particularly through world events over which nobody has any control, banks get into difficulty. What is wanted in India is to create a defence machinery which will be always ready for use, which will be dormant during times of prosperity and which will be available at all times. The Reserve Bank should be to the ordinary institutions the friend in case of need, the same source of help, ready and unstinting help, which the Reserve Bank itself is trying to expect from the new international bank which is being created as a result of Bretton Woods. Sir, there is no topic of greater importance to the life of the people of this country than the soundness of its banks, and this soundness it is our object as legislators to create by putting our laws on a proper footing, by giving

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controlling authority and powers to the Reserve Bank, side by side with definite obligations to assist banking institutions. I want the Reserve Bank to take even financial risks, as I said, because it is a public institution;—I want the Reserve Bank to forget that it is a private shareholders' institution which is out merely to do the routine work and bag the profit.

Sir, I support the motion.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, I have listened with very great interest to the speeches made by my Honourable friends here. I have heard my Honourable friends to my right and I have heard my Honourable friends to my left. We on this side of the House are a community which is very backward in the matter of banking concerns. Our interest in banks lies in our being small depositors and investors and borrowers. Sir, I am not going to pay any compliments to our friends on the Treasury Benches for bringing forward this Bill as my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir did. I think it was the duty of Government to bring this forward and I am not still satisfied with the form in which it has been brought forward. They have raised a bogey that it is in order to safeguard the interests of depositors; but that is not all that we want. That is not the interest of a national Government or a Government which would like to help the country to move forward and build itself. What we would like is that while safeguarding the interests of the depositors you should also look after the banking interest itself, try to promote industry and the banks who will finance the trade and postwar planning, and see that the banking concerns may grow to their full strength on the lines we heard about in Canada or in other parts of the world.

Sir, I am sure many important and interesting suggestions will be made in the Select Committee; and we have heard from the Finance Member that not only will Government consider our suggestions but they will, if necessary, send for experts to be examined by the Committee. I am sure that on this kind of legislation experts should be called.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. As it is now 4 O'clock, the adjournment motion will be taken up.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

HARSH CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF INDIAN TROOPS IN MIDDLE EAST AND ITALY

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

“That the assembly do now adjourn.”—

To discuss a matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the unnecessarily harsh conditions of service of Indian troops in the Middle East and Italy as described in the article by the Special Representative of the *Hindustan Times* in its issue of the 6th April, 1945.

Sir, I expect that many Members of this House would have read the special articles appearing in the newspapers in this country, specially in the *Hindustan Times*, on four days during the last week, which has opened our eyes to the position under which Indian troops are serving in Italy, in the Middle East, and in Persia and Iraq. Before I begin, I think it will be only fitting and proper for me to take this opportunity to compliment the authorities concerned, presumably the Commander-in-Chief, who has permitted independent pressmen to visit Italy and the Middle East. I would also like to compliment the pressmen generally on the objective approach with which they have sought to deal with the problem. In particular I would like to mention as being praiseworthy the name of a person who is a friend of most people in this House—and I hope he would not blush—Mr. Durga Das, who has specially brought these points to the notice of the Members in this House and who has thereby provided provocation for this debate.

But why should the Government at all fight shy of a discussion on this matter? Why should my Honourable friend get up and say that these are merely suggestions and are therefore valueless. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ram Chandra, is new to his department. Perhaps if my Honourable friend, Mr. Trivedi, had taken it up, he would have been far more militant and

aggressive and he would perhaps have said, 'it is all absurd and we do not want any discussion on the matter'. It is only in keeping with the temperament and mentality of this Government which seeks to put a lid on everything good, bad or indifferent, and the example of the British Government where it is good does not attract the eyes of this bureaucratic Government on the Treasury Benches. I hope the Government have not forgotten, and it is only a short time back, that a former Under-Secretary of State for India visited India in order to find out the grievances of British troops in this country and to set them right. But the Government of India never learns and it can never improve.

Sir, there is one matter about which I would like to mention before I proceed. It might conceivably be asked—and I dare say my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, will ask—why should people on this side exhibit an interest in the matter of the welfare of troops—which happens to be the special concern of the Members of the Viceroy's Cabinet,—who have exhibited little or no interest in the Governments' war efforts. Why should people who have often characterised the Indian troops as mercenaries now attempt to take an interest in them? I shall not be ashamed if those charges are levelled against me. It is true that the main incentive for these men to go out to serve in the Army is the economic motive, but that does not necessarily mean that we Indians in this House should neglect an obvious duty to our fellow countrymen. It is not as members of the Indian nation serving in this war to fulfil an obviously economic motive that our interest in them is aroused, but it is as fellow Indians and we shall be interested in their welfare wherever they might be, whatever they might do, even if they happen to sell themselves as slaves to a foreign country.

I would like to ask two questions from the Government: My Honourable friend has said that there was some basis for making the suggestions, as he puts it. Why is this? Why should there be this basis at all? And, secondly, I would like to ask who is responsible, and in asking the second question, I am afraid the issues that will follow might be a little more than what will concern my Honourable friend, the Secretary representing the Defence Department. The journalists who visited these areas have seen Generals Mark Clark and Paget who in discussing the question of treatment of Indian Other Ranks and the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers have, it appears, cut the Gordian knot by saying that they consider it primary and essential that Indian Other Ranks, British Other Ranks, and similar ranks in the United States Army must also be treated as equals. I have before me the report of Mr. Robert Stimson, the special correspondent of the *Times of India*, which I have no doubt cannot be accused of a definite pro-Indian bias, who has praised the behaviour of the Indian troops which has been reinforced by what has been said by Commanders of the Armies who have said that they have been staunch comrades. I am also told that these representatives spoke to the men in the presence of their officers and it is significant that the men also asked them "Have you come here to go back and report to the authorities in India that all is well with us". Incidentally, Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of the House to one point in this connection. While the Indian public might feel grateful to the military censors for allowing these articles to be published, let them also bear in mind that these articles that have been published have been censored and there could therefore be no exaggeration at all. On the other hand, if there is any deviation from the actual truth, it must be the other way about.

Among this chorus of praise by the British and American Commanders, we will come across the views of another set of army people. It is reported in the *Hindustan Times* of 7th April 1945, that a Major General, who should remain nameless, said:

"My men's morale remains high whether they get any amenities or not. I would not spoil them by encouraging them to smoke. If they find Victory cigarettes unsmokable, it is all to the good. After all smoking is a bad habit. Any way, is it not that in their country they smoke only *biris*? A welfare officer explained, it appears, that the demands of Indian soldiers for the same treatment as other Allied soldiers was not fair. They

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

get there more amenities than in the barracks in India. How many of them see films in India? How many read newspapers, magazines and books? How many smoke cigarettes? As regards the complaint of men that in the countries in which they live inflation has made their salaries very inadequate, the officer said, 'Why do they wish to buy anything at all? We give them all they want and the rest of their needs can be met at the canteens. They have no need to buy anything in the bazar'."

That is the treatment meted out to our men by the officers who immediately command them, who are expected to look after their welfare, as against the remarks of General Paget, and General Mark Clark. It has been said by Robert Stimpson, the *Times of India* correspondent that the provision of comforts of the Indian troops has been even less positive so far as the Persian and Iraq command is concerned. It appears that in this area there is now an overwhelming majority of Indian troops and the people who officer them are by and large non-Indian and amongst them are many who have never had any experience of the Indian Army. I am told, Sir, that the position in the Paiforce Areas is extremely bad and we get not even some gleanings into this from these reports. Apparently these journalists were not allowed to get a glimpse of the Paiforce perhaps because the condition they were in was bad. I hear that the anti-Indian feeling in Persia and Iraq makes the position of the Indian soldier intolerable.

With regard to specific grievances. I have mentioned the matter of cigarettes. A correspondent of the *Civil and Military Gazette* said that one canteen officer imported 20,000 biris and found the men had taken to smoking cigarettes and would not look at these. It is said the provision of amenities for Indian troops is considerably higher than that for British troops. Whereas an Indian Other Rank gets allotted for amenities Rs. 10 a British Other Rank gets five shillings.

I have mentioned this morning about the instance of the stale *ata* and how the *chapattis* made out of them taste. I am told again that in the matter of leave the men have not been home for more than three years. O wonder what Lord Munster would have said if that was the condition in which the British troops were placed in India. I am told that they have now drawn up a new leave scheme but that becomes inoperable because of the bottle-necks in transport. So far as entertainment provided is concerned, the less said about it the better. In fact Indians are ashamed of the type of people who have gone into the Indian ENSA.

It may be that more information will be available if a tour is taken by responsible people in this country. The *Times of India* in its leader has taken a very generous but strong line. It has said that the fault does not lie with the officers that immediately command the troops. Who is then to blame? The Government of India to whom the task of furnishing amenities for Indian troops abroad had been entrusted by allied arrangements. Three times as much money is spent on the Indian soldier as against his counterpart the British soldier and after 5½ years of war this is the position. The fact that the Indian soldier is not given to grousing is no excuse for inaction. I would like to ask why is it that both the Commanders in the field and the *Times of India* say that this is an Indian responsibility. The financial responsibility seems to be that of Britain. Unless the financial arrangement of 1940 is given the go-by, what kind of responsibility is undertaken by the Indian Government and how does it discharge that responsibility? If I had more time I would have gone into greater detail and it would perhaps have taken half an hour to deal with that. So far as this Government is concerned, there is no excuse for recruiting men merely for making them coolies in foreign lands. In fact one of the Press representatives to whom I spoke said that if we have a Government of our own, we should never send our troops abroad.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: unless we are in a position to look after their comforts in the same manner as the comforts of the British and American

troops are looked after. The pride of the Indian is at stake and his countrymen are looked upon as coolies by the soldiers of the other armies. Sir, I move.

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. Ram Chandra (Secretary, Defence Department): The Honourable Mover in his speech referred to the remarks made by me in the morning when I said in opposing the motion that the article in the *Hindustan Times* contained suggestions which were for the consideration of Government. I do not understand how he got the idea that we were trying to hide something. It was only with a view to saving the time of the House that I was saying that these suggestions would receive the consideration of Government which they deserve.

The Honourable Member has himself referred to the statement made by General Paget that British Other Ranks and Indian Other Ranks should be treated equally in the matter of welfare and amenities. He has also referred to the fact that while Rs. 10 per head is the amount set apart for amenities and welfare of Indian troops, the corresponding figure for the British troops is almost one third.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Is this true?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Yes—Rs. 10 against five shillings.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Five shillings weekly or monthly?

Prof N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): One is weekly and the other is monthly!

Mr. Ram Chandra: This amount of Rs. 10 *per capita* is used in sending overseas to Indian troops sports gear, indoor games, musical instruments, gramophone records, vernacular literature, etc.,

Sardar Mangal Singh: Rupees ten yearly or monthly?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Yearly. Both Rs. 10 and the sh. 5 are yearly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There must be something behind it!

Mr. Ram Chandra: I may here also refer to the criticism about financial adjustment. While the standard of amenities for Indian troops is laid down by the Government of India, the finances are actually paid by His Majesty's Government.

As regards the article in the *Hindustan Times* which contains the criticism that sufficient number of newspapers is not supplied to the troops in Italy, I will just give some figures. 5,000 daily and weekly vernacular papers are flown direct to Italy every week.

Some Honourable Member: *Fauji Akhbar*?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Of *Muslim*, which is an Urdu daily, more than 8,000 copies have been flown to Italy since the 24th February.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): We have never seen that paper. Where is it published?

Mr. Ram Chandra: This is the list that has been given to me. Then there is a paper in Hindi called *Ap Biti*: There are also the *Khalsa Samachar*, *Deshabhimani* and some Tamil and other papers, arrangements for the supply of which are being made.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Three thousand copies for how many soldiers?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I am afraid it is not possible in the public interest for me to give out the number of soldiers in the operational theatres.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is all in private interest.

Mr. Ram Chandra: There has been improvement in regard to the supply of wireless sets. In the past there has been a great shortage of wireless sets but the situation is now rapidly improving. The present ratio is one set per 150 men but the target figure is one per fifty.

An Honourable Member: It is a post-war plan, I suppose.

Mr. Ram Chandra: As regards films, here again my Honourable friends will perhaps laugh. The situation has greatly improved. I am glad my prophecy has proved true. The latest reports that have been received from Italy state

[Mr. Ram Chandra.]

that all old films have now been withdrawn and that they have a total of 87.35 mm. films and 9, 16 mm. films. It is also stated that ~~three~~ 35 mm. and two 16 mm. films will be sent every fortnight, which means 120 films a year. These films are of different types. They are not copies of the same films. Arrangements are also being made to send a special extra consignment of six Tamil films, and if the supply continues at this rate, we shall soon reach our goal of two new films per week.

As regards the criticism of the entertainment that is provided for Indian troops in Italy and the Middle East, it is really a question of opinion. Our information is that the parties that have been sent out from India have been greatly appreciated by the rank and file, although criticism has been levelled in regard to the standard of entertainment by officers. At the present moment an attempt is being made to collect information and invite the opinions of all members of the forces and if it is found that any improvement is necessary or desirable, I can assure the House that improvement will certainly be carried out.

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

It has been stated that the leave that is being granted to the Indian troops is not on a generous scale. Here also an improvement has been made.

An Honourable Member: On paper.

Mr. Ram Chandra: Not on paper but in actual fact and it will come into force very soon. In the past the scheme was to allow 6 per cent. leave; now this percentage has been increased to 10 per cent. for Italy and Middle East and 12 per cent. for Iraq. (Interruption.) No, not since the article appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, nor was the decision taken after the notice of the adjournment motion was received. It is a matter which has always been in the forefront and Government are trying to do whatever is possible to improve the standards of welfare and amenities. According to this new leave scheme almost one third of the total strength of the unit will get leave every year. I may also mention that when a soldier's leave is due, he is given the option, whether he wishes to take the usual leave of two months or whether he wishes to be repatriated to India. When he is repatriated, he need not go to a theatre overseas until after six months. In the vast majority of cases the soldiers exercise their option in favour of leave, that is to say they prefer to go back. This alone shows that the conditions overseas, where they wish to go back, are not so bad as are painted. Otherwise they would be prepared to stay here in India for six months.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Just as the European I.C.S. wants to come back to India!

Mr. Ram Chandra: The Honourable Member referred to certain articles in the *Times of India*. I am afraid I am under a handicap at the moment. He had given notice only of the article in the *Hindustan Times* and these articles in the *Times of India* have not come to my notice yet. But I promise him that I shall look into the allegations that have been made there by another correspondent.

Having explained what has been done and what is being done, what improvements have been effected and are being effected, I would ask my Honourable friend to consider whether he would be prepared to withdraw the adjournment motion.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, the Honourable Member who spoke last would have us believe that in spite of the fact that the tour of these journalist friends was organised by his Department, yet he had not read the reports which have appeared as a result of that tour in different newspapers in India. The position of the Defence Department is very strange indeed. This is a department which is very jealously guarded by the master race, that is the British and they have now sent the two heavenly twins from the South of Vindhya, the Honourable Mr. Ram Chandra and the Honourable Mr. Trivedi to represent the department in this House.

Some Honourable Members: They are not from the South of India. One is from the Punjab and the other from C. P.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I will say south of the Himalayas, if it makes any difference, since the Himalayas are a bigger mountain than the Vindhyas. They have been sent here to defend the department. Then there is the Honourable the Defence Member who has been sent abroad to broadcast lies about the constitutional position of India to people abroad.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The gentleman is not here, nor is the reference relevant.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Now these two gentleman who act as a colour wash which has been applied to conceal racial discrimination and the oppression of the Indian soldier,—the bad treatment which he is receiving as against the British in the so-called Indian Army. Sir, the position of the Indian soldier is like that of the Indian labourer. Formerly when the British were anxious to develop their colonies, they were anxious to spirit away Indian labourers to the different parts of the British Empire in order that they might better exploit these colonies, and after they had succeeded in their object, the Indians were treated as Harijans or outcastes. The position in the Army is the same in that people who are responsible for directing British policy are the same people. The Indian soldier is the outcaste among the armies of the Empire.

Sir, I am reminded of the fact that in my part of the country, when a Pathan peasant requires the help of other agriculturists either to harvest his crops or to plough his lands, the custom is that he invites other peasants to lend a helping hand, and the host takes great care to see that he prepares a very good meal so that his guests who have put in an honest day's work without any remuneration are properly fed and entertained well. This is after all their fight, it is after all their empire, it is their exploitation that we are asked to defend, and when they call us to help them, at least it is their duty to see that the Indian is fed like the Britisher, is clothed like the Britisher, and is treated on a par with the Britisher, because after all he is fighting their war, he is helping them to retain their ill-gotten gains, he is helping them to exploit the weaker people in the different parts of this world. After all it is their duty to see that he is treated on a par with the Britisher.

Now His Majesty's Government is responsible for the welfare and amenities of the Indian troops serving overseas. Under the financial settlement we are told it is His Majesty's Government which pays for amenities and welfare of the Indian troops, but it seems that the actual execution of these matters is in the hands of their agents, the Government of India. I want to know from the Government of India that if His Majesty's Government has to foot the bill, why they should be so very mean in the treatment of the Indian soldier in the matter of amenities and comforts.

The policy of inflicting *Fauji Akhbar* on the Indian soldier reminds me of the Nazi method of regimentation of thought. *Fauji Akhbar* is a paper which is singularly devoid of anything good, anything useful, and it is only fit for the waste paper basket, and so much of our money is being wasted on *Fauji Akhbar*. It would interest the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting to know what the Indian soldier outside India thinks of the broadcasts which are organised by his department under his very nose. They do not like the programmes which are got up by his department. They are anxious to hear more about the news of their homes than to listen to the war propaganda which is being inflicted on these people in season and out of season. Articles written by paid persons are read out in a most mechanical manner and listeners in India switch over to something else when these articles are being relayed on the A.I.R. So I would like the Leader of the House to learn something at least from this side of the House.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): I assure my Honourable friend that I have been learning a good lot.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: But we do not see any effect on him.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can he unlearn something?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is a well-known fact that while the East African negro is being treated, in the matter of rank and pay and privileges, as the British soldier, the Indian soldier is being treated as a human being of an inferior variety.

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

Now, if you want to have contentment in the Army in India it is high time that the Government of India gives up this discriminatory policy against the Indian.

Mr. President, the one good thing which this war has done is that hundreds of our soldiers have gone abroad: it is a matter of indifference whether they have gone there impelled by necessity of the economic situation of the country or for other reasons, but whatever the motive force which took them to the different and far-flung theatres of war there is one thing which they have learnt, and which will be of great benefit to India. Wherever they have gone, they have been treated in a manner which is not fit for human being. They have seen that the British soldier fighting the same battle shoulder to shoulder with them against the same enemy is being treated on a different footing than of the Indian soldier. When they come home with this idea, they will have a better appreciation of what should be India's place in the future world order—whether India could at all expect to be treated as a self-respecting nation within the ambit of the British Empire, I hope and trust that they will come back convinced that the only place for India was outside this Empire if there was no equality of treatment possible within the British Empire.

The speech of the Honourable War Secretary was very halting.

An Honourable Member: It is Defence Secretary.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: They sit together, and they are so close together that it is difficult to distinguish between the two, and the parts which they play are so much interdependent and inter-related, and the new comer derives so much inspiration from his senior whenever he is in any difficulty. At any rate it is difficult to distinguish between the two. His speech was a very halting one. I have seen many guilty persons come before courts—I know and many judges also know—the poses and attitudes the accused persons take when they are making statements. I can see something of the same in the Honourable the Defence Secretary's attitude when he was making his speech. Parts of it we did not hear, but the parts we heard were so unconvincing. I am sure he himself was not convinced by what he was saying. Sir, I support the motion, and censure the Government of India for being so weak-kneed as to allow the British Government to discriminate against the nationals of this country who are performing tasks exactly similar to the British in the different theatres of war.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to make it perfectly clear that I am sure every Honourable Member of this House demands that there shall be no distinction between Indian soldiers and soldiers of any other nation, at least outside India, with regard to the amenities given to these soldiers, and it will be our business to see that these amenities are given to our Indian soldiers, for I am one of those who are firmly convinced that it is the work of the Indian soldiers that has put India on the map of the world.

Now, coming to brass tacks, I have got before me an article written in the *Times of India*, by Mr. Robert Stimson, appearing in the issue of the 7th April. It is full of complaints with regard to amenities. I would just like to summarise for the information of this Honourable House what the complaints are that Mr. Stimson puts forward with regard to amenities; and since the time at my disposal is very short, you will forgive me if I do it very rapidly, and leave Honourable Members to read the article for themselves, which, I repeat, is in the issue of the 7th April:

First, as to leave, he says that the average Indian soldier they came across had not had leave for three years and some of them had not had leave for four years. The soldier worries about his land and Mr. Stimson states: "the only time when the equanimity of an Indian soldier is ruffled is when he is concerned about his property or his people". Now, my Honourable friend has read out some extracts from a new scheme that has been framed. Mr. Stimson makes reference to that scheme—he knows all about it and he mentions it, and after having alluded to that scheme, the scheme mentioned by my Honourable friend, he says:

"The Government of India, it is felt, should use much cogent language in presenting to those responsible for the control of Allied shipping the case for the Indian soldier."

Here is a man who has just returned from this tour; he knows about this scheme; he has heard the complaints of Indian soldiers and their officers about leave and this is how he wants it to be put, that the Government of India have got to make their efforts felt a little more strongly than they have done, if they want this complaint about leave to disappear

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Is this Mr. Stimson an Englishman?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then he talks about correspondence facilities for these soldiers; he points out that it costs the Indian soldier 2s. 9p. to write, but it costs his relatives 6 annas to reply, which they cannot afford. These are things that can be remedied; these are matters that have been brought to the attention of Government on former occasions and here are pressmen going out to the Middle East who tell us very soon after their return that nothing has been done. The next complaint he makes—I am going very rapidly over them and not expanding on them, as I do not have the time—he makes a very substantial complaint about the work done by the district soldiers boards. He says they are not doing their job, and he further states with regard to these soldiers boards

Nawabzada Muhammad Haquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions Muhammadan Rural): They are a farce.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: He very nearly says that. This newspaper party heard not only from the men themselves, but from their officers, Indian and British, complaints about the work done by these boards—they do not pay attention to the men's complaints; most of the complaints are about their property and disputes with regard to their land; the boards do not go into the matter but hand it over for decision to the village headman; he goes on to explain how the village headmen may be prejudiced in favour of one party or the other, and the soldiers feel that no justice is being done to them in regard to their complaints. We have heard a great deal of these soldiers boards—I have at least—and I have heard complaints. I have heard the defence made of the work done by these boards; but when I hear complaints from men who have just been touring in the Middle East, who thus speak with some knowledge, who are men accustomed to gather facts quickly and get at the bottom of things quickly and put them before the country concisely and correctly, I am beginning to feel that there is something wrong in the centre of Government here which cannot remedy these complaints.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Everything is wrong there.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then with regard to the welfare work generally, he says:

"In other aspects of welfare—recreation rooms, entertainments and so on—the Indian soldier deserves much better treatment. As far as most of the military authorities on the spot are concerned there is every desire to see to it that the Indian soldier is as well treated as any other."

He describes the orders passed by General Paget. He then refers to his doubts about the ability and the willingness of officers in Persia to do their duty properly. And then he says—this is very important:

"But the real fault lies with the Government of India, which by Allied arrangement has undertaken to manage the welfare of the Indian soldier. Even though 15s. a year per head is allotted to the Indian soldier's welfare as against 5s. for the British soldier, more efficient welfare arrangements are made for the latter."

Well, Sir, if the officers of these men, both Indian and English, complain that it is the fault of the Government of India, whose duty it is to see that the Government of India do their work properly? I affirm most strongly that it is the duty of this House, and if this House cannot perform that duty efficiently and successfully, our presence here is useless, and I trust that this Honourable House will not forget this debate, whatever the result may be, and will see to it that this question is followed up till we achieve proper results. I must say that my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches—the Indian Members and the Europeans—must take a greater interest in this question. They must look into this question themselves; it is their duty; it is their duty to a class of men who have been upholding the reputation of their country; and if they do not do

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

their duty, they will be letting them down and I am sure that is the last thing they want to do.

Then Mr. Stimson goes on to criticise this famous Fauji Dilkhus Sabha—these entertainment parties that go out to the Middle East to entertain our soldiers. They are carried out by contract: a certain sum is paid to a contractor and he is supposed to furnish these parties. Naturally he pays as little as he can and makes as great a profit as possible. Our soldiers are ashamed of those parties; they are ashamed of them, not because they do not entertain them but because other soldiers may believe that we in India are satisfied with this class of entertainment and this is what touches them to the quick. This is what Mr. Stimson says, and curiously enough this is his description. I think it is concise and put much better than I can:

"They cannot sing; their instruments are out of tune; and the female entertainers they bring with them are all too often of a class that can only be described as dubious."

What is it you expect to get if you do this by contract? You can get only women who will go out on contract. If this fact is correct, this is the result you must expect. Then he refers to the lack of better films: we have heard some are being sent out. May I tell my friend the Defence Secretary that I have heard that story before, of better films being sent out. I have been hearing it now for the space of some time; and here is a gentleman and here are others who have gone out and who say that these films have disappeared into thin air—at least, they have not found them. Then there is the complaint of our men getting no news from India. These correspondents say that our men complain they get no newspapers and no news about their own country and their own homes and families. There was no newspaper telling them what was happening in India. I must ask my Honourable friend the Leader of the House to see that in these broadcasts in future there is more domestic news about India—they hear quite enough of the war—they know all about the war. Drop this lecturing to them and tell them more about what is happening in their country—about the rains, about the monsoon, about their crops, how their families are faring and you will be doing good. Drop this propaganda that you are doing today. You are now convinced that this propaganda, as far as these soldiers are concerned, has been a failure. They tell you what they want and you can supply it by passing orders within five minutes. I would ask my Honourable friend to go home and pass these orders. Stop this propaganda that is going on. Start fresh propaganda that will give them news of their people, of the circumstances that prevail in this country today, of the future monsoon or things of that sort which will interest them and they will not feel the lack of newspapers that they are feeling today. May I point out that Mr. Stimson has a very good word to say about hospitals. I was very glad to read that. He speaks highly of the hospital accommodation and of the treatment meted out to our Indian troops. Let us therefore on this occasion extend to Government, not only our congratulations but also our sincere thanks to those who deserve them for the improvement in our hospitals in these regions and for the hospital treatment meted out to these men who are upholding the reputation of our country.

Finally, Mr. President, I will quote something from this gentleman who has evidently watched things with attention and reported them with fair accuracy. This is what he says:

"To sum up this article on welfare, there is not the smallest doubt that the officer—junior or senior, Indian or British—working and fighting with the Indian other ranks feels that the authorities are not giving them the facilities that they should have as a matter of right."

I ask the Government of India to give the facilities that these men demand as a matter of right and if they cannot do it, let them cease governing this country and let them hand over the amenities of our troops to the British Government who will do it more successfully.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, I am exceedingly sorry that I could not be in the House during the earlier stages of the debate because of a conference I had to attend: but I came as soon as I could possibly do so.

Therefore my apologies are due to the Honourable Members who spoke in the early stages of the debate. Like my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir I was distressed to read the statements made in two prominent journals of this country by two distinguished correspondents who recently visited Italy. I was the more distressed to read these complaints because some of them synchronised with the complaints which were made by the Defence Consultative Committee, of which I was a member, after its tour to some of the battle-fields of the Middle East. (*An Honourable Member*: "When was that?") In 1943. It is unnecessary for me to say a word about the Indian soldier. Friends and relations of mine who are serving in various Allied arms, have written to tell me that here is no finer body of men, no more gallant representatives of their country than the Indian soldier serving abroad. Therefore he deserves the best that this country can give him, and I am not satisfied; in fact I am convinced that he is getting much less than the best that India can give him. I was not in the House when my friend the Secretary to the Defence Department spoke. Whatever he had to say, his own heart is in the right place. He has recently taken over this portfolio. Therefore, I would not like him to feel that I wish to condemn him for what happened before he took charge of this work. But I do want him to know that what is being said in this House on this subject is nothing less than the truth, and I do want him to know that if this House expresses its opinion on this motion in grave dissatisfaction of the position as regards amenities to Indian troops overseas, it is only doing its duty and is reflecting public opinion on this question. I will not go into the details of the grievances which my colleagues and I enquired into more than two years ago but it is quite clear that some of them still remain unredressed. (*An Honourable Member*: "How many of them are fresh ones?") They are nearly all the same. I know that there are difficulties in the way, some psychological, some physical and some political; but I have a shrewd suspicion that in this matter, the welfare of Indian armed forces serving overseas does not receive the priority that it deserves. Honourable Members will remember that not very long ago there was a grave agitation in my own country in regard to the welfare of British troops serving in the Eastern theatre of war. Public opinion eventually grew so strong that the Prime Minister himself took the matter within his immediate consideration and sent out his special personal representative to inquire into the position and to make a report to him within the shortest possible time. In just the same way the welfare of Indian troops serving overseas deserves the highest priority. Knowing the interest which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief takes in these matters, I cannot understand why more has not been done to remedy the very just and pressing complaints which have been referred to in the course of this debate. I hope the result of this discussion, possibly the result of this vote will be that those who are concerned will take the most drastic and immediate steps to remedy the more easily remediable grievances of the troops overseas and give those problems which are worrying those who serve abroad the highest possible consideration.

Then, Sir, one word about the Soldiers' Board. I have had some experience of the working of the Soldiers' Boards in some parts of India. Like most of these organisations, some districts are good, some districts are bad.

5. P. M. But the Soldiers' Board organisations—or as I think they are now called the Indian Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen Board or something like that—they ought to be a living link between serving soldiers and their people at home. My Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh and others in this House, Capt. Dalpat Singh and others of my colleagues who were privileged to tour in the Middle East two years ago, will remember the questions that were asked by the men of every unit coming from different parts of India with whom we had the privilege of talking. The crops, land disputes, delays in postal arrangements, thieving of money orders, all these things give the greatest worry to the man who is serving overseas. I understand these grievances still persist. That, I must say, speaks ill for those who are responsible. In some ways, the Indian soldier serving overseas is more helpless than the soldier of some of the other Allied armies.

[Sir F. E. James.]

Generally, far less is done for him not only by those who send him, but by the civilians in those countries in which his lot is cast. That is therefore all the more reason why the amenities of the services should be strengthened in every possible way. Two years ago, we criticised the personnel of the officers who were immediately responsible for looking after the welfare of Indian troops. Many of them had never been to this country. Many of them do not know what the Indian soldier needs, when he is far away from his home. To what extent has that complaint been dealt with? I cannot believe that it is not possible to find men of experience in this country who would gladly take a King's commission in order to go overseas and serve the welfare of Indian troops. Therefore, Sir, my sympathies are most wholehearted with those who have raised the question in the House. I hope my Honourable friends will not make the mistake of opposing what I believe is the united wish of this House in this matter. Certainly, as far as I am concerned, my vote will be with those who desire by this method to draw attention to one of the most pressing needs of those who serve this country in foreign lands.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, when outspoken critics like Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit call the Indian soldiers rice soldiers or dub the Indian troops as mercenaries, the Government spokesmen very much resent the expression and try to ram the offending expression down the unwilling throats of their opponents. Only the other day in this House when the Budget was under fire and hot words were being exchanged between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches, the Honourable the Leader of the House addressing the Opposition Benches said, "you think by going to jail for a few months or a few years you will achieve independence, you are sadly mistaken. Independence, when it comes, will not come through you and through your antics, but it will come through the Indian soldiers, who are patriotic Indian soldiers". Well, Sir, the words of the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed are prophetic in a way. The day will come and that soon when we might be free in this land. But we know our own limitations. We have succeeded in this House in inflicting tremendous defeats upon the Government over and over and over again, but the Government would not be influenced by these defeats, they would not be influenced in any way. We have passed scores of Resolutions on this very subject of independence, but nothing came out of it. But the question will come when the 25 lakhs of Indian soldiers, who have fought on all the fronts, who have fought in the burning sands of Africa, who have gone to Italy, who have gone to France, who have gone to Burma and all the fronts who have saturated the soil of those theatres with their rich blood, will return home. The demand will come from them after the war is brought to a successful conclusion and they will say, "You Mr. Amery, you Mr. Churchill, you promised us complete independence, where is that complete independence". If you treat their demand in the same way in which you are treating us, then trouble will be brewing for you. That will be the dawn of Indian independence. One would suppose that a body of men who have earned testimonials from the British Government for their valour, and for their sacrifices, who have earned more Victoria Crosses than the Canadians or South Africans ever did, are a determining factor in the situation. When it is conceded by the Treasury Benches that these men are patriotic, and valourous, and have a right to claim independence for their country, then I am sure something will be done in order to meet their demand. Their status of life must be raised in the matter of amenities and comforts, they must be treated on the same level as the Britishers. After all the Indian soldiers are more valourous in some respects than the Britishers. We are all proud of them, and this pride has its basis on strong grounds. The poor Indian soldier has been treated abominably. And mind you the Indian soldier of today is not the soldier of many years ago. Many of the modern Indian soldiers are undergraduates, many of them are graduates, they know what patriotism is, they know what fighting for one's country is. These young men know shooting, they have learnt flying in the air, they have given good account of themselves in sea fighting. In fact they are versed in all the ways of the war. So, you

Treasury Benches, tremble for the day when these soldiers come home. They will get independence.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I thank you for giving this House an opportunity by admitting the motion relating to the hardships and difficulties of the soldiers fighting on the fronts which have never been discussed in this House since the war began. I am glad that an opportunity has been given to this House to invite the attention of the Government of India to their difficulties. Sir, I must thank the Commander-in-Chief for sending a Press delegation consisting independent pressmen. I must also thank the Commander-in-Chief for permitting these articles to be printed in the Press and lastly, I must thank the Commander-in-Chief for not invoking the powers of the Viceroy to kill this motion in the very beginning.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Thank you for thanking all of them.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am glad the Defence Secretary has spoken at an early stage, but in his speech, halting as it was, he has not taken the trouble to tell us what is the welfare *bandobust* for the Indian soldiers. He has told us that the Indian Government has laid down the standard and has left everything to the British Government. Do I understand that detailed arrangements and the whole *bandobust* is being done by the British War Office, or is it done by the Indian officers under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief? That is an important point. The welfare officers in charge of the Indian soldiers should be those who can understand their sentiments and the social backbround of their requirements, so that they can appreciate all their needs. For instance, an incident is mentioned here that a British officer prevented a soldier from remitting some money to his brother to help him to get married. He thought the soldier would appreciate his action and would like to keep the money. But the soldier who could not send this money was unhappy all the time because he wanted his elder brother to get married so that the chance might come soon for his own marriage. According to our custom his turn would come after his elder brother or sister is married. That British officer did not know it and therefore he could not sympathise with him. I therefore request the Government of India that in this matter they should Indianise the whole welfare staff immediately. The *Hindustan Times* correspondent has put it very rightly when he says:

"This incident emphasised that the welfare officer must understand the background of his men's life. The welfare organisation certainly requires an overhaul of its personnel. It is the one sphere where Indianisation can be done at a stroke. In any case this sphere should not be used for providing cushy jobs for staff favourites."

The first step that I suggest to the Government of India to take immediately is to Indianise this welfare staff and put those men in charge of the welfare amenities who can understand the social background and the psychology and the sentiments of the soldiers for whom they are to cater. That is the first point I wish to make.

Then, Sir, I was very much amazed when the Defence Secretary said that they are sending by air thousands of copies of Indian newspapers. When I wanted to know what those newspapers were, he very kindly gave some names. One name was *Muslim*, another was *Ap-Biti* and another was the *Khalsa Samachar*. I do not know whether my Muslim friends have heard of this paper *Muslim*, or of *Ap-Biti*, but I can say definitely about the *Khalsa Samachar* that it is a paper which no one reads, it is an old fossil and there is no news in it; there are only some advertisements of medicines. And if this kind of papers go there, it is no wonder that Indian soldiers are not satisfied. Then these pressmen say that in the reading room the only paper available was the *Fauzi Akhbar*. I tried to get a copy of this paper in the Library because I wanted to read some portions of it to the House; but it was not available. Otherwise I could show how ridiculous the writings are. No one cares to look at that paper. The news is all stale and of a kind which no one cares to read. It is also mentioned that this press delegation visited these places in 1945 and they say that in the Indian reading room there was one *Illustrated Weekly* of October 1941. And this is the stuff which they are sending by air for these

[Sardar Mangal Singh.]

people. But the British soldiers get their latest daily papers. I can understand the difficulties of my Honourable friend the Defence Secretary. He would not dare to send the Indian daily papers to the soldiers because they want to isolate them; they do not want the soldiers to know what is happening in this country, and therefore they are sending these stale papers which no one reads here.

An Honourable Member: They will black-out today's proceedings also.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I suggest that those papers should be sent which give the latest news about things in the villages and public news in which they are interested. They should stop these papers they are sending now; they are only wasting their money.

With regard to amenities, this question can be divided into two parts,—one being the front and the other the home. On the front wherever you may happen to go you are reminded of your inferior status. See the Indian soldier and see the British soldier. See his clothes, his dress, the cut of his coat, his kitchen, his room. With the Indian you will find that everything is inferior; at every step he is reminded that he is a slave. I have heard from some of my friends, who have come here on leave from Italy, that the British soldiers and others tell the Italians that these Indians are slaves and negroes and they should not go near them. When the Indians hear these things they feel very much. They hear that they are being called upon to fight for the Empire in which they are said to be shareholders, but at every stage they are reminded of their slavery and of their inferior status. It is a very serious matter and I would ask the Government of India to see that that impression is removed before they are demobilised; otherwise you are in for trouble. Those who have gone out feel more the degradation and the slavery of their country than those who are here and do not see these things in such bold relief. From the Government's point of view this is very important.

Then the Defence Secretary has not taken the trouble to explain how it is that Rs. 10 are spent on the Indian soldier and only one-third of that is spent on the British soldier. And yet the British soldier can see a film daily while the Indian soldier can only see a rotten and broken film once a fortnight. As regards rest camps, a description is given in these papers of American, British and Indian rest camps. The British and American rest camps are luxuriously furnished, with billiard tables and cushions and so on; in the Indian rest camp there is only a broken *charpoy* and nothing else. This is the impression which you are giving to Indians. I can say without exaggeration that the Indian soldiers in the army are only camp followers. If this impression goes deep, I feel they will create trouble when they go back.

Sir, they are very deeply concerned in the welfare of their people, their land, their crops, and so many other things. Nothing is being done about that. In this report, which Lord Munster has submitted to the British Government, he has said:

"In India there are the Army Liaison officers and Indian Soldiers Board who are looking after the welfare of the Indian soldiers."

I can straightaway say, without any fear of contradiction, that the Indian Soldiers Boards are doing absolutely nothing. There are men on these Boards who do not take any interest in the welfare of the Indian soldiers. They are there by the *Meharbani* of the District Magistrate and they *salam* him and go home. I think there are some Honourable Members on this side of the House who are connected with the Soldiers Boards and who are even Presidents of the Soldiers Boards, and I would expect them to stand up and say what they have been doing for the families of the soldiers who are fighting at the front. Several widows approached them and all that they have probably done is to forward their applications. They have done nothing. They had to come to us for help. I would therefore say that the Government of India should at once close these Soldiers Boards and create a new organisation which will be really

backed by soldiers and would do something for them. I hope that the Government of India would not oppose this position but having regard to the sentiments of the people of this country in this matter, they would immediately overhaul their welfare organisation.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary, War Department): Representing the War Department, as I do, I am not responsible for welfare and amenities, but I am intervening in this debate because I have been very closely associated with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and I can say that no one is keener than himself to see that the Indian troops get the very best arrangements possible in respect of welfare and amenities.

An Honourable Member: A pious hope!

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is not a pious hope:

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The best is very poor so far.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It was His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief who arranged the Indian journalists' visit to the Indian troops in the Middle East and at the Italian front, and we are very grateful to the journalists who have published their impressions in their papers. If His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief did not want the press to see these arrangements and thereafter to make suggestions, he would not have made all the arrangements that he did for facilitating the visit of the journalists. It may be that in certain respects the accounts in the press are exaggerated, it may be that some of the headlines are sensational. I do not complain about this, because the press has a duty to perform and has its own conception of duty to the public. In pursuance of this conception it has indulged in sensational headlines although I myself would not like that sort of thing to be done.

Sir, I am not fully aware of the detailed arrangements for welfare and amenities, but I do know that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is very anxious that everything that is possible should be done. My Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, referred to the visit which he and other members of the Defence Consultative Committee made to the Middle East in 1943 and he said that most of the grievances and complaints mentioned in the *Times* still remained unremedied. I have not got the exact details of the action taken on the various suggestions made by the Defence Consultative Committee, but I can at least remember a few off-hand on which a good deal of action has been taken. I remember the Committee saying that the number of Indian welfare officers was very small indeed; I remember the Committee having said that the number of Indian officers in the Public Relations Directorate was very small; I also remember the Committee having said that the arrangements for the leave of Indian troops were not very satisfactory; I also remember the Committee having suggested that the pay of the Indian troops should be increased. Coming to some of these things, since the beginning of the war the pay of the Indian troops serving overseas, broadly speaking, has increased by about 100 per cent.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Nobody has raised that point today.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Oh, yes. It was raised. Mr. Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum did say that the Indian troops do not get as much as the British soldiers.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I said 'while they are serving overseas'.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes. Pay and allowances of Indian soldiers serving overseas have been increased.

As regards leave, I think since the Defence Consultative Committee made its report in 1943, arrangements for leave have improved very greatly and I can assure my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, that the telegrams sent by the Government of India and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief do not lack in force. If he wishes, I can show him privately some of the telegrams sent on the subject. But all these arrangements are necessarily governed by the availability of shipping which is governed by the over-all strategical situation. I can however assure the House that everything possible will be done in the matter of leave to Indian troops.

[Mr. C. M. Trivedi.]

I am personally very glad that this debate has taken place. Several suggestions have been made during the course of the debate and in the articles which have appeared in the *Hindustan Times* and in other papers. I can assure the House that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will do all he can to improve the amenities for the welfare of Indian troops. The House may or may not be aware that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has appointed an officer—a major-general—as head of the Liaison Mission for the Indian Army in the Middle East and ever since he has been there, he has devoted the greatest possible attention to the improvement of welfare and amenities. These things do take time and I suggest that that fact should be borne in mind.

Some Honourable Members: Question be now put.

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

“That the question be now put.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I have heard the Honourable Member who is Secretary for Canteens, euphemistically called the Defence Department, carefully and feel I am not any the wiser for it. As I heard him I was reminded of an incident which is reported in these set of articles by my friend, Mr. Durga Das of the *Hindustan Times*. He has told the story of a unit not having a barber, and whoever responsible had commanded that the carpenter of the unit should do the barber's work. The result was that those who were ministered to by the new barber had cuts all over their faces.....

Mr. Sri Prakasa: We had the same experience in jails.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: And it looks as though that carpenter turned a barber. The Honourable friend speaking for the Government has mishandled the matter so badly that he has merely inflicted cuts on his department and on all others whom he sought to defend.

The tragedy of it all is, that here in this House two gentlemen representing the Government, having little or nothing to do with the actual work that is being done in the Middle East, in Italy, in Iraq and in Iran, or for that matter even in Assam and in Burma, have sought to defend the activities of the authorities in this regard, and have merely trotted out empty excuses for not having repaired the damage which was brought to their notice two years ago by my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James.

What was the answer that has been furnished to us? They will take note of all that has been spoken and written and that it takes time. The war has already lasted for 5½ years. In order that my Honourable friend, Mr. Trivedi, and his colleague might be able to carry out the wishes of this House, the war must continue for another 2½ years.

The Members on the Treasury Benches, including my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, have been keen to do propaganda to publicise the valour of the Indian troops and to boost the war effort done by this country in every nook and corner of the world. But those people who are actually doing the fighting get very little or no portion of the benefit of it all. Why should not my Honourable friend the Leader of the House go to Italy and see things for himself? In fact he should also take his colleague the *locum tenens* in charge of the Defence Department if a plane could be found to take him.

I have no desire to keep the House engaged much longer. I have no doubt that the House has no doubt in their mind, that not one grievance voiced on behalf of our countrymen in the fighting fronts have been attempted to be assuaged, and I think the key of it all is this: Mr. Stimson, the *Times of India* correspondent, about whose report Sir Cowasjee Jehangir spoke so eloquently, has touched on the kernel of the situation. Why should not these troops get proper entertainers, why don't they get the sympathy they deserve from the people of India. It is all because of considerations which amongst others are

political. The Government of India are not able to associate the best minds of this country in looking after the amenities of the troops that are engaged abroad. A mere assurance cannot satisfy this House. I am however glad that the opportunity has been afforded to this House to express its views on two matters: One, that wherever these troops may be, though in fact it may be that they have chosen service under the British for purposes of earning their living, we cannot divest ourselves of our responsibility for them, and secondly, that we have to do all that we can at least by censuring those who are responsible for not providing these people with the basic amenities by exercising our vote against this Government. Sir, I hope the House will support the motion.

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 10th April, 1945.