

13th March 1945

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume II, 1945

(28th February to 13th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

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

Deputy President :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

Mr. ABDUL QAIYUM, M.L.A.

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mian MUHAMMAD RAFI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barrister-at-Law.

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

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

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th March, 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. Parakat Madhava Menon, M.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWER

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

931. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state how many appointments of people getting more than Rs. 200 per month have been made in the Commonwealth Relations Department since the Honourable Dr. Khare took charge?

(b) What are the emoluments and allowances of the persons so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) 97.

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

Appointment of persons drawing more than Rs. 200 per mensem made since the 7th May 1943, i.e. from the date the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare took over charge, in this Department and the Offices attached and subordinate to it, their pays and allowances.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Name	Pay	Allowances
1. The Honourable Mr. R. N. Banerjee, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary.	Rs. 4,000	..
2. Captain A. W. T. Webb, Principal Refugee Officer.	Rs. 1,750	Includes a Special pay of Rs. 150 p. m.
3. Khan Sahib S. Itaat Hussain, P.C.S., Deputy Secretary.	Rs. 1,150	....
4. Mr. K. S. Venkataraman, Personal Assistant to the Honourable Member.	Rs. 600	Rs. 60 War allowance.
5. Mr. H. Mukherjee, Assistant	Rs. 230	Rs. 23 War allowance.
6. Dr. V. V. Gore, Private Secretary to the Honourable Member, at present serving as Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia (See item No. 20).	Rs. 450	Rs. 45 War allowance. Left Department on 1st October 1944.
7. Mr. T. R. Raghuraman, Personal Assistant to Joint Secretary.	Rs. 230	Rs. 23 War allowance.
8. Mr. E. E. C. Price, C.I.E., Officer on Special Duty.	Rs. 3,000	.... Worked from 25th September 1944 to 28th February 1945.
9. Mr. Debindra Bejoy, Accountant to Officer on Special Duty.	Rs. 280 Pay. Rs. 50 Special pay.	House Rent allowance Rs. 15, War allowance Rs. 33.

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CEYLON

10. Mr. M. S. Aney, Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Rs. 2,750	Rs. 500 p. m.
11. Mr. V. Viswanathan, I.C.S., Secretary to the Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon. Now holds the post shown against item No. 24.	Rs. 1,500 plus a Special pay of Rs. 150.	Rs. 200 p. m.
12. Mr. R. T. Chari, I.C.S., Secretary to the Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Rs. 1,150	Rs. 200 p. m.

OFFICE OF THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CEYLON

Name	Pay	Allowances
13. Mr. R. T. Chari, I.C.S., Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon, now holds the post shown against item No. 12 above.	Rs. 1,100	Rs. 200 p. m.
14. Mr. P. C. Mathew, I.C.S., Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Rs. 1,150	Rs. 200 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

15. Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	£2,500 annum.	per £825 per annum (plus £50 p. m. during parliamentary session at Cape Town.)
16. Mr. J. W. Meldrum, I.C.S., Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	Rs. 1,900	.....
17. Maj. L. Coles, Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	Total emoluments Rs. 16,000 per annum.	

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

18. D. R. Sir Raghunath Purushottam Paranjpye, D.Sc., Kt., High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	£2500 per annum	£300 per annum plus free house.
19. Mr. K. R. Darnle, I.C.S., Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	Rs. 1,700	Rs. 500 p. m.
20. Dr. V. V. Gore, D. Sc., Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	Rs. 600	Rs. 400 p. m.
21. Mr. T. S. Menon, Chief Clerk in the office of (18) above.	Rs. 250	Rs. 270 p. m.
22. Mr. C. R. Srinivasan, Stenographer in the Office of (18) above.	Rs. 250	Rs. 202-8-0 p. m.

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

23. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, M.L.A., Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma.	Rs. 2,750	.....
24. Mr. V. Viswanathan, I.C.S., Secretary to the Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma and Additional Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.	Rs. 1,600 plus a special pay of Rs. 400.	.....

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER, NORTHERN ZONE, NEW DELHI

25. Mr. L. C. Lall, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 p. m. War allowance.
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OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER WESTERN ZONE, BOMBAY

26. Mr. M. E. Dawoodji, B.A., B.L., Central Refugee Officer.	Rs. 800	Rs. 80 p. m. War allowance.
27. Mr. S. Gurumurthy, B.A., Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 p. m. War allowance.

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER, EASTERN ZONE, CALCUTTA

28. Mr. B. B. Rai, Chowdhury, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
29. Mr. J. C. De, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
30. Mr. M. I. Khan, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
31. Mr. M. A. Subhan, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
32. Mr. K. C. Sanyal, Census Superintendent	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance. Tempy. appointed for four months.
33. Mr. K. S. Ahmad, Census Superintendent	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance. Tempy. appointed for four months.

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER, SOUTHERN ZONE, MADRAS

Name	Pay	Allowances
34. Mr. D. K. Syed Ibrahim, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500 . . .	Rs. 50 War allowance.
35. Mr. C. Krishnaswamy, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500 . . .	Rs. 50 War allowance.
36. Mr. R. Jagannathan, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500 . . .	Rs. 50 War allowance.
37. Mr. T. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 350 . . .	Rs. 35 War allowance.
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REFUGEE ADMINISTRATOR, BURMA REFUGEE ORGANISATION, ASSAM, SHILLONG		
38. Dr. Ramji Das	Rs. 200 . . .	Drawing free rations or War allowance.
39. Dr. Nair	Rs. 400 . . .	Ditto.
40. Mr. Vanya	Rs. 300 . . .	Ditto.
41. Ahmad	Rs. 250 . . .	Drawing Assistant Allowance.
42. Mr. Ray	Rs. 250 . . .	Ditto.
43. Captain S. R. S. Laing	Pay debitable to Defence estimates	Rs. 200 p. m. Fixed travelling allowance.
44. Mr. M. C. Murtric	Rs. 350 . . .	Drawing free rations or War allowance.
45. Mr. L. Lunglaing	Rs. 250 . . .	Ditto.
46. Mr. H. Zopianga	Rs. 250 . . .	Ditto.
47. Mr. Weymiss	Rs. 750 . . .	Ditto.
48. Mr. Surin	Rs. 350 . . .	Ditto.
49. Mr. Napean	Rs. 200 . . .	Ditto.
50. Mr. Roudlett	Rs. 600 . . .	Ditto.
51. Mr. Simon	Rs. 350 . . .	Ditto.
52. Mr. E. H. Steinherr	Rs. 300 . . .	Ditto.
POLISH CHILDREN CAMP, JAMNAGAR		
53. Maj. G. Clarke, Liaison Officer	Rs. 400 . . .	Conveyance allowance of Rs. 150 p. m.
54. Mr. N. D. Marshall, Assistant Liaison Officer.	Rs. 200 . . .	....
BRITISH EVACUEE CAMP, COIMBATORE		
55. Maj. J. M. Mollison, Commandant	Rs. 1,000 . . .	Was employed from 25th August 1943 to 20th September 1944. His services were terminated.
56. Mr. W. N. Datta, Commandant	Rs. 800 . . .	Appointed from 21st September 1944, vice Maj. Mollison.
57. Mr. S. J. Hall, Assistant Commandant	Rs. 450 including House Rent Allowance of Rs. 50.	....
58. Mr. A. K. Banerjee, Deputy Commandant	Rs. 600 . . .	....
59. Miss M. Looker, Assistant Commandant, Maltese Wing, Coimbatore.	Rs. 400 p. m.	....
60. Dr. H. Leeser, Dental Surgeon	Rs. 250 p. m. Retaining fee.	....
61. Mr. S. T. Phillips, Headmaster, of the school in the Camp.	Rs. 400 p. m.	....
62. Mr. E. D. Stuart, Senior Master in the Camp School.	Rs. 240 p. m.	....
63. Miss Stanley, teacher in the Camp School	Rs. 220 p. m.	....
64. Dr. N. K. Sampath, Medical Officer in the Camp.	Rs. 500 p. m.	Car allowance of Rs. 75 p. m.
POLISH REFUGEE CAMP, KOLHAPUR.		
65. Mrs. M. Button, Liaison Officer	Rs. 500 p. m.	

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REFUGEE ADMINISTRATOR, BURMA REFUGEE ORGANISATION, BENGAL
SHUBERNAGAR

Name	Pay	Allowances
66. Mr. B. K. Mukerjee, Chief Refugee Administrator.	Rs. 2,500	Free rations worth about Rs. 80 p. m.
67. Dr. N. F. Masters, Chief Medical Officer	Rs. 1,000	Ditto.
68. Mr. J. M. Deb, Chief Welfare Officer	Rs. 500	Ditto.
69. Mr. D. B. Roy, Accounts Officer	Rs. 500	Ditto.
70. Dr. P. M. Gupta, Medical Officer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
71. Miss G. Hormoosji, Medical Officer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
72. Dr. Ajit Kumar Ganguly, Medical Officer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
73. Dr. Moni Bhusan Chakravarty, Medical Officer.	Rs. 400	Ditto.
74. Mr. N. C. Sen, Commandant	Rs. 400	Ditto.
75. Mr. S. N. Guha, Engineer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
76. Mr. D. N. Sen Gupta, Assistant Administrator	Rs. 400	Ditto.
77. Mr. K. N. Chatterjee, B J. C. S., Special Officer.	Rs. 400	Ditto.
78. Mr. Bal Bahadur Rai Superintendent, Watch and Ward.	Rs. 360	Ditto.
79. Mr. S. K. Guha, Assistant Commandant	Rs. 300	Ditto.
80. Mr. Subadh Chandra Roy, Personal Assistant to the Chief Refugee Administrator.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
81. Mr. H. N. Gupta, Transportation Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
82. Mr. Piyush Kanti Sen, Depot Superintendent	Rs. 300	Ditto.
83. Mr. Mamtazul Haq, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
84. Mr. Ali Nawab, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
85. Mrs. Moni Coontala Gupta, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
86. Mr. Paritosh Sen Choudhury, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
87. Mr. Jagdish Roy Choudhury, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
88. Mr. Mohd. Hassain, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
89. Mr. Bimalendu Majumdar, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
90. Mr. Amarendra Sekhan Chowdhury, Welfare Officer.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
91. Mr. Masud Khan, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
92. Mr. Abani Kumar Maitra, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
93. Mr. Inder Bhusan Bhattacharjee, Welfare Officer.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
94. Mr. A. K. M. Kabir, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
95. Mr. A. S. M. Ahsan, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
96. Mr. Mohd. Anwar Hussain, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
97. Mr. A. P. Chander, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.

Mr. Mann Subedar: What is the total outlay involved in these 97 appointments per year?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: A statement is laid on the table of the House. The Honourable Member can himself find it out. I cannot give the figure off hand.

SCOPE AND JURISDICTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

932. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if his department is concerned with the position of Indians outside the Commonwealth, *i.e.*, in Crown Colonies or in foreign countries?

(b) Does the Commonwealth Relations Department have any communications with the Foreign Office of His Majesty's Government, or, are such communications sent through the External Affairs Secretary?

(c) What arrangements has the Commonwealth Relations Department for informing itself of the condition of Indians in many parts of the world, and what is the channel of information through which such information is received by it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The Commonwealth Relations Department is concerned with the position of Indians in countries within the British Commonwealth. Crown Colonies are included in the Commonwealth. The Department is not concerned with the position of Indians in foreign countries outside the British Commonwealth.

(b) The Commonwealth Relations Department does not communicate with the Foreign Office, either direct or through the External Affairs Department, regarding the matters affecting Indian interests in countries within the Commonwealth. Such matters are dealt with by the Dominion and Colonial Offices of His Majesty's Government. The Commonwealth Relations Department communicates with these offices through the Secretary of State for India.

(c) The Commonwealth Relations Department has arrangements for obtaining such information only from countries within the British Commonwealth. Information is obtained through the representatives of the Government of India where they have been appointed. Information from countries where the Government of India have no representatives is obtained from the Governments of those countries—either direct or through His Majesty's Government.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the countries within the Commonwealth which have direct relations with India?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Ceylon, Australia, South Africa; of course Burma and Malaya had direct relations with India before the war.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if any arrangement has been arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of Canada for having direct relations?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think it has been decided to appoint a High Commissioner on either side, but it has not yet been done.

Sardar Sant Singh: How long a period has elapsed since this agreement was reached between the Government of India and the Government of Canada?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think it is over six months.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the object of changing the name of the Department was to reduce the equipment and machinery at the disposal of the Department for taking care of Indians overseas, particularly in foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That was not the object.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then what was the object in changing the name?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: There was no particular object. It was because this Department was supposed to have relations with other countries within the Empire, that its name was changed into 'Commonwealth Relations Department'.

FAMINE IN KATHIAWAR

933. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following:

"Wadhwan, December 15, 1944: Kathiawar is in the grip of a food famine. Esjri costs as much as 11 rupees a maund. People have had to go without food for as long as three days at a stretch.—A.P. (*Sind Observer*), *Bombay Chronicle Weekly*, February, 11, 1944, page 18"

(b) Is it a fact that famine conditions have shown themselves in Kathiawar and that food is both scarce and dear?

(c) What steps have Government taken to supply additional food to the Kathiawar States?

(d) Have they received any representation from any of the States and from the Resident at Baroda on this subject?

(e) Was Kathiawar a surplus Province as a whole, or a deficit area, before the war?

(f) Where has the food from Kathiawar gone?

(g) Is it a fact that food exports have taken place at the hands of certain States from Kathiawar?

(h) Were these authorised or unauthorised?

(i) Will Government depute special officers to make an enquiry into the situation?

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

(b) Scarcity conditions have been reported.

(c) A quota of 94,000 tons of foodgrains has been allotted to these states as against 6,000 tons last year and action has been taken in consultation with the supplying areas, local authorities and railways to expedite movement. A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) Kathiawar, used to be deficit in wheat and rice and surplus in millets before the war.

(f) The scarcity is due to a failure of the millet crop.

(g) and (h). There have been movements of grain from that portion of Baroda State situated in Kathiawar to other parts of Baroda State.

No question of authorisation arises regarding movements from one part of a state's territory to another.

(i) A high officer of the Department has already visited the area.

Allocments to Baroda and W. I. States under Rabi and Kharf Plans, 1944-45

(In Tons)

Name of Area	Foodgrain	Declared Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	Up to date quotas		Unallotted Surplus	Despatches upto 23-2-45		Remarks
			Import	Export		To	From	
W. I. States	Rice	-20,902	10,000	..	..	5,133	..	
	Millets	-122,213	53,754	..	..	10,401	..	
	Maize	N/A	290	..	..	N/A	..	
	Wheat	-19,000	25,233	700*	..	23,555	..	
	Gram	-7,000	1,592	..	..	N. A.	..	
	Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	-169,115	93,869	700	..	39,380	..	

* Kapsa wheat.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What effective steps have been taken by the Government in order to check hoarding by the little States in Kathiawar who are hoarding grain with a view to profiteering?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have been hard at them through the Political Department.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR FINE CLOTH

934. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member noticed the message from London, dated the 8th of February, 1945, reproduced in the *Janmabhoomi* of Bombay, dated the 11th February, 1945, stating that the Textile Board in the United Kingdom has assigned a new list, according to which the quota for export to India of fine cloth in the first part of 1945 will be two million yards?

(b) What import licences have Government given, and to whom, for the import of fine cloth into India?

(c) How much cloth is intended to be imported into India?

(d) Is it of a quality which has been produced in India?

(e) Have Government informed the Textile Board of their intention to permit and to encourage the import of this first instalment of fine cloth into India from the U.K.?

(f) What are the other quantities indented for the balance of the year 1945?

(g) Is it a fact that this cloth is produced in the U.K. with a heavy subsidy with regard to cotton and with regard to the manufacture and export at the hands of the British Government?

(h) Has there been any correspondence between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government on the subject of the importation into India of British manufactured textiles?

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

(b) 209 import licences covering approximately 5 million yards were granted to regular established importers for imports from United Kingdom during the period July 1942 to December 1944. No import licences have so far been issued this year.

(c) and (f). 10 million yards for the year 1945 from the United Kingdom.

(d) The exact qualities included in the allocation to India are not known; but some may be similar to those produced in India.

(e) The Chairman of the Textile Control Board has been kept fully informed.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know at what price these 10 million yards coming to India will be sold to the public?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the price is concerned, it will be controlled by the General Control Order under the Hoarding and Anti Profiteering Ordinance and the price fixed accordingly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will it have any reference to the price of similar goods produced in India or the cost of production of similar goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is impossible for me to say at this stage. I will look into the matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have arranged for these imports without knowing the price or the quality of the things that are going to be given?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The position is that there is such an enormous amount of shortage which has been so forcibly brought to my notice repeatedly and even a day or two before that we felt that the more we can get finer type of cloth from abroad, the better for the consuming public in this country.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pandé: May I know why if there is shortage, three million yards of cloth have been exported to Egypt as appears in today's newspapers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen it. I have generally explained the reason.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government are aware that the grievance really is want of nice yarn which can be manufactured into cloth by our handloom weavers, and in the absence of which they will be out of work?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have also taken steps for import of yarn.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Was the Chairman of the Textile Control Board informed in writing or informally?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not sure of it. I know this has not been placed formally before the Board. The Chairman has been fully informed, but the exact manner in which he was informed is not exactly known to me.

FUEL SHORTAGE IN CITIES

935. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) How does the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands account for the extraordinary and acute shortage of fuel in most of the cities of India?

(b) Is it due to the fact that factories have been using wood fuel in place of coal which is short?

(c) If so, what steps are Government taking to prevent this diversion?

(d) Have Government got any estimate made of the number of trees cut down in most parts of the country for fuel purposes?

(e) Have Government considered whether climate and rainfall may not be affected on account of this destruction of trees and vegetation?

(f) Have Government devised any scheme or plan for restoring the balance disturbed in this manner?

(g) If so, what is this scheme?

(h) Do Government propose to have this question carefully examined by a mixed committee of officials and non-officials?

(i) What steps are Government taking to prevent further deterioration in this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The main articles of fuel for common use in India are (i) Coal and coke, (ii) charcoal and (iii) firewood. Coal and coke are mainly required for industrial purposes but a certain quantity is also used as domestic fuel. The present shortage of fuel in the country as a whole may be attributed to:

(i) Shortage of coal and coke for industrial purposes which has led to the diversion of the other articles of fuel, *e.g.*, charcoal and firewood for use in industries;

(ii) Shortage of coal and coke for domestic purposes which has increased the total demand for charcoal and firewood for this purpose;

(iii) Increase in the military demand for charcoal and firewood;

(iv) Transport difficulties, which prevent or retard movement of charcoal and firewood from surplus to deficit areas.

(c) To ease the situation Government have prohibited the export of firewood, and charcoal from the country and are trying to secure increased raisings of coal.

(d) The Central Government have no estimate of the number of trees cut for fuel from reserved forests: which are mainly situated in the provinces: but I may inform the Honourable Member that in Government-managed forests almost all fuel comes from thinnings and clearings or from the "Top and top" from trees felled for timber which would otherwise rot.

(e) Government are advised that such fellings as have taken place in Government forests, can have no effect on climate or rainfall.

(f) to (i). The suggestions of the Inspector General of Forests as set out in his note outlining a Post-War-Forest Policy for India, have been circulated to the Provinces with a general endorsement by the Policy Committee for Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. Copies of the Inspector General's note are available in the Library of the House. The Policy Committee referred to is composed of officials and non-officials.

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the difficulties experienced in many places in the matter of firewood even for burning dead bodies, will Government make some arrangement that firewood should not be used for factories where it is not expressly necessary, and except with a license.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must ask the Honourable Member to put that question to the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to the answer to part (e), is it the Honourable Member's own opinion or has he got it from experts that the cutting of trees do not affect rainfall?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I said that such fellings as have taken place in Government forests can have no effect on rainfall. That is what we have been advised.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has the Honourable Member any information as to the extent of cutting of trees in the Annamalai ranges in southern India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think the Inspector-General of Forests has information about the cutting of trees in Government forests in southern India.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Sir, my question was not about the cutting of trees in Government forests, but the cutting of trees generally and all over the country, and whether Government will make any inquiry as to the effect of this on rainfall and climate?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will confess that we are disturbed about the cutting of

HOURS OF WORK, WAGES, ETC., OF LABOUR IN WAR SUPPLIES FACTORIES

†936. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of hours for which the labour in factories producing War supplies and in the mines, has to work at a stretch, and what wages they are paid for their labour?

(b) Do the same labour work in shifts in the same factories and mines?

(c) What is the rate of overtime wages for labour in factories and mines?

(d) What is charged for rations supplied to labour in factories and mines, and what is the quantity allotted to each labourer in mills, factories, and mines? Is there any officer appointed by Government to watch the Distribution of ration to labourers in factories, mills and mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) Hours of work in Factories are regulated by sections 34, 36—38 of the Factories Act, 1934 and those in Mines by sections 22B and 22C of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. In the case of factories producing war supplies exemption has been granted by Provincial Governments in several cases from all or some of the provisions. Instructions have been issued that except for short periods and in emergent conditions, the hours of work should not exceed 60 a week. Ordinarily no exemption is granted from the statutory requirements as to intervals of rest. It is regretted that more precise information is not available.

Wage rates vary considerably in different classes of factories and mines and in different units in any particular class. I regret detailed information regarding wages or general averages of wages are not available.

(b) The question is not understood.

(c) Section 47 of the Factories Act, 1934, prescribes the rates of overtime wages in factories. No exemption has generally been allowed from the provisions of this section. No overtime work is permissible in mines except in the case of an emergency involving serious risk to the safety of the mine or the persons employed therein.

(d) There is no uniformity in regard to prices charged for rations supplied to labour in factories and mills. But it is known that several employers do supply foodgrains, etc., at less than controlled rates and a large number at controlled rates.

In 'rationed' areas, workers receive the same scale of rationed articles as the general public. 'Heavy workers' are eligible for extra-rations. In addition, industrial canteens supplying cooked food now receive supplies outside the ration.

The basic standard weekly rations at controlled rates for coal-mine worker in Bihar consists of 4 seers each for the worker and adult dependant and 2 seers for a child and dal at one-fourth basic ration at a concession rate of 6 seers per rupee. In addition $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of rice or other foodgrain is given free for each attendance at mines. Some of the collieries in Bengal have adopted the same scale with slight variations while others allow a flat rate of 6 seers per week per worker at reduced prices. In some collieries in the C. P. and Berar ration at concession rates is allowed on the scale of 6 seers a week per adult worker, $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers for each woman dependant and $1\frac{1}{2}$ for each child.

No special officers of Government apart from the usual Food Rationing Organisations have been appointed to look after distribution of ration to workers. In respect of coal mines, however, six Ration Inspectors have been appointed, three for Bihar under the Bihar Government and three for Bengal attached to the Department of Mines.

FIXATION OF MINIMUM LIVING WAGES OF LABOUR

†937. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Has the Honourable the Labour Member fixed the minimum living wages of labour in factories, mills and mines in accordance with the price of essential foodstuffs and clothing required by the labouring classes?

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

(b) Is there any arrangement for the education of children of the labourers in the factories, mills and mines? Is there any educational arrangement for adult labourers?

(c) Is there any provision for holidays with pay in factories, mills and mines? What arrangements are there for medical treatment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There is no legislation for fixing minimum wages for employees in factories including mills, or in mines.

(b) Educational facilities outside factories or mines whether for children of workers or for adult workers are provided by provincial authorities.

The owners of some undertakings have made provisions themselves for both purposes but no detailed information in this regard is available with me. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that there is no legal obligation in this respect on the owners of industrial undertakings.

(c) There is no legal provision requiring holidays with pay to be given. As regards non-seasonal factories there is a Bill on this subject before this House which it has referred to a Select Committee.

Apart from legal provisions many concerns give to their employees holidays with pay to varying extent.

As regards medical treatment the only statutory provisions within factories and mines relate to the provision of first aid. Some concerns run dispensaries and hospitals but apart from these the employees have to depend on the medical facilities provided by the Provincial Governments.

WOMEN LABOUR IN MINES

†1938. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of women labour in the mines and if there is child labour in mines, i.e., minors in the mines. If so, what ages?

(b) What maternity benefits are given to women in factories, mills and mines? How long does the Honourable Member contemplate to continue women labour in mines?

(c) What is the function of the Labour Welfare Officers in the factories, mills and mines? what are their qualifications?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) In 1943 the number of women labour in mines was 72,408 (this figure includes those working above and underground). Figures for 1944 are not available. In accordance with the Indian Mines Act, no children are employed in mines.

(b) A comparative statement showing some of the important provisions of Legislation regarding maternity benefit at present in force (or in contemplation) is laid on the table of the House. Recent information from Bombay and Madras indicates that some of the mills in those provinces have increased the maternity benefit from the statutory rate of annas eight to annas twelve per day.

With regard to the second part of the question, there is no intention to withdraw women completely from work in mines.

(c) The functions of the Labour Welfare officers generally are:

(i) to establish close contact between the employers and the workmen in all aspects of labour relations and conditions of work;

(ii) to promote proper understanding, closer co-operation and mutual appreciation of difficulties, between the employers and the workmen;

(iii) to make constructive suggestions for workmen's welfare, and to co-ordinate and supervise all welfare activities of the undertakings;

(iv) to acquaint themselves with the grievances of the workers, and to secure redress of such grievances and generally to attempt to remove causes of friction.

As regards qualifications while academic qualifications are given due importance, the essential qualification is that the candidates should have experience of social work, preference being given to those who have successfully undergone

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

a recognised training course like that of the Calcutta University or the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, Bombay.

Comparative Statement showing some of the important provisions of legislation regarding maternity benefit at present in force (or in contemplation) in the provinces and the mines

Province	Year in which passed	Qualifying period (months)	Maximum period for maternity benefits (Weeks)	Rate of maternity benefits	Penalty for contravention of Act by employer
Bombay	1929	9	8	8 annas a day or average daily wages, whichever is less. But in the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad 8 annas a day.	Rs. 500
C. P. and Bihar	1930	9	8	8 annas a day or average daily wages, whichever is less.	500
Madras	1934	240 days (8 months) within a period of one year.	7	8 annas a day.	500
U. P.	1938	6	8	8 annas a day or average daily wages whichever is greater.	500 for first offence and 1,000 for the second and any subsequent offence
Bengal	1939	9	8	Ditto.	500
Punjab	1943	9	60 days	12 annas a day	500
Assam	1944	150 days	3	1. In plantations Rs. 1 per week for the period before confinement and Rs. 1/4/- per week for the period after confinement, provided the total cash payment is Rs. 14. 2. In other employments Rs. 2 per week or average weekly wage or salary whichever is greater,	500
Mines (under the Indian Mines Maternity Benefit Act.)	1941	6	8	8 annas a day	500

TRAINING INDIANS IN LABOUR WELFARE IN UNITED KINGDOM

†1939. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that the Labour Department is going to send a considerable number of men for training in labour welfare to the U. K.? If so, why Government cannot train these people in India? What would be the cost of their training scheme? What would be the minimum qualification required of such trainees?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) It is proposed to send in the first instance, three batches of 20 officers each, of whom about 12 will be officers of the Central Government and 8 of Provincial Governments and States. Financial sanction has been accorded to the sending of 12 Central Government officers with the first batch of trainees.

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

In the initial stages the training and experience necessary for labour administration in the immediate post-war period cannot be acquired in India except by a lengthy process of trial and error. It is, therefore, necessary to take advantage of the experience and practice of other more highly industrialised countries like the United Kingdom.

The cost to the Central Government is estimated at Rupees one lakh for the nominees in the first batch. The Provincial Governments and States will bear the charges in respect of their nominees.

The minimum qualifications are that the officers should be under Government employment or designated to fill posts under Government and should have experience of welfare work or administration of labour legislation. Officers having high educational qualifications will be given preference.

SENDING OUT STUDENTS ABROAD FOR TRAINING

940. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state with reference to the press communique, issued by him on the 27th January, 1945, in the matter of sending students abroad for training, when the first batch is proposed to be sent?

(b) Of the 500 proposed to be sent, expenses of how many will be met by the Central Government, and how many by the Provinces and Centre jointly?

(c) Will it be obligatory on the trainees to give an undertaking to enter Government service after the training?

(d) How is the selection going to be made?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) It is hoped to send the first batch of students abroad in the early autumn of the current year.

(b) So far as students sent abroad in 1945-46 for technical courses are concerned, the Central Government will meet the entire cost in respect of those students who are sent with a view to meeting the requirements of the Centrally Administered Areas or of the Departments of the Central Government. They will meet half the cost in respect of those students who are sent on behalf of a Provincial Government. The number of students to be sent under these different categories will be decided after the requirements of all the Provincial Governments and Departments of the Central Government have been ascertained.

(c) Yes. -

(d) The selection will be made by a special Selection Board which will be appointed by the Government of India for this purpose. This Board will if necessary also consider the recommendations received from Provincial Governments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a) when do Government expect to publish advertisements and invite applications?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We have already put out a press note and there will shortly be issued a brochure, giving full information, which will be obtainable probably for a few annas. It will contain detailed information of what a candidate should know before applying. That will be issued very shortly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they put in advertisements in the newspapers so that intending candidates may apply?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We have already put out a press note; I will consider what the Honourable Member suggests.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: May I know what Government will do about people who are now working in the Government munition factories?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is nothing to prevent them from applying, with the permission of their employer.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I asked about people in the Government munition factories.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this number five hundred represent the first batch?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, in the first year.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Delhi Polytechnic has sent up certain names for selection for this training abroad? If so, is the Honourable Member in a position to state how many Muslims have been recommended by it?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that the Delhi Polytechnic has made any selection of its own. This suggestion was made to me the other day—about six days ago—and I ascertained that the Delhi Polytechnic has forwarded no names at all. It is not for the Delhi Polytechnic to make any selection of its own. The Principal is bound to forward any application that any student there may wish to submit.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that the Delhi Polytechnic has already forwarded four names and has superseded one-third-year Muslim student in favour of a second-year non-Muslim student?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If my Honourable friend knows that to be a fact I can only say that the Polytechnic has no power to make any selection; and I will certainly see that any student there who wishes to have his application considered has it considered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who form the committee to make the selection?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The selection board has not yet been set up.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHEDULED CLASS STUDENTS FOR TRAINING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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

(a) in view of their press note on giving of scholarships to Indian students in foreign universities, whether Government are aware that the number of boys from scheduled castes who have got degrees in Indian universities is very small; and

(b) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of taking school final passed candidates from the scheduled classes and sending them for training to foreign countries for technical studies?

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

(b) While every effort will be made to see that adequate representation is given to the Scheduled classes and other minority communities provided suitable candidates are forthcoming from those communities, it will defeat the object in view if students who have passed only the High School Examination are selected.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the efforts that they are making to get people from the Scheduled Classes?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If they do not apply, of course, we shall not be able to do anything for them. But if they do apply we shall certainly ask the selection committee to scrutinise very sympathetically the applications of those who come from the minority communities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But are Government aware that if equal qualifications are expected from scheduled caste candidates as from others, it may not be possible for them to have any chance at all?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know whether my Honourable friend was in the House yesterday when Mr. Pierre Lall Kureel undertook to produce twenty scheduled caste candidates in as many minutes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from that undertaking, may I know if lower qualifications will be prescribed for Scheduled Caste candidates so that they may apply and go out for training?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: They will have to possess the minimum qualifications prescribed because otherwise we have very little hope of getting them into institutions abroad, who have made it quite clear that they would prefer graduates.

LACK OF YARN SUPPLY TO HANDLOOM WEAVERS

942. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that there is a complaint from handloom weavers that they are not able to get supply of yarn for handloom weaving;
- (b) what steps have been taken to alleviate their grievances; and
- (c) whether Government propose to encourage the formation of co-operative societies by handloom weavers and recognise them when formed as agencies of yarn distribution?

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

(b) The new Distribution Scheme under which each Province will get a separate quota of yarn should make very much more difficult the hoarding and black-marketing by dealers which have been largely responsible for the handloom weaver's distress as despatches from the Mill to the Provincial wholesaler will be under the Textile Commissioner's control and further distribution will be under the detailed control of the Provincial Government. Government is also trying to obtain 5 million lbs. of yarn from the U. S. A.

(c) Once yarn reaches a Province from the Mill the control of its further distribution will be a Provincial Government responsibility under the new scheme. Most of the Provinces, however, have shown themselves very eager to make use of Co-operative Societies where possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that already there is so much unemployment among weavers, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of not importing cotton cloth but only of importing larger quantities of cotton yarn so that they may be provided with employment?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I wish Prof. Ranga had said that yesterday and the day before.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But can we not say that today?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not merely administering the question of providing more yarn but I have to look to the needs of the people who are said to be dying or committing suicide in the absence of cloth; and I feel that for me to say that I will not import foreign cloth, if I can get cloth for these people, will be entirely nullifying the position I am taking, which is that we should supply the needs of the people at large.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will it not be possible for the Honourable Member to set aside this imported cloth for military purposes so that all the yarn that is produced in this country, or as much of it as is possible, may be diverted for the use of the unemployed weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is being looked into.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (c), will the Government send a recommendation that co-operative societies may be encouraged, in view of the fact that we have got some experience in which co-operative societies are not encouraged in certain places?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As a matter of fact at the very inception of the Textile Control scheme we made it quite clear that it is open to provinces to encourage the co-operative societies as much as possible, and we thought that even now if something could be done it would probably better the state of affairs, and I am quite prepared again to bring it to the notice of the Provincial Governments.

APPOINTMENT OF FIELD DIRECTOR AT TAXILA

943. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state whether any appointment to the post of a Field Director in connection with excavations at Taxila has been made? If so, who is the person so appointed?

(b) What are his qualifications?

(c) What are the terms of this appointment?

(d) Was the appointment made through the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (b) of starred question No. 550 on the 28th February, 1945. The pay given to the officer was Rs. 1,200 per mensem.

(d) No. A reference to the Federal Public Service Commission was not necessary under the rules.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it Mr. Casey's brother who is referred to in this question?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did he have any previous experience in excavation?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. He had.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What kind of excavation he could have possibly done in Australia?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: He has excavation experience, Sir.

HIGHER APPOINTMENTS MADE IN ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

944. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state the number of appointments made in the Archæological Department in the higher services not below the rank of Assistant Archæological Superintendent, since the present Director General took over charge?

(b) How many of these posts went to Muslims, Hindus and Non-Indians, separately?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Indians get preferential treatment over their other colleagues in the matter of pay and prospects?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Only one permanent higher appointment has been made in the Archæological Department since the present Director General took charge, namely, the promotion of the senior Assistant Superintendent (a Hindu) to the grade of Superintendent.

(c) No.

UPKEEP OF DELHI MONUMENTS

945. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if the majority of the monuments at Delhi consisting of mosques, forts and palaces, etc., were built by Muslims?

(b) If so, what arrangement has been made to look after the upkeep of these monuments?

(c) Is there any Muslim Officer also? If not, why not?

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

(b) and (c). A special circle was created some years ago to look after these monuments. At present, this circle is in the charge of a European member of the staff who has had a special experience of Muslim monuments and is thoroughly cognizant of their problems.

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

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Why no Muslim is appointed?

(No answer was given.)

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ADVISORY BOARD

946. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state:

(a) the composition of the Archæological Advisory Board lately formed by Government;

(b) whether the Circle Superintendents of the Archæological Department along with the Epigraphist were included in the Board referred to in part (a) above;

(c) if it is a fact that the Muslim Archæological Chemist and the Muslim Archæological Engineer holding responsible positions were excluded from the Board referred to above; and

(d) if it is also a fact that the Deputy Director General who was formerly an Epigraphist was the Secretary of the Board?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House showing the composition of the Advisory Board of Archaeology.

(b) to (d). Yes.

Statement showing the composition of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

(a) **Chairman.**—The Honourable Member-in-Charge of Education, Health and Lands Department.

(b) The Director General of Archaeology.

(c) 6 Archaeological Superintendents.

(d) The Government Epigraphist for India.

(e) Six members representing universities of India nominated by the Inter-University Board, namely:—

(i) Mr. T. Singaravelu Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore.

(ii) Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, Calcutta.

(iii) Professor Sidhanta, University of Lucknow.

(iv) Dr. K. R. Qanungo, Dacca.

(v) Professor Haroon Khan Sherwani, Hyderabad.

(vi) Rev Ross Wilson, Professor of History, Punjab University.

(f) One member nominated by each of the following societies:—

(i) The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal—Hon'ble Mr. Justice Edgley.

(ii) Indian Science Congress—Mr. D. N. Wadia.

(iii) All India Oriental Conference—Dr. R. C. Mozumdar.

(iv) Indian History Congress—Dr. Tara Chand.

(v) Indian Historical Records Commission—Dr. S. N. Sen.

(g) One member elected by the Council of State—Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahta.

(h) Two members elected by the Legislative Assembly—Dr. P. N. Banerjee, Sir Mohd. Yamin Khan.

(i) Four members from Indian States nominated by the Government of India—Sir Mirza Ismail—Jaipur State.

Mr. Puduval—Travancore State.

Col. Dr. Pagnar—Baroda State.

Sir S. P. Rajagopalachari—Gwalior State.

(j) 8 members nominated by the Government of India:—

(1) Secretary to the Government of India, Deptt. of E., H. and Lands.

(2) Educational Adviser.

(3) Sir Maurice Gwyer.

(4) Sir S. Radhakrishnan.

(5) Sir C. V. Raman.

(6) Sir Ziauddin Ahmed.

(7) Mr. Percy Brown.

(8) Sir Raza Ali.

(k) The Deputy Director General of Archaeology—Secretary.

EXTENSIONS TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

947. *Dewan Abdul Basith Chondhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if it is a fact that the post of the Deputy Director General of Archaeology is a tenure one?

(b) How many extensions were granted to the present incumbent of the post and by which authority?

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

(b) His tenure has been extended by the Government of India on three occasions.

VISIT TO INDIA OF THE RUSSIAN HEALTH EXPERT

948. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if Prof. B. Ognev, the Russian Health Expert, was invited by the Government of India? If so, when did he arrive in India? Was his programme of visiting towns and hospitals and interviewing or allowing interviews to private individuals—doctors and others—subject to the approval of or under the supervision of the Government of India? Who paid the expenses of his visit to India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: At the request of the Health Survey and Development Committee an invitation was issued for a medical expert from Russia to visit India to assist the Committee. The Russian authorities deputed Professor B. Ognev. He arrived on the 31st December, 1944. His touring in India was arranged by the Committee and was not subject to the approval of or under the supervision of the Government of India. The expenses in connection with his visit to India will be met by the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this gentleman know English?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Very little, I understand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who helps him to understand English?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We had to supply an interpreter, I would point out that we did not choose Professor Ognev.

VISITS TO INDIA OF FOREIGN HEALTH EXPERTS

949. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if Health Experts from countries other than Russia visited India? If so, when? Were any expenses incurred by Government in connection with their visits? If so, how much? Have they left India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Medical experts from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia visited India in addition to the expert from Russia. They arrived in this country in November last and left India in December. The cost to Government in connection with their visits is about Rs. 80,000.

Sardar Sant Singh: Has any report been sent by these experts to the Government of India on Indian conditions?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No report has been submitted and no report is expected. We did not ask them to report on Indian conditions, but at the request of the Bhoré Committee we asked them to come out to tell the Bhoré Committee about the conditions in the countries from which they were drawn.

Sardar Sant Singh: What were the benefits which the Government of India expected from their visit to India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We brought them out at the invitation of the Bhoré Committee and the Bhoré Committee, I understand, feel that they derived considerable help from their visit.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why the Russian expert could not be present at the time when other experts were present and were having deliberations with the Bhoré Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say why. He just turned up much later.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was it due to any fault on the part of the Government of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir. Invitations were issued to all the countries simultaneously. It would in fact have suited us far better if he had come along with the other experts because it so happened that one of the delegates from America spoke Russian.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Which Committee did you say invited them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Health Survey and Development Committee.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if they gave evidence before any committee in India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes. They gave evidence before the Committee at whose instance they were invited.

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

HEALTH SURVEY COMMITTEE

950. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the Health Survey Committee has completed its work? If not, when does it expect to do so?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part it is expected that the Committee will submit its report by the end of April, 1945.

SCARCITY OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

951. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the importance of protective foods such as milk and milk products;

(b) if he is aware of the great scarcity of milk and milk products felt at present; if so, what measures, if any, have been taken by Government to increase production of milk and its products in the last twelve months; and

(c) if any milk products, such as ghee, are exported to countries outside India; if so, which are those countries?

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

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (c) of Starred Question No. 846 by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on the 8th March 1945.

(c) No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the large destruction of milch cattle for the consumption of the defence forces has affected the total supply of milk in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I answered that question on the 8th of March.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was your answer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I suppose the Honourable Member was present in the House when I replied to that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Honourable Member does not carry it in his head, will he be good enough to read it out?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But it will take me time to look it up.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that constant allegations have been made on the subject of milch cattle, have the Government of India made any enquiries in the matter in order to ascertain that milch cattle is not being slaughtered?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Enquiries are being made constantly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What enquiries have they made and what is the result of those enquiries?

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, he has not answered my question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know from the Honourable Member whether milk products are exported to other countries?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered that in part (c) by saying: 'No, Sir'.

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

LICENSED SALT DEALERS IN BIHAR

952. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Gharfi: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the total number of licensed salt dealers in Bihar and the number of Muslim licensees as promised in his reply to the starred question No. 710, put by me on the 30th March, 1944, as it stood then, and also as it stands at present; and

(b) whether he has given any relief to Muslims in Bihar in the grant of salt licenses particularly in the districts of North Bihar, if so, to what extent in the districts of Tirhut Division say: Saron, Champaran, Muzaffarpore and Darbhanga?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the Bihar Government and their reply is still awaited.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Honourable Member has received any complaints from any part of Bihar that the salt supply is not satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not received any complaint.

REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF BARKAT MIAN WHOLESALE SUGAR DEALER IN MUZAFFARPORE

953. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his promises made on the 31st March, 1944, during the debate on the Adjournment Motion—page 1846—to enquire into the representations made on behalf of Barkat Mian, an old wholesale sugar dealer in the district of Muzaffarpore and state:

(a) the result of his enquiry on the receipt of various representations from me;

(b) whether it is a fact that one more wholesale sugar dealer is going to be added in the Hajipur sub-division of the district of Muzaffarpore;

(c) the number of Marwari wholesale dealers in sugar and salt in the district of Muzaffarpore; and

(d) the reasons for the grant of wholesale licenses to Marwaris from Ajmer-Merwara and not to the Biharis for the wholesale dealing in salt, sugar and other commodities in Bihar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I represented the matter to the Bihar Government and they have replied that Maulvi Abdul Barkat was in the list of approved importers of sugar from sugar factories for the district of Muzaffarpur from July to October, 1943. Subsequently, under the instructions of the Bihar Government the list of approved importers was curtailed by the District Officers and Maulvi Abdul Barkat was not included in the revised list as he was not deemed to satisfy the conditions prescribed by the Provincial Government. It was also recorded that he does not carry on business in Hajipur itself but in the interior of the sub-division. So far as retail distribution is concerned, Maulvi Abdul Barkat is still one of the approved retail distributors for the Lalgunj area. His monthly quota is the highest retail quota for the sub-division.

(b) Yes.

(c) Three for sugar. Information regarding the number of wholesale dealers in salt is still awaited from the Bihar Government.

(d) The Bihar Government state that where licences have been granted to Marwari firms they have been selected on the ground that they are well established in the trade in Bihar and financially sound.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Honourable Member intends to ask the Bihar Government to give the new license to Abdul Barkat?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I did not catch him.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member ask the Bihar Government to look into the claim of Abdul Barkat as one new license dealer's vacancy has been created.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already drawn the attention of the Bihar Government to the claims of Barkat Mian.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: But here the post of a dealer has been created in the sub-division in which Barkat Mian lives.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It would be wrong of me to recommend a particular candidate for a specific vacancy.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is there any special qualification for a person wanting such a license?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The qualifications are that he should be able to distribute sugar and must be solvent and must have a good financial standing.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it a fact that only those people who are loyal to Government will get preference for this license?

(No answer.)

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

STOPPING THE ISSUE OF KEROSENE TIN PERMITS TO DISTINGUISHED PERSONS
IN BIHAR

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

(a) whether the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have issued orders to the Government of Bihar to stop the issue of permits for one or more tins of kerosene oil for personal use to distinguished persons; and

(b) in case the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what instructions have been issued to the Bihar Government to mitigate the sufferings and inconveniences caused to numerous families, whose male members are out to serve in war or to attend to other Government business?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LICENCES OF KEROSENE LICENCEES OF NOWADA SUB-DIVISION CONVICTED UNDER
DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

955. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether it is a fact that several wholesale licencees of kerosene oil of the Nowada Sub-Division, say: Warisaliganj in the district of Gaya in Bihar, have been convicted under the Defence of India Rules and are still holding their licences?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Government of India have no information. The internal distribution arrangements are the concern of the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the allegation made in the question, will the Government call for information?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is impossible to treat isolated cases. We are keeping in touch with the nature of convictions. But all over India in the different provinces there are convictions under various Acts.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government will enquire whether it is a case of mal-practice in trade on account of the monopoly held?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend has added a sentence which is not in the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The allegation is that the Defence of India Rules have been applied due to the malpractice in trade owing to the monopoly of the license held from Government.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know under what circumstances he has been convicted. As I say, the matter is entirely for the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will you enquire?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will do it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When corruption is brought to the notice of the Honourable Member does he not think that he should send for information and give it to the House.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly every case of corruption in a matter which lies within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government can not be always looked into by the Central Government. If that were done, you would have to add another storey to the Secretariat!

(At this stage Mr. Lalchand Navalrai made several attempts to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. No Question.

1956. *

INSPECTORS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES

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

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 16th March, 1945.

(a) whether the system of appointing persons directly as Inspectors of Civil Supplies still continues;

(b) if so, the number of old retired persons appointed directly as Inspectors during 1944;

(c) the number of qualified Graduate Assistant Inspectors promoted to the rank of Inspector in the Province of Bengal, Bihar and United Provinces;

(d) the average number of cases detected by the Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors, separately, in the Province of Bihar; and

(e) the number of Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors entrusted with works of distribution in the Province of Bihar and Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is presumed that the Honourable Member requires information concerning Inspectors appointed by the Central Government.

(a) Yes, but some appointments are made by promotion also.

(b) Nine.

(c) Bengal—two, Bihar—nil, United Provinces—one.

(d) Total number of cases detected so far are: 41 by the Assistant Inspector, 56 by each of the two Inspectors.

(e) Two Inspectors and two Assistant Inspectors in the Headquarters Office at Calcutta but there are no Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors exclusively for distribution in Bihar.

QUOTA PER DAY PER ADULT OF FOODSTUFFS IN CERTAIN CITIES

958. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quota per day per adult of foodstuffs given under statutory rationing in the following places (in ounces) in January, 1945:

(i) Delhi, (ii) Cawnpore, (iii) Bombay, (iv) Madras, (v) Calicut, (vi) Calcutta; (vii) Mangalore, (viii) Poona, (ix) Dharwar, and (x) Bangalore?

(b) Is it the policy of the Government of India to maintain different standards at different places? If not, what steps are taken to standardise the quota and by which time it is going to be achieved?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the resolutions on rationing passed at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, which is attached to the memorandum on the food situation already placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Daily Quota per adult under Rationing in the different towns in January 1945.

Name of Town	Size of ration per adult per day for foodgrains	Remarks
Delhi	18 ozs.	No provision for supplementary ration.
Cawnpore	16 "	
Bombay City	14·9 "	
Poona	14·3 "	
Dharwar	17·1 "	
Calcutta	18·3 "	No provision for supplementary ration.
Madras	16·96 "	
Calicut	12 "	
Mangalore	15·84 "	
BongaloreCity.	(1) 11·84 "	(1) Non-labouring class.
	(2) 14·24 "	(2) Labouring class.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to (a) in how many provinces is a quota of more than one pound per individual per day given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I refer the Honourable Member to the statement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is a very simple question. In how many provinces is a quota of more than one pound a day per individual given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The statement is before the Honourable Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is not before the Honourable Member!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is before the House. I shall require time as I will have to analyse the statement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not hear him.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Looking through the statement there are only three provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he so heavy that he cannot stand up?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, yes. The Honourable Member should order him.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the three provinces in which the ration of more than a pound a day per individual is allotted?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not prepared to answer that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He is not in a position to answer.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But he has laid a statement on the table.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If he has laid a statement on the table, the Honourable Member can look it up himself. Next question.

INDIAN EVACUEES FROM BURMA AND MALAYA

959. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state the present approximate number in India of Indian evacuees from Burma and Malaya?

(b) What was the approximate total number of Indians in Burma and Malaya before December, 1941, and the approximate value of Indian investments in the two countries?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to ensure that such Indian evacuees from Burma and Malaya as wish to return to those countries are enabled to do so as soon after the re-occupation as the military situation permits?

(d) If no such steps have so far been taken, do Government propose to see (i) that proper shipping facilities are made available for the purpose, (ii) that where any evacuees are unable to pay their passages, they are given financial assistance, and (iii) that they get back to Burma and Malaya not later than civilians belonging to other nationalities?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) About 400,000 from Burma and about 5,000 from Malaya.

(b) About one million in Burma and about eight lakhs in Malaya. Government have no information about Indian investments.

(c) and (d). All these matters are receiving full consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR MALAYA

960. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if Government have considered the advisability of appointing a representative charged with the duty of protecting the interests of Indians in Malaya as has been done in the case of Burma? If so, is it the intention of Government to appoint such a representative as early as possible so that he may immediately commence the study of the problems of Indians in Malaya and be in a position to protect their interests on the re-occupation of the country?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When any decision is taken, will the Government bear in mind the desirability of appointing some one who is acquainted with the conditions in Malaya and not appoint some one merely for political reasons.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That will be kept in view.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When Government consider the advisability of appointing this Agent, will they keep in mind that the Governments of Burma and Malaya should guarantee minimum wages and minimum social conveniences for our workers before they are sent to those places?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will bear that in mind.

INDIANS LIBERATED ON ADVANCE OF ALLIED ARMIES INTO BURMA

961. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please give the number of Indians, if any, who have been liberated as a result of the advance of the Allied armies into Burma? If there are any such, how many of them have been taken into custody, and for what offence?

(b) Have Government any representative attached to the Civil Affairs services operating in liberated Burma who could keep the Government informed of the treatment meted by the military authorities to the Indian population in Burma and see that the people who have already suffered enough under the Japanese rule are properly fed and clothed? If the answer be in the negative, is the question of appointing such a representative receiving the consideration of Government?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The information is not available.

(b) The matter is receiving attention.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What does the Honourable Member mean by saying that the matter referred to in (b) is receiving attention? Is the Honourable member in touch with the authorities of the South East Asia Command in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are taking action for keeping in touch with the South East Asia Command. We have no reasons to believe that the Military authorities who are at present in Burma will not protect the Indians there.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of his taking a trip to liberated Burma and seeing the condition of Indians there for himself?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We will consider that.

PRICES OF RICE, WHEAT AND BAJRA IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

962. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the purchasing and selling prices of (i) rice, (ii) wheat and (iii) bajra in the following districts in the month of January 1945:

Malabar, South Kanara, Bellary, Nilgiris, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bijapur, North Kanara, and Coorg?

(b) What is the reason for large difference in the districts of Dharwar and Bijapur between the purchasing prices of these commodities and the retail selling prices?

(c) What steps are taken for proper storage of food grains in the above districts?

(d) How many of these areas have food councils, and are they meeting? If so, how many times a month?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Governments and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF KEROSENE OIL TINS BY COLLECTOR OF NORTH KANARA

963. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he has received representation from the district of North Kanara with regard to the compulsory acquisition of kerosene oil tins by the Collector of North Kanara?

(b) Is it a fact that the price fixed is annas ten while it is being sold in the market at Rs. 3?

(c) What are the reasons for acquiring the tins?

(d) Under what provisions of the law are these tins being acquired?

(e) Are the orders issued to benefit the agents of kerosene oil or for the benefit of the consumers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) to (e). The points raised wholly concern the Provincial Government and the Central Government have no information in the matter.

FACTORY INSPECTORS AND LABOUR WELFARE OFFICERS IN DELHI PROVINCE

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

(a) the number of Factory Inspectors and Labour Welfare Officers in the Delhi Province, and if they include women;

(b) whether these officers have reported on the urgency for providing proper residential quarters for workers in factories; and, if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether Government propose to call for an immediate report on the subject?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There are two full-time Factory Inspectors and two Additional Factory Inspectors. The latter are part-time. There is no Labour Welfare Officer in the Province. The Superintendent of the Child Welfare and Maternity Centre Delhi Municipality, exercises the powers of an inspector under the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act 1929 as extended to Delhi.

(b) No, the latter part does not arise.

(c) Government will take up for consideration in due course the general question of housing of industrial labour. It is not therefore proposed to call for a special report in respect of Delhi Province only.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if Government will consider the proposal to appoint a whole-time Woman Welfare Officer?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, I will consider that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the meaning of "due time" regarding housing?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think it is a very unusual expression which requires explanation.

CONTRACT SYSTEM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF LABOUR IN DELHI FACTORIES

965. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state: if labour is still engaged in factories in Delhi by contract system; and, if so, (i) the names of the factories who have that system; (ii) the number of workers, men and women, employed under that system, by each of those factories; (iii) the average daily wage of the workers and the rate of dearness allowance; and (iv) if the workers receive the benefits under the Factories and Maternity Benefits Acts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in the case of some factories. A list of such factories is laid on the table. No information is available as regards the number of workers employed through contractors but the number of such persons is small and is limited to coal handling and loading. Information in regard to the average daily wage and the rate of dearness allowance is not readily available, but dearness allowance varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 92 per month and in factories where no dearness allowance is paid the basic wages have been increased. All factory workers receive benefits under the Factories and the Bombay Maternity Benefit Acts.

List of Factories in Delhi in which part of the labour force is employed through Contractors referred to in Question No. 965, dated the 13th March, 1945.

1. Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.
2. Mahabir Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

3. Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co. Ltd.
4. Latif Printing Press.
5. Gwalior Potteries Ltd.
6. Ishwar Potteries Ltd.
7. Delhi Flour Mills Co. Ltd.
8. Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Ltd.
9. Tin Printing and Metal Works Ltd.
10. Ganesh Flour Mills (Vegetable Products Factory).
11. Aggarwal Hosiery Mills.
12. Ordnance Clothing Factory.
13. Malik and Qureshi.
14. H. S. Sidhu, 26, Daryaganj, Delhi.
15. Girdhari Lal Gauri Shanker Textile Factory.
16. Messrs. Pearey Lal and Sons (Lahore) Ltd.
17. The Premier Textile Factory.
18. Phoenix Cotton Tape Factory.
19. Sharma Textile and General Manufacturing Co.
20. Messrs. Aggerlios and Co., 50-Garriston Bastion Road, Delhi.
21. Messrs. Aggerlios and Co., 11-R, Faiz Bazar, Daryaganj, Delhi.
22. British Niwar Factory.
23. Yadev Niwar Factory.
24. Delhi Press.
25. Saksaria Printing Works.
26. British Motor Car, O. B. F. Co., Section.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Since Delhi is so near New Delhi will Government assure me that they will secure this information as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in due time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the admitted evils of this contract system of recruiting labour, will Government take early steps to put an end to it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This is not a matter in which Government is concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour recommended to the Government that they should take special steps to root it out?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If my Honourable friend is referring to such labour as is employed through contractors in Government Departments, that matter will certainly be considered.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government consider welfare of labour recruited under contract system as not a matter of labour welfare?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is quite entitled to draw any inference he likes.

YARN QUOTA TO DELHI THREADBALL FACTORIES

966. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the total quantity of yarn allotted to Threadball Factories in Delhi in the years 1943 and 1944;

(b) the quantity of yarn required normally by these Factories to keep working without closing down for any period; and

(c) if the Factory-owners or Labour Unions have made any representations to Government about this matter; and if so, what measures Government propose to take in dealing with them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have no information. Yarns for ballthreads are not officially allotted to the different centres. The only special arrangement for such yarns takes the form of movement priorities to those mills who have been specialising in such yarns. The movement priorities permit despatch of monthly allotments and distribution is based upon the actual distribution made by the mills during 1942 which year has been taken as the basis for arranging the movement priorities for sewing thread yarns.

(b) According to 1942 figures Delhi received 1,373,200 lbs. of yarn for sewing thread industry. No other estimates are available.

(c) In June 1944 the Soot Gola Union, Sadar Bazar, Delhi and in August 1944 the Threadball Manufacturers Association, Delhi approached the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and suitable action to facilitate movement of yarns was

taken. No other representation has been received by Government as such but it is understood that the threadball manufacturers have made representations to local officers. Action to ascertain the production and distribution of yarns for sewing was taken after August 1944. The arrangement now made and mentioned in my answer to (a) is expected to result in regular supplies of yarn for sewing reaching the various centres.

AVERAGE WAGE OF WOMEN IN DELHI FACTORIES

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

- (a) the average wage of women employed in factories in Delhi; and whether they are paid at a daily or monthly rate;
- (b) the dearness allowance paid to them;
- (c) if there is any difference in the wages and dearness allowance paid to the men and women workers doing the same kind of work; and, if so, the reasons for the difference;
- (d) whether the women engaged under contract system receive the same wages and dearness allowance as those directly recruited, and the reasons for the difference, if any;
- (e) whether any of the factories provide facilities for Maternity and Child Welfare; and if so, in what manner;
- (f) whether any of these factories provide creches and make other arrangements for the care of the children of their employees; and
- (g) if the answers to (e) and (f) are in the negative, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to compel the owners of factories to make the necessary arrangements?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Data in respect of the average wage of women employed in factories in Delhi is not readily available. In some factories women are paid at monthly rates and in others at piece or daily rates.

(b) No detailed information is available but the dearness allowance paid to women workers ranges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 32.

(c) So far as is known, there is no difference in wages and dearness allowance paid to men and women doing the same kind of work.

(d) So far as is known women in factories are engaged direct and not through contractors.

(e) Two factories provide facilities for maternity and child welfare.

(f) Yes, two factories provide creches. In one factory free baths are provided daily to the children of employees and under-nourished children are supplied daily half a seer of milk free of cost. In the other factory free education is given to the children of employees in the school run by the factory and half a seer of milk each is given daily to all the children free of cost.

(g) Does not arise.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: May I know whether the Province of Delhi has no Labour Department of its own?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: May I ask whether it would surprise the Honourable the Labour Member to hear that there are 3,500 women in the thread ball factories who do not get any dearness allowance and that men and women are not paid equal wages and is he willing to inquire into this and if he finds it is so, will he take steps immediately to rectify their grievance?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure that nothing that comes from the Honourable lady will surprise me.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With reference to his reply to part (a) that the information is not readily available, may I know whether he will make very special effort to make it available?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will see what I can do.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir if Factory Inspectors do not send periodical reports to the Government? How is it that Government say that they have not got the information?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It must be going to the Chief Commissioner of Delhji.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to seek your guidance in regard to the reply given by the Honourable Member. It appears to me that it is a sort of aspersion cast upon a lady.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think the Honourable Member meant to cast any such aspersion. However, you ought to leave it to the lady who put the question to take care of herself.

Mr. T. S. Avinashillingam Chettiar: Mr. President, especially today the replies of the Government Benches have been in a tone that is unusual and we had occasion to know about it from the Food Member. And now, Sir, the reply of the Honourable Member to the lady is this. She asked whether he will enquire.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No. Whether I would be surprised to know that.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: And would he be willing to look into the matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the tone of the Honourable Member's reply to the question it is very difficult for me to judge for I am afraid so far as that is concerned it is not only one part of the House that is concerned.

(At this stage, several Honourable Members stood up and spoke simultaneously.)

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashillingam Chettiar: On a point of order, Sir, regarding the statement that has been attributed to the lady Member of this House, Mrs. Ray. She asked a question and he says she did not ask that question. It may be verified from the short-hand reports.

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

PERMITS FOR IMPORT OF BRITISH MADE CARS

968. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to a statement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th February that the Government of India have issued permits for the import of 2,000 British-made cars for urban needs? If so, is the statement true?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This question will be answered by my Honourable Colleague, the War Transport Member.

LACK OF YARN SUPPLY TO MYMENSINGH WEAVERS

969. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to a news item from Mymensingh published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th February that 20,000 weavers in the Mymensingh District have been thrown out of employment for want of yarn? If so, is the statement true?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps are being taken to remove the difficulties, and why were these difficulties allowed to happen?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that there is a great cloth famine in Bengal? If so, what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Government of India have no information about the position in Mymensingh District, as the function of the Textile Commissioner is confined to seeing that the proper quota of yarn reaches each Province. Internal distribution within the Province is the affair of the Provincial Government. It seems, however, unlikely that everyone of the 20,000 weavers in Mymensingh District is without work.

(b) As explained in the answer to (a), Government of India is responsible for seeing that the proper quota of yarn reaches Bengal. Quotas are fixed on the basis of the Fact Finding Committee's report of requirements. For counts up to 40s it is possible to give very nearly the total recommended by the Fact Finding Committee. For counts over 40s which pre-war were very very largely

imported, it is possible to give only about a third of the requirements. On this basis Bengal's quota is 7,100 bales of yarn per month and Bengal actually received a monthly average of 8,043 bales per month between September and December 1944, a considerably more than its quota.

(c) During the five months ending November 1944 cloth was made available to Bengal at a rate equivalent to 13.9 yards per head per annum against a quota of 10 yards per head. In those months there was made available in all 236,453 bales for Bengal, 54,768 bales from local mill production, estimated 44,596 bales from handloom and 137,089 bales from outside. Internal distribution is the responsibility of the Bengal Government. I am, however, aware that there is a shortage of cloth in the Bengal market despite the supplies made.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Does the Honourable Member realise that the figures he has quoted as representing textile supplies to Bengal represent not merely the requirements of Bengal, but also those of China and Tibet?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know that China and Tibet are parts of Bengal.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The point was referred to specifically by the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar yesterday, but we did not get any reply to that point.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I said, if any quantities go out like that, it is for the local Government to take necessary steps. As far as I am aware, they have taken steps in the last few months in order to see that anything supplied to Bengal does not go out except under a special permit.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Who is responsible for seeing that no smuggling takes place across the borders of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as supplies to Provincial Governments are concerned, it is their responsibility to see not only that they are properly consumed within the provinces, but that nothing goes out.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the Central Government has no responsibility in this matter in any of its Departments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as we are concerned, we are certainly watching the situation, and where we find circumstances justify it, we make inquiries or take necessary steps.

LACK OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOPS IN NEW DELHI

970. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware of the difficulties which the Members of the Assembly residing in New Delhi are daily experiencing owing to the want of fruit and vegetable shops in New Delhi?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, does he propose to arrange for such shops to remove those difficulties?

(c) Is he aware of the fact that there are already some grain and fuel shops near the Western Court in New Delhi? If so, why are the Members of the Assembly given permits to purchase fuel from old Delhi?

(d) Is he aware of the fact that there are no doctors, Hakims or Vaidyas and medical stores in some central place in New Delhi? If so, will he consider the desirability of having all these arrangements in order to enable the Members of the Assembly residing in New Delhi to get medical aid readily in cases of emergency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) There are fruit and vegetable shops in the Gole Market and Paharganj from which the residents of New Delhi normally draw their supplies. The difficulties, if any, which the Members of the Assembly are experiencing are common to most residents of the New Delhi area, including the members of the Executive Council.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee considered the question of opening a vegetable shop near the Western Court but were unable to find a suitable site.

(c) Members of the Assembly were given special permits to enable them to obtain supplies regularly from the wholesale Depots direct. In the Western Court Area there is only one fuel shop which has already got about 5,000 cards registered with it and does not possess accommodation sufficient to undertake

any more registrations. The issue of permits on the wholesale Depots at the Ajmere Gate is intended to ensure that M.L.As. are able to secure sufficient split firewood at one time to last for at least a month, whereas they might find supplies from the ordinary fuel shops in smaller quantities, less reliable.

(d) No, Sir. There are a number of Government, Government aided and Municipal hospitals and dispensaries in New Delhi at which Members of the Legislature can easily obtain medical aid. Besides there are several doctors, Hakims and Vaidis in private practice in New Delhi.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that the shop behind Western Court does not supply standard rice, but rice which is of a very inferior quality?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry into this grievance?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will make a specific complaint, I shall certainly look into the matter.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: I say that the quality of rice supplied by the shop behind Western Court is not of the proper quality. I make this complaint on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What particular commodity is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Rice, flour and all other things supplied by this shop.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In regard to rice I want to

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: We want *Nawabi* rice.

explain that we are supplying in Delhi *Begmi* rice.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Since *Begmi* rice is considered inferior by many people we are now trying to get some *Basmati* rice.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is the Honourable Member aware that the rice supplied by the ration shop is broken rice and not full rice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I went round the ration shops three days ago, and I think the rice supplied by most of the shops appeared to be extremely good.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Does the Honourable Member know that rice supplied to certain persons is different in quality to rice supplied to others. There are allegations that Members of the Assembly who, because they can create trouble, get better quality, but that other people get inferior quality.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is likely that those who can give trouble, generally get better rice.

BAN ON PRODUCTION OF COTTON (MUNGARI, RED COCONADAS) IN ANDHRA DISTRICTS

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

(a) if it is a fact that Government have banned the production of cotton (Mungari, Red Coconadas) in a number of Andhra districts;

(b) whether the Madras Government have offered to pay Rs. 2, per acre, as compensation;

(c) whether this is most inadequate;

(d) whether there is a considerable and growing local demand for cotton for hand spinning purposes and whether the total banning of cotton production in these eight districts is likely to harm this cottage industry of hand spinning; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of (i) raising the subsidy, and (ii) allowing certain areas in these districts to grow cotton?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Madras Government have banned the cultivation of Mungari and Red Coconadas varieties of short staple cotton in a certain district except as a mixed crop in the proportion of one line of such cotton to at least two of food crops.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (e) (i) As promised in answer to a supplementary question asked by the Honourable Member with regard to his starred Question No. 423 on 21st

February, 1945, the question whether the subsidy is inadequate and should be raised is being examined separately.

(d) There is a local demand for cotton for hand spinning but the supplies necessary are reported to be available from stocks in hand and in any case these varieties can still be grown as mixed crop.

(e) (ii) The growing of cotton as a mixed crop is allowed.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF A GOVERNMENT SERVANT AFTER CONVICTION

972. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: With reference to the reply to starred question No. 407 on the 14th March, 1944, regarding re-employment of a Government servant after conviction, will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether any enquiry was made in regard to the Government servant referred to in that question? If so, what was the result of that enquiry, and what action was taken by Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes. Though the individual had been dismissed by the Punjab Government that Government had permitted him to take up employment either in the Central Public Works Department or elsewhere. In view of this and the fact that he has been continuously employed in the Central Public Works Department since February, 1942, no further action was considered necessary.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What was the charge for which the particular person was dismissed by the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Mere assault.

FREEZING OF STANDING PADDY CROPS IN TANJORE DISTRICT

973. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Grain Purchasing Officer of Tanjore has frozen the standing crops of all peasants growing paddy in the whole of the Tanjore District?

(b) Is it a fact that he has no adequate supply of officers or subordinates of sufficient pay and responsibility to reach all the villages and superintend the reaping, heaping and harvesting of the paddy crop of the lakhs of peasants concerned?

(c) Is it a fact that, as a result, he is obliged to depend upon the ill-paid and often illiterate village officials including watchmen to superintend harvest operations?

(d) In view of the hardships being caused to peasants, do Government propose either to withdraw this policy of freezing the paddy crop of a whole district even before it is harvested or to purchase the whole crop themselves at a specified price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir. The Freezing Order applies only to 75 per cent. of the total yield of crops of Ryots owning or cultivating four acres and above in villages within a belt of six miles of the District borders and also in the coastal villages within a belt of six miles.

(b) and (c). The Grain Purchase Officer has sufficient staff for the work connected with the Freezing Order. He has also Revenue Subordinates to help him. Harvesting operations are not supervised.

(d) The Order is intended to prevent smuggling, particularly to Ceylon and does not entail any undue hardship on the peasants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that although according to Government only 75 per cent. is being frozen, the remaining 25 per cent. is not available to the peasant until the crop is harvested and 75 per cent. of the produce is delivered to the Grains Purchasing Officer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know the exact position.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member make a more detailed investigation into the matter? Evidently he has not got definite information about the actual facts there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall make inquiries if the Honourable Member opposite would let me know what, exactly he wants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Thank you.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PROTECTION TO FRUIT PRESERVATION INDUSTRY

87. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether there is any scheme under consideration by Government for consolidating the fruit preservation industry in this country and also to safeguard such industry against foreign competition which is becoming acute?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what financial assistance do Government propose to give and do they propose to consider the question of sending students and technicians overseas for training in this subject?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research proposes to set up shortly an Institute of Fruit Technology to give technical advice to the Industry. The question of measures to ensure that fruit products conform to certain prescribed specifications is under consideration. It is hoped that these measures will help to safeguard the industry against foreign competition.

(b) The financial implications of the proposals have not yet been worked out. It is proposed shortly to send some students abroad for training in fruit technology.

INVESTMENT FOR SETTING UP A FRUIT CANNING PLANT

88. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state:

(a) whether Government have decided henceforth not to place any order in India for the requirements of the defence forces in the matter of canned fruit;

(b) if Government helped financially for putting up a canning plant in India out of public funds; if so, the amount so invested; and

(c) if the investment was made, how it is working and what the financial prospects are?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) A factory was erected in 1944 at a cost of Rs. 9,34,617 which was borne by Government.

(c) The factory was not completed in time for the 1944 fruit season and only operated for a few days at the end of the season as a trial run. The factory is equipped with the most up-to-date machinery and should operate satisfactorily.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CASES OF PROFITEERING AND HOARDING AGAINST EUROPEAN TRADING CONCERNS

Mr. T. S. Avnashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies state:

12 Noon. (a) how many cases of profiteering and hoarding have been detected in European Trading Concerns;

(b) whether cases were put up against them; and

(c) what sentences were awarded to them on conviction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected from the different Provinces and States and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

I may say that the words "European trading concerns" are very vague; but still I will try to do my best to supply the information and collect it and lay it on the table of the House.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 9th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Information and Broadcasting, seven nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, (2) Mr. M. Ghiasuddin, (3) Mr. C. P. Lawson, (4) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, (5) Mr. Ramayan Prasad.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL DEFENCE BRANCH OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Saturday, the 10th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Civil Defence Branch of the Defence Department six nominations were received. Subsequently one candidate withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, (2) Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman (3) Sardar Mangal Singh, (4) Mr. C. P. Lawson, (5) Mr. Piara Lali Kureel.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Demands for Grants. I think it is the turn of the European Group now.

DEMAND NO. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

Need for Economy and for more stringent Control of Expenditure.

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal, European): Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

"To discuss the need for economy generally and for more stringent control of expenditure on Civil Departments in particular. In the few minutes in which I will ask for the attention of the House, I intend referring to a subject which has consistently for the last two years been put forward by this Group, and in particular in the speeches which its leader, Sir Henry Richardson, made a few days ago and on the budget last year. I also want to make it clear that this is, as to its scope and intention, entirely a token cut and is designed to draw attention to what we regard as the development of a very serious state of affairs. If we cast our minds back, only over a few days of the debates that have taken place on this budget, I think we will recall that there have been two quite unusual and astonishing assumptions throughout these discussions. The first of them is the bland assumption, held apparently nowhere with more satisfaction than amongst the representatives of some of the spending departments on the Treasury Benches, that the present phase of mounting expenditure can continue indefinitely. My friends here, mainly to my right, in so far as I have been able to understand them in many of their observations bearing on economic and financial problems, have been proceeding on the assumption that India

can go on living in a sort of economic vacuum and a closed economy. I am not concerned with that thesis this morning. What I am concerned with specifically now is this question of retrenchment and economy.

When the Honourable the Finance Member was introducing his Budget on the last day of last month, he referred in the course of his introductory speech to the methods which had been employed, and the devices which he is engaging, to close what he called the gap between the total rupee outgoings, whether on our own or on allied account, and the total rupee incomings; and he then went on to list and enumerate the devices by which he was endeavouring to narrow that gap. He spoke specifically of taxation, of borrowing, of sales of bullion and other devices for absorbing the surplus purchasing power, and so on. If I may say so, he explained Government's policy in respect of a highly complicated and technical matter, such as is the annual statement of accounts, with his customary lucidity and clarity. But I for one regret very much that in the list of devices and the heads of policy which he specified, he omitted there, and so far as I can see in any other part of his speech, any reference to retrenchment or economy; and in this, the sixth year of the war, I can only regard that as a very serious omission.

Generally speaking, the financial pattern of war shows that in fact there are three main phases or stages of development. The first phase, if I may so describe it, is one in which the financial authority continues to resist, but usually with declining success, the depredations and demands of the spending departments; he is clinging to his well-grounded moral principles, but feels that the sands are shifting and ultimately he moves into the second phase, when he becomes weary of fighting for the truth, and he becomes involved and his whole energies are thrown into the task of raising money to satisfy the apparently inexorable appetite of the war machine; and the ideas of saving and economy which he cherished so honestly and sincerely in the first phase have perforce had to go by the board. Then, of course, comes the third and last phase of the pattern of war finance, which may be described as the financial morning after the financial night before. It is a day of reckoning, which usually consists of some years of deficits and unbalanced budgets, and provides governments and finance ministers and taxpayers with the traditional headache of the morning after the night before. I am not prepared in the short time at my disposal to specify what point we may have reached in India. But on a rough guess, it seems to me that we are somewhere fairly well through between the second and third stages of the pattern which I have described and if we are, in fact, to mitigate the effects of stage 3, it is time, I submit, to begin to turn our thoughts to the subject of economy and retrenchment and the elimination of unnecessary and wasteful expenditure of public funds.

Now, the Resolution which stands in my name specially mentions the Civil Departments of Government. It is easy and fashionable to criticise the wastefulness and extravagance of the Defence Services, but the fact is that, although there may be differences in degree, the Civil Departments of Government are also guilty of some of the callousness and excesses of the Defence Departments and it seems to me that in their present distorted condition they are particularly unreceptive to any advice which enjoins upon them a little more plain living and a little more high thinking. I do not want to weary the House with a lot of figures, but the growth of civil expenditure during the war years has been quite astonishing. I will not now attempt to catalogue them but some statistics are necessary as the background to an understanding of the need for economy. Taking only the figures that are germane to my Resolution. In 1941-42, the revised civil expenditure reached 40.11 crores. In 1944-45, the Civil Estimates, again quoting from the Honourable Member's speech, now stand at 115.42 crores as compared with Rs. 86.88 crores originally provided for in the Budget. The Honourable Member, in explanation of that, pointed out that the transition stage and the peace ahead inevitably involved "an increase in governmental co-ordination and control which is reflected in increased expenditure". Well, Sir, I for one would wish for a little less co-ordination and a little more control of the

[Mr. G. W. Tyson]

kind I have in mind in moving this motion. For next year, our Civil Estimates, I think, speaking, off-hand, are between 8 and 9 crores up on the current year which ends on the last day of this month.

Then a word as to the debt burden. Quoting from the Explanatory Memorandum, the following passage occurs on page 80:

"In other words, as compared with the last pre-war year figure of Rs. 1,185 crores, the total interest bearing obligations, will have increased by Rs. 614 crores by the end of the current year and by Rs. 974 crores by the end of the next year".

We live in an age of Gargantuan figures and these figures are large enough. In my view, they need not frighten us. They are entirely manageable, but that is a statement that requires some qualification, because these figures, are only manageable if the ordinary elementary principles of cutting one's coat according to one's cloth are borne in mind. It is my belief, Sir, and the belief of the Party for which I am speaking that the remedy for this lies in constant vigilance over new items of expenditure; but we have a feeling, Sir, that many of the spending departments, if they have not got completely out of hand, are getting well out of hand. There is a very prevalent belief in these days of managed currencies that money does not matter. My Honourable friend the Member for Planning and Development, in the course of a debate in this House the other day, said that the real bottleneck from his point of view was not money but it was man power. That may be his view, but the plain fact is we all know that money has a very real and a very practical bearing on these things.

Speaking during the course of these debates two or three days ago my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait spoke about what he called the unholy marriage between British and Indian capitalism. I think the partners to that engagement may well be left to look after themselves, but what I am more concerned about today is the number of engagements, the number of alliances into which the aging, but not yet senescent, Finance Department is entering no doubt quite proper engagements—with some of the bright new younger personalities—vigorous and at times unscrupulous—who go by the name of Information and Broadcasting, Planning and Development, and so on and so forth. One feels, quite frankly, that there is scope for a very great deal of retrenchment. One knows that it has been very necessary to build up the country's war effort to its present point of efficiency and that in taking decisions to that end, it has sometimes been necessary to temporarily overlook the elementary considerations of saving and getting the best possible value for money; but I do submit that when one looks at the steadily rising curve of civil expenditure and the steadily rising curve of taxation, one has a right to ask Government whether they are holding and cherishing the ideal of economy with as much zeal and ardour as they should.

At the end of the General Discussion, on the Budget, the Honourable the Finance Member in winding up what he described as a long and chequered debate said that he had not really been able to piece together particulars of the varied pieces of criticism that had been offered to him, and he then asked what his critics had in mind. So far as I am concerned, I am quite willing to help him by telling him that he can ignore the other criticisms that may have been offered to him if he will only give his serious and undivided attention, and devote his considerable talents, to the proposition that I put to him today. He asked what the critics want. So far as the critics on these Benches are concerned, what they want is real acceptance of the idea that we are now coming to the end of the wild spending phase and that we must begin to think about the simpler qualities of economy and wise spending. I submit, Sir, that this is an obligation cast upon our distinguished Finance Member. It is an obligation, I think, that he owes, if I may say so without impertinence, to his successor: it is an obligation that he owes to his own well established reputation, both

inside this House and outside it, and finally and most important of all, it is an obligation which he owes to India. Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we wholeheartedly support the policy which has been adumbrated by the European Group. As a matter of fact our Party, last year, with the support of the whole House demanded that some kind of control should be exercised on the expenses of the Government of India on Defence and in the Supply Department as well as in the Food and other Civil Departments. But this was not acceptable to the Honourable the Finance Member last year, and it is an irony of fate that this year, the European Group comes to demand the same thing. But last year, they did not support our demand. I knew that the Leader of the European Group several years ago put forward the same proposition before this House and we all thought that economy was essential and a check over expenditure was essential. Probably last year, on account of misunderstanding, there was a wrong impression on the part of the European Group that we were demanding something out of the War Budget and that we were opposed to war efforts that they did not support us. That ought not to have been taken in that manner. It was far from our mind. The taxpayer has to bear the expenses of the Government of India and therefore it is but right that the expenses should be controlled as far as possible. There should be no waste on expenditure. We do not say that money should not be spent on essentials. We say that all necessary expenditure in connection with war should be defrayed. It would be an act of miserliness on our part if we say that where you require a rupee, you should spend only fourteen annas. At the same time, it would be sheer extravagance on the part of the Government Departments that where an expenditure of one rupee will suffice, they spend one rupee, fourteen annas. You should save these fourteen annas by all means. The Honourable the Finance Member admitted that he cannot control expenditure. He cannot control, because, after all, he is a human being. We cannot expect him to look into the day to day expenditure. He receives from the different Departments, an estimate that so much money should be allotted to each of them. The Finance Member cuts down the estimate and then he sanctions money, probably in some cases he sanctions which he would never have done, if he was left alone. But in spite of the cuts he makes in the estimates of the other Departments, he has frequently to come to this House with Supplementary Grants. I have known that Supplementary Grants come to this House sometimes for abnormal expenditure which was not foreseen by the Finance Department at the time of presenting the Budget. If this huge expenditure comes before the Assembly for sanction either as a Budget or as a supplementary grant, then I think there should be some limit and this Legislature should have some control. I have never agreed and I shall never agree and I do not believe it is the proper construction that has been put by the Government of India on voted and non-voted expenditure. Sometimes, it is said that because a particular man is holding a particular job, then his salary becomes non-voted. I submit that the whole idea of an item being non-voted is that the man holding a particular job for which he was recruited should not be chucked out of that job all of a sudden or that his salary should be reduced, say, from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 1,500. This is what I understand by voted and non-voted item. But here comes a man who has been getting, say, Rs. 2,000, in some office and he is appointed to a post, say, on Rs. 4,000. His raised salary should become immediately non-voted. I submit that his substantive post, it may be in the Provinces should be treated as non-voted, while the higher post to which he is promoted should be treated as voted and the Legislature given an opportunity to give its verdict. The House should be given the right to express its opinion as to whether he should get Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 3,000 and so on. Broadly speaking this is what should be the meaning of voted and non-voted items. Unfortunately we have been all along proceeding on wrong assumption about voted and non-voted expenditure. The only method, the only

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effective method by which we can control the expenditure of the Government is to constitute a Committee of this House to look into the voted as well as non-voted grants. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member laid before the Standing Finance Committee even those items which according to him were non-voted. From my point of view they had really to be treated as voted. Last year we suggested that a Committee should be constituted on a different basis. It must be an Estimates Committee going through each and every item of expenditure. The Standing Finance Committee simply deals with problems of a general nature and not of the nature of looking into details and curtailing expenditure. The Standing Finance Committee as at present constituted will never be able to control expenditure which is presented by the different Departments to the House.

Sir, I have known, I do not like to repeat it at this time on this issue, but I will have proper occasion to do it later on, I have known that in the Supply Department and in the Food Department huge waste of expenditure is going on. Many articles have been purchased which are absolutely unnecessary. Once I learnt that there were lying in certain godowns about 50,000 boots of one foot only and the Government of India had purchased them. There ought to be some check on such inexcusable waste. There is no check on the material purchased or the manner of distribution. The whole blame is thrown on the railways that they did not carry the packages properly. Sir, it was not the fault of the railways if the packages were damaged in transit. It was the fault of the people who packed the goods. Why did they allow them to be packed in such an unsafe way. There are many ways in which expenditure can be curtailed. This huge military budget is mostly due to such extravagant expenditure. It is up to Government to save the poor taxpayer from this heavy burden of loan which has come to 833 crores. This money at three per cent. interest will require something like 25 crores annually to be paid. Now, where will this annual interest come from? Why are you saddling the country with such a heavy annual expenditure for years to come? You must pay back the loan at some time or other. And you will pay interest too. I cannot imagine that with your pre-war finances you can meet this expenditure in future. You will never be able to wipe off the debt that you are incurring or even to pay the interest required, without very heavy taxation which the country will not be able to bear after the war. Due to inflation your contractors are taking away a lot of money from you, and then you have to pay them back. This is a vicious circle you have got into, but people with fixed incomes are the sufferers. Those are the people who are losing whereas the people who can raise their income are not losing at all. But things will soon change and Government would do well to have a committee to go through the whole budget. Merely cutting down a few hundreds here and there does not do? We had a Retrenchment Committee in 1932 and you, Sir, presided over one of those Committees. It may be said now that during the war there can be no retrenchment. But surely there can be some control over expenditure? If that were done, we would not have been faced now with such huge expenditure. Even now it is not too late; if we can make a start now why should we not do it? I am glad my Honourable friends of the European Group are in favour of this. They also must realise that they will not escape this taxation that will come after the war. And heavy taxes like income-tax and super-tax and surcharge will exist for half a century after the war before the debt can be wiped out. Sir, I support the cut motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support this cut motion because we are also in favour of retrenching this war-time bloated budget. I find that the Finance Member himself is one of the culprits in pushing up the expenditure of Government. I find on page 60 of the Budget that in his own department the expenditure has gone up from 36 lakhs in 1943-44 to 58 lakhs in the present Budget, which is an increase of more than 50 per cent. I do not know what exactly has happened between these two years to warrant this heavy additional expenditure. Then on page 61 we get rather a very entertaining picture. The Honourable the Finance Member

now wants a Joint Financial Adviser for Food. The Food Department is growing. Is it in order to help it to grow further and further and do very little work, or is it in order to check its expenditure that he wants to have a Joint Financial Adviser in that department? There is to be another Joint Financial Adviser in Cotton Textiles. The Honourable Member for Civil Supplies and Industries has already a number of these Advisers, but he also is having a Joint Financial Adviser. Then there is to be a Director of Research. I am glad that at last the Government of India have begun to think of the need for research but the extraordinary thing is that once they think of anything at all they go to the other extreme. They want research in everything. Whether they want to have research work in connection with the financial work of the Government of India or the preparation of the budget or control of expenditure or augmentation of expenditure we do not know. But at the same time we find that in the Commercial Intelligence Department also there are new officers being created, and that is associated with financial and other statistics. On page 162 we find that in addition to the Economic Adviser who was brought from England and inflicted upon us by Sir James Grigg he is going to have a Deputy Economic Adviser and an Assistant Economic Adviser. And their temporary establishment is going up from Rs. 59,000 in 1944-45 to Rs. 82,000 in 1945-46. In this Commercial Intelligence Department they are also going to have a Trade Agent.

Then coming back to Finance Department, we find that the Honourable the Finance Member wants a Deputy Examiner of Capital Issues; this is a new thing. Then there are Deputy and Assistant Financial Advisers for Food. One Adviser is created for a department; that gentleman wants an Assistant and so there is a Deputy Adviser; this gentleman wants another Assistant and then there is a Joint Adviser who again wants somebody else and then there comes an Assistant Adviser. That is how the establishment is being multiplied.

Then, Sir, there are officers of the National Savings Central Bureau; I do not know for what purpose they are appointed. Then on Additional Financial Officers (Temporary) they are going to spend nearly a lakh of rupees. Then we get Deputy Assistant Financial Advisers and Officers of the Supply Finance Department. What they mean we do not know; i.e., whether they are in the Supply Department or for other departments. On these officers they propose to spend 10 lakhs as against 8 lakhs in 1944-45. Then Additional Officers (Temporary) account for 5½ lakhs. Then we have Finance Officer, Geological Survey—which is a beautiful thing—and Assistant Financial Advisers (Cotton Textile) also Assistant Financial Adviser (Civil Supplies).

Sir, this is how the thing is being multiplied in the Finance Department itself. Can we wonder that in other departments also the expenditure is mounting up in an unwieldy fashion? I will take Civil Supplies on page 163. Here Pay of Officers and Pay of Establishment come up to nearly 71 lakhs. They want to have a Financial Adviser to the Chief Engineer. Suddenly they discover, after research in the Finance Department, that they require a Financial Adviser for the Chief Engineer. Financial Adviser to the Chief Town Planner we need, but why do we need this Financial Adviser to the Chief Engineer? This gentleman will come forward next year with a proposal for a Deputy, and a Joint and an Assistant Financial Adviser to himself.

Then comes the Broadcasting Department. It is one of the worst offenders. Within a course of two years—i.e., from 1943 to 1945—its appetite has grown from Rs. 56,96,000 to Rs. 94,00,000, and my Honourable friend Sir Sultan Ahmed does not seem to grow any taller because of this huge quantity of additional sums of money that he is getting.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He is getting shorter with the weight.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And look at these Research people here also. They have Listener Research Officers, Assistant Station Engineers, Assistant Research Engineer, Assistant Director of Administration,—they have already had a number of Administrators and in addition to that they want an Assistant

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

Director,—Assistant Editors—they had I thought plethora of them, now they want Assistant Editors—, an Assistant Solicitor—I do not know what the Solicitor is expected to do. Then there are Liaison Officers—what these Liaison officers are going to do. I do not know—to liaison between one officer and another and see that the Broadcasting office does not fall into pieces. Then they are going to have an Advertisement Manager—this is a beautiful thing.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Everything there is beautiful!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Within a period of one year—1944-45 to 1945-46—their expenditure on pay of officers and pay of establishment alone has increased from Rs. 12,60,900 to Rs. 30,80,100.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Liaison is more expensive than legitimate marriage!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then their office in England. They are also greedy. Having come to know that there is inflation in this country, they have begun to wonder why they should not have a portion out of it for themselves.

“India Office Expenses—contribution to His Majesty’s Treasury— 1943-44 Rs. 13,60,000, 1945-46 Rs. 28,84,000”.

There is an increase of about ten lakhs within a period of two years.

My Honourable friend, the Labour Member, wants to have a Labour Publicity Officer at a cost of Rs. 69,600. What this Publicity Officer is going to do I do not know. I suppose he is going to do publicity in justifying the introduction of women into the mines.

Commerce Department—it used to be a well-behaved department at one time, but it has also increased its expenses from Rs. 8,87,400 in 1944-45 to Rs. 11,83,600 in 1945-46.

My Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmed, comes in again, but through another department, i.e., the Information Department. He wants four lakhs more for pay of officers and establishment alone: In 1944-45 he wanted Rs. 6,45,300 but he now wants Rs. 10,47,500. He says, “Budget includes provision for the regional offices of Food Publicity” What is this I do not know. Whether he is going to ask people to eat more when more is not available, or to eat less when they are starving is beyond my comprehension. They are going to have “a separate Production, Publicity and Photographic Section” We are seeing the photographs of destitutes dying in Calcutta. Their total demand also goes up within a short period of two years from 17 lakhs in 1943-44 to 36 lakhs in 1945-46. What is the wonderful additional work that this Broadcasting and Information Department has been contributing to our country? To malign our country abroad or to make our country look more beautiful than what it is and with all the thousands of people who are dying of starvation; to give more food to our starving millions; to provide more cloth to all those women who are committing suicide for their nudity for want of cloth. What sort of broadcasting and information they are carrying on? Have they been able to manufacture in this country cheap receiving sets? Even spare parts have to come from abroad. Have they made this country self-sufficient in regard to the machinery they want for this department? And yet they go on wasting our money.

But, on the other hand, when we come to these really productive departments, social departments and developmental departments, Government has not been so very liberal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for 14 minutes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Only yesterday my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, said that the Government of India has now decided on a policy for geological survey, and therefore one would have expected him to have come forward through this Budget with his proposal for the development of our geological resources. On the other hand, what happens is this. In 1943-44 they spent 32 lakhs and in 1944-45 they propose to spend only 14 lakhs. That is the underlining that is to be put to the speech that he made. If that

is the way in which they propose to develop these developmental departments and if that is the way in which they propose to spend money on these wasteful departments, then one can only say that this Government really does not deserve the confidence of this House.

I suggest, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member should hasten to appoint a Retrenchment Committee containing a non-official majority to go into the whole of this question and see also that really deserving departments—departments like Archæology, Geology, Botany, Agriculture, Health, Animal Husbandry, and so on—are not starving for funds either now or in post-war years, and they should also see that these various wasteful departments cut down their expenses so that they will have only that much of establishment as this country can afford to pay for at the end of the war.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I will take only a few minutes. We must feel grateful to the Honourable Mover of this Resolution. After all, every one of us must be anxious to see that there is retrenchment subject to efficiency being maintained. Sir, so far as my Department is concerned, it has become a very interesting and live department so far as this House is concerned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): And abroad also.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes. I am glad to say not only in this country but in other countries also.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Abolish it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Then life in India will become more dull and people will not be able to know anything about India, either in this country or outside.

I fully appreciate the view point of the Honourable Members of this House, and we have been very anxious recently to see how far retrenchment can be effected. Take the case of the National War Front which came under consideration before this House a few days back. So far as that section is concerned, under the new scheme at any rate there will be a reduction of between fifteen to twenty lakhs of rupees.

An Honourable Member: Abolish it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Of course that is your view point. You have given your views. But I am talking from the point of view of retrenchment, and we shall try and see that the best results are obtained out of the money that we spend.

As regards Prof. Ranga's complaint that we have not been able to provide receiving sets, all that I can tell him is that he does not know the position. Receiving sets are not being provided by us; it is done by another department. We are very very anxious to have two-hundred-thousand receiving sets and about seventy-five thousand community sets. If we can get them, India will be all the better for it, but it is another department which has to deal with it, not ourselves. So far as expenditure is concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Is it a Government of India Department or not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have to answer for my department and with reference to Prof. Ranga's query, I am certain the Commerce Department would be delighted to have the receiving sets if they could get them. They have been asking for them and the moment they can secure them India would be the better thereby.

As regards the increase in the expenditure of the Broadcasting Department, I am afraid if my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga thinks that the Broadcasting Department is of no use then I do not agree with him. It has tremendous potentialities and a big future, and if only he would very kindly visit the studio here and go to the transmitting station he would be proud of the institution. The other day we had a very distinguished visitor here, Lord Beith, who was the President of the British Broadcasting Corporation organisation sometime ago. He went to the radio station and saw everything critically, having had

[Sir Sultan Ahmed.]

experience of this kind of work before, and subsequently he rushed to me here in the Council Chamber. I did not know him before. He told me that the Broadcasting Station in India was one of the best and finest in the world. Not only that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Physically or morally!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: . . . but it is most up to date and modern and would play a very important role in the future of this country. He asked me about the amount of money we spend on it. He almost collapsed when I told him what the amount was. I must say that this expenditure must be maintained and indeed may have to be increased when the time comes.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): No certificate from any Indian?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Would my friend, Mr. Pande, be a little patient and hear us. He would then be the wiser for it.

I can assure my Honourable friend that when they come into power, they will have an institution and an organisation of which they will be proud.

Mr. Bhalabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): If and when!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: As regards the other sections we are trying to look into them and see how economies can be effected.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is not often that we on this side of the House find ourselves in agreement with the views put forward by the British group in this House and this happens to be one of those rare occasions.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Come and join us!

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like at the outset to refer to some words that fell out of the mouth of the Mover of this motion. He referred to two astonishing and unusual assumptions. One was that there was a feeling that the present phase of mounting expenditure can rise indefinitely. With that assumption, or at any rate, the feeling that that assumption exists, I wholly agree. I did not exactly catch what the next assumption was unless it be that he referred to what he felt as being the views of the members of this House on his right, namely, that they could live in this country forever in a closed economy. In fact, Sir, the assumption that is sought to be conveyed by that statement is rather vague. At any rate if we have the misfortune to feel that we have forever to remain in a closed economy and that way the only way in which we can uplift ourselves and the poor amongst us, we will say, thank you, Mr. Tyson, we shall not accept your criticism about our hopes for the future.

On the general question of the need for retrenchment and the views that he put forward. I think there can be little disagreement. He supported his views with facts and figures, quoting the Civil Estimates of this year and compared it with those of previous years. I would like to supplement what he has said by referring the House to the first two pages of the table of Demands in the Demands for Grants wherein 76 items are given, which this year in the aggregate amounts to Rs. 107,49,72,000, as against 78,46,72,000 for 1944-45 and 58,62,00,000 for 1943-44. If any one checks the total figure for the year 1944-45 he will find a difference because another item has brought in in regard to grants in aid to Provincial Governments amounting Rs. 4,50,00,000, which has to be excluded for purposes of comparison. All this reveals that we are now spending nearly double to what the Government visualised they would spend two years back. That is a very serious state of affairs. But how is this to be checked? We can accuse, and we have been accusing the Finance Member of not exercising that amount of care that is necessary subject to the exigencies of the period through which we are passing. Incidentally, I would like to refer to the statement made by my Honourable friend, Prof. Rana, wherein he took exception to the appointment of Financial Advisers to the various departments.

I would like to forestall the thunder of the Honourable the Finance Member when he replies this debate.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not necessary.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: These Finance Department officers are the only check we have over the spending departments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Don't steal my thunder!

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sure my Honourable friend would not mind my doing it and I have no doubt he will be inclined to give away this advantage considering these are the last three or four weeks that he will be here. Perhaps it is well that we steal something from his thunder and make him a little less militant when answering our complaints.

I would like to assure my friend, that I would rather that the Finance Department is strengthened in spite of the cost.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We have no objection but let there be no duplication between this Department and the others.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Duplication in the matter of checks is welcome. What we want are checks. I do not want my friend to hand over on a salver to my Honourable friend, the Finance Member an argument which he can use with devastating effect.

My friend Mr. Tyson's remarks about the three stages in the attitude of Government towards war expenditure were very interesting. He felt that this Government was perhaps in the third stage and strengthened his argument by using a metaphor which will perhaps be unfamiliar to tee-totalers—He compared it to the hangover resulting from the effects of a Bacchanalian night. I do not know if my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches have yet got over the effect. The background behind the reply given by the Leader of the House shows that he is still in a state of stupor.

I would like to refer to two matters before I sit down. One is to supplement a little further the figures given by Prof. Ranga. He referred to the Commerce Department Demands in relation to Commercial Intelligence and statistics. But I do not know how his vigilant eye escaped a rather intriguing item therein. It is on page 161, Item (c), Economic Adviser to the Government of India. There is an item C(5) a lump sum provision for the Government of India, Administrative Intelligence room. I would like to ask my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House how he and his colleagues propose to profit by what that intelligence room is going to provide. I have on a previous occasion during this Session referred to his incorrect, if I might use the word, inefficient and insolent way of mentioning items in the demands for grants. What is the purpose to be served by the proposed expenditure. I would like the Honourable Member, whoever is in charge, to rise and tell us whose intelligence this expense is intended to improve.

Sir F. E. James: May I assure my friend, . . .

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not yielding. I am always grateful to my friend for his interruption, but leaves me none the wiser for it. I am afraid if my Honourable friend is particularly keen to examine cavities, they exist on the top portion of the anatomy of most of the Members of the Government, he might perhaps even find them vacant and equally unresponsive even after the establishment of this administrative intelligence room. Otherwise we should not have to be shouting here.

The Financial Adviser or Controller attached to this Department whoever it happen to be should have gone into these items more carefully and told the department that the Assembly will never grant items such as these so vaguely indicated and a vigilant Member like Ranga will surely take note of it and ask the department to give more information on such matters.

I would now like to deal with the Department of my Honourable friend the Leader of the House. It is not just a sort of slogan which we want to use in this House. It is a very real feeling and a feeling which my Honourable friend had better appreciate, and that is why I felt that if he had risen after me, he

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

would have contributed more effectively to the debate. The feeling is this that this department which is still in embryo, is trying to assume to itself work of a type which is seriously detrimental to the best interests of this country. The debate in this House on the National War Front had proved conclusively that the House is not prepared to trust itself to the methods of propaganda, to the types of propaganda and to the work done by organisations of that kind and it does not matter two hoots to us that that organisation is now spending less, or that having been abolished is coming back in a different form.

There is one particular item relating to the Information and Broadcasting Department, to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. That is on page 49, item E.—Bureau of Information. The actuals for 1943-44 is 9 lakhs. The revised estimate for 1944-45 is 9 lakhs 92 thousand. The Budget estimate for this year is 15 lakhs. I have no hesitation whatever in saying categorically that this Bureau of Information is used for the purpose perhaps of boosting the achievements of this Government, boosting the misstatements made by the Honourable Members and all that certainly to the detriment of the best interests of this country and we do not want any augmenting of that particular type of expenditure.

I now come to two other aspects of this matter of economy in expenditure which are before us. They are what kind of checks the Government might institute in regard to these items that are brought before the House in the shape of demands for grants prior to the Assembly going through them? And what could we do in regard to this continually mounting expenditure on the civil side?

I hope I shall not be doing anything improper if I refer to the work of the Standing Finance Committee, to which a reference was made by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in his closing speech on the day when the Budget was discussed. I happen to be a member of that committee. I would endorse all that was said by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in regard to the attempts made by this Committee in a formal manner to get a hang of what is happening and to see if there is any waste. But, Sir, I must say a fact—I think every Member in this House, who has been in a Committee will agree, that fourteen people sitting together without any definite basis to work upon and sort of blundering through by questions which we ask representatives of various Departments that appear before us cannot lead to very much. I grant that it has led to something. The Honourable the Finance Member did mention it but I would like to say that I agree with him that after all if fourteen people with one single mind want to get at something that is happening, it is not difficult to get a glimpse of it and that is probably what we have done. But is that committee and the type of work it does enough for the present? Is it adequate? Will that do to serve the purpose of check and the curtailment of waste which people in the House and outside believe is happening? Or do we want, a straightforward committee to deal with this subject, which will go through the whole gamut of expenditure and suggest retrenchment? It is a problem which is a somewhat difficult to deal with. I do appreciate the objection brought forward by my Honourable friend the Finance Member on the last occasion, that it is very difficult, particularly in any committee of this nature, to go through the whole expenditure of the Government, considering that every departmental official can say that in regard to furnishing of information or in regard to giving of evidence, the exigencies of the war and the increased work that it entails prevent them from doing so. If any illustration is wanted I would only cite the replies given by the Honourable Members on various occasions on the floor of the House and that would be adequate, for the purpose on hand. The exigencies of the war do not permit them to go into figures or give any information that is asked for by the Honourable Members of this House asked by them for the good of the people of this country. If a Committee is

appointed and if that committee has not got judicial powers to compel people to appear before them and give evidence, the officers of the various Government Departments might say that they could not disclose the figures that we want due to exigencies of the war. This consideration will always be brought up against the work of any Committee of economy or retrenchment. How to fit into the present condition, in which the Government is placed, a committee that could usefully suggest economy is a real problem. I have no doubt, in my mind, I agree fully with what Mr. Tyson has said and with what has been said by other Members of the House, that there ought to be a machinery for this matter of curtailing of expenditure and if we are to create a retrenchment committee, say, three years hence, probably it may be futile, for by then the mischief would have been done. I would like my Honourable friend the Finance Member to suggest now—I am sure he will say that he would not be in a position to commit his successor to any particular method but he could suggest now—one or two ways in which this difficulty can be overcome, because I think he will not deny that the fear that exists in the minds of the Members of this House is genuine and, at the same time, that there is in the minds of the Members of this House a genuine desire to help and not to impede him and his department in their work. I would like him to suggest how he would enlarge the functions of the Standing Finance Committee or any other committee that might take its place, in a definite and formal manner, not in an indefinite and in an informal manner, so that it can go into the entire Government expenditure not only as and when they arise after the Budget demands are granted but also prior to the Budget demands being formulated and placed before this House and, secondly what kind of committee will it have to be. If it is to be solely composed of Members of this legislature or perhaps a committee smaller in number with perhaps one or two departmental officers, which would do the spade work for a bigger committee to come in the future, if he thinks that a committee to do the entire work envisaged by the speakers before me is not possible. I am sure the House would be very grateful to hear from the Honourable the Finance Member as to what suggestions he has in mind in these two respects.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): While, I support this motion, I sincerely hope that the Government will not misconstrue the apparently universal approval of this House of this motion, misconstrue it into practising misdirected economy. The practice of economy is urgently needed but please do not misinterpret this motion into practising economy with regard to nation-building activities such as education, health, post-war planning and development. I think I heard the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution correctly when he referred to the extravagance by some of the Defence services. I am sorry that in this motion he did not refer specifically to the need for economy in the Defence services. While I realise that this House cannot vote on Defence expenditure, yet I feel that it is very essential to focus public opinion on this very vital matter. The most outstanding feature of the Budget estimates perhaps is the increasingly astronomical figures of the estimates of Defence expenditure; not only that, but the increasingly high proportion which Defence expenditure bears to the total budget estimates! I am, Sir, one of those who endorse the view that the war must be fought with the maximum of energy and with the maximum resources. I say that every need must be subordinated to the prime necessity of winning the war as successfully and as quickly as possible. But there is a peculiar attitude on the part of authorities, particularly the military authorities, to resent any criticism, however legitimate or justified that criticism may be, with regard to the expenditure on the Defence Services. I realise that we are fighting a war, a total war, and that there must be a margin of waste; but that margin must be kept within reasonable limits. It is fortunate, Sir, that you have public men in this country, who have the courage of their conviction and are prepared, at the risk of incurring the displeasure of the authorities, to focus attention on extravagance. There is a very real and widespread feeling in this

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country that, not seldom, Defence expenditure is characterised by the extravagance and immoderation of the reckless spendthrift. We feel—and I think I am expressing the view of the majority of the Members of this House—that economy, economy consistent with efficiency, can be very largely practised in regard to the Defence Services.

I will give one instance, it may not be a very good illustration, but it is an illustration nevertheless. I think the Honourable Finance Member referred to the very considerable expenditure incurred in distributing petrol in this country. If there was enough petrol to go round, I would not have commented on this matter, but we all know that the needs of the civilian have been cut to the bone. And I sincerely hope that with the intensification of the war in the East, there will not be a further curtailment of the civilian needs in this respect. Who does not know that in the Army they literally burn petrol, that they swim in petrol, while, as I said, the civilian is denied his essential needs in this matter? Military cars have been used for private and social purposes by senior officers and also by junior officers for taking their girl friends to dances. We would not grudge them this if there was enough petrol.

An Honourable Member: What about the money?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am coming to that. Then, there is another and real aspect to which my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has drawn attention. He has asked not only for a duplication, but a triplication if necessary, of the necessary checks, and I endorse that view. Do not misconstrue this plea for economy into reducing your expenditure on anti-corruption departments. There is a widespread feeling, and it is a very real feeling, in the country that while huge amounts are being spent on contracts, on civil supplies, on engineering projects, very huge amounts are going into the pockets of bribe-takers, which amounts are ultimately found by the tax-payer of the country. Do not pay, as you are doing, niggardly salaries to your anti-corruption officers who will in turn be encouraged to practise corruption. I have heard it said that it will soon be necessary perhaps for Government to establish a special anti-corruption department to look after their anti-corruption officers.

Sir, these matters are not demonstrable by documentary proof, but I get about the country, and I do draw the attention of the members of Government that this disease is not only widespread, but is increasing. In many places you hear of senior military and civilian officers who are feathering their nests. It is not a point to be easily rejected. We know there is widespread corruption both in the military and civil departments, and it is practised largely by some senior men.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will resume his speech after Lunch.

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

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

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: When we broke for lunch, Sir, I was commenting on the very real conviction in the country as to the widespread and growing evil of corruption; and I made a plea to the Government to strengthen the anti-corruption services in order to check this loss to the taxpayer, which probably amounts to several lakhs, if not crores of rupees. I also mentioned quite rightly that while there is this universal belief that corruption is prevalent and continues to grow, it is not a matter which can always be proved by means of documentary evidence. But I would say this, that when one hears people talk and talk freely of corruption with regard to departments and with regard to individuals placed high, in those departments, it is not for us to dismiss this talk lightly or airily or with an air of righteous indignation. Because I feel that there

is always a very real substratum of truth in this talk about corruption; particularly with regard to those departments, civil and military, which are concerned with supplies and contracts and building works. A story is told, and it is symbolical of a brigadier who was accepting tenders. A certain tender was submitted by a certain contractor in respect of a certain commodity: he quoted a certain rate for a particular item represented in that commodity; the brigadier told him "I see that you have quoted Rs. 7-8-0 per item for this particular thing." This man got rather frightened and he said "Well, if you think Rs. 7-8-0 is too high, I will reduce my quotation to Rs. 5." The brigadier thereupon told him "Oh, no; you silly ass, I want you to raise it to Rs. 10; and of this extra amount three-fourth will be taken by me and the rest, one-quarter, will go to you." This is more than a story; it is symbolical of a very real evil in the country today. And I will take this opportunity of congratulating the *Statesman* for its courage in drawing attention to this very real evil. It may not have commended itself to the Government authorities—its outspoken leader on this matter—but it has focussed attention on a very real disease in this country. And as the *Statesman* very rightly pointed out, unfortunately the anti-corruption department, as it is at present constituted, or misconstituted, does not get hold of the real and substantial bribe-taker: it gets hold of the small fry, the man who is tempted by a few rupees. And in this connection I have a suggestion to make. I do not think it is a very far-fetched suggestion. I believe the French Government have adopted it and it is this. Freeze the banking accounts of those civil and military officials who have had anything to do with supplies and contracts and building works; get hold of their accounts from 1939 onwards and ask them to explain in detail how they have come by their money. I believe that corruption is in fact practised so blatantly and brazenly that many of them have not hesitated to put all their money into banks, openly. I know this proposal may be dismissed. But the French Government have adopted it; it required not only imagination but also courage. I also know it may lead to a widespread exposure of men placed very high in the Government services. But if you want to have a thorough cleansing of this evil from the Government services, you must do something effective, something drastic has to be adopted.

It is my experience—I do not know whether it is peculiar to me—that whenever any plea is made on behalf of the poor person—I am talking here of misdirected economy which is a very real tendency in the Finance Department—whenever any real plea is made on behalf of the poor person and the worker, the soldier and the man who is fighting for you, I am told by the people right at the top "We are up against the Finance Department. These authorities themselves have all sorts of epithets against the Finance Department—such as, soul-destroying, unimaginative, dead department that insists on technicalities, insists on denying elementary rights to the poorest people". That is why, while speaking on this motion, I have laid so much emphasis on the need of practising economy where economy is obviously and urgently needed; but I do not want this to be used as an excuse for perhaps accentuating your present niggardly policy, a policy of denial which has become increasingly evident with regard to certain departments. In the budget estimates. I noticed that an appreciable item of increased expenditure is represented by

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

Mr. Frank B. Anthony: . . . by the increased allowances to British soldiers and officers in this country. I do not begrudge them these. But I do ask the Government of this country to pay some consideration to our own soldiers and officers. I have drawn attention over and over again to the gross and unwarranted discrimination made between the salaries of Indian commissioned officers and European commissioned officers. Finally as my time is almost up, I would like to comment as caustically as possible on the sheer plutocratic cynicism with which the Honourable the Finance Member dealt with my request for a dearness allowance to pensioners. He admitted that in England they are giving relief to people drawing up £640 by way of pension; and said at the same time

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"We are not bound to follow that policy". You may not be bound to follow that policy, but you are bound to treat with a certain degree of consideration your old Government servants, men who are disabled and maimed, yes disabled as a result of the service they gave during the last war. My time is up, Sir, and I would again emphasise my main theme that I support this motion: practise economy particularly with regard to the army; practise it particularly with regard to certain departments which have to deal with supplies; but do not practise it with regard to people who have really served you and those who are continuing to serve you.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, at the very outset I must state that I am in general sympathy with any effort which is made to reduce expenditure, though I must frankly state that I am a bit nervous about the word 'retrenchment'. (*An Honourable Member*: "Economy.") Mr. Anthony used the word 'economy'; I quite understand it; but of the word 'retrenchment' I am a bit nervous. I was myself a member of a retrenchment committee for the province of Bengal. I have studied the question of retrenchment measures that had been adopted in past years, particularly in the Provinces—I cannot say so much of the Centre. I have also seen a little bit of the retrenchment when the last retrenchment measures were taken; and I am afraid that though oftentimes the retrenchment begins with very good intentions, it ends with economy of a certain type which is not always very desirable. I remember that as a result of the economy a very large part of the work of the Archaeological Department had to be curtailed. I know in the province of Bengal as a result of economy or retrenchment as you may call it, a good number of educational institutions had to suffer. I make it quite clear that, speaking not as one interested in the administrative work of a department, but of the country as a whole, we should guard ourselves, as Mr. Anthony has said, that in retrenchment or economy we do not lose sight of our ultimate objective. If there is a department—say, the Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies Department—where there are a good number of officials, I am quite prepared to see as to whether there is need for them all or not, and the sooner the need is ended the better it is that it should be terminated. Speaking not only on behalf of a particular department in the Government of India but also as one with the experience in the Government of Bengal where I was for one time, I would say this, people do not know the extent to which we have to struggle with the Finance Department before we can have an officer sanctioned or some staff sanctioned. I always felt that the life of a department is too exhausted at times by repeatedly appealing to the Finance Department. It is only proper that it should be so. The Finance Department is there to watch the financial interests of the country and they must be fully satisfied before they agree to a particular measure.

At the same time I do hope that it will also be realised that India today is not what it was about 10 years back or even five years back. The changing phases that have come in the economic life of the country, the changing phases that are likely to come as a result of a bold and planned policy of industrial and commercial development in this country will require much larger expenditure and the present staff will not be adequate for such a task. A question has been asked about the Administrative Intelligence Room. If my friend will refer to page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum he will find a few lines in explanation of it. I would say that this Administrative Intelligence Room is an organisation where statistical information relating to vital administrative problems could be kept continuously in display in a collective form, so that all civil departments can immediately get facts and figures they want in order to enable them to come to a quick decision. Take for example, the question of the allocation of a commodity like coal. A map in the Intelligence Room showing the requirements and exports to different areas in terms of wagon loads would present at once the statistical bearings of the problem and enable quick decisions to be taken. In fact, such a room has been found to be extremely useful in England. An officer of the Central Statistical Office of the War Cabinet visited India. They

had seen a similar room in operation in the Army Headquarters and as a result of discussion between the different departments it was settled some time ago that something on those lines was also urgently necessary for the Civil departments. For myself, I have been grappling with the difficulty of getting immediately exact statistical materials. If there is a department which can immediately supply all the requirements, it will be very useful. May I mention here that the time has come when we will have to replan all our statistical information that we have got and also our official reports. As a result of very careful consideration, we have appointed a committee in the Commerce Department under the Economic Adviser, in which all the departments planning the future of statistical materials to be collected for this country are interested.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member what is the price he proposes to pay for this room? Why this lump sum provision?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is a section which is working. A part of it has been started by the War Office and that will be transferred as soon as it is fully functioning. The staff question is being discussed between the Finance Department and the Department concerned. May I say, and I think the Finance Member will agree with me, that the mere passing of the Budget does not give us authority to spend that money unless we can satisfy the Finance Department that every bit of expenditure is necessary, unless of course it is covered by any permissible item which has already been granted. The Statistical Officer who came to study the conditions here thought that it will lose its useful purpose unless it is attached to a Central Statistical organisation which we have got in this country. Instead of making it a part of the War Department, it was decided to make it a part of the Commerce Department which is responsible for the collation and collection of all the statistical intelligence. I shall give a concrete case. Here is the question of the different controls. I know that in the Textile Branch alone a very large amount of data will have to be collected before we can be sure in our mind—as we are sure in our mind generally—that certain steps which we are taking are the steps which should be continued and the question of the effect of controls on the general economy can only be studied on collection of a very vast amount of materials. Take the question of controls of prices and the profit margin. A detailed inquiry will have to be made as to how they are distributed, what are the transport charges, what is the margin of profit given to the trader and so on. I know my friend Mr. Tyson will not like this question of control. The average Englishman never likes any control although he is the most controlled person. He always has a grievance when a law is being enacted but once the law is enacted, he is the most loyal human being. When we have to administer these controls we have to see their reactions in different aspects. Take the question of yarn. We have certain data in the Fact Finding Committee's Report but that data is acquiring a new pattern as a result of the war. We have to consider the needs of the producing areas, how they can be supplied and distributed and so on and that can only be done by having adequate statistical data. Instead of each department appointing a staff for itself, this section will supply all the necessary materials from the Commerce Department and these details will be available to the different departments whenever they are required.

In conclusion I will only say that I do hope it will be realised that in all the departments, and I am particularly speaking with reference to the Industries and Civil Supplies and the Commerce Departments, our officers are now worked up to such a pitch that there is no holiday and no leave. They are working up to 8 or 9 or 9-30 at night in the midst of terrible difficulties. I myself cannot conscientiously say that any retrenchment is possible in the different sections for the time being in the existing condition of things. When present conditions change, there may not be need for a section or two. We will ourselves consider as to how we will do it. At the same time there are activities which have got to be expanded. I am giving one aspect.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: We are quite disposed to give you a lakh of rupees now.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Take the Seamen's Welfare Organisation. We have got to see that a proper section is there to look after the interests of these thousands of people who are keeping the life line open. Our gratitude is due to them for what they have done for this country. Something has to be done for them and that side of activity has naturally to expand. The result is a certain amount of more expenditure. I can assure the House that the two particular Departments for which I have been responsible have been over-worked and I sometimes wonder whether I can retrench anything in these two Departments. I can only say that this is an expanding Department and if India is to progress, if living conditions are to increase, then much more is demanded from these two Departments of Government. I have always felt that unless there is extravagant waste, it is not pounds, shillings and pence that run the world, but something more in the nature of service that a Government can do by spending pounds, shillings and pence. I can assure the House that we are constantly watchful about it, but if existing conditions continue, I think it will be difficult for us to talk of reduction in expenditure. If the Honourable the Finance Member should accept responsibility for retrenchment and ask my Department to help him, I am afraid that I can not find the officer or the staff to prepare materials which are necessary in order that the Retrenchment Committee might properly function. I have seen during this Budget Session, the staff working till ten o'clock at night and coming to office the next morning at nine of the clock. They work without holidays and even on religious occasions, on the 14 day they come to office as soon as the religious functions are over. These are the conditions under which they are working. As I say, I have the fullest sympathy with the objects of the Motion. But speaking on behalf of the two Departments over which I preside, I may say that if tomorrow a Retrenchment Committee is appointed, it will be extremely difficult unless the Finance Department sanctions additional staff, to find the necessary staff in my department to collect materials. Lastly I have to say that I fully feel that in any retrenchment, if we have the good of the country at heart, then let there be economy, let there be no waste, but let not expenditure which is necessary be curtailed.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, I should like to preface my remarks by a few general observations. In the first place, I speak as a Member of a Group that throughout this War has consistently supported the Government in its demand for war credits. Further, we are prepared to continue to vote for the legitimate and necessary war demands. When I say, necessary, I want to emphasise that word. I hope that that emphasis will not be misconstrued by Honourable Members sitting on the two Front Benches as evidence of my irresponsibility. Secondly I am very conscious that there is war on. My relations are fighting, some as commander who have been wounded several times and so, I do not want it to be cast in our teeth that we are not conscious that there is war on. We all know that, and we equally know that fighting men cannot stop to count the cost. When the Japs are at the door of Bengal, the Government obviously cannot stop to enquire too closely into expenditure that the military have to incur in order to drive the Japs back from the coast of Bengal. We realise fully that when there is war, there is also colossal waste. War, in fact, is the most organised form of waste which is possible for human mind to conceive.

Thirdly, Sir, I am fully conscious that there is inflation. Indeed I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member will admit that so far back as November 1941, I expressed myself as being uneasy as to the future outlook in this regard, and I have on more than one occasion in the past spoken on that subject. I do not want it therefore to be quoted by Government in reply to our cut motion that because there is inflation, therefore you have more expenditure and therefore nothing can be done. We, Sir, do not hold these views. Therefore, Sir, when I speak of expenditure of Central Government and say that it is too great, and constantly growing greater and must be reduced at a very early opportunity, I speak with a full sense of responsibility. Now, Sir, we find that in 1939-40 under the head voted expenditure—leaving all defence expenditure out

of it—we spent 23 crores 98 lakhs in 1942-43, it was perhaps slightly higher the voted expenditure was in the neighbourhood of 38 crores 77 lakhs, for the coming year, it is proposed that such expenditure should be of the order of 62 crores. Now, Sir, that is a colossal addition to ordinary revenue expenditure and it takes no account at all either of capital expenditure or of loans to Provinces or of doles being given by the Honourable Member to the Provinces. It is time therefore that we should consider this matter.

Fourthly, Sir, the Public Accounts Committee in their last Report in 1942-43 revealed scandalous cases of corruption and waste of public funds. The Government themselves, the Finance Department and the Audit Department fully supported the views of those of us who are non-official Members of that Committee.

Fifthly, I have before me now a copy of the Circular issued by the Finance Department on 25th October 1944, copies of which were given to Members of the Standing Finance Committee. In that circular I find that the then Secretary of the Department says this: "It is now most essential not only to curtail new expenditure, but to prune the existing expenditure as far as possible". Well, Sir, I am glad to have the opportunity of quoting that circular because I feel that it shows that however much they may have failed to cope with the increase of expenditure, the officers of the Finance Department have at least recognised what we all recognise this growing danger to the stability of the State. They go on in that circular to point out how expenditure has been growing and how very necessary it is that in every possible way, Government's unnecessary expenditure should be curtailed.

Finally, Sir, the Standing Finance Committee, of which I am a Member, has begun to kick at the supplementary demands which some of the Departments are constantly bringing forward and on that subject, the Public Accounts Committee had some very strong remarks to make.

Now, Sir, I revert for the moment to the first part of my speech where I commented on the growth of expenditure of the Central Government. In addition to the voted expenditure in 1939-40 of 23 crores 98 lakhs, there was an additional expenditure of 25 crores under heads which are non-voted. In 1942-43 the voted expenditure of 38 crores 77 lakhs was supplemented by approximately 33 crores of non-voted expenditure, again leaving aside defence expenditure. In the coming year, 1945-46, the voted expenditure of 62 crores is to be supplemented by non-voted expenditure other than defence of no less than 82 crores. Sir, all I can say is that these are staggering figures and I cannot conceive that there is justification for a lot of that expenditure. I am absolutely satisfied from what I have heard and learnt as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and of the Standing Finance Committee that a great deal of this expenditure can and should be avoided. These figures, I may say, compare with the defence expenditure before the war that only amounted to 54 crores. Now, Sir, how have these vast increases of expenditure come about? They have come about in three or four different ways. In the first place corruption and waste about which the Public Accounts Committee have had so much to say. And of course we all know that a good deal of that corruption and waste is laid at the door of the war. It rather reminds me of the last war when we were told when anything went wrong in the Middle East that it was all due to the expenditure in Mesopotamia. And a very old lady when once asked what this Mesopotamia scandal meant said; "I don't know, all I know is that it is some kind of frightful scandal and some kind of frightful waste".

3 P.M.

Now, Sir, we do not want planning, post-war or otherwise, or expanded economy or any of those other blessed words of this day to be used as a kind of cloak for the kind of waste we are talking about. One of my colleagues drew to my attention, just before I spoke, a very good example of waste right under the noses of the Members of this Assembly. Outside our Group room there have been lying for two or three, if not four, years steel shelving and bicycle racks, both very urgently in demand and no doubt in short supply for all those new

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer]

buildings that are coming out like mushrooms all over Delhi. But these things lie outside the European Group room still facing the sun and the rain and all the other elements and rusting and rotting away.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the House made a spirited defence of part of his gigantic department. He defended the All-India Radio and said that it had won high praise from no less a person than Lord Reith. I have no doubt at all, Sir, that the All-India Radio station is one of the finest in the world and I am quite prepared to admit that it is so. But what I should like to say is that the Honourable the Leader of the House said very little about the other scandals—cases of waste, if I may say so—that go in the departments under his control. I do not want to say very much about that because I know that he is not wholly responsible. It is true that a lot of this expenditure which is going on is being incurred by his department, but it is being done at the dictation and at the request of other departments.

From that, Sir, I come straight to the doles to the provinces, because one of the biggest sources of waste under the National War Front is arising from the expenditure by the provinces of public money voted by us and given by the Government of India to these provinces. And on that subject I should like to read what the Public Accounts Committee had to say. I may say that their views were based on a very serious report placed before them by the Auditor General of India. What they said was this:

"A substantial amount of expenditure under this head—the National War Front and War Publicity—arose from grants made to provinces for expenditure on war publicity with regard to which audit have been finding the greatest difficulty in getting its requirements satisfied."

Sir, I consider that an absolute condemnation of some of these Provincial Governments, and when, immediately following the vote of this House condemning some of the expenditure on the National War Front, two Provincial Governments, promptly announce that they are not going to reduce their expenditure under this head by a single rupee, I think it is time that we made a very spirited protest.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I should like to explain that we are not going to pay one single pice for the National War Front expenditure.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Is the Honourable Member speaking of his own department or the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am talking of the Government of India.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I am very glad to hear that news; it is the best news that I have heard from the Government of India for a long time.

Then the third great cause of waste is the undue and excessive growth of the Central Government in Delhi. I deny entirely the view that the Central Government can do nothing unless it has more staff and more departments, etc. In fact I am reminded of a case that happened to me very recently in somewhat similar circumstances. One of the heads of departments in our firm came to me and said, "Can you help so and so?"—naming a poor retired clerk who had built for himself a nice house just outside Calcutta. I said I would do my best if he would give me all the facts. The clerk came and told me that the A. R. P. had their eyes on his house and they were going to requisition it; notwithstanding the fact that next-door to it there were two empty houses. I tried to help him and, to cut a long story short, I was successful in doing so. The moral of that story was this, not that I was able to help this poor clerk and gave his house, but that had I taken up the attitude of the Government of India I should of course have been able to do nothing because I had no powers and I could not exercise the Defence of India Rules; I could not appeal to any high authority in any direction. The only reason why I took any action was that I felt that a wrong has been done and that it should be righted, and of course it was righted; because, the moment the matter was brought to the attention of the police they did something about it and the man's house was saved.

Finally, a great source of waste arises from policy itself.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I should just like to say on that point that the policy of the departments, we have now learnt in the Standing Finance Committee, is their responsibility—the individual responsibility of the individual departments—and it is their clear duty in those circumstances to devote the coming year to doing all they can to eliminate waste in every possible direction.

Sir, I am sorry I have not more time to conclude with more detailed and specific conclusions, because I should have liked to say that I do not want Government to reply to this debate that our criticisms really cancel each other out. I want this rake's progress of wasteful expenditure, which has nothing to do with the war, to be stopped. We do not want new and unwanted departments to crop up every day in Delhi, and we want post-war expenditure to be placed where it belongs, where the Finance Member himself said it should belong, after the war and not now.

Finally, we want the Government of India to stop looking on the taxpayer like a sort of collective farm from which Farmer Raisman or his successor is expected to produce the milk! Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I am not sure whether I shall be able to support the motion moved by the European Group, judging by the speeches which they have made in support of their cut motion. I am not one of those people who consider that increased expenditure itself is an evil. The instances given by the representatives of the European Group of Government's expenditure having gone up tremendously does not itself prove that the retrenchment of that expenditure is necessary. I feel that it is not increased expenditure to which we should object. As a matter of fact if this country wants to be developed we want more and more expenditure. What we therefore need is more expenditure but wise expenditure; and I should like the Finance Member to follow that maxim that if they believe in developing this country it will be a wrong thing for this country to try and cut down expenditure. Otherwise we shall remain a poor and undeveloped country, and therefore let us give up this slogan of retrenchment. Our slogan should not be less expenditure. Our slogan should be 'more expenditure and more developments'. Let this country give up once and for all the desire to remain backward. We must have development in every way, we must develop the social security of our people, we must develop our agriculture . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Our debts!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, our debts also. There is nothing wrong in having large amounts of productive debts.

Development of the people is not a bad thing at all, and therefore I feel I cannot support this motion.

I would like the Government to follow the policy of more expenditure and development of this country. At the same time I would like them to observe economy. I am against any expenditure which is not intended for the development of the people. I am against any expenditure which does not go to help the development of this country. The European Group said that there is corruption. Root out corruption by all means, but that does not mean retrenchment—I do not like this word 'retrenchment'; I am prepared to have the word 'control'. I would like the control of Legislature to be increased. Certainly there are many methods of increasing the control of the Legislature over the expenditure incurred by the Government of India. We have the Public Accounts Committee. Instead of the Public Accounts Committee meeting for a fortnight in a year, let the Committee meet for two months in a year; instead of depending upon mere reports of the Auditor General, let them go into further details. I was once a member of the Public Accounts Committee and I know we used to get detailed reports from the Auditor General. After some time those reports were not placed before the Public Accounts Committee . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They never read them.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will not say that. I would like the control of the Legislature to be increased. The Public Accounts Committee cannot finish its business, if they do it well, in a fortnight or three weeks' time. Let them sit longer.

Similarly, the Standing Finance Committee can exercise more control. Let them insist upon more information being given, let them insist upon more meetings being held. I will go a step further and say that this Committee should not only go into new expenditure, but should examine the expenditure of the various departments from time to time as it is done by the Standing Finance Committee of the House of Commons. But the House does not insist upon it.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We have insisted again and again.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Then, Sir, the danger of this agitation for retrenchment is that retrenchment is made in the wrong direction, as has happened before. Only yesterday the Honourable the Labour Member told you that you cut the geological survey staff and then you find that your geological department does not develop. You will not have a proper mineral policy.

Then, Sir, there is another danger of this retrenchment business. You reduce the salaries of the staff. We have had that experience during the last retrenchment drive. Poor clerks, subordinate officers and even the inferior servants of the Government of India suffered on account of that retrenchment. It is a wrong policy to treat your servants badly, and therefore I am generally against these motions for retrenchment. It is a wrong policy to pay poorly to public servants. I know there are some officers of the Government of India, who as compared to the general level of income of the common people, are paid very highly. I have no doubt on that point. A salary of rupees three to four thousand a month is high considering the average income of the Indian citizen which is only one hundred rupees a year. But when we judge the income of a public servant, let us judge it also in relation to the income which is made by people represented by the European Group.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Commercial people.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If an officer gets Rs. 3,000 a month, I have no doubt that he is getting more, but if you judge his salary of Rs. 3,000 a month in relation to the incomes which the Members of the European Group make, I am sure you will agree with me that his salary is low. His yearly income comes to thirty-six thousand rupees whereas I have no doubt most of the Members of the European Group must be earning a lakh of rupees a year. . .

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Mr. Lawson, why don't you protest?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He may protest. I have no doubt that the incomes of public servants in higher grades are large, but if I have to restrict the incomes of any people I shall not begin with the public servant, but I shall begin with limiting the incomes of others who are making much larger incomes than public servants. What business has any man to have an income of one lakh a year when the average man in this country gets only one hundred rupees a year? Therefore the best policy for this Legislature and for the Government to follow is to limit the incomes of those people who are getting more than they should have or they ought to be allowed to have, and after doing that I shall certainly be in favour of reducing the salaries of those public servants who are getting much more as compared to the average man. Therefore, Sir, I am afraid I cannot support this motion.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This has been a most interesting debate, and I have no doubt that my successor will pay a good deal of attention to what has been said in the course of this debate because after all it will very much concern him; it will concern him more than it can possibly concern me in the few days which are left to me to be in charge of this Department.

I would like, in the first place, to make it quite clear, that I am entirely in agreement with the main object of this motion and I am entirely in sympathy with the motives which prompted it. In fact as my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari said this is one of the rare occasions on which he was able to agree with the Group on his left and apparently the other Groups on his right, and I can say that this is one of the rare occasions on which I am able to agree with them all. I am reminded of the origin of the word 'economy', which is a Greek word meaning, in effect, housekeeping, and that reminded me again of the domestic scene which is not uncommon in the lives of most of us. When we decide to check up on the way the family budget is going and husband and wife say 'The bills for last month came to so much, this cannot go on', at that stage they represent a measure of very solid agreement. Then they come to examine the details and, well, there are certain bills which of course neither of them can disapprove of—school bills and so on. They have to admit their responsibility to their children and so on. Then you get to the variable items, the items for which one or other or possibly other members of the family are responsible and you get a wide divergence of views. It is agreed that the total amount must definitely be brought down. It must be brought down within the limits of the revenue, but there is unfortunately the most acute difference as to precisely what bills shall not be paid or what items shall be discarded. The Finance Department finds itself in precisely this difficulty. The Finance Department stands alone in the Government of India. It is a kind of Ishmael: its hand is against every departmental man and every man's hand is against it. It is only on occasions when it has to be criticised, when it has to be attacked that it finds itself in the dock along with all the others.

Let me say one thing: My Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, used an adjective about the Finance Department which I must admit caused my hackles to rise. I think he used the word 'senescent' about the Finance Department as compared with certain other lusty young infants of the Government of India. I would like to assure my Honourable friend that I have always believed that any Government that has to be efficient must have a fortress in the Treasury, it must have a powerful Finance Department. Show me a Government with a weak Finance Department and I will show you an inefficient and corrupt Government. That is my opinion and it is not merely because I have spent so much of my life in the Finance Department. But it is my firm conviction that it is only in a strong Finance Department that the efficiency and the integrity of the administration can be maintained. Therefore, I have myself, like my distinguished predecessor before me, always concentrated on maintaining the strength and efficiency of the Finance Department. I believe the Department to contain as good a selection of officials available in this country as can be found anywhere. In fact, in normal times the criticism is that the Finance Department is too powerful. There is perhaps in normal times a danger that the Finance Department may be too powerful and that may impart rather a negative tone to the whole administration. It is quite possible that many of the charges that are levelled against the Government of India in normal times have been due to the dominance of the Finance Department. As far as I am concerned, I think that the strength of the Finance Department relatively to the other Departments should be maintained, but it cannot be done at all times and particularly it cannot be done in war time. The Finance Department cannot claim to be the arbiter of all public questions in war time to the extent to which it claims to do in peace. We have to recognise that fact, particularly of course on the military side. We have greatly strengthened the staffs of the Finance Department on the Defence and Supply sides, but obviously there comes a point at which the Finance Department, however zealous, has to accept, and must accept a statement, say of operational necessity. I merely say that by way of dispelling the suggestion that the Finance Department has become weak or senescent.

Mr. G. W. Tyson: On a point of explanation. The actual words used were: "Aging but not yet senescent".

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg my Honourable friend's pardon but the use of that adjective, shall I say, imparted a somewhat sinister colour to the whole sentence and even as regards the aging, I think the Finance Department, like the Phoenix will continue to renew itself and live on its traditions.

My friend drew a somewhat harrowing picture of the morphology of war Finance and he thought that we were rapidly approaching the stage of the morning after the night before. I am not sure in what stage we are. One of the cheering things about this motion is that it can be moved in these times. I regard it as one of the signs of victory. It is one of the first glimpses of dawn that people are talking of peace, retrenchment and reform. We have not yet got peace and we are thinking of retrenchment. I hope we will have peace very soon. I cannot say that I hope we will have retrenchment in the ordinary sense, because although I am in sympathy with the motive of economy, I agree with those speakers who remember that some of the most unwise things ever done by any Government were done in this country in the name of retrenchment and I hope that will never be done again.

Sir F. E. James: The Inchcape Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That would raise a great many problems but I will not have the time to develop my case about them. But I should have liked to have heard the Honourable Mover, who I know is an economist and a journalist of some repute in these matters, on the question of how this country, or any country, is to deal with the problem which arises when you have a sudden collapse of public expenditure. In this country the problem is going to be much more serious than in others because in other countries—take the United Kingdom—you have a certain figure of expenditure, say five to six thousand million pounds which the Government of that country must presumably control or adjust by stages till they come down to what is their target as the normal peace-time budget and the economy of the country will be adjusted accordingly. But remember that in this country you may suddenly have a collapse of public expenditure due entirely to external causes, a decrease of a colossal order—that public expenditure, supposing it is proceeding at the rate of, shall we say, one thousand crores at the present time (I include of course Allied war expenditure)—you may find that more than half of that expenditure has just disappeared over night. That raises economic problems of formidable magnitude and I do not know whether the Honourable Mover of this cut has thought of the problems that would come in the wake of that sudden decrease. I have no doubt that he has views on that subject. But what that does emphasize is that retrenchment—the mere wielding of an axe—will not be a simple remedy to apply to the conditions of the morning after the night before. It is not quite as easy as taking Rose's lime juice cordial.

The Mover of this resolution and several other speakers drew attention to the figures of increase in the Civil Departments. They said broadly, "Well, defence expenditure we understand; that may expand through causes over which you have no control. But what about the Civil Departments?" I must admit that the figure at first sight looks horrible. But let us look at it more closely. What is the cause of this large increase in the order of the figure in the total of civil expenditure? I have before me a complete breakdown of these items, and if we do attempt to axe, I should like to know which particular items different sections of the House would choose to be axed first,—supposing we were an *ad hoc* retrenchment committee. I will just refer to some of the larger items which are responsible for the total increase of some Rs. 60 crores.

There is interest on debt which this year stands at Rs. 10 crores. Actually in the Budget there is a figure of Rs. 21 crores. I presume that at any

rate the Mover approves of the policy of borrowing in order to counteract inflation and therefore so long as expenditure over which we have so little control as the military expenditure including the expenditure of other Governments continues, we have to neutralise that by borrowing and the volume of debt increases and with it the amount of interest goes up. That is one of the items in the Civil Budget. It is as large as Rs. 21 crores.

Now I find an item of the Bombay explosion—Rs. 10½ crores this year and another Rs. 5½ crores next year. Well I thought the Government of India were responding to a widespread public demand when without going too deeply into the litigious aspects of the matter, they decided to draw up a rapid scheme of compensation, without waiting to explore too fully where the final liability would lie. At any rate for the moment that is a charge against our Civil Departments.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Has this liability been found out by the Court of Enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Those are the amounts for which we are accepting liability as a result of the operations of the Claims Tribunal.

Then we have the assistance to Bengal. As far as I remember, the Honourable the Leader of the European Group himself last year rebuked me for the niggardly provision which I had made for Bengal and he was supported in that by Dr. Banerjee.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about next year, at the instance of these very gentlemen?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: At the moment I have accepted no liability under this head for next year.

Then there is UNRRA. I understand it to be pretty generally accepted by this House that we should participate in that and having agreed to participation in it, we must make a contribution which is reasonably consistent with India's status in the Comity of Nations.

These are all large figures and they make a very big hole in your 50 or 60 crores of increase. I do suggest that it is a little unfair to take the figure previous to these happenings and the figure afterwards and give the impression that there has been a monstrous growth of civil expenditure over which there should have been more control. I could go on with several other items, not as large as those, but the fact of the matter is that when you try to get down to the hard core of these things, the amount which is at all debatable is extraordinarily small. I find, for instance, that the total increase in General Administration is only of the order of two crores and that has to include the effect of all dearness allowances and all compensatory allowances of that kind to meet the increased cost of living. When you take into account the size of the Government of India especially, an increase of two crores to meet the increases in the cost of living in the last few years seems to me rather to support Mr. Anthony's and Mr. Joshi's contention.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What does the Food Department cost you extra over pre-war times?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Food Department costs 42 lakhs, but it is not merely that. There again we are involved in the purchase of very large quantities of food grains: we are involved in very large financial transactions. I ask the . . .

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: And paying blackmail to Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We are also involved in assisting Provincial Governments or compensating them for what they consider that they have lost.

I am sorry that my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari deprived me of the opportunity of dealing with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. But I would point out that if we are to cope with the problems of the present day, and in particular if we are to meet the desire of this House that extravagance should be curbed and waste minimized we must have controllers

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]

and advisers in all the various departments which spend money at this time. If anything, I should say that the staff at our disposal is very inadequate for the new responsibilities which it has had to undertake and so far from incurring criticism on the ground of a few additional posts, we ought to be urged to increase our staff and increase the scale of the Finance Department's controlling activities. You cannot control an expenditure of this magnitude without having the staff—and by staff I do not mean clerks or chaprassies; you have to have officers who are capable of standing up to high level officers and also outside people; you have to have staff of a high level of ability and generally high status and of course of high integrity.

My friend Mr. Anthony was afraid of misdirected economy. He thought that we should be more generous in certain directions and that our economy should be limited to certain sectors, or rather certain horizontal levels rather than sectors; in fact, as far as I can make out, what he thought was that we could produce economy by dealing drastically with the superior staff and giving more money to the lower staff. Whatever may be said of the merits of that proposal from the point of view of equalising incomes among Government servants, as a means of reducing the total cost of administration, it is a very poor idea, because, as has been so often pointed out, the salaries charge is in the form of a pyramid, and if you reduce the salaries of the Members of the Executive Council to one rupee a year and of all the Secretaries of the Government of India to one rupee a year, that may not pay the cost of giving the chaprassies, etc., an extra rupee a month in one single large town, much less in the whole of the Government of India. And if you are to be generous to the lower staff, as I said, whatever may be said about the merits or the equity of that, the financial effect of it will certainly not be one of economy. It is an unfortunate fact that in dealing with the lower establishments, on account of their large numbers, a rupee or two a month at that level means crores of addition to the cost.

I was glad to see that Mr. Joshi had something to say for the staff generally, for the public servant generally and I agree with him that if we were fixing new levels of salaries, then there is something to be said for looking at the public servants' salaries in the light of emoluments which can be earned in business circles.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Legal circles.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I leave out legal circles: the cost would be astronomical. But it is a fact that a Government official in many instances would have opportunities open to him, if he went into business and if your scale of salaries is completely out of relation to the rewards which are available for people of that type in business, then you will have a very discontented staff.

In the few minutes left to me I would like to get back to the practical question of what we can do. My friend Mr. Krishnamachari made some suggestions. I would remind the House that even last year I was not out of sympathy with the general feeling of the House as regards the desire to secure economy. Last year I was being pressed to appoint a Committee: I found that different speakers in different parts of the House had entirely different ideas as to what the type of the Committee should be, and what should be the work they would do. In the event I followed the course of consulting the Standing Finance Committee. I told the House, before the election to the Standing Finance Committee, that I had come to the conclusion that that would be the best course to follow, and I hoped that the House in electing members to that Committee would bear this in mind. As Mr. Krishnamachari has said, we have had very useful discussions on this informal side of the Standing Finance Committee. He feels that the Committee is perhaps too large to get down to the brass tacks which ought to be

handled in doing a job like this. What I do feel is this. In order to evolve some practical method of dealing with this matter, you must of course get round the table a certain number of representatives of this House. But I still feel that it is very much the concern of the Standing Finance Committee. The Standing Finance Committee deals with proposals for new expenditure, and it has access to departmental officials who have to appear before it and answer questions. Now the main difficulty in the Standing Finance Committee's procedure in the past has been that it merely had to deal with the menu which was placed before it. What I have in mind is that the Committee should meet as a Committee with wider terms of reference, and should consider in what way this problem can be tackled. I had this in mind when the Committee first met, I have invited the Committee themselves to suggest in what way their activities could be best pursued and in what way they could best contribute to the prevention of extravagance and waste. There are two reasons why I think that the Standing Finance Committee must devote its mind to this question and must in fact advise the Finance Member as to how this matter should be tackled. One reason I have already given, namely, that the Standing Finance Committee, after all, is elected by this House for a purpose which is closely akin to the purpose of maintaining economy, in fact, it is directly for that purpose. The other reason is this: I feel that my successor should have the advantage of meeting representatives of this House and discussing this question round a table, and in the non-formal aspect of the Standing Finance Committee. I feel that the Standing Finance Committee should advise my successor as to what they think is the best way in which at this time the question of economy and prevention of extravagance can most satisfactorily be pursued:

Well, Sir, I have already said that I entirely sympathise with the objects of the Mover, and I sympathise with everything that is common to all those who have spoken on the subject, and of course there is a great deal which is not common. If I were remaining in charge of the Department the method that I would proceed on would be what I have indicated. I feel my successor would study the proceedings of this House with great interest, I have no doubt he will study the proceedings in this particular debate, and I hope, when he comes to meet the Standing Finance Committee, they will be able to make to him some valuable suggestions to which I feel sure he will have a receptive mind. He has considerable experience in dealing with questions of public expenditure, and he has long administrative experience, and I have no doubt that he will be able to consider this matter with the Committee in a useful and practical way.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The time is up, then we have to go to the next motion. The time for the European Group has expired, and therefore it is now the turn of the unattached Members.

Nawabzada Muhammad Llaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order, when you stood up to put the motion to vote there were still a few seconds left. Once you had started putting the question, the motion must be put to vote, whether the time is up or it is not.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Is that the desire of the House?—

Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I was going to put it to vote, but was told that the time was up.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The time is at the disposal of Unattached Members. . . .

Honourable Members: Order, Order.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. G. W. Tyson: In view of the very satisfactory reply of the Finance Member I want to withdraw the cut motion.

● **Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** It is too late now. The Assembly divided:

AYES—57

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Ayyangar, Mr. M., Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
James, Sir F. E.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.

Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navairai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—37.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwer Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Menon, Mr. P. M.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francia.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Gulam Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR—contd.
Labour Policy of Government of India—contd.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Discussion will now be resumed on the cut motion moved by Mr. Joshi yesterday.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, myself and my Party wholeheartedly associate ourselves with the cut motion moved by Mr. Joshi.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

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

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): What about the Government's reply?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I waited but did not find anybody getting up.

(At this stage, the Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was seen to rise in his seat.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Does the Honourable Member want to speak?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Yes.

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

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will try to keep my patience. I will promise that.

In the course of the observations which Mr. Joshi made yesterday in support of his cut motion, he levelled certain charges against the Labour Department. At the conclusion he not only stated that the Labour Department had failed in dealing adequately with the duties which are cast upon it to conserve and protect the interests of the workers but he also ended by saying, which I thought was a somewhat extravagant observation, that the Labour Department had not even sympathy for the worker. Sir, the speech delivered by my Honourable friend was delivered by him in a more or less telegraphic fashion, omitting prepositions, participles, conjunctions and disjunctions and certainly did not advance any detailed arguments in support of his conclusions and I therefore feel at a certain disadvantage in dealing with his cut motion. I however propose to do my best to meet his charges.

Sir, the first charge that he levelled against the Labour Department was with respect to dearness allowance. His first accusation was that the dearness allowance granted by the Government of India was not adequate and the second ground was, if I understood him correctly, that in the scheme of dearness allowance sanctioned by the Government of India there was no kind of uniformity. With regard to the first part, I think Mr. Joshi will agree that the notions of adequacy must necessarily differ. It will be difficult to find two people who could agree on the exact quantitative measurement of what adequate dearness allowance would mean and therefore I do not wish to enter upon that aspect of the case. What however I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable House to is that the Government of India has always been taking considerable interest in the matter of the dearness allowance and has been watching the situation; that it has from time to time taken steps in order to increase dearness allowance is beyond question. To give only a few facts to the House, I think it will be recalled that the first dearness allowance was given in August 1942. It was thereafter increased in January 1943. It was further increased in June 1943. (*An Honourable Member*: What was the amount of dearness allowance in 1942?") I really have no time to go into details and I hope the Honourable Member will let me proceed. It was further increased in March 1944. We have not only increased dearness allowance but we have also from time to time increased the higher limits of the workers who should be entitled to get dearness allowance. On the first occasion, when dearness allowance was given the highest limit fixed was 100. The second time when it was increased, the highest limit was also increased to 120. On the third occasion, it was raised to 150 and on the fourth occasion it was raised to 250. I may tell the House that the Government of India is most actively considering the question of further increase in dearness allowance and I hope and trust that before long the decision of the Government of India in this matter will be announced.

With regard to the question of want of uniformity, I will very readily admit that there is no uniformity, that different classes of employees of the Government of India are paid at different rates. But, Sir, the question I would like to ask is—who is responsible for this want of uniformity. I have no hesitation in saying that if anybody is responsible for the want of uniformity in dearness allowance it is Mr. Joshi himself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Why? I am not the Government.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: When I say 'Mr. Joshi' I mean the whole of the labour organisation. It is they who are responsible for this want of uniformity. What has happened in the matter of the grant of dearness allowance is this. You have got different sections in the labour world. You have got a body like the Railwaymen's Federation, a body like the Posts and

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Telegraph Union, like the Textile Union and so on, and there are lot of other people among the working classes who have practically next to no organisation. I think Mr. Joshi will agree that the policy followed by most of these labour organisations is really nothing else but a policy of organised loot, the first man trying to take whatever he can from the Government of India, leaving the rest of the people uncared for. Here is the Railwaymen's Federation which meets the Railway Board, uses its power-politics and compels the Railway Board to grant the highest degree of dearness allowance. Then comes the Post and Telegraph Union. They wait upon my Honourable friend in charge of that department. They threaten him with strike. They tell him that they are the most essential part of the service to the country and they take out from him something which they think is best for themselves. The rest of the people have nobody to look after their cause and I have certainly not seen any move on the part of what are called the All-India Trade Union Congress or the All-India Labour Federation to come together and work out a policy which could be applied uniformly to all the working classes and to the men in the service of the Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it not the duty of the Government of India to formulate a uniform policy?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, certainly, if we are left free to do so. But every time a section of the labour world comes up and uses its dagger and says 'We shall not work and we shall go on strike unless you give us this or that', the Government are certainly very helpless in the matter. (*An Honourable Member:* "Why don't you meet together?") Then Mr. Joshi referred to want of attention to unemployment caused by involuntary circumstances. If I followed him correctly, he referred in somewhat contemptuous terms to the circular issued by the Central Government to the Provinces and to the employers telling them that it was the view of the Government of India that whenever there was any involuntary unemployment due to shortage of coal or shortage of raw material, the employers should pay certain compensation to their employees. In our letter to the Provincial Governments, we had informed them that the Government of India was prepared for a certain scale of payment to be made to the workers during this period of unemployment. We had told them that they should pay 75 per cent. of the ordinary rate of pay for the first fortnight and for the second fortnight, they should pay 50 per cent. of the wages; that the period for which this benefit was to be payable was one month and that the waiting period should be seven months. Mr. Joshi ended by saying that all that the Government of India had done was to utter this pious wish and leave the matter there, that they had taken no further step in order to see that these benefits were actually made payable. Now, Sir, I should like to point out that if Mr. Joshi had read the letter that we circulated to the Provincial Governments and to employers, he would have seen that we had also made some definite proposals with regard to meeting the cost of this involuntary unemployment. In the circular letter sent out, we had stated that the cost of these benefits paid to workmen for involuntary unemployment would be admissible as a revenue expenditure for income-tax and for E. P. T. purposes. Obviously, then, if I may say so, this was a special clause in the letter and we did not think anything more was necessary. There is in addition to that Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules, under which it is perfectly open to workers who have been thrown out of employment by reason of these circumstances to apply to the Provincial Governments for the purpose of submitting the issue to arbitration. I am glad to say that the matter is now being pursued in that direction. As Honourable Members are aware, there is a case of arbitration going on between the employers in Ahmedabad and the workers there on this issue.

The third point which Mr. Joshi mentioned was connected with workmen's compensation. I was not able to get at exactly the gravamen of his charge as to what was the deficiency in the position as it existed in this country and what exactly he wanted me to do. What I got from him was that he

thought that compensation was not adequate. Now, the House will recall that our definition of wages in the Workmen's Compensation Act is a very wide one. It not only includes money wages, but it also includes everything that is capable of being estimated in terms of money. From this it will be clear that wherever there is a case of compensation to workman, he is not only entitled to get compensation on the basis of his money wages, but he is also entitled to get compensation on his money wages plus dearness allowance. Mr. Joshi mentioned the further fact that while in Great Britain the law has been altered, we have done nothing of the kind in this country. He said that during the war the benefits payable to workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act in England have been enhanced. I have looked up the matter and the position is really this. I am sorry to say that Mr. Joshi has not really understood what the difference is. As Honourable Members of the House will be aware, the English law makes payment under Workmen's Compensation periodical, while in India our payments are mostly lump sum payments. This has a very important effect. In the case of lump sum compensation a workman receives his payment and he is out of the picture, nobody has any continuing liability about him, either his employers or the Government. But in cases where the liability to pay is a continuous liability by reason of the fact that the benefit extends for a period, obviously the liability is continued on the employer, and just as an employer is liable to pay for instance dearness allowance to a workman, who is in employment, in the same way, an employer is also required in English law to pay enhanced compensation by reason of the fact that payment being periodical the liability to pay continues. If it was the desire of the House that our system of Workmen's compensation should also be so altered that instead of lump sum to a worker, we should pay him periodical payment either for life or to his children until the time that they come of age, no doubt the case that has been in England will also become operative in this country.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is the desire of the House—not a ruling from the Chair—that you should be brief. It is the desire of the House that the next motion should be reached. It is for you to consider.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: No, Sir, it is not the desire of the House, at any rate I wish to hear him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It is not the desire of the House, Sir. You speak in the name of the House, Sir. I say so far as this part of the House is concerned, we desire to hear him.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: There are other Honourable Members who desire that he should conclude his speech.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But we want to hear him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You do not constitute the whole House.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: That is right.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: After all, Sir, this side of the House wants to hear him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Where is the trouble? I am telling over and over again that it is not a ruling from the Chair. It is only a request from the Chair to the Honourable Member, and it is for him to decide whether he wishes to comply with it or not.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, the next point which Mr. Joshi made was with regard to Technical Personnel Ordinance. He said that this Technical Personnel Ordinance has in it the principle of inequality of treatment between employer and the employee. The point that is sought to be made out there was that under the Technical Personnel Ordinance, an employee is not free, to resign from his employment, while under the same Ordinance an employer is free to discharge an employee. Sir, I should like

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to state the true position as may be found from a reading of this Ordinance. The true position is this: that an employee is not required to obtain permission of his employer if he wants to resign. What is required by the Ordinance is that he should ask permission of the Tribunal if he wants to resign. On that point, I think Mr. Joshi is somewhat misinformed. Then, Sir, with regard to the power of the employer to discharge, the position again is this. That, as a rule, he is not allowed to discharge or dismiss an employee unless he has obtained permission of the Tribunal. To that there is undoubtedly one exception and that exception is that in case of insubordination or misconduct which calls for disciplinary action the employer may dismiss his employee without obtaining the permission of the Tribunal. Now, Sir, I do not think that this particular provision which permits an employer to get rid of an employee who has misconducted himself or who is insubordinate can be a ground for complaint.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Who is to judge?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I should like to ask Mr. Joshi, who judges in ordinary cases where the Tribunal does not become operative? In the way in which our industry is organised it is the employer who has—rightly or wrongly—the right to dismiss a worker whom he thinks is of no service to him. Therefore I think there is no point in that. But what I wanted to inform the House, and Mr. Joshi particularly, is that in order that there may be no abuse of this provision we have amended the Ordinance in two important particulars. The first thing that we did—and that was done expressly at the desire of Mr. Joshi—was to constitute advisory committees to be associated with the Tribunal. On these advisory committees there are representatives of labour, and I have not the slightest doubt that with the help of these advisory committees, constituted as they are, they will be able to bring to the attention of the Tribunal such cases which they have reason to believe are due to victimisation.

The second and the most important step which has now been taken is this. We have now issued an order calling upon the Chairman of the Tribunal to place on record his reasons for not allowing an employee to resign or to quit his job. This is a provision which we have borrowed from the Criminal Procedure Code, so that at the centre of the Government it would be possible for us to know whether there were legitimate and proper grounds for the Chairman of the Tribunal not permitting an employee to resign his job.

Sir, Mr. Joshi then proceeded to point out that the conditions in coal mines were not very satisfactory. I do not claim that the conditions are ideal but I do like to say that the Labour Department has taken definite and quite large steps to bring about better conditions in coal mines. We have now been working our coal mines with two types of labour,—local labour and the labour which we have imported from outside, principally from the Gorakhpur district of the U. P. I should like to give the House certain figures with regard to wages. The Gorakhpur labourer gets 12 annas per day as basic wage; in addition to that he gets four annas of production bonus and he gets four annas of extra allowance for working underground. Then we give him food free, the cost of which comes to 14 annas per day per man.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, on a point of order, I think the Honourable Member has taken 25 minutes already.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member in charge can be given more than 20 minutes.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The rule is 20 minutes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): No; 20 minutes or more if necessary.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, Sir, apart from these wages the Gorakhpur labourer is given 14 annas per day for his food. He has free housing and free medical aid.

Coming to the other colliery labour, their wages stand as follows. There is an increase in cash wages of 50 per cent. over the pre-war rates which were 8 annas on the surface and 14 annas underground. Then he or she gets certain rations. The local colliery labourer gets 4 seers of food grains per worker at controlled rates for himself or herself and 4 seers for each adult dependent and 2 seers for each child between two and twelve years. In addition he or she gets one-fourth of the basic ration in cereals and *dal* at the concession rate of six seers to the rupee. Each worker also gets one seer of rice free of cost for each day of attendance. In addition to that he gets cash benefits which are two annas per day of attendance to a worker who has no dependent, three annas to a worker with one dependent, five annas to one with an adult dependent and a child or children.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, on a point of order. So far as I know, the option to allow a Government Member to speak for more than 20 minutes, to which you referred, was for the Member in charge and not for any Member of Government who might jump up and speak. In this case the Member in charge is the Finance Member whose motion is before the House. It is not the Labour Member's motion.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir I move that the question be now put.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I cannot be disturbed in this fashion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. Closure motion can be moved only after the speech is finished. I have done all that I possibly could to help the Opposition with regard to the next motion, but I have no option now.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, on a point of order, the Government Member can speak for 20 minute or more. But the point is, is it to be left to the sweet will of the Government Member himself to spin out his speech to inordinate lengths? Or is it for the Chair to decide whether the Honourable Member has had sufficient time or not? I contend that this power lies solely with the Chair and the Government Member cannot be allowed to spin out his speech to any length he likes. I contend he has had sufficient time.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is a very delicate thing for me to say that he has had enough time to speak or that he is taking time deliberately.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I rise to a point of order. Evidently the Chair is under the impression that I cannot move the motion for closure, but I think this time as the Honourable Member has resumed his seat I can move the closure motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is a convention that closure motion cannot be moved when a Member is speaking. But the point is that the Honourable Member did not take his seat because he had finished his speech but because he was interrupted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Then, Sir, Mr. Joshi said that the Labour Department was short-staffed. I am rather surprised how Mr. Joshi came to make that statement. I would like to inform the House about the staff which has been employed by the Labour Department quite recently. So far as the coal mines are concerned, we have got the Chief Executive Officer for the Coal Mines Welfare Committee. He has got a Chief Welfare Officer under him and under him are two Inspectors—one of them is a lady welfare inspector. Then, Sir, we have a Director of Unskilled Labour Supply. He has under him three Deputy Directors and four Assistant Directors.

(At this stage, there was a loud uproar and thumping of the table on the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Your demand will be thrown out completely.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There are 20 officers under the Chief Inspector of Mines. Then, in addition to that we have now appointed

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a Chief Labour Commissioner at the Centre. Under him there are three Deputy Labour Commissioners who will be in charge of all the welfare activities.

Then, Sir, Mr. Joshi said that the Labour Department was always behind time in taking action, that delay was the rule. On this point what I would like to submit is this that in the circumstances in which we are carrying on the activities of the Labour Department delay is inevitable. We have got to consult the Provincial Governments, we have got to consult the organisers of labour, we have got to consult the employees. All this must necessarily take time, and therefore I do not think that there is any point in Mr. Joshi saying that we delay matters.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to a point of order. Is it your ruling that a Member of Government can speak at any length? I want a ruling from the Chair definitely.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I understand the Honourable Member has finished his speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I want to save the time of the House, and therefore I ask leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would like to say one thing that if my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, had told me that he was going to withdraw his cut motion, I would not have spoken as long as I have done.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. Joshi is a man who shows courtesy to everybody. But if the Honourable Member does not show courtesy to me, I am not bound to show him courtesy.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Mr. Joshi was not bound to give any previous intimation to the Honourable Member to the effect that he was going to withdraw his cut motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

*Need for immediate Reimposition of Ban on Employment of Women
under ground in Mines*

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, since August 1943 and December of the same year, when the ban on women working in underground mines was first withdrawn, there has been a consistent and insistent protest throughout the country against this undesirable action. The Government of India are fully aware that they have not only violated an international pledge but that they have considerably shocked and offended world opinion.

A year ago, at the request of the All-India Women's Conference, I moved an adjournment motion asking that the ban be re-imposed immediately, and my Honourable friend, Mrs. Subbarayan, also spoke on a cut motion on labour during the Budget Session on the same subject, but the plea of the Honourable the Labour Member at that time was that this was a very temporary measure only to be carried on till the next harvesting season and not for the period of the war that arrangements were being made to remedy the labour shortage, and that once these arrangements went through the ban would be lifted. Sir, the attitude was that we were creating all this song and dance about nothing since the period was to be very short. A year has come and gone and today I think the attitude has become far more adamant. The Honourable the Labour Member has made it only too clear that he does not intend to re-impose that ban. The Honourable Members of the House are only too well aware of all the circumstances and realize fully, I am sure, that the arguments that have been put forward if they had come from a merciless type of capitalist employer, could have been understood.

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

But how they could have been ratified and even advanced by those who are primarily responsible for the protection and the well being of the common people, it passes our comprehension.

Sir, I should like to have the support of the House, of all Members—either on this side of the House or on the other,—of all Parties, including the Government, because this is a legitimate demand the infringing of which leads to the infringing of one of the most elementary canons of human decency.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved: "That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: With regard to this cut motion, it is difficult within the short time that is at my disposal to deal with it adequately. I would begin by saying that the last time when this question was debated on an adjournment motion, I made the statement that in taking the decision which the Government of India took I felt very unhappy about it. And I am still very unhappy about it. But the circumstances are such that it is impossible to take any other action than what we took. If the House will bear with me for a few minutes

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would tell the House the relevant circumstances which forced our hands in this matter.

I should like to begin by stating to the House what the position with regard to coal was. In the year 1941 the total raisings were 29,881,000 tons. In 1942 they fell to 29,270,000 and in 1943, the critical year in which we were forced to lift this ban, the total production of coal had fallen to 28,753,000. The House will at once realise that within a year there was a fall of something like 6,628,000 tons. It is unnecessary for me to dilate on the fact that coal is one of the most important raw materials both for industry as well as for the war effort. It was impossible for any Government to sit with folded hands and to watch with indifference what might be called a tremendous fall in the production of so important a material as coal.

The next thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is the number of collieries that were opened during these years. In 1941 the total number of collieries in operation was 440. In 1942 they had risen to 670 and in 1943 the number had gone up to 706. In the ordinary course of circumstances, this enormous increase in the number of collieries in 1943 should have given us a larger quantity of coal than we actually had, but we were faced with this most curious phenomenon, namely, that on the one hand we had an increase of 366 collieries while on the other we had a fall of 6,628,000 tons of coal.

Let us look now to the labour position. In the year 1941 the total number of workers employed in coal mines was 2,11,601. In 1942 the total employed was 2,08,742. In 1943 it was 2,05,822. Comparing them with the number of mines opened, it will be seen that here again we had a very strange phenomenon, namely, that although the mines had increased, the labour force had decreased considerably. In fact the total decrease was 4,879. But this does not complete the story. In fact many have not realised what exactly was the crucial fact. That will be realized if the House were to know the number of coal cutters that are employed in the coal mines. In 1941 the total number of coal cutters employed was 55,691. In 1942 they fell to 51,438, and in 1943 they fell to 45,306, a drop of 10,385. It is unnecessary for me to tell the House that the coal cutter is a prime mover in the process of producing coal. It is no use having a very large labour force round about the coal mines if you have not got a sufficient number of coal cutters. Coal cutting is the basic primary activity. This is the crux of whole problem, namely, that this important class of workmen had dwindled by no less a figure than, 10,385.

The reasons why these coal cutters had dropped are, of course, well known to the House. There was in the area where the coal mines are situated tremendous possibilities opened up by the various industrial establishments, by various military works, alternative employments, where wages were considerably higher than they were in the coal industry. The alternative employment had also this advantage, namely, that it was work on surface, which, other things being equal, is undoubtedly far more attractive than work underground. The third reason

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why the coal cutters preferred to quit the mines in favour of the other employment on the surface was because the coal cutter could take his wife along with him and get her earnings added to his own and thus increase the family earnings. If he worked in the mines he could not benefit of her earnings because of the ban. This was probably the greatest inducement which the coal cutter had in order to quit the mine and seek alternative employments that were within his reach.

Now, I have no doubt that nothing else would have helped to bring back the coal cutter except to allow his wife the opportunity to work with him and earn a wage. In my judgment nothing else could have enabled us to retrieve the position and get back the coal cutter into the coal mine, we have been told that we could have got back labour to the coal mines by increasing wages. On this point what I would like to say is this, that this is an argument which within limits has its force but that when carried to extremes turns out to be worse than useless. My friend Mr. Joshi yesterday referred to the fact that they paid enormous wages to coal miners in England and that it was the best paid industry. Undoubtedly so. But Mr. Joshi forgot the fact that even in England where they pay such enormous wages to the coal miners, there has been an enormous shortage of labour available for coal mines. Therefore, Sir, the point is this, that wages could not be that sovereign remedy which it has been suggested to be. In our judgment, and I think it was a correct judgment, the only method of retrieving a very bad and a very serious situation was to take the decision that we have taken.

There is another point which is urged against the decision the Government has taken. I should like to meet this point quite squarely because it is an important point the force of which I confess I have always felt—namely, that there is shortage of coal in England and in other countries but there women are not allowed to work underground, why should then we allow women to work underground in India? Now, Sir, the answer to that is twofold. In the first place in other countries like England, where women are not allowed to work underground, they have the alternative remedy of conscription. They can compel people and they do compel people to go and work in coal mines. I have very recently read a report that in Belgium, the 1941 class recruits required to serve in the army instead of being sent to the front were sent by the Belgian Government to go into the coal mines. That power, as the House will realise, is not available to us and therefore we could not follow that remedy.

Now, Sir, the other reply that I would like to give is this. In all those countries like Great Britain, South Africa and other countries, there has been no tradition of women being employed underground. Their women worked at one time but that was probably for 60 or 70 years before. I appeal to the House to take a realistic view of this matter. In our own country is it not a fact that up to 1937 women did work in coal mines? Is it not a fact that women in this country were working in coal mines till eight years ago? Can anybody in India say as people in England say that our women have ceased to work underground for a century and that therefore this is a new departure?

The Honourable lady who moved the cut motion, I think, has forgotten what was the view of the All-India Women's Conference in 1934. I should like to explain it to the House. The Government of India had taken certain steps practically from 1929 with a view to close the employment of women underground and, as the House will remember, they had laid down a proportion, a dwindling proportion, so that according to that programme women would have ceased to work in coal mines in 1937. This was long before there was any talk about a convention. What was the attitude of the All-India Women's Conference? I find that this matter was taken up for consideration by the All India Women's Conference in their session held on the 26th December, 1934. According to the report which I have in my hand. (Interruption by Mrs. Renuka Ray.) Please do not disturb me. The All India Women's Conference set up a Committee to consider this question and I would like to read only two short

sentences, which contain the view that the All-India Women's Conference took of the action of the Government of India. Sir, I will read from page 53. The report first gives the advantages and then gives the disadvantages. The report (I should like to tell the House that the lady who has moved the motion was a member of this committee appointed by the All-India Women's Conference)—begins by saying:

"Our impression about the effect of the elimination of women from underground work is that it is on the whole not suited to the conditions in which the miners live.

Then, Sir, they conclude by saying:

"If these women are removed from underground work in the present condition, the distress will be so great in the miners' homes that it will far outweigh the evils of allowing them underground."

(Interruption by Mrs. Renuka Ray.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not giving way.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, it is true that when this matter was considered by the All-India Women's Conference at their session held in 1935 they came to the conclusion that they would support the International Convention which was passed, in spite of the fact that they saw grave objections to the course pursued by the Government of India. Now, Sir, I claim that this view that the All-India Women's Conference took of in 1935 which was so different from its view expressed in 1934 was due to the passing of the Convention and I am sure that if in 1935 the Convention had not been passed, the All-India Women's Conference would have continued to agitate against the decision of the Government of India to eliminate women from coal mines. I do not want to say that there are any sinister motives for the change of front on the part of the All-India Women's Conference in this matter but I would like to say that I am not prepared to believe that within the ten years that have elapsed there has been such a revolution in the moral and political conscience of the people of this country that they are not prepared to tolerate the action which Government has taken action which is purely to meet an emergency and which will be annulled as soon as the emergency vanishes.

Sir, I have been told that after all the number of women employed in coal mines is only 15,000 and that they have not been able to produce more coal. Why, then, is it that the Government of India persist in keeping these 15,000 women underground? The answer to that question is a very simple one. In the first place

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: May I ask if the Honourable the Labour Member would give an assurance, a firm assurance, that he will continue to employ them whatever might be the public opinion?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If my Honourable friend has such a wicked opinion about me, I cannot help him. He is quite entitled to have whatever opinion he has about me, and I am free to have my own opinion about him. I do not think we ought to exchange them on the floor of the House.

The question has been asked as to why we are keeping these women underground? There are three reasons for it. First of all, it has got to be realised that in the situation in which we are placed the woman underground cannot be treated as a single unit by herself. She is a potential. If she goes

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not spoken for more than 20 minutes.

The first consequence will be that if she leaves the coal mine, the coal cutter will also leave the coal mine and there would be a further deterioration in the situation. The second consequence will be that if she does not work, there will be more absenteeism in the coal mines. And thirdly that there would be a further reduction in the number of coal cutters because some cutters will have to do the work of loaders, a work which women now do. As a matter of fact, the argument that has been sometimes urged that the women have not been

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

able to produce more coal is not correct and I would like to draw the attention of the House

Several Honourable Members: The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, we have no intention to keep women underground for a minute longer than is absolutely necessary. As the House is aware, we have taken several measures in order to meet the situation. We have imported Gorakhpur labour, we have imported machinery, and we have done several other things.

(It being Five of the Clock.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,68,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Customs'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,63,18,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'." The motion was adopted.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4—SALT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,03,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Salt'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5—OPIUM

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,62,51,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Opium'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 7—STAMPS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,43,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stamps'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8—FORESTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Forests'." The motion was adopted.

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

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,66,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,81,55,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including working Expenses).’”

The motion was adopted.

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

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,80,27,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 1, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Executive Council.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 13—COUNCIL OF STATE

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Council of State.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 14—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Home Department.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

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

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 34,45,800, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of ‘Department of Information and Broadcasting.’”

The Assembly divided:

AYES—47.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 • Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
 Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
 Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Menon, Mr. P. M.
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Piate Lall Kureel, Mr.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Shabban, Khan Bahadur Mian Gulam
 Kadir Muhammad.
 Shreehy, Sir John.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala
 Prasad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. G. W.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—55.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam.
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Daga, Seth Sheodasa.
 Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
 Habibar Rahman, Dr.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muham-
 mad.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, NawaBzada Muhammad.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 ...
 Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad
 Muhammad.
 Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
 Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
 Baghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
 Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed
 Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A
 Sham Lal, Lala.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
 Subbarayag, Shrinati K. Radha Bai.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND No. 18—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,93,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,49,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 13,22,900, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,92,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commerce Department'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 23,92,900, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Labour'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 25—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,16,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'War Transport Department'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 37,00,900, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Food Department'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,59,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'." The motion was adopted.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,13,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment charges'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,07,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,90,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,42,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33—POLICE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,37,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,30,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,43,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36—SURVEY OF INDIA

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,99,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 37—BOTANICAL SURVEY

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 38—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,44,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,62,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40—MINES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,45,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Mines'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41—ARCHAEOLOGY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,66,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Archaeology'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42—METEOROLOGY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Meteorology'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 43—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,49,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44—EDUCATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Education'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,06,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Medical Services'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,67,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Public Health'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—AGRICULTURE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,46,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Agriculture'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,34,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,99,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,58,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—INDUSTRIES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,74,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,23,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—AVIATION

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 54—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION MET FROM REVENUE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 55—BROADCASTING

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,83,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING MET FROM REVENUE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,13,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—41.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Azizul Huqus, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalal The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Sahms-ul-Ulema.
 Khre, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Menon, Mr. P. M.
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Piere Lall Kureel, Mr.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
 Sheehy, Sir John.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. G. W.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—55.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachelam.
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.
 Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
 Habibar Rahman, Dr.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
 Jehanfir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Lalljee, Mr. Hoosainbhoy A.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
 Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
 Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
 Raghunir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
 Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
 Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
 Sham Lal, Lala.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
 Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND No. 59—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—CENSUS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,36,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Joint-Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62—IMPERIAL DAIRY DEPARTMENT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,20,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Imperial Dairy Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,18,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—CURRENCY

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65—MINT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,18,73,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—CIVIL WORKS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,14,03,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,29,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—MISCELLANEOUS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,38,06,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 1st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 1st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Post-war Planning and Development'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—CIVIL DEFENCE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,80,24,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 1st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—DELHI

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,33,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 1st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—AJMER-MERWARA

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,45,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 1st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—PANTH PIPLODA

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 1st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,85,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 78—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,12,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,51,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,82,67,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 14th March, 1945.