

14th March 1945

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1945

(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

The Honourable Sir ABDUR 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.

CONTENTS

Volume III—14th March to 29th March, 1945

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1945—	PAGES	WEDNESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1945—	PAGES
Starred Questions and Answers	1477—95	Member Sworn	1795
Unstarred Question and Answer	1496	Starred Questions and Answers	1795—
Short Notice Question and Answer	1496—98		1832
Declarations of Exemption under the Registration of Foreigners Act	1498—99	Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1832—35
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Legislative Department	1500	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1834—36
Election of Members to the Defence Consultative Committee	1500—23	Motion for Adjournment re Election of wall round a Mosque in Karol Bagh, Delhi—Postponed	1836—37
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration	1524	Election of Members to the Defence Consultative Committee	1837
The Repealing and Amending Bill—Introduced	1524	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1837—72
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1524—34		
THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1945—		THURSDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1945—	
Member Sworn	1535	Member Sworn	1873
Starred Questions and Answers	1535—57	Starred Questions and Answers	1873—94
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Posts and Air Department	7	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1894—97
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Roads	1557—60	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forests	1897—99
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways	1560	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Education	1899
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1560—90	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands	1899—1900
		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Home Department	1900
FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1945—		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Supply Department	1900
Starred Questions and Answers	1591—	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on motion to consider not concluded	1901—38
Postponed Starred Question and Answer	1615		
Unstarred Question and Answer	1615—16	FRIDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1945—	
Declaration and Recommendations at Twenty-Sixth Session of the International Labour Conference	1616	Starred Questions and Answers	1939—56
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Supply Department	1616—17	Unstarred Question and Answer	1956
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Home Department	1617—18	Statements laid on the table	1956—60
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Labour Department	1618—19	Motion for Adjournment re Collision of Trains at Jungshahi Railway Station—Disallowed	1960—61
Election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways	1620	Amendment to Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules	1961
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1620—53	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for War Transport Department	1961—62
		Election of a Member to the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India	1962—65
SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1945—		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for External Affairs Department	1965
Member Sworn	1655	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Planning and Development Department	1965
Starred Questions and Answers	1655—77	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1965—2005
Unstarred Question and Answer	1677	Appendix	2005—06
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Planning and Development Department	1677—79		
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for External Affairs Department	1679—80	MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1945—	
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee	1680—83	Starred Questions and Answers	2007—29
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1683—96	Postponed Starred Question and Answer	2029—30
	1696	Unstarred Question and Answer	2030
	1721	Message from the Council of State	2031
The Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1696	The Indian Army (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	2030
		The Indian Air Force (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	2031
TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1945—		The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	2031—72
Starred Questions and Answers	1723—56		
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1756—57	TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1945—	
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1757—58	Starred Questions and Answers	2073—2106
Short Notice Question and Answer	1758—80	Unstarred Question and Answer	2106—07
Motion for Adjournment re Requisitioning of "Chateau Windsor" Building in Bombay—Ruled out of Order	1760—62	Short Notice Question and Answer	2107—08
Statement laid on the table	1762—63	Announcement re Answering in the Legislative Assembly of Questions of Absentee Members	2108—09
Amendment to British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules	1763	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for War Transport Department	2109
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Food Department	1763—65	The Indian Finance Bill (as recommended)—Motion for leave to introduce—Negatived	2109—11
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Industries and Civil Supplies Department	1765	Demands for Supplementary Grants	2111—49
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Legislative Department	1765		
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Posts and Air Department	1766	WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1945—	
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Labour Department	1766	Starred Questions and Answers	2151—72
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on motion to consider not concluded	1766—92	Unstarred Questions and Answers	2172—73
		Short Notice Question and Answer	2173—76

WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1945— <i>contd.</i>		PAGES	THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1945—		PAGES
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Governor General's Refusal of Permission to discuss Resolution <i>re</i> Delegation to San Francisco Conference—Ruled out of order		2179—80	Members Sworn		2225
Message from the Council of State		2180	Starred Questions and Answers		2225—45
Amendments to Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules		2180—81	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Food Department		2245
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Commerce Department		2182	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forests		2245—46
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Defence Department		2182—84	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Education		2246
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Industries and Civil Supplies Department		2184	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Department of Education, Health and Lands		2246
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee		2184	Demands for Supplementary Grants		2246—65
Demands for Supplementary Grants		2184—2223	The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee		2265—70
			The Factories (Second Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded		2270—84
			Statement of Business		2284—85

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 14th 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.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ASSOCIATING THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH POST-WAR ECONOMIC PLANNING

974. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) the reasons for Government not accepting the suggestion made in the resolution regarding the fifteen-year plan prepared by some industrialists of India, passed by this House on the 17th of November, 1944; and

(b) whether Government propose to associate this House in any manner or at any stage in the matter of their evolution of an economic plan for the future of India; if so, how?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech on the cut motion on the 10th of March 1945.

(b) A Standing Committee of the Central Legislature will shortly be constituted to advise the Department of Planning and Development.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from the Standing Committee, does the Honourable Member propose to create any other machinery by which he can take this House into confidence?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. Then the machinery would be too complicated and cumbersome.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question. The matter has been debated only the other day.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Sir, I have to ask only one question. With regard to the powers that will be given to the Standing Committee, will they be so comprehensive that all the schemes will come before it for consideration?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It will be on the same lines as the Standing Committees of the other Departments.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What will be the relation of this to the Policy Committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Policy Committees are separate committees which also advise the Planning and Development Department.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is any elected Member of this House present on those committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There are Members of both the

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Elected members?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

POST-WAR ECONOMIC PLANS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION

975. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) what the published plans are that Government have taken into consideration apart from the Bombay plan;

(b) whether the plan by Prof. Agarwal (called by some as the Gandhian Plan) was also considered;

(c) when Government will be in a position to evolve a final comprehensive plan and put it before the country;

(d) whether Government have come to any basic conclusions with regard to the establishment of any essential industries; and

(e) if so, what those industries are and what steps are being taken by Government to establish them at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). The People's Plan, the Gandhian Plan by Prof. Agarwal and suggestions in numerous papers have been taken into consideration.

(c) It is not possible to specify a time limit.

(d) and (e). The question of establishing a large number of essential industries, such as those for prime movers, automobiles and tractors, ship-building and marine engineering, electrical machinery, machine tools, light and heavy engineering industries, light and heavy chemical industries, electro-chemical industries, plastics, rayons, as described in the list of panels which was placed on the table of the House in answer to question No. 116 on the 10th February 1945, has been taken up. Panels with regard to these industries are being set up. Besides this, Provincial and State Committees are also considering the question of establishing some of these industries.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to the answer to part (d), may I know whether the Government have come to any basic conclusion with regard to the establishment of any essential industries? May I take it from the answer that they have come to the conclusion that these industries must be established?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Panels are being established to consider the establishment and in other cases the expansion of these industries. We certainly want to make investigations as to the desirability and the possibility of establishing industries, and the extent to which these industries are to be established. I think I have already placed on the table of the House the directive issued to these panels.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know if any time limit has been fixed by which these Panels are to submit their reports?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No definite time limit has been fixed because different Panels will require different times, but, generally speaking, I might say that they are expected to submit the report within about four to six months.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I correct when I say that the Government have not come to conclusion about any of those industries which they are sure of establishing in this country, and they are still considering the matter?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Panels are being established in the case of a number of existing industries, for instance iron and steel or Textiles. There is no question of considering the very inception of the industry but the expansion of the industry is being considered. Similarly, other Panels are being established for the purpose of investigating the desirability of establishing new industries.

GOLD AND SILVER SMUGGLING

976. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many cases were detected of (i) smuggling of gold outside India, and (ii) smuggling of silver or silver coins outside India?

(b) What was the punishment inflicted?

(c) How much of the material was confiscated?

(d) What are the methods adopted by the Customs Department for detecting such smuggling?

(e) Is any special staff maintained in connection with (i) water routes and (ii) land routes?

(f) Under which law is this done—under the Indian Customs Act, or under any special war-time ordinance? If so, under which ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The number of cases of attempted smuggling out of India detected since the imposition of the restrictions is as follows:

(i) Gold—1,119, (ii) Silver 78.

(b) Fines and penalties amounting to Rs. 38,01,583 in all, have been imposed in these cases. Six cases have been prosecuted in court resulting in five convictions.

(c) The following have been confiscated:

65,512 gold sovereigns; 6,864 tolas of gold bullion; one American 20 dollars gold coin; Gold jewellery valued at Rs. 54,802; 206 Silver coins; 12,298 tolas of silver bullion.

(d) The utmost vigilance is exercised by Customs and other officials at all likely points of exit for the purpose of preventing unauthorised export, and offences are dealt with drastically. Information concerning smuggling is exchanged between the ports.

(e) Special staff for this purpose is maintained only at the port of Bombay and at certain ports in the Province of Madras outside the port of Madras itself.

(f) Action in respect of such exports is taken under rules 84 and 90B of the Defence of India Rules, read with selections 19, 167(8) and 183 of the Sea Customs Act.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why don't Government plug up these avenues for illegitimate export by starting negotiations with the maritime States in Western India for some kind of common control?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I said the other day, the Government of India have for a long time endeavoured to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the maritime States and if they have not done so, the fault is not, in my opinion, that of the Government of India.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On what particular frontier most of this smuggling takes place, and may I also know whether it is by sea or land?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I could not say off hand but I do know that a good deal of attempted smuggling of gold is from the Port of Karachi up the Persian Gulf.

INTENSIVE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS

977. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the tempo of military works under construction is still as great as it was during the last three years?

(b) If so, what is the object of undertaking entirely new buildings to-day?

(c) If the reply is in the negative, will Government consider some means of releasing more building material for the civil population's dire needs in principal cities of India?

(d) How long do the Defence Department desire to continue this policy with regard to building materials, some of which can be produced locally in abundant quantities and could be supplied to civil population?

(e) Are Government able to use all the building materials which have been frozen and reserved for them?

(f) Have Government not got considerable surplus at various depots?

(g) Do Government propose to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to go into this question?

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

(b) To prepare India as a base for future operations against Japan.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of my answers to (a) and (b).

(e) and (f). In general there are no surplus stocks of building materials in military depots. In a few cases margins held against phases of the war which have now passed are being converted to other uses or disbursed to other Government Departments.

(g) No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, having the command of all the building materials and having started new buildings, why it is necessary for Government to requisition residential buildings in Bombay and elsewhere, and a in such requisitions, to introduce racial discrimination by taking the Hind Parsi and Muslim Gymkhanas and leaving out the European Gymkhana, and the Yatch Club?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The resources at the disposal of military authorities barely suffice for military building requirements to prepare India as a base. As for the question of requisition, it is a matter for the Bombay Government. I am answering a short notice question later on in the day which will give further information to the Honourable Member.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware of the very acute discontent among the *bona fide* citizens of Bombay and also among war workers and war efforters who have been thrown out on the street and on which there is a considerable feeling throughout Bombay? There will be a Sheriffs' meeting very soon to consider this question.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I did not know whether there was going to be a Sheriffs' meeting very soon; the Honourable Member himself gave this information to me some days ago. I know that there is a certain amount of feeling in Bombay with regard to the requisition of buildings.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that requisitions are made by a Department of the Central Government, will the Honourable Member convey to the Bombay Government that this Government would not tolerate such cases of racial discrimination?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know whether there is any racial discrimination.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member was informed by Mr. Manu Subedar that a European Club had been left out and Indian Clubs had been requisitioned.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of the fact.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member enquire if it is not a fact and see to it that this sort of discrimination is put a stop to?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no question of racial discrimination. Every building is requisitioned on its own merits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What have Government done with regard to providing housing for those unfortunates, whom they throw out of their present residences?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This is also a concern of the Government of Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government write to the Government of Bombay that this sort of Hitlerism will not do?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think my Honourable friend is anticipating my answer to the short notice question today.

BRITISH MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN COMMUNICATION WITH CAPITALISTS IN INDIA.

978. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Planning and Development been drawn to—

“At one time I thought scientific research had become the monopoly of America and Germany and that British industrialists were resting on their cars,” stated Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar recently at a Press Conference in London. “Firms' secrets shown to us reveal that they are willing to co-operate with us in India's industrialisation” he said (*Bombay Chronical Weekly*, 11th February, 1945)?

(b) Which major industries in the United Kingdom are according to Government's information, in communication with capitalists in India?

(c) What facilities are Government offering for such communications?

(d) What steps have Government taken against the development of a situation leading to cartels, pools and monopoly prices against the consumer in India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) I do not find the quotation referred to by the Honourable Member in the *Bombay Chronicle Weekly* of the 11th February, 1945. However I have seen the statement in other Press reports.

(b) I have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The problem is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have not Government seen in this morning's paper a statement from a British paper in which it is said that British firms will establish factories in India and will co-operate with Indian firms?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the position, Sir? Have you had any communication? Have Government had any communication with the United Kingdom with regard to the common venture on a large scale which would shut out all the small industries in India and create cartels and pools in this country under British and Indian big business?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. None at all.

WASTE OF PETROL BY MILITARY LORRIES, ETC.

979, ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the War Secretary considered the enormous waste of petrol by military lorries, the enormous diversion of petrol by military contractors, and generally the waste involved in the use of petrol by the Defence Department?

(b) What steps have Government taken to check such waste?

(c) Is it a fact that unlimited petrol is given for all military purposes without any check of any kind whatsoever?

(d) Is it a fact that contractors get thousand gallon coupons for the mere asking from military officers, who do not check up for what legitimate purposes these coupons are taken?

(e) Are Government aware that the inconvenience to the civil population has reached the peak? If so, do Government propose to give some relief to them from economies effected by the Military Department?

(f) On what basis is petrol distributed to different Commands and through different Commands to the Defence Services and to the contractors?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's assumptions that there is enormous waste of petrol by military lorries and diversion of petrol by military contractors are not correct. Following the Motor Spirit Rationing Order of 1941 a series of instructions have been issued aimed at bringing home to all military personnel the paramount need for the conservation of stocks of petrol for operational purposes by the exercise of the strictest economy in the employment of military transport and in the use of petrol. Every military mechanical transport vehicle is taken off the road on at least one day in the week for routine over-hauling in order to ensure that it is in proper running order, and all mechanical transport of all arms and services of the army is placed under central local control for the proper co-ordination of its use. There are petrol and lubricant Inspectors in General Headquarters whose duties are largely concerned with the economical running of all transport and who give advice on the avoidance of waste. An economy campaign was launched in 1944 and the production of a pamphlet co-ordinating and combining all the various orders and rules for the control and use of military transport is under active consideration.

(c) No, Sir. Proper accounts of all petrol issued are maintained and are subject to audit.

(d) No, Sir. The general principle is that military petrol should not be used for contractors' vehicles employed on military work, but that petrol for contractors should be obtained through the Civil Rationing authorities. Except in cases of emergency, when time does not permit of a prior reference to the Provincial Rationing Authority, or when civilian owned vehicles are hired by the Military for training purposes, supply from military sources

is only permissible against a certificate signed by the Provincial Rationing Authority to the effect that supply from civil sources has ceased to be available.

(e) Government regret that rationing of petrol should cause unavoidable inconvenience to the public, but no question of diverting military petrol for civil use can arise as the objective on both sides (civil and military) is maximum economy.

(f) Armies Commands are responsible for estimating requirements of petrol for units of the Defence Services within their areas. These estimates are compiled monthly, cover a period of four months ahead, and are based on (a) past consumption, and (b) other commitments, e.g., special exercises, arrival of fresh troops, etc. These estimates are progressively checked and consolidated by Headquarters of lower formations, and finally by Headquarters of Armies/Commands and General Headquarters. The distribution of petrol to contractors is explained in my answer to part (d) of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the circular referred to by the Honourable Member may be lost in thousands of other circulars which are also sent out, may I ask whether Government will consider the great public feeling on this subject of waste of petrol by military authorities and take some special measures to check it?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am prepared to reiterate these instructions to the military authorities.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will you take any special measures?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is not a question of special measures. The instructions will be repeated to the authorities.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member prepared to appoint an *ad hoc* committee to put a stop to this waste?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What are the reasons?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is not necessary.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that in Lahore military officers send these military lorries from place to place in order to arrange for card parties?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No Sir, I have not been to Lahore. I cannot be every where so I cannot tell you.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that military petrol which should be used for the war effort is used for smuggling goods?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that many cases of that kind have occurred?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If the Honourable Member gives me a specific incident, I will enquire.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: A specific incident did happen in Baluchistan.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member can help by giving a specific instance. Generalizations do not help any one.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Chettiar.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that military lorries are used for hunting purposes?

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

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: No answer to my question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next question has been called.

NEW PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTIVE WORK BY MAHATMA GANDHI.

980. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Government have studied the new programme of constructive work put forward to the country by Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) the attitude of the Government of India over this programme of constructive work; and

(c) whether any Provincial Governments have consulted the Government of India over the attitude to be adopted by them in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). The Government of India have seen Mr. Gandhi's statement regarding the constructive programme. They are in full sympathy with any scheme for the promotion of communal unity, the spread of education, the improvement of public health and the uplift of the poor and the down-trodden. They feel, however, that there is a danger that certain persons who may not share Mr. Gandhi's views may use this programme as a cloak for their subversive activities. There has been some correspondence between Provincial Governments and the Government of India on this latter aspect of the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the ground for thinking that this simple programme may be taken as a cloak for subversive activity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Sorry, I could not catch a word.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the grounds for the Government for thinking that this simple programme of people going into the villages and working for the uplift of the poor may be converted into a subversive programme?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think my opinion is very generally shared.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has the Honourable Member himself read the programme?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Oh, yes.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: As there is no danger of Government being accused of subversive activities, may I know whether Government will put into practice that part of the programme which they consider useful?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have their own methods of uplift. I thought the object of this programme was to supplement the activities of Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government mean by the programme the uplift of the people?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am sorry, I could not catch what he said.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know how by all these activities for the uplift of the people there will be subversive activity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Confusion of thought seems to be in the mind of my friend opposite.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is exactly the trouble with the Honourable Member. Has he any evidence to show that the work for the uplift of the people will result in subversive activities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is not what I said.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the confusion, will somebody clear the matter?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether any instructions have been issued to Provincial Governments to counteract this activity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There was some correspondence between the Provincial Government and the Government of India regarding the possibility of certain persons who do not share Mr. Gandhi's views using his programme as a cloak for their own activity.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any new Hallett circular?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Mudie circular!

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

LIMIT ON CHILAM AND CHEWING TOBACCO TO BE TAKEN OUT OF WAREHOUSE
AT A TIME

981. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) whether any limit has been fixed to the quantity of *chilam* and chewing tobacco which can be taken out of a warehouse at a time;
- (b) if so, what the limit is and when it was imposed;
- (c) the objects in imposing the above limit, and whether it is carried under any rules;
- (d) whether this is causing hardship to the traders; and
- (e) whether Government propose to remove the same; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Where such tobacco is capable of being used for a purpose which would render it liable to a higher rate of duty, it must, on entry into a bonded warehouse, be held liable to the highest (or higher) of the rates appropriate to the several purposes to which such tobacco is known to be applied. If, when it is cleared from the warehouse, the owner can show, either by means of a special form of retail packing or by treating it in a particular way, that it is intended for chewing or for manufacture into *hookah* tobacco, or, again, if it is consigned directly to a licensed wholesale dealer who is known to manufacture, or to sell, tobacco only of that particular kind, it may be re-assessed accordingly. If, however, it is not so packed or treated and is sold to a licensed dealer who retails more than one kind of tobacco, it may still be re-assessed at the lower rate, provided that it is cleared in limited quantities and is stored separately in the retailer's premises and is separately accounted for in his books.

(b) This arrangement was made in May 1944 and such clearances to retailers dealing in more than one kind of tobacco were limited to 1 cwt. at a time. The limit has since been raised to 2 cwts.

(c) These orders were issued under Rule 238 of the Central Excise Rules and represent a considerable concession to the trade. The limitation on certain clearances referred to in parts (a) and (b) is obviously necessary in order to minimise the loss of revenue due to misdeclarations by traders.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether it is a fact that under the rules there is no limit prescribed as to the quantity of tobacco which can be taken out and that the limit now prescribed is a result of executive action?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reason for my long reply was to explain why that limit had become necessary. It may be said to be the result of executive action. The position is that the trader may either pay the higher rate of duty or, if he wishes to clear at the lower rate, then he must comply with these executive requirements.

WOMEN EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS

982. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the total number of women now employed in the different Departments of the Government of India?

(b) What are the different grades (i) clerical, and (ii) officer, in which women are employed?

(c) What is the total number of women in each grade and the number of Indian women in each grade?

(d) What percentage of women now employed in (i) clerical grade, and (ii) officers' grade is likely to remain in employment in the post-war period?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). The information is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour which would not be justified, as it would be necessary to collect information from the larger central Departments which employ women, such as the Posts and Telegraphs Department with its branches throughout the country. It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to civil Departments, but if military offices are included the Honourable Member will be aware that there are a large number of women employed in these offices.

(d) Attention is invited to the Home Department *Press Communiqué* of the 7th September 1943, wherein provision has been made for the absorption of those temporary Government servants who are otherwise suitable and eligible for permanent employment, in 30 per cent of the vacancies filled on a temporary basis during the war. It is not possible to forecast how many women will be able to secure permanent employment at the end of the war.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: As a matter of interest to women's organisations will the Honourable Member be prepared to make investigations in regard to the Civil Departments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; for the reasons I have given.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if there is any difference in the salaries and allowances paid to men and women doing the same kind of work?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That I need notice of. It would have to be addressed to the Departments concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is a fact that Government are seriously considering the desirability of reserving posts in all their Departments for women in proportion to their population?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Also with due weightage!

HEALTH OF PREM JAS RAI, A DETENU

983. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the present condition of the detenu, named Prem Jas Rai of Delhi, now detained in the Ferozepore Camp Jail? Has he been admitted to the Mayo-Hospital at Lahore? If so, for what ailment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As promised in my reply to Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal's question No. 720 on 6th March, 1945, I have obtained further information about Mr. Premjas Rai. It is correct that he was transferred from Delhi to Multan and from Multan to Ferozpur jail. He is reported to be in fair health. He has complained of stomach pain and in consequence was admitted to hospital for X-ray examination and was twice X-rayed but no abnormality was discovered. Since his arrival in Ferozpur jail his weight has increased from 8 stone 12 lbs. to 9 stone 6 lbs. His case is periodically reviewed but his state of health does not furnish any special grounds for release at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are his relatives given any special facilities to interview him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I imagine that he gets the ordinary facilities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that he is not well, are his relatives given any special facilities, so that they might interview him more frequently?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There has been no expression of any such desire to do so as far as I know but if they did, they would have to apply to the Punjab Government.

REPORTS OF CERTAIN RADIO DEBATES ON INDIA IN AMERICA

984. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether the Government of India have been supplied with full and unexpurgated reports of the radio debates that took place in America during the last few months on India, between Sir Frederick Puckle and Mr. Louis Fischer as well as Sir Frederick Puckle and Mr. Ahmed on the one hand and Mr. Norman Thomas and Senator Cellar on the other hand? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a copy of such reports?

(b) What is the position of Mr. Ahmed, and is any payment made to him out of Indian funds in consideration of his participation in such debates?

(c) Does Sir Fredrick Puckle act independently in his propaganda or with the collaboration of, and in consultation with, the India Agency General? Was the question of appointing a special adviser on India in British Embassy, or selection of the adviser, referred to the Government of India for opinion.

and is the Honourable Member in a position to state why such a special adviser was considered essential when there is a India Agency General in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The last part of the question does not arise.

(b) Mr. Ahmed is not a Government servant, and no payment is made to him from Indian revenues.

(c) Sir Frederick Puckle is a member of the staff of the British Embassy and is therefore independent of the Indian Agency General, Washington. The Government of India were consulted before the appointment was offered to him.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (a) of the question, do I take it then that in these matters the Government of India are not even kept informed by their Agent General?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We were not informed so far as this matter is concerned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact, that a brief outline of one such report has recently been published in the press and has the Honourable Member seen the report?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have seen the report in the papers.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to part (b) of the question, in view of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Ahmed in placing the view point of the Muslim League before America and world opinion, will the Honourable Member see to it that on such occasions proper arrangements are made for the presentation of the Muslim League case?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We do not make arrangements for any propaganda at all of this kind.

LITERATURE ABOUT ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA

985. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if the Government of India are supplied with copies of all pamphlets, leaflets, books and other literature issued from time to time by the British Embassy, the British Information Service in America and the India Agency General in regard to India during the last five years? If so, will the Honourable Member please keep a full set of such literature in the library of this House?

(b) Do the Government of India keep themselves informed of the resentment that is sometimes expressed in America by the Americans themselves at the propaganda of the India Agency General against Indian interest? Is the Agency General expected to keep the Government of India informed in these matters?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No. The pamphlets and leaflets reproduced in America are based on material supplied by the Government of India from time to time but we do not get a copy of every word that the Indian Information Services publish. No books are published by the Indian, Agent General or the Indian Information Services. The Government of India are not concerned with the literature issued by the British Information Services. The last part of the question does not arise.

(b) The Agent General does not conduct any propaganda against India's interests.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know whether when the Government of India furnish information to the British Embassy in Washington with regard to matters concerning India, they do not even try to keep themselves posted whether the terminological inexactitudes which they transmit are correctly reproduced in the publication issued there?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We do not supply leaflets to the British Information Service.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member stated that material is supplied for the purpose of the publications mentioned. Is that correct?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Pamphlets which are produced here are sent there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the constitutional position of the Government of this country, will the Honourable Member see to it that the sum of five lakhs now being spent on propoganda in U. S. A. is no longer spent either for or against India, and is discontinued altogether?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Nothing is spent on propoganda. Money is spent on publicity.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the difference between publicity and propoganda?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I want an answer to my question.

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

SALARY, FUNCTIONS, ETC., OF MR. T. A. RAMAN IN INDIA AGENCY GENERAL

986. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state what is the post and salary, functions and activities of T. A. Raman in the India Agency General? How many books on Indian subjects have appeared under his supposed authorship, and on what subjects?

(b) Is it a fact that Raman is sent round on behalf of the India Agency General to different University centres in the United States of America in order to meet Indian students and persuade them to attend speeches and lectures given by representatives of the British Embassy like Sir Fredrick Puckle? Is it a fact that he went to Boston before Sir Fredrick Puckle's visit to that place and asked Indian students there to attend the latter's lecture, giving them a warning that failure on their part to do so might jeopardise their future prospects?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian students in U.S.A., are threatened with penalties in regard to their priorities for return passage to India in case they associate themselves with any political movement, or attend public meetings not approved by the India Agency General?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Mr. T. A. Raman is employed as Information Officer with the Agent General for India in the U. S. A. on a monthly salary of Rs. 900 in the scale of Rs. 700—50—1,000. The function of the Indian Information Services in which he is employed, is to publicise India and India's war effort. He has published no books on India since he joined his present post. Before his entry into Government service he had published in America two books on India, entitled "What does Gandhi want?" and "Report on India". He also published the "India" number in the World Today series, in great Britain.

(b) and (c). No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if the Government have satisfied themselves after a perusal of his dossier that he is fit to be employed by the Agent-General for India in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if his dossier is on a par with the dossier of people employed here in India by the Government of India in high positions?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That I cannot say.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Are the replies given by the Honourable Member to parts (b) and (c) of my question, based upon any report sent by the Agent-General himself, or are they the result of any direct inquiries made in the various centres of education to which I have referred?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No inquiries have been made, nor is it possible to make inquiries in all the centres, but we have received definite information from the Agent-General.

ILL TREATMENT TO MR. KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ BY SOLDIERS AT WARDHA RAILWAY STATION

987. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (on behalf of **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha**): (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he has any information regarding the

ill-treatment meted out to Mr. Mamalnayan Bajaj, son of the late Seth Jammalal Bajaj, by soldiers in the Second Class Compartment at the Wardha Station in the month of October last?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state what action was taken by the authorities on the representation submitted to them by Mr. Bajaj?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in future to stop the recurrence of such affairs?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The details of the incident are, that on the 4th of October last, Mr. Bajaj tried to enter a second-class compartment at Wardha Railway Station but two British soldiers who were in the compartment prevented him from doing so for some time. Mr. Bajaj was later given access to the compartment. I may add that the soldier who was responsible for starting the incident was a psychiatric case and in a nervous condition.

(b) On investigation by the Military authorities the psychiatric patient was posted to a convalescent depot; it is not known whether action was taken against him but the other soldier who took a minor part in the incident was admonished by his Commanding Officer. A letter of regret was sent to Mr. Bajaj.

(c) Strict orders relating to the behaviour of troops towards the travelling public have already been issued from time to time by General Headquarters to all military formations and disciplinary action is taken against personnel who infringe these orders.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why are arrangements not made for them to travel by special trains? Why should they be allowed to crowd ordinary passenger trains and insult and ill-treat civilian populations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There are special trains, but their number is not enough.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Did anybody accompany him to look after him? If he is a case for a medical specialist, he should be accompanied by somebody? Did he start suffering from his trouble after he got into the train?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: If he was suffering even before he left his station, does not the Honourable Member think that special precaution should have been taken?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know, many nervous people travel by trains.

INDUSTRIAL ADVISERS IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

988. ***Mr. Hooseinhoy A. Lalljee** (on behalf of **Sardar Sant Singh**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of Industrial Advisers in his Department? How many of them do not possess any technical qualifications and how many possess such qualifications? In the case of the latter, what are the technical qualifications of each?

(b) How many of such advisers are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Parsees and Christians and members of the Scheduled class?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

No.	Designation of post	Number of posts	Name of incumbent and community	Qualifications	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Industrial Adviser	One	Mr. H. K. Kirpalani, Hindu.	I. C. S. (retired), lately Adviser to the Governor of Bombay.	
2.	Deputy Industrial Adviser.	Five.	(i) Mr. K. C. Cooper, Parsee. (ii) Mr. M. H. Mahmood, Muslim.	Lately Deputy Controller of Supplies, Bengal. M. A. (Oxen), Bar.-at-Law, Lately Director of Industries, Punjab.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	
		(iii)	Dr. M. K. Maitra, Hindu.	B.Sc., Ph.D. (London), D.I.C., A.R.C.S., lately Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, Labour Department, Gov- ernment of India.		
		(iv)	Dr. Aswath Nara- yana Rao, Hindu.	B.Sc. (London), A. I. C., F. R. I. C., lately, General Manager of the Mysore Gov- ernment Industrial and test- ing Laboratories, Tech. Assistant to Director of Chem- ical Engineering and Chem- ical Industries, Mysore, Tech. Secretary to the Mysore, Board of Scientific and In- dustrial Research.		
		(v)	Mr. K. D. Guha, Hindu.	M. Sc. (Liverpool), A. M. Ch. Not yet E., lately Director of Indus- tries, C. P. and Berar.	Not yet joined	
3.	Asst. Industrial Adviser.	Three	(i) Mr. Anand Swarup Bhatnagar, Hindu.	M. Sc., (Chemistry), lately covenanted Asst. in Messrs, Burma Shell.		
			(ii) Mr. S. Dutta, Hindu.	M. Sc., lately Asst. Editor, Dictionary of Economic Pro- ducts and Industrial Resourc- es in India.		
			(iii) Mr. Humayun Mirza, Muslim.	Lately Asst. Commissioner, Mysore State Govt., and Dewan of Ranganapalle.		

TECHNICAL OFFICERS IN SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

989. *Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of technical officers in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research? How many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and belonging to other communities?

(b) Is there any qualified Sikh working in this Department? If so, for how long a period? What are the reasons for not promoting him to the post of an officer?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The number of Technical officers borne on the cadre of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is 17, consisting of: Hindus—10, Muslims—6, Sikhs—nil, Other communities—1; Total—17.

(b) There is one Sikh working as Technical Assistant in the Laboratories of the C. S. I. R. since the 13th November 1942. His case for promotion will be duly considered according to his seniority in the cadre.

INDIANS TO BE SENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR TRAINING

990. *Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee (on behalf of Sardar Sant Singh): Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of Indians proposed to be sent to foreign countries for training under the post-war Planning Scheme? Is there any communal proportion fixed?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There are two distinct schemes. The first is for sending students abroad for higher studies in technical and scientific subjects. It is proposed to send about 500 students this year. No communal proportion has been fixed but every effort will be made to see that adequate representation is given to minority communities provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.

The second scheme is for sending abroad 100 technicians already employed in industry for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience. Provincial Governments and private employers have been asked to make their nominations and the Government of India will make a final selection from these nominations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any special opportunities be given to candidates from Harijan classes?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Candidates from Depressed and backward classes will be given special attention. A circular has been addressed to the Provincial Governments to that effect.

An Honourable Member: Will there be a selection committee.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: A selection board is being constituted.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member if any women will be included among these students.

OFFICERS IN TRAINING AT STAFF COLLEGE, QUETTA

991. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) how many officers are receiving training at the Staff College, Quetta;
 (b) how many of these are British, Colonial, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs; and
 (c) how many are from each of the Provinces and States of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 178.

(b) 144 are British; 1 Colonial; 2 Anglo-Indians; 13 Hindus; 10 Muslims; and 7 Sikhs. There is no Indian Christian.

(c) 24 out of the total of 32 officers domiciled in India come from the under-mentioned provinces and states. Information regarding the remaining eight is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house in due course.

Bombay—1.

Hyderabad—1.

U. P.—1.

Kashmir—1.

Punjab—17.

Alwar—1.

Assam—1.

Rampur—1.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the explanation for this disparity between the number of British and Colonial on the one hand, and the number of Indians on the other is due to the fact that admission to this College depends on the recommendations of Army Officers in the different military areas into which the country has been divided?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Admission to the Staff College is made on the recommendations of Army Commanders.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that years ago the procedure for admission was by means of a competitive examination and not on recommendation?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that, but my Honourable friend is aware—I think he should be aware that this question of selections for the Staff College was discussed in the Defence Consultative Committee, and certain measures were taken, which it is hoped will lead to a larger number of Indian officers going to the Staff College.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was not discussed, otherwise the question would not have been worded in a hesitating manner, but would have been definite. Has the Honourable Member inquired what the procedure for admission was, say, five years ago, and what the procedure is, and whether Army officers favour competitive examination or recommendation.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will have the matter examined, certainly.

W. A. C. (I.) OFFICERS IN TRAINING AT STAFF COLLEGE, QUETTA

992. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) how many W. A. C. (I.) officers are receiving training at the Staff College, Quetta;
 (b) how many of these are British, Colonial, Anglo-Indians and Indians; and
 (c) how many of these are from each of the Provinces and States of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 36.

(b) The number of British, Colonial, Anglo-Indians and Indians among the the W. A. C. (I) trainee officers is 19, 1, 10 and 2 respectively.

(c) One Indian officer comes from Madras and the other from Hyderabad. The 10 Anglo-Indians come from the following provinces and states:—
 Central Provinces and Berar—2. Punjab—1.
 Bombay—1. United Provinces—1.
 Madras—2. Mysore—2.
 Orissa—1.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Where do the British members come from?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They come from all parts of India.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the curriculum for women officers is the same as for men, or does it include subjects which are of special interest to women?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not seen any details, but my impression is that there is a special curriculum.

AN ON LATE MAULANA MUHAMMAD ALI'S ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE CHOICE
 TURKS"

993. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an article headed "The Choice of the Turks", written by the late Maulana Muhammad Ali, was published in an English weekly named *The Comrade* in or about the year 1914; whether the said article was banned under the Press Act; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the present attitude of the Government of India towards the said article is, and whether Government have no objection to the republication of the said article in view of the radical change in the international situation since the year 1914?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The security of the keeper of the *Comrade* and the *Hamdard Press* was forfeited because of the article referred to.

(b) The article is now of only historic interest and calls for no expression of views by Government: the question of re-publication is one for the publisher to decide.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT PATNA

994. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the stage at which the proposal for the construction of a Broadcasting Station at Patna is; and

(b) the reasons for the delay?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to part (a) of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall's Unstarred question No. 27, dated 8th February, 1944. There has been no change in the position.

(b) No progress has been possible owing to the non-arrival of the outstanding portion of the transmitting equipment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When is that expected to arrive?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question should be put to an astrologer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member is a better astrologer.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I should very much like to have the equipment as quickly as possible, because it refers to Patna.

DISCHARGE OF ANGLO-INDIANS FROM THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

995. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether about seventy-seven Anglo-Indians who were recruited between 1941 and 1942 have been discharged from the Royal Engineers on the ground of their alleged erroneous enrolment?

(b) Is it not a fact that they were enrolled by the Recruiting Officers and the mistake, if any, was made by the Recruiting Officers?

(c) Is it a fact that many Anglo-Indians, as the result of false declarations and otherwise, have been wrongly commissioned as European King's Commissioned Officers?

(d) What is the number of persons of Asiatic domicile enrolled as European King's Commissioned Officers?

(e) Is it not a fact that in spite of their wrong enrolment these officers are being retained in their original cadres?

(f) Is he aware that there are Anglo-Indian wings in the British Army including a wing in the Royal Engineers recruited for the Middle-East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The position is that in 1941 the Government of India issued orders that Anglo-Indians, who are statutory natives of India, when recruited for service in transportation units of the Indian Engineers were to be enrolled under the Indian Army Act in the Corps of Indian Engineers. Due to a misinterpretation, however, of instructions issued by General Headquarters, local recruiting authorities irregularly enlisted certain Anglo-Indians under the Army Act in the Royal Engineers for employment in Transportation units. Government orders were issued in 1943 that those who were thus irregularly enlisted should be given the option of taking their discharge or of being correctly enrolled under the Indian Army Act. I regret that information regarding the exact number of Anglo-Indians discharged under these orders is not available.

(c) and (d). I understand that there are a few such cases; in the time at my disposal I have been unable to ascertain the exact number.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am well aware of the original order of 1941, but do the military authorities not consider that there is and was a moral—more than that a legal—obligation to have given these men some consideration? The Technical Recruiting Officers offered them certain terms and they accepted these terms when the military needed them; they fought for you in Burma and the Middle East, and suddenly in 1943

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

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the War Secretary please inquire as to whether legally the military authorities were not bound to continue to employ these men?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will certainly inquire, but legally they were correct in the action taken.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member further aware that after these men were thrown out they were given Rs. 24 for a suit of clothes and many of them have not received their dues for six months or more?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that; but it is not correct to say that all of them were thrown out: only those of them that did not elect to be correctly enrolled were discharged.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to parts (c) and (d), when many people who have as a result of false declaration been given scales of pay and emoluments of European King's Commissioned officers, why could not these 70 odd persons have been retained, particularly in view of the fact that there is an Anglo-Indian wing of the Royal Engineers serving in the Middle East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It seems to me my Honourable friend is arguing and not putting a question.

DIFFERENCES IN BASIC EMOLUMENTS OF I. C. O.'S AND E. C. O.'S.

996. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether differences in basic emoluments continue to exist between I.C.Os. and E.C.Os?

(b) If the differences still continue, how long do the military authorities propose to prolong this situation?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 649 on the 21st November 1944.

(b) I hope to be able to make an announcement very shortly on the question of improving the emoluments of Indian Commissioned Officers.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: With regard to the answer to part (b) I hope the Honourable Member will bear in mind the very widespread demand that there should be a real improvement in the scales of pay

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a question.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am perfectly aware of that.

HEALTH OF SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

997. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the present state of health of Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar?

(b) Is it a fact that he is suffering from muscular rheumatism since long?

(c) Is it a fact that he is detained in Dharamsala jail and local treatment has done him no good?

(d) Is it a fact that Dharamsala has the largest rainfall in Northern India, only second to Cherapunji, and has a climate extremely injurious for rheumatic patients?

(e) Is it a fact that the Dharamsala Civil Surgeon reported last year that when the rainy season set in, Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar might be transferred to some other station?

(f) Why is Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar detained in the Dharamsala jail?

(g) What treatment is given to him at present?

(h) Has that treatment done him any good?

(i) Is it a fact that when the ordinary treatment did him no good he applied for diathermic treatment?

(j) Will Government allow him to try that treatment through some competent specialist?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The general state of his health is good. His only complaint is occasional pain in the back and left leg.

(c) and (d). It is not correct that treatment has done him no good or that the climate has harmed his health. On the contrary, he has gained 13 lbs. in weight.

(e) No.

(f) He is detained at Dharamsala Jail because the medical authorities advised that he would keep better health there than in the plains.

(g) He is being treated by the Medical Officer of the Jail under the advice of the Civil Surgeon.

(h) Yes.

(i) and (j). The question of whether he requires diathermic treatment can safely be left to the medical authorities at the Jail.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know when was the case of Sardar Sardul Singh reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know how it is that so many Congress people are getting ill there? Is there any machinery for the Government to make them ill?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am not aware that many Congress people are getting ill there.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: So many questions are being put.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is another matter.

LACK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHYSICAL EXERCISE IN DHARAMSALA JAIL

998. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether there is any open space for exercise for the prisoners in the Dharamsala jail where Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained?

(b) What is the area of such space?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India detenus in the Dharamsala jail brought to the notice of the authorities that there were no arrangements in this jail for physical exercise? What action has been taken on this representation?

(d) Is it a fact that in all jails in the Punjab where the Government of India detenus are detained, there are regular arrangements for physical exercise of the detenus but there is no such arrangements in the Dharamsala jail?

(e) Why are the Government of India detenus kept in such a jail?

(f) Is it a fact that the detenus represented to the authorities that they should be allowed to have some exercise in the vegetable garden of the jail but no permission was given? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Yes. There is an open space measuring 26' x 18'.

(c) Yes. No action was taken on the representation as it was considered that the space allowed for exercise was sufficient.

(d) It is correct that there are no facilities at the Dharamsala Jail for organised games such as badminton, but there are facilities for exercise and the prisoners there are not of an age to require regular games.

(e) The prisoners are kept in this Jail because the medical authorities advised that they would keep better health there than in the plains.

(f) Yes. Permission to take exercise in the vegetable garden could not be given because the vegetable garden is outside the Jail.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Has the Government made up its mind to shut him up indefinitely? Is there any possibility of his being released in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I cannot say unless I have notice of a question like that.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the arrangement provided for these gentlemen for exercise? Is it in the cell or in the vegetable garden?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to that question is that there is a certain amount of space; and I would also refer to the fact that the previous question suggested that he had rheumatism . . .

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that after a certain period of detention prisoners are allowed to go out of jail into these vegetable gardens to get some exercise?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am not so aware.

CANCELLATION OF FACILITIES FOR BROADCASTING MESSAGES TO CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY THE JAPANESE

999. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether and when Government decided to cancel the facilities provided to the public for broadcasting messages to civilian internees in territories occupied by the Japanese; and, if so, the reasons for the cancellation; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the distress and hardship caused to Indian Nationals who have relations and friends in enemy occupied territories; and, if so, whether Government propose to revise the decision?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The broadcast of messages to civilian internees was stopped on 8th June 1944 for reasons of security.

(b) Government appreciate the distress which the cancellation of these facilities may have caused, but they regret that they cannot see their way to altering this decision.

DENIAL OF MILK GHEE RATIONS TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

1000. ***Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava:** (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that Indian soldiers were always being given milk ghee right up to 1942?

(b) What was the quantity per week given to Indian soldiers of milk ghee and of vegetable product in 1943 and 1944 and the quantity given at present?

(c) Why is it that Indian troops are denied the daily ration of milk ghee?

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

(b) In 1943 milk ghee was issued four times each week and vegetable product three times, and in 1944 the issues were milk ghee three times and vegetable product four times per week. At present the issues continue as in 1944.

(c) Because more milk ghee is not available for the Army. The decision about the quantity of milk ghee which could be made available for the army was taken after consideration of the quality required, the all India production and the needs of the civil population.

LAND ACQUIRED FOR AERODROME NEAR GAYA

1001. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land have been acquired for aerodrome near Gaya in Behar;

(b) whether the land has been acquired temporarily or permanently;

(c) how many zamindars and tenants have been affected by the acquisition of the lands referred to in (b) separately;

(d) how many tenants have lost all their lands; and

(e) the amount of money paid as price or compensation to the zamindars and tenants, separately?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) About 1,100 acres.

(b) Permanently.

(c) 44 zamindars and 703 tenants.

(d) 67, but most of these were landless labourers who had small pieces of bari land adjacent to their houses.

(e) I am collecting the information and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: By what time can I expect to have that information?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I do not know, because it depends on the person from whom I have asked for the information. I have said the information will be collected as soon as possible, but I cannot predict when he will send it.

INDIAN PILOTS TRAINED AND UNDER TRAINING

1002. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indian pilots trained and under training from 1939 to 1944;

(b) the pay and allowances, if any, of the Indian pilots and their future prospects; and

(c) the number of pilots enlisted from Bihar from 1939 to 1944?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (c). Apart from 47 pilots who were trained for commercial licences during the years 1939 to 1941, all training of pilots in India since the out break of war has been for the R.I.A.F. I regret that in the interests of security I am unable to quote the actual number of pilots trained thus, but I may say that 2 per cent. of the pilots commissioned into the R.I.A.F. from 1939 to 1944 came from Bihar.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to Air Force Instruction (India) No. 57 of 1942, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. A proportion of these pilots will be absorbed permanently into the R.I.A.F., and those not so absorbed may seek employment with the Civil Air-lines which will undoubtedly be in need of experienced pilots.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (b) of the question, is the Honourable Member in a position to indicate definitely what the post-war strength of the Indian Air Force is going to be?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I am afraid I am not in a position to indicate at the present stage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When do the Government expect to come to a decision in that matter?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I cannot predict that.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

PROCEDURE FOR WINDING UP OF ACCOUNT IN GENERAL OR RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND

89. Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether a contributor to the General or Railway Provident Fund is entitled to finally wind up his account in that Fund while in service? If so, under what rule?

(b) If the contributor would be allowed to finally wind up his Fund, would the payment of the whole amount be made immediately? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to unstarred question No. 68, asked by Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, on the 6th March 1945. To this reply the following amendment may please be made:

For (a) read—“(a) A member of a Government Provident Fund other than the State Railway Provident Fund is entitled to wind up his account in the Fund while still in service only in the following special circumstances”;

and for (a) (iii) read—“(iii) in the case of the Defence Savings Provident Fund, on the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the present war is declared to have terminated. A member of the State Railway Provident Fund cannot wind up his account until he actually quits Railway service”.

(b) In theory the Provident Fund accumulations of a subscriber, who is allowed to close his account finally, are payable at once. In practice, however, payment cannot be made immediately, as some time is required for completing his final account. For this reason interest is allowed to run till the end of the month previous to that in which payment is actually made, subject to a maximum period of six months from the date on which the balance became payable

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

REQUISITION OF FLATS BY WAR DEPARTMENT IN BOMBAY

Sir Gowasjee Jehangir: (a) Will the Honourable the War Secretary be pleased to state whether a large number of flats have been requisitioned in the City of Bombay by the War Department, amongst which are two buildings, containing about 50 flats, called “Sea Green” and “Chateau Windsor” on the Reclamation?

(b) For what purposes have these flats been requisitioned?

(c) Will equivalent accommodation in a similar locality be offered to the tenants who will be dishoused in very large numbers?

(d) Before throwing on the streets a large number of permanent residents of Bombay, have Government considered requisitioning other buildings not used for housing or business purposes?

(e) Is it a fact that a large number of refugees who have come to India during the war are residing in flats in good localities in Bombay?

(f) Have their flats been requisitioned?

(g) Are Government aware of the great consternation, resulting in widespread agitation in Bombay, caused by the present requisitions which are considered by the public as an act of harassment on the part of Government?

(h) Are Government interested in maintaining the morale of the people of India during war-time? If so, do they consider dishousing a large number of permanent resident born and bred in Bombay, conducive to the maintenance of such morale?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I am answering this question on behalf of the Defence Department.

(a) I am not aware that a large number of flats have been requisitioned in Bombay City at the instance of the Defence Services, but I know that preliminary steps have been taken to requisition the two buildings mentioned by my Honourable friend, namely, ‘SEA GREEN’ and ‘CHATEAU WINDSOR’. I understand this preliminary action consists in the issue of warning notices.

(b) These two buildings are required for the accommodation of Service personnel for whom it is essential to be in Bombay.

(c) and (d). I have not sufficient information to enable me to answer this question at short notice, but I am asking for a report from the Provincial Government. Meanwhile I am examining whether I should ask the military authorities temporarily to suspend further steps for obtaining possession of the two specific buildings mentioned by my Honourable friend.

(e) and (f). I have no information.

(g) I have seen two or three press cuttings which suggest that there is some feeling in Bombay over this matter.

(h) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and I am sure that this aspect of the matter is taken into account by the requisitioning authority.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Executive Health Officer of Bombay has said that more than two lakhs of people are sleeping on the footpaths?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sure that this, if correct, is not due to the requisitioning of 'Sea Green' and 'Chateau Windsor'.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Has not the Honourable Member seen a telegram in the papers containing a statement made by a Bombay Government spokesman that more than 600 flats were required for housing the military personnel as the Commander-in-Chief had said that Bombay was going to be the main British base for the Pacific and South East Asia operations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I make it my duty to read many papers, but I am very sorry that I have not seen this statement referred to by the Honourable Member. It may have appeared in the Bombay papers. I am not reading all the Bombay papers. Nor have I seen it in the *Hindustan Times* or the *Statesman*.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that while the Hindu, Parsi and Islam Gymkhanas have been requisitioned in Bombay for war purposes since 1942, the European Gymkhana and other clubs have not been touched at all?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I don't know Bombay as well as my Honourable friend. If there is need for requisitioning any particular Gymkhana, I have no doubt the Provincial Government would consider the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that the taking of measures like this make the armed forces thoroughly unpopular with the civil population?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I know that requisitioning is not popular, but the moment there is no need for requisitioning, it will be stopped.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Why was the European Gymkhana left alone and only Indian Gymkhanas were requisitioned?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that fact. I said so in answer to a supplementary question put by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar earlier in the day.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are a number of evacuees, who as stated by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, are occupying flats in this locality? Why were these evacuees not moved out to some other place and why were Indians dispossessed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have answered that question. I have no information about it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the Honourable Member know that these evacuees and refugees from abroad have taken hold of these flats and are sub-letting to British army personnel and they are enormously profiteering by such sub-letting?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that. I will call for information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry into this and remove these evacuees from Bombay, as they have no business to be there at all.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member convey to the proper department, if he does not represent it in this House, that the ill-feeling created by their reckless action is of a character which will do Government or

the war effort no good and will the Honourable Member also convey to them that if they continue this reckless action, Government will find themselves in a very awkward position.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I shall do so.

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Declarations of Exemption under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939:

- (i) No. 1/65/44-Poll(E), dated the 10th November, 1944,
- (ii) No. 1/66/44-Poll(E), dated the 22nd November, 1944,
- (iii) No. 1/67/44-Poll(E), dated the 29th November, 1944,
- (iv) No. 1/68/44-Poll(E), dated the 5th December, 1944,
- (v) No. 1/1/45-Poll(E), dated the 25th January, 1945,
- (vi) No. 1/3/45-Poll(E), dated the 23rd January, 1945, and
- (vii) No. 1/2/45-Poll(E), dated the 16th January, 1945.

No. 1/65/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 10th November, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Henry Ernest Sigerist, United States citizen, for so long as he remains in India in connection with the work of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

E. CONRAN-SMITH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/66/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 22nd November, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to :-

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Miss Knid Fuller. | 5. Mr. Irwin D. Kaufman. |
| 2. Miss Helen Sexton. | 6. Mr. Joseph W. Mountin. |
| 3. Mr. Jerry N. Thompson. | 7. Mr. William P. Ryan. |
| 4. Mr. John C. Suarez. | |

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/67/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 29th November, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Lewis Green and Palmer Hoyt Jr. for so long as they are in the service of the United States Office of War Information in India.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/68/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 5th December, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Julius M. Pomerantz, United States citizen, for so long as he is employed by the United States War Shipping Administration in India.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/1/45-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 25th January, 1945

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. James K. Brinker, Assistant Port Representative at Bombay for the United States of America, War Shipping Administration, as long as he remains in his present post.

E. KEYMER,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/3/45-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 23rd January, 1945

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Professor Ognev, a Russian national, for so long as he remains in India in connection with the work of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

V. SHANKAR,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/2/45-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 16th January, 1945

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mrs. Mani Berry, at present in the United Provinces a British subject by marriage but of foreign extraction, wife of the 2nd Secretary of the British Embassy in Moscow.

E. KEYMER,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): With your permission, Sir, I shall substitute the word 'five' for the word 'three' in my motion. I understand that would meet with the wishes of the Members of the House.

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Legislative Department for the Financial year 1945-46."

This motion Sir, is made in pursuance of Mr. Essak Sait's motion, which was accepted by the House that there should be a Standing Advisory Committee, attached to the Legislative Department. Sir, I move.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Legislative Department for the Financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. O. M. Trivedi (Secretary, War Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1945-46."

Sir, the Committee met three times during the last year. Each meeting lasted for two days and the deliberations of each meeting took about 7 hours. On each occasion the Committee heard a review of the war situation on all fronts either by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief or the Chief of the General Staff. The review was followed, in each case by a discussion. On two occasions, the Principal Administrative Officer, India Command, who is generally responsible for preparing India as a base, discussed with the Committee administrative problems in the military field. The discussion covered, among other things, the problems of transportation, labour and accommodation, welfare and morale of troops, particularly Indian troops.

As the House is aware, one of our biggest problems is the shortage of suitable Indian candidates offering for Commissions in the three Fighting Services, namely, the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force. The Indian Air Force, as the House is aware, has recently been honoured by His Majesty the King Emperor with the distinction of the prefix 'Royal', a distinction which, if I may say so, is richly deserved and which, I am sure, will give the Indian Air Force, the sister services and the general public great satisfaction. The Committee discussed at great length various

12 Noon means of remedying the unsatisfactory situation in regard to the officer material, and we have now adopted, in consultation with the Committee, several measures which, we hope, may go some way towards attracting a suitable type of Indian candidates. We decided some months ago to open a pre-Cadet College at Nowgong, near Jhansi, where candidates marked 'deferred' by the Selection Boards are sent for training for a period of a little over five months. The training is intended to develop self-confidence and leadership among candidates and to improve their physique and knowledge of English, and we hope that a large number of these candidates will, at the end of their training, be found suitable for Commissions. At present Selection Boards take three days for interviewing and testing a batch of candidates. It was represented to us by the Committee that the candidates should be given rest on the day of arrival and not be asked to plunge straight into work. We accepted the advice of the Committee and lengthened the period of three days to four days.

The shortage of pilots for the Royal Indian Air Force causes us considerable anxiety. The Committee and ourselves have, therefore, devoted a good deal of attention to this matter. On the advice of the Committee, we have

decided to extend the Indian Air Training Corps to all Universities, to encourage visits by college students to Air Force stations and to give prospective candidates and their relations free flights and latterly we have organised the Royal Indian Air Force Display Flight which, as Honourable Members are aware, visited Delhi this week. At the instance of the Committee, we have also strengthened liaison between Recruiting officers and serving officers on the one hand and colleges and Universities on the other and we have decided to open a register of candidates willing to remain in the Royal Indian Air Force after the war.

The Committee also considered the question of recruitment to the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) and its naval wing which is now called the Women's Royal Indian Naval Service. It further considered the question of recruitment of technical personnel, particularly in the Navy. I venture to think that the question of recruitment to the Officer rank is a very important question: in fact a very vital one, because Indianisation of the services depends entirely on suitable Indian candidates coming forward for the Defence services.

The Committee also discussed problems relating to the post war organisation of the Army with particular reference to class composition and the future system of officering of the Indian Army, and the advice it has given us on these two very important matters will be of the greatest value to us.

The Committee made certain suggestions regarding improving the number and quality of Indian officers at the Staff College, Quetta. These suggestions have been accepted, and we hope that they will result in increasing the number of Indian officers at the Staff College. Staff Training, as the House is aware, is of very great importance and in fact essential for an officer aspiring to be a staff officer.

The Committee has been kept in touch with important developments in the Defence services in the administrative field: for instance, we discussed with the Committee the schemes of the Army for the development of local resources of fresh vegetables, milk, eggs and poultry. The Committee endorsed the steps taken to make the services self-supporting as far as possible and desired that, in view of the need for relieving civil economy, such steps should be intensified. We are continuously doing this.

Some Members of the Committee visited the Assam Front and sent reports giving impressions of their visit and making suggestions, particularly regarding rations and amenities for Indian troops. These suggestions have been accepted. Some Members of the Committee also visited the Tactical Training Centre at Dehra Dun, Kitchener College at Nowgong of which I have already spoken and the Staff College, Quetta. One Member of the Committee paid a visit to the Officers' Selection Boards. Sir, this is only a brief account of the work done by the Committee. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has asked me that I should take this opportunity of acknowledging publicly the increasing assistance he is receiving from the Members of the Committee. The Committee is a valuable link both between the Legislature and ourselves, and, if I may say so, between the public and ourselves. I would like to add that the Committee is meeting this week to discuss with the Reorganisation Committee some of the questions which are under examination by that Committee. The scope of the discussions will be very wide indeed, and I have no doubt that the views of the Defence Consultative Committee will be of great help to the Reorganisation Committee. Sir, I move.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1945-46."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Member in charge has made a fairly full report of the work of the Committee and also the attitude of his Department in that regard. But I wish to suggest one or two things for the consideration of his Department and particularly of this Committee. There seems to be a

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

sort of the anxiety on the part of the Department concerned to advertise the fact that the material at the College which they are able to recruit for officers for the Air Force is not very good, that the quality of the recruits is not up to the mark, that once they have been recruited and they are being given training they are found in very many cases not to be able to come up to the mark. Sir, I feel a bit suspicious about this propaganda that is going on. This is the youngest of our defence services, and as such, it has a much better opportunity of trying to make this approach towards nationalisation than the other two services. It is a notorious fact that in regard to the other two forces, especially of the Army, Indianisation has been going on rather slowly, criminally slowly. We were hoping that at least in regard to this latest service, Indianisation will be taken for granted and if at all any Europeans or Englishmen are imported or brought in, it would be only as a matter of exception. On the other hand I find—speaking subject to correction—that out of nine squadrons they have come to organise, as many as five are supposed to be manned by Indians. Sir, this is not a bad thing as a start, if really by Indians they mean really cent per cent Indians and not half and half or three-fourths and one-fourth and so on. Sir, I learnt that in many of these training centres, there are very many allegations made against the manner in which these examinations are being conducted periodically as well as final examinations and it is also alleged that certain candidates are preferred as against others and that pure undiluted cent per cent Indians are not given the same chance as others of various mixtures and that an honest effort is not being made to give these people a real chance to satisfy their so-called examiners, most of whom unfortunately happen to be non-Indians and therefore although quite a large number of Indians are being recruited as trainees, a very large percentage of these people are being ploughed and sent out as being unfit to be taken as officers. I cannot say, because we are kept too far away from these operations, how far these allegations are based upon truth, and I cannot say how much of truth there is in them. But I can vouch for this that there is a serious sense of discontent prevailing among a section of Indian trainees themselves. I am saying that advisedly because I am quite prepared to hear the Honourable Member say, taking advantage of the fact that these poor trainees will not be able to give a free expression of their own views and feelings, that all these trainees are completely satisfied with whatever is going on in the training schools. Therefore I say that amongst a good enough section of these trainees there is a serious sense of discontent at the manner in which they are being treated at these training centres and the way in which they are examined. Sir, we have not heard from any British authority in England about any serious discontent, that they feel about the quality of the material that they are able to recruit from British universities. But surely it cannot be the case that all the recruits that they have been able to get are thoroughly satisfactory according to their standards. It must be because those people are anxious anyhow, even if necessary, to make a good job out of bad material, and they are trying to convert bad material into good material, a good material into better material; whereas on this side, in order that this service may not become thoroughly Indianised and nationalised in the shortest possible period, the department seems to be particularly anxious to go about saying and advertising in season and out of season that our material is not good enough that no good enough material is forthcoming, and when it is forthcoming it does not prove good enough. Therefore I want this Committee to obtain sufficient information in regard to this matter when it meets the department, and also to take sufficient care to see that our trainees are given a fair deal.

Sir, I wish to make one other suggestion and it is this. In regard to the examinations held for these people I want the Committee to assure itself that the majority of these examiners happen to be Indians and not Englishmen, that these examiners are sympathetic towards Indians and the Indians' right to get for themselves the best possible training, then to have a fair deal at their

examinations and later on to be taken on permanently as members of the staff.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to make it quite clear that in accordance with the policy of our Party under which we refuse to take any responsibility where we have no control over war affairs, our Party will not take part in the elections and will not put up candidates.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have been a member of this Committee for the last three years and it is a welcome move on the part of the Secretary of the Department to give us a short and brief but lucid resume of the work done in the department. I am sure my colleagues on this Committee will agree with me—and it is my personal experience—that so far as the members of this Committee are concerned, right from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief all the officials who have been on the Committee have always given us all the information that we desired. In fact their courtesy and frankness has been such as might be easily followed by other departments too. When a member of the Committee makes a suggestion even to the President of the Committee, who is none else than the Commander-in-Chief, we get a full and complete reply from him which, I am sorry to say, we do not always get from many of our Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches.

With regard to the points made by Prof. Ranga, I may say that we have often been told about the feelings of the candidates and the large number of failures in the examination. The members of the Committee in the last two years have been visiting the different training schools and attending selection boards, and their invariable care has been to see that the rejections are fair and reasonable without prejudice to the young men's future career, and without any regard to caste or creed. There has been no difference made between Indian and Indian. Let that be clearly understood. I myself have often been there, my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh and others also have been there. We have invariably made it a point to attend the meetings of the selection board and the training college, with the sole object of finding out whether there is discrimination in favour of one or the other. The only difficulty we found was that many of our young men were not brought up for these services, because we in this country have not brought up our young men to prepare for a military career but only as scientists and so on. Therefore we have found that at the examinations or at the selection board they have not been very comfortable at first, but after some time they have felt quite comfortable.

I must also say that we should now insist that in our schools and colleges there should be regular training for our young men which will fit them for a military career. We have not done that. The other day we had a lecture in the Library when we were told that many of our young men have not had opportunities even to go to the seaside and see a big ship. That is not our fault; that has been our mentality. That is why we have got no openings in the Navy all these years. But now is the opportunity, and we the members of the Committee are trying to do our level best to see that our young men are given a fair chance in the army and navy, which is now a crying need for this country.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, when the Secretary of the War Department was speaking, my mind went back to the days when I was intimately connected with the Bombay University as its Vice-Chancellor. In the six years I was there I tried my best to plead for the expansion of the scope of the University Training Corps, and my experience was—and I am sure that was the experience of all other Vice-Chancellors—that the attitude of the Defence Department was very unsympathetic. Every attempt that we made to promote a healthy appetite among our own people for a military career was frustrated by the not only unsympathetic but unfriendly attitude of the Defence Department. The result was that we had a feeling that we Indians were not wanted in the army. Even

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

after the war started, in the earlier two years—although I was not the Vice-Chancellor I was taking an interest in this question—the general feeling was that we were not wanted. When the situation became acute there was a clamour for recruits, and I must confess that in spite of the unsympathetic attitude of the Government in the past, the response from Indians has been very good indeed.

As regards recruitment, whatever may have been the justification for not getting fair treatment in the early stages of the war, I am prepared to admit that since the constitution of the Staff Selection Boards, I do not think there is much justification for that complaint. I will acknowledge that Government in appointing Indians on the Selection Boards—very prominent and independent Indians like Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, and Principal Mahajani have been selected. The Selection Board at Lonavla also has got experienced Indian officers of the U.O.T.C. As a result of enquiries that I have made, I have come to know that the anxiety of these Selection Boards is not to turn down the material but to convert bad material into good and good material into better. So there is not much justification for this complaint.

But there is another feeling for which there is really some justification. What about the future? Why people are still fighting shy of making military as their permanent career? A large number of Indians have joined and are joining the Army because they hope that the war is going to be over very soon and they may, at the end of the war, be absorbed in the Indian Civil Service, Indian Police or other covenanted services. There are however a large number of Indians who are anxious to make military as their permanent career but they are not sure of the ground whether the Army will be Indianized or not, and whether they can at least hope—not now, but after 25 or 30 years—to occupy high positions as Staff Officers, as Army Commanders as Generals and even as Commander-in-Chief. So long as that feeling is there, it will be very difficult for us to persuade our young men to go with a free heart and take up the army as their permanent career.

There is a feeling abroad that we are wanted there in the present emergency, but when the opportunity for throwing responsible positions to officers in the Army comes Indians may not get a fair treatment. I am not in a position to say categorically that there is any justification for this feeling, but the feeling is there and that, I would like to assure the War Secretary, is keeping back a large number of young Indians from taking up military as their permanent career.

As regards the Indian Air Force, I frankly confess that so long as the parents have got a control over young men, which they have to a greater degree in this than in other countries, and so long as there is the feeling among the parents that there is a greater danger to life in the Air Force than in any other branch of the Army, I am afraid this feeling will certainly hold back a large number of young Indians from joining the Indian Air Force. I can tell you from my personal experience. While recruiting candidates for other jobs I have often asked why when there was a large demand for the Indian Air Force they have not applied for commissions; the reply has been that their parents would not allow them to join the Indian Air Force.

Sir, I would like to emphasise this fact before the War Secretary that if the Government are really keen on getting our people to take up military as their permanent career, they must come forward and say boldly that their policy is to Indianize the Army and the Indians joining the Army will get into positions which are now held by Europeans and when the time comes they will be in charge of the Indian Army.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): The remark from the Honourable the War Secretary that suitable material is not forthcoming in adequate numbers has constrained me to make a few remarks. I am afraid that I am bound to repudiate this contention that there is not suitable material and abundant material for the officer category of the Indian Air Force. Let me

tell him that because of the feeling that there are unnecessary restrictions to recruitment in the Indian Air Force that no less than four thousand Anglo-Indians have gone to England and are now serving in the different cadres of the Royal Air Force. And I could give him scores of instances where these Anglo-Indians have been awarded the highest distinctions for gallantry in the Royal Air Force. As a result of an intensive drive on my part Anglo-Indians are applying increasingly for the Indian Air Force. I could give him suitable first class material not for ten but twenty squadrons from my own community. And I feel the fault lies essentially with the Selection Committees. I am not prepared to accept the contention of my Honourable friend who has just spoken that the constitution of these committees is unexceptionable. I can give the Honourable Member instances, numerous instances, of absolutely first class men who have for no ostensible reasons, been rejected by these selection committees. I will give to the Honourable Member one instance of a lad who was rejected. He was an absolutely first class lad. I took the trouble of investigating his case and after interviewing him personally I brought his case to the notice of the present Viceroy who was then Commander-in-Chief. I fought this case with the greatest persistence. I knew that if you could reject a young man of this description then you could not build an Air Force because you could not get better material. I came back to the charge over and over again and the military authorities ultimately agreed to give him another chance. He was selected and given his training. That young man got his Wings recently. At the passing out parade he was awarded the sword of honour as the best officer. That is typical of the rejections that are being made by these selection committees. Only the other day, certain absolutely first class lads qualified in every way—academically, physically and socially—were rejected. I could not see any reason as to why they were rejected. Let me tell you, Sir, that there is a real complaint that since the authorities have enlisted the support of these psycho-analysts, psychiatrists, and psychologists, all kinds of peculiar mystic reasons are being assigned for the rejection of these young men. These psychiatrists and psycho-analysts themselves appear to be cranks and fit subjects for observation and entertainment in asylums. And let me tell the War Secretary that after all psycho-analysis and psychiatry are still very much in an empirical state and your methods ten years from now may, in the light of subsequent knowledge, be stigmatised as nothing more than quackery. And yet these psycho-analysts and psychiatrists are really rejecting today what we think is first class material. I do not agree with you when you say that you have not got suitable material and abundant material. I can give you first class material, material which will compare favourably with the material anywhere else in the world. I can give you material not only for ten but twenty squadrons from my own community.

I would ask the War Secretary to set up a Board for reviewing cases of rejection. I am sure they will find many cases of the type I have already mentioned, of Jones who was given a second chance and who qualified as the best officer.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: When was that? Was it under the old system or the new system?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It was nine months ago. But even under the new system I feel that young men are irresponsibly rejected by these cranks whom you call psychiatrists and psycho-analysts. You are rejecting first class material. If you will set up a Board to review such cases you will find that many of these lads that are now being rejected, will be accepted and they will, I am certain, prove an absolute credit to your Indian Air Force.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): I had no intention of breaking a lance with my Honourable friend, the representative of the Anglo-Indian community in this House, but I feel constrained to do so by his attack upon the psychiatrists who are members of these selection boards.

Let me first of all, endorse everything that he has said as to the services which his own community has rendered to the Armed forces, services which are

[Sir F. E. James.]

of a most conspicuous character and which do the greatest possible credit to this small but virile community. But I do not think his criticism of the method of selection under the new system is wholly justified. When I was a member of the Defence Consultative Committee last year, I remember this method was very carefully considered and in order to remove misconceptions, members of that committee were invited to sit with these Selection Boards for several days at a time to watch the whole procedure. I took advantage of that opportunity and I have in fact sat with two selection boards under the new system. I came away convinced that the new method is infinitely better than the old method. For one thing the new method cuts right across all preferences of a social and political character. I remember in the old days, selection was made by committees which very often did their work in the most cursory manner, and allowed all kinds of social and other prejudices to enter into their judgment. In fact it was very difficult for men with powers of leadership, but no social background to get selected by those particular boards. The most striking impression that I received through sitting in with these selection committees was that at least, that has gone. Selections are based upon a very careful series of examinations in which all kinds of considerations are very carefully weighed, and I think that on the whole the results have proved to be most satisfactory. I may say that many of the finest units in the armed forces today, where leadership, courage, enterprise, daring and initiative are required—many of the leaders of those units have been chosen under the new system, and I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Anthony, is perhaps making too sweeping a statement when he suggests that the psychiatrists, the psychologists and other technical members of these selection boards are men who are incapable of judging and selecting on a scientific and satisfactory basis.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Who certifies these psychologists?

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend, I take it, is being facetious.

I have no objection to the suggestion that he has made that there might be a review of rejections. After all psychiatrists, psychologists and economists can make mistakes, and sometimes it is advisable to provide for a review. But I would remind my Honourable friend, Mr. Anthony, that as a matter of fact in many of these cases there is automatically a review. When I was present, very few applicants were rejected outright. A certain number were placed on a list to come up for review within, say, six or twelve months, and in some instances, on review, those applicants had been entertained by the Committee. But if my Honourable friend is thinking of a review by a completely different machinery, then that is another matter and perhaps the Honourable the Secretary of the War Department, in consultation with his Consultative Committee, might consider that suggestion at the next meeting.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammandan Rural): I did not realise that the motion before the House would enable us to have a debate of the character that we are having now. The House is surely thankful to my Honourable friend, the War Secretary, for having set a precedent, a very welcome precedent, in making a comprehensive statement regarding the activities of the committee attached to the Defence Department, and we are also very grateful to you, Sir, for having permitted us the indulgence of having a general debate with regard to some of the points raised by the Honourable Member. I trust that this precedent will be fully availed of in future in connection with the activities of the different departmental committees.

My intention is to say just a few words in regard to the Indian Air Force. Although this is one of the youngest organisations of the armed forces, perhaps the youngest, so far as the officer ranks are concerned, we are having cent. per cent. Indians, and that is a matter of great satisfaction to us. That is why we were somewhat pained and surprised when a few days ago, I think it was about the 10th February, when the Governor of the United Provinces, in his address

to a recruiting board of that place, referred to the fact that the recruitment of officers for the Indian Air Force was very unsatisfactory: so much so that gaps in certain squadrons had to be filled by drafting officers from the Royal Air Force. On that occasion the Governor of the United Provinces expressed his surprise that this should be so, having regard to the importance which the air arm is bound to play in future, and having regard to the possibility of opportunities being afforded to Indian Officers of the Indian Air Force having the prospects of permanent service in that branch of military service.

I was rather surprised this morning when my Honourable friend, the War Secretary, was not able to give us even an idea as to the time when we could have definite information regarding the permanent post-war strength of this arm. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member, in his budget speech referred to the fact that there has been an unusually great wastage in the course of training of the Indian Air Force cadets. I should like to know whether it is a fact that the wastage in the training stages—I should like to make it quite clear that I am not referring to the selection stage to which reference has been made by the previous speakers—has been greater in the case of the Indian Air Force than in the case of the other arms so far as Indian cadets are concerned. I speak from recollection; My Honourable friend, the Finance Member's point was that the wastage in the Indian Air Force has been of an inordinate character. Here is something about which the House should definitely like to know the position, and the Consultative Committee that we are now going to set up should be asked to go into this aspect of the matter and find out and report to this House the reasons why, if at all, the wastage in the course of training in the Indian Air Force is of a larger extent than the wastage in the course of training of the officers of the other arms. It is by making a suggestion of this character that I think I can make my observations relevant to the present motion.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): I would draw the attention of the Honourable the War Secretary to two points. The first is that there is a widespread feeling amongst the Indian Officers that a great racial discrimination is practised in the Army in certain matters. The most important is the question of allowances. Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers are expected to maintain the same standard of efficiency and living, but they are not paid on the same level, and therefore they are always suffering from a sort of inferiority complex. That is one complaint. I hope the War Secretary will look into this matter, because that has great effect upon the efficiency and the discipline of the armed forces.

The second point is about the Air Force. Right or wrong, I do not know how far it is justified, but there is a feeling and that feeling is supported by a large number of accidents to the air machines, that the Indian section of the Air Force is supplied bad machines.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That is absolutely incorrect.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I request the War Department to make this point very clear and to assure the public that there is no such thing. But there is a feeling and it is to the interest of the Government to remove that feeling. In my own Province there has been a large number of air crashes, in which several finest young men have died and that is one reason why people hesitate to come to the Air Force.

The next point to which I want to draw attention is the method of selection. I endorse the remarks which fell from the lips of my Honourable friend, Mr. Anthony. This new method of selection has caused great disaffection amongst the prospective Indian officers. Some people even go so far as to think that this (I do not know how to pronounce this difficult word) psychiatrist method is a new device to shut out several efficient and good future Indian officers. The Honourable the War Secretary is shaking his head. I know that may not be the intention. My point is that there is a feeling amongst the public, a feeling amongst the new recruits that this method is unsuitable and by this, Government probably wants to defeat Indianisation

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, no.

Sardar Mangal Singh:and come up here after a few years and say: "Oh, the good Indian material is not coming forward". I was present in the Library of the House and have attended two lectures given by senior-most military officers. Both the Air officer as well as the Navy officer complained that the required material is not coming forward. In this regard I must say that the fault does not lie with the Indian young men but the fault lies with the method of selection and above all with the educational system of this country. You expect Indian young men to come up to the standard of those young men who have been turned out by the British Universities but the education which we give to our young men is far inferior. In this regard I would request the War Secretary that they should take charge of Indian young men at a very early stage. The experiment of the King George's School has proved successful. I wish the War Department to extend that system and to improve the educational curriculum of those schools. It is from those schools that you expect to get efficient Indian officers.

Before I sit down I wish to invite the attention of the War Secretary that they should also tap the source of the Indian ranks. The officers of the Indian army should be recruited more and more from the ranks, that would be an impetus for the young men to enlist themselves in the army. I have heard complaints that some of the young men who go to the army do not go there to adopt the army as a career. But they go there just to use the army as a spring board to get higher jobs in the political and other departments. I do not wish to go into this matter at this time but on the discussion of the Finance Bill I will deal with this matter more fully. But some people do go to the army, from where they might go to the Political or other Departments. I therefore, Sir, wish to urge upon the Defence Department that they must make sure that the young man who is coming forward will adopt the army as a career and they should encourage those young men who will join the army as a profession. I hope that the Committee will take interest in these matters and will make suggestions to the Army Reorganisation Committee which will deal with these larger questions. The Government of India, Sir, I think, have acted rather hastily in this matter. They are going to consider the whole question of the reorganisation of the army including such large questions as conscription and all that. The larger question of defence is very intimately connected with the whole economic and political planning of the life of the nation. You cannot have an efficient army, you cannot have efficient and well-disciplined defence forces, unless the whole life of the nation is organised and disciplined to that pitch. You must also reorganise the industry of the nation, in order to suit the requirements of Defence. You cannot build your essential industries within the striking distance of enemy.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, the debate is taking such a wide turn that it would more appropriately come in the discussion of the Finance Bill instead of delaying the beginning of that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rah'm): Mr. Joshi the other day had suggested that the Government Member making such a motion should give a review of the administration of the department when I pointed out that that sort of review would be not in order. The Government Member who moved this motion made such a comprehensive speech covering so many points that it has been impossible for me to hold the speeches, that followed, were not in order.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I therefore say that you cannot go into the question of the reorganisation of the army alone leaving the other aspects of the nation building to a different time. The whole question of the planning of industries, the building of the navy, the building of the merchant fleet and the reorganisation of the army—the whole thing goes together. Modern war is a total war. You cannot isolate it and confine it to one aspect of the nation's life. I would not take much time of the House. I hope that the War Secretary will bear these points in mind when he invites the committee for a meeting and when he makes suggestions to the Army Reorganisation Committee.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely : Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir, I do not want to take up too much time of this House but I would like to participate in this debate just to state that women as citizens are interested in the defence of their country and therefore they are as keen or perhaps even more keen than men are, that we should have a completely Indianised army as soon as possible. By army I mean all the three branches of the army, the army, the navy and the air force. I will waste the time of the House if I were to repeat every time the army, the navy and the air force.

Some Honourable Members: Say defence force.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, women as mothers are also very keen that their sons and their daughters should be officered by men and women of their own nationality. Women of India, I submit, are second to none in their courage to send their children into the fighting forces, but they are rightly anxious that they should be given fair and just treatment. Unfortunately the political situation in the country is such that there is not much confidence in the people that Indians receive proper treatment at the hands of the Government.

Sir, if I heard the Honourable the War Secretary right, I think he said something about the unsuitability of candidates. We women of India do not accept that statement. We feel it is a slur on the women of India when the Government says that suitable candidates are not coming forth. But really, it is a reflection on the Government themselves when they complain that they cannot get suitable candidates. They must examine the question why they do not get "suitable candidates."

An Honourable Member: They must examine themselves.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: And after examination, they must take steps to remove the obstacles that prevent suitable candidates from coming forward to join the Army. Mothers and wives of men officers and mothers of women officers bombard me with questions with regard to conditions in the Army and the treatment which the boys and girls receive there. They have mentioned to me instance after instance, which have come to their personal knowledge, where our young people have not received proper treatment, and I have had sadly to admit that neither I nor my colleagues in this Honourable House can do much because the Defence subject is *pardah* and we cannot deal with it. We do not know what happens behind the *pardah*, and I would, therefore repeat the request that has been made, that this House should be given an opportunity to have a debate on Defence affairs. Of course Government can keep back information which is confidential, but I think this House is entitled to know how the Army is organised, and how young men and women are selected and trained. I asked a question this morning about the curriculum for women but I am sorry that my Honourable friend could not give me a complete answer.

Women of India are more perturbed now because our girls also are being recruited. We have no objection, in fact we feel pleased that our girls have got the courage to join the defence forces, but we should like to know something about their auxiliary organisations. When there is a small measure of social reform to be introduced, Government goes through an elaborate procedure: it appoints a committee to inquire into the matter, and then comes to a conclusion, but when they introduce such an innovation as the W.A.C.I. they do not consult any representative committee of women, and, as far as I understand, even this House was not consulted before starting this organisation and about methods of recruiting, and of training.

I think my Honourable friend the War Secretary said something about training for leadership. I would respectfully point out to Government that qualities of leadership cannot be roused in the people by foreigners. It is much better that our own people train them: they understand them much better than foreigners do.

Sir, I would again appeal to Government to let this House have an idea as to when there will be complete Indianisation of the Army. I referred to this

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

subject during the debate on the Finance Bill last year, but I have not had an answer yet. I reminded Government then that this House had passed a Resolution in 1938 during the Simla Session asking for a Committee to go into this question. I believe a Committee was then appointed, but nobody has heard anything more about it, whether it has reported, and if so what happened to its report. In any case I think this House has the right to have a definite answer from Government with regard to complete Indianisation of the Army.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to say these few words on this subject.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salein and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the last question that was put to the House was when there will be complete Indianisation of the Army. I am reminded of the answer which Mr. Tottenham the then Secretary for Defence, gave in this House; namely, that even a congenital idiot will see that there will never be complete Indianisation. That was his answer not many years ago.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): That was not his answer: what he said was that at the rate Indianisation was proceeding there would never be complete Indianisation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Mr. Joshi means the same thing, Mr. Tottenham used the words—even a congenital idiot will see that there will never be complete Indianisation. Now, Sir, it is really a fact that people are disturbed in their minds by the thought that those who are going to the Army will be utilised when the British Government want to utilise them, and that they will be thrown to the winds when they do not need them. The suspicion to which my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar referred, is real.

I now come to the second question—why they are not getting proper men today. The answer is that for many young men their posts and commissions are mere jobs and there is no national appeal to which the fighting forces of a country should have. In England and in other free countries, the appeal that is made to young men is—fight for your country and save your freedom. But here, Sir, many of our members would have seen the advertisements, the appeal is—Good food given, good clothing given, you can learn a profession: these are the appeals made for recruitment. Does the War Secretary imagine that men with ideals will respond to such lower appeals? Boys from families with high traditions in this land do not want to join the Army today because it has no national appeal for them. Now service in the Army is not national service. If it were so, thousands of young men of high caliber and best education will join the colours and if necessary sacrifice themselves to the last. I heard the other day the Commander-in-Chief referred to the Indian Army and said it was national army. It is a pity that this word national has been misused many times. This Government has been termed national. The Civil Service in India is called national. This Government, Sir, with the four most important subjects entrusted to Europeans, is called national, and in this way there is nothing to which this word cannot be applied. And so, Sir, we should not be influenced by the use of this word. I appeal through the Honourable War Secretary—because he cannot decide the policy and can only carry out instructions—to the authorities concerned, and tell them that if they have the courage and strength to make the Indian army a national army, there will not be a dearth of suitable candidates. There will be so much competition that they will be hard put to it to select. So, Sir, if Government are really bent on getting good men, this is the real thing over which they will have to ponder; this is the real way in which they have to go, and if they do so, there will be no dearth of candidates. I am glad, Sir, that this opportunity was given to the House to discuss this matter.

Lt. Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I desire to join in this debate mainly because I have been a member of the Selection

Board for over three years, and have seen from inside the working of selection boards or what are known as interview boards. My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony said a good deal regarding psychologists and psychiatrists. In my own board we used to have a fairly large percentage of acceptances and those acceptances were ratified by the selection of candidates whom I r.m. we sent up to the final selection board. As a matter of fact, the board on which I sat had a very high percentage of final successes. But ever since these psychologists have been brought in, things have assumed a very different aspect. I do not say that there should not be psychiatrists or psychologists on these boards; but there are a few matters which I would like to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend the Army Secretary, and they are these.

Firstly, so far as I am aware, far too great importance has been given to the opinion of the psychologists. They come to these boards as advisers to the board; they do not have a vote; yet in practice they seem to have the main say in the matter of selection. They tried more than once on our board to let us first hear their opinion as to which candidate in their opinion would be suitable. It amounted to this, that if we did not ratify their choice, most likely our candidates would be thrown out at the final selection board. The board of which I was a member had the courage to protest most strongly against this, and we felt we could not carry on if our judgment was interfered with in this way. I must say to the credit of the army authorities that the psychiatrists ceased coming to our board. But what was the result? The result was a remarkable falling off in the final acceptance of our candidates. We non-cooperated at one end; and at the other end there was more effective non-cooperation.

The second point I would like to make is this: if I am wrong I would like to be corrected—these psychologists are largely Harley Street specialists or physicians—some of them may not have had a very big practice in Harley Street; but they are largely people who have come from there. Now, my submission is that these men are not conversant with conditions in India. I am not at all convinced that they know the psychology or the get up of an Indian student. I would like to ask my Honourable friend, why is it that all these psychologists and psychiatrists are brought from abroad? In India there are a large number of psychologists of the most distinguished calibre who have made their mark in British universities and who have spent long years of training and teaching in this country—why is it that the army authorities are unable to bring such psychologists and psychiatrists also, if they must have them on their committee? Now, as Vice-Chancellor of a University with a very wide jurisdiction, I have been most interested in this question of recruitment: firstly and foremost because I am convinced that no country which attains its freedom—as we hope to before long—can defend that freedom or can make that freedom worth twenty four hours purchase if it has not the means, in a world such as ours, to defend and protect its freedom. I am, therefore, cent per cent. for the strengthening of the Indian Army. I would do my best—I have done so where my own children are concerned and where the men whose training is in my hands are concerned by urging them to do their share and to obtain the necessary military training. The Indian Air Force particularly appeals to the imagination of our young university men; I know that in my own university, the one thing which they want to do is to enter the Indian Air Force; it is up to the army authorities to consider the reasons. The reason first is that the number of rejections is appalling. In the case of university men that we sent up from our interview board—and some of them in my opinion would make the finest soldiers, officers and leaders,—the number of rejections was appalling. Suppose we accept the contention of the army authorities that they require a very high standard for airmen, and that these men have not had the back-ground or that they have some defect or other, I would like to ask my friend another question. Why is it that after these men

[Lt.-Col. J. C. Chatterjee.]

have been selected—and the average selection is not even one in ten—after such severe elimination, why is it that so many of them are sent back during the course of training? Does the fault there also lie with the men who go up or does the fault lie with the trainers who are appointed by the army authorities? I think this is a matter which I would commend to the care of my friend the Army Secretary. I would like to have a reply as to why it is that so many men who are accepted after such meticulous care, after passing through so many boards and even after defying the psychiatrists, why are there so many not able to complete their training? Does the fault lie with the trainers, if not, where does it lie? I am not sure, but I would say this, that if men are required, this feeling which is now in the minds of our young men that their chances of selection are slender, that once they are selected they are liable to be sent away—and many are sent away—the feeling of our young men, that they have no promising career in the Indian Air Force exists, must be removed.

My final point is that we have had in our universities for many years officers training corps—they were formerly called the territorial force. I do not know what the reason is, but the regular army authorities had never looked with very great favour on these territorial forces and specially the University Training Corps. I would admit, and admit with gratitude, that in recent years we have been given better equipment and we have been taken a little more seriously. But the fact still, remains that very little preference is given to men who have had training, sometimes long training, in the University Training Corps: they are not recruited direct for emergency commissions from there, as they are in England. I would like the army authorities to go carefully into this matter and see if some concession cannot be allowed to men who have been through the University Officers Training Corps; particularly at this time in the matter of the Indian Air Force I would urge it on them. The reason is that the army authorities have now agreed to establish these air force training centres at various universities. A centre has been established in my own university, and we have done our best to give them every facility; and I would like to impress this on the Army Secretary that something real should be made of this. Our feeling has been that men going through the training corps in the universities do not get any preference, that they are not seriously treated by the army. Is this story going to be repeated in the case of the Air Force as well? I hope that it will not be, and that the training given there will not be so much loss of money on the part of the taxpayer and so much loss of time on the part of our students.

Whatever I have said, I have not said in a spirit of carping criticism, but in the spirit of constructive suggestion. I have spoken as one who is cent. per cent. interested in the pushing forward of recruitment to the armed forces; and as I do sincerely wish that our young men should take advantage of this opportunity, I hope that these suggestions will receive the consideration of my Honourable friend.

(Some Honourable Members rose to speak.)

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir. . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know if the Honourable Members or the House want to close the debate. Some Honourable members apparently want to speak; but if the Honourable Government Member wishes to reply now, there can be no other speeches afterwards. I do not know if the House wants to close the debate.

An Honourable Member: The question may now be put.

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

“That the question be now put.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, this is a question in which the country ought to take the greatest possible interest. I am glad the War Secretary has given the House a chance to discuss this question in an elaborate manner. Every time this question is raised,

it is said that there is a dearth of suitable candidates for officers' positions. This complaint does not surprise me. Since the advent of the British rule in this country, there has been a conspiracy to kill the martial spirit of the people of this country. After 1857 the first step that the Government took was that they passed the Arms Act. It was nothing but a conspiracy to kill the martial spirit of the people. After that, they confined the recruitment to only two or three provinces. Again, it was nothing less than a conspiracy to kill the martial spirit of the people in other parts. Before the British came to this country two or three centuries ago, India was independent. Was there then any want of capable candidates for generalship and commandership in this country? The British ought to be ashamed to say this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue 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. Ram Narayan Singh: Sir, before the House adjourned for Lunch interval I was referring to the conspiracy on the part of the Britishers to kill the martial spirit in the country. First of all they disarmed the whole country by enacting the Arms Act and thereby killed the martial spirit of the people of this country. The next step in their conspiracy to kill the martial spirit was that they confined recruitment only to two or three Provinces in the country. In this way, the martial spirit of the people of those Provinces where they stopped recruitment was to be killed.

An Honourable Member: Was Bihar one of them?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Bihar has always been known for martial spirit. It has a glorious history behind it, but this Government stopped recruitment from that Province. I know the reason why. The reason was that Bihar took a prominent part in the first Indian War of Independence, in 1857. By way of reprisal the Government stopped recruitment from that Province.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): This was the first. When is the second coming?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: It will be coming at the proper time. They say that no suitable candidate is coming forward. I submit, Sir, that in order to infuse military virtues in the minds of young people there must be good and honest teachers. But where are the good teachers? The teachers are imported from British isles, and these teachers must be thinking all the while how to protect British interests in this country. If they declare Indian boys suitable for officers' positions in the military, well, how will they be able to import British people for these positions in the country? This complaint is nothing more, nothing less than the creation of justification for the importation of British soldiers and British officers into this country. In this country, the Rajputs, the Sikhs, the Pathans, the Mahrattas and people of many other classes, are all born soldiers and there can be no want of leaders among them. Can the Britisher say that he is a born soldier? How long have the Britishers been following military occupation in this world? They are a trading class, they are shopkeepers. When traders can turn into soldiers and officers, why can't Indians who are born soldiers become officers? Well, Sir, the thing is this: much depends upon teaching. If anybody fails to shoot a target, it does not mean that there is no target. There was a target, but the man who is shooting failed to hit the target. In the same way, in the boys they select where there is the spirit and the capacity to be officers, but it is these dishonest teachers who do not develop these virtues. Sir, the Great Guru Govind Singh is reported to have said:

"Bilkī se main bagh marawāun, chiriyon se main paj marawāun tab Guru Gobind Kalawāun."

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

Which means that if I can make a cat kill a tiger, and a small bird kill a bird of prey, then only can I be called a teacher, otherwise not. It is these British teachers who are always anxious to deprecate the merits of our Indian boys. How can they make our boys suitable for officers posts in the army? Well, Sir, another complaint is as regards the treatment which is meted out to Indian officers. How can decent Indian people be persuaded to enter the army when there is so much difference in treatment between the Britisher and the Indian? Indian officers are not put on the same footing as British officers. Will the War Secretary tell the House whether any Indian officer has been posted to command a regiment consisting of purely British soldiers? On the other hand lots of Indian regiments are commanded by the Britisher? Why is this partial treatment? When the Indian boys pass the required examination and they are declared as suitable for entry into the army, why should they be denied the opportunity of commanding a British regiment?

As regards the class from which recruits are taken, there is also invidious distinction made. Now-a-days recruitment is confined only to the rich classes. Is military virtue confined only to the rich? The cultivating classes of this country form the backbone of this country. Rules and regulations are so bad and the expenditures are so high that it is impossible for the general mass of the people to enter the military schools and colleges of the country. If the Government are really anxious to take Indian boys of the right type, then they should recruit from the general masses and train them as officials at the cost of Government. Now, it is very difficult for the common people to spend so much money in order to become officers in the army. Besides, as I just now said, there is the difference in treatment which also acts as a deterrent to young Indian boys coming forward to be enlisted in the military. British soldiers and British officers are punished by decisions of court martial, whereas Indian soldiers and officers are dismissed and their pensions withheld under the simple orders of the military officers.

In conclusion, I should say that I am glad that the War Secretary has given this House an opportunity to discuss this question which the House has done in a pleasant manner. This is the question which must be given the first and the most important place in the future development of the country. Some day or other the Britisher is bound to go, this country will then be free and the people of the country will have to defend their own country. So, this question of recruitment to the officer class in the army is a very important one and should not be neglected. We must be cautious from now onwards so that our future Indian army is manned and officered by Indians alone. With these words, Sir I resume my seat.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am very grateful—and so must be many of the Members—for the statement made by the Secretary of the War Department in which he laid before the House the whole case regarding the paucity of officers in the several branches of the Defence Forces. I have no doubt that this practice will be followed by him hereafter as well as by other Members of the Treasury Benches. I hope the War Department Secretary does not think that by making this comprehensive statement he has made a mistake. As a matter of fact I may say that no one would be better pleased than the present Commander-in-Chief who is more communicative and receptive of ideas than any one else; and I have no doubt that advantage will be taken of this debate not only by the Army officers but by the Army Reorganisation Committee which meets on the 17th and thereafter.

Now when we speak of the Indianization of the army we are concerned with Indian officers who are to command the Indian army and the paucity of officers in the three branches of the defence forces has been referred to. The main reason advanced is that the right type of candidates are not coming forward. The method of selection has been discussed by some Members here. I happen

to be a member of this committee, and but for the glowing praise bestowed on the selection board by my Honourable friend Sir F. E. James I would not have spoken at all. Before the present selection board adopted its present tests, the method was to take the certificate of the candidate's Principal that his conduct is good, another certificate from some one that he is a good sportsman; and on the strength of those certificates and probably also on the strength of some connection with the Government servants, the boys were taken in. Now this Board divides its test into two parts. One is the physical test; the boys are regularly examined for three days and no boy would be taken who is not physically fit. And whether these are individual or group tests, the boys themselves have said that they are satisfied with this part of the examination. But I must say that I and certain other people are not satisfied with the tests adopted for deciding the intelligence of the candidates or their ability to lead. And having heard so many complaints I made it a special point to see the selection by this Board of some of the candidates. I went to Bangalore and there I personally saw the test. One thing that struck me most was that one could not very well rely on the tests of intelligence employed by the psychologists nor the tests for leadership employed by the psychiatrists. When I said that I would like to be within the hearing of the candidate examined I was told that I could not be there. Then when I said that I should like to be examined by the psychiatrist I was told that that also could not be done. Therefore it seems to me that so far as this examination by the psychiatrist is concerned it is a closed chapter, and what Mrs. Subharayan said was true that there is something even in this respect behind the *pardah*. As regards intelligence tests I was not myself satisfied with them, and I will cite an instance which I gave to the Defence Consultative Committee. In this intelligence test certain words are given with which to frame sentences. Even this everyone cannot see but this officer kindly allowed me to see this. One of the words given was "Lead". One candidate said, "Lead, kindly Light, lead thou me on". Another said, "Those who are backward deserve to be led". A third said, "Lead is a very useful metal". When I asked the officer which answer he preferred, he said he thought that candidate was best who said, "Those who are backward deserve to be led", because he said it showed his capacity to lead. I said he had not said by whom the backward were to be led; also that the candidate who said "Lead, kindly Light" might have thought that he would do well to show his literary knowledge and it would appeal to the examiner. I said that if they had been told beforehand that literary knowledge was not required but the test would be of their capacity to lead, the answers might have been different. I also said that some university has its motto, "Lead us from darkness unto light."

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: That is the Agra University.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Yes. What about this university then? I think this is entirely misleading and a wrong way to test the candidate's intelligence or power of leadership. I also said that it is customary among Englishmen—I lived with a person but I think it is common among all of them—to pray before meal, "Lord, give me my daily bread". That surely does not mean that he will not work for his bread but he expects it to come from above. I therefore think that these tests are entirely misleading. Then when I went to Madras I had a talk with the Vice-Chancellor of that university and he told me, "I entirely agree with you and I am disgusted with this thing. I am on the provincial selection board; the candidates are trained by army officers and then sent up to the selection board, but many of them are rejected; there is not even a fifty-fifty chance". Then I went to Aligarh and spoke to Sir Zia Uddin and he also said that this test by the psychologist and psychiatrist was a mysterious problem, and any candidate can possibly be failed for any reason. Therefore with regard to this selection board I may say that the first part is approved by the candidates themselves and I have nothing to say against

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

that; it is only with regard to the second part that we have reason to complain. And I would have failed in my duty and I would not have done justice to my conscience if I had not spoken of this Board which was referred to by some Honourable Members in somewhat glorious terms. My Honourable friend must, I think, be glad that he gave us an opportunity to discuss this matter, for he has seen that the criticism of the Congress has been constructive. They have made various suggestions in regard to what should be done, and I hope that their suggestions will be carried out.

It was said that the education was at fault. There is no doubt about that; everybody says that it is primarily our system of education which is at fault and because of it you do not get a sufficient number of candidates. The education that is imparted in this country is with the idea of making people good clerks and professional men. Hardly much emphasis is laid on the sporting habits of students. As a matter of fact, it is very rare that a man is spoken highly if he is a sportsman, but if he has good academic qualifications he is applauded. It is the sports side of the education of Indian students which is kept very much in the background and which is really responsible for many of our difficulties. The percentage of students coming with high university degrees is more than the percentage of those students who are physically fit for appearing in competitive examinations for the various Arms. But let it not thereby be understood that a sufficient number of candidates is not available, because we have got so many Universities and India is such a big country. Though our education may be at fault, yet we can supply a sufficient number of officers. Then why is it that we have not got a sufficient number of officers?

Certain causes have been mentioned and let it not be understood that these were not put by the members of the Consultative Committee before the officers concerned. Racial discrimination has been referred to, whether in the matter of allowances, or in the matter of treatment. When I returned from the Middle East, I brought these facts to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and other Army officers, and His Excellency assured me that instructions will be issued in this respect. So far as racial discrimination between the Indians and Britishers while they are in the mess or otherwise, is concerned, I suppose something would be done. But as regards the allowances to be given, unfortunately this is in a way involved with the finances of the country and when I made a suggestion in the Consultative Committee that our officers should be given more pay—and even on the floor of the House I put forward this question about two years ago—I was told that India had reached its taxing capacity. But we have seen that defence expenditure has gone up by crores and crores of rupees, and when it comes to the question of increasing the pay of Naiks, Havildars, Jamadars and other Indian officers and giving them better allowances, the plea is put forward that taxing capacity had reached. So, in a way if the allowances of our Indian officers are not what they should be and if their pay is not which they should get, I think the Finance Member is responsible for that to a certain extent. So far as I am concerned, I would say let there be more and more expense on our Indian officers. Just as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, said the other day 'let there be more and more expenditure on development', I say 'let there be more expenditure on defence but expenditure on the pay of Indian officers, soldiers and the Indian Commissioned Officers; let more money be spent on them and not on non-Indians

Another political question is this: The Honourable Member must have heard certain statements made by the Vice-Admiral, Godfrey the other day. He said that a country's navy is what the country deserves and he said that the expansion of the Navy would depend on the mercantile marine of a nation which again depends on trade—coastal or otherwise. This point was put

forward in the Committee at one of its sittings and discussed. I put a question whether this matter was represented to the Government Member—the Member concerned with this matter is the Commerce Member—and whether it was brought to his notice that the expansion of the Navy depend on the expansion of the mercantile marine which ultimately depended on the mercantile trade of that country. When I put this matter in the form of a question to the Commerce Member, the reply was that it involved many constitutional difficulties—the Navigation Act will have to be amended, as also the Sections in the Government of India Act of 1935 regarding discrimination about which we are fighting. That matter was shelved. If more members were put on this committee, they would strengthen the hands of persons who want to put things more definitely and who want to take a very independent view of the matter.

As regards the Indian Air Force, the Selection Boards select candidates not only for one particular arm but they select candidates for all the three defences, and it is also a fact that most of the W. A. C. I. officers are examined by these Selection Boards. The tests are almost the same, excepting, of course, the physical test. So, one is not surprised that so far as the W. A. C. (I.) officers are concerned, Indians are few. It would therefore appear that so far as the type of officers—whether they are W. A. C. (I.)'s or for the three Defence Services—are concerned, it would depend much on the interest that the public takes in this matter. We have seen that the lady Member of this House, Mrs. Subbarayan, is not indifferent to the interests of the W. A. C. (I.)'s and I had in mind, when I was thinking of moving my amendment, the idea of her being on the Select Committee so that she could personally be

3 P. M. in touch with the W. A. C. (I.)'s and the W. A. C. (I.) officers and come to know their difficulties,—not that I do not come to know of them. But they would be more communicative to a lady Member and would be able to explain their difficulties more freely.

There are one or two things to which I wish to refer particularly about the Indian Air Force. Mention has been made that candidates are withholding themselves and not offering themselves for the examination. One reason for this was given by Sardar Mangal Singh, namely, giving them condemned types of planes for their training. Well, this was the prevalent belief, but when they were asked the question they said that they were satisfied that nothing was wrong with the machines. I think it would be much better for some of the Members to see that the training given is on the up-to-date aircrafts. But the problem facing these cadets—and this applies for all the three services—is this: If we join the forces what possibility is there that we will be retained? Shall we divert ourselves from our ordinary vocations and join the forces? If we join what guarantee is there that we would be absorbed in the Forces? And mind you, the present strength of the Army, the Navy and Air Force is not likely to be maintained after the war. If there is no guarantee, and they seem to think that the war is likely to end soon, then what is their good joining the forces. It is not merely that the parents do not want their sons to join. They also want to see what are the chances of permanency. It is not merely for the sake of training or of patriotism that anyone goes there. Leave aside India, even in Great Britain when that country was in danger of being invaded, it was not out of patriotism that every one joined the forces. The law of conscription had to be passed. So, there must be some force or chance of better prospects which can make men join the army. In this particular case, if men are to offer themselves as candidates for officers, there should be some guarantee that they would be retained.

Then there is the question of the ordeal they have to go through. First of all there is the examination by the selection board. They then join the first preliminary training class and after three months or more they are sent back.

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

at times in batches of 25 and 30 persons. When candidates have gone through all this—first the Provincial Board, then the Selection Board, Headquarters, then afterwards this training, and then have to be returned, the effect on those who want to join is most depressing. These are some of the reasons which keep back even fit candidates from appearing before the Selection Board.

Propaganda has been referred to, but so far as the Navy is concerned, it has been a very belated propaganda. As a matter of fact complaints were made to me when I went to Karachi by the training Institution that more publicity is given to the Indian Air Force and little to the Navy, a fact which I brought to the notice of Members on the floor of this House. It is true that they have started propaganda, though belated, but the only thing they are doing now is to send men who are to visit the several colleges and the centres where they think that boys are likely to offer, to explain things to them and so on. But I have said that if the Vice-Chancellors have no sympathy, and they are decidedly against the present methods of selection, what chance is there for this propaganda to succeed? So, I would suggest that as far as the methods of selection are concerned—I mean the psychiatric and psychological parts of the examination—unless they are modified or given a go-by, we will not have more candidates. The other speakers have said that unless there is a guarantee for their being retained in these forces there is very little chance of success. There is also this to be said that unless they receive better treatment—I mean boys who are educated and come from families of social standing—recruitment will be poor. At times these boys when they appear before the Central Interview Board for the King's Commission are rejected. They are asked if they would accept the Viceroy's Commission. They sometimes do. Now these lads and even those who have been given the Emergency King's Commission are trained by sergeants who use language that is very insulting. It may be that the Englishman is accustomed to it and does not think anything of it. But the Indian mind is sensitive. When I made this complaint to a military officer he said that so and so was a Lord and he was going through the same mill. I said that the Indian mind is a sensitive mind.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Division: Muhammadan Rural): Not only sensitive but a refined mind.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: He comes from a refined society and is better educated. He is not likely to put up with this sort of phraseology. So there should be a better type of men to educate these boys.

If all these drawbacks which I mentioned are looked into. I have no doubt that more men will be coming forward and my friend will then never have the occasion to complain about the paucity of Indian officers; nor will he be able to say that we could never look to the Indianization of the Army and if anybody is at fault it is this country or the public men of the country.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): The Honourable the War Secretary was very enthusiastic in explaining the use of this committee and said that the right type of men were not available who had capacity for leadership and who could offer themselves for commissions in the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. He said that he had decided to open an officer-cadet college near Jhansi to solve this problem. Did he realize that this would not solve the problem at all? This piecemeal fashion of opening colleges here and there would not encourage any individual to offer himself. He said the right type of people were not coming. But did he realize that no proper appeal was made to the country, and for that I say this Government constituted as it is is not the right type of the Government which can make a proper appeal. Could an alien Government be fit to make a proper appeal to the people for securing the services of the flowers of the youth of any country? It has not been possible anywhere and it should not

have been possible here also. This Government is trying to give a false impression to the world that they are giving the same sort of treatment to this country as they are giving to the cadets of other dominions.

The Honourable the War Secretary is moving in a vicious circle and instead of removing the real cause, he wants to set up some colleges here and there and make amends for certain deficiencies which he feels are there. Although, there is no dearth of capable young men in India, as I said, yet the experience which those officers who are there have is making others more shy to offer themselves for those commissions. The discrimination which is there probably does not require a very great deal of argument and the War Secretary himself should know that many of the Indian officers holding commissions have resigned in disgust, because of that particular condition of discrimination. What happens is that sometimes if an Indian Officer is senior enough in a unit, he is transferred to another unit, so that his prospects may be deferred. Then again, the Indian officers do not receive at all that treatment which the British officers receive and the British other ranks would not even salute them in many cases. References have been made to the higher authorities but nothing could be done, because that superiority complex has to be maintained with the British officers and with the British other ranks as well. That could not be taken away. In a mess they would not supply Indian food if there are one or two British officers. Why? Because, again; racial supremacy must be maintained and maintained in a manner that every thing of their choice, class and country is ideal and nothing could be ideal which comes from a country which is kept as a subject country to them. What I want to impress upon the House is that the British Officers do not even show courtesy to Indian officers, and what happens is that these Indian officers have to be more or less orphans or make their own society with the few that they have there. British officers would not allow them to travel together in the same compartment, because of their sense of superiority. It is no news to the House and I think that the Honourable the War Secretary himself knows nothing about war conditions, because he is one of the "un-touchables" himself. Probably he is suffering from the disadvantages which any War Secretary in any other country would not suffer from. The Honourable the War Secretary may give himself the air of being something very important but the mere fact that he is an Indian does not allow him to receive any equal treatment. He has to swallow that fact but unfortunately as he belongs to the Government, he has to accept and swallow the pill whatever it may be worth. It may be sour or sweet and he knows what it is and what it is not. That is the position everywhere in his Department.

In our Party we found that we could not improve the lot of those Indians who accept commissions and we could not change the methods of this Government. We could not improve things at all and so we thought it was no use associating ourselves with this committee. It is for this reason that we have been exclusively out of this organisation, so that you cannot give the world the false impression that you are doing something with which we have associated ourselves, as we know that we are absolutely helpless. This is the point which I want to make. If the Honourable Member does not know or denies these things, enquiry may be held and if he cares to do that probably other Members will let him know what facts have come to their light and to their knowledge. With these few words I say that we will have nothing to do with this Committee.

One fact more, Sir, about the mention of psychologists. They have got psychologists to examine those cadets who offer themselves. But does he realise that among the British ranks and British officers there are many who do not possess elementary knowledge of their own mother tongue? Will he agree to set up a committee of educationalists who would examine their depth of knowledge and tell this House, the War Secretary and the Department that their elementary knowledge of their own mother tongue, English, is not even such as would give them the courage of writing one single sentence correctly. This is the last point which I want to impress upon the House.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

There is not only favouritism and discrimination in the matter of commissions but from the admission of an Indian officer to the time of his retirement he has to work under very difficult conditions and yet to ask for better type is just ignoring the truth. With these few words, we oppose the motion.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, this is a most important subject that could be discussed on the floor of this House for days together. Even then Indians will not be satisfied. Sir, I am a man who belongs to the gallant warrior class of the country. I have heard my Honourable friend the War Secretary saying that material is not available to train Indian officers, that men are not coming forward, suitable men are not available for training in military colleges. Sir, there are men available, in India, not only men but women also are available with martial spirit. Let my friend come to our country. I will show him stalwart women with martial spirit prepared to fight if they are armed and fed. There are even old men ready to take up arms and lead armies. But they are discouraged. Let me have arms in my hands, let me be fed fully and then you will see whether I will be able to lead an army or not.

The differentiation between Indians and Europeans is most miserable in this country. Sir, the Indian *sepai* is fed on 12 as. or a rupee a day, whereas a European or American soldier is fed on Rs. 6 a day. When I was travelling on 22nd July last from Madras an English soldier got into my compartment. He was standing aside. I was lying down and reading a book. Then I looked at him and after removing my bed asked him to take his seat. Then I questioned him—have you got a second class warrant? I have got a second class warrant, Sir, he replied. He addressed me very courteously, and I was very glad for that. Sir, he showed me a 2nd class warrant from Secunderabad to Madras and back from Madras to Secunderabad. Then I asked him: what is your daily rate of ration? He told me—14 ozs. of bread, 14 ozs. of beef, 10 ozs. of potatoes, cheese, butter, and so on. I calculated, and all this amounted to Rs. 6. What are you in the Army, I asked him. I am a trooper, he said. Then, I asked: what is the strength of your division? Fifteen to twenty thousand, Sir, he said. Is it fresh beef or tinned beef that you are getting? He said: it is fresh beef; tinned meat is not coming here. How are you getting that, I asked. Cattle are slaughtered in our camp, he said. How many cattle are slaughtered in your camp, was my next question. Thousand cattle a day, that is, cows, he said. What is there? Bones are removed, legs are removed, head is removed, skin is removed, what is there, so much. Thousand cattle are slaughtered, fresh beef is only so much, 4 seers, i.e., Delhi seer of 80 tolas. This is how a European soldier is fed whereas our *sepai* is dying with 12 as. a day. He is fed with dried bread, and tea-water. It is not real tea, there is no milk at all in that tea. Our *sepais* are fighting for you, for the British Government, and everywhere. At times these British officers praise the gallant spirit of Indian *sepais* and say that but for them we can not win the war, but they are very cunning. By praising Indians they take work from them. The Honourable the War Secretary says there are no suitable Indians. Being Indian and sitting on the Treasury Bench, he says on the floor of this House to these Members that suitable men are not available. They are available. You are not treating them well, you are not showing courtesy to them, you are degrading them, you are killing their martial spirit—Mr. Ram Narayan Singh said that since their advent into India they have commenced killing the martial spirit of Indians—not only killing the martial spirit, but emasculating them. What is your duty? You will not be here. . .

An Honourable Member: He will be here.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: In future he will be here, but this Government will not be here. This British Government will not be here after the war. You will see the spirit of Indians. Have you seen the martial spirit of the Punjab Sikhs, have you seen the spirit of Muslims all over India?

An Honourable Member: What about Andhra?

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Andhras are spirited, even the women of Andhra are spirited. Andhras fought for you and conquered Burma for you. Burma was conquered by us. We Andhras have fought so many battles in the country, we have established kingdoms, and all that has been forgotten. What about Tippu Sultan and Hyder Ali of South India. How did the British conquer South India? Sir, by creating dissensions between brothers and brothers, and brothers-in-law and brothers-in-law, and between husbands and wives. It was because of the cunning and selfishness of the British people that Indians have lost their country, and you are enacting your drama for the last 200 years. If wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; but if freedom is lost, everything is lost. In our country you are enacting your drama successfully, creating dissensions between Hindus and Muslims, between Parsees and Christians, and between Christians and Hindus and Muslims. Do you not see so many heroic Muslim Members sitting here on these Benches? I will lead an army now—I am now 75, I have not known what is fear in my life-time. Are Britishers so? Indians are fit for anything and everything, not only for land fight, but also for naval fight and fight in the air. On account of your self interest, on account of your cunning, to make your position safe you are doing so many things here. I warn you, Sir: being an Indian, sitting on the Treasury Bench, and drawing salary from them, you say that suitable candidates are not forthcoming. Show your courtesy, tomorrow I will bring thousands of young men, educated, graduated from the universities. Why, Sir, is English required in the Army? A Subedar with Hindustani commands a company of 100 men. Jemadars and Naiks with Hindustani are commanding so many soldiers and fighting along with them. Why is English required? Is it not wrong to say that Indians are not fit for the Army because they do not know English? There are stalwart young men who do not know English, but who can fight. In our country there are those who can fight ten British soldiers each. In the Andhra country there are stalwart ladies—they are agriculturists; they were *rajahs*, they were kings, producing everything, producing food for you and me and everybody, for the bird, insect and ant and all. There are such people in India and now you come forward boldly on the floor of this House and say that suitable candidates are not forthcoming.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I hope you have finished.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am coming to the end. I repeat that suitable candidates are available in India; but you do not want to train them, because if they are trained being intellectual and intelligent and strong and gallant, they may snatch away your officerships from the hands of the Europeans who are living here on our money. That is your intention. But candidates are available in India; money is available and everything is available, but our mouths are gagged. We are gagged on all sides.

I was once travelling along with some Indian sepoy's belonging to South India and speaking Tamil and Telugu, and they struck up friendship with me; they said "The treatment that is given to us in the military is very miserable while the treatment given to European soldiers is most excellent".

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I think you have developed that point sufficiently.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: All right, Sir; I will finish in five minutes. This is a railway story. Those sepoy's said "It is very difficult to serve in the military nowadays; formerly those in the military were happy, but now their lot is miserable because of the ill-treatment of the officers. We want to escape because they will not accept our resignations. We want to abscond on account of ill-treatment and so many other troubles. They ask us to do everything and all the hard work, which we cannot do. The Indian sepoy's now recruited get so little to eat that they cannot even lift a rifle, because they are not fed well". Such men are being recruited. I told them "My dear friends, if you abscond you will be caught and you will be punished under the military rules. The rules

[Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu.]

are very strict and you cannot escape". But, Sir, I warn this British Government that from today onwards they must make up their minds that Indian young men should be trained; if you do not find men we are prepared to bring them and hand them over to you for training; and my Honourable friend must advise the other Members of the Treasury Benches and the cabinet and the Viceroy and others to take up this question of training Indians for officerships and it must be the first question to be discussed in the cabinet of the Viceroy.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, the debate on this motion has covered a very very wide field indeed; and the speeches after the lunch hour have attained great heights of eloquence presumably as a result of sumptuous lunch. I cannot aspire to those heights of eloquence, but I shall attempt to meet relevant points made by my Honourable friends during the course of this debate.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ranga was rather suspicious of me. He thought that I had some sinister motive in emphasising before this House that there was a shortage of suitable Indian candidates offering for commissions in the defence services. I had no sinister motive of any kind. My motive and my object were to place facts before the House in order that the House and its Members may be able to help in getting suitable Indians of the right type to offer for commissions in the defence services. Several Honourable Members criticised the selection boards. I do not know whether any of the Members who did criticise the selection boards had actually seen them at work. The best way of meeting those criticisms is for me to suggest to Honourable Members of this House to visit a selection board at work. I will very gladly arrange for a visit: any Honourable Member may come and see any selection board he likes; and if a sufficient number of Honourable Members interested in the subject are forthcoming, I undertake myself to lead a delegation to any of the selection boards they choose. We have nothing to hide; they can see the board at work and satisfy themselves how it works.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: At what place?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Any board you choose—the boards are at four or five places; and any Member of this House, or all Members, are most welcome and I shall take them there; and I do suggest that the best way of seeing how the boards work and of examining their procedure is to see them on the ground and not merely make criticisms based on hearsay.

I see that the psychiatrist came in for a good deal of criticism. If I may be a little autobiographical, I may say that before this new system of selection was introduced I myself went to visit a selection board. I went there with a good deal of bias against the system; and in the end after the three days I spent I was quite convinced that this new system was fair and much better than the system which it displaced.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): You mean also including the presence of the psychologist?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If my Honourable friend will have a little patience, I am coming to that.

An Honourable Member: You are easily convinced.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No; I am not, as you will see from the speech. If the facts are convincing, I shall be convinced. As regards the psychiatrist, that he has been criticised in this House as a member of the board who rejects a large number of candidates; actually the facts are otherwise. In fact, I have got statistics to show that the psychiatrist is in actual practice one of the most lenient members of the board and on occasions he has let several candidates who have been rejected by other boards go through. It was at the instance of the psychiatrist that candidates rejected by other members of the board have been taken.

The next point raised was whether there was any provision for review. There is provision for review of border line cases. We do not of course have reviewed by another board all the candidates rejected by one board; but wherever there

is a border line case there is provision for a review; and if any of my Honourable friends bring to my notice any specific cases in which he or the candidate thinks that he has been rejected not on good grounds, or rejected on grounds with which he is not satisfied, I shall be quite prepared to have that case reviewed in the presence of the Honourable Member who brings that case to me.

The next point is about the system. We have now instructed the Boards not to reject all the candidates whom they consider unsuitable but to have some kind of grading by which, if they feel that a candidate has, by means of further training, a chance of developing the qualities which are essential in an officer, those candidates should be deferred. There is provision for deferred candidates being sent to the pre-cadet College at Nowgong. It is no pleasure to the Boards to reject candidates. The Boards themselves have been established in order to select suitable candidates, candidates who will make good officers. The Boards cannot contemplate, nor can the defence authorities contemplate that quality should be lowered, because it is essential that the best men should lead the troops.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ranga referred to discrimination in training institutions. I can assure him that there is no discrimination in training centres. If any Honourable Member wishes to see any training centre he has only to tell me and I shall take him or have him taken to any training centre. I shall make him quite comfortable. He can see things for himself.

I was also asked whether there was an Indian element on the Selection Board. Speaking from recollection, I think one third of the members of the Selection Board are Indians and our policy is to increase the number of Indians as much as possible. References were made by several speakers to discrimination. Whatever may have been the case in the past—and there may have been unconscious discrimination—I can assure this House that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is most insistent that there should be no discrimination of any kind and has personally instructed Army Commanders to impress upon the Commanding Officers of lower formations to this effect.

Reference was made to the difference in allowances between Emergency Commissioned Officers and Indian Commissioned Officers. Only this morning I said that I hoped to make an announcement on the subject shortly. I can say no more than that at present.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): That is the most important point.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh referred to a prevalent feeling—I don't know whether it was his own feeling or some others' also—that the machines supplied to the Royal Indian Air Force were inferior to those supplied to the Royal Air Force. I wish to say categorically that that is not correct. The Royal Indian Air Force is supplied with the same kind of machines as the Royal Air Force and the machines supplied to the training institutions for the Royal Indian Air Force are exactly the same as those supplied to the Royal Air Force. I wish that to be made very clear.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Why are there so many air crashes?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is due to disobedience of instructions, if you want to know that.

Then I was asked something about the size of the post-war army. I repeat what I said—that I am unable to say what the post-war size of the army will be. Naturally after hostilities cease, there will be demobilization and the armed forces will diminish in numbers. But what the ultimate post-war size of the army will be I cannot say. It will depend upon circumstances.

I was asked what was the policy about Indianisation. I think the aim is progressively to reduce the British element in the defence services.

I think I have covered most of the relevant points. I commend to the House my motion which I made several hours ago.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Legislative Department as well as to the Defence Consultative Committee, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Thursday, the 15th March, and that the elections, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, the 20th March. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I have to inform the Assembly that the following non-official Members have been elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Emigration during 1945-46: (1) Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad, (2) Sir Syed Raza Ali, (3) Pandit Shambhudayal Miara, (4) Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, (5) Sir F. E. James, (6) Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, (7) Pandit Nilakantha Das, (8) Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, (9) Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, (10) Sir Abdul Halim Ghuanavi.

THE REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

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

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, be taken into consideration."

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

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, be taken into consideration."

As regards time limit on the debate on this motion, I have received a note to this effect: one hour for the Leaders of the Parties and the Members in charge and 45 minutes for all other speakers. I do not know if this is agreed to by the House.

Mr. Hooseinhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Any other dissentient voice?

Mr. Frank B. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): I oppose it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Is there any other dissentient voice? Will those Honourable Members who are not in favour of this arrangement raise their hands—

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I submit, Mr. Deputy President, that this is a new innovation. Before you take the decision of the House, I want to know whether this understanding holds good for this year only or whether this is going to form a precedent for future years also?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): For this particular debate only.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Only on the motion just moved.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then I am quite agreeable to it. But I may point out that it is quite unprecedented that on the Finance Bill there should be a time limit. If in this particular year, this is to be the understanding, I have no objection. But it should not form a precedent for any future year.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is a question for the House to consider. I am not giving it as a ruling from the Chair.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: I submit with all respect, Sir, that this is not a question on which you can take the vote of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is wanted is general agreement. If I find that there is a substantial number of Members to whom this is not acceptable, then it will be a matter for consideration.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: I submit, Sir, even if there is only one Member who wants to exercise his right on the Finance Bill, he should not be overlooked. We are elected representatives in this House. It is not fair on the part of organised Parties to come to some arrangement among themselves without consulting others who do not belong to any Party. This action of the organised Parties is in the nature of penalising the unattached Members and forcing them to join the one Party or the other. We have not been given any chance to put forward our views in the matter and it is not fair nor equitable to us that the organised Parties should come to this arrangement behind our back.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is whether the arrangement that has been suggested is generally acceptable to the House or not.

Will those who are against this arrangement being given effect to raise their hands?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Before you take the decision of the House, Sir, may I also submit that we, on this side who do not belong to any Party, do not get sufficient opportunities to put forward our views on most vital matters. I appeal to the Leaders of the Parties and to you, Sir, that we should also be allowed sufficient time. I do not mind if the Leaders of Parties get one hour each to speak. But I should also be given sufficient latitude, I must be given one hour.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will those Honourable Members who are against this arrangement, kindly raise their hands?

Sir F. E. James (Madras European): May I make a submission to you, Sir, and that is that this matter should not be settled by a vote of the House. I submit this is a suggestion that has emanated from Leaders of Parties. It is a suggestion that appeals to me as a very reasonable one, but there are some Honourable Members of the House who feel that it operates unfairly in their cases. Now, Sir, I think it is setting a very unfortunate precedent that a matter like this should we put to the vote of the House and decided.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: They do not care to consult others.

Sir F. E. James: I understood you, Sir, to ask those who disagreed with this to raise their hands.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Not by way of voting.

Sir F. E. James: Anyhow it is an indication that you are asking those who do not agree that they should make themselves known. I am suggesting that we should try and reach an agreement and if the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Frank Anthony meets with the approval of those who are in favour of forty-five minutes, namely, that the outside maximum of one hour should be allowed to all, well, most of us while speaking will occupy much less than that. This suggestion might be accepted or generally understood by the rest of the House. But I do put it to you, Sir, that it is unfair to ask for any form of voting on this occasion.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I submit to the House that I am responsible for this suggestion that is made. I quite agree that on a discussion of a Bill, in the sense of a formal way, there is no time limit, but during the debate last year on a similar occasion we found that the discussion went on, without any disrespect to any

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

particular Honourable Member; in a manner which I think did not bring out all that was required for the purpose of understanding the views of the country on what they call the larger issues involved. Honourable Members got up and spoke at random for about 2½ hours each. True, it was their privilege, but in the interest of all of us put together, that privilege must be so exercised that we carry on the debate in a manner both useful and dignified. So, I do appeal to my Honourable friend Mr. Frank Anthony and to everybody that after all is said and done, forty-five minutes is quite a long period. If an Honourable Member wants to say anything useful, he can do so even in 20 minutes and I think forty-five minutes is quite long enough.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee: But Malavyaji could speak for four hours and more. You amend the Rules and Standing Orders to that effect.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I am speaking in a conciliatory mood and I dare say it should be reciprocated in the same manner. There is no challenge to anybody's authority or right. There is no desire to encroach on anybody's privilege. The whole object is to conduct the business of the House in such a way that would tend to usefulness. I submit this is not an appeal which should go in vain and I trust that if you Sir, ask the House in all conscience to agree to a time limit which will be very useful in regulating the debate even on wide issues concerning the Finance Bill, I am sure the House will agree.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say a word, Sir? When the Government of India Act was passed, no time limit was laid down deliberately because there are certain matters on which there should be no time limit, and by coming to an agreement, the Parties are really introducing a rule which is against the spirit of the constitution. I am not suggesting, Sir, that we should waste the time of the House. That is not my suggestion. But, let there be no such rule regarding time limit. Let the time limit be laid down by each Honourable Member by using his own discretion whether he has a right to waste the time of the House. I myself feel that no Member has a right to introduced short cut methods for everything. If a man is behaving inconv- waste the time of the House. Therefore leave it to the discretion of Members, leave it to the good sense of Members, let us all exercise our own moral influence upon each other, each one by showing by his own example that he does not want to waste the time of the House. We have to show by our own example to others, and each one should exercise his own judgment and good sense. I therefore submit, let us not have any understanding of this kind, but let us exercise our own discretion in such a way that the time of the House will not be wasted. Let us also see that many Honourable Members will get an opportunity of speaking. So far as the organised political Parties are concerned, it is the easiest thing for them to exercise discretion by appealing to Members that generally they should not waste the time of the House. It is not, as if, the unattached Members alone who generally waste the time of the House. If I were to tell the House frankly, those who take sometimes two hours and sometimes more and who waste the time of the House do not belong to the unattached Group. I therefore suggest, leave it to the good sense of the House, let us all observe discretion and good sense and see that the time of the House is not wasted.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, please allow me also to say a few words. I feel that we are influenced in political matters by what I call short cut methods. I know, Sir, that the Defence of India Act and Rules have niently: put him behind the bars by short cut method. No trial, no prosecution, nothing of the sort. Sir, from the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition—for whom I have very great respect, he should not doubt it, he should believe me—I see that he is also acting in line with these short cut methods. He is encroaching on the privileges of the House. Every Member has got the privilege to speak and to express the views of his constituency in this House on this occasion. On no Bills is there a time limit, and particularly

on the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill and during the later stages of this Bill, it is desirable that Honourable Members should have perfect liberty to express their views on the burning questions of the day.

Secondly, I want to make it quite clear that it is not for the Parties to decide how the privilege is to be exercised by other Members. There are unattached Members like ourselves who have the grievance that we are not consulted when this kind of arrangement is arrived at. For instance, our cut motions could not be moved.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): No, it is not correct to say that the unattached Members were not allowed to move any cut motions.

Sardar Sant Singh: We could move only four cut motions and those too were reduced to a mere form and no speeches were made. Therefore these arrangements work to the prejudice of the unattached Members. I submit that it is the privilege of every Member to speak in the House and express the views of his constituency, and there should be no time limit imposed, particularly in the matter of the Finance Bill. It will create a dangerous precedent in future.

Mr. Abdul Qayum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, the idea behind this arrangement was this—that so far as the rules and regulations are concerned, there is no limitation as to the length of time an Honourable Member can speak. But actually we are going to have a debate for six or seven days and only a certain number of Honourable Members can speak. Now if an Honourable Member goes on speaking for three hours, the result would be that so many Honourable Members on this side would be absolutely shut out. If you can induce Government to allot 30 or 40 days we could of course go on; but if there are to be only six or seven days, the fact has to be considered that there are so many Members wishing to speak.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The position is this. It is true that constitutionally there is no time-limit for speeches on the Finance Bill or any other Bill. It is therefore the prerogative and privilege of every Member to speak as long as he likes provided, of course, that he is relevant. On the other hand it has got to be remembered that although there is no time-limit for any particular measure, after all there is a time limit for the whole Session; some time or other we have got to finish because we cannot sit here for the whole year. In that view of the matter there is bound to be a time limit,—either a limit on the number of speakers or a limit of time; there is no *via media*. Therefore it is to the interest of Parties and the Members that there should be some arrangement. If however there is no substantial agreement on this question, my decision for today is that there is no arrangement about time limit for today and Members will exercise their own discretion about the length of their speeches. I only hope that by tomorrow there will be some substantial agreement arrived at.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is a story of an elderly gentleman who wishing to visit the haunts of his youth, mounted the staircase of his old college in Cambridge and knocked at the door of the room in which he used to live as a student. After a little hesitation—so it seemed—a voice from inside irritably cried: "Come in". The elderly gentleman entered his old room and looked about and said, "This is the same old room and these are the same old walls". He proceeded further and said: "This is the same old mantel-piece and the same old fireplace". And he removed the curtain that divided the main room from the alcove and saw a long-lost vision of a blushing beauty hidden behind, and said, "Ah, the same old trick!" And the new incumbent undergraduate, unable to stand this nonsense any longer, said: "What do you mean, Sir? What do you mean?" She is my sister". And the elderly gentleman said: "Ah, the same old lie!"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The same old story!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, when I came back to this House after five years of absence to attend regularly this Budget Session, I was inclined to say that this was the same old Chamber; there were the same old questions and the same old

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

answers. We heard the same old speeches and moved the same old cuts, and we also make the same old perambulations and peregrinations to the "Ayes" and "Noes" lobbies; and the results also are the same. And in order to soothe the lacerated heart of my very esteemed and most Honourable friend the Leader of the House, I have been entrusted by my Party with my own quota of lies so that I may unburden my soul before this House.

But before I do that, I should like to clear the decks of a personal matter so that we may have a certain amount of good will, as we fling our invectives across the floor during the next few days. I seemed to gather from what my Honourable friend the Finance Member said in his speech, closing the general debate on the budget, that some of us on this side of the House, have been personally offensive to him; and I found that he was feeling hurt in consequence. As Secretary of this Party, as one who has been the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress for many years, and as one who has been connected with the inmost executive of the Congress both in my province and in the centre. I should like to assure my Honourable friend that we of the Congress fight for freedom and we define that freedom in the abstract. We follow our great Leader who on the very first day of this Assembly, said that 'we fight without rancour and lose without malice.' I should like to assure my Honourable friend opposite that no harm was meant by anyone of us; and we entertain neither any personal nor any communal nor even any racial feelings in our struggle for our ultimate freedom. And if any one of us commits what may be regarded as a fault, the blame must go firstly to the exigencies of parliamentary debate which has been introduced into our country by friends opposite and also to the rule that every one must speak in English, and not in his own mother-tongue. I shall therefore beg my Honourable friend opposite to banish from his heart any unhappiness that he might have felt owing to any incidents of the past.

It is lucky both for him and for me that I do not understand any finance; and I am no judge of the administration of the finances of my country during his tenure of office. Friends, for whose knowledge of finance and economics I cannot but have the greatest respect, have told me that the finances of our land, during the trying and testing times through which we have passed, could not have been in safer hands than his. Others who are equally qualified to speak, tell me that there has been a general muddle. But even those who do not agree with my Honourable friend opposite, testify to his sincerity and his integrity and appreciate his fight for my country's interest in many lands, as he understood them.

So far as I am concerned, before I leave this personal theme, I should like to say that there is one pleasing feature in my Honourable Member's temperament and method of doing things, which certainly attracts me and to which I should like to pay a tribute. In a country like ours where hoards of officials—both high and low—have been let loose on an unoffending people, and who think that they can do whatever they like, that they have no responsibility to any one, and who also feel certain that in all their actions they would be supported by their superiors, in a land like this, I feel happy that at least I have found one man—the present Finance Member—who has always been anxious to keep a check on the vagaries of his subordinates and who has taken immediate action whenever any wrong has been brought to his notice. I have had many experiences of this sort myself, and I have always found him alert and prompt. It is unfortunate that in a land like ours the man on the spot can always make it hell; and though I pay a tribute to my Honourable friend for his attempt to put things right, I am also bound to say that so far as I myself was concerned and so far as those individuals were concerned on whose behalf I wrote, they were harassed enough in a variety of ways, for no fault but this that a complaint had been made to the head of the department in the Centre.

Sir, it is a curious convention that in the course of the debate on the Finance Bill, Members of the House can speak of anything and everything; and it is a

pity that at the end, it is the Finance Member who has to reply. The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech closing the Budget debate, said that there seemed to be no common ground between him and us; and that is something that is very true. I myself feel that he and I speak different tongues; and that because we view matters from different angles of vision, there apparently can be no approach.

In the Finance Member's mind the war looms large. Four years back when last I spoke on the Finance Bill, I happened to have said something about the war, which my Honourable friend did not like, for I remember his saying at the end that it was an ordeal to hear me. I should therefore, at the very start, say that I have absolutely no desire to hurt the feelings of the Honourable Member or of any other Member of the House; but I shall have to do my duty and say what I feel is in the best interests of my country fully and frankly. I have used what little intellect I may possess, in studying the psychology of this war which is the most important phenomenon in the minds of my Honourable friends, which seems to overshadow all other considerations; and for which every possible preparation has been made and is going to be made. So far as I have been able to study the objects of this war, I have found that there are two and only two objects. The first object is that the world must be kept safe for the Englishman. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, in one of his latest pronouncements while visiting the Western Front on German soil, expressed his delight that he was on what he thought was the enemy's soil. He bestowed what I could not but feel, were only half-hearted praises for the work of the American and the Russian. In the end he said that the object of the war was that 'his Island Home and its people should be respected all over the world'. To his mind, the Russian, the American, the Chinese and the Indian, along with the members of the British colonies, were all fighting for England. To him England's safety meant the freedom for the world; to him any harm done to England meant ruination of mankind and the slavery of all. If England is well; all is well; if she suffers, all suffer. Verily—

'No one does England know,
Who only England knows!'

According to this British Prime Minister, the world must fight and fight on, and that the nations must be plunged in eternal warfare, so that England may be safe and great and powerful. George Bernard Shaw, who understands his Englishman better than many others, says somewhere that ordinarily the word 'treachery' should mean something very wicked and very bad; but to the Englishman 'treachery' means anything done that harms England, even if in that doing the native of a country may be helping his own land. And so here in India those of us are traitors who want to help our country if in doing so we harm the interests of England, and those of us are patriots who go against the interests of our own country if in doing so we help England.

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

I may assure my Honourable friends opposite that I have for various reasons my own weakness for England, and I do not want any harm to come to her or her people. But we love our own country, and we want our country's freedom. We are struggling for it and we are bound to continue that struggle; and if in the struggle England's interests are damaged because she will not listen to us, because she is unreasonable, then surely we are not responsible. It is history that the great leaders of our land declared from the house-tops that the avowed objects of the war for which the allies (so-called) were fighting, were dear to their own hearts also; and they should like to help in the war and make it their own, under definite and specific conditions. Those conditions not forthcoming, it is no wonder that however much the Government of India may be at war, morally the people of the country are not at war.

The second object of this war, so far as I can judge, is to keep India in eternal bondage. I shall again quote the British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

At the moment when he took his office, he declared in stentorian voice that he had not accepted to be the First Minister of the Crown in order to liquidate the British Empire.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Preside over the liquidation!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If he and his fellow countrymen were seriously and really fighting for the freedom of the world, the first requisite was to liquidate the Empire, for freedom and imperialism, if I understand the words aright, can never go together. And not satisfied with that, he has now coined a new phrase. He refers to this conglomeration of countries and peoples, called 'the British Empire', which some persons in their innocence started calling 'the British Commonwealth', as "Commonwealth and Empire," an expression now used even in the King's speeches. What can the juxtaposition of these two words mean except this that so far as England and England's colonies were concerned, it was a 'Commonwealth', and so far as India was concerned, it was an 'Empire'. India is the only country of this conglomeration that consists of indigenous people. The English in their march for world conquest, have really exterminated the people who lived in the old American Continent or in Australia or New Zealand. There they have their own people now; and no wonder that the homeland and the inhabitants of these lands are one and the same and they can easily be called a Commonwealth. But the acid test is India; because India consists of the old inhabitants of the land whom the English could not exterminate as they could the peoples of other lands; and over whom they rule. Therefore if they are keen on freedom, they must see to it that our land is free. As long as India is not free, and as long as we are denied the elements of liberty, we cannot possibly believe that this war is being fought for freedom; and that is what accounts for our indifference towards it.

In fact, Sir, it seems to me that while England has declared war on Germany in Europe, she has also declared war on us in our land. British troops, the symbol of military strength, have been used against unarmed people; and I know myself how British troops have misbehaved in the course of the incidents that took place in the latter part of 1942. At Dohrighat in the Azamgarh district of the United Provinces, British troops ruthlessly burnt down the institution called the Gandhi Ashram, which was doing nothing else but producing khaddar cloth and offering social service to the people there and educating the children of the neighbourhood. And, Sir, in a letter that the Superintendent of Police of Gorakhpur wrote to his family—which has since been published in the papers—he says something that should ordinarily make us gape. I personally think that it is a mean thing to quote from private letters and the gentleman in me is hurt when I have to use a private letter, especially when it is from a husband to his wife.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: It has been made public.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In that letter he says:

"Trouton and his troops leave day after tomorrow and the Suffolks relieve them. We shall be sorry to see Trouton and his men go. They have done so proud and have never hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duties to help us over various tight spots, when we wanted them. I only hope that the Suffolks will be equally obliging."

This shows that the British troops, posted at various places in the land, have gone beyond their duties and have been used as engines of oppression against an innocent and unarmed people. When I asked a question on this subject, the Home Member replying said that he had himself visited Gorakhpur about that time and no one had made any complaint to him. I cannot believe that the Home Member—I am sorry he is not in the House; it is just as well he is not—is as innocent as an unborn babe; and that he does not know what terror his name was as the Chief Secretary of the United Provinces, in the countryside, at that time. I should have asked him, if he had been here, if he really believed that any one would have dared to approach him; if he had made any personal enquiries, if he was accessible to all; if he really wanted to know the truth.

I mean no harm to the Honourable the Home Member—he and I personally have been good friends for 24 years and more—but the fact remains that there was so much terrorism in the Province at the time that anything could be done and was done; and that every excess was excused.

My Honourable friend the Home Member was deeply upset at the statement that India was a vast concentration camp; and he has been at pains to tell us that there were only a few hundred prisoners here; and that the proportion of those political prisoners was negligible when compared with the population of the country. A thing like that amazes one. When there was an earthquake in Bihar, some 6000 odd persons died. What was that proportion to the population of the land? Negligible, and therefore there was no earthquake in Bihar at all? How many persons have been killed in the course of the terrorist movements of which we hear so much, when compared with the population of the land? Negligible again. Therefore are we to say that there was no terrorism? What was the proportion of the population that suffered in the 1942 disturbances. Negligible again. Therefore are we to say that there were no disturbance at all? I cannot understand the logic of the Honourable the Home Member. I understand, Sir, that he is a Wrangler of my University. Wrangling may mean two things—knowledge of mathematics and unnecessary wordy warfare. His mathematics seems to be very poor; but his capacity for wordy warfare seems to be at its height.

What is the meaning of the words Concentration Camp? What does it signify? It signifies that persons in that concentration camp have no freedom of movement, have no freedom of expression, have to do allotted tasks: it means nothing else. Sir, that is exactly the situation in the whole of our country except this circular hall, in which we are able to say something; but we are not permitted to open our mouths anywhere else. People are being imprisoned without trial. Houses are being snatched from their legitimate owners. We are being forced to pay money; and any complaint against anything is stifled under the rules of the Defence of India Act. A lady doctor in Benares, who was a Congress-woman, was deprived of her house which contained her clinic as well, on a few days' notice, so that that building could house the railway offices of the East Indian Railway, because their buildings in turn were required by the Police at Moghalserai. The Defence of India Rules have been used to deprive persons of their houses in order not to house military folks but civil judges and civil officers as well.

(At this stage, the Honourable the Home Member entered the House.)

Money is forced out of us and the one thing for which I cannot excuse the Honourable the Finance Member is the ecstatic telegram which he sent to the Governor of the United Provinces congratulating him on having made a big haul of money at one of the terrible drives through which we had passed in our Province.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Extortion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I happened at the time to be the Secretary of an educational trust. The trust has some landed property; and when our agent went to pay the revenue to the Government treasury a certain portion of the money was taken away by the Tahsildar as war donation and the agent was required to bring the amount again in order that he could give his revenue in full.

An Honourable Member: Actual donation?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Actual donation! I complained up to the authorities. The Commissioner of the Division said that he knew such things were happening, that he disapproved of them, and that if I would give him the receipt that I had got, he would see that the money was refunded. I gave it to him and lost both the receipt and the money. Though I wrote to them again and again that at least the receipt might be sent back to me so that the auditor may not catch me by the heels when he came to examine the accounts of that Trust, I received no reply. The House has been told of what pressure has been put on various

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

persons to contribute to what is called the Savings Drive. At least my agent from my estate has written to me to say that so thoroughly have the lands been cleansed of all money, that it is now difficult to realise rents in order to pay Government revenue at the next call. (Interruption.) What does my honourable friend say? My Honourable friend opposite knows how these things are done. Cases have been instituted in courts of law showing there was actual extortion practised to collect money in order to weigh an eminent person in gold. I should like to know from my Honourable friend how much is contributed to these funds by officers of Government? The other day I happened to travel with an Indian I. C. S. officer of my province, and I asked him how much he had contributed. He said that formerly he used to contribute, but that when he found European officers were not contributing, he stopped contributing himself also.

My Honourable friend, the Home Member, during the last Session, gave me a certificate that I was not a dangerous man; but all my letters are censored and in Benares four C. I. D. men constantly watch me. They have taken a little house in my neighbourhood in order to keep watch on me. When Lady Chintamani, the wife of the great journalist, happened to stay with me with some relatives—the wife and the mother, as I found, of an officer of Government here in Delhi—these C. I. D. men made the most officious inquiries as to who “these women” were. I lost my patience and complained up to authority against this; and I was solemnly informed that a strict surveillance was being kept on me, and that that strict surveillance would continue to be kept, because the Police have a fear that some persons visit me or are about to visit me who are wanted by the Police. I have been waiting for these men, but so far they have not appeared, neither have the C. I. D. disappeared.

Once while travelling by train, I had to undergo a gruelling cross-examination at 10 o'clock at night at Sonapore Railway Station. When the train got to Samstipur at 2 o'clock at night—that was the time when the Honourable the Home Member was the Governor of Bihar—I was shaken up, and asked to get down. I did not know what exactly to do at a strange place at that hour, and the train was detained in order that the Police may continue to harass me. If a person like me, who in the language of the Honourable Home Member is not a dangerous man, is put to such maltreatment, can we describe the conditions in which our lives are cast as anything different to the conditions of those who are in a concentration camp? It is not enough to say that only 1,500 persons are in actual prison. Our contention is that outside this circular hall where there is a great deal of freedom of expression, there is absolutely no freedom and the whole land is one vast prison.

Then, Sir, what about persons who are actually kept in prison by my Honourable friends opposite? Loss of weight and loss of health have been spoken of. People have died soon after their releases. When British prisoners of war lost their weight, and some of them died soon after their release from captivity, my old and very distinguished friend, the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member, now the War Secretary in England, Sir James Grigg, very loudly complained that that was most improper. But so far as things here are concerned, the predecessor of my Honourable friend, the Home Member, was quite satisfied in informing this House that ‘Mr. Satyamurti died a free man’ that was a matter of great consolation to him.

Sir, I do not want to give many instances, I can go on giving you many of humble folk who have suffered and died; but I will give just three to show how things go on in these jails. Two instances are of those who have been Members of this House and their cases may raise our special sympathy. There is the case of Chandra Bhai Jobri. He had been keeping very bad health and his only fault was that he was a Member of this House on the Congress ticket. He had practically retired from politics and was devoting his time entirely to books. He was caught on the fateful 9th of August 1942 and put in

jail. In those days security prisoners were denied all amenities: no correspondence was permitted; no interviews were given; no newspapers could they read. There were orders that their movements from prison to prison could not be published in the newspapers; and my friend was transferred from Benares to Lucknow without any one knowing where he was. Then he got very ill; he was sent on to the Balrampur Hospital at Lucknow. Sir Reginald Maxwell informed this House that he was kept in a special ward. He was not kept in a special ward; he was kept in the general ward known as the 8-anna ward. He was not examined by the Civil Surgeon. The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell also informed this House that his family had been informed three days beforehand that he was very ill. The family was never informed at all. On the 31st of January 1943, his brother came to me at Benares—his brother lives at Lucknow—and told me that a friend happening to go to see a relative of his in this general ward in the Balrampur hospital, had happened to see Chandra Bhal Johri also, who was very ill. Then this brother tried to move heaven and earth in order to get him released. He and Mr. Johri's wife came to me at Benares to see if anything could be done. I tried to move the authorities at the time—and they were sympathetic, I am glad to say that at that time there were some sympathetic officers at least in my town. Then on the 4th of February I had a telephonic message from Lucknow to say that nothing was being done and that his brother's information was that Mr. Johri was dying. On the 5th February, his distraught wife rushed up from Benares to Lucknow; she saw the Home Secretary and she saw the Civil Surgeon. She did not receive much courtesy at their hands, because the Home Secretary was angry that she should come to him at a late hour at night and the civil surgeon said that no one had any right to know anything about security prisoners. He thus was not a doctor, he had become a politician! However, at 10 o'clock that night, Mr. Chandra Bhal Johri was at last released and given to his brother and his wife. A photograph of his was taken soon after his release and it is a pathetic photograph: it is said he would not speak; but the man could not speak—he had lost his voice—and though the family did all they could and spent a fortune far beyond their means, to save the valuable life, Mr. Chandra Bhal Johri died.

Then there was Khedan Lal. He also was caught on the 9th of August for reasons I shall never be able to make out, because he was an innocent man. In jail he was given two months of solitary imprisonment; and solitary imprisonment is no joke. The result was that he lost his mental faculties. He came out of jail almost as a lunatic. We sent him to Ranchi only to die.

Lastly, I come to the case of Shibbenlal Saksena, a Member of the Assembly of the United Provinces; and with that I will close. I have referred to the published letter of the Superintendent of Police of Gorakhpur. We heard that Shibben Lal had been badly treated in jail, that he had been kicked and cuffed. News from the jail does travel outside sometimes. In this letter that the Superintendent of Police writes to his family, he says:

"I interviewed him from 7-30 until 9-45 this morning (i.e., 7th of September 1942) I damned nearly did him to death in his cell."

This confirmed our worst suspicions that an intellectual, a weak thin man, a graduate of the university like Shibbenlal Saksena, had been most brutally treated by an officer in jail. Thousands of letters written to and by us, the Government have caught under their own laws. I ask in all sincerity if in any of these letters they have found expressions like these used for those with whom we do not agree. Saksena is called "swine", "bloody hypocrite", "damn swine" in the course of this letter; and my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar says that we must regard each other, even if we differ from each other, as moved by the best of motives and loving this land as much as any one else can."

Sir, I can go on in this strain for very long; but I should like to close with just one appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member. He has told us of the great prosperity of the countryside, and he has said that all the efforts he has been making to get savings certificates etc., was only to enable rural folk to learn

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

habits of thrift. Men who had never known what it was to have a full meal, who could not get a blanket in the winter season, who were burdened with debt, had at least this advantage in these days of inflation, that they could gather a few rupees in order to pay off their debts and to get blankets for the winter. But the Honourable the Finance Member grudges them even this little and he says that that little must be saved through a savings drive; because otherwise they might spend 'one-third on women, one-third on drinks, and one-third on just waste.' But when it comes to the well-paid members of the superior services, my Honourable friend says how hard they have been hit, how they need and deserve relief; and my very respected friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, also comes to the rescue and tells them the present prices of chicken and eggs; and asks for relief for them. I do not know whether the prices of whiskeys and sodas have also gone up very much or whether they are indispensable for the superior services.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now 5 o'clock.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: One minute more. Sir, I pray that Honourable the Finance Member when he makes his proposals would have some sense of proportion and not try to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I know that a very thick and dark cloud of despair and helplessness envelopes our unhappy land; but in the deepening gloom of the darkening night, there is the promise of the coming dawn; and we may only hope and pray that we may be alive to greet the morning Sun and to bathe in its glorious effulgence; and that we and our children and our children's children may so live and die as to prove good and worthy citizens of a land which is truly great and truly free.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock, on Thursday, the 15th March, 1945.