

20th 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

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Deputy President :

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th 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

PROTECTION TO BICHROMATE INDUSTRY

1115. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Supply Member seen the statement of Mr. B. S. Lalkaka, Chairman, Bombay Bichromate Manufacturers Association, that the industry was established at the sole request and desire of Government and with a promise of full support and protection at the proper time by no less an authority than the then Commerce Member, the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar?

(b) Is it a fact that foreign bichromate has been imported to the extent of two thousand tons and that such import might lead to the closing of some of the plants and factories in India?

(c) Under what circumstances has this been done?

(d) What steps do Government propose to carry out the undertaking given by them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) At the beginning of 1944 an import of 2,000 tons of bichromate was arranged to meet the anticipated deficit in the indigenous production required for Defence Services orders for *khaki* cloth. A subsequent change in the Defence Services demands as regards the colour of the cloth rendered the imported stuff surplus to requirements.

(d) Approaches have been made to the U. K. and other allied countries to determine whether the surplus bichromate can be re-exported. As a result 800 odd tons have already been re-exported. Tentative orders for an additional 150 tons have been received, and the possibility of further export is being explored. If it is found that the total quantity cannot be disposed of in this manner, it may be necessary to restrict output in India for a few months in order to dispose of the surplus.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the output is so restricted will Government consider measures, direct and indirect, to assist those who have brought the industry into existence?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I propose to consult the industry before any action is taken in this direction.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know the difference in price between the imported quality and the article produced in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have not got the exact figure, but the imported price is distinctly less.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the number of tons required in this country, and what is the quantity produced by the industry in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I believe, Sir, the total quantity produced in this country is about 1,500 tons. Against a special order 2,000 more tons was required for the Defence Services than what is being produced in this country, and therefore that extra quantity was obtained, but since obtaining it the colour has been changed: for the Burma operations, they do not require *khaki*, but some other colour—green.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the normal need of this country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: This product was not produced at all before the war. It is an industry which was started during the war, and I cannot, therefore, say what is the normal civilian requirement.

THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES BUILT

1116. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- how many third class carriages on the improved model have been built;
- on which lines they are working now; and
- at what rate Government propose to build them in future and in how many years they expect the new model to be generally in service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 398 Third Class carriages on the improved model have been built to-date.

(b) I lay on the table the information required.

(c) The rate at which these coaches will be built depends largely on material supplies.

It is not possible to say at this stage in how many years the improved design of coach will be generally in service.

Statement

New types of lower class stock placed in service on various Railways in India.

Railways	B. G.	M. G.	Total
B. & A.	48	71	119
B. N.	49	..	49
B. B. & C. I.	74	10	84
E. I.	8	..	8
G. I. P.	14	..	14
Jodhpur	..	2	2
M. & S. M.	20	19	39
Mysore
N. S.	13	14	27
N. W.	1	..	1
O. & T.	..	25	25
S. I.	8	24	32
TOTAL	233	165	398

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether any of these carriages are running on South India lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On the S. I. Ry. there are 8 broad gauge and 24 metre gauge, and on the M. & S. M. Ry. there are 20 broad gauge and 19 metre gauge.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Any on the N. W. Ry.?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is one on the broadgauge.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if Government will give special attention to this matter and give it priority?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, but as I have explained previously, it is difficult owing to the war to get the materials. We cannot for instance get teakwood for the purpose. I mentioned in the course of the Budget debate that for war-time purposes we may have to build austerity carriages out of local timber instead of this new type of carriage for which we cannot get materials.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government please consider rebuilding the existing carriages on the new model?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are new carriages being built, and if so, how many are of the improved type?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I said previously, we are getting 200 broad-gauge under-frames from Australia, and we have about 80 in this country. On these we shall have to build whatever type of body we can. We cannot get the materials for building the new type.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is exactly an 'austerity carriage'?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hesitated to use that word, because I know travel in III Class is already somewhat austere, but by an 'austerity carriage' I mean a carriage built with whatever materials we can lay our hands on.

STEPS AGAINST CORRUPTION IN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

1117. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) what steps have been taken to put down corruption in Railway employees;
- (b) how many cases of corruption have been found by them and prosecutions launched; and
- (c) whether cases of corruption with regard to reservation of seats have come to his notice, if so, what steps have been taken with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In addition to the steps normally taken by the Railway Administrations to put a stop to corrupt practices on railways, a special organization has been set up by the War Department to deal with the question. A few selected subordinates have also been deputed by each railway to work in conjunction with the Special Staff and to render them assistance. Detailed instructions to implement the scheme have been issued from time to time and these include provision for action against the person offering bribes as well as against the railway servant guilty of corrupt practices.

(b) The information readily available, which is in regard to the activities of the special staff only, shows that of 277 cases detected up to the quarter ending 31st December, 1944, 125 cases have so far been put up for trial before Tribunals or in Courts.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to Starred Question No. 500 asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on 17th November, 1944. In view of the undertaking given therein, Class I railways have been asked to undertake a special drive in this respect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to answer to clause (b) may I know the punishment meted out to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not got the details with me. It varies from dismissal—I beg your pardon, this refers to court-cases, and it is fine and/or imprisonment, but I cannot give the details.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: In view of the difficulty in obtaining a conviction in a court of law will Government consider the desirability of departmental action against the delinquents?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, departmental action is taken in the normal course. Of cases which are brought up by the Special Department, a number are referred back by the Special Department to the Railways for action. 58 cases were sent back to the Railways for departmental action up to 31st December 1944. Of these cases 17 men were discharged. The House will realise, however, that these cases are sent back to the Railways because the Special Department has not sufficient evidence to secure a conviction, and that therefore it is not to be expected that Railways should convict on evidence which is not sufficient for a court of law.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khān: Will the Honourable Member assure the House that departmental action which is taken will be sufficiently deterrent?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope so, Sir, but, as I said, you are asking the Department to convict on evidence which a court will not accept. I understood that the House is very anxious that Railway servants should be punished only on real evidence.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if any rules or instructions have been laid down to show which cases should go to the Tribunal, and which to the ordinary courts? At present even small cases go to the Tribunal and waste the time there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be put to the War Department.

CONTROL OVER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN INDIA OF BRITISH AIR COMPANIES

1118. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under sections 115(1) and 115(8) of the Government of India Act, the Government of India are powerless to prevent full commercial activity on the part of air companies registered in the United Kingdom and operating in India both for the long distance routes as well as for any local routes?

(b) Have Government recently examined the position with reference to the Air Conference held?

(c) Have they given this subject to the delegation which is sent to the Commonwealth Airways Conference?

(d) Is it a fact that no other Commonwealth is bound in like degree in this matter and that the constitution of none of the Dominions contains anything corresponding to section 115?

(e) Will Government state their policy in this regard and whether they propose to approach His Majesty's Government for an adequate modification of this section?

(f) Do Government propose to encourage private enterprise in India or establish State ventures?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (e). I have nothing to add to the speech made on the 2nd March by the Honourable Member for Planning and Development on the Honourable Member's Resolution on the provisions of the Act relating to commercial discrimination and the reply given to (a) and (b) of Mr. Neogy's question No. 247 on the 9th August 1948.

(b) Yes. The International Civil Aviation Conference dealt with the International Air Services and the position remains unchanged.

(c) The agenda of the Commonwealth Aviation Conference did not include this item.

(d) I regret I have no information.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that monopoly working of aircraft has been fixed for the United Kingdom, does the Honourable Member convey to this House that this corporation of the United Kingdom will be able to compete in India on any route, either with state enterprise or private enterprise?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I did not catch the first part of the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Certain arrangements have been announced in the United Kingdom for conducting air carriage after the war. Does it not mean that those arrangements apply to India *ipso facto* in virtue of those sections, and that, whether it is state enterprise in India or private enterprise, this English octopus will be able to compete? Government have no power to restrict the working of the English enterprise set up under monopoly conditions in England?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Honourable Member's question is too long and involved to enable me to give a reply straightaway. If he will please put it down on paper, I will be glad to give a reply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that a monopoly organisation has been set up in the United Kingdom?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have seen certain reports in the papers, just as the Honourable Member has done, *viz.*, that His Majesty's Government have certain schemes in hand for the operation of international or external air services from the United Kingdom to various parts of the world.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the effect of the establishment of this organisation on the working of aircraft carriage in India, either by the state or by private enterprise?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not think that has any effect on the question of air transport operations in this country.

Prof. N. G. Radga: In view of the great and strategic importance of the airways and the manufacture of aeroplanes in this country and also in view of the railways already being in charge of the Government, will Government consider the advisability of not encouraging any private enterprise to come into this matter, but themselves take up the manufacture as well as the manipulation of the aeroplane services in this country?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have already stated, Sir, that the matter is at present under the consideration of Government.

ABSORPTION OF STORES DEPARTMENT IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

1119. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state since when the Stores Department was absorbed by the Supply Department?

(b) Are the Stores rules generally, and in particular the rule about rupee tender, in operation, or have they been suspended by any ordinance and, if so, which ordinance?

(c) Is any distinction being made between the permanent personnel of the Stores Department, both on the purchase and inspection side, and similar officers appointed by the Supply Department (i) at present, and (ii) after the war?

(d) In respect of how many industries and trade have liaison officers been appointed by the Supply Department, who are they, and what is their remuneration?

(e) Is the Supply Department functioning as a centralised Department operating from Delhi, or have they got decentralised sections in India and, if so, how many sections and how are these sections worked?

(f) What is the method of common or central control with a view to establishing common or central policy?

(g) Who scrutinises and deals with indents from (i) Defence Department, (ii) Allied armies, (iii) other Departments of the Government of India, and (iv) civil requirements of the Eastern Group countries, and in what manner are these indents then assigned for purchases?

(h) Has the Supply Department got any code or handbook giving instructions to its officers and, if so, will a copy be laid on the table of the House?

(i) What was the total value of purchases made by the Supply Department in 1943-44 and 1944-45?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Indian Stores Department came under the administrative and executive control of the Supply Department with effect from 12th April, 1940.

(b) The Stores Purchase Rules including the rule about rupee tender have not been suspended but their provisions have been relaxed by the Department of Commerce Notification No. 18-S & I(2)-War/40, dated the 24th February 1940, which was published in the *Gazette of India* dated the 24th February 1940.

(c) (i) There is at present no difference in the position, status and duties of the officers belonging to the regular cadre of the Purchase and Inspection Branches of the Indian Stores Department and Officers of the corresponding status employed in these Branches in connection with war work except that the scales of pay attached to War posts are generally lower than the scales of pay allowed for corresponding posts in the permanent cadre of these Branches.

(ii) The services of some of the Officers employed against war posts are terminable at any time without notice and of others at one month's notice on either side. At this stage nothing can be said as to their chances of permanent absorption after the war.

(d) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table of the House.

(e) and (f). The Supply Department is organised as an ordinary Department of the Central Government with five Directorates General and eleven

Attached Offices. The Directorates General and the offices of the Coal and Steel Commissioners have Branch Secretariats attached to them but the activities of the Supply Department are co-ordinated through and controlled by the Main Secretariat in Delhi.

(g) (i) With the exception of ordnance stores, indents of Defence Departments are placed on Supplying Departments by the various Provision Offices of General Headquarters, India. These Provision Offices consolidate and scrutinise all demands from lower formations.

Indents for ordnance stores are placed on the Supply Department by G.H.Q. and by Central Ordnance Depots in accordance with a programme and policy laid down by the Master General of Ordnance in India.

(ii) The indents of the Allied armies are scrutinised mainly by India Provision Offices who meet the requirements from their stocks which they replenish by indents on the Supplying Departments along with their own requirements. Demands of Allied armies for stores of types peculiar to them are scrutinised by Brig., Provision Co-ordination and Supply, M.G.O. Branch, G.H.Q., and placed on the Supply Department by him.

(iii) Other Departments place their indents for goods available in India on the Supplying Departments of the Central Government and on D.G., I.S.D., for goods required from the U. K.

In respect of items (i), (ii) and (iii) above, indents will be placed on the Supply Department, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, the Food Department and the Railway Department, according to the nature of stores required. As regards the actual purchase procedure, it varies from Department to Department. The procedure in the Supply Department has been that on receipt, the indents are passed on to the C.C.P.(S) or C.C.P.(M) or cross-mandated to the Controllers of Supplies or Directors of Munitions Production, as necessary; purchase is then effected by open or limited tender or by negotiation. As regards the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, indents are placed directly on the Textiles Commissioner who cross-mandates, where necessary, on the Controllers of Supplies. The Food Department takes Purchase action either by inviting tenders or through agents or by negotiation. The Railway Department place bulk orders for wagons on the Wagon Building Panel in the country and make arrangements for locomotives and boilers through the Secretary of State. The orders for rails, etc., are placed on the Steel Commissioner.

(iv) Civil requirements of the Eastern Group countries of goods produced in India are met through ordinary trade channels and are debited to the civil quotas allotted to the countries concerned.

(h) No. Purchase Instructions have, however, been issued from time to time and some of them are contained in the Contract Manual, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(i) The total value of purchases made by the Supply Department during the financial years 1943-44 and 1944-45 is as follows:

Value in rupees

1943-44.—1,37,44,10,561 or 137.4 crores.

1944-45.—1,11,80,84,468 or 111.8 crores.

(April to December 1944 only.)

Figures for the months of January and February 1945 are not yet available.

Statement

Serial No. 1	Industries and Trade in respect of which Liaison Officer appointed by Supply Department 2	Name of Liaison Officer 3	Remuneration 4
1	Steel	Mr. L. F. Berry, O. B. E.	Rs. 1700 p.m.
2	Shipping functions in respect of various commodities.	Mr. S. J. Mathews.	Rs. 800 p.m.
3	Honorary Adviser on Woollen Industries, Cawnpore.	Mr. W. R. Watt.	Nil.

1	2	3	4
4	Honorary Adviser on Tanning & Leather Industries, Cawnpore.	Mr. A. C. Inskip	Nil.
5	Honorary Adviser on Jute Supplies, Calcutta	Mr. I. G. Kennedy	Nil.
6	Honorary Adviser on Rope Supplies, Calcutta.	Mr. J. S. Quin	Nil.
7	Honorary Adviser on Petroleum Products, New Delhi.	Mr. R. N. B. Brunt	Nil.
8	Honorary Adviser on Timber Supplies, Calcutta.	Mr. C. Williamson	Nil.
9	Honorary Adviser on Hides, Cawnpore	Mr. Mohd. Amin	Nil.
10	Honorary Adviser on Web Equipment, Calcutta.	Mr. H. N. Thomas	Nil.
11	Vehicles Liaison Officer India Supply Mission, U. S. A.	Col J. L. Dawson, V. C., I. A. O. C.	Ra. 2,205 p.m.
12	Vehicles Liaison Officer India Supply Mission, U. S. A.	Col. J. H. G. Chapman.	Ra. 2,205 p.m.

(Note:—Advisers are allowed a small annual grant to cover their office expenses. They are also allowed halting and travelling allowances for journeys performed on Government duty.)

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that for civil requirements

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is not the Honourable Member satisfied with the very long answer? I think we must go on to the next question.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENTS,
ETC.**

1120. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether any grants or contributions are made from his Department to any Governments, Associations or persons;

(b) if so, the persons and institutions to whom these grants are made; and

(c) the amount spent on such grants?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) and (b). In respect of Governments the answer is yes. It is not clear what the Honourable Member means by Associations, but if he means tribes, the answer is that allowances are paid to the Frontier tribes. In respect of persons, no allowances are paid except those to Afghan refugees, detained under Regulation 3 of 1818 or under other forms of restriction. As explained before, where grants are made, they are not made to individuals.

(c) The annual expenditure on the Frontier tribes' allowances is Rs. 9,15,000. The collection of financial details about the expenditure on various allowances would involve an expenditure of time and labour such as is not justifiable in war time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the Governments to which this Government makes grants?

Sir Olaf Caroe: There is the Government of Muscat; there is the Government of Nepal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the purposes for which these grants are made?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Will the Honourable Member make clear what grants he means? His question is a sort of omnibus question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the tribes as well as to independent or quasi-independent Governments like Muscat.

Sir Olaf Caroe: To put it in a very few words, for general good will.

Mr. Abdul Qalyum: May I know what is the total amount paid to Muscat and to Nepal annually?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Speaking from memory, the amount paid to Muscat is about Rs. 80,000 a year and there is also a war subsidy of Rs. 2,40,000; the amount paid to Nepal is Rs. 10 lakhs a year.

Mr. Abdul Qalyum: May I know if this war subsidy is in the nature of a dearness allowance?

(No reply.)

REGROUPING OF RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS

1121. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) whether the matter of regrouping Railway Administrations with a view to having efficient administration was considered by Government; and

(b) if so, what groupings are considered, and when Government expect to come to a conclusion in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With regard to part (a) and the 1st portion of part (b), the Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question No. 492 on the 23rd February 1945.

With regard to the 2nd portion of part (b), the Government hope to come to a decision as soon as the matter has been duly considered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the groupings considered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I referred the Honourable Member to the answer given to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question on the 23rd February.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the economy resulting from this grouping?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One cannot tell until the decision has been arrived at, how the amalgamation should be made.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether this House or any advisory committee will examine the regrouping before the decision is finally arrived at?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, when we have any scheme to put before the Committee. As a matter of fact, I propose to put one aspect before the Central Advisory Council at its next meeting.

RAILWAY POSTS TO WHICH INDIANS ARE NOT PERMANENTLY APPOINTED

1122. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the posts in the Railway Board and the Railway Administrations to which no Indian has been permanently appointed till now;

(b) the reasons for Indians having not been admitted to these posts till now; and

(c) whether there are any statutory reservations for Europeans with reference to any of them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Apart from the post of Chief Commissioner of Railways, I understand that there is no type of post on the Railway Board or on the Railways to which at one time or another an Indian has not been appointed permanently.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has any Indian been appointed at any time as Chief Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I said: 'Apart from the post of Chief Commissioner of Railways'.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will Government consider the desirability of appointing an Indian as Chief Commissioner of Railways for one day at least?

PREFERENCE GIVEN BY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT TO FOREIGN PRODUCTS

1123. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Supply Member been drawn to the speech of the Chairman of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the 25th January 1945, in which he said:

"The experience of industrialists has, however, been somewhat bitter during the last few months and it is generally felt that as more and more shipping space is becoming available, the Supply Department of the Government of India is not displaying any keenness in purchasing indigenous products and are preferring and even indenting foreign goods the like of which could easily be available in this country. A case in point is that of cycles and drugs and tinctures manufactured in this country?"

(b) What is the true position with regard to the orders and importation of cycles, drugs and tinctures manufactured in this country?

(c) How much has been purchased in India and how much has been imported during 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December 1945)?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have placed orders with Indian manufacturers for such things as biscuits and soap for the Army and that considerable quantities of these articles are now being imported and given for the consumption of the civilian population?

(e) Have Government received any complaints, or been informed of any discontent on the ground that the normal market for the civil population in India is being denied to the industries concerned and that goods of well-known brands from the United Kingdom are being advertised by being placed in the market freely in large quantities?

(f) Do Government propose to give a general assurance on this question in order to allay apprehensions in all quarters that the system of placing orders by Government and of the importation of consumer goods, will not work against established industries in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government have seen the extract from the speech quoted by the Honourable Member.

(b) Cycles of Indian manufacture were purchased in 1943-44. In September 1943 an enquiry made in the U. K. revealed the fact that British Cycles could be produced at about half the prices paid for Indian cycles. The quality of Indian cycles was also not as satisfactory as expected. The purchase of Indian made cycles was, therefore, stopped. No British cycles have, however, so far been imported by Supply Department. A little over 8,000 cycles were imported into India in 1943-44 from the U. S. A.

Orders for all items of drugs, which are produced in India, and for all tinctures, were placed in this country.

(c) A statement is laid on the table. This, however, does not include information about imported drugs, which is being collected and will be laid on the table, when complete.

(d) There have been no imports of soaps, with the exception of a negligible quantity of medicated soaps.

As regards biscuits, about 80,000 tons of a special brand of biscuits known as Shakarpara biscuits are required by the Q. M. G. for Indian and British troops. The total Indian capacity, however, for the manufacture of this particular type of biscuits is only 15,000 tons, and this is all taken up by the Defence Services. To make up the balance of 15,000 tons, the Q. M. G. tries to import various brands of biscuits from abroad releasing the entire Indian output of other brands of biscuits for civil consumption. This has effectually obviated imports of foreign biscuits for civil consumption as can be seen from the fact that during 1943-44 only 125 cwts. of biscuits were imported for civil consumption and from April to October 1944 only 20 cwts. During the period 1st April 1944 to 31st December 1944, although the Q. M. G. has been able to secure only 402 tons by imports, he has not taken any additional quantity of Indian made biscuits.

(e) and (f). A representation was received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry about the general import policy of Government with particular reference to consumer goods. At a meeting of the representatives of the Government Departments concerned with those of the Federation, it was explained that Government were fully alive to the need for releasing as much of local production as possible to meet civil needs. It was also explained that in authorising imports of consumer goods from abroad, the general supply position in the country was carefully considered and that imports were allowed only in respect of those articles where Government were satisfied that there was either no production or that indigenous production was not sufficient to meet the total requirements of the country. In view of this policy Government feel no justification for any apprehensions.

Statement

	1943-44		1944-45	
	Indigenous	Imported	Indigenous	Imported
Cycles	18,199	Excluding 8250 received under lease lend, total "non-defence" imports were 28355.	Nil	Total "non-defence" imports were 23,286 (from 1-4-1944 to 1-11-44)
Drugs	Worth Rs. 53,41,535	*	Worth Rs. 26,59,891 (from 1-4-1944 to 31-12-1944)	*
Tinctures	Worth Rs. 26,00,000	Nil	Worth Rs. 5,50,000 (from 1-4-1944 to 1-7-1944)	Nil

* Figures are being collected and will be laid on the table.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In the case of long answers of this kind, the statement ought to be laid on the table. That has always been the practice of this House.

CERTAIN A CLASS MUSLIM GUARDS REVERTED TO B CLASS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1124. *Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, in the month of May, 1944, Muslim Guards of over 45 years of age who passed written and oral tests for the duties of Assistant Station Masters after they had been promoted to the posts of 'A' Class Guards were again detailed to attend Senior Assistant Station Masters' Refresher Course at the Chandausi Training School, East Indian Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslim 'A' Class Guards reverted to the posts of 'B' Class Guards in August, 1944, on the result of the Chandausi Senior Assistant Refresher Course of May, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Questions Nos. 1124 to 1126 together.

Information is being obtained and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether in regard to all the questions put from this Group, the same reply has been given by the Honourable Member for about two years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not to all questions. But these questions were admitted only on the 14th. It is necessary that these matters of relatingly minor administrative detail should be referred to the Railways and that a reply should be received from them. It is not possible always to get the reply in time. We do not keep this sort of information in the Government of India.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: One of the objects of asking these questions is to bring these grievances to the notice of the Honourable Member. If the replies are laid on the table, the member concerned does not see them.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member could arrange for more time to be given, we can get the answers in time. If the Honourable Member just wants an answer, then it would be equally good if the questions were unstarred.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In 11 days' time the Department should be ready with an answer. Otherwise they should ask for 20 or 30 days' time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We do our best. These matters of detail have often got to be referred to Divisions and the replies cannot always come in in time to be dealt with on the floor of the House.

**A CLASS NON-MUSLIM GUARDS SENT FOR REFRESHER COURSE IN
HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY**

1125. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, non-Muslims of over 45 years of age, after their promotion to 'A' Class Guards, have never been sent to Chandausi to attend Senior Assistant Station Masters Refresher Course?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of non-Muslims sent to Chandausi to attend the said refresher course during the period from January, 1941 to December 1944?

**CERTAIN A CLASS MUSLIM GUARDS REVERTED TO B CLASS IN HOWRAH
DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY**

1126. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if he is aware that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, the Muslim 'A' Class Guards who were reverted to 'B' Class Guards in the month of August, 1944, have served the administration as Guards since the 2nd March, 1922, with good service records, passed all the Departmental Examinations and got rewards, *vide East Indian Railway Gazette, No. 24 of 1948?*

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the objection to keeping them as 'A' Class Guards?

**ARREAR DEFICIENCY OF PROBATIONARY ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS,
ETC., IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

1127. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, the arrear deficiency in the categories of probationer Assistant Station Masters, Signallers and Guards during the year 1943-1944 has not been made good either in the same categories or in other categories of the same value?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state:

(i) the number of vacancies in the categories of probationer Assistant Station Masters, Signallers, Guards 'A' and 'B' Class filled by direct recruitment during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945;

(ii) the number of vacancies reserved for Muslims in each category;

(iii) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recruited in these categories who are still in service; and

(iv) the categories in which the arrear deficiency was made good and the number of Muslims appointed therein?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). In view of the fact that the orders regarding reservations on a communal basis in direct recruitment do not require such proportions to be observed in respect of individual categories but in respect of the Railway as a whole, it is not essential that deficiencies in individual categories should be made good. During the year 1943-44 Muslims were recruited on the East Indian Railway to the extent of 21.789 per cent. against the prescribed percentage of 20.5. Accordingly, I do not think any useful purpose will be served by collecting the detailed statistics asked for by the Honourable Member. I would, however, add for the Honourable Member's information that Government understand that on the East Indian Railway a check is exercised to ensure that the recruitment of Muslims and Other Minority Communities in the prescribed proportions to posts carrying higher pay and better prospects, such as Guards, is duly observed.

KITCHEN CAR SERVICE ON GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS

1128. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether unlike many of the other important trains, the Grand Trunk Express only has a kitchen and not a Restaurant Car?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1124.

(b) Is he aware that the food served by this kitchen car is of the poorest quality, served in the dirtiest manner and incomparably worse than food served generally in Refreshment Rooms and in Restaurant Cars?

(c) Do Government propose to discontinue the kitchen car service and arrange the Grand Trunk Express schedule in such a way that passengers can have their meals at specified stations or, in the alternative, to have a Restaurant Car attached to this train?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) An Indian refreshment car runs daily on the Grand Trunk Express trains between Balharshah and Delhi.

(b) The car is intended primarily to serve Indian food, and the quality of this food and the service are satisfactory. Government are aware that complaints have been made of the European style meals and service which the contractors of the car attempted to provide in order to meet the demands made by passengers.

(c) It is not proposed to discontinue the Indian Refreshment Car as it meets a real want. Orders have, however, been issued to the contractors not to provide European style meals with effect from the 1st April 1945. Passengers requiring European style meals can obtain them from Refreshment Rooms at specified stations at which the trains have been given convenient halts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When it is alleged that food is dirty and the reply is that it is not so, but that it is good, may I know who made the enquiry and how was it found out to be good in the face of the allegation in the question that it is dirty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question was directed to the European style of food. This Indian Refreshment car was never intended to provide European style of food, and it is now proposed to discontinue supplying European style of food. The matter was discussed in the Local Advisory Council and that is the conclusion they came to. European style of food will hereafter be provided at stations when the train halts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The question is that the food supplied is bad, whether it is Indian style of food or European style of food. May I know whether it is so?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am informed that the Indian style of food is satisfactory.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Who says that? Have you made enquiries and found out that it is satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The whole matter was discussed in the Local Advisory Council.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I point out that the reply to part (b) is based on an erroneous deduction? The question is about food generally, not European style of food nor Indian style of food. The complaint is about the food served, whether European or Indian, that it is bad. As a matter of fact, I know from personal experience that the food served is bad. I do not know where the Honourable Member gets his information from, that it is satisfactory.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Because of the relative absence of complaints. The matter was discussed in the Local Advisory Committee. If the catering car ceases to serve European style of food, it will presumably be able to concentrate more satisfactorily on its proper purpose, namely the provision of Indian style of food.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Why don't you do the catering departmentally? Run your own Departmental kitchen.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That raises another question.

ABOLISHING RAILWAY LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE

1129. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service on the Indian State Railways; if so, when;

(b) if the reply to (a) above is in the negative, whether the Honourable Member has changed the policy enunciated in his speech (page 8) delivered in

February, 1944, while introducing the Railway budget, to the effect that Government proposed to carry through the measure at the appropriate time; if not, within what period it is proposed to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to revise the methods of selection for promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service; if so, what they are; if none, whether it is proposed to do so now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government propose to abolish the lower Gazetted Service at the appropriate time, but are not in a position to say when that time will be.

(c) Yes. The instructions follow generally the procedure prescribed for the promotion of subordinate staff to selection posts as contained in Appendix II-A to Volume I of the State Railway Establishment Code, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, the principal change being the inclusion, in the Selection Boards, of Principal Officers and the Deputy General Manager (Personnel).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if this question relating to Lower Gazetted Service was placed before any Advisory Committee, after the Standing Committee did not agree? Has it been placed before the Standing Finance Committee again for being reconsidered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, it was fully discussed by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1130. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the subordinates promoted to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service on the North Western Railway during the calendar year 1944, with particulars of their (i) pay, (ii) service, (iii) designation in the substantive post, and (iv) the period of officiating service; and

(b) whether the Railway Board has under consideration any revised method of selection of persons for promotion to Lower Gazetted service either in officiating or permanent capacity; if so, whether any orders have been issued, and whether the Honourable Member will please lay a copy thereof on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(b) With a view to co-ordinate the practice in regard to the promotion of subordinates to gazetted posts, the Railway Board have issued detailed instructions, a copy of which I lay on the Table.

Statement showing numbers of subordinates promoted to officiate in lower Gazetted Service during the calendar year 1944 together with particulars of designation, pay, service and period of officiating service.

No	Designation		Rate of substantive pay as on 1-1-1944	Service as on 1-1-1944	Period of officiating service	
	Substantive 1	Officiating 2			From 4	To 5
<i>Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial</i>						
			Rs.	Yrs. M. D.		
1.	Office Supdt.	Asstt. Personnel Officer.	500	23 7 14	10-1-44 13-12-44	9-3-44
2.	Head Clerk Claims	Junior Assistant Commercial.	275	27 8 26	26-1-44	Still officiating
3.	Chief Controfler	Asstt. Transportation Officer.	500	31 5 25	19-1-44 22-5-44 2-11-44	27-2-44 21-6-44 Still officiating

1		2		3		4		5	
				Rs.	Yrs. M. D.				
4.	Head Clerk Claims	Junior Commercial.	Assistant	275	35	11	29	28-1-44	29-12-44.
5.	Office Supdt.	Assistant Officer.	Personnel	500	32	7	28	27-1-44 2-6-44	12-2-44. 24-7-44.
6.	Supdt. Operating	Junior Movement.	Assistant	500	31	10	5	12-2-44 30-5-44	4-4-44. 5-8-44.
7.	Assistant Controller.	Junior Commercial.	Assistant	290	18	4	19	11-3-44 7-9-44	22-6-44. Still officiating.
8.	Head Clerk Commercial.	Do.		230	14	5	2	13-3-44	Still officiating.
9.	Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.		440	16	11	28	17-3-44 15-7-44	25-6-44. Still officiating.
10.	Litigation Inspector.	Junior Commercial	Assistant Liti- gation.	278	15	7	20	18-5-44	18-7-44.
11.	Office Supdt.	Junior Personnel.	Assistant	500	21	7	22	30-5-44	Still officiating.
12.	Head Clerk Claims	Junior Commercial.	Assistant	190	21	7	20	31-5-44 1-8-44	24-7-44. 1-10-44.
13.	Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.		500	32	7	29	1-6-44	22-6-44.
14.	Asstt. Staff Warden.	Asstt. Officer.	Personnel	350	15	2	5	13-6-44 12-8-44	28-7-44. 9-10-44.
15.	Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.		420	16	10	4	13-6-44 12-9-44 14-12-44	14-8-44. 31-10-44. Still officiating.
16.	Traffic Inspector	Do.		500	34	6	24	12-6-44	Reverted from 6-2-44 and proceeded on L.P.R.
17.	Do.	Do.		440	16	8	7	23-6-44	23-7-44.
18.	Chief Controller	Do.		400	25	3	27	30-6-44	14-7-44.
19.	Traffic Inspector	Assistant Commercial Officer.		350	16	11	26	29-6-44	20-8-44.
20.	Asstt. Staff Warden	Asstt. Officer.	Personnel	350	15	6	16	24-6-44	Still officiating.
21.	P. A. to Station Supdt.	Asstt. Commercial Officer.		190	25	11	22	10-7-44	3-9-44.
22.	Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.		500	32	2	17	5-8-44	3-12-44.
23.	Claims Inspector	Asstt. Commercial Officer.		480	29	9	29	25-8-44	30-9-44.
24.	Office Supdt.	Asstt. Commercial Officer.	Personnel	330	16	4	23	16-5-44	24-6-44.
25.	Head Clerk Claims.	Junior Commercial.	Assistant	260	25	8	15	19-9-44	Still officiating
26.	Senior Claims Inspector.	Junior Commercial.	Assistant	135	26	3	13	25-9-44 14-12-44	28-10-44. Still officiating-
27.	Supdt. Personnel	Junior Personnel I.	Assistant	460	33	1	20	7-11-44	22-12-44.
28.	Watch & Ward Inspector.	Junior Commercial.	Assistant	200	18-2-29			19-12-44	Still officiating.
29.	Supdt. Commercial	Do.		500	23	1	0	30-12-44	Do.
30.	Publicity Inspector.	Do.		275	25	5	12	9-12-44	Do.
31.	Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.		440	17	4	18	20-12-44	Still officiating.
32.	Do	Do.		440	17	5	14	9-12-44	Do.
<i>Engineering.</i>									
33.	Permanent Way Inspector.	Assistant Engineer		375	17	5	19	1-2-44 26-11-44	16-4-44. Still officiating.
34.	Inspector of Works.	Do.		475	18	9	11	30-3-44	Still officiating.
35.	Bridge Inspector	Asstt. Bridges.	Engineer	330	19	3	2	8-4-44	Do.
36.	Inspector of Works.	Asstt. Engineer		400	21	5	10	11-5-44	Do.
37.	Office Supdt.	Asstt. Officer.	Personnel	500	23	6	5	11-5-44 17-12-44	11-6-44. Still officiating.
38.	Inspector of Works.	Asstt. Engineer		200	6	6	23	17-5-44	Still officiating

		1	2	3	4	5	
		Rs. Yrs. M. D.					
39.	Permanent Way Asstt. Engineer Inspector.			500	28 7 4	9-6-44	19-10-44.
40.	Do. Do.			500	27 8 14	19-6-44	2-10-44.
41.	Do. Do.			375	34 2 19	28-6-44	Still officiating.
42.	Supdt. Drawing Engineering.			270	13 1 16	3-7-44	21-9-44
43.	Inspector of works			160	5 4 7	11-10-44	Still officiating.
44.	Computer			330	17 5 5	17-7-44	15-10-44
45.	Permanent Way Inspector.			330	18 7 2	24-7-44	30-8-44.
						6-8-44	28-10-44.
<i>Transportation (Power) and Mechanical</i>							
46.	Shed Foreman . Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.			675	20 10 26	2-2-44	Still officiating.
47.	Asstt. Chief Mechanical Draughtsman.			500	35 5 11	18-1-44	12-9-44 Retired on 20-7-44.
48.	Shop Foreman . Asstt. Works Manager			650	19 9 7	1-4-44	25-6-44.
49.	Loco Foreman . Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.			525	26 8 14	27-5-44	28-6-44.
50.	Shop Foreman . Asstt. Works Manager			550	27 10 0	12-6-44	30-7-44.
51.	Foreman . Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.			650	19 2 27	27-6-44	Still officiating.
52.	Asstt. Supdt. . Asstt. Personnel Officer.			330	22 2 26	28-7-44	11-10-44.
53.	Carriage & Wagon Inspector.			550	24 0 26	16-12-44	Still officiating.
54.	Shop Foreman . Asstt. Works Manager			475	22 1 20	26-7-44	Still officiating.
55.	Head Chemist . Asstt. Chemist and Metallurgist.			475	15 11 27	31-7-44	31-8-44
56.	Shop Foreman . Asstt. Works Manager			650	20 6 18	11-11-44	14-7-44
							Do.
<i>Signal</i>							
57.	Block Inspector Divl. Asstt. Signal Engineer.			525	37-11-28	25-5-44	27-7-44.
58.	Signal Inspector Do.			600	34 10 16	7-8-44	30-9-44
<i>Electrical</i>							
59.	Electrical Foreman. Asstt. Electrical Engineer.			650	18- 2 19	26-2-44	Still officiating.
60.	Do. Do.			650	26 9 26	1-6-44	27-9-44.
<i>Stores Branch</i>							
61.	Traffic Inspector Asstt. Rationing Officer.			420	15 6 9	4-1-44	Still officiating.
62.	Depot Store-keeper. Asstt. Stores Officer .			450	31 2 1	1-6-44	Still officiating.
63.	Do. Do.			375	20 10 17	1-6-44	Do.
64.	Asstt. Staff Warden. Asstt. Rationing Officer.			350	20 6 12	22-6-44	Do.
65.	Superintendent . P. A. to Dy. Controller of Stores.			460	31 3 15	31-7-44	Do.
66.	Asstt. Staff Warden. Asstt. Rationing Officer.			290	32 6 0	9-12-44	Do.
67.	Dy. Asstt. Supdt. Press. Asstt. Supdt. Press .			550	16 9 26	18-9-44	2-10-44.
<i>Medical.</i>							
68.	Head Clerk Medical. P. A. to Chief Medical and Health Officer.			275	15 6 19	6-7-44	27-9-44.
69.	Asstt. Surgeon . Asstt. Medical Officer			350	12 0 13	31-7-44	31-8-44.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT (RAILWAY BOARD)

No. E44PM12.

New Delhi, dated the 14th November, 1944.

To

All State-managed Railways.

Promotion from subordinate service to the L.G.S. or from subordinate service to the Superior Service where no L.G.S. exists.

The Board have recently had under consideration the procedure for selecting subordinates for promotion to gazetted ranks and made enquiries, in their letter E44PM12, dated 17th July, 1944, of the Administrations of those Railways on which

exists as to their present practice. In view of the diversity of practice which their replies have disclosed and of the necessity for co-ordinating practice in regard to the promotion of subordinates to the Superior Service on certain Company-managed lines lately taken over by the State on which no L.G.S. exists; it is considered expedient to lay down for immediate adoption the following procedure which follows in general terms, though with necessary modifications, the Rules governing the promotion of subordinate staff (within subordinate grades) as recently promulgated as Appendix IIA to Vol. I of the State Railway Establishment Code, *vide* Railway Board's letter E42RR83 of 2nd February, 1944.

2. (a) Selection Boards should always be constituted for the purpose of making recommendations to the competent authority of subordinates considered suitable for promotion to gazetted rank.

(b) Selection Boards will be constituted under the orders of the General Manager and may be Standing Boards or assembled *ad hoc* as required.

(c) Selection Boards should consist of at least four officers, two of whom should be Principal Officers—one being the Head of the Department concerned. The Deputy General Manager (Personnel) or where such does not exist, the seniormost Personnel Officer, should be among the members and one of the officers must be a member of a minority community, preferably a Muslim Officer.

(d) The Selection Board should sit formally and consider the cases of all individuals who might be considered suitable for promotion and interview candidates if such a course is considered necessary. The Board shall record their findings in the form of recommendations to the General Manager. There is no objection to waiting lists being maintained and it is not considered that it will normally be necessary for Selection Boards to sit more than twice a year.

(e) Before the Board assembles, papers connected with the proposed selection, names of the candidates to be considered with reports on such candidates and other relevant data concerning them shall be circulated for the information of the members of the Board.

(f) In considering confidential reports or other data available, special attention should be given to the following:—

(i) Technical ability, including academic qualifications and actual experience.

(ii) Character, especially in regard to integrity, personality, initiative, tact, judgment, keenness, care and thoroughness and ability to take responsibility.

3. Steps should be taken to review any existing approved or waiting lists in accordance with the above procedure.

4. The Railway Board believe that, on some Railways, annual confidential reports of senior subordinates are not maintained in that detail which is essential if Selection Boards are to come to wise decisions and this matter should be given attention and such action taken as is necessary.

5. The above procedure will, in due course, be incorporated in the Establishment Code.

M. D. SHEIKH,

Director, Railway Board.

D.A.—N4.

R.19/3—16 copies.

HOURS OF DUTY OF RUNNING STAFF ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1131. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the running staff on the North Western Railway are being freely suspended from duty or even discharged; if they claim rest after twelve hours continuous duty; if so, why;

(b) the maximum hours of duty that a member of the running staff must necessarily put in before claiming rest;

(c) whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration desired to post some extra members of the running staff at midway stations on a running section so as to be able to give rest to the running staff in case of necessity and long hours; how far the scheme has progressed; and

(d) if the reply to the last portion of (c) be that the scheme has not yet been put into action, if it is proposed to push it through; if not, what other steps Government propose to take to ensure reasonable hours of work at a stretch for the running staff?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government are informed that only one case of this nature has occurred on the North Western Railway during the past 12 months, disciplinary action was taken against the employee a Guard, for refusal to carry out orders.

(b) After sixteen hours continuous duty with a train, Guards and Drivers may claim rest, provided reasonable warning of their intention is given. Such long hours are however of rare occurrence.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. Certain measures have already been put into effect including the posting of additional staff, and further schemes are under consideration.

(d) Government are watching the progress of the scheme and will take whatever steps they consider necessary.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member in what does insubordination consist if a particular guard refuses to work for extra hours.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think I have the information to give the Honourable Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the Department consider it fair that if a man is asked to work extra hours, when under the Rules he is entitled not to work, that he should be punished for insubordination, if he only carries out what is considered to be right?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the removal from service was subsequent to the particular case concerned, but I shall require notice for the purpose of getting further details of that particular case.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries and find out that he is not victimised for simply demanding what is considered to be right under the Rules, that he is not victimised for that purpose only?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am quite sure that he was not victimised because that is not done on the Railways, nor is the gentleman in question a Sikh?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the maximum number of hours to which railway servants may be asked to work continuously?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not a question of maximum number of hours, it is a question of claiming rest after a certain number of hours.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the maximum number of hours for which a railway servant may be asked to work on the whole in a day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it is 60 hours in the week. If a man works longer hours on a particular day, owing to bad coal holding up the engine or anything like that, then arrangements are made that he gets adequate rest—he is compensated for the longer hours of duty—during the balance of the period. The arrangement takes into account the necessity for his having sufficient rest for recuperation after his long period on the line and it takes into account the necessity of giving him an opportunity for earning a reasonable amount of running allowance or mileage as the case may be.

LOWERING EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES FOR CLERICAL SERVICE IN POSTAL DEPARTMENT

1132. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum educational qualification for appointment to clerical services in his Department has been lowered to non-Matriculation for candidates of certain communities only; if so, why;

(b) what is meant by non-Matriculation; if this term has been defined; if so, now;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Home Department Resolution No. F.14/17-B/33, dated the 4th July, 1934, and a further resolution issued in August, 1943, on the same subject of representation of minority communities in Government services, recognise no communal discrimination in the matter of minimum educational qualifications for recruitment; and

(d) whether it is proposed to withdraw the discriminatory order referred to in (a) above and allow the lowering of qualifications for candidates of all communities alike; if not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. If so, the reply is as follows:

(a) No.

(b) Non-Matriculation means a standard of education below that of a pass in the Matriculation or any other examination recognised by Government as equivalent to it. The term has not been defined specifically any where.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

Mr. Lalchand Nayalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member which other examination is considered equivalent to Matriculation in this Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, I have not got here with me the list, but there are quite a large number of examinations which are considered equivalent to the matric, e.g. one of them is the Chiefs' College Diploma, another the Junior Cambridge, and various other examinations which I cannot name straightaway now.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether postal peons are permitted to sit for clerical examinations without any specified qualification and this is to the extent of 20 per cent. of the vacancies?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

SELECTION FOR PROMOTION OF INSPECTORS OF WORKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1133. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if he is aware of the fact that the principle of selection in the matter of promotion of Inspectors of Works on the North-Western Railway is being abused?

(b) Do Government propose to entrust the selection to the North-Western Railway Service Commission? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no cause to believe that the principle of selection in regard to promotion of Inspectors of Works on the North Western Railway is being abused.

(b) The Government see no reason to enlarge the scope of the functions of the N. W. Railway Service Commission.

ASSISTANT MASTERS IN EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOL, TUNDLA

†1134. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many Assistant Masters (not optional teachers) there are in the East Indian Railway School at Tundla, and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The number of Assistant Masters other than teachers of vernacular and other special subjects is 12, and none of these is a Muslim.

MUSLIM JUNIOR CHARGEMEN (ELECTRICAL BRANCH) NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1135. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the number of Muslim Junior Chargemen in the Electrical Branch (Power Side) of the North Western Railway in 1938, and their number at present?

(b) How many vacancies of the Junior Chargemen (Power Side) in the Electrical Branch of the North Western Railway occurred from 1938 up till now, and how many of these were filled, stating the number of men by communities who were appointed or promoted against these vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that the posts of Junior Chargemen are required to be filled by the candidates of the various communities in accordance with the Communal Rotation Order laid down by the General Manager, North Western Railway? If so, will the Honourable Member please state if these orders were observed in filling the vacancies of Junior Chargemen in the Electrical Branch of Mechanical Division? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of Junior Chargemen employed in the Electrical Branch (Power Side) of the North Western Railway in 1938 and at present is three and four respectively.

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

(b) 14 vacancies occurred from 1938 onwards and were filled as follows:

Five by Muslims; seven by other Minority Communities; and there were two unreserved vacancies.

(c) Yes, so far as that proportion of the vacancies filled by direct recruitment and not those filled by promotion or transfer is concerned. As regards the latter portion, the communal reservation orders have been observed so far as practicable and the under-recruitment of a particular community or communities is carried forward to the next year for adjustment.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1136. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Railway Member been drawn to the resolutions passed by the General Body on the N. W. R. Muslim Employees' Association, Karachi Division, regarding the paucity of Muslims in the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, which were published in the issue of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, dated the 2nd November, 1944? If so, is it proposed to consider the recommendations contained in the resolutions? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that one of these resolutions demanded the posting of a Muslim Deputy Personnel Officer to the Karachi Division? If so, do Government propose to concede the request made therein? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Yes. Government do not propose to take any action as the matter is within the competence of the General Manager. A copy of the question is, however, being sent to the General Manager for such action as he considers necessary.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1137. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India fixed in 1934 percentages for initial recruitment of Muslims at 60 per cent. for Subordinate and 70.1 per cent. for inferior establishment, respectively, for the Karachi Division, N. W. R.? If so, have Muslims been given their due share? If not, why not? Do Government propose to take action against those responsible for denying the Muslims their full representation while making initial recruitments? If so, what? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the Personnel Branch of the Divisional Office, Karachi Division, North Western Railway, has a majority of non-Muslims? If so, why? If not, will a statement, community-wise, be placed on the table of the House? How and when do Government propose to give full representation to Muslims in that Branch?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The percentages for Muslims in direct recruitment to the subordinate and inferior services on the N. W. Railway are 60 and 61.27 respectively. The percentage of 70.1 for inferior services is that allotted by the N. W. Railway Administration to the Karachi Division in keeping with the principle on which the overall percentage of 61.27 was fixed for the N. W. Railway as a whole. As regards the second and the third portions, Muslims have not obtained their share of vacancies in subordinate categories in direct recruitment in the Karachi Division due to a shortage of Muslims applying for employment, especially as clerks on the line. In view of this, the remaining portion of this part does not arise.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion, prior to the issue of the directive laying down the method by which a preponderance of any one community in Establishment Branches should be avoided, non-Muslims were already in a very great majority in the Personnel Branch of the Divisional Superintendent's Office. As regards the last portion, Government have reason to believe that the directive referred to will gradually bring about the desired result.

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

SENIORITY OF MUSLIMS RECRUITED IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1138. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that according to the policy laid down by the Railway Board, 60 per cent. of the posts filled by initial recruitment are reserved for Muslims on the North Western Railway? If so, is the seniority of Muslims so recruited maintained strictly in conformity with the communal rotation order? If not, how is their seniority maintained?

(b) Are Government aware that the seniority of Muslims in the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, who had been confirmed as T. P. V., is being ignored by relegating them to Grade I from Grade II by recruiting non-Muslims in their place? If not, what are the true facts and do Government propose to institute an enquiry into the matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion of the question, the reply is in the affirmative, except that so far as men passing out of the Walton Training School on the same date and posted to the same Division are concerned, relative seniority is determined by the order of merit obtained by them in their particular course of training.

(b) I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DISCOURAGEMENT TO MUSLIMS FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1139. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that application from Muslims in the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, with better qualifications are withheld while those of their competitors with comparatively lesser qualifications forwarded to the Subordinate Service Commission for post of Assistant Permanent Way Inspector? If not, what are the facts, and do Government propose to enquire into the matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government are informed that two junior clerks possessing the same qualifications, one a Hindu and the other a Muslim, applied, and the application of the latter was not forwarded. The matter is being investigated in communication with the North Western Railway Administration.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH OF HEADQUARTERS OFFICE, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1140. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that Muslims are under-represented in the Establishment Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, as is evident from the figures given below:

Year	Total No. of clerks in all grades	No. of Muslim clerks	Percentage	Total No. of Head clerks	No. of Muslim Head Clerks	Percentage
			Per cent.			Per cent.
1942	66	29	43	6	2	33
1943	64	28	43	6	2	33
1944	64	28	43	6	NI	NI

If so, what are the reasons for non-compliance of the orders of the Railway Board which specifically provide 60 per cent. of the total establishment for Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that the number of Muslim officers in the above Branch is negligible? If so, is it proposed to promote Muslims to higher posts? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The correct position as on 31st December, 1942, 1943 and 1944 is given in a statement which I lay on the table.

The Honourable Member's version of the Railway Board's orders is not correct. The instructions on the subject were to the effect that as a temporary measure 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the clerical staff of Establishment Branches filled by *direct recruitment* should be reserved for minority communities till such time as their representation in these branches reached the overall percentage prescribed for the Railway concerned. There is every reason to expect that the full effect of the orders will be attained in due course.

(b) The officer in charge of the Personnel Branch is a Muslim, and Muslims are considered for higher posts in the Branch provided they are suitable and are available.

Statement showing the total number of clerks, including Superintendents and Assistants Superintendents employed in the Establishment Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, as it stood on 31st December 1942, 1943 and 1944.

Year	Total No. of clerks in all grades.	No. of Muslim Clerks	Per-cent- age.	Total No. of Head Clerks.	No. of Muslim Head Clerks.	Per-cent age.	REMARKS
1942	65 plus 3 Tempy.	36	44	4	2	50	
1943	65 plus 6 Tempy.	34	48	4	*	25	* One promoted as Assistant Superintendent.
1944	65 plus 9 Tempy.	37	50	1	†		† Due to proceeding on leave preparatory to retirement of one Head Clerk and promotion of Assistant Superintendent as Office Superintendent.

The above figures do not include seven Muslims (including one Head Clerk who are at present on deputation with other officers or Departments.

CERTAIN POSTS OF MARINE DEPARTMENT TREATED AS SUBORDINATES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1141. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Marine Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway the following posts have been treated as subordinates to keep up the over-all percentage of Muslims:

(i) Navigating Serang Scale 50—5/2—85; (ii) Navigating Serang Scale 85—3—50; (iii) Deck Serang Scale 28—2—40; (iv) Tindals Scale 22—1—28; (v) Sencunny Scale 20—1—28; (vi) Deck Serang Scale 26—2—44; (vii) Driver Scale 50—5/2/85; (viii) Driver Scale 80—3—45; (ix) Driver Oil Engine Scale 22—1—28; and (x) Tindals Engine Room Scale 22—1—28?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of staff, community-wise, employed in the said posts in the year 1943-44?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government are not in possession of the details but understand that some of these categories are treated as 'subordinate' in keeping with their qualifications, status and duties and not for the reasons stated by the Honourable Member. Practically all deck staff of the Marine Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway are Muslims, as they are recruited from a Muslim class which mainly follows this profession.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is the Honourable Member trying to get details in the meantime?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What details are asked for?

BLOCK SIGNALMEN ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1142. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that appointments to the post of

Block Signalman on the Bengal and Assam Railway are not taken into account for the adjustment of communal quota?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table of the House showing the appointments in the said category community-wise during the years 1942 and 1943?

(c) Is it a fact that only inferior staff were installed in the said subordinate category?

(d) If the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative, is it not against the recruitment rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to starred questions Nos. 1142 and 1143 together.

I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

ABSORPTION OF A. R. P. STAFF ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

†1143. ***Mr. Muhammad Ahsan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that consequent on the abolition of A.R.P. organisation on certain stations on the Bengal and Assam Railway, the personnel employed therein are now being absorbed in the sanctioned cadre of the Railway to the detriment of the interest of Muslims?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the number of staff communitywise employed on the inception of A.R.P. Organisation on the said Railway and the number of staff communitywise who are now being absorbed in the permanent cadre on the said Railway?

PANELS OF CONTRACTORS, CHITTAGONG DISTRICT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1144. ***Mr. Muhammad Ahsan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that panels of contractors have been formed in Chittagong District of the Bengal and Assam Railway by the Food Supply Department and the Engineering Department?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will he please state how many Muslim contractors have been empanelled and were given contracts during the year 1944?

(c) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he please state if it is the intention of the Administration to form any other panel and if guidance will be given by the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). The information asked for is not readily available.

The matter is within the competence of the Railway Administration and a copy of the question will be sent to the General Manager for his consideration.

VENDING CONTRACTS TO NON-PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS IN ALLAHABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1145. ***Mr. Muhammad Ahsan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in 1940 the Railway Board made a rule that no person who is not a professional contractor will be given a vending licence on any Railway and that he will never be given contracts for supply of any kind on Railways?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state if on the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway these rules are being observed?

(c) Is it a fact that on the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway tea stall licence and tea vending contract has been given to a non-professional contractor?

(d) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state on what stations such licences have been given to non-professionals on the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway during 1943 and 1944?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1142.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In conformity with the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Council at their meeting on March 15th and 18th, 1940, the Railway Board laid down certain general principles to be ordinarily followed. One of these was to the effect that where new contractors of vending licensees had to be selected, the choice should be limited to professional caterers.

(b), (c) and (d). Yes: I understand that in one instance only the principle has not been rigidly observed. This was in connection with the tea stall contract for Muslims at Etawah station. The matter has already been brought to the notice of the General Manager who will take such action as necessary to rectify matters.

Mr. Muhammad Neuman: May I inform the Honourable Member that his information is incorrect? Because, in Fatehpur one N. K. Bansilal has been given the contract of tea stall, who is a grain merchant and not a caterer; another cooly contractor Madan & Co. has got it in Mirzapur. And this information has been withheld from the Honourable Member. Will the Honourable Member make inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will certainly look into the Honourable Member's allegation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member find out from the General Managers of other railways whether this principle of giving it to caterers is being followed on their railways? As a matter of fact, it is given to persons who employ sub-agents to do this work.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that, generally speaking, they do observe the principle which is recommended. In this particular case on this particular railway I understand there was only one case of a Muslim retired employee who was given the contract which, when we discovered it, was brought to the attention of the General Manager.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a general complaint about it on other railways also? Will he therefore find out whether the instructions are followed or not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member has any reasons to suspect that this principle is not being observed, and if he will be good enough to put down a question, I shall be pleased to answer it.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Is the Honourable Member aware that on the North Western Railway at any rate—I do not know about other railways—there is a regular scandal that people are given contracts who have not followed the profession of caterers or aerated water vendors, and that they in their turn sublet these contracts to other people who carry on the work under fictitious names?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware that there is such a general scandal or that the rules are not observed. I am perfectly well aware that there is one particular case alleged which I am personally investigating.

PAY, ETC., OF TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS

†1146. **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the salary of a Telegraph Messenger?

(b) What are the allowances, per month of Telegraph Messengers, on an average?

(c) Are the Messengers entitled to any pension?

(d) Is so; after how many years of service?

(e) Has any telegraph messenger got any pension? If so, how many?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). There are two classes of telegraph messengers, one on fixed time-scales of pay, and the other on task work rates plus subsistence allowances. Amongst the fixed pay messengers, there are

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

adult and boy messengers. Task work earnings are so arranged that they are at least equal to the minimum subsistence allowance sanctioned for the station. The scales of pay and subsistence allowance, which vary according to locality, are given at pages 67, 69 and 80 of the Manual of Appointment, and Allowances of the officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Both classes of staff get dearness allowance and good conduct pay, and in some localities house rent and compensatory allowances also. It is not possible to state the amount of allowances drawn on an average, as this varies according to localities and is different for old and new entrants.

(c) Yes

(d) They are entitled to pension like other inferior servants of the Central Government after rendering qualifying service of not less than 20 years. Service of less than 20 years qualifies for a lump sum payment as gratuity.

(e) A large number of telegraph messengers who have retired from service must be in receipt of pensions. The number of such retired messengers is not readily available.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST RAILWAY HOSPITAL, ERODE

1147. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there have been complaints against the management of the Railway Hospital at Erode;

(b) if it is a fact that the nurse at this hospital has complained against the conduct of the Assistant Surgeon who is in-charge of the hospital; and

(c) if the Railway authorities have investigated these charges and taken necessary action; and, if they have not, if Government propose to direct them to do so without any further delay?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

EXTRA THIRD CLASS CARRIAGE FOR MADURA PARCELS PASSENGER AND OTHER TRAINS

1148. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if the South Indian Railway Advisory Committee at their meeting in January decided that an all second class carriage be put on the Madura Parcels Passenger in place of a second and third class composite carriage which has been running in that train till now; and if similar changes on other passenger trains by that and other Railways have been made or are under consideration;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether Government propose to attach an extra third class carriage to these trains to compensate for the decrease in third class accommodation caused by the above plan;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Advisory Committees of the Railways have no representatives of third class passengers and have, therefore, a tendency to ignore the interests of those passengers; and

(d) in view of the fact stated in (c) whether Government propose to take steps to include at least one representative of third class passengers on each of these Committees, preferably one who is recommended by prominent kisan or labour organisations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. I am informed that a bogie second and third class composite has been put on these trains in replacement of the third class carriage on and from the 20th February. With regard to the second part of the question, there is no proposal for a similar change on other trains on the South Indian Railway. I have no information of any such action having been taken, or being now under consideration, by other railways.

(b) This is a matter for consideration by the Local Advisory Committee.

(c) and (d). Government are not so aware. Advisory Committees of the Railways have on their representatives of the Provincial Legislature or Passengers' Associations to represent the travelling public, as well as a representative of the Central Legislature. These should adequately represent the interests of all passengers including third class passengers.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Are Government aware that though these members are expected to represent the interests of all passengers they are liable to overlook the needs of third-class passengers and it is necessary to have a member who actually travels third class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already replied to that. Where Passengers' Associations are recognised as representative, they are represented on the local Advisory Committees. There are four, I think, on four railways. There is a Passengers' Association on the South Indian Railway and surely that should represent third class passengers.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Since part (a) of my question shows that these members are liable to forget the needs of third class passengers, will Government give their attention to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think we can do more than put the Railway Passengers' Association on the Local Advisory Committee. It is for the local passengers to see that that Association adequately represents their interests.

NON-STOPPING OF TRAINS AT WAYSIDE STATIONS

1149. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to ask Railway authorities not to stop trains at small way side stations on the plea of fuel economy;

(b) the number of stations on the South Indian Railway and the Madras and Southern Marhatta Railway where the mail, express, passenger and goods trains have not been halting since January, 1942, and the approximate amount of coal believed to be saved by this arrangement per year;

(c) whether Government are aware that the cancellation of train halts at many stations causes great hardship to poor people, particularly women and children, who have to come from long distances and wait indefinitely at large stations for doubtful accommodation on trains;

(d) if Government propose to take steps either to restore these train-halts or to provide adequate facilities for road, transport, for rest at railway stations and for certainty of train accommodation for these passengers; and

(e) if Government propose to take immediate steps to—(i) provide separate decent waiting and bath rooms for third class women passengers at all Railway junctions and large stations and (ii) appoint Indian women on the staff of Railway stations and as Inspectors travelling on the trains, in order to help third class women and children passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. Railway Administrations have been instructed to consider either the closing of smaller stations for passenger booking, or the reduction of halts of passenger trains at such stations to one per day in each direction.

(b) Information as to the number of stations at which halts have been eliminated since January 1942 is not readily available, and cannot be compiled without an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justified in War time. I can, however, give the approximate number of stations closed since the beginning of the War and they are 52 on the M. & S. M. Railway, and 151 on the S. I. Railway. As regards the saving of coal effected, I would refer to the reply I gave to parts (c) and (d) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's Starred Question No. 1009 on the 15th instant.

(c) The curtailment of any facilities which have been in existence for some time must necessarily cause inconvenience to the travelling public, but this is inevitable in present conditions.

(d) The halts cannot be restored until the transport situation in general, and the coal position in particular, improve. As the Honourable Member is aware, the question of providing more road services to relieve the congestion on the railways is under very active consideration by Government, who are reconsidering the matter in the light of the recent cut-motion passed by this House. 'Waiting' facilities at the larger stations are adequate to meet normal requirements, and I am afraid it is not possible to increase them to meet the abnormal conditions created by the present emergency. It is not possible to devise any measures to ensure certainty of train accommodation in present circumstances.

(e) (i) I am afraid I can hold out no hope that the measures advocated can be adopted in present circumstances, when all the resources of railways are strained to the utmost to cope with the essential requirements of the civil population and of war-time traffic. The suggestions will, however, be considered in our plans for post-war development.

(ii) This matter has been considered in the past and I will refer it again to the General Managers of the M. & S. M. and S. I. Railways.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Now that the railways are making large profits will Government realise the necessity of giving their immediate attention to part (e) (i) of my question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, but it is not a question of money but of materials.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to the last suggestion will the Honourable Member see that Indian women are appointed to look after women passengers because many of the Indian women passengers do not know English and if Anglo-Indian women are appointed they are of no use to Indian women travelling in the third class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I will certainly consider that, and I hope that they will also do their best to try to persuade women and children not to travel under the present conditions.

✓ **PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT SELECTION BOARDS,
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

*1150. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that no Muslim Officer was included in the personnel of Selection Boards held in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944 to select candidates for promotion to the following posts:

(i) District Medical Officer, (ii) Assistant Medical Officer, and (iii) Assistant Chemists and Laboratory Assistants (Senior and Junior)?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslim officers and of those who constituted those Selection Boards?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Muslims who possessed M.B. qualifications were appointed District Medical Officers (Open Line) ignoring Muslims who possessed Foreign Degrees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Questions Nos. 1150 to 1152 together.

I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

IGNORING MUSLIM CLAIMS FOR CLERICAL GRADE PROMOTIONS IN
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1151. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944, promotions to "D", "E" and "F" grades of the clerical cadre were made, ignoring the seniority claims of Muslims and without appointing Selection Boards?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to the said grades, the comparative seniority of the rejected Muslims, the promoted non-Muslims and the selecting officers, date-wise?

NON-APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANT MALARIOLOGISTS ON
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1152. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944 no Muslims were appointed as Assistant Malariologist, though Muslims applied for the post in response to the advertisement for the posts?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were called for selections and appointed?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims of the requisite qualifications were rejected?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the qualifications of the non-Muslims who were called for selection and Muslims who were rejected?

(e) Is it a fact that the deficiency in the said recruitment has not been made good?

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND
ASSAM RAILWAY

†1153. Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the construction works in the years 1943 and 1944, Muslims were inadequately represented in promotions for the following posts (i) Higher Clerical Grades (ii) Ward Keepers and (iii) Malaria Inspectors?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims promoted to the said posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I regret I am unable to collect the details asked for, but I would point out that promotions are not made on communal considerations. In non-selection posts the criterion is seniority subject to fitness and, in selection posts, merit and suitability, due weight being given to seniority.

RESTRICTIONS ON BOOKING OF GREEN FRUITS FROM MUZAFFARPUR
RAILWAY STATION

1154. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that restrictions have been imposed on the booking of green fruits from the Muzaffarpur Railway station on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) if he is aware that such restrictions never existed before and that they are ruinous to the indigenous trade of the locality;

(c) if it is a fact that no such restrictions exist on any other Railway; and

(d) in view of the importance of this trade, whether he proposes to consider the desirability of removing such restrictions, if any; if not, why not?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1150.

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's Starred Question No. 798 on the 7th instant and add that the report called for from the General Manager of the O. and T. Railway has not yet been received.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know whether there is any ban on the booking of fresh fruits at Muzaffarpur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is what I am trying to find out. I must say that it is a little disappointing that I have not had a reply to my previous enquiry. It may be that the question is a little more complicated than appears at first sight; it is possible, for instance, that the ban, if any, is not put on by the Railways, but by the Provincial Government or some other authority. I have no information and am trying to investigate.

DUTIES, ETC., OF LITIGATION INSPECTORS, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1155. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the nature of duties assigned to Litigation Inspectors on the North Western Railway;

(b) their scales of pay and hours of employment;

(c) the allowances admissible to them;

(d) whether they are permitted to act as Attorney under special powers from persons (Railway servants) sued by a party claiming wages or money in which Government are not defendant; and

(e) whether Government propose to prescribe a detailed procedure enabling them to act as Attorney by Special Powers from Railway servants; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Litigation Inspectors are entrusted with the conduct of Railway cases in Civil Courts.

(b) The pay of the Senior Litigation Inspector is Rs. 320—15—380. This is the old scale, the revised scale has not yet been determined. The scales of pay of the Litigation Inspector and Assistant Litigation Inspector respectively are,—Rs. 200—10—270 (old) and Rs. 200 (Revised). Rs. 150—10—190 (old) and Rs. 160 (Revised). As their duties are rightly classed as supervisory, they are excluded from the provisions of the Hours of Employment Regulations.

(c) No special allowances are granted to them. They are, however, allowed travelling allowance, dearness allowance and local allowance as admissible under the ordinary rules.

(d) The only circumstances in which Litigation Inspectors act as attorneys are when they so act on behalf of the Administration under special powers of attorney from Railway Paymasters, as defined in, and in connection with, the Payment of Wages Act, Government being the defendant.

(e) Where a Railway servant, not being a Railway paymaster as defined in the Payment of Wages Act, is sued, Government not being the defendant, the procedure prescribed in Rule 1602 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, applies.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what are the minimum qualifications of Litigation Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

PAY, ETC., OF PROSECUTING INSPECTORS OF POLICE (RAILWAYS)

1156. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the scales of pay of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police together with their number and Headquarters;

(b) the duties and functions of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police on Railways; and

(c) the duties and functions of the Director General of Railways, Calcutta area?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(b) The duties and functions of the Prosecuting Inspectors are to prosecute cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment in local courts and to assist the Public Prosecutors in the prosecution of cases before the Special Tribunals, constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943.

(c) The functions of the Director-General of Railways, Calcutta, Area, are: To provide complete co-ordination of all Railway working in this area and, for this purpose, he is empowered to issue orders to all authorities in connection with the direction and control of railway traffic to, from, and within this area. He is also consulted in respect of all proposals likely to affect the line capacity within his jurisdiction. He is considered as the local representative of the Railway Board in the Calcutta Area and his decisions and orders, within his directive, have the authority of the Railway Board. He represents the Railway Department with local branches of other Departments, and non-railway bodies, both civil and military. The organization of the Tank Wagon Controller, Calcutta, is also under the administrative control of the Director-General of Railways, Calcutta Area, which comprises the Howrah and Asansol Divisions of the East Indian Railway, the Kharagpur and Adra Transportation Divisions of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, the Broad Gauge Section of the Bengal and Assam Railway, and the Calcutta Port Commissioners' Railway.

Statement showing the scales of pay number and headquarters of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police.

Designation.	Scales of pay.	Number.	Headquarters.
Prosecuting Inspectors of Police	90—10—180—E. B.—200—10—300.	2	Bombay and Karachi
Do.	Selection Grade 320—20—400 Rs. 180—7½—300'	2	Lahore and Rawalpindi.
Do.	Rs. 150—10—250	1	Jubbulpore.
Do.	Grade III 175	1	Madras.
	„ II 225		
	„ I 275		

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know what is the need for having Prosecuting Inspectors of Police when the Railway Police is there to handle these cases and follow them in the Court?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am sorry I cannot answer that off hand; I will investigate.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they prosecute the cases of passengers only, or of staff as well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Both.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if as a measure of economy the Honourable Member has considered the amalgamation of the post of Litigation Inspector with Prosecuting Inspector?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not considered that and I do not think it is a question of economy. It is a question of efficiency in carrying out their functions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that both Prosecuting Inspectors and Litigation Inspectors are drawn from the same profession—lawyers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I presume so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (c) may I know from the Honourable Member whether this is purely a war-time appointment, or is it likely to continue even after the war is over?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It has not been considered as a post-war proposal in any way. It is to deal with the control of the intensive traffic in that area in war time.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: What is the extent of the authority of this officer with reference to the General Managers of the Railways concerned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I have read out a long statement defining his duties.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Are the General Managers definitely under the orders of this officer with regard to the various matters referred to by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: For certain purposes, yes, Sir.

EXPENDITURE ON PRINTING OF "INDIAN RAILWAYS IN WAR TIMES"

1157. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the reasons for expending Rs. 75,000 for printing "Indian Railways in War Times"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The intention of the booklet is to give briefly in readable and attractive form some idea of the work of Indian Railways during the war, their development, their problems, and above all the strain imposed by the present War; also the manner in which that burden is being successfully shouldered. It is hoped that the information given in the booklet will help the public and other transport users, both in India and abroad, to realize the nature of the problem and the achievement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much paper was used for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Was the book circulated free or was it sold?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It has not yet been circulated. It is intended to circulate a number of copies free and also to sell it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many copies have been earmarked for free distribution?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Indian Railways alone have started such a publication in order to detail the difficulties which lay before the Railway Administration in this country or similar publications have been brought forward in other countries in connection with the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The origin of this proposed booklet was in fact an excellent publication by the English Railways which set out a lot of relevant facts in a most attractive form and we propose to follow their example.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will this publication be circulated to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall certainly see that copies are circulated to Members of this House.

SUPPLY OF SOFT COKE FOR PREPARING HOT BATHS AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION WAITING ROOMS

†1158. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the arrangements made for the supply of soft coke to be consumed in preparing Hot Baths by the Waiting Room Bearers at Delhi Railway station for the use of the travelling public; if no arrangements have been made, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Hot-water heaters for the supply of hot baths in the Waiting Rooms at Delhi burn steam coal.

Arrangements for the provision of coal for use in the heaters are at present in the hands of waiting room bearers. I understand there has been considerable difficulty in obtaining sufficient coal and, if conditions do not improve, it may become necessary to discontinue the provision of water for hot baths.

TECHNICAL STUDIES ABROAD FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

†1159. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is proposed to consider the claims of highly qualified

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

personnel employed in the Ordnance Factories in India for higher technical studies abroad? If so, what is the procedure introduced or proposed to be introduced for selecting the candidates for training?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The names of all officers in the Ordnance Factories, who are considered suitable for higher technical training, and who can be spared from duty in the existing circumstances, are being collected, and when the list is complete, Government will make the final selection.

The procedure for selection is still under the consideration of Government and a decision is expected to be reached shortly.

NON-PROVISION OF QUARTERS TO MUSLIM EMPLOYEES AT CHITTAGONG,
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1160. ***Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibar Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Muslim Employees of the Bengal and Assam Railway stationed at Chittagong are not provided with quarters?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a comparative tabulated statement on the table of the House showing the number of personnel occupying the Railway quarters and also the number of senior Muslim employees who have not been allotted quarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). No distinction is made between Muslim and non-Muslim employees in connection with the allotment of quarters but the conditions created by the war in the Chittagong zone render it impossible to provide all staff with Railway quarters in that area. I regret I cannot under take to compile the statement asked for under present conditions.

ACCOMMODATION TO HINDU STAFF IN REQUISITIONED HOUSES AT CHITTAGONG
BY BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1161. ***Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibar Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a house has been requisitioned by the Bengal and Assam Railway at Chittagong through the District Magistrate and only Hindu staff have been accommodated therein?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does he propose to arrange to requisition another house at Chittagong for the accommodation of the Muslim employees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information and as the matter is within the competence of the General Manager, a copy of the question is being sent to him for consideration.

PUTTING QUALIFIED MUSLIMS ON RELIEVING LIST OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT,
-BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1162. ***Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibar Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Muslim employees who have qualified themselves in departmental examinations of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway are generally put on the Relieving List instead of absorbing them against permanent vacancies which go to the staff belonging to other communities?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a tabulated statement on the table of the House showing the number of staff community-wise and the manner in which they, after having qualified themselves in the departmental examinations, were absorbed in the following categories on the following Districts:

Districts	Categories
Calcutta	Assistant Station Master.
Paksey	Relieving General Clerk.
Katihar	Guard.
Chittagong	Goods Clerk.
Lunding	Parcel Clerk.
Dacca	Booking Clerk ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under present conditions.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS AT CHITTAGONG,
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1163. ***Shahk Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibur Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that no Muslims are appointed in the Establishment Sections of the Offices of the different Department (*vis.*, Traffic, Engineering, Signal Electrical, A.R.P., and Administration) at Chittagong on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table of the House showing the present strength community-wise of the Establishment Sections of the said Departments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have called for the information and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

MEDICAL OFFICERS, ETC., ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

1164. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman**: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Medical Officers, District Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and the number of Muslims therein on the 31st December, 1944;

(b) the number of Medical Officers, Doctors and Sanitary Inspectors appointed temporarily or in permanent category during 1944, community-wise;

(c) whether these vacancies were advertised; if so, when and in which newspapers;

(d) the method adopted for appointment of these Medical Department personnel in 1944 on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway; and

(e) whether the same method was adopted by Oudh and Tirhut Railway when the administration was company-managed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE, EAST INDIAN AND BENGAL
AND ASSAM RAILWAYS

1165. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman**: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of subordinate service men promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service, community-wise, on the East Indian and Bengal and Assam Railways from January, 1944, to February, 1945;

(b) the method of selection;

(c) whether Selection Committees were appointed and Muslim Officers Associated on all occasions; and

(d) whether the names of selected candidates were sent for approval to the Railway Board; if so, whether the Railway Board were satisfied that communal adjustment was made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) It is not necessary for the names of subordinates selected for promotion to the Lower-Gazetted Service to be sent to the Railway Board for approval except when it is proposed to confirm them in gazetted rank.

A CLASS GUARDS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1166. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman**: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of "A" Class Guards on the East Indian Railway on the 31st December, 1944, and the number of Muslims therein;

(b) how many of them were appointed through direct recruitment in 1944 and the number of Muslims therein;

(c) how many of them were promoted from "B" Class Guards, and what the number of Muslims on the East Indian Railway on all Divisions was; and

(d) whether the reports of direct and indirect recruitment to "A" Class Guards on the East Indian Railway in 1944 were sent to the Railway Board and whether they were scrutinized for the purpose of communal adjustments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply starred questions Nos. 1166 to 1171 together.

I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENTS TO LOWER GAZETTED RANK

†1167. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the total number of appointments made in subordinate category and Lower Gazetted rank on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway during 1943 and 1944 and the number of Muslims therein;

(b) how many of these posts were advertised and in which newspaper;

(c) how the selection was made and if any Selection Committee was set up on all occasions;

(d) the principle adopted for setting up Selection Committees; and

(e) if any list of approved candidates is maintained by Selection Boards and whether temporary or permanent vacancies are filled accordingly?

OFFICERS AND SUBORDINATES IN FOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT, OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1168. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the total number of officers and subordinates drawing Rs. 60 and above in the Food Control Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) the number of Muslims in the categories referred to in (a);

(c) whether their appointments were made through promotion or through direct recruitment;

(d) how many employees directly appointed are Muslims and how many of those indirectly taken from the administration are Muslims;

(e) how many of those posts were advertised for direct recruitment by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway: if none, why; and

(f) the total number of officers, community-wise?

RESIGNED MUSLIM GUARDS NOT REPLACED BY MUSLIMS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

†1169. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, the vacancies of temporary 'A' and 'B' class Muslim Guards who resigned in the years 1943 and 1944, were not filled by Muslims according to Rules?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims who were appointed in these vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that the vacancies of 'A' class guards were filled in February and March, 1945, by direct recruitment?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of vacancies of 'A' and 'B' class Guards during the period from January 1943, to February, 1945, filled by direct recruitment and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were appointed in these vacancies and are still in service?

MUSLIM WIRELESS OPERATORS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

†1170. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, in the years 1943 and 1944 against the newly created posts of wireless operators, the number of Muslims who were given training was below their quota?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of posts of wireless operators and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims selected for training?

MUSLIM WIRELESS OPERATIONS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1171. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, in the years 1943 and 1944, Muslims who completed their training along with non-Muslims as wireless operators have not yet been absorbed in these posts according to their quota?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims absorbed as Wireless Operators during the said period?

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPORT OF BRITISH-MADE CARS

1172. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport been drawn to a statement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th February that the Government of India have issued permits for the import of 2,000 British-made cars for urban needs? If so, is the statement true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me on 15th March 1945, in this House, to question No. 1085 by the Honourable Mr. Satys Narayan Sinha.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from March, 12, 1945)

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS BY INDIA AGENCY GENERAL

901. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Foreign Secretary please state whether the India Agency General forwards confidential reports about the activities of Indian visitors and students and even Indian officials like those employed in the Supply Mission, and if it is a fact that these reports contain information about their political views, activities and associations?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It is not in accordance with the public interest to disclose any detail of reports received from a diplomatic post.

UNSATISFACTORY DISTRIBUTION OF COAL

917. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to refer to his answer to a supplementary question in connection with my starred question No. 397 on the 20th February last in the course of which he stated that the Committee of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce passed a resolution thanking him and the officers who are working with him for the care with which the coal distribution was being made, and state whether it is a fact that the said resolution referred merely to 'appreciable raisings of coal during recent months' and had no reference at all to distribution of coal?

(b) Is it a fact that on the 22nd December, 1944, the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry addressed a communication to the Department of Supply in the course of which they referred to difficulties which were still being experienced by a number of industries in spite of there being an improvement in the raising of coal and suggested that all extra raisings of coal should be earmarked for the consumption of industries as otherwise there was every likelihood of some of the industries being closed down for want of coal supply resulting in enormous losses to private enterprise and hardship and unemployment to Labour? Will the Honourable Member please state what action, if any, has been taken for the purpose of carrying out the suggestion made by the Committee of the Federation, as aforesaid?

+For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1166.

(c) Is the Supply Department keeping itself informed about the position of each individual industrial concern as affected by the present difficulties of coal supply? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement indicating the present position of each industry concerned and pointing out the improvement, if any, that has taken place of late in the matter of coal supplies to it?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes. Although the wording of the Resolution referred only to "appreciable raisings of coal in recent months", the forwarding letter of the Federation stated that the resolution had been adopted after discussing questions relating both to raisings and distribution. Further the resolution mentioned by name the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution). From these two facts, I felt justified in inferring that the Federation had appreciated the manner in which having regard to limitations of various kinds, coal was being distributed.

(b) Yes. I regret it is not possible to accept the suggestion that all extra raisings should be earmarked for the consumption of industries.

(c) No Sir, with the exception of the more important industrial concerns the Supply Department does not keep itself informed about the position of each individual industrial concern. This is a matter for one or the other Department of the Government of India or of the Provincial Governments. As regards the second part of the question, I have stated frequently in this House that Government do not consider it in the public interest to disclose stocks of coal with supplies to, various consumers.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS BUILT

92. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) how many first and second class compartments have been made in the Railways after the beginning of the war and the number of passengers they are intended to accommodate;

(b) how many third class compartments have been made during the war and the number they are intended to accommodate;

(c) considering their use, how much each seat in these classes earns for the Railways; and

(d) what percentage they work in relation to their cost?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (d). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection from Railways would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justified in war time.

I am able, however, in reply to starred question No. 1116 by the same Honourable Member to give the numbers of carriages built on the III class improved model.

BUNGALOW PEONS TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICERS.

93. Laia Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether officers on the North Western Railway are entitled to 'bungalow peons'? If so, under what circumstances?

(b) Do these officers get bungalow peons when their houses are fitted with Government telephone connections? If so, why?

(c) What are the duties of these peons, and are they also required to cook for officers or their families as well as do other household and private jobs in such employ?

(d) Are the bungalow peons entitled to free housing accommodation in the same bungalow where they are employed? If not, are there any duty hour rosters for them under the 'Hours of Employment Regulations'? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, in the interests of the service, bungalow peons have been allotted only to certain specified officers' posts on the

(b) Yes, if this is considered necessary in the interests of the service.

(c) They are required to deliver urgent telegrams and other important messages and to attend to urgent work after office hours. The reply to the rest of this part of the question is in the negative.

(d) No, but they may occupy outhouses of such bungalows, if vacant, provided the officer has no objection. As regards the latter portion, such staff are treated as 'Intermittent' under the Hours of Employment Regulations and a duty roster has been drawn up for them.

CLERKS AND SORTING POSTMEN IN CALCUTTA POST OFFICES

94. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of clerks and sorting postmen working in the following post offices in Calcutta:

(i) Rash Behari Avenue, (ii) Narkeldanga, (iii) Hastings; and (iv) Garden Reach 2

(b) Is it a fact that according to the number of staff these offices should have been under the charge of a Selection Grade Sub-Postmaster but they have been placed in the charge of a time scale Sub-Postmaster? If so, why?

(c) Do Government propose to sanction Selection Grade posts for these offices? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) to (c) Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

INCREASE OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN SUB-POSTMASTERS IN CALCUTTA.

95. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that it has been ordered by Government that officials who are in receipt of house-rent allowances will get 20 per cent. more?

(b) If so, is any increased rate of rent being paid to the Sub-Postmasters of the non-delivery town Sub-Offices of Calcutta and Howrah?

(c) If not, do Government propose to sanction the same?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the compensatory house rent allowance sanctioned for ministerial staff in Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi as a war-time measure. Such allowance is limited to a maximum of ten per cent. of pay. In regard to officials who are already in receipt of house rent allowance, the increase will be limited to a maximum of ten per cent. of pay. In Calcutta the allowance is not granted to militarised staff.

(b) and (c). Increase in the house rent allowances if justified under the orders referred to in the reply to part (a), will be sanctioned by the Postmaster General.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF OF DELHI AND NEW DELHI.

96. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the conditions in detail under which conveyance allowance is paid to the Posts and Telegraphs staff of Delhi and New Delhi?

(b) Is conveyance allowance also paid to the Posts and Telegraphs staff of Bombay and Calcutta? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 10 on the same subject by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum on the 15th of March.

(b) No. The reason is that in these big cities there are well organised and cheap means of transport, such as suburban trains, tramways and buses.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DELEGATION AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state what will be the status of the Government of India Delegation at San Francisco Conference?

(b) Has any instruction been given to the Members of the Delegation by

(c) Is it a fact that the British Government has given an assurance to the Government of India, that in case objection is taken to India's participation in World-Security Conference on the ground of her non-sovereign status, the British Delegates would vouch for the sovereign status of this country within the British Commonwealth?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The status of Government of India's delegation will be identical with that of the delegations of any other one of the United Nations' delegations.

(b) The Government of India's representatives will in due course receive a brief of general instructions.

(c) His Majesty's Government would undoubtedly give support if India's right were challenged, but the right of India as a belligerent member of the Allied Nations to participate in the Conference has not been, and could not be, questioned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will this delegation function independently or will it function as a subordinate branch of the British Delegation which is going to this Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member seems to have subordination very much on his mind.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You seem to have it very much more in your mind. I want an answer to this question. I want to know whether this delegation is expected to function independently, and in the event of differences with the delegation of the United Kingdom whether Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar will be free to express his views and the views of this country?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Of course he will be. If the Honourable Member were to take the line that this gives an opportunity for India to stand forth and work towards independence instead of talking about subordination it would appear far better in the eyes of the world.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I heard that somebody was going to give instructions to this delegation. May I know who is going to give instructions to the delegation and what will be the nature of those instructions?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I cannot disclose what the instructions will be but they will be given by the Governor General in Council that is by the Government of India.

(At this stage several Honourable Members rose in their seats.)

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will those instructions be consistent with the policy of the delegation to function as absolutely free agents representing this country in that Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I should say so entirely.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Then what is the difficulty about disclosing to the House the nature of those instructions?

Sir Olaf Caroe: If the Honourable Member had some idea of International Conferences and foreign affairs generally, he would realise that no Government, when it sends a delegation to another country to attend a large International Conference, would disclose in advance the instructions which it gives to its delegation.

(At this stage Mr. Abdul Qaiyum rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sardar Sant Singh.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know whether the instructions framed by the Governor General in Council and given to its delegation will stand in need of approval of the Secretary of State for India, or will it be independent of that approval?

Sir Olaf Caroe: They would not be approved. They would be seen. The Honourable Member will realise that all the delegations of the British Commonwealth of Nations will gain advantage in the peace as they have gained in the war from working together.

Sardar Sant Singh: My question has not been answered yet. May I know if the will of the people of India as represented by the instructions given by

the Governor General in Council will prevail or will it be subordinated to the will of the British people as represented by the Secretary of State for India responsible to Parliament.

Sir Olaf Caroe: I cannot understand. The Honourable Member has asked me three questions in one and I cannot give an answer.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the will of the Government of India as decided by the Governor General in Council prevail, or will it be subordinated to the interests of Great Britain as approved by the Secretary of State for India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: In all negotiations, particularly on the international stage no State holds all the cards in its hands. It has to adjust, compromise and discuss and on that principle it will be necessary for the delegation of India to adjust, compromise and discuss.

(At this stage Mr. Manu Subedar and Prof. N. G. Ranga rose in their seats.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The matter need not be carried any further.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

REQUISITIONING OF "CHATEAU WINDSOR" BUILDING IN BOMBAY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Sir Cowasjee Jehangir expressing his intention to move an adjournment of the House for discussing a matter of urgent, definite and public importance, namely, the requisitioning of the building in Bombay known as "Chateau Windsor".

This has been the subject of a short notice question as well as an ordinary question. This question was raised about a fortnight ago.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There were two sets of questions asked in this House. Government were kind enough to reply to a short notice question of mine.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That was on the 14th.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Yes, Sir. In the answer given by my Honourable friend Mr. Trivedi, there seems to be some confusion. He gave an answer in this House and the reports in the papers do not seem to have been quite accurate. So far as I can now remember, his answer given in this House was that he was considering giving instructions to the authorities to withhold requisitioning for the time being. I understand that that was his answer.

Then in another set of questions asked by my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, a part of the answer given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ram Chandra who now represents the Department in the House, was that "whenever possible only such accommodation is requisitioned as is vacant or used only partially or occasionally". I received a telegram late last night from a firm of Solicitors called Eastley Lam & Co. The telegram runs as follows:

"Secretary Bombay Government replied today requisitioning cannot be withdrawn as building Chateau Windsor required for operational necessities."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the building consist of a number of flats?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Yes, Sir.

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

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I just tell you. My question referred to two buildings—Chateau Windsor and Sea Green. In both these buildings there are about fifty flats to the best of my recollection. Now after these questions had been answered in the manner I have explained in this Honourable House, it appears that the Government of Bombay have informed the tenants or this firm of Solicitors, Eastley Lam & Co. to the effect I have read out, namely, that Government now propose to take this building with at least 25 flats in it. I therefore desire, Sir, to move this adjournment motion in the House on the strength of this telegram which I have received and on grounds that Government are determined to requisition such buildings in the city of Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Have they got the power and do they requisition buildings like these?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Who, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Have they requisitioned other buildings in Bombay?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I cannot tell you how many buildings they have requisitioned. I do not know that requisitions have been sent to the tenants of two buildings—Chateau Windsor and Sea Green and copies of those requisitions have been given to my Honourable friend.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know that in Calcutta many buildings have been requisitioned by the military. I suppose the same sort of thing has happened in Bombay. I should like to know what is the particular nature of this building and what were the particular reasons why this one building should not be requisitioned.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The requisitioning of this class of buildings, so far as I know, has not taken place till now. These are buildings in a fairly good locality in Bombay, where permanent residents of Bombay are living with their families, many of them professional men making their living in Bombay through their professions and it is now desired by Government to throw them with their families on to the streets of Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I should like to hear what the Government Member has to say.

Mr. Ram Chandra (Government of India: Nominated Official): I submit that the motion is not in order for two reasons. Firstly, the letter conveying the warning that the building Chateau Windsor is likely to be requisitioned from the 1st of April was issued on the 20th February. Nothing has happened since then. The position, as far as I know, still remains the same. No requisitioning order has yet been served. Further, Sir, as you pointed out, the question of requisitioning this particular building was answered by my friend, the War Secretary, on behalf of the Defence Department only last week. I am not aware of the circumstances that have led to the telegram which my Honourable friend has just read. It is quite possible that owing to an incorrect report of Mr. Trivedi's reply that appeared in the press, the tenants of this building Chateau Windsor may have asked the Bombay Government whether there was any possibility of their withdrawing.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member suggest that there has been no change in the situation since the short notice question was answered?

Mr. Ram Chandra: There has been no change in the situation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is not correct. According to this telegram—it is not from a tenant but from a respectable firm of solicitors, Eastley Lam & Co., the Bombay Government replied to them saying that requisitioning cannot be withdrawn and it means that on the 1st of April those tenants will be on the streets of Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): The Honourable Member says that the order was never served.....

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

Mr. Ram Chandra: My information is that a letter containing the warning was issued on the 20th February and that the actual requisitioning order has not yet been served. That is my information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Perhaps the Honourable Member better find out.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have also received a copy of the telegram. May I suggest that the order has been served and the Bombay Government has refused to withdraw the order. There is some confusion. Perhaps we can postpone it till tomorrow to give time to the authorities.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I want to know whether other buildings in Bombay have also been requisitioned.

Mr. Ram Chandra: Yes, Sir. Several people have been asked to vacate the residence which they were occupying.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Of this class?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I could not say. I could not say that the building contained the same number of flats.....

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Permanent residents of Bombay? Can they assure me that no building has been requisitioned which is inhabited by the permanent residents of Bombay, many of whom are earning their living in Bombay as professional men?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I am not sure that I can safely make a statement, that other buildings also contained the same number of flats and the same class of people earning their living in the same manner. But I do know that people have been put to some inconvenience and the Bombay Government try to minimize that inconvenience as far as possible.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any provision of law under which the military authorities act, that they are not to disturb any particular class of tenants in requisitioning buildings.

Mr. Ram Chandra: No, Sir. Any action that is taken is taken under the provisions of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder. There are no separate rules saying that buildings of a certain description alone will be requisitioned and others of another description will be left untouched.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I submit that in the Defence of India Act, in the very foundation of it, it is laid down—and I quoted it in the question which I asked—that the life and property and the residences of people will not be disturbed. It was specifically stated and the kind of action which Government is now taking is in contradiction to the foundations of the Defence of India Act.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: In contravention of it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards this motion to adjourn the business of the House, the position is this. This matter was raised on the 14th of March by a short notice question and I understand from the Government Member that the situation so far as requisitioning of this building is concerned has not changed, so far as his information goes. If the situation remains unchanged there is no justification for an adjournment motion. The other difficulty which I feel is, unfortunately a number of buildings in big cities like Calcutta and Bombay are being requisitioned and people are put to great inconvenience. Unless some special case is made out, I cannot see how an adjournment motion.....

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the Honourable Member give an undertaking to the House that the position has not changed? If he gives that undertaking to the House, I will not press the motion. I want a categorical undertaking that the position has not changed. If he gives that I will be very pleased to withdraw the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He made that statement.

Mr. Ram Chandra: I will read out what the War Secretary said in answer to the short notice question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I do not want that. I want a categorical undertaking that the position has not changed. That is the ground on which the President is ruling the motion.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the only ground on which I hold that this motion is not in order. It is one of the grounds.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE

NET EARNINGS OF RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED RAILWAY LINES.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the net earnings for the financial year 1943-44 of recently constructed railway lines.

Statement showing net earnings during the financial year 1943-44 of new Railway Lines opened on and after the 1st April 1937

(NOTE.—Only such lines as are entirely open and have been working for a full year are included).

Se- rial No.	Name of project	Work- ing Rail- way	Gauge	Mile- age.	Date of op- ening.	Net in- come cre- ditable to the project for 1943- 44.	Percentage re- turn of income (column 6 on capital outlay).		Estima- ted per- cent- age re- turn of income on capi- tal out- lay some years after op- ening as estima- ted ori- ginally.
							1942-43	1943-44	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Khadro- Nawab- shah	Jodhpur	Metre	30.7	20.11.1939	2,55,813	13.27	15.76	0.87(a)

(a) This is the figure arrived at in the 'final, location survey'. The earlier estimates produced before the Standing Finance Committee showed a probable return of 0.5% only.

AMENDMENT TO BRITISH BALUCHISTAN MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. 185/21-44/P.T.C., dated the 15th February, 1945, relating to an amendment of the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BALUCHISTAN NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 15th February 1945

No. 185/21-44/P.T.C.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 70(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, (VI of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published in Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April 1940, printed at pages 841 to 962 of the *Gazette of India*, Part II-A, dated the 27th April 1940 :—

For rule 5-44 substitute the following :—

The body of every public service vehicle shall be so constructed and so fastened to the frame of the vehicle as to comply with such directions as may be issued by the Provincial Transport Authority from time to time.

By order,
B. M. BACON,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the financial year 1945-46."

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, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the financial year 1945-46."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Hegde.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I do not want to move it.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I want to say something. The position of the Food Advisory Committee is a very peculiar one. Besides this Food Advisory Committee which is appointed by this House, there is what is called the Food Conference, in which the members for the various Provinces and other interests concerned are consulted by the Department. I have not been able to understand why members of the Food Advisory Committee are not invited to the meetings of the Food Advisory Council where the policy and procedure to be followed are decided. I put this question at one of the meetings of the Food Advisory Committee and I was told that the Food Advisory Committee was too big a body to be invited to these meetings. My submission is that where policy is decided the presence of the members of the Food Advisory Committee is a necessity. I want to request the Honourable Member in charge of Food Department to see that the Food Advisory Committee should either be invited to such meetings where they should be able to give their views.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What Advisory Committee?

Sardar Sant Singh: Food Advisory Committee. Or, in the alternative, the proceedings of the Food Advisory Council should be placed before the Food Advisory Committee. Otherwise these two bodies working separately may cause some confusion, and there will be no coordination between both the Committees.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural): There are 3 Committees, not 2: there is the Food Conference, there is a Central Food Advisory Committee, and there is our own Standing Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is a fourth body also: the Price Tribunal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What happened recently was this. The Central Food Advisory Committee had a meeting while this House was in Session. It would not have been possible for my Honourable friend to invite members of the Food Advisory Committee to be present at that meeting. But if this is made possible, members of this Committee can get into touch with the various people coming from the provinces and know their views, and they can also follow the proceedings and thus become wiser, abler and better counsellors for us in this House. Therefore, I suggest that the Honourable Member should keep in mind the advisability of calling their Conferences at least once while this House is in Session so that Members of this House elected to the Standing Committee may be able to get into touch with the people attending these conferences and also follow their proceedings, and in that way become abler assistants to this House as well as on the Standing Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is some confusion in the minds of the Honourable Members as regards the bodies which are associated with the Food Department. There is, firstly, the Standing Committee of the Legislature, which I regard as the topmost Committee. I consider them as my colleagues and advisers, and we keep nothing from them. In fact, at the last meeting of the Standing Committee some of the members, I think most of the members, agreed to establish a convention that they would support me here in regard to matters which they have accepted in the Standing Committee. Mr. Deshmukh was one of those very kind people who agreed.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): No.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Any way we have told the Standing Committee that they can ask for any information and that it will be supplied. We have supplied them with every possible information in the past. If they find they have not got any information they have only to ask for it. Then, there is a second body which consists of representatives of growers and producers, in whom my friend is keenly interested, commercial people, landlords, and others, and this is called the Food Advisory Council. It is a body of about 40 members who represent the different interests, I have just mentioned. They also represent the different parts of India. They have been very carefully chosen, and they are not Members of the Legislature except in one or two exceptional cases. We set up this body in order that the Food Depart-

ment might have the benefit of the views of many people who are not Members of the Legislature and who can give us valuable advice in regard to Food. Sir, then there is the third body. It is not a body with a definite composition, but it is a Conference which is convened generally once a year. This consists entirely of the official representatives of the Provincial Governments and the States with whom we have dealings. This Conference is called in order to straighten out matters over which there may be differences of opinion between ourselves and the Provinces or between the Provinces themselves *inter se*. Now, that Conference does not necessarily reach conclusions. All these bodies discuss matters and make their recommendations to us. Then, Sir, lastly, there is the Price Fixation Tribunal. On that we have representatives of producers and trade and a certain number of officials. That body meets—I believe it is meeting now—in order to fix prices of food grains for the next season and make their recommendations to us. Thus, there are four bodies, and there can be no question that the Standing Committee of the Legislature stands supreme, and it would not do for it to be mixed up with the other bodies. I undertake, Sir, to keep the Standing Committee posted with the proceedings of those bodies, and I would ask the Standing Committee to favour me with their views on the matters discussed in the other bodies.

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, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, with your permission I would slightly amend the motion, in order that it may conform to the wishes of the House, by raising the number from six to eight. I move, Sir:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know if that will satisfy.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

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, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committees for the Department of Food and the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Thursday, the 22nd March, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Wednesday, the 28th March. The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transférable 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 FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 15th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Legislative Department seven nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Quazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and Sir F. E. James to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Fr.day, the 16th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Posts and Air six nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Bhai Parma Nand, Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon and Captain Thakur Singh to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 19th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Labour twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I, declare Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Mr. Piare Lall Kureel, Mr. Gauri Shankar Singh, Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani and Sardar Mangal Singh to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Finance Bill. I think Sir Vithal Chandavarkar was speaking when the House adjourned.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Finance Member in trying to follow the lead given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the matter of recognising the fact that the restoration and expansion of the machinery of production calls for some new form of assistance. The measure of relief, as in the case of the United Kingdom, will take the form of a grant of a special additional initial depreciation allowance amounting to 10 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively in respect of new buildings and new machinery, erected after the 31st March next. But these allowances the Finance Member has told us, are not to be given for E. P. T. purposes. In other words, the effective concession will amount only to about 8 to 9 per cent. and not to 20 per cent. as put down on paper, so long as the Excess Profits Duty continues. While we industrialists appreciate what the retiring Finance Member has done, we feel that the existing plant and machinery which are, to use a colloquial term, worked to death for the purpose of meeting the war requirements of Government and also the civil needs of the country, should have received more consideration at the hands of the Government. The object of our request for some consideration was to create a strong replacement fund for worn out machinery, having regard to the fabulous prices which we feel we will have to pay for replacement of plant and machinery after the war.

The Government were good enough to appoint a special committee to determine the justification or otherwise of the claims of industry for some relief for higher replacement costs. Our representative met the committee which was known as the Sheehy Committee in December 1948; and although fifteen months have elapsed the attitude of the Central Government has not yet been made known to us, and the report of the committee, which we understand is before the Government has not been published. As my friend Sir Homi Mody who represented our case to the Sheehy Committee observed in another place, the Central Board of Revenue seem to believe in wearing out its opponents in the matter of the wear and tear allowance. Before leaving this subject, I would commend for the consideration of the Finance Member what his colleague the

Member in charge of Railways said the other day while introducing the Railway Budget—he said: that if he was to be called upon to replace assets at the level of prices likely to be in force for many years after the war, the depreciation fund should be much larger than it is, even disregarding the question of the adequacy of the existing fund on the existing basis.

I now come to a matter in which I feel I have some justification in taking a little personal pride. That is about the allowances which the Finance Member has announced for grants made for research to recognised institutions by industrial concerns. We in Bombay, I submit, were the pioneers and my constituency made first to the University Department of Chemical Technology a grant of over Rs. 4½ lakhs and later when Sir John Sheehy came to Bombay we drew his attention to the concession made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in England for such grants made by industrial concerns to approved or recognised institutions. I must admit that Sir John Sheehy at once agreed to place our views before the Finance Member. Now that the Finance Member has come forward with a concession which we all appreciate and which is entirely in the national interests, I do hope that he will use the administrative powers which the Board has got in giving the benefit of the concession to all members of my association whose contributions were paid during the previous year. May I suggest, now that this concession is made, that the Planning and Development Member should take advantage of it and put pressure upon the industrialists to come forward and make grants for institutions which are in need of funds; and if I may refer to my particular industry, I would suggest to him that it is time the Nizam State had been stored in a place for one year without distributing now for him to appoint a small committee to consider the foundation of a large scale and well planned Institute in India of the type of the Shirley Institute of Manchester. If he takes the initiative now I am sure that within a year or two, India will see the establishment of a Shirley Institute which has done so much good to the textile industry in the United Kingdom.

Now, I would like to support the plea made by my friend Sir Frederick James for the appointment of a Taxation Inquiry Committee. It must be confessed that in imposing taxes Sir Jeremy Raisman has tried to be scientific and has always worked on the basis of some principles; but since the war started our taxation has assumed new forms and varieties. I think the last Taxation Inquiry Committee was appointed in 1925—nearly twenty years back; and the Finance Member will be doing an additional service to the country if he would recommend to his successor to consider the desirability of appointing a taxation inquiry committee. I am particularly anxious that this committee should pay special attention to the revision of the Income-tax Act. The present Act was based on an inquiry made by three departmental experts; and since then we have had so many new features and new restrictions. The present Act is not so simple as it looks; and this has led to a lot of litigation and unnecessary waste of public time both before the income-tax officers, the appellate authority, the tribunal and the High Courts. So I would like him to consider whether it would not be possible for him to go into the question of placing the Income-tax Act on a more just and simple basis.

Sir, I would also like to support, strange as it may seem, the plea made by my friend Mr. Joshi for the appointment of a Ministry of Labour. We industrialists now have to look up to at least three Honourable Members of Government to keep our factories working. The new Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is supposed to be our immediate care taker. If we require some essential raw materials for production, we are directed to the Commerce Department and when the factories stop for want of coal, these two departments seem to have no responsibility and they direct us to the War Transport Department. These complaints have been pointed out times without number. Apart from the administrative difficulty and the difficulties inherent in the constitution I will now refer to a matter which requires in my opinion serious consideration. The Labour Department of the Government is concerned only with those workers who are employed in factories which come within the jurisdiction of the Factories Act. There is no other department of the Government of India to look after the interest of workers in other establishments and particularly those engaged in

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agriculture, which is by far the biggest industry of our country and which comes under the purview of the Department of Education, Health and Lands. That department does not seem to evince any interest in the welfare of agricultural labour. What I mean to say is that the State should look after all workers in India, not only those who are engaged in certain factories. I have already made my point both here and at the Tripartite Labour Conference that nobody seems to care to raise the standard of living of agricultural labour and if that is not done, we are going to have the phenomena which faced us from 1930-37 when agricultural prices went down with the result that the purchasing power of the agriculturist was considerably reduced. The manufacturers had to reduce wages, because they could not afford to sell cloth to their largest and their best purchaser, the agriculturist, even at cost, as his purchasing power had gone down. In this connection may I ask the Honourable the Labour Member, if he would care to tell me, what has happened in regard to a suggestion I made at the Tripartite Labour Conference that the scope of the terms of reference of Social Security Committee should also be extended to agricultural labour or that the Department of Education, Health and Lands should appoint a similar committee to enquire into the question of securing social security for agricultural labour.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to refer briefly to two or three miscellaneous points. I would not have touched on the question of requisitioning of flats in Bombay if the adjournment motion proposed by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir this morning had been found to be in order. I admit that in Bombay, in the past, several houses, not many, have been requisitioned. We were repeatedly told that the policy of the Government of India was not to disturb the existing tenants as far as possible and that they had their eyes on buildings which were occupied not by permanent residents of Bombay but only those buildings in the occupation of people who came and went and had kept establishments for residence during their short stay in Bombay. What do I find in Delhi? Many officers of Government have been accommodated in specially created hostels. The Kotah House, the Mandi House and many other houses have been taken over and converted into hostels. If Government were really anxious to avoid inconvenience to the citizens of Bombay, they could have tried such measures in the first instance before trying to disturb the ordinary civil population. The other day I was told by the Defence Secretary that the three Indian Gymkhanas were taken because they formed a compact area. I belong to a small gymkhana in Bombay the Bombay Bar Gymkhana which is in an isolated corner and this was also taken over in 1942. Now, I do not like the amenities which our people enjoy in clubs and other sporting institutions should be disturbed but if the alternative is to throw people on the streets then I submit that it is the duty of Government to take over these various gymkhanas and clubs like the Willingdon Sports Club and the Cricket Club which run excellent kitchens and convert them into hostels. The Cricket Club, the Willingdon Sports Club, the Yatch Club, the Orient Club, the Bombay Gymkhana and the Radio Club can accommodate a large number of people and can be run as hostels. I make no distinction between European and Indian gymkhanas. (An Honourable Member: "Does Sir Cowasjee Jehangir agree?") There is no question of personalities being affected. If the experiment has been tried in Delhi, I do not see why it cannot be tried in Bombay and if my suggestions are accepted, a large number of military personnel who are required for operational purposes, can be accommodated, without disturbing the citizens who have been born in Bombay, have built houses in Bombay and have lived there for a very long time, long before even the war started. That is my submission to Government in regard to the method of solving this problem of housing of operational personnel in Bombay.

Mr. E. L. O. Gwilt (Bombay: European): I do not want unduly to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I should like to know, if while making the statements which he has made, he bore in mind the amenities offered by the Clubs which have not yet been taken over by the military authorities. He mentioned the Willingdon Club. I am sure he has not forgotten the amenities which the Willingdon Club offers to troops and he may not be aware of the fact

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a speech.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am aware of the amenities offered. I am not sure whether the Hindu the Islam and Parsi Gymkhanas were asked whether they would be prepared to offer the same amenities to the troops before they were taken over. It is not a question of amenities. It is a question of accommodation first. Is my friend Mr. Gwilt prepared to admit the position that so many people are being thrown out without being offered alternative accommodation? There should be no difficulty in getting up new hutments for these people. I was told the other day at another place, in the Bombay University Senate, when the question of establishing new colleges in Sind was discussed, that there was plenty of building materials in Sind. Sind seems to be a paradise where you can get anything you want, which you cannot get in other provinces. If there is really plenty of building material available in Sind, it can certainly be sent to Bombay and the erection of new colleges in Sind can be postponed till the war is over. Government's first responsibility is to find alternative methods of housing the military personnel. I am not against housing military personnel but if it is a choice between restricting amenities and throwing people on the street, I would prefer to restrict amenities to throwing out people on the street. I have not suggested the Byculla Club and the Bombay Club which house permanent residents of Bombay, although some members had suggested to me that these clubs should also be requisitioned. But I am not in favour of that course.

Now, I come to another question. Recently the Earl of Munster came here to inquire into the provision of amenities for British troops and the Prime Minister has appointed a Personal Representative to look after the British Troops. May I submit that His Excellency the Viceroy should appoint a special officer to inquire into the amenities for Indian troops. There are two Indian officers who have, I am told, reached the rank of Brigadiers. One of these might be selected. I know, as far as the Southern Army Command is concerned, Sir Noel Beresford Pearse had made it more than clear (Sir Ardeshir Dalal was present when that declaration was made) that his policy was that no discrimination should be made between European and Indian soldiers. I am connected with an organisation which deals with the administration of these amenities. I am not prepared to say that there is any discrimination, but just as in the case of controls, there ought to be a supervisory organisation for seeing that the consumer gets the benefit of these controls, I submit that His Excellency the Viceroy should appoint a whole time officer whose business will be to go and see all the military stations and also to the various fighting fronts to ensure that the funds provided by the Red Cross or the Joint War Committee are properly administered and that Indian soldiers get the benefit of the funds which the Government gives out of taxpayers' money as well as out of funds collected for the Red Cross.

Sir, it is usual in debates on the Finance Bill to refer to the political situation. It has been a very gloomy past, but now, there is a silver lining. I refer to the formation of the Congress Ministry at Peshawar. Whatever my friends might say on the other side, I would ask the Government to look upon the acceptance of office by the Congress in the N. W. F. P., as a complete and unqualified withdrawal from the position taken up by the Congress in 1942 and respond to that gesture by a very magnanimous gesture by releasing all the political prisoners who have not been found guilty of sabotage or violence. Let them take that decision, as the Congress have taken the decision to form a Ministry in N. W. F. P. not worrying about what has happened in the past, not worrying about what might happen in the future, but let them respond to that gesture and see whether the situation will not be completely changed. Let them seize this opportunity; I make a special appeal to my Honourable friend the Home Member, whom I have known for the last 37 years, ever since we were together in Cambridge, I appeal to him not to stick to technicalities but to rise to the occasion and respond to the gesture made by the Congress by releasing all the political prisoners all over the country.

Sir, before I sit down, I should like to add my tribute to the tributes paid to my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman. I used to come in social contact

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with him when he was a mere *bacha*, an Assistant Collector of Customs in Bombay. Then, I lost contact with him. When I came here, I will admit and confess that my experience about him was not very happy in 1942 and 1943. He seemed to be in a very angry mood all throughout. I quite realised his position. He had to pilot the finances of the country in the most difficult times. I do not know how he took to decontrolling of wheat. Everywhere, he had difficulties, he had to pass through anxious time. His own friends in the Cabinet and the people outside like us could not understand his policy. We saw that the situation had changed so suddenly that Government was finding it difficult to maintain and administer controls. But for the last two years, there has been a great change in him. I think, if I may say so, that whatever he may do now when he retires, I think he is at heart a parliamentarian and an Englishman who always gives his best when he is stoutly and stubbornly opposed. Since the Opposition Parties have combined, my friends of the Congress have come here and there has been a working understanding between the two Parties, I have seen more than once that the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman has risen to the occasion and most gladly responded to suggestions made by non-officials. I have seen him at his best in Select Committees where he has sometimes brushed aside his advisers and responded to the suggestions made by non-officials when he found that the suggestions were deserving of consideration. He has been open to conviction, he has been ready to change his own views and most anxious to meet the suggestions made by us. If the Finance Bill had not been thrown out last year, I am sure the House would have been able to get one or two concessions out of him, because he was in a reasonable frame of mind, I must pay this tribute to him. I hope, Sir, that when he goes back to his native home, he will not think of India as a country which he has served as a member of the Indian Civil Service, but remember India as a country which helped him to find the sinews of war in spite of opposition, to find money for fighting this great war and that he will do his level best to see that we get a fair deal as he tried when he went with the Indian Delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference.

Mr. Rajmal Lakhchand (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): (The Honourable Member began speaking in Hindi.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Do I take it that the Honourable Member cannot speak in English.

Some Honourable Members: No, Sir, he cannot.

Mr. Rajmal Lakhchand: (The Honourable Member continued speaking in Hindi.)

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I see, Sir, that the Honourable Member's speech which is delivered in Hindi is not being taken down by the Reporters. Then how does his speech appear in the Reports?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All that is done is that the Honourable Member himself supplies a copy of his speech and then the Assembly office makes the best arrangement possible to get it translated into English and embodied in the published reports.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I point out, Sir, that so far as my experience goes, in other Legislatures, where an Honourable Member speaks in his own language, which is not uncommon, some arrangements are made for the Reporter to take the speech down. If the procedure, you, Sir, have suggested just now is to be the procedure to be adopted here, may I respectfully point out that it is rather dangerous, because the Honourable Member may say one thing here in the House and send in something quite different to the Reporters. Then the Government and others may have no opportunity to reply to those arguments. I point out that difficulty to you which has arisen in another Legislature in the past.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know what is the suggestion of the Honourable Member under those circumstances.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You must have a Reporter to take down the speech as it is delivered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not only Hindustani or Hindi that is occasionally used in addressing the House. I remember Honourable Members addressing this House in other languages also so that it would be difficult to make suitable arrangement to meet every such case. Whatever makeshift arrangements we have been able to make in the past will be made now.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I can recall an occasion when an Honourable Member spoke in his own language and parts of it were understood by those present, and parts were not. Some parts contained the most libellous statements which

1 P. M. were not answered nor understood until the report was received. In the present instance, I can understand the Honourable Member who is speaking and he is making a most reasonable speech, but for the future, I would ask you, Sir, to consider the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member makes any positive suggestions, I shall certainly consider them.

Mr. Rajmal Lakhchand: (The Honourable Member continued speaking in Hindi.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. Perhaps the Honourable Member would like to speak 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.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I would not like to repeat what I have already said on the occasion of the general discussion of the Budget. I stressed on the Honourable the Finance Member that he should make every attempt to raise the purchasing power of the rupee and stabilize it at a higher price. One thing that he can do is to try and stabilize the price of silver, and do not permit the gambling of silver by the gambling houses popularly known in this country as stock exchanges. The second thing to which I drew his attention was with reference to the sterling balances. There is one point that he should not neglect. We ought to pay our debts and our liabilities by these sterling balances by purchasing pensions and other liabilities. That is one way in which we can dispose of our sterling balances.

Whenever the time comes to settle the question of lend-lease between us and other countries, then the Finance Committee ought to be consulted before a decision is arrived by the Government of India. It was done in the case of settlement of debts between India and Burma. This was referred to a small committee and the Government of India took action on their recommendation.

The last point is that the Finance Member ought to fix the maximum dividend that a company ought to give. But he has left this question to his successor. But there ought to be a limit prescribed by means of ordinances and law. No company should be able to declare more than a certain dividend. Then the shares of the managing agents, their bonus and their remuneration ought to be fixed as regards the maximum within which they should be able to draw. Then most of the present difficulties will disappear.

I also said, and I repeat it, that the key industries should be nationalised, and I include among these, coal. We cannot depend on the vagaries of the managing directors of these companies and I go further that in the case of these key industries the Government should be able to subsidise the factories.

Here I leave the financial side and I take up some other subject. The thing I take up is the question of education. At the time we created the various portfolios, all the transferred subjects were put in the charge of a single individual. But during the war and even after the war the subjects are increasing so rapidly, that it is right that education ought to be separated from agriculture and placed in charge of some other Member. As it is likely that the Government will make some contribution to the provinces for the various Types of

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education, it is time that it ought to be taken up as a major department and not tagged on to some other department of the Government of India.

I would like to draw attention to the Sargent Scheme. I am glad that the Delhi Province has accepted the scheme and I am also glad that the United Provinces Government has also accepted the scheme *in toto*. But there are three points which require consultation and detailed discussion:

(1) The method of selection at the age of 11 has created apprehensions in the minds of several persons, for example, the representative of the depressed classes in the House feared that his community might be left out. We have to devise methods by means of which a selection could be conveniently-made.

(2) The scheme had made no provision for a religious education. In England we know that this has acquired a very important position. It is now included as one of the subjects for which State grants are given. Inspectors are required to examine the candidates in religion. This is becoming a very important subject even in the United Kingdom. In India it is very important too and at least a large number of Muslims consider that elementary education without religious instruction would not be acceptable to them. If we want to make elementary education compulsory for all, it seems desirable that serious attention should be paid to the question of religious instruction. I am glad that the Central Advisory Board of Education has already appointed a committee to consider this question.

(3) The transition period: that is, how are we to give effect to all the recommendations in the report. Though the opinions in the provinces may differ, it is desirable that this should be worked out in detail.

I take this opportunity to thank my Honourable friend who represents the Education Department for having invited two very distinguished academicians from Europe, Sir Walter Moberley and Sir Cyril Norwood. They visited Aligarh for two days and we had an opportunity to discuss with them all the important problems that we had to face, administrative and academic, and both of them are men of very great learning and experience and their advice has proved very valuable to us, and I am sure that it will be very valuable to the other universities also. I do not know whether these educationists will be able to write a report. I had an opportunity to discuss with them in detail the Bill which I am laying before the Assembly on the 5th April. I particularly discussed with them the details of the manner in which we should lay out our scheme of high school education. This I will discuss when this Bill is before us but at this moment I would just like to offer the thanks on behalf of all the persons interested in education for the trouble which these two persons have taken in touring the country and offering their very valuable advice to all the universities in this country.

There is, however, one point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House and that is the question of the Grants Committee. I am glad that the Government of India have accepted to appoint the Grants Committee, but they have mentioned nothing about the grants. There is no reference about the Finance Committee and there is no indication as to what would be the amount of the grant which will be available to the Grants Committee. The Finance Member has been very liberal to the Defence Department and I quite agree with him. He is very liberal to all researches in this country and I entirely agree with him. At least he has tried to be very liberal in dearness allowance and I entirely agree with him but one thing on which I do not agree with him is that he has not got a soft corner for education. The grant which he has given is very small and I would like to know how much money he has got up his sleeves for the Grants Committee which has just been appointed by the Government of India and I hope that it will have some money to distribute and thus save the three universities administered by the Central Government from starvation.

The other day my friend Mr. Kureel spoke very strongly about the separation of the depressed classes from the rest of the population. He said that there ought to be a separate medical college for the Depressed Classes, there ought to

be a separate engineering college for the Depressed Classes. There ought to be a separate university, separate high schools and even separate elementary schools for the Depressed Classes. I do not agree with him and if he is open to conviction I would convince him that a separation of this kind would not be in the interests of the Depressed Classes. I have got very great sympathy for the Depressed Classes, so much so that we give special scholarships from our own funds to the Depressed Classes. We give them special places in the engineering college. We admit them specially in our Geometry Department, where seats are very limited. We show them all courtesy, give them every assistance and I am sure that he will get more from us and also from the general institutions than he can get by means of separate institutions.

As regards admission in the medical college, I am in the same boat as he is. For the last five years I have not succeeded in getting a single student of the Aligarh University admitted in any medical college in India and nobody can say that they are not fit for medical education. But the conditions are such that they could not get admission into the medical college. The position here is very different but in other things my friend Mr. Kureel is not in a very bad position.

As regards the budget of the Delhi Province, as I said on the last occasion: it has been divided into three almost equal parts—one third given as scholarships to the Depressed Classes, one third to the Polytechnic and one third reserved for colleges and high schools. I do not have any quarrel if you give money to the high schools but the money is out of all proportion to the educational budget of the Government of India. One third of the total amount for the Polytechnic for the Delhi Province is too big but for the whole of India it is too small. Therefore you must make up your mind as to whether Polytechnic is a kind of technical school under the Sargent Scheme or whether it will be a kind of university for the whole of India. Therefore make up your mind as to what Polytechnic is intended to be and then you will be able to make your budget. The third thing is about colleges and high schools. I think they are very much starved in the Delhi Province. There ought to be more money provided, if you really want to give effect to the recommendations of the Sargent Committee.

The next thing to which I would like to draw attention—and this is very important not only from the point of view of planning but also from the point of view of education also—is the question of unemployment and how far the education side will be able to help them. Soon after the war we will have two very important problems and I would like to make an attempt to solve both of them simultaneously. One will be a very great demand for primary schools. People will demand that compulsory primary education should be introduced very rapidly. They would not like to wait for ten or fifteen years as is recommended by some Governments. Besides we will have a large number of retrenched clerks and demobilised soldiers for whom some provision will have to be made. I wrote down an article some time ago and it will be published. I suggested the method for the training of teachers. If we follow the traditional method which we have in this country, it will take very long to get the teachers. There are three different methods for training of teachers. In England the teachers are trained in the manner they are trained here. In France they admit the students in the first year and they have got a separate college for the teachers. They attend lectures, take degrees and simultaneously they receive their instruction in pedagogy and the result is that the best researchers in France are the persons who have been in Normal Schools. They get the very best intellect of the community for the training of teachers. In Germany they have not got any training colleges but the would-be teachers are distributed in all the high schools of the country—five, six or even eight—and they are trained under the supervision of a headmaster. All these systems have trained teachers, very efficient teachers, and you cannot say that one method is inferior compared with the other. Therefore we want a large number of teachers very quickly. I suggest therefore that we should adopt those methods of training a number of these would-be teachers, who come out from

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the army or from the offices, by sending them to various high schools to get the training there for a period of a few months after they have done a short term course in various institutions. When Sir Cyril Norwood visited Aligarh he had an opportunity of discussing this matter with the staff of the Training College at Aligarh and they said that they would be able to supply about 200 teachers every year fully trained and will also train partially 200 more at one training college. I think similar attempts can be made in the training colleges and also we should utilise all the high schools and intermediate colleges all over the country. Then we will be able to solve the problem of unemployment and we will be able to train the teachers for starting the high schools in the immediate future. That is the thing which the Planning Department ought to take into consideration.

The next thing in this connection which I discussed was that we should open polytechnics for the cottage industries. The cottage industries is a subject which is very important in itself and cannot be altogether overlooked and ignored. I hope that when this question of unemployment is discussed in the Planning Department one point of view will not be overlooked and that is the number of persons who will find employment in the cottage industries and the number of persons who will find employment in factories. We should not consider it from the point of capital of both, but we should consider it from the points of view of employment and utility it will give to the public, and then we will find that cottage industries give 10 to 20 per cent. more employment than organised industries. This point has to be considered in connection with demobilised soldiers. I am establishing a polytechnic in consultation with the Army Department for demobilised soldiers so that they can get some employment after some training.

Now, I will give up the Planning Department till Sir Ardeshir Dalal comes back. I will take meantime another Department, but just one word about the Delhi Province which was called a "distress province" by Sir Frederick James. Now, two years ago, in the year 1943, I drew the attention of the Assembly and the Law Member, particularly to the method of administration of Delhi Province and the method of enactment they have in Delhi Province. We have authorised the Chief Commissioner of Delhi to take away any section from any enactment of any province and tack it on to the Delhi Province Administrative Regulations. This peculiar way of enactment is not intelligible to me. As I said on that occasion, I understand democracy, I understand Hitlerism, but I do not understand democratic Hitlerism. That is not intelligible to me. This method of enactment which has been authorised in the Delhi Province requires very careful consideration. One individual should not be permitted to take away anything from any law.

Now, I come, to the Planning Department. I congratulate the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal for the award of the big title to him by the Planning Department of Hyderabad of Nawab Badaz Jung Bahadur. Nawab and Bahadur are prefix and suffix to Jung just like 'Sir' which is a prefix for the title of Knight. Any one who has the title of Jung is called Nawab and Bahadur. I am glad that the Leader of the House and the Home Department have accepted that the title is a correct title. Bad (after) Jung Bahadur is a title which by virtue of office he is entitled to have, and nobody can dispute it. Nawab and Bahadur are the necessary prefix and suffix to this title. So this title is the most appropriate title which can be given to my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal.

There is only one thing to which I want to draw his attention. He has a panel for employment. There are one or two suggestions which I have made, and I hope he will take them very prominently in doing his planning. All big industries we must have, we must have the key industries, but we should not overlook the fact that we require cottage industries also from the point of view of employment. There is one point to which I should like to draw attention. He has 29 panels, and this number is increasing, I do not know how he regulates

so many panels, I am sick with 20. On all his panels he has only 3 or 4 Muslims. I think it is very desirable that on the panels he forms there should be representatives of different interests, different provinces, not representatives of different industries alone.

Now, I will just say a few words to the Food Department. My friend has been dehydrated on account of the constant application of the scheme of dehydration to every form of food. They have dehydration factories. In one factory the cost of dehydrated meat was very high. Now the cost of production has come down, it is now Rs. 16. But in the Government factory the cost is double that in the private factory. That is, contractors supply the Food Department at a price which is 50 per cent. of the price at which Government prepare their own dehydrated meat. This point requires the careful consideration of the Food Member.

The other thing is this.. I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's attack on the grant given to the U. P. Government. He was not aware of certain facts which happened in U. P., on account of which it became necessary. After the crops were cut, we had heavy rains in the months of April and May which really soaked the wheat which was lying in the fields with the result that U. P. which was supposed to be a surplus province became a deficit province. U. P. Government wanted to make up the loss by some method. Nature really keeps an equilibrium, if the rains were bad for wheat they were really good for *gur* crops. *Gur* became very cheap in U. P., it was only Rs. 5 per maund. The U. P. Government wanted to raise the price from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 so that they would be able to make up the loss, but the Government of India did not agree, and on account of this prohibition gave them a small bounty of about Rs. 75 lakhs. They purchased *gur* at Rs. 5, which was sold in other provinces at as much as Rs. 20 a maund. Who made the profit we do not know, but at any rate the U. P. Government was not allowed to have this profit.

There is also the question of the duties of the Deputy Secretary of this Department, who, I think, interferes too much with the work of the Inspectors. I think it is desirable that the Anti-Corruption Department should be under the Finance Member or under the Home Department direct, because whenever reports are sent by the C.I.D. they are shelved by the Department. There is no chance of fair trial in cases of corruption.

The other thing is about rationing. I understand rationing, I understand non-rationing, but I do not understand partial rationing, that is 50 per cent. of the population are on ration, and the other 50 per cent. is not. The result is that whenever wheat comes inside the town Government purchase this wheat for those who are on ration, and those who are not on ration get no chance to buy food anywhere. In my opinion the system of rationing requires examination. Except in big towns like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, in smaller places it is not worth while to enforce rationing because there are so many methods of getting wheat from different places. What we really want are two things: first, we

3 P.M. should abolish hoarding altogether; and second, everybody who has got wheat ought to declare it; and there ought to be very heavy penalty for hoarding and there should be declaration of stocks. The Food Department should have statistics from which they will know where there is a shortage; and Government itself should be its own purchaser of wheat and send it from one province to another where it is needed. The present system of having so many barriers—there are about 284 barriers between provinces themselves and between Indian States—should go. You do not allow anything to move from one place to another—so much so that when you go some distance wheat is sold at Rs. 10 a maund, but if you go a mile or two still further, the price goes up to Rs. 20 a maund. Such abnormal changes have been created by this special method of administration which business people can alone understand. Leave this matter to the business men and keep a control on these three points which I have outlined and you will probably have better service to the people than you do by the present system.

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

Now, I come to the War Department. When the war broke out the Government did not wake up to the need of the time and they did not realise that it would be a total war, for which they would have to make preparation. In the year 1941, for the first time, Lord Linlithgow issued an appeal to recruit one lakh of soldiers. My friend the Leader of the House was at Simla and I happened to be in the same hotel and he said that probably a zero was omitted and that the Viceroy meant a million and so; he spoke to the Viceroy that a zero was omitted. I also happened to see the Viceroy two days later and I told him that probably two zeros were omitted—it ought not to be 1 lakh but 10 millions. I knew that recruitment would grow up gradually and their system and method gradually developed as time proceeded and they had to change it from time to time. But in Aligarh we were somewhat in a fortunate position: we had designed a military college in the year 1937, before the war started: we had funds for that purpose. In 1940 we opened our own air field and we had a landing ground and as part of the university training, we had later on the University Training Corps. The University Training Corps was utilised for the training of the army. Later on in 1943, I was talking one day about the training for the Air Force with an Air Vice-Marshal Collier. We came to the conclusion that we ought to establish an institution—the academic part should be under the university, and the technical part should be under the Air Headquarters, and that school would be recognised as part of the university institutions. We decided this thing in February; later on the school was opened at Aligarh in July and we began to provide training for the air forces. The scheme was so successful that the Government of India adopted the scheme in all the universities; but there are one or two matters to which I wish to draw the serious attention of my friend the Army Secretary. In the university, we had appointed at our own expense two Englishmen who have now left. We have appointed Mr. Jones to teach colloquial English and general knowledge. We give instruction in physical education, swimming and everything else, providing everything ourselves; and in the case of the air training corps a selection is made by the air officers—staff deputed by the Air Headquarters for making the selection: then after three months training the Air Headquarters examined the candidates themselves and they say they are qualified so much. Out of about 40 candidates who joined the air training corps, 15 were selected as very competent by the Air Headquarters themselves. But out of these 15, when they went to G.H.Q. they selected only one. This is really very unfair. If all these 15 had gone for the first time to the G.H.Q. Board, they might have been selected. But once they have been trained and examined and interviewed by the Air Headquarters twice—at the time of admission and at the time of passing the examination—then to fail them wholesale by the G.H.Q. Board is not very desirable and is a great discouragement to the whole scheme of the Air Training Corps on account of this abnormal difference in the selection by the Air Headquarters themselves and by the G.H.Q. Board. There ought to be some kind of correlation between these two bodies; and the absence of that correlation is really a serious handicap to the training of these persons. I made a suggestion some time ago—they have got a psychiatrist—I do not believe in it myself and I cannot tell you the reasons in this short time—but suppose it is correct, then this psychiatrist should be able to judge at the time the students join the air training corps. It is rather unfair to these students and everybody and unfair even to themselves to allow everybody to join and give them instruction and afterwards when they go to the G.H.Q. Board to tell them they have failed. The psychiatrist test should be given at the time of admission and not finally; and if that is done, it will remove some of the very serious difficulties that I have in mind.

The other thing is about the Naval Training Corps I have been pressing very hard that there should be a naval training corps on the same lines as the air training corps; but our Indian admiralty have not got the same imagination and this scheme did not receive the assent of our Indian admiralty. My friend

Mr. Trivedi, according to the terminology of the United Kingdom, is the Civil Lord of the Indian Admiralty—or the First Lord of the Indian Admiralty. He is the channel between the civilian population and the admiralty. There are two points to which I would like to draw his attention in that capacity. The first is that they have now decided that all those who are serving in the navy under emergency commissions will not be eligible for permanent appointment. I enter a strong protest against that. These persons who are serving under emergency commissions at the risk of their lives should have the first chance, if they are otherwise eligible and if they prove themselves fit in every way. You are choosing for the permanent appointments persons who have never been in the navy and who may be in the third or fourth year class in college; you are recruiting such men for permanent service, while those who have served at the risk of their lives at the time of your necessity are turned out for permanent appointments after the war. This is an important point.

The next point is that we must remember, whatever we may say, that the best defence for India is to maintain a very efficient army, navy and air force even after the war. This thing should not end as soon as the war is over; we should have a very efficient body even after the war and that would be the biggest defence of the country

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Biggest defence is the will of the people.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Before I finish this thing, I have a personal difficulty to which I cannot find a solution. Perhaps our council as intermediary link between us and the Army Department will be able to help. We have got in Aligarh an Air Training Corps. We have got an Engineering College. We have sent 1,200 students in the emergency commissions. We have given 150 Engineers for the various services in the fighting forces and we have trained about 1,800 technicians for the army. We have not only got a pre-cadet school, but we have got military science as a subject of study for the university degree. We wanted to have an Auchinleck Institute where we co-ordinate all the efforts and bring them to one institution. H. E. the Commander-in-Chief has accepted that this institute may be called after his name. We collected funds from the public and not from my friend Mr. Trivedi or Mr. Tyson. They have not given us a penny. The one thing which we have not got is the material. When I went to the Master General of Ordnance about this, he asked us to see the Engineer-in-Chief and he said that the initiative for this must come from the Education Department. He also said that the question is connected with the Defence Secretary who may be called the First Lord of the Admiralty, as far as the Navy is concerned. I would request him on the floor of this House that he should take upon himself the task of having the Auchinleck Institute, supply the material and be present at the time when this institute is formally opened in a few months' time.

I now take up the control system. This concerns my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque representing the Commerce and Industries Departments. This department has brought in a new development which I do not understand. I am always a free trader myself and I never liked the speech of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the year 1902, when I was in Cambridge, when he first introduced the scheme of protection in the United Kingdom, because I think England always did better under free trade than under protection. I opposed the protection to the Iron and Steel industry in 1934 and I think the circumstances proved that my friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal was right and I was wrong at that time. Otherwise we would not have developed the steel industry and they would not have done so much as they have done now. But I always like free trade in the country and free trade will always be better in the end. We have now murdered, assassinated and tortured the whole of free trade. What is the free trade now? If you want to open a shop, you want a license or permit. If you want to buy a thing, you must go and obtain a license or a permit. If you want to sell a thing you must have a permit. There are permits required at every stage. (An Honourable Member: "If you want to die, you want an exit

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

permit!') This system of permit is not desirable and these permits and licenses are not given free. They have to pay a fee and in order to pay the fee, they have to earn the money by means of backdoor methods and black markets. Black markets are a necessary consequence of the system which we have introduced into this country in the matter of trade. You can tolerate it during the war or one year after it but it must end and I think we ought to fall back upon freedom of trade as much as we possibly can in the circumstances. Therefore I really very strongly recommend that as soon as the war is over we should appoint a committee on the lines of the Fiscal Commission of 1921 to consider the entire economic problem of trade. This is a thing which is very important and we cannot wait very long for that and this thing may be done as early as possible after the war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): When do you expect the war to end?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I have got my own views but persons who know better say that the war in Europe will be over in 1945 and it will take 18 months more to finish the war with Japan. That is the opinion of experts who know the position better than I do. (*An Honourable Member:* "Is it a mathematical calculation?") Mathematics does not come into this. It is calculated by backdoor methods. This is a thing which ought to be taken into consideration and we ought to restore the economic equilibrium of the country.

My time is coming to an end. I should like now to refer to the exhibition which the Railway Department are having at Delhi. It is a very good exhibition and I hope they will take the trouble to show it at other centres as well, such as Calcutta and Lahore. I saw some of their research work, especially by the engineer of the G. I. P. Railway, so much so I wrote to the Engineering students of Aligarh to come here for a day and see this exhibition here.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With or without tickets?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Students get concession tickets.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They usually travel without tickets.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend is repeating his own experiences and I am telling my experience. It is very desirable that these things should be shown in other towns as well.

I should like to make a reference to the question of the amalgamation of railways. I do not like to say much as the Honourable Member in charge said that he would give us an opportunity to discuss it at some other time but I should like to mention one point to the Honourable the Finance Member. Whenever we spend money on these big enterprises, the matter requires to be carefully examined. We must make it a rule that any scheme costing more than 15 lakhs should be examined carefully by experts and we should not be guided by the advice given by the General Manager or the Chief Mechanical Engineer or the Chief Engineer. The Railway Board at one time indulged in very extravagant expenditure, which I called the follies of the Railway Board. They undertook expenditure without careful examination and the time has now come when we should have a careful examination of all points before embarking on the expenditure. We must make it a rule that all expenditure costing more than 10 or 15 lakhs should be scrutinised by an expert and then the matter must be brought before the Standing Finance Committee. With these remarks, I resume my seat.

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Sir, in rising to support the motion before the House I do not propose to go back to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in 1902. I am only going back as far as the cut motion which we debated last week, when my party scored a Pyrrhic Victory on the subject of economy. I rather think that some Honourable Members were left in some doubt as to what I said on that occasion and what my meaning was. I may not have made it quite clear to my Honourable friends then that there is a very clear cut and substantial difference between economy and a sudden cessation of Government spending after the end of hostilities. In replying to the debate the Honourable the Finance Member was good enough to say that he would have appreciated

the views of the Mover of the cut motion and others on this particular aspect of war time finance. In the very brief contribution which I propose to make this afternoon, I shall devote myself almost entirely to that aspect of the present financial set up. Quite obviously anything in the nature of economy or savouring of retrenchment is quite different to deflation. Obviously, we shall, all the nations of the world must, have some measure of deflation after the war. That is inevitable and indeed desirable. But when I was speaking the other afternoon, it was far from my intention to advocate that the machine should be put into reverse and that anything in the nature of a precipitate deflationary movement should be initiated, because the effects of that would be highly deleterious to all sections of Indian economy and most of all to primary producers of agricultural products. The pangs of deflation are, I think, very succinctly summarised by a very great authority. Lord Keynes, in a book which he wrote more than 20 years ago—Tract on Monetary Reform—said:

“Deflation which causes falling prices means impoverishment of labour and to enterprise by leading *intrepreneurs* to restrict production”

Then he goes on to point out that one of the worst effects of deflation falls upon labour which is in a better position to protect itself from over-exertion in good times than from under employment in bad times. I think, Sir, that goes pretty clearly and throughly to the heart of the matter. Speaking two or three days ago, my Honourable friend and colleague, Sir Frederick James, made a very brief and passing reference to what is in fact the linchpin of the whole of this subject, and that is the question of prices. I think his reference was to post-war reconstruction. He made an oblique, very slight and passing reference to the price level. I suggest, Sir that is the clue to the situation which is likely to develop in this country during the course of the next two or three years. What Honourable Members will have, sooner or later, to enquire into and satisfy themselves is whether the Government are in a position to control the overall level of prices, if and when the war suddenly comes to an end. Economic and monetary forces are no respecters of persons and I may say that it will not matter in the least, what form of Government is sitting on the Treasury Benches, that Government will have to face up to precisely the same monetary problems, in so far as they hang upon the general question of the price level. After the last war, in the mid twenties, Honourable Members may recall that there was a precipitate drop in prices which brought about a world depression. It is perhaps not without some significance that proportionately India's general price level of today has probably risen as high as that of any other belligerent. It is therefore, in my view, a reasonable hypothesis that if and when a fall in prices commences from natural causes, unless it is checked and graduated to some extent, it will cause more harm to this country than is likely to accrue elsewhere. So far as I can see, no money magic by itself is likely to relieve the situation; for Allied expenditure in India, which has been the chief stimulus to price increases and which has been imposed in a steadily rising crescendo over a period of four or five years, cannot be so gradually withdrawn. It is much more probable, in my view, that the sheer circumstances of victory will lead to a sudden, possibly sharp, but certainly perceptible, diminution and ultimately final termination of allied expenditure which will confront the Government of India with new and pressing economic problems. The question, which is in my mind and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member when he comes to reply to this debate will find it possible to give an answer to it, is whether the Government of India have contemplated this contingency, and if so, what steps they may have in mind to meet it. Money management of course, as we know may provide part of the answer to this problem which the experience of the last 20 or 25 years has shown is not entirely as intractable as some people are inclined to think. The price level has two distinct significances for a country such as India, because in the first place, we are exporters of primary products on a large scale and now today, we are amongst the world's more important creditor nations. Internally, the course of the domestic price level, to put it briefly and in a rather textbook sort of fashion, determines social justice as between the various classes of the community; and externally, in my view, the parity of prices which is established

[Mr. G. W. Tyson.]

between India and the world prices will in a very real and substantial fashion determine the initial cost of planning and development and the real value which India is to get out of her new found creditor status. As I have said, I do not think that monetary management will wholly control the situation. To my mind it will have to be reinforced by a more deliberate, intelligent and realistic application of the physical controls, which are now exercised in the field of commodities. In this matter the Finance Member, now and in the future, will clearly require the willing and resourceful cooperation of a number of other departments of Government, some of whose price policies, I can say quite frankly, have hitherto not been wholly intelligible either to friend or foe. In this matter we cannot off-load entirely the responsibility on to the financial authority of the day; nor, may I say, as a firm believer in individual enterprise, can we expect private enterprise alone to provide the necessary checks and balances and inspiration and the forces that are necessary to keep the post-war economic and monetary situation stable in India. Government must, in fact, exercise a progressive and beneficent supervisory interest and do their best to show private enterprise where it is most needed, where it can most usefully employ itself and in what directions. I am afraid, Sir, I have left this price problem rather in the air and not suggested any solution. I think at this stage if one can bring oneself to realise that there is a serious problem in this that is probably sufficient.

And that brings me to the field of industry and in particular to the department of Planning and Development. One asks oneself what they have so far done to show the way to private enterprise. So far as I know, they have produced two valuable planning reports; but it is I think a serious defect in both these reports that, as far as my studies have shown, there is no real consideration given to the part which the price level is likely to play in future planning. The omission of any full consideration of the influence of the general level of post-war prices on the cost of social services and the new industries which are protected for the postwar heaven, must be regarded as an important and serious gap in the planes which have been published by the Honourable Member's department. The Honourable Member has the assistance of a number of very able economists, and I suggest that the department might well go on with an inquiry at a high level into this particular aspect of the matter.

On the subject of industry I think there is a certain merit in putting first things first, and the second report on planning does mention on page 3 the conversion of industry from war to peace as one of the short-term objectives of the Planning and Development Department. That is a formal recognition of an important process that is to take place. But, if I may say so with great respect to the Honourable Member for Planning and Development, it is not planning and cannot be designated as such. I am quite sure that both British and Indian industry would welcome more positive information as to the rate at which the Planning and Development Department considers industry in this country is likely to be able to return to the pursuits of peace, if and when the war situation permits. For, let me remind Honourable Members, it is to existing industry that Government must look for the first instalments of the help, in the problems of demobilisation and resettlement, and for the various urban development plans which they have in mind. If I may say so, it is far more important than some of the other subjects to which consideration has quite rightly been given here, but whose priority must be regarded as coming after the position of existing industry.

Having said this, having said that there is in my view a case for preparing plans to gear existing industry to the peace needs when it can safely be done, I feel constrained to express my surprise at the attitude of such an experienced and eminent man of business as my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, who spoke yesterday afternoon on the general question of imports and referred to what he called the 'menace' of importing consumer goods. I saw a newspaper report the other day—whether it is true or not I do not know—that a mission which is at present in England had arranged for the importation in

a period of time of some sixty million pounds worth of consumer goods into this country. I am surprised at the fuss and the stir which this has created, because in India's present condition it seems to me she can, in fact with the greatest ease, take five times that amount of consumer goods with the very greatest possible benefit to her economy. There can be in my view no question of a menace in a deal of this kind. If, as is likely, we are now embarking upon a further phase of high protective tariffs—and I am not quarrelling with it; I will merely say this in a highly objective fashion and with this observation I will finish—the real menace will lie in the sacrifice which such a policy will involve on the part of the consumer, a sacrifice which he may or may not think worth while; and a further menace will be the menace which such a policy holds for the revenues of this country, which in ordinary times have for so long rested on a substantial contribution from customs duties.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, in reply to a short notice question this morning the Secretary for the External Affairs Department stated the brief that is to be given to the two delegates from India. In that brief we are told that the Governor General in Council will give them instructions to participate on behalf of the Government of India. The present position of the Government of India Act is well known to us all. It is no fault of the delegates, I must say, that they have been appointed to their present position by this Government of India. If there is a fault, the fault lies in the constitution which we are all anxious to get rid of as soon as we can. Anybody who is sent under the present Government of India Act will have to go by such instructions as the present constitution permits them to have. But the main question which I addressed to the Secretary, External Affairs Department, and which he declined to answer was whether the instructions given to the delegates by the Governor General in Council will not be interfered with by the Secretary of State and whether they will be permitted to follow the instructions given by the present Governor-General in Council—that is the point which we want to know because the proceedings of this conference are to, considerably affect the future of the world. Therefore the people of India are naturally very anxious to know how the case of India will be represented in that conference. We know that the Government of India has not given this House an opportunity to express their views which the delegates might follow with advantage in that conference; the House has been deprived of this opportunity.

Sir, I will make a suggestion on this point and that is His Excellency the Governor General and the Members of his Executive Council would be well advised to take counsel with the leaders at the political parties in the country before they proceed to commit India to any policy which this conference may decide upon. I do not think they should stand on the theory of prestige in this matter. There are persons who are respected by the people of India and who have got definite opinion about the matters which are going to be discussed in the Conference at San Francisco. I hope, Sir, that this suggestion will find a response even with the present Government of India as it is constituted.

Next I come to the contributions that have been made by India towards the war during the last five years. Of course we have been hearing of the various contributions made by India in men, money and material towards this war. But there are certain invisible gifts that India has made to this war and which are being lost sight of in the discussions that are taking place in that connection.

The first of these gifts is the interest on sterling balances that are accumulated in England. I am not a student of finance, and therefore I will crave the indulgence of the Honourable the Finance Member and the House if I am not very exact in my expression. But the fact remains that India is paying something like 30 crores of rupees in interest charges on the debts that have risen on account of the war during the last five years. The accumulation of these sterling balances in England deprived India of that interest which India would have otherwise earned if these sterling balances had not been accumulated there. At 3 per cent. I think the interest would come to 3 million pounds a year.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How do you calculate 3 million pounds?

Sardar Sant Singh: 3 per cent., which the Government of India pays if it borrows money in India, on one-thousand million pounds would come to. . . .

An Honourable Member: Thirty-million pounds.

Sardar Sant Singh: Yes. I am sorry, it comes to 80 million pounds which is a gift to England on that account. It is not accounted for anywhere.

The second gift is the reverse lend-lease transactions. We do not know the exact amount of lend-lease transactions. The accounting is done by Great Britain. We are not in a position to give an arithmetical . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Financial Member): Did the Honourable Member say that the accounting is done by Great Britain?

Sardar Sant Singh: That is what I understood the Honourable Member to say—

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, I did not say that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Then, may I know how much money is invested by India in these reverse lend-lease accounts? We pay for the American troops and other American expenses, and the Government of India issues notes on that account. Who is keeping this account?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We are keeping the account.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the total amount?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is mentioned in my Budget speech.

Sardar Sant Singh: Again, the interest on this amount is a loss to India. If the money had been realized, we would have made some interest on that account. That is one way of looking at it.

The third gift made by India during this war is in the shape of the profits which the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has made. They purchased goods in India at controlled rates and sold them in other countries at very high profits. The profits went to the capitalists of Great Britain, profits which legitimately belonged to India. Those profits we have lost and this is another contribution which we have made. I hope my Honourable friend will throw some light on this question. By giving a monopoly of purchase to the U. K. C. C., he has deprived India of the profits that India could have legitimately claimed by selling those goods in other countries.

The fourth gift that we have made is in respect of the sale of gold. Today the price of gold in India has gone very high. Foreign gold purchased by Great Britain has been sold in India and the profit has gone to England. The margin of profit between the purchase rate and sale rate of gold should have been kept in India if the Government of India had purchased the gold and sold it on their own behalf. It would have lightened the burden of taxation in this country.

The fifth gift is the payment that India makes to the British troops stationed in India. Every one of us knows that the cost of maintaining a British soldier is four times that of an Indian soldier. Speaking purely from the financial point of view and not taking the military considerations into account, what is it that compelled the British imperialism to maintain the British troops in India? I can safely say that within the ceiling limit fixed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to maintain the British troops in India, India has to pay for the British troops while the Indian soldiers overseas are paid by the British Exchequer. The cost of the former is much higher both on account of the British troops being in greater number in India than the Indian soldier outside as well as in the basic difference in the scales of pay of two kinds of troops. One cannot understand after all what the Indian soldier has done on the field of battle why he should be taken overseas and British soldiers kept in India and India is made to pay the defence charges which are much beyond her capacity. This is the fifth gift that India is made to make to Great Britain. Therefore, we are entitled to say that Indian finance has not been worked in the interests of India and these gifts which are invisible gifts made to Great Britain are very much more than the £100 millions contributed by the predecessor of this Assembly in the war of 1914—18.

From these financial matters, which are as a matter of fact not very congenial to my line of speech, I come now to those matters in which I take real interest. The one thing in which I have taken real interest is the constitution of India. I have strongly supported the establishment of the rule of law in this

country. I have been a staunch advocate of the rule of law. The rule of law in my opinion is the foundation stone on which the whole superstructure of democracy is built. Yet the rule of law as it has existed in this country has been only in form and not in substance. I have no time today to quote instances to support my contention. From the very beginning of British Rule in India, there has been racial discrimination in the statute book. There has been less of sticking to rules of law whenever there has been a political question involved in its administration. However, under the Defence of India Rules, this rule of law has reached vanishing point. Statutory enactments have been virtually repealed by framing rules under this Defence of India Act. Procedural law has been thrown to the background. Nay, even the fundamentals of criminal jurisprudence have been violated ruthlessly. Judicial independence has been curtailed to a degree undreamt of by the British jurists. The judgments of various High Courts bear ample testimony to the inroads made by the Executive over the domains of the independence of the High Courts and the Legislature, but thanks to the independence of the Judges of the High Courts the rigours of the Defence of India Rules have been to a little extent relaxed. I mention only one instance where the Executive declined to forward the petitions of the detenus to the High Court when they had a complaint to make against the inroads committed by the Executive. It was only when certain high Executive officers were committed for contempt of Court and summoned to answer in the High Court that the matters were brought on to right lines. It was interesting to read some of the strange explanations given by those Executive Officers in justification of their conduct. The disappearance of the petitions on the plea that they have been mislaid was an unheard of situation in any competent administration. However, without casting any reflection or blame of perjury upon those big officials, they could not escape without having some doubt cast upon their integrity as Executive officers by the High Court.

These inroads in the domain of law by the Defence of India Rules was not confined to the Defence of India Act alone. As a matter of fact, the Legislatures were also overlooked. The Honourable the Law Member has allowed himself to be stampeded by another constitutional vagary found in the Government of India Act of 1935. No doubt the constitution of India as it exists today concedes co-ordinate power of legislation to the Governor General and the Governors. But every student of constitutional history knows that such power was granted not for the purpose of superseding the properly constituted Legislatures much less for the purpose of ignoring the Legislature, but for the purpose of emergencies alone. We know, Sir, at our cost that during the five years of war Statute books have been flooded with Governor General's ordinances. The issue of ordinances is the rule and enactment by properly constituted Legislature is an exception today. Whenever a statute or a part of a statute collapses by heart failure, this Legislature is utilised to perform its burial ceremony and to attend to its funeral. Even in this Session we have been asked to give a decent burial to several enactments by the passing of a Repealing Bill.

The country is being run by ordinances today. The flow of these ordinances continues unhampered even when the Central Legislature is in Session. I call it an insult to this House and we register a strong protest against this practice. Let the civilized world take note of the fact when assessing the value of the present constitution of India. Is there any civilized administration that can designate this system of government as one of its kind? What a barbarous system it is then! The same thing prevailed in the old days when the Ukases were issued by the Governors of those time under different names. I wish the Government of India would take note of it and realise that the people of this country strongly protest against the issue of ordinances by one man however high he may be.

Next, Sir, is the allied question of the abuse of the Defence of India Rules. When I deal with the abuse of the Defence of India Rules I deal with the blackest spot on the white face of this Government. The record of this Government has always been very ugly indeed. Breach of princely word, breach of faith, ruthless suppression of the people, both on the material and sentimental

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

side, magnifying the people's weaknesses—and of course, every people have their weaknesses—to their own advantage is too awful a record for any ruler who claims to be civilized. The administration of the Defence of India Rules has made the record of the Government uglier still, if it can be uglier at all. Granting that during the war the executive authority should be armed with extraordinary powers for the period of the war and that was the reason why the Defence of India Act was passed by this Legislature, none can deny the fact that the Legislature expected and so did the Indian nation that such powers would have been used only in most emergent cases, where the ordinary law of the land would have obstructed the war effort. The civilised canon of conduct has always been that the more the power given, the more sparingly it should be used. These powers are not intended as shortcuts to achieve the desired end. The House has been bringing to the notice of the Government the abuses of the Defence of India Rules. Instances have been numerous and varied, from the collection of land revenue to the use of coercion for restoration of a wife to her husband's relatives when her husband was in the war and sending her parents to jail; for the purpose of maintaining the Party in power in the Provinces. Opposition members of the Provincial Legislature have been detained in jail, for that very purpose when out they were restrained from attending their respective Assemblies. These are some of the instances in which the Defence of India Rules have been used. The instances can be multiplied. The Government of India have persistently declined to accept my suggestion to appoint a committee of this House to review the working of the Defence of India Rules and to advise the Department in its future working. A similar committee of the House of Commons was necessitated and the Parliament agreed to appoint such a committee. If it is necessary in a responsible Government like the Government of Great Britain, surely there is far greater need for such a committee in India, where the Government is irresponsible and irremovable. The Honourable the Home Member the other day gloated over his answer that only 50 persons are in detention under the orders of the Government of India and about 1,500 at the instance of the Provinces where Provincial Autonomy is functioning. I cry shame, utter shame to this attitude. The Government of India cannot escape so easily from the responsibility for their action and the acts of those Provincial Governments which are behaving in such a shameful manner. The fact of the matter is that all honest Provincial Governments are not functioning at all. They could not function and thus give a chance to the Honourable the Home Member to gloat over those acts which are, to say the least, unconstitutional in spirit if not in the letter of the law. To bring the comparison to bold relief, one honest Provincial Government that came to power the other day in the North-West Frontier Province celebrated their coming to power by releasing the Members of their own Assembly immediately from jail. This was the first act they did. If there is any self-respect left in the Provincial Governments that are functioning today they should immediately follow the healthy example set by the N.-W. F. P. Ministry.

My main object for referring to the detention of men without trial is a different one. After all what is the fault of these persons? Take for instance the members of the Congress Working Committee. Their worst fault is that they held different opinions on political questions, different from those which the Government of the country held. The country belongs to them. They feel more strongly for the interests of the people of this country than a foreign ruler can. The British are of a different opinion and the Indians are of a different opinion. Why not argue it out. The best argument should prevail. That is the law of civilisation. Force should have no place in the discussion of political problems that face us. Here in India the conditions are otherwise. The fact of the matter is that the Britisher tried to argue the constitutional problem with the Indian patriots but came out second best—so the bureaucrat in India used the last weapon and sent their opponents behind the bars. The best argument is always with the Government and the best argument lies in this that whenever they cannot argue with the patriots on equal footing for the moves on this

chess-board, they throw the chess-board away. They fall back upon their one argument which Indians do not possess and that argument is to send a policeman, catch hold of them and put them behind the bars to end the argument. (*Interruption by Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan.*) I will wait and see what is the best argument. Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan will enlighten us and thus increase our knowledge of constitutional problems. When the Government of India are unable to argue they send their military and police to put an end to the argument by shutting the patriots behind the bars. This is what I call throwing away the chess-board, while the game is on. Mahatma Gandhi gave non-violence and *Ahimsa*. Obviously it is no match for the Honourable the Home Member's bayonet. Self-mortification may succeed ultimately but that is a long range policy. May I ask the Honourable the Home Member and his Master, Mr. Amery, how will he ever justify the detention of such eminent personages without trial before his ancestors like Austin, Dicey and other jurists?

An Honourable Member: He does not know them.

Sardar Sant Singh: I expected the reply that he does not know them. The copies of their works are in the Library of this House.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Better circulate a copy.

Sardar Sant Singh: I think the Members should make a fund and present him with a copy of the jurists' books for his study, so that he may not have the trouble to fish out a copy from the Library of the House. I hope, Sir, he will study once more the fundamental principles of criminal jurisprudence in order to learn what I call civilised methods of administration against barbarous methods which are being adopted today in this country. I am only referring him to the jurists of his own country, his own ancestors, who have left a large number of books on that subject. The volumes are there. An educationist is not expected to know them, but the Honourable the Home Member is expected to know them. The Law Member is master of criminal jurisprudence, he knows the rules of law, but the Home Member knows the rule of the executive.

Next, I come to the point, which I consider a vital necessity, of consulting the Legislature more often than is done. The present Government regard this House as possessing nothing more than what is called nuisance value. The Government of India seem to think that Members come here to vilify the administration, and that the net result of their speeches is that the Government of India is brought into more contempt and hatred. Akbar, not the ruler, but the poet, said—I want you Dr. Zia Uddin to hear it—

Iene hai hokumat-i-Inglishiā ko behlar samjhā;

Jis ne keh hai gore ko Laftant Governor samjhā.

Every Britisher in India is a potential Governor. This system has brought an end to this feeling. The Indian National Congress has spoiled the whole scheme. My Honourable friend seems to say that we shall not have any contests with them. This line of reasoning has been adopted to curtail the Sessions of the Legislature to as few days as they possibly can. In 1931 when I first came here till the last Assembly, the Session used to begin on 3rd or 4th January and end in the first week of April. Now it begins in the middle of February and ends by the end of March. Now I remember we used to pass the Finance Bill after a night sitting, because the Finance Bill must be disposed of by the 31st March. Today all that is gone, and we are here, as I said in the earlier part of my speech, simply to perform the funeral ceremonies of those statutes in the Government of India Statute book which have collapsed by heart failure.

Government of India seem to think that these titular personages like Dr. Sir Zia Uddin, Sir Yamin Khan, and others who represent the Muslim League, have rebelled against Government and inflicted something like a dozen defeats in the course of this Session. They cannot tolerate it, and they refuse to consult the Legislature on that account. But this line of reasoning is not a correct one. I hope my reading is not correct, but if it is correct, I want to tell you that this line of reasoning is not a sound one.

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

If the Government of India seriously study the matter they will find that rule by democratic method differs from rule by autocratic method in this that the vote replaces the assassin's knife. In an autocratic and despotic country Government is removed by the assassin's knife, but in a democracy Government is brought to its sense by the adverse vote of the legislature. This is a healthy change. This change is the only reason why a democratic system of Government has become so popular in the world today. Consultation of the houses of legislature and popular vote enable people to voice their grievances and make even irresponsible Governments wiser in their policies. If the constitution does not in India yield place to popular vote, the fault is not of democracy, but it lies with those who have tinkered with democracy and made this a shadowy part of the constitution of this country. The demand of the Congress, Muslim League, and all other sensible men, is for a flexible constitution and not a rigid one. Change the constitution, and no Government will survive more than one defeat. We will not then have to inflict series of defeats nor will bring the Government into contempt and ridicule as after one defeat it will have to cross the floor of the House from this side to the other side. That will be the advantage of a responsible Government. Therefore, Sir, even under the present constitution, when I ask for more Sessions of the Assembly, I ask more for the good of this Government than for the good of the Members of the Assembly or of the country. In this connection, Sir, I express the hope that the present Government of India will soon yield place to a more responsible Executive even under the present Government of India Act. I wish, Sir, the period between the present Government and the change should be much shorter than what we fear it will take. Now the constitution will have to be taken very soon in hand. I may, with your permission, Sir, refer to the Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, which is doing the spade work. I hope the report of that Committee, when it is issued a few weeks hence, will set people thinking on right lines to solve the present political deadlock in the country.

Next, Sir, I come to the grievances of some of the workers under the Government of India. My friend, the Honourable Mr. N. M. Joshi, has already dealt with two of the questions—scales of pay and adequacy of dearness allowance. I will not repeat the arguments which are there. I simply want today to associate myself with the desire of these poor workers to get a sufficient living wage for their work.

I now come to a problem which has formed the subject of my questions in the last Session and in this Session, in which Sardar Mangal Singh has joined me, to put forward the claims of the Sikhs to be represented in the higher services of the Government of India. I do not want to tire the patience of the House by quoting from the various answers given here. The one common factor which I will bring to the notice of this House is the total absence of the Sikhs in the higher posts in the Government of India. By their Resolution of July 1934, the Government of India has given us 8.8 per cent representation along with other minorities,—Christians, Anglo-Indians, Parsis and others. I only want them to understand that linking us with all these minorities, some of whom have got separate weightage in some departments, as Anglo-Indians have got in the Telegraph Department and the Railways—this formula has worked quite unfairly towards the Sikhs. I wish that this 8.8 per cent should be divided according to the population of the minorities, and the percentages out of this 8.8 per cent should be divided according to the numbers of the population. I understand that the Sikh population will in that case get 4.5 out of this 8.8 per cent. If the formula, which has been advocated by the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee for the Christian community the other day, is adopted, I think it will give some satisfaction; but I want to strike a note of warning along with that. We do not want that the percentages should be filled by the appointment of various neons and chaprassis in the various offices. We want higher posts. I am flooded with complaints

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Where do you want this? In the Punjab or in the Government of India or in different provinces?

Sardar Sant Singh: In the Government of India. The circular is by the Government of India—it has nothing to do with the provinces. In the Punjab we have got something like 25 per cent. I am talking about the services under the Government of India. And I am talking for the Parsis as well. My submission is that I am flooded with complaints in the various departments of the Government of India where the legitimate rights of qualified persons have been either ignored or simply set aside. I have got cases in which, on merits, a Sikh stood very high and yet was not given the job and a man of lower qualifications has been imported from outside. I do not want to mention the departments, because none of them is free from this sin against the Sikh community. Therefore I will say that I associate myself with the reasons given by the Reverend Mr. Chatterjee for separating this 8.8 per cent. into several compartments according to the population of the minorities and allotting seats to each minority in a more definite way and not this rotation business where the turn of the Sikhs never seems to come.

I have not much more to say; I will only end by making a request, and that request is this, that the Government of India as it is working today under the Defence of India Rules should now begin to consider the advisability of relaxing those rules and releasing all the detenus. It is a great shock to the country to see them shut up behind the bars for such a long time, for practically no fault which can be called a crime in any legislature. Sir, I have finished.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I ask for the indulgence of the House, as my health does not permit me to raise my voice. I will explain myself slowly. We are thinking of post-war reconstruction and post-war planning. Industrial development and agricultural development and development of trade and commerce—all this is not possible unless there is development of a proper banking system. As the Honourable the Finance Member has told us the other day, the banks serve as financing agents of trade and industry, and play a vital part in the economic and financial life of the country. There cannot be any doubt about the truth of this proposition. The question therefore arises whether our banking system as it exists today is such as to serve that function of being the financing agents of trade and commerce.

We have been crying ourselves hoarse for over half a century now for the organisation of a proper banking system. We have been demanding two things for over half a century in this connection. In the first place, a proper investigation of the question of banking; and in second place, when as a result of that investigation the banking problems are determined, then the next thing is to attempt solution of those problems.

I think I am absolutely correct when I say that it is more than half a century that the country has been demanding an inquiry into the question of the banking system. I think it was as early as 1890 that the first Industrial Conference gave consideration to this question and demanded an immediate inquiry into the banking system, with pointed reference to the indigenous bankers and the needs of trade and commerce. Next came the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency in 1914—a quarter of a century after. They also very strongly recommended the immediate appointment of a committee. Then came the Industrial Commission of 1918. They reiterated the same demand. Then came the External Capital Committee in 1924, emphasizing the importance of a co-ordinated survey of the whole field of banking in India. I stress those words "the whole field of banking in India" because banking in this country does not mean a few joint stock banks which have been established in recent times. Joint stock banks do not do even a small fraction of the whole banking business of this country. It has been found by all the committees that the vast bulk of the banking business of the country is carried on by the indigenous bankers. After that there was the Royal Commission on Agriculture which also reported in 1928 and recommended the organisation of a proper banking system. Then later on the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 1927 and 1928 made a special contribution in this matter. They attached special

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

importance to the system of indigenous banking with a view to develop and foster the same. In spite of all this, from 1890 to 1928, the Government remained supremely indifferent to these very important matters. At long last, a Banking Inquiry Committee was constituted in 1929. Their terms of reference emphasised the development of a national system of banking with special reference to the needs of agriculture, commerce and industry. I think the expression 'national system of banking' will not frighten anybody. This is not an expression of my own. Those are the words used by the Government in their terms of reference. This inquiry terminated in 1931, and the Committee made their recommendations in 1931, but I am sorry to say that none of the recommendations of the Banking Inquiry Committee was implemented. After 40 years agitation, the banking inquiry was instituted but when that committee submitted their voluminous report after an elaborate and prolonged enquiry their recommendations, it is no exaggeration to say, were thrown into the waste paper basket. The Committee said:

"Our first proposal therefore is that as soon as the Reserve Bank is established the indigenous banker should along with joint stock and co-operative banks be brought into direct relations with the Reserve Bank and thereby provided with re-discount facilities from that institution."

That was a recommendation made in 1931. Thirteen years have elapsed since then and it is matter for profound disappointment that that recommendation has not yet been given effect to. Later on this recommendation was reinforced by no other than Sir George Schuster who at the time of the Reserve Bank of India Act said this:

"It is impossible to over estimate the importance that the indigenous bankers play in the whole of the banking credit machinery of India. I think it would be no exaggeration to say that this part of the organisation represents, if anything, more than 90 per cent. of the whole and it is unfortunately true that the links between the whole of this system and the modern banking system of India are still rudimentary and incomplete."

What follows is very important: He adds:

"I want to make it quite clear that we recognise that until the vast portion of India's banking and credit machinery, which is represented by indigenous bankers is put into gear with the relatively small machine of the modernised money market, with the Reserve Bank at its central control, it will be impossible for the Reserve Bank to exercise that full control of currency and credit of India which is understood as the function of a central bank in Western countries; and it will be equally impossible for the masses of the people who populate the country sides of India to get the full benefits of credit and banking facilities on reasonable terms, which a well organised system of banking ought to give. That, I believe, is one of the greatest problems of the future of India."

Now, Sir, the regret is that this greatest of problems still remains unsolved and no attempt has been up to now seriously made to solve this greatest problem of Sir George Schuster. That was not merely the personal opinion and recommendation of Sir George Schuster. That recommendation was converted into a statutory obligation. For section 55 of the Reserve Bank of India Act lays down:

"The Bank (*meaning the Reserve Bank*) shall, at the earliest practicable date and in any case within three years from the date on which this Chapter comes into force, make to the Governor General in Council a report, with proposals . . . for legislation on the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the extension of the provisions of this Act relating to scheduled banks to persons and firms, not being scheduled banks, engaged in British India in the business of banking, and
- (b) the improvement of the machinery for dealing with agricultural finance and methods for effecting a closer connection between agricultural enterprise and the operations of the Bank."

Now, Sir, this Act was passed in 1934. Up to now that statutory obligation has not been discharged either by the Government or by the Reserve Bank. There is still another obligation imposed by section 54 of that Act on a very vital matter, that is that—

"the Bank shall create a special Agricultural credit department, the functions of which shall be (a) (b) to co-ordinate the operations of the Bank in connection with agricultural credit and its relations with provincial co-operative banks and any other banks or organisations engaged in the business of agricultural credit."

Now, Sir, that is another statutory obligation which still remains undischarged. We know that the Banking Enquiry Committee wanted that the indigenous bankers should be linked up with the Reserve Bank and a comprehensive banking legislation should be made covering the entire field of banking in India, not merely joint stock banks, not merely co-operative credit societies, but including indigenous banking institutions. In view of that, I have a few questions to ask about the Reserve Bank. The Honourable the Finance Member is not here, I expect him, to answer these questions categorically:

1. Whether the Reserve Bank has performed or is performing the functions of a Central Bank?

2. Whether it has discharged the statutory obligation imposed upon it by sections 54 and 55 of the Reserve Bank of India Act. Has it loyally and earnestly directed its effort to overhaul the existing banking system and to build up one entire banking credit machinery of the whole of India, including rural India and to give full benefits of credit and banking facilities to the whole population of India; whether it has discharged all the functions in this behalf as contemplated by the Banking Enquiry Committee and the Reserve Bank of India Act?

3. What has been its contribution during its career of ten years towards the development of trade, industry and agriculture? Has it provided cheaper facilities to industry and agriculture than they had before 1934? Has it served as the financing agent of trade and industry and played its due part in the economic and financial life of the country?

4. What has been its actual relationship with joint stock banks? Has it been their friend, philosopher and guide or only exercised the school master's rod or policeman's baton?

5. Has it published a manual of instructions for their guidance? What has it done to educate them as to how to conduct sound banking business on sound lines?

6. Has it enunciated and explained the problems and principles of banking to them, explained to them their goal and method, given directions to them what forms of investment should be adapted and what should be avoided?

7. Has it any machinery and experienced staff and personnel to teach them how to conduct banking business on sound lines and how to avoid all possible pit-falls or it has a machinery only to punish erring banks after mistakes have been committed?

8. If defects and mistakes are disclosed by inspection, does it give a copy of Inspection report to the Bank concerned to enable them to avoid those mistakes in future? Is a copy of the Inspection Report given to them or is it withheld and treated as a confidential document?

9. Has it taken any steps to protect the infant Indian Institutions from competition with the giants of foreign banks?

10. What has been the extent of its service to all Banking Institutions either in the shape of financing accommodation or in facilities of other kinds?

11. Has it taken any steps to strengthen and foster the old institution of indigenous banks?

12. What has been its special service to the Scheduled Banks and non-Scheduled Banks?

13. Has it directed its policy from the time of its inception to gain the confidence and willing support of the existing banks or is it looked upon in the words of the central Banking Enquiry Report, as an "enemy or a parasite which is only to survive at the cost of the existing institutions"?

Well, Sir, these are questions of vital importance for the development of trade and commerce in the country. I hope they will receive proper attention at the hands of Government, more especially now as we are thinking of reconstruction and planning.

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

Now, Sir, talking of the Finance Bill, allow me to make a few observations about the present position in the country. Speaking of India as a whole and particularly of my own Province, I think the following description is no exaggeration. No food, people are still dying in Calcutta of starvation. According to official figures in 1944, in the City of Calcutta alone, in ten months more than 7,000 sick destitutes were admitted into the hospitals and more than 2,000 of them died. That is about food. There is no cloth. Another famine in quick succession of its predecessor, *viz.*, famine in food. And we are told by the Textile Commissioner that there is no solution possible in war time. There is no coal, there is no fuel, there is no kerosene and there is no petrol. The price level is 200 or 300 per cent. higher than even in the famine year of 1943.

As regards health I am reminded of the words which were uttered by our late lamented friend Mr. Gupta, "No doctors; no medicines". Those were the closing words of his speech, those were the last words of his life. When I think of that tragic incident which took place the other day on the floor of this House, I do not think it was a mere accident. I see the finger of God in it; I think it was a serious warning given by God to our people, to ourselves, to Government, and particularly to the Honourable Member in charge of health. And I wonder whether the terrible significance of those words are realised by Government.

Sir, we are passing through a very bad time and I do not know whether Government have even now fully realised the seriousness of the position. Sir, I feel tired and should not like to strain myself any more.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, encomium after encomium has been heaped upon the Honourable the Finance Member. Though I have been listening to every one of them I have not been able to persuade myself to follow that line. It is true that from one point of view he deserves all the encomiums that have been heaped upon him. He has really represented the people of the United Kingdom in this country. He has ruled for their benefit. He has ruled well but has served us ill. He has ruled this country properly irrespective of the dangers to the people of this country,—in the face of starvation and death. He ruled this country but did not serve it. He may be a good man but so far as we in this country are concerned his efforts have gone for nothing. I do not want to use strong language but I cannot help using it. This House has been asked to vote this Finance Bill through. For what purpose? To carry on the war outside and to carry it on inside against us. Let me first deal with the war outside. Were we consulted? It might be said that that is an old tale. But still it continues. We made a protest against this five years ago and the Congress ministries came out of office as a protest. But has anything been done to appease and consult the people? Would these similar steps be taken in their own country? They kept quiet, and ultimately incarcerated our leaders and they are still rotting in jail. Under one pretext or another they continue to be kept in detention. The war is coming to an end in the west, but so far as the war inside and against us and our leaders are concerned, the war will never end; the end is not in sight. For this war enormous sums of money are being spent. This year nearly 400 odd crores are being spent. On the war the total expenditure for this year is nearly 700 crores. During this period of the war our national debt has increased from 1,100 to 2,000 crores. Our income has also increased though year after year there is a deficit, and the deficit is being met by loans. Taxation has been imposed to the last limit. I do not know whether the same procedure can be followed in the years to come. Our country had its boom period on account of war production but soon there will be a lull and a lapse into old times. We do not know how to support this top-heavy administration that has been created in this period. Our people protested and we were the first in the world to ask for a declaration of war aims. The Prime Minister of England said that the war aim is to win the war. Could he say that to other countries? Thereafter came the Atlantic Charter. But the

Atlantic Charter was drowned in the Atlantic Ocean. President Roosevelt said that the Atlantic Charter was only a guide and could not apply to all people. Mr. Churchill said that the Charter was not to be applied to this country though in actual terms effect was given to it. Recently addressing a Tory Party conference Mr. Churchill said that he stands for three flags,—the flag of victory, the flag of the empire and the flag of free enterprise. So far as the empire is concerned, he wants to hold this country permanently under his thumb; and it is for this purpose that we are asked to vote for this expenditure both for the war outside and the war inside.

So far as free enterprise is concerned, it means killing our industries and dumping his articles on us. Already we have a foretaste of that. Sixty million pounds worth of articles are being sent to this country as consumer goods, so that gradually our sterling balances may scuttle down. The sterling balances are scuttling day by day; they are not really sterling balances but scuttling balances. It is only for the purpose of reducing the sterling balances that consumer goods are sent to this country and effectively the future of this country may be smashed and our industries may go to the wall.

Sir, it is for that purpose that for this year also we have been asked to vote for this Finance Bill. Last year the war was within our own borders. But who asked these people to go to war? I am sure Japan would not have invaded this country but for the fact that these people started imperial aggression long ago. They were the first in the field and so Japan also wanted to come to this country and take hold of this country after taking Burma and the eastern portions of Asia. It is also said that Hitler and other persons are thinking of creating empires in the world but it is the Britishers who have been the aggressors, they have created trouble, they have not learnt from experience. The war of 1914 sowed the seed for another war, and I am sure that this war, according to Mr. Churchill's own statement, will lead to another war. I think in 15 years another war will come. Has he changed his policy? He wants to destroy other nationalities who are following the example set by England herself. If with that attitude they want to go to the San Francisco Conference I would say that there they will sow a seed which will raise its head and involve the whole world, leading to a much greater war than we have seen. The same drama is being enacted at San Francisco. Two persons are being sent, one is Noon and the other is the Knight. Noon and Knight will neutralise each other. What are their antecedents? One of them was defeated by a Member of this Assembly, Mr. Satyamurti. He came to this Assembly by the back door; he has no reputation in his own province as a representative of the people. I am not going to deal with his personal qualities. Is he a man whom we should send as our representative? Are there no other persons? Can we not say that he is a Quisling? So far as Noon is concerned, he was in the War Cabinet; he said a few words as to what the position of India ought to be, and he was unceremoniously dismissed. Why did he come away? Why was no one there for three months after Noon came away? Now he has been taught a lesson and now he is expected to be a good boy. These two gentlemen will go and will have their lessons and rehearsals in England and thereafter they will be sent to San Francisco. What are they going to do there? Repeat the covenant of the League of Nations. Is the covenant going to undergo a change that every nation in the world will within a short time be free in its own country? Is that going to be the covenant? On the other hand I am sure that their covenant will be a reiteration of the old covenant, the territorial integrity of each nation will be safeguarded by the collective security of nations. Which means that India also goes there to help England, to keep India down for long. And not only that, but the big States of the world for the purpose of security of the big nations will keep down the smaller nations of the world. Am I to subscribe to the continuance of this Government? I will go down with all the effort and with all the strength rather than agree to this. I cannot be a party to this.

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

Let me come back again to San Francisco. Will these gentlemen have the courage to say 'No, we want independence declared for India'? Sir Zafarulla Khan, all honour to him, had the courage to say the other day that if the political parties in this country do not come to any settlement and are not able to put forward any agreed constitution for India, then the British Government should take the matter in its hands—they have done it a number of times; now they don't want any settlement and therefore they are not prepared to do it—and one year after the war make this country independent. Let them carry out what by lips Cripps has offered to us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resume his speech tomorrow. The House is now adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1945.