

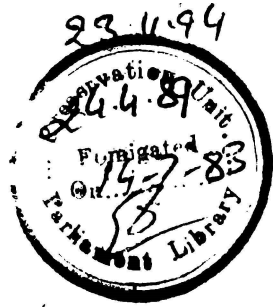
21st March 1945

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21st March, 1945

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Henry Carlos Prior C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Labour Department.)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

LICENCES FOR IMPORTS FROM BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES

1173. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member noticed in the *Times of India* dated 18th February, 1945, a statement that Government invites people to apply for import permits from the United Kingdom of all goods, which they are able to negotiate with exporters from U. K.?

(b) Is it a fact that such application now involves no reference to the system of import quota?

(c) What is the Government's policy in regard to import licences generally from countries other than the United Kingdom and do Government intend to give permission to import goods, which exporters may be ready to send to India from other countries?

(d) What are the special circumstances which have led to the relaxation in the case of the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but the statement refers only to imports from the United Kingdom of certain consumable engineer stores which fall under the Panel Scheme and not to all goods as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) The system which has been followed in granting import licences for these goods in the past is explained in section VI of the Hand Book on Import Trade Control, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. I place on the table a copy of the Press Note issued by Government on the 12th February, 1945, indicating the manner in which it has now been decided to relax the Panel Scheme.

(c) In view of the improved supply position Government are adopting a more liberal policy in regard to import licences for all countries in the sterling area. In the case of non-sterling area countries, the fact that goods are available for export to India is taken into consideration but each case is considered on its merits and due regard is paid to the necessity of conserving difficult currency.

(d) The decision stated above was taken in view of the improved supply position in the United Kingdom and the necessity of satisfying the needs of the country and combating inflationary tendencies as far as possible.

Copy of the Press Note issued by Government on the 12th February, 1945

Welcome news has been received from the U. K. that the supply position of certain engineer stores which are imported under the Panel Scheme is much easier, and that India may hope to receive considerably larger quantities than in the past, which should be sufficient to meet demands not hitherto acceptable under the Panel Scheme because they could not qualify as being for war purposes or for essential civil needs. The items in which greater supplies are immediately available include motors, generators, and starters, static condensers and transformers, switch and fuse gear, welding rods and electrodes, pneumatic and portable electric tools, cutting tools, gauges and measuring instruments, hand tools, abrasives, crucibles and certain industrial pneumatic equipment. In view of this information the Government of India have decided to relax the restriction hitherto imposed on those who may receive import licenses under the Panel Scheme, and also to raise on a generous scale the quantitative limits hitherto imposed. In particular, industrial consumers who used to import their own requirements before the introduction of the

Panel Scheme will now be granted import licenses for their requirements and the list of importers eligible for the grant of import licenses will not be confined, as at present, to those importing houses which were able to prove that they had made imports over a specific period. Within the limits of quantity to which it is considered that imports should be made, licenses will be issued generously to importers who obtain firm offers of supply from exporters in the U. K. There need therefore, be no hesitation in applying for licenses up to the full extent of their requirements either on the part of existing importers or of those who have not hitherto participated in import under the Panel Scheme, although of course the actual grant of licenses must still be considered by Government in the light of conditions prevailing from time to time.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Do we understand that as regards non-sterling areas the position is definitely improving, and Government are inclined to give more licenses?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they propose to allow importation of consumer goods into this country without regard to the effect on the local industries and merely to relieve the inflationary tendencies.

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: This question does not arise out of this because it only refers to articles like motors, generators and starters, static condensers and transformers, switch and fuse gear, and other engineer materials.

PRODUCTION AND PRICES OF BRASS AND ALUMINIUM UTENSILS

1174. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies taken to increase the production and to bring down the prices of brass and aluminium utensils for the civil population?

(b) By what stages and in what manner have the prices come down?

(c) What steps have been taken to release more metal for civil use since October last?

(d) What was the total pre-war consumption of (i) Brass, and (ii) aluminium by the civil population?

(e) How does the position during the war years compare with the pre-war years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) and (c). Arrangements have been made for the supply of about 400 tons brass sheets per month out of indigenous production since June, 1944, and these have been distributed amongst manufacturers of utensils in various parts of the country. Arrangements have also been made for importing a substantial quantity of brass and aluminium sheets and ingots during the current year.

In order to ensure proper distribution of the utensils thus manufactured at the controlled prices two control Orders, viz., the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, and the Aluminium Utensils (Control) Order, 1945, have been issued.

(b) The ceiling prices as originally fixed in June, 1944, for brass utensils made out of brass sheets released by Government ranged from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4-0 per lb. Subsequently in August, 1944, the ceiling price of all other utensils was fixed at Rs. 2-9-0 per lb. In October, 1944, a uniform reduction of three annas was made in these prices. A further reduction in these prices has been made with effect from the 10th February, 1945, with the result that the ceiling prices of utensils made out of brass sheets released by Government now range from Rs. 1-10 to Rs. 2, per lb., and of all other brass utensils is Rs. 2-5-0 per lb.

As regards aluminium utensils the ceiling prices have been fixed with effect from the 15th March, 1945, and prices range from Rs. 2-14-0 to Rs. 3-8-0 per lb. as against the previous ruling prices of Rs. 5 and over.

(d) The average annual imports of brass and aluminium during the 5 years preceding the war were 20,000 tons and 3,000 tons respectively. It is not possible to say what the total pre-war consumption of these metals was, as scrap formed a considerable part of the consumption during the pre-war period.

(e) Up to June, 1944, only negligible quantities of virgin metal, brass or aluminium were available for civil consumption, and even of scrap metal, the supplies were very limited.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that brass metal industry is a cottage industry, may I know whether Government have taken steps to distribute for the needs of this industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: When it was first distributed our idea was to supply cheap utensils because utensils were very much in demand and were selling at very high prices. So at the beginning we only gave it to those who could manufacture sheets for distribution among workers. But later on Provincial Governments made representations to us, and wherever there have been representations we have been trying to give from this quota for the purpose of helping cottage workers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the proportion of division between cottage and mill industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is no division fixed as yet. As I said, we are now trying to help cottage workers as much as possible, but until the situation improves we will not be able to do anything better.

DEPUTATION ON BEHALF OF INDIAN FEDERATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

1175. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that the deputation on behalf of the Indian Federation of Commerce and Industry waited on Government during the second week of February?

(b) What was the main point of their representation with regard to the effect of the import and sale of consumer goods in India on established productive industries of the country?

(c) What was the assurance given by Mr. Ram Chandra to them on behalf of Government?

(d) Did Government consult the Import Advisory Committee with regard to these consumer goods and, if so, at which meeting and what was the advice tendered by them?

(e) On what principles are prices of consumer goods brought to India fixed?

(f) Are they on the basis of the American price, or is any account taken of the prevailing price in India?

(g) Have Government ascertained that some of these sale prices are not below the cost price of Indian manufactured goods?

(h) Have Government ascertained that the costs of many articles in India are inflated on account of heavy transport charges, heavy import duties, heavy rates of freight and insurance for raw materials imported, high prices of stores of every description and many other factors including high taxes?

(i) Have Government any definite policy with regard to the effect on existing industries through Government action in getting consumer goods in India, and are they in a position to give any assurance on this subject?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the meeting held on the 12th February between the representatives of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the representatives of the various Departments of the Government of India. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). The meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing with the representatives of the Federation a Memorandum submitted by the Federation which covered several questions relating to the import policy of Government. It was felt that a personal discussion would be more convenient than entering into long correspondence. At the meeting the policy of Government was explained. No assurance of any kind was given by the Commerce Secretary.

(d) Government have not set up an Import Advisory Committee, and the question of consulting them did not therefore, arise.

(e) and (f). If the reference is to "consumer goods" which are not the subject of specific Control Orders, the general principles are indicated in Section 6 of the Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, to which the attention of the Honourable Member is invited.

(g) It is possible that the sale prices of some of the imported articles, determined in accordance with the principles laid down in section 6 of the Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance do come to a figure which is below the cost of production of similar goods manufactured in India, just as the reverse is also true in respect of certain articles.

(h) Charges incurred on account of these factors do enter into the final ceiling prices, but they are not peculiar to articles made in India only.

(i) The policy is to import such goods as are available and necessary to meet the requirements of the country with due regard to the position of indigenous industries and to their ability to meet that demand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What precautions have Government taken to ensure that imports of consumer goods will not affect industries which have come into existence during the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: The fact that we are controlling the quantum is itself sufficient to show that they will not affect industries in any way. We are keeping a very careful watch over the situation.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to his reply to (b) and (c), may I ask whether the Honourable Member is examining the memorandum submitted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry? The reply to (b) and (c) that no assurance was given—was it based on enlightened knowledge of actual conditions, or was it merely a matter of policy?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: I am afraid my friend should get a better impression of Government. All I can say is that this question has been very carefully examined in its effect on Indian industries, and the fact that there have been repeated representations outside as well as inside this House should make the Honourable Member realise that we have been keeping a careful watch on the situation.

DEFICIT DISTRICTS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1176. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

- (a) the deficit districts in the Madras Presidency;
- (b) the deficit in the Madras Presidency taken as a whole; and
- (c) whether the deficit is of rice or millets or both, and how he has attempted to make up this deficit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) On the basis of estimated production and consumption, the following districts were considered deficit in rice, Cholum (Jowar) and Cumbu (Bajra) during 1944-45:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Vizagapatam. | 7. Madura. |
| 2. Anantapur. | 8. Ramnud. |
| 3. Madras. | 9. Tinnevely. |
| 4. Chingleput. | 10. Malabar. |
| 5. Salem. | 11. S. Kanara. |
| 6. Coimbatore. | 12. The Nilgiris. |

(b) The total deficit declared by the Madras Government is about 210,000 tons.

(c) The deficit is in rice, wheat and millets and to enable the Madras Government to meet the situation, a total quota of 192,400 tons of wheat, millets and rice has been allotted to them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know for what year this calculation is? Is he aware that in the current year, even in Tanjore, a good rice producing area, there has been a failure of crops?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This estimate relates to 1944-45: we have not got all the figures for the current year yet.

REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

1177. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether he has received representations to the effect that the prices fixed for foodgrains at present are not economical to the producers of these foodgrains; and

(b) whether he has considered these representations; if so, with what effect?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Two such representations were received, one from the Andhra Foodgrains Producers Council and the Andhra Provincial Ryots Association, and the other from the Coorg Provincial Co-operative Marketing Federation.

The ceiling prices for rice in force in Madras during 1943-44 were examined with reference to the present costs of cultivation and the cost of living index, and it was decided that there was no justification for raising them, except in the case of first sort rice the price of which was raised by 6 annas a maund.

Coorg prices were raised from Rs. 115 per cart load to Rs. 125 (from Rs. 5-4-1 to Rs. 5-11-0 per maund), as a result of the second representation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether these calculations are based on the presumption that these agriculturists get their implements for agriculture and other things at controlled prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; we take all the current factors into account.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this question was put before the Price Advisory Committee and is there any one on that committee representing these districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know whether it was placed before the Price Advisory Committee—I have not got the information here with me.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member not in a position to say whether it was or was not put before the Price Advisory Committee? Evidently he must be presiding over that body.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not preside over the Price Advisory Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that while in several districts freezing operations are resorted to, in many districts of the Madras Presidency there is no demand at all for paddy or rice because the rice mill owners had purchased paddy at too cheap prices at the harvest times and they are not purchasing anything now?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the present prices prevailing actually in the market are 25 per cent. lower than the ceiling prices that they have fixed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am equally not aware of that.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not open to the Honourable Member to make inquiries, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, I have taken a note.

IRREGULARITIES IN PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO INDIAN SEAMEN'S DEPENDENTS

1178. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether he is aware:

(i) that majority of Indian seamen (above 75 per cent.) are from the District of Sylhet in Assam;

(ii) that irregularities prevail in the payment of allowances to the dependents of seamen who are away on duty?

(iii) that dependents of the seamen have been put to hardships and inconveniences on account of the stoppage of their allowances without any previous notice;

(iv) that the relations of the seamen who are out on the sea do not get proper replies from the authorities concerned either regarding the whereabouts of the seamen or the reasons for the discontinuance of the allowances;

(v) that the dependents of seamen reported to be missing do not get any allowance whatsoever;

(vi) that the rate of allowances paid to the dependents of deceased seamen are insufficient; and

(vii) that the allowances are not paid to the dependents of the seamen on account of slight mistakes in the spelling of names on records?

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to consider the desirability of removing the grievances of the seamen? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) No information relating to the number of seamen belonging to Sylhet is available but in all likelihood their number is much below 75 per cent. of the total number of Indian seamen.

(ii) and (iii). I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to allotment of wages made by seamen. The allotments are collected from the Shipping Companies by the Shipping Office and remitted by money order to the person named by the seaman concerned in the allotment note. Government are not aware of any specific irregularity in the payment of these allotments. In the event of desertion, death, or imprisonment of seamen, wages cease and consequently also the allotments, but such cases are few.

(iv) It is not possible for security reasons to disclose information about the whereabouts of seamen serving afloat but where allotment of wages is stopped, reasons for such stoppage are furnished to the relatives on request.

(v) Allowances are awarded in all cases of missing seamen as soon as their dependents are traced and their identity established. Pending final awards help is given to the dependents from His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

(vi) The War Pensions (Indian Seamen) Scheme was recently revised and the revised Scheme came into force retrospectively from the 1st May 1944. As a result of this revision the rates of pensions to widows were doubled and other allowances enhanced by 50 per cent.

(vii) Treasury Officers have to satisfy themselves that payments are made to the correct dependents and some delay occasionally takes place in establishing the identity of dependents if there is any discrepancy in the particulars contained in the sanctioning order and the descriptive roll furnished by local authorities but every effort is made to reduce such delays as far as possible.

(b) All possible steps have been taken to ensure the disposal without delay of all compensation claims and this matter is given special attention by all Government Authorities concerned.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With reference to part (iv), it is a fact that allowances are suddenly stopped and the relations are not told why, and for a long time the relations are left without any succour or help: Will the Honourable Member look into that and do something for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If there is any occasion for any Honourable Member knowing any such case or if there is anybody who brings it to my notice, I shall personally see that that matter is immediately rectified.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: May I state that it is not one but hundreds of cases: generally that is the complaint; and I would suggest that the Honourable Member issues a circular to his subordinates.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I may say that when I was in Assam last I specially looked into this question and discussed it with some leading members, including some ministers; and I requested them to go into this question thoroughly. I have been expecting a memorandum which I have so far not received.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: I am in possession of informations of about a thousand cases with me and I can tell the Honourable Member that I can give him thousand cases of such delay and irregularities.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The very day he gives me the thousand cases, the very next day I will take up those cases.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Then I will give those cases.

INDIAN SEAMEN'S WELFARE OFFICERS

1179. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the number of posts of Indian Seamen's Welfare

Officer that have been created both in India and abroad during the last three years, and the places where they are now posted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Six; two at Calcutta, one at Bombay, one at New York, one at Liverpool and one at Sydney.

Manvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How many of them are non-Muslims?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Out of six, four are Muslims.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they all Indians?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

CLOTH QUOTAS FOR MADRAS

1180. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state—

(a) the latest quotas of cloth fixed for Madras and at what rate per individual;

(b) the basis on which these quotas are fixed, and what the *per capita* rate for other Provinces is;

(c) whether hand-spun and hand-woven cloth is taken into account in these calculations; and

(d) in view of the fact that the quantity of cloth produced is less than the demand, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of encouraging hand-spinning and handloom weaving?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (b) of Mr. Neogy's question No. 175 asked on 18th February 1945. These quotas are fixed on the estimated pre-war consumption of the various provinces

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. Government have already constituted an All-India Handloom Board and taken various other steps to improve the distribution of yarn, dyes, etc.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am afraid he has not understood the question; what I asked was whether *khadi*, that is, handspun and hand-woven cloth, is also taken into consideration and is also controlled.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Which control?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In their scheme of distribution.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes; every production of handloom in India, whether it goes by the name of *khadi* or otherwise is taken into consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am afraid he has not understood. The difference between *khadi* and handloom cloth is that handloom cloth is woven out of mill yarn, while *khadi* is woven out of handspun yarn.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I know that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am glad you know; but has that been taken into account?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would like to know which account he wants me to put it in.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In calculations for distribution?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to increase the total quantity of *khadi* yarn available in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is one of the points which I want to put first before the next meeting of the All India Handloom Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that the Honourable Member wishes not to ask question No. 1181; but that will not in any way help him to obtain oral answer to his sixth question. The answer to it will be laid on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then I will ask the question.

INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IMPORTED

1181. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether any industrial plants were imported during this year; if so, what those plants were and to whom they were distributed; and

(b) whether these plants were got on the request of the merchants concerned or under their own initiative?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Presumably, the Honourable Member refers to importation of industrial plants by Government. If so, the answer is Yes. Four Contact Sulphuric Acid Plants. They have been allotted to:

1. Messrs. Kasturbhai Lalbhai & Co., Ahmedabad.
2. Messrs. Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi
3. Messrs. H. Mumtaz & Co., Calcutta; and
4. Messrs. Bararee Coke Co., Ltd., Calcutta.

(b) By Government on their own initiative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Were they got at their request or were they ordered by Government and then distributed to any agencies?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: These are plants which were imported at the instance of Government and they have been distributed as I have stated.

Mr. Lalchand Navaraj: May I know what are these plants for sulphuric acid?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot explain what is the meaning of Contract Sulphuric Acid Plants if my Honourable friend does not know it.

SCARCITY OF YARN FOR MYMENSINGH WEAVERS

1182. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether twenty thousand weavers in Mymensingh have been thrown out of work because of the scarcity of yarn;

(b) the total quantity of yarn allotted to the district in December, 1944, and January and February, 1945;

(c) how much was actually given to the district during the three months mentioned above, i.e., received by the weavers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my answer given on 18th March, 1945, to starred question No. 969.

(b) 1,404 bales of yarn were allotted to this district in December 1944 and January, February, 1945.

(c) Most of these have reached the district and have been distributed or are in process of being distributed by the Sub-Divisional Officers concerned and other bales are on their way.

(d) Mymensingh's normal quota of consumption of yarn was 858 bales per month. The district has received in December, January and February last 468 bales per month. Therefore it is expected that there should be no acute shortage. However, the new scheme for distribution of yarn is expected to start from 1st April and it will do away with maldistribution and scarcity of yarn.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Weavers' Co-operative Society, Mymensingh actually received only 17 bales, whereas their monthly consumption is 100 bales?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am aware of the difficulties of the yarn situation throughout Bengal and I have been constantly with it. All I can say is that the Government of Bengal and their officers have been trying their level best to improve the distribution system and the province will take some little time before it can actually give effect to it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that the distribution system organised by the Provincial Government is not satisfactory, will the Government of India put on its own men to see that the distribution system works more smoothly?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have been working the scheme with the assistance and co-operation of the Provincial Government. All I can say is that whenever the question has become acute, the Provincial Government have been taking steps. The question is purely problematical today. If there is maldistribution which requires urgent action, we shall take the necessary steps to rectify it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Does the Honourable Member mean that there is no unemployment among the weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not mean that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the percentage of unemployment?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot say.

ABOLISHING IMPORT QUOTA SYSTEM ABOUT CLOTH FROM BRITAIN

1183. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether, in view of the shipping space available, Government propose to abolish the quota system with reference to import of foreign cloth from Great Britain;

(b) if so, the reaction it will have on the local textile industry; and

(c) the quantity of textiles imported into this country in this financial year as opposed to the last year?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) In respect of cotton textiles it is not proposed to abolish the quota system. But quotas, in respect of a few items such as rayon and woollen fabrics, have automatically been abolished with the issue of Open General Licence No. VII published in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, dated the 2nd March, 1945.

(b) In respect of the varieties covered by the Open General Licence, the quantities expected to be imported are so small and the shortage of indigenous supplies, as compared to the total demand, so great, that the quantities likely to be imported will have no appreciable effect on the local industry. As for other items the question does not arise.

(c) In respect of the current financial year figures of imports for the first ten months only, ending January, 1945, are available. These figures as well as those for the last financial year are set out in the statement which I lay on the table.

Statement

Description	Units	1943-44	1944-45
		(April-March)	(April-January)
Cotton Piecegoods	Yards	2,500,000	4,900,000
Fents	lbs.	45,000	120,000
Silk Piecegoods	Yards	6,000	59
Woollen Piecegoods	Do.	480,000	780,000
Artificial Silk Piecegoods	Do.	21,000	180,000

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Textile Board was consulted before textile imports are made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Textile Board has not been formally consulted. We have tried to keep the Chairman of the Textile Board informed. There was a reply to it and I am again looking into the question as to how he was informed and how it can be informed properly in future.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer to the next question by Mr. Chettiar will be laid on the table.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS IN BURMA OF INDIAN EVACUEES

†1184. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether he has received any representations from Indians now returned from Burma about the protection of their rights of property and trade in Burma after the war;

(b) whether Government have considered the matter; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in this direction?

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

(b) and (c). The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

NOT KEEPING CALCUTTA PORT OPEN FOR HAJ SAILINGS

1185. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether an article which appeared in the *Dawn*, dated the 17th February, under the caption "Haj Pilgrims' Plight at Karachi", has come to his notice?

(b) Is it a fact, as stated therein, that the Calcutta port was not made available for Haj Pilgrims to sail for Hejaz last year? If so, what were the reasons for the said port not having been thrown open for Haj sailings?

(c) Are Government aware that the Central Khadimul Hujjaz Society sent a contingent of volunteer workers to Karachi to assist the pilgrims and especially those who hailed from Bengal and Assam and to make an investigation regarding any allegation of a serious character as to the grievances of the intending pilgrims?

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

(b) It is with the utmost difficulty that Government could organise the pilgrimage on a very limited scale and that also very late in the season. For reasons of security it was quite impracticable to arrange sailings from any port other than Karachi.

(c) Three volunteers of the Society were seen in the Pilgrims Camp assisting pilgrims from Bengal and Assam; Government have no information about the objects of their presence.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Did the Society as such report to Government? Did they get the permission of Government and was the society given any help?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: May I know if it will be possible to use the Calcutta port in future for pilgrims to Hedjaz?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That depends on circumstances.

UNSATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS AT KARACHI PILGRIMS CAMP

1186. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that the accommodation for pilgrims in the Pilgrim Camp at Karachi is insufficient and the sanitary condition of the camp is appalling? How many pilgrims can be accommodated in the buildings in these camps?

(b) What were the medical arrangements made during the last pilgrimage season in the Karachi Pilgrims Camp?

(c) Did any death take place among the intending pilgrims who stayed in the Pilgrims Camp at Karachi last year, and what were the causes assigned for these deaths?

(d) Who is responsible for matters referred to in parts (a) to (c) above and what is particularly the responsibility of the Haj Officer and other officers of the Central Government who worked at Karachi during the last Haj Season?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) There is accommodation for about 2000 pilgrims. This is not sufficient when there is a great rush of pilgrims

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

but the Port Haj Committee pitches tents and *shamianas* to accommodate any surplus number. The sanitary condition of the camp is not unsatisfactory.

(b) A dispensary was opened at the camp. Serious cases of illness were transferred to the Karachi Civil Hospital.

(c) Four deaths took place at the camp from natural causes, such as old age, dysentery and fever.

(d) Port Hajj Committee, Karachi, is responsible for (a) and (b) and no one for (c).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the serious complaints about the hardships of the Haj pilgrims, will the Honourable Member depute some senior officer of the Government of India to go and inquire into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: All the complaints are very much exaggerated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was any inquiry made?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We have made certain inquiries.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Are the accommodation in the camp and the medical arrangements the sole concern of the Haj Committee of Karachi?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is the information I have.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Is it a fact that a report has been sent by the Secretary Khadinul Hujjaj, Calcutta, on return from Karachi, bringing to the notice of Government that there were irregularities in the supply of medicine and the pilgrims were not provided with sufficient accommodation? Is the Honourable Member aware of it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If I get all the facts, I will make inquiries.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: I have a supplementary question with regard to part (d). The Honourable Member stated in effect that the officers of the Central Government were not responsible for the matters raised in (a) and (b). Will he tell us whether there are letters received by him appreciating the work done by the Haj officers?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: There are.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALE OF SOVEREIGNS, ETC., TO HAJIS IN KARACHI PILGRIMS CAMP

1187. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether Government are aware of any arrangements that were officially made for the sale of sovereigns and *Ahram* cloth to the Hajis in the Karachi Pilgrims Camp? Were the rates and prices which the Hajis had to pay for them fixed by Government?

(b) Did the Haj Officer and other officers of the Central Government deputed to Karachi in connection with the last Haj pilgrimage actually take any part in arranging for the sale of sovereigns, *Ahram* cloth, etc., or were they bound as a matter of official duty to make any such arrangements?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). Arrangements for the sale of cloth for *Ahram* to pilgrims in the Pilgrims Camp were made by the Executive Officer of the Port Haj Committee, Karachi. Cloth was sold at controlled rates. The Hajj Officer arranged, in consultation with the Executive Officer of the Port Haj Committee, for the sale of sovereigns at market rates in the pilgrims camp. All this was done for the convenience of the pilgrims who were, of course, at liberty to buy them in the market if they so chose. While the officers of the Central Government are expected to do all they can for the convenience of Pilgrims they are unable to undertake to do everything for every pilgrim.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Is there any truth in the fact that this *Ahram* cloth and also the sovereigns were sold at black market rates and that the Haj officer is responsible for it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not aware of that. As far as I know, they were not.

GIVING HOPES OF GETTING SHIPPING ACCOMMODATION TO INTENDING HAJ PILGRIMS

1188. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether the Haj Officer or any other officer of the Central Government gave any intending pilgrims any hopes of getting accommodation in the ships and induced them to deposit money with the local Banks in that hope?

(b) Who was responsible for refunding any money so deposited by the pilgrims and for escorting the disappointed pilgrims to the Railway station and buy tickets for them?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to ascertain the truth or otherwise of many allegations made in the article referred to in (a) of starred question No. 1185 of date and to apportion the responsibility for any suffering or hardship to the Hajis proved by the investigation between the Karachi Port Haj Committee and the officers of the Central Government on duty at Karachi during the last Haj season? What steps, if any, do Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such complaints in future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) No. A number of intending pilgrims who were not entitled to passages but had come to Karachi in the vague hope of securing them, if some vacancies occurred, had themselves deposited money in a local bank.

(b) Haj Booking Officer and the Karachi Haj Committee respectively.

(c) Such specific complaints as have been brought to my notice have been investigated, or are being investigated. Suitable action will be taken wherever considered necessary. Government are however unable to take any action on general allegations of the kind mentioned. Enquiries made do not substantiate these allegations and Government are satisfied that both the Port Haj Committee and the Government Haj staff did their best, in the difficult circumstances of the year, to ensure the convenience and comfort of pilgrims. Government will also do their best to prevent the recurrence of such complaints in future.

UNSATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS AT KARACHI PILGRIMS CAMP

1189. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In view of the unsatisfactory nature of accommodation available for pilgrims in the Karachi Pilgrims Camp and especially of the highly insanitary and unhealthy condition of the said camp, and the extremely dirty and untidy look of the buildings and the compound which constitute the admitted features of the Karachi Pilgrims Camp, does the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations propose to sanction a sufficient grant for removing the existing defects and bringing the Karachi Pilgrims Camp up to the mark?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The question of improving the facilities available in the camp is under consideration.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Is it a fact that certain plans have been drawn up for improving this camp and rebuilding it, but that these plans are held up because of want of material?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Is it a fact that for the last three or four years, a sum of money was provided in the Budget for the construction of the pilgrim camp at Karachi but that the amount was not spent?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It may have been.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that a letter was written on his behalf to me in reply to my letter which was delivered to me only yesterday, in which it is mentioned that money is available, that the estimate has been made, but that the building cannot be erected on account of the unavailability of the materials. This is a letter written on his behalf.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Possibly it is so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Has the Honourable Member got no information about it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It may have escaped my memory.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: What is the report received by the Honourable Member himself about the conditions of the pilgrims camp at Karachi, whether the building is suitable enough to accommodate these pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That it is not ideal and satisfactory, I know.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Is the report to the effect that it is very unsatisfactory?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not think so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member ask his Secretary Mr. Banerjee or somebody else in his office and get a copy of the letter which he wrote to me on his behalf?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Thank you for the suggestion.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In view of the fact that a large number of pilgrims have to be accommodated and in view of the fact that the conditions of the camp were not at all satisfactory, will the Honourable Member take personal interest and see that the conditions are bettered. The usual excuse that materials are not available is not valid enough, because in Karachi itself, materials are available in great quantities as was disclosed in the speech the other day of my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar. I do not know why the Honourable Member's Department should not insist upon getting materials urgently for the construction of this camp?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will consider that suggestion.

INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES FOR GOVERNORS

1190. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether he has read the news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 25th February, 1945, under the heading "More Allowances for Governors";

(b) whether the above increase has been sanctioned; if so, when and by whom; and

(c) what will be the financial effect of the above order and how much it will cost the Indian Treasury?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) I have no information of a later date than the Reuter message to which the Honourable Member has referred.

(c) The financial effect will depend on the orders that may be passed by the Secretary of State. No part of the cost will fall on Central Revenues.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know if the Government of India have made any recommendation in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir, I am not aware.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know what is the increase suggested in the Governors' allowances?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Different Governors have suggested different figures.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Is it a fact that the figure is as high as 25 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not quite sure.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it left to the Governors themselves to suggest as to how much allowance they should get?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is the Governor General's allowance also increased?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: If this sum will not be a charge on Central Revenues, then who is going to foot the bill?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Provincial Governments.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will it affect the Chief Commissioners of Centrally Administered Areas also?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Chief Commissioners are not Governors.

CONCESSIONS TO COLLIERY WORKERS

1191. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the concessions altogether given to the colliery workers in wages, dearness allowances and prices of foodgrains? Have all colliery owners given the same concessions in their respective collieries?

(b) In case where such concessions were not granted, what steps did Government take against such employers?

(c) Is it a fact that earnings of mine labour-males and females have not increased during the period between December, 1943, and 1944? If it is not a fact, what is the increase?

(d) Is it a fact that constructional jobs tempt miners to give up mine labour? If so, what are the reasons therefor? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the difference in wages of mine labour and that of constructional jobs?

(e) Is it a fact that there is a difference between the time-rate of men and women workers in the coal fields both on the surface and underground works? Does the Honourable Member propose to take steps to equalise the rate?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) Wages have been increased by 50 per cent. above pre-war rates and in addition a bonus of 2, 3, or 5 annas is paid according to whether a worker is single, married or married with dependents. Half a seer of rice is given free for each daily attendance.

Besides the above, basic standard ration is available weekly at controlled rates.

Prior to the introduction of the above scheme, workers were given 6 seers of rice per rupee.

Ration Inspectors have been appointed to see that labourers get the rations to which they are entitled.

All mine owners in the Jharina area are reported to be giving the concessions; some owners in the Raniganj area have preferred to give the concessions existing prior to the revised rationing plan.

(b) There is no statutory compulsion, but it is found that owners do not deprive the workers of their legitimate rations.

(c) No increases have been given since those given in December, 1943.

(d) Constructional jobs on the surface attracted mine labour because the work was of a more congenial nature and the workers were given transport facilities.

The rates of wages at mines and on constructional works are at present about the same.

(e) Women working on the surface do not generally get same rates as men. Women working underground get same rates as men doing same work. It is not proposed to take any steps to equalise the rates for surface work.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask why there is this differentiation in the wages of men and women working on the surface?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Because, I think, the outturn is less.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNDERAGE CHILDREN IN COAL MINES

1192. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that children below fifteen are employed in coal mines in contravention of the Factory Act and the Mines Act? If so, what steps have been taken to stop it and punish those employers of children in mines and factories?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding medical arrangements in mines and factories? Are qualified doctors, compounders and well equipped dispensaries provided and maintained in each mine and factory owned by Government? Is it a fact that quinine and quinine substitutes were in acute shortage in these mines and factories?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The Factories Act does not apply to coal mines. Children below 15 years of age are not employed in mines. If mine owners are found employing children suitable action is taken against those responsible.

(b) As regards the first part of the question attention is invited to the last part of the reply given to starred question No. 937, on the 18th March, 1945. It will involve a considerable amount of time and labour to collect information about voluntary services rendered in all mines and factories throughout India. The question of making it obligatory on the part of mine-owners to maintain doctors on a prescribed scale is under consideration.

Government have provided doctors, compounders and well-equipped dispensaries in their mines and some factories; and labour employed in factories have also the benefits of Government staff and institutions generally.

There was a shortage of quinine in 1944 at all mines, but quinine substitutes were available. The information with regard to factories is not available, but adequate supplies were placed at the disposal of the Provincial Governments for distribution within their areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any children below ten years of age discovered working in mines? If so, how many?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I have no information as to numbers discovered. But my information is that they do not work in mines.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, since no record of births and age of children is kept in mining area how do the Government and employers find out the ages of children?

Mr. H. C. Prior: There are certifying surgeons, I think.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What machinery do the Government of India have in these mines in order to see that children below the age of ten years are not stealthily employed by mine owners?

Mr. H. C. Prior: We have Labour Welfare staff who are looking into these things in mines?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do you have Labour Welfare officer in each mine?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Not in each mine, but they tour round the various mines.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How often do they visit mines in a year?

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

HOUSING ARRANGEMENT FOR GOVERNMENT FACTORY WORKERS

1193. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what housing arrangement has been made by Government for the workers in their factories and depots spread over the country? Have they constructed barracks to accommodate all the workers employed up till the end of January, 1945? If not, what sort of accommodation have they been given? Does the Honourable Member propose to arrange for a visit to these factories and depots by the members of the Standing Labour Committee immediately after the session of this Legislature is over?

(b) Is it a fact that cooked food supply canteens have been set up by Government for supplying meals to the workers in the Government owned factories and depots? If so, how many are they in number and are the prices charged for meals commensurate with the wages the workers get? Are these canteens run departmentally or by contractors?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that private factories are running canteens at a loss on account of supplying cheap meals to workers? Do Government propose to subsidise the contractor to enable him to supply cheap meals to workers in Government factories?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The question of housing of workers is always given due consideration before deciding on the location of a Government factory or depot and the need for such consideration has recently been brought prominently to the notice of the authorities immediately concerned. As a rule, accommodation, whether of a temporary or permanent nature, is provided wherever necessary, particularly in the case of labour recruited from distant places. It is regretted that comprehensive details are not readily available.

By the Standing Labour Committee the Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Standing Committee of the Legislature attached to the Department of Labour. I do not think it is practicable for all the members of the Committee to visit the various factories in a body.

(b) Yes; in some factories and depots. There were 82 canteens supplying cooked food towards the close of 1944. No definite information is available in regard to prices but the rates are generally less than the market rates.

Some are run departmentally, some by Welfare Committees and others by Contractors or by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board.

(c) Yes; canteens in a few private factories supply cheap meals to the workers. Government consider that it is better to run cooked food canteens departmentally rather than through contractors. It has been decided in respect of canteens in Government undertakings run departmentally or by the workers, to provide rent-free accommodation and bear the capital charges on cooking utensils and furniture.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give details of the housing arrangements made by Government for workers in their factories anywhere in India, because in Bombay we find that Government have made no arrangements?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I look through the list before I came in and I think at Kamaria accommodation was available for 75 p.c. of the workers. That is one instance.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Is it a fact that workers in Government factories are encroaching on the accommodation available for the civilian population and making difficulties for them?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Workers in Government factories are part of the civilian population.

GOVERNMENT FACTORIES, ETC., AND WORKERS' UNIONS

1194. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of Government factories and depots under various Departments employing skilled and unskilled labour? Are the Workers' Unions recognised by Government in those undertakings for ventilating the grievances of workers? If so, what is the number of such Unions?

(b) Is it a fact that Government themselves are setting up nominal Unions or Workers' Welfare Committees as rivals to real Workers' Unions? If so, how many such Welfare Committees are functioning and where?

(c) Are these Welfare Committees formed by workers themselves or are nominated by Government? How often they meet and who generally preside over their meetings? Have action been taken on the grievances of the workers voiced in these meetings?

(d) What objections are there against allowing workers to form their own Unions? If there be no objections, do Government propose to lay down conditions limiting their number of membership and allowing them to be guided by outsiders from Trade Unions Bodies?

(e) Is it a fact that workers in the Government factories and depots are not allowed to get affiliation with Trade Unions Bodies? Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the question of recognition of these Unions affiliation with Trade Union Institutions which look after the welfare of the workers?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) There are about 875 Government factories and Depots excluding minor establishments like military farms and depots attached to them. salvage undertakings, canteen undertakings, etc. Government has recognised 69 unions of its employees.

(b) No.

(c) This question does not arise in view of the answer to (b). But I may make it clear that there are a number of welfare Committees consisting of elected representatives of workers and in some cases even presided by a workers' representative. The functions of these Committees do not encroach on the field of trade unions. These committees generally devote themselves to welfare matters and minor adjustments in working conditions, etc., at the departmental or factory level.

(d) There are no objections. On the other hand it is the policy of Government to encourage growth of trade unions: The Indian Trade Union Act, 1926 permits outsiders on the union-executive upto a maximum of half its strength.

(e) No; but Government servants who are subject to the provisions of the Government Servants Conduct Rules are precluded by those rules from participating in political activities or contributing to political funds.

The latter part of the question does not arise.

LABOUR WELFARE OFFICERS

1195. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the Government of India have been appointing Labour Welfare Officers or Labour Officers in all their factories and depots? If so, how many such officers under the two different designations have been appointed?

(b) What are their functions and qualifications required for those posts?

(c) Do local management accept the recommendation of the Labour Officers or Labour Welfare Officers regarding wages of workers when they consider their wages incommensurate with prices of essential foodstuff and consumers goods or lower in comparison with the wages of the workers in factories and depots owned by private industries?

(d) Are these appointments of Labour Officers or Labour Welfare Officers in Government factories and private company factories compulsory under the Defence of India Rules? If so, what is the criterion for such appointment?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) Yes, as far as possible, wherever they consider necessary.

There are 78 Civilian Labour Officers and 26 Labour Welfare Officers. Besides, there are some employment or establishment officers in some Railway workshops.

(b) I would invite attention to the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar's reply to Honourable Member's starred question No. 938 on 13th March 1945. The functions of the Civilian Labour Officers and Labour Welfare Officers in the factories and depots are the same as those in the mills and mines referred to in the said reply.

(c) Although the local authorities are not bound to accept all the recommendations of the Labour Officers in this regard, such recommendations are duly considered.

Compensation for increase in prices of essential commodities is afforded by the payment of dearness allowance and by way of supply of foodstuffs at concessional rates.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Do these labour officers receive any special training or pass any special test before they are appointed?

Mr. H. C. Prior: So far they have not done so, but we are now taking steps to see that they will.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member mentioned civilian welfare officers. Are there any military welfare officers also for labour?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I feel sure there are.

DISMISSALS OF TECHNICAL WORKERS AND NATIONAL SERVICE TRIBUNAL

†1196. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that employers dismiss technical workers of their own accord without referring the matter to the National Service Tribunal before dismissal and that the victim of such dismissal is not allowed to submit any explanation?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the function of the National Service Tribunal in these matters?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The relevant provisions are sub-section (3) and (3A) of Section 18 of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House. The proviso to sub-section (3) mentions instances in which the employer need not obtain permission

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

of the National Service Labour Tribunal before dismissing or discharging technical personnel, but in all such cases the manager or owner is required to give notice in writing to the Tribunal of the discharge or dismissal and the reasons therefor within 24 hours of the discharge or dismissal. Sub-section (3A) lays down the principle to guide the Tribunal in considering applications for discharge, dismissal, or release.

(b) The powers and functions of the Tribunal are given in Section 18 of the Ordinance.

EXAMINATION HELD IN LAHORE FOR LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

1197. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) If it is a fact that until 1943 the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College answered the examination papers of the Punjab University in Delhi and that since 1943 they have had to go to Lahore to do so;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, the reasons for the change;

(c) if it is a fact that the students who live a sheltered life in their hostels have to make their own arrangements for journey to Lahore and for boarding, lodging and conveyance during their stay there; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the great hardship caused to these students by this system especially to the vast number of them who are complete strangers to Lahore and have no friends there; and, if so, whether they propose to give their immediate attention to this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) This is not quite correct. I understand that until after the January examination of 1943, the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College had to go to Lahore for the examination of the Punjab University. The other examinations in 1943 and those of 1944 were held in Delhi. In 1945 (January) the examination was however again held in Lahore.

(b) Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House in due course.

(c) Prior to the change of place of the examination in 1943, the students made their own arrangements for the journey to Lahore and for boarding, lodging and conveyance during their stay there; but it is understood that for the examination held in January 1945, hostel accommodation was provided for the students by the authorities of the Punjab University.

(d) The Principal of the College has already taken up with the authorities of the Punjab University the question of holding the examination in Delhi instead of in Lahore in future.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if the report in the press is true that the students of this college are on strike or contemplate to go on strike? If so, what are the reasons for it?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have not seen the report and I have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: Who paid for their journey to Lahore in 1945?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of reinforcing the efforts that are being made by the Principal of this college to see that the Punjab University agrees to hold these examinations in Delhi?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think we have any *locus standi* to take action officially, but anything that can be done unofficially we will certainly do. We are very much in sympathy with the lady students of the college in this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So will the Honourable Member convey this question and his answer and also the supplementary questions and answers to the Punjab University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir, we will do that.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: In view of the fact, Sir, that there is urgent need for women doctors, to which even Lady Louis Mountbatten has drawn attention, will Government ensure that all the hardships under which

the students are labouring in this college are removed, so that girls are not discouraged from joining this college?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is not a Government college; it has its own separate governing body; but anything that we can do we will do.

COORDINATION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

1198. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if Government have any organization for the co-ordination of medical education according to the Alopatic system throughout India;

(b) if there is no such organization for similar co-ordination of education in Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine;

(c) if it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the systems of education in Ayurveda and Unani in the various Provinces; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing a central council of indigenous systems of medicine and a central institute of research for indigenous drugs?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Indian Medical Council prescribes minimum standards for higher qualifications in the modern scientific system of medicine in British India.

(b) There is no such organisation.

(c) The Government of India have no information.

(d) Research into the therapeutic value of indigenous drugs has been in progress for some years under the direction of Colonel Sir Ram Nath Chopra. Government do not consider it necessary to establish a uniform minimum standard of education in the indigenous systems of medicine as the question of reciprocal recognition of qualifications has not arisen.

I should like to add that a committee has been set up to draft an Indian supplement to the British Pharmacopoeia, and this committee will consider the inclusion of drugs used in the indigenous systems, in the light of the researches made under the direction of Sir Ram Nath Chopra.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any panel for post-war planning to study how far they can co-ordinate the efforts of researchers in Ayurveda and Unani in the provinces, and to what extent an all-India Council for Ayurveda and another for Unani can come to be established under the auspices of Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think we have examined that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government keep that under consideration?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will look into the possibility of that.

Lala Sham Lal: Are Government aware that the graduates of the Board of Indian Medicine in the U. P. who are eligible to be registered as medical practitioners in the U. P. are not allowed to be registered in other provinces?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I expect they can be registered in Bombay where there is a similar Act, but I think only three provinces have Acts of that kind.

LACK OF UNIFORMITY OF AWARDS FOR SANSKRIT TEACHING

1199. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that no uniform standards are maintained at various educational institutions in India for the teaching of Sanskrit;

(b) if the certificates of the various institutions teaching Sanskrit are not recognized by each other for purposes of admission of students in various classes; and

(c) if Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing some central organisation for the co-ordination of Sanskrit education?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information.

(c) No. The Central Government however will be prepared to consider any recommendation that the Central Advisory Board of Education may make in this behalf.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do Government exercise any control over Sanskrit education in the country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Central Government does not, at all.

REPRESENTATION TO SOULBARY COMMISSION

†1200. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether Government of India contemplate sending their representation to Ceylon before Soulbury Commission, which is now sitting in Colombo with regard to the position of Indians in Ceylon in the new Constitutional Scheme for Ceylon?

(b) Are Government aware that the Board of Ministers for Ceylon Government are of the opinion that the Indo-Ceylon question must be decided by the Soulbury Commission and not by Ceylon or Indian Governments by negotiations?

(c) What is the attitude of the Government of India as regards this settlement by the Commission?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

NEXT SESSION OF U.N.R.R.A. CONFERENCE

1201. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) if and when there will be a session of the U.N.R.R.A. conference or council during this year and if so, whether and by whom the Government of India will be represented;

(b) if the Government of India will consult the Legislative Assembly before appointing their delegation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Council of the U.N.R.R.A. appointed five Standing Technical Committees, one of which is for welfare, and that it is composed mostly of women delegates;

(d) whether the Government of India are represented on any of these and other Standing Committees, and, if so, by whom; and, if not, why not; and

(e) by what methods the Government of India propose to fulfil their share of responsibility in determining the policy of the U.N.R.R.A., considering the large contribution of 8 crores of rupees the Government intend to make to that organisation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). No definite date has been fixed for the next meeting of UNRRA Council. In the normal course, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Agent General for India in U. S. A., who is India's representative on the UNRRA Council, would attend.

(c) Yes, but it is not composed of a majority of women delegates.

(d) India is represented by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai on the Standing Technical Committee for Displaced Persons. No nomination has been made on other Committees as experts could not be spared.

(e) India is represented on the UNRRA Council which decides matters of policy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer of the Honourable Member to part (b) of the question—whether Government will consult the Legislative Assembly before appointing their delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It has already been appointed and I took the House into fullest confidence on the question of the various committees which are proposed and whether it will be possible for us to send representatives.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they permanent delegates on behalf of this Government, or is there any time limit for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is no time limit. The U. N. R. R. A. itself has no time limit in this matter.

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

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the Honourable Member has seen a letter about the U. N. R. R. A. which appeared in this morning's *Statesman*, and if so the reasons for that action and what the Government propose to do in the future?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I try to read the details of all the morning papers in the evening.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any time limit for these delegates, or are they life members?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No. If any such situation arises, Government will consider that question.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I read a few lines out of this letter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member puts a question based on this letter, there can be no objection.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: "I am puzzled about U. N. R. R. A. On February 15th, the Commerce Secretary stated in the Council of State that India did not want cash or food from UNRRA and would ask only for medical supplies, if required. . . ."

What is the Government's reply to that?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That does not arise out of this question. I was looking into the question of India's representation on the Standing Committees. But so far as that point is concerned, I fully explained that if such a situation arises in which it is necessary for us to get medical supplies, we will certainly do so.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Has the Government not approached the U.N.R.R.A. for supplementing the need of food and medicine which is acutely felt in many parts of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I shall require notice of that question. I shall have to consult the Food Department.

✓ TERMS FOR WOMEN DOCTORS IN CENTRAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

1202. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if men and women doctors are recruited on equal terms to the Central Medical and Health services; and, if not, why not; and what is the difference in the terms; if any;

(b) if there are women doctors on the staff of all Government General Hospitals in centrally administered areas;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether Government propose to appoint them in future in order to enable women doctors to have wider experience and to be of assistance to women patients in the General Hospitals; and

(d) whether any official or non-official organisations have sent recommendations to Government on the subjects referred to in this question, and, if so, what is the response of Government to them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Complete information regarding the terms of service of lady doctors employed in centrally administered areas is not readily available. A reply will be laid on the table of the House when information has been collected.

(b) There are women doctors on the staff of the hospitals at Ajmer and at Mercara and Virajpet in Coorg. In Delhi an Honorary Clinical Assistant attends the outpatient department at the Irwin Hospital and a lady doctor is employed as house surgeon. In Baluchistan there are four female hospitals in charge of lady doctors.

(c) The question of employing additional lady doctors will be considered.

(d) I am not aware of any such recommendation.

WOMEN DOCTORS IN CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WELFARE WORK

1203. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if there are women doctors in the Central Public Health Department to help to plan, organise and co-ordinate work for the welfare of women and children in the country;

(b) if any Department in the office of the D. G., I. M. S., is specifically charged with the welfare of women and children, and, if a medical woman is connected with it; and

(c) if any Department in the office of the D. G., I. M. S., or of the Public Health Commissioner is entrusted with the work of promoting and co-ordinating research in diseases of women and children?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No. There is, however, a maternity and child welfare section at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health which is concerned with education and research work in the field of maternity and child welfare. The Director General of the Indian Medical Service is the Vice-Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau of the Indian Red Cross Society which organises welfare work for women and children.

(b) No.

(c) No. The Indian Research Fund Association promotes research in diseases of women and children.

HYDARI MISSION

1204. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state with what specific object in view the Hydari Mission has been sent to England?

(b) What definite instruction, if any, has been given for the achievement of that purpose?

(c) Did Government in formulating the policy of Hydari Mission take into account the fact that any sudden withdrawal of war orders from the industry in India is bound to prejudicially affect the production of consumer goods in India?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to place before the House a full statement on the activities and achievements of the Hydari Mission?

(e) What specific commitments has the Mission made in England?

(f) How will the commitments affect internal production in India?

(g) Are they calculated to facilitate the import of consumers goods rather than the import of capital goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 303 on the 6th February 1945.

(c) As already stated in reply to other questions regarding Hydari Mission, in the House, it is not a "Policy Mission". The withdrawal of war orders from industry in India is not likely prejudicially to affect the indigenous production. It will only result in more indigenous capacity being released to meet the civil requirements.

(d) No, Sir. After receipt of the report of the Mission, however, Government will consider the question of acquainting the House with the broad results achieved.

(e) to (g). * Do not arise in view of reply to part (d).

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is it a fact that Government will only try to import second-hand goods and war-residue goods from England?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of 'war-residue' goods, but so far as second-hand clothings are concerned, the Gazette Notification of the 2nd of March, published on the 3rd, will show that anybody can import them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the statement of my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, yesterday in this House that India can absorb five times sixty-millions which Hydari Mission is bringing out.

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Have any instructions been given to the Mission for importing capital goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, this Mission has nothing to do with the capital goods. The question of capital goods is being examined in another department and we in the Commerce Department have issued a circular asking for the registration of all those capital goods which are required, and the Honourable Member for Planning and Development will take that into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any time limit?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Are we to understand that the Mission has been sent for the purpose of importing consumer goods only?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The main purpose of this Mission was to secure relief in India's war production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any time limit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is certainly some limit.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government acquainted this Mission about that limit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not a question of Government laying down any limit. It is of an exploratory character—we will try to find out what goods we have and what goods we need.

PREScribing SET FORM OF RECEIPT FOR RENT UNDER DELHI RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE

†1205. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal:** Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state:

(a) with reference to the answer to my starred question No. 625 of 20th November, 1944, regarding the form of receipt to be compulsorily granted by the landlords to the tenants under the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, 1944, if the matter has been examined by Government since then and, if so, what the result is;

(b) if Government are aware that a considerable number of landlords in Delhi does not grant any receipt to their tenants simply to avoid detection of the illegal exaction of the excessive amount far above the standard rent;

(c) if it is a fact that there is a controller of House Rent for New Delhi who looks to the question of house rent, whereas there is no such arrangement for old Delhi;

(d) if Government have any means of ascertaining in how many ways the landlords harass their tenants by asking them to vacate the holdings or increase the rents;

(e) if it is a fact that the landlords generally resort to the practice of stopping necessary repairs, whitewashing, cutting off water and electric connections and other objectionable treatment; and

(f) if it is a fact that the Delhi police have been instructed not to interfere in or record report about any dispute between the landlords and the tenants?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) Yes. Government consider that no useful purpose would be served by prescribing a standard form of receipt to be granted by landlords to the tenants.

(b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. But where water and electric connections are cut off by landlords, the tenants can be granted separate connections.

(f) A copy of the instructions issued to the Police on the subject is laid on the table of the House.

Instructions

Since the housing problem is very acute in Delhi and as rents have risen, house owners are anxious to turn out their old tenants who are not willing to pay enhanced rents. On the other hand as the tenants are unable to find other accommodation they refuse to vacate the premises occupied by them. The ejection of tenants through the Civil Courts, involves lengthy procedure and entails heavy expenses. To save themselves from these troubles owners try to use the criminal law in order to circumvent Civil claims and more or less resort to black mail. In such cases—

(a) If the complaint clearly shows the commission of an alleged cognizable offence, the case must be registered before any enquiry is made, and if the complaint is found to be false the complainant shall be prosecuted under section 182 or 211 I. P. C.

(b) If no cognizable offence appears to have been committed the complainant will be referred to the Magistrate.

(c) If the behaviour of the complainant or opponent shows the likelihood of imminent breach of peace, action under sections 151/107 Cr. P. C. shall be taken and arrested persons be produced immediately before the Ilaka Magistrate. When the complaint merely shows a dispute between the two contending parties, which is likely to occasion a breach of the peace, the police have no power to investigate any such complaints under section 107 Cr. P. C. In such cases the written complaint or a copy of the relevant Daily Dairy Entry must be forwarded to Ilaka Magistrate and the complaint shall be referred to the courts for suitable action.

The attention of the officers is drawn to Police Rule 23-32 by which complaints under section 107 Cr. P. C. are not to be endorsed for inquiry by the officer in charge of a police station unless it is anticipated that action under section 151 will be required.

W. D. ROBINSON,

Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi.

22A June 1944.

INFORMATION RE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN PRINTING PRESSES

†1206. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall**: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state with reference to the answer to my starred question No. 600, asked on the 20th November, 1944, if the Labour Investigation Committee has finished collecting general information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses and if they have taken into consideration the points suggested in that question?

Mr. H. C. Prior: The Labour Investigation Committee is still collecting information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses. The Committee will doubtless furnish all relevant information relating to printing press employees.

SUSPENSIONS IN DEPUTED STAFF BY CONTROLLER OF RATIONING DELHI

1207. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani**: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the deputed staff were suspended from service by the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, so far, and for what reasons;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the suspended staff was prohibited from leaving the Municipal Limits of Delhi; if so, under what authority;

(c) whether it is a fact that the suspensions of the deputed officials are being inflicted in spite of the protest of the parent offices that the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, is not authorised to impose such punishments; and

(d) whether it is a fact that even subsistence allowance was not paid to the suspended officials for months together?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Eleven for neglect of duty or misconduct.

(b) Yes. Officials under suspension are subject to the usual rules under which Government servants are not allowed to leave the station without permission.

(c) The local administration is the controlling authority for purposes of discipline in the case of all the Controller of Rationing's staff. The rest of the Honourable Member's question does not arise.

(d) No. Subsistence allowance was given under the rules in all cases of suspension.

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

PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IN DELHI RATIONING ORGANISATION

1208. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state (a) the number of persons given physical punishment in the Delhi Rationing Organisation;

(b) how many of the deputed staff were given promotion, and what the difference in their pay before and after promotion in each case is;

(c) how many outsiders were recruited for the higher appointments over the heads of qualified and experienced deputed staff who came under the three per cent scheme; and

(d) how many of those who were taken from outside as officers in the Rationing Organisation are Matriculates, Non-Matriculates and Graduates?

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

(b) Eighty-one have been promoted. I cannot undertake to give the details of every case of promotion but I can say that the increase in pay amounted to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 or even more in some cases.

(c) I am not sure what the Honourable Member means by the term "higher appointments". The claims of all deputed officials who show ability receive due attention when superior appointments in the Delhi Rationing Organisation are made.

(d) All except two of the Gazetted Officers of the Organization are matriculates or have some superior educational qualification.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the meaning of 'physical punishment' referred to in part (a) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know myself, but nobody has received this physical punishment.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that a case is pending in the Court against the Rationing officer for assaulting a deputed official?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member please enquire into it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: All right, I will make further enquiries into the matter.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know what is the number of deputed officials who have been given promotion?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered this question—81 have been promoted.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Are they all deputed officials?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. This is in answer to part (b) of his question where he has said 'How many of the deputed staff were given promotion' and I have said 'Eighty-one have been promoted'.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

REVERTING DEPUTED STAFF IN DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

1209. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Does the Honourable the Food Member propose to consider the case of the reversion of the officials deputed to the Delhi Rationing Office who are willing to go back to their parent office?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir., I regret that I cannot relieve them at present.

RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, DELHI RATIONING AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

1210. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present Administrative Officer, Delhi Rationing and Civil Supplies, has submitted his resignation? If so, do Government propose to consider the appointment of experienced and capable

officers of the Government of India Secretariat having special knowledge of administration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. The Officer concerned, who belongs to the Punjab Civil Service has applied for permission to resign from Government Service but so long as his resignation is not accepted, the question of finding a substitute does not arise.

NON-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH GRADE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

1211. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which non-official representatives have been selected by the Government of India to serve on the committee to consider the establishment of high grade technological institute in India;

(b) whether a representation was received from the Institution of Engineers (India) for a seat on the committee, and, if so, why no representative from this Institution has been nominated on the Committee;

(c) whether the Government of India now propose to consider calling for a representative from the Institution of Engineers (India); and

(d) whether no Principals of University Engineering Colleges in India have been selected to serve on the committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Non-official members of the Committee have been appointed in their personal capacity and not as representatives of any bodies or organisations. The desirability of seeing that the main interests concerned, *vis.*, Business, Technical Institutions and Applied Scientists, are represented has been kept in view.

(b) and (c). Yes. In view of (a) it is not possible to nominate a representative of the Institution of Engineers (India) Mr. C. E. Preston, Vice-Chairman of the Institution, is, however, a member.

(d) No. but there are three members who are or have been Principals of Technical Institutions of College Status; The Principal, Delhi polytechnic; the Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur (at present on deputation with Director General, Munitions Production Calcutta); and the Principal, Osmania Technical College, Hyderabad (Dn.). The Head of the University Department of Chemical Technology at the Bombay University is also a member.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, ETC.

1212. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hagde: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) whether (i) the Indian Red Cross Society, (ii) the Countess of Dufferin Fund, (iii) the Lady Chelmsford League, and (iv) the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund receive financial aid in any form from the Government of India; if so, the amount each of them receive annually;

(b) whether there are any other organisations doing similar work receiving financial aid; if so, which they are, and how much each of them receive annually from the Government of India;

(c) if and how Government exercise any control or supervision over the policy and work of these organisations;

(d) whether Government are aware that the organisations enumerated in (a) above are showing racial discrimination in their activities; if so, what steps are being taken to prevent racial discrimination;

(e) the percentage of Indians among the office bearers of the respective organisations enumerated in (a) above; and

(f) which of the officers in those organisations are retired Government servants drawing pensions?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Indian Red Cross Society and the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund receive no financial aid from the Government of India. The Red Cross Society's Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau, which administers the Lady Chelmsford League Fund, receives an annual grant-in-aid of Rs. 6,000 from the Government for the Lady Reading Health School, Delhi, which trains

Health Visitors for Maternity and Child Welfare Services. The Countess of Dufferin's Fund receives a grant of Rs. 3,79,000 per year from the Government of India for maintaining the Woman's Medical Service.

(b), (e) and (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The Indian Red Cross Society with which are associated the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Lady Chelmsford League Fund is a nonofficial organisation and not under Government control. The Public Health Commissioner is, however, the Chairman of the Committee of the Lady Reading Health School for which a grant-in-aid is made by Government. As regards the Countess of Dufferin's Fund the Government exercises no direct control but the executive committee includes a number of Government officials.

(d) Government are not aware of any accusation of racial discrimination in the activities of these Associations.

CROP FAILURE IN BIJAPUR DISTRICT

1213. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in Bijapur District (Bombay Presidency) the crop has failed owing to the failure of rain and other seasonal factors this year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure distribution of foodgrains in urban and rural areas;

(c) whether the procurement policy in this district is depleting the little grain stocks which the cultivators keep for their consumption; and

(d) whether the Bombay Government have been asked not to procure the stocks from cultivators in case they are short of their own requirements?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The crop has not failed.

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

(c) No, Sir.

AUTHORISED FIRMS DEALING IN SALT IN BIHAR

1214. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the authorised firms dealing in salt in the districts of Bihar;

(b) the quantity of salt supplied to each district of Bihar;

(c) if he is aware that the old and established salt dealers have not been given preference over one who never dealt in the said commodity in some of the districts;

(d) if he is aware that monopolies in salt trading have been given in some of the districts causing harassment and difficulty to the consumers and giving an impetus to the black marketing; and

(e) keeping in view the interest of the consumers, whether he proposes to abolish the monopoly; if not, why not?

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

BRIBERY COMPLAINTS AGAINST BOMBAY INSPECTORS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES

1215. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether any complaint of bribery against the Inspectors of Civil Supplies was received by the Controller of Civil Supplies in the City of Bombay;

(b) whether a departmental enquiry was made and the case was proved against one;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Inspector has subsequently resigned; and

(d) whether any action was taken against him, if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There was no specific complaint of bribery against any of the Inspectors of Civil Supplies of the Central Government in the city of Bombay, but the Controller General of Civil Supplies came to know that one of the Inspectors was not quite straight.

(b) No Departmental enquiry was made as there was no specific complaint.

(c) Yes.

(d) As the Inspector resigned there was no case for taking any action against him. There was no charge which could be proved against him so as to justify the institution of criminal proceedings.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN CIVIL PIONEER FORCE

1216. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of commissioned officers with rank in the Civil Pioneer Force of each Province; and

(b) how many of these commissioned officers are Hindus, Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians, etc.?

Mr. H. O. Prior: I lay on the table of the House two statements giving: (a) the total number by ranks and Provinces of commissioned officers on the strength of the Civil Pioneer Force, and (b) the distribution by communities of commissioned officers of the Civil Pioneer Force.

Statement I.

Statement showing (a) the total number by ranks and Provinces of commissioned officers on the strength of the Civil Pioneer Force, and (b) the month and year they were appointed to commissioned rank.

	Bengal.	Bihar.	Bombay.	C. P. & Berar.	Madras.	N. W. F. P.	Oriassa.	Punjab.	U.P.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(a) Rank :									
Commandant									
Grade I	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Grade II	9	2	1	2	4	1	2	..	2
Captain	11	3	2	2	6	2	3	3	3
Lieutenant	51	9	6	9	26	7	6	8	10
2nd Lieutenant	48	11	6	14	25	10	15	14	14
Total appointed	121	25	15	27	62	20	26	25	29

(b) Appointed to Commissioned Rank :

1942—

May	7	1	..	..	7	..	..	..	..
June	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1
July	3	6	5	4	..	4	..	4	3
August	3	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	4
September	5	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..
October	1	..	..	..	..	4	9	..	..
November	5	..	6	..	2	..	..	..	1
December	8	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..

1943—

January	3	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	1
February	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..
March	7	..	..	1	2	1	..	4	..
April	4	..	..	..	2	4	2	3	..
May	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
June	7	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	2
July	6	1	..	3	..	..	..	1	1
August	10	3	..	2	2	..	4	3	..
September	8	..	1	..	2	3	..	3	1
October	6	..	..	..	7	..	3	1	..
November	1	1	..	1	1	..	3	..	2
December	8	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1944—									
January				2	1				3
February									
March	2	2			3		1		
April					3	1			1
May					1				
June			1		1				
July	22	4		1					
August	1	1		3			1		3
September					5	1			
October					1	1			
November		1			1				
December					4			1	
1945—									
January	1								
February			1	1	4			1	
Total	121	25	15	27	62	20	26	25	29

Statement II.

Statement showing distribution by communities of commissioned officers of the Civil Pioneer Force.

Provinces.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Scheduled Castes.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Anglo Indians.	Others.	Total.
Bengal		62	18				41	121
Bihar	17	4	3		1			25
Bombay	8	1	3		1	1	1	15
C. P. and Berar	14	5	4	1	2	1		27
Madras	32	5	11		11	2	1	62
N. W. F. P.		19		1				20
Orissa	20	2			3	1		26
Punjab	4	12	2	6	1			25
U. P.	14	5	5		3	1	1	29

CANDIDATES RECRUITED FROM CERTAIN TECHNICAL RECRUITING CENTRES

1217. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates so far recruited for technical training from the Technical Recruiting Centres of Allahabad, Lucknow and Meerut and how many of them are Hindus, Muslims and Scheduled Castes; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in the matter of selection the candidates of higher castes are always given preference to Scheduled Caste candidates?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) The information is not readily available as recruitment is through different agencies and statistics are not kept on the basis of community.

(b) No. On the contrary, every effort is made to encourage the recruitment of Scheduled Caste trainees under the Technical Training Scheme. Every British subject or subject of an Indian State, irrespective of caste, creed or community, can join provided he fulfills the prescribed qualifications for admission.

SEPARATE SURAHIES FOR SCHEDULED CASTE CLERKS IN CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1218. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware of the fact that in the Central Public Works Department scheduled caste clerks are not allowed to take drinking water from the *surahies* provided by Government for this purpose?

(b) If so, will Government also provide separate *surahies* for the scheduled caste clerks?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) and (b). Scheduled Caste Clerks in the Central Public Works Department are not prevented from taking water from the *surahies* provided by Government for the purpose. Steps are however being taken to provide separate *surahies* for these clerks.

NEXT SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

1219. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if the Indian Delegations reported to the International Labour Conference at Philadelphia in 1944, that the Government of India had made a unilateral abrogation of an International convention by withdrawing ban on the employment of women for underground work in mines; and, if so, what the result was;

(b) if Government have arrived at any conclusions on the declarations of that Conference with or without consulting the representatives of labour;

(c) whether Government propose to place their conclusions before the Legislative Assembly before they come to final decisions; and, if not, why not;

(d) when and where the next session of the International Labour Conference will be held, and if Government propose to send a full delegation of three sections to it;

(e) if Government have received the agenda for that session; and, if so, what the items are; and

(f) if according to the constitution of the International Labour Organisation there will be women on the delegations from India?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) No, but the matter was separately reported to the International Labour Office giving reasons (already known to the House) for the temporary abrogation of the prohibition of the employment of women underground in coal mines.

(b) Not yet. They will be prepared to consider any suggestions made by representatives of labour.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) and (e). No formal intimation has been received in the matter. The question of delegation will be considered at a later stage.

(f) That is a matter for the Labour Organizations to consider.

LIENS OF GOVERNMENT QUARTER TENANTS CHANGING FROM ORTHODOX TO UN-ORTHODOX STYLE AND VICE VERSA

1220. *Bhai Parma Nand: With reference to replies to starred questions Nos. 662 and 663, asked on the 5th March, 1945, regarding the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware that under the existing rules of allotment of quarters, if a Government servant living in an orthodox quarter applies for an unorthodox quarter, he is ousted from his orthodox quarter and remains without any quarter for a number of years till he is allotted an unorthodox quarter;

(b) if the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, whether on the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters, such a Government servant will continue to retain his orthodox quarter till he is allotted an unorthodox quarter; if not, why not; and

(c) whether a Government servant living in an orthodox quarter who has become out of class and applies for an unorthodox quarter of a higher type, will be allotted an orthodox quarter of a higher type or allowed to retain his present orthodox quarter till an unorthodox quarter of the higher type to which he is entitled is allotted to him; if not, why not?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) It is understood that the Honourable Member refers to the pre-existing rules. Under those rules a Government servant if he elected to apply for an Unorthodox quarter, became by such election ineligible for an orthodox quarter.

(b) A Government servant in such circumstances can retain his orthodox quarter but he will not be allotted an unorthodox quarter in the same class as a change of accommodation is not permitted till he becomes eligible for a higher class.

(c) The Government servant in such circumstances will retain his 'Orthodox' or 'Unorthodox' quarter till he is allotted a higher class of 'Orthodox' or 'Unorthodox' quarter whichever is available.

POSITION *RE* RATIONING, ETC., IN VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT

1221. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in Vizagapatam District in regard to, (i) daily rations granted per adult in towns and rural areas, (ii) the date from which rural people are also granted 40 tolas (one lb.) per adult as in the case of urban people, and (iii) the prevalence and incidence of diseases, especially the new disease of boils and akin affliction;

(b) the provision of additional medical assistance;

(c) the importation of rice from Central Provinces and other areas into this deficit area;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to introduce compulsory rural rationing; if so, when it is expected to be achieved; and

(e) whether there are any non-official medical agencies—Allopathy or Ayurvedic—serving the local sufferers and what assistance is being given to them by Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The size of the ration in the towns is just over 1 lb.. Rationing has not yet been introduced in the rural areas.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) I am informed that there is no marked increase in the incidence of any disease and mortality from June 1944 to date is only slightly above average.

(b) Additional medical assistance has been provided in the shape of medical relief centres mobile units, additional doctors, free kitchens and free distribution of clothing to destitutes.

(c) In the last $4\frac{1}{2}$ months, 51,000 tons of rice have been imported into the district.

(d) Informal rationing in rural areas in four taluks will be introduced shortly and extended to all other taluks within 2 or 3 months.

(e) Yes. The information regarding the assistance given to them by the Government is being obtained.

CONDITIONS OF PEASANTS UNDER *Istimrardars* OF AJMER-MERWARA

1222. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that an enquiry was made in 1932 about the conditions of peasants under the *Istimrardars* of Ajmer-Merwara and that Mr. Irwin retired I.C.S., was also asked to make further enquiries;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether those reports were published; if not, whether Government will publish at least their recommendations, and what action was taken by Government thereon;

(c) why the settlement operations were stopped;

(d) if it is not a fact that the condition of peasants has grown worse during this war; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of completing the settlement operations in the *Istimrardar* area in the same way as is going on in the *Khalasa* area?

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

(b) No; it is not proposed to publish the report.

(c) Settlement operations were stopped in the *Istimrardar* Area at a stage where they could go no further without legislation. Owing to War conditions it was decided not to undertake at present the lengthy legislation required.

(d) No.

(e) Government will introduce legislation when conditions permit.

REPRESENTATION ON RELEASING CLOTH FOR TURBAN OF SIKHS

1223. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if Sat Sang Committee Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, New Delhi, approached the Textiles Commissioner for the release of 10,000 yards of muslin cloth for distribution of turbans to Sikhs?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Textiles Commissioner in his letter No. CBX-III-S/82, dated the 20th July, 1944, directed the Sat Sang Committee to approach the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, for procuring it from the existing stock holders?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Director of Civil Supplies did not acknowledge any of the representations from the above Committee since August, 1944?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that Sikhs are experiencing a lot of trouble in getting fine counts of muslin necessary for turbans which forms an essential part of their dress?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No. We have had no recent representations.

MERGING OF VICEREGAL ESTATE OFFICE INTO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1224. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the date on which the establishment of the office of the Viceregal Estates has merged into the establishment of the Central Public Works Department and the staff has become inter-transferable?

(b) How many officials of the Viceregal Estate Office have so far been transferred to the Central Public Works Department and what pay and allowances were given to each of them on this transfer to the Central Public Works Department in lieu of the privilege of free use of house, electricity and water while working in the Viceregal Estate?

(c) Has there been any case or cases where an official has been deprived of the concessions and no compensation has been paid to him? If so, what is their number?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) 14th July 1936.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

The number of officials so far transferred from the Viceregal Estates to the Central Public Works Department is seven, their names are:—

1. Mr. Hussain Ali—Sanitary Overseer.
2. Mr. Shiv Saran Das—Building Supervisor
3. Mr. Bans Gopal Mathur—Building Supervisor.
4. Mr. B. C. Banerjee—Building Supervisor
5. Mr. Mohan Lal—Draftsman.
6. Madho Narain—Estimator.
7. Mr. P. N. Chatterjee—Subordinate.

On transfer from the Viceregal Estates, these officials had to forego the special concessions which they previously enjoyed and no compensation for the loss of those concessions was paid to them. They were however, allowed to continue on the rates of pay that were admissible to them while employed in the Viceregal Estates.

ALLOWANCES TO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STAFF IN SIMLA

1225. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether any winter allowance, kit allowance and house rent allowance are admissible and granted to the staff of the Central Public Works Department employed permanently or on deputation at Simla? If not, what is the exact procedure for the grant of these allowances to the staff?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (1) Winter allowance is being drawn by—(a) new entrants on the superior and inferior establishment of the Simla Central (C. P. W. D.) Division; and (b) by the staff of the Central Public Works Department employed on Rent Control work in Simla.

(2) All inferior servants of the Central Public Works Department in Simla (other than sweepers and *bhistis*), who are not allotted rent-free quarters, draw house rent allowance.

(3) The ministerial and inferior servants of the Viceregal Estates Division in Simla are entitled to kit allowance and also to house rent, compensatory and winter allowances in accordance with the provisions of the Simla Allowances Code.

(4) The only persons on deputation to the Central Public Works Department are Divisional Accountants who are borne on the cadre of the Accountant General, Central Revenues. When posted at Simla they are entitled to a compensatory allowance of 30 per cent. of pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 25 and a maximum of Rs. 75 p. m.

(5) The latter part of the question does not arise.

REPAIRS TO NEW DELHI ROADS

1226. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if there is any staff of the Central Public Works Department to look after the repairs to the Roads in New Delhi particularly the service roads? If so, is he aware that most of the newly constructed roads and service roads though recently constructed and annually repaired, are in a hopelessly bad condition and it is difficult to pass through these?

(b) What steps does he propose to take to ensure proper upkeep of all the roads in the Imperial town?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The reply to the first half of the question is in the affirmative. The reply to the second half is in the negative but I am aware of the fact that on account of the great increase in traffic under war conditions and shortage of materials the condition of the New Delhi Municipal Roads has deteriorated considerably.

(b) With the recent improvement in the supply position a programme of repairs and repainting of the municipal roads in New Delhi has been taken in hand this year. It is proposed to continue this programme in future years so that the Municipal Roads may be restored to their normal condition.

LIENS OF GOVERNMENT QUARTER TENANTS CHANGING FROM ORTHODOX TO UNORTHODOX STYLE AND VICE VERSA

1227. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 663 on the 5th March, 1945, will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if under the new revised rules a tenant of orthodox quarter would be ousted from his quarter in case he declares and applies for an unorthodox type of quarter whether by having become out of class or while within the class? If so, why does he propose to see the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters does not operate harshly in their case by allowing them to continue in their orthodox quarters?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of Bhai Parma Nand's Question No. 1220

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO DELHI SCHOOL TEACHERS

1228. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, has issued instructions to the various schools of Delhi, laying down that teachers should be granted dearness allowance at the rates admissible to Central Government servants; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of this, various schools have not granted such dearness allowance to teachers; if so, the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

1229. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education Health and Lands please state the number of temporary and permanent appointments, community-wise, made during the year ending 1st January, 1945, in the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi?

(b) Does he propose to consider the desirability of appointing some Sikhs permanently so as to make up the deficiency of their representation? If not, why not?

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

(b) Nine posts out of 225 gazetted and superior non-gazetted posts are held by Sikhs.

Statement showing the number of appointments made during the year ending the 31st December 1944 at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

GAZETTED POSTS.

Number of appointments made—

(A) Class I.

Permanent—Nil.

Temporary—1 Hindu.

Total—1.

(B) Class II.

Permanent—1 Muslim.

Temporary—1 Hindu and 3 Muslims

Total 5.

NON-GAZETTED POSTS.

Permanent—

1 Hindu.

1 Muslim.

1 Sikh.

Total 3

Temporary—

70 Hindus.

26 Muslims.

10 Sikhs.

5 Indian Christians.

2 Scheduled Castes.

Total 113.

NON-REGISTRATION OF NEW FIRMS FOR SUPPLY OF POWDER CONDIMENT

1230. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that the Chief Director of Purchase ordered* in August, 1943, that no new firms shall be registered for the supply of powder condiment? If so, why?

(b) How many firms which applied were refused registration as a result of the above order?

(c) How many new applications were received for registration of the above item, after the order? How many of them were refused consideration and which of them were considered, inspected and registered?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No such orders were issued by the Chief Director of Purchase who was at that time designated as Deputy Director General (Purchase).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

NASARPUR FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORY

1231. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state when the Nasarpur Fruit Preserving Factory came into existence and when it began to function?

(b) What was the cost of the factory and what is the annual expenditure incurred in running the factory including all kinds of establishment?

(c) How much of the goods were prepared since the factory began to work, how much of them were declared fit for military consumption, how much of them were declared unfit and what is the market value of the goods declared unfit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Nasarpur Factory was completed and started to work in September, 1944.

(b) The cost of the factory was Rs. 9,34,617 which was borne by Government. The running costs are not known, as they are borne by the contractor who operates the factory on a fixed price contract for the final product.

(c) 82 tons and 820 lbs. were produced, of which 10 tons and 100 lbs. were accepted for military consumption, and the balance valued at Rs. 1,62,000 was rejected.

NASARPUR FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORY

1232. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazi-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if the Nasarpur Factory is being proposed to be transferred to the civil authorities? If so, when, and on what terms?

(b) Are the goods declared unfit for military use being sold in the market for the use of the civil public? If so, are the goods unfit for the use of the military personnel considered fit for human consumption? If so, how?

(c) Who is responsible for the loss sustained by Government in preparing goods that are not suitable for human consumption? Will an enquiry be made? If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The matter is under consideration. No definite terms have so far been settled.

(b) Yes. The canned fruit, are sound and fit for consumption, but some did not satisfy the Army specifications which have regard to the special conditions for which they are required.

(c) The contractor is responsible for the rejected goods and will bear the loss if any. No enquiry is therefore necessary and no question of fixing responsibility arises.

NEW DELHI GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS PRACTICE RE ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO EMPLOYEES

1233. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that for purposes of allotment of Government quarters, the employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have been classified into two categories and that quarters are allotted to the men belonging to one particular category irrespective of the fact that some men belonging to the other category may be senior to some men included in the former category?

(b) If the position is as stated above, is it a fact that the practice followed in allotting Government quarters to the employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, differs from the general rules of allotment of Government accommodation in New Delhi? If so, will Government please state the reasons for such difference?

(c) If the facts are as stated above in (a) and (b), do Government propose to see that the practice under which certain junior men in the Government of India Press are allotted Government quarters in preference to those who are senior, is discontinued and the general rules of allotment applied to all?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) No, except in the case of duffry class quarters.

(b) The differences in the rules for the allotment of Press quarters and the rules for the allotment of quarters in the general pool are (i) that the Duffry type Press quarters are apportioned into two categories, and (ii) that in the case of Press quarters seniority for allotment is determined by the amount of emoluments of the applicant in each class, while in the case of general pool quarters, it is based on the date of posting to New Delhi or Simla. Difference (i) is due to the fact that accommodation has to be provided separately for superior and inferior Press employees who are entitled to the same class of quarters but this is not the case in respect of general pool quarters which are allotted to inferior servants only, (ii) is due to the different conditions of service of the Press employees and of other Central Government servants.

(c) For the reasons stated in reply to part (b), Government do not propose to alter the existing procedure.

ELECTRIC CONNECTION APPLICATIONS FROM WESTERN EXTENSION AREA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

1234. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please lay on the table of the House a statement showing:

(i) the number of applications received for electric connection in private houses in the Western Extension Area, Karol Bagh, Delhi, during the period from 1st March, 1941, to 1st March, 1945,

(ii) The number of applications which have been sanctioned during the same period and the grounds on which such sanctions were based;

(iii) the number of applications which have been rejected and the reasons for such rejection; and

(iv) the number of applications still under consideration?

Mr. H. C. Prior: The information is being collected, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

REFUSAL OF ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

1235. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that electric connections have not been sanctioned in the case of many private houses in Delhi although they are fully equipped with internal electrical installations? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the absence of electric connection and kerosene oil being in short supply, a considerable number of the residents of Delhi is being subjected to serious hardship in so far as their domestic, cultural, social and religious requirements are concerned? If so, do Government propose to take suitable steps to alleviate such hardship by authorizing electric connection in houses which are already fitted with electric installations?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of making suitable arrangements for the supply of sufficient quantity of kerosene oil for the benefit of persons residing in houses not provided with electric installations?

Mr. H. C. Prior: The matter is being looked into.

RATIONING OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

1236. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have recently promulgated an ordinance restricting the supply of electric energy to public houses? If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing the system of rationing the supply of electricity in Delhi and New Delhi so that the energy saved may be utilized for sanctioning electric connections to private houses which are already fitted with electric installations?

(b) Are Government aware that a class of people in Delhi are in the habit of consuming electricity on a lavish scale? If so, do Government propose to take suitable steps to prevent such wastage?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) Government are not aware of this fact. The latter portion of this part of the question does not arise.

(b) Government have no such information but the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has issued instructions prohibiting the use of electrical energy for non-essential purposes.

LACK OF STREET LIGHTING IN WESTERN EXTENSION AREA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

1237. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that although all public roads in the Western Extension Area, Karol Bagh, Delhi, are provided with electric lamp posts and wiring, electric connection has not been given, with the result that serious hardship and inconvenience are being caused to the residents of the locality and those who have to use the roads either on foot or otherwise?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the absence of lighting arrangements on these roads there have been several cases of accidents in the past, causing bodily injuries?

(c) Are Government aware that due to the absence of lighting arrangements in the locality there have been numerous cases of thefts and burglaries in the past?

(d) Are Government aware that the two main arteries leading up to and passing through the locality, viz., the Karol Bagh Road and the main road leading to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, commonly known as the Pusa Road, were not provided with lights, that only less than a dozen lamps were provided on the Karol Bagh Road two days before the Legislative Assembly was due to meet this season and that no light has yet been provided on the Pusa Road?

(e) Do Government propose to take steps with a view to ensuring that the local authority concerned provides electric connection and lamps for lighting the roads?

Mr. H. O. Prior: Government have no information but are enquiring into the matter.

PERMITS ISSUED IN DELHI TO CONSUMERS OF CLOTH, ETC.

1288. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing (i) the total number of permits issued in Delhi to consumers of cloth, bicycles and watches, and (ii) the number of permits issued in favour of each dealer of these articles in Delhi in February, 1945?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, 1, Rajpur Road, Delhi, has issued such permits to his favourite dealers whereas the rest of the dealers in these goods are going without any business?

(c) Do Government propose to see that such permits are issued in favour of all dealers and stockists of the same goods equally?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of reserving the right of the permit holder to purchase his requirements from any stockists or dealers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) 3,916 Permits were issued for imported woollen cloth, 371 for bicycles and 844 for watches. Permits are not necessary for any other type of cloth.

(ii) Information regarding the dealers in favour of whom these Permits were issued is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) No.

(c) No. Stocks with dealers vary both as to quantity and quality. Permits must necessarily be issued with reference to these considerations, and subject to that, no discrimination is shown as between dealers. Moreover, applicants are allowed, as far as possible, to select their own dealers.

(d) The question does not arise as the permit holder is already given the choice to purchase from any stockist or dealer subject to stocks being available with such stockist or dealer.

INADEQUACY OF FUEL SHOPS IN TIMARPUR DELHI

1239. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there are only two fuel shops, close to one another, at Government quarters, Timarpur, Delhi; one exclusively meant for supplying weekly quota of fuel to ration-card holders and the other partly for Government servants holding 'coupons on concessional rates';

(b) if it is a fact that Government servants residing in Timarpur locality with weekly ration cards have not the option of obtaining their quota of fuel from any of the shops at flat rates and that they are restricted to one particular shop;

(c) if so, why this option is denied to them and restrictions are imposed to obtain their quota from one particular shop;

(d) if Government are further aware of the fact that the former shop having monopoly is openly overcharging the price—as for example for charcoal it is charging annas -/2/- extra per maund, i.e., Rs. 4/6/6 per maund as compared with next-door shop which charges Rs. 4/4/6 per maund (3rd week of February);

(e) if it is a fact that the first named shop is periodically visited by officials of Rationing Department and no action has been taken against the proprietor for overcharging; and

(f) if the replies to (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to break the monopoly of this shop and afford facilities to the residents of Timarpur Government quarters to obtain their quota of fuel from any of the shops and have the same rates fixed for both the shops? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is a fact that in Timarpur there are two fuel shops one of which is a shop meant exclusively for Central Government servants.

(b) Government servants other than Central Government servants have the option of registering their ration cards at any fuel shops but the Timarpur Shop is the only one in the immediate neighbourhood.

(c) The option of registering their cards is not denied to them and they can register at other shops. The transfer of cards is permitted by the Circle Rationing Officers.

(d) On account of the shortage and irregularity of arrival, supplies of fuel rations for shops (other than Central Government Servants' Shops) had to be issued on a weekly basis and as this involved extra cartage, the shop at Timarpur including three others situated at a great distance from the Depots (namely Jangpura, Kew Point, and Nizamuddin) was permitted to add an extra charge for cartage to the selling price. This permission, it is understood, is being withdrawn by the Delhi Administration as supplies can be made less frequently avoiding the extra cartage.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of the answers above.

DESIRABILITY OF MONTHLY RATIONING SYSTEM IN DELHI

1240. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the difficulty which he apprehends in permitting monthly ration supply system introduced in Delhi Province like Lahore where monthly ration system is in operation and is working satisfactorily?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The experiment has been tried in Lahore which is in a surplus area but has not proved popular. Delhi is a deficit area dependent on the movement of supplies from the Punjab. A monthly ration system in a deficit area requires the carrying of larger reserves and larger stocks by the retailers and wholesalers and this Delhi is not yet in a position to accept.

LOW PAY TO TRAINED GRADUATES IN HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DELHI

1241. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that trained graduates in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi cannot become Principals of Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi; and

(b) if it is a fact that the grade of a Principal rises up to Rs. 400 per mensem while that of an old trained graduate teacher rises only up to Rs. 200; if so, the reason for such a great disparity in pay?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: With your permission, Sir, I will answer starred questions Nos. 1241, 1242 and 1243 together.

Necessary information has been called for from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE TEACHERS IN DELHI SCHOOLS

†1242. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, had given an assurance that residents of Delhi have got a priority over others in being appointed as teachers in schools in Delhi; and

(b) if it is a fact that in spite of such an assurance people of other provinces have been appointed, if so, the reason therefor?

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN NON-TRAINED M.A.s IN DELHI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

†1243. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that provision for recognizing untrained Masters of Arts with three years' teaching experience in a College as teacher for Higher Secondary Department in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi Province was made to provide employment to the retrenched staff from constituent Colleges of Delhi University owing to the introduction of the three-year Degree course there; and

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1241.

(b) if it is a fact that several other non-trained Masters of Arts have been taken in Higher Secondary Schools; if so, how many such teachers have been taken, and to which School they are attached?

FRESH INSTRUCTIONS *RE* MUSLIM RATIO TO OFFICERS UNDER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS DEPARTMENT

1244. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether he has issued fresh instructions to officers under him to observe ratio of Muslims in all new services:

(i) under the Forest Department as mentioned on page.24 of the Budget for 1945-46;

(ii) under the Education, Health and Lands Department as shown on page 54 of the Budget for 1945-46;

(iii) under Survey of India as shown on page 98 of the Budget for 1945-46—say two Superintendents and one Assistant Superintendent, six other Gazetted Officers, twenty additional establishment;

(iv) in the Geological Survey of India as shown on page 105 of the Budget for 1945-46 as well as in services under the expansion scheme of the Department as approved by the Standing Finance Committee on the 2nd February, 1945;

(v) in the Medical Department as shown on page 119 of the Budget for 1945-46;

(vi) under Public Health as shown on page 124 of the Budget Estimate for 1945-46;

(vii) under Agriculture Department as shown on page 130 and also in the Locust Warning Organisation;

(viii) under Agricultural Marketing as shown on page 135;

(ix) in Civil Veterinary Services as shown on page 139 as well as in services for post-war planning and development at Izatnagar Institute; and

(x) under Imperial Dairy Department as shown on page 167 as well as in services for the expansion of Imperial Dairy Department in connection with post-war planning and development?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: So far as I have been able to trace, no fresh instructions have been issued other than those issued by the Home Department in their memorandum of the 4th July, 1934. The existing rules are well known to the various authorities concerned with the appointments to which reference has been made.

PRODUCTION OF MATCHES

1245. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how the total production of matches in India compares with the production of matches in the year 1938-39?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the supply of matches?

(c) Have Government noticed the deterioration in the quality?

(d) How many more plants are now functioning with regard to match manufacture compared with pre-war?

(e) Are any supplies received from abroad? If so, from where and how much?

(f) Is it a fact that the price permitted by Government to be charged for matches is very liberal and leaves a very great profit to Wimco?

(g) What is the total number of factories, apart from Wimco factories, working in India, and what percentage of the total production is accounted for by them?

(h) By what stages and in what manner do Government propose to bring down the price of matches in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The production of matches in India in 1938 was 21,100,000 gross boxes. In 1942 it was 14,800,000 and in 1943 17,000,000 gross boxes. Complete figures for 1944 are not yet available but production in the first nine months of last year was 13,200,000 gross boxes, which is 554,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1943 and two million more than in the first nine months of 1942.

(b) Every possible assistance is being given by Government in the procurement of essential match chemicals and other raw materials. The manufacture of potassium chlorate, the most important match chemical, has been established in India, in sufficient quantity to meet the entire requirements of the country.

(c) There has been some deterioration in quality on account of the shortage of chemicals and the inferior quality of timber being available for match sticks.

(d) 117 match factories were licensed under the Central Excise Rules in 1944 and 112 in the financial year 1938-39.

(e) No imports are being allowed.

(f) The prices charged are uniform and no special concession has been given to Wimco's in this respect.

(g) 111 according to our latest information and about 20 per cent.

(h) The prices are continuously under review and will be reduced as soon as Government consider this can be done without either jeopardizing production or causing increased black market activity.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from March 5, 1945)

PURCHASE OF VEGETABLE GHEE

650. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quantity of vegetable ghee purchased during January, 1944 to September, 1944, and from 1st October to the 31st December, 1944, and at what rates and from what parties and ensuring what percentage of profits to them?

(b) Is it a fact that because the Food Department was not able to procure sufficient milk ghee, the Indian Army was given during 1943 vegetable ghee for two days in a week, and in 1944, for three days a week? If so, why? And what is expected to be the position in 1945?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that Military Authorities had often opined that vegetable ghee is no substitute for milk ghee? If so, what steps have been taken to procure more milk ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The quantity of vegetable ghee purchased during January to September 1944 was 16,690 tons and during October to December 1944, 7,073 tons.

(ii) Payment for the supplies was made to each manufacturer according to cost of oil plus a uniform fixed processing charge of Rs. 353 per ton. This charge was inclusive of the cost of tins and an average profit of about Rs. 100 per ton.

(iii) The supplies were obtained from all the 16 factories manufacturing this product in 1944: the allocation to each factory was made by the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association of India.

(b) Yes. Vegetable ghee had to be substituted in part for milk ghee in order to meet the demands of the Defence Forces without unduly taxing the supplies of milk ghee available for civilian population. It is regretted that information regarding ration scales for troops cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Food Department are taking all possible steps to procure as much milk ghee as possible for the Defence Services.

SCARCITY OF EDIBLE OILS AND VEGETABLE GHEE

651. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if he is aware that there is a great scarcity and an essential need for edible oils and vegetable ghee both for the army and civil consumption? If so, what steps have Government taken and are taking to meet this demand?

(b) Are any steps being taken to get machinery to produce oil and vegetable ghee?

(c) What is the time usually taken by the Food Department to consider and permit applications for the importation of plants for its production?

(d) How many applications were received by the Food Department, during January to June, 1944, and from July to December, 1944, and how many were permitted?

(e) How many applications are pending disposal, and for what period and for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am fully aware of the increased demand for edible vegetable oils and vanaspati ghee. The Food Department has already assisted manufacturers to extend the capacity of existing plants by 12,000 tons per annum and has promoted the erection of new factories with an additional capacity of 39,000 tons per annum. The form, which assistance has taken, has been to accord manufacturers the priorities necessary to obtain machinery from abroad and steel and building materials in India itself. Apart from this assistance to vanaspati manufacturers, the Department has supported the issue of licences for the importation of more than 100 expellers for crushing edible oils. An experienced officer of the Department was instructed to prepare a comprehensive report on which a long-term plan could be based for the expansion of the industry. His report has been submitted and is under the active consideration of Government. In the meantime, 101 applications for assistance in starting or expanding factories have been received and have been kept pending until decisions have been reached on the report to which I have referred. Of these, 22 are more than 6 months old and 13, between 3 and 6 months; the remainder are less than 3 months old.

GHEE PURCHASING AGENTS

652. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state why, when recently they invited applications from well-known firms for acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for the Central Provinces, Berar, Bihar, Bombay, Kathiawar, Sind and Madras, did they not invite applications for the United Provinces, Gwalior and the Punjab area?

(b) Is it a fact that Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons had held a ghee purchasing agency for a number of years from Military Department, and because of that they now continue to hold it from the Supply and Food Departments? If so, for how many years had Messrs. Alopi Prasad been acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for the Military Department, and for how many continuous years have they been employed as such by the Supply and Food Departments?

(c) Do Government propose to invite applications from other well-known firms for acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for Government for the above area? If so, when?

(d) Are the terms and conditions on which Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons are acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents different from those of other Agents? If so, in what respects, and why?

(e) What are the areas allotted to Messrs. Alopi Prasad for the purchase of ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In July, 1944, applications were invited for the appointment of Ghee Purchasing Agents for the areas for which agreements were due to expire on 31st August, 1944; none were invited for the U. P., Gwalior and the Punjab areas, as the existing agreement for these areas was not due to expire.

(b) and (e). Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons were appointed as Ghee Purchasing Agents to Government for all Army requirements in 1929, when the requirements were small. They continued as such until 1942 since when their operations have been confined to the U. P., Gwalior and the Punjab areas.

(c) No; not at present.

(d) Yes. The principal difference is that Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons' agreement is the standing agency agreement terminable at nine months' notice. The remaining agreements are for a period of one year terminable at three months' notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SENDING OVERSEAS GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE FOR POST GRADUATE TRAINING

97. **Raja Bahadur Kushal Pal Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to depute overseas graduates in agriculture for post-graduate training in agriculture or in any of its branches in order to meet the requirements of the Post-war Reconstruction Schemes?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state (i) the method of the selection of candidates; and (ii) the subjects for their study?

(c) Will he be pleased to state whether for these deputations only those serving under the Government of India will be eligible or also those serving under the Provincial Governments?

(d) Will he be pleased to state whether for these deputations only those entitled to study leave will be eligible or also those who have put in less than 5 years' service?

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

(b) (i) and (c). Attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of Unstarred question No. 58 asked by Khan Bahadur Fazl-i-Haq Piracha on the 5th March, 1945. I should add that in the case of Government servants deputed by the Government under which they are serving, the selection will be made primarily by the Central or Provincial Government concerned and the recommendations thus made will be scrutinised by the Central Selection Board from the point of view of the general distribution and placing of the persons sent abroad under this scheme.

(b) (ii) A provisional list of subjects for training in agriculture is laid on the table.

(d) Ordinarily Government servants with five years' service are eligible for study leave, but those with less than five years' service may also be granted such leave at the discretion of the authority competent to grant leave.

SUBJECT

Agriculture

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Agronomy. | 16. Toxicology. |
| 2. Agricultural Economy (Economics of farming). | 17. Plant Genetics. |
| 3. Agricultural Engineering (General). | 18. Entomology. |
| 3a. Agricultural Engineering (Implements). | 19. Termite Control (Entomology). |
| 4. Agricultural Systematics. | 20. Virus Entomology. |
| 5. Soil Physics. | 21. Quarantine Entomology. |
| 6. Agricultural Statistics. | 22. Mycology. |
| 7. Plant Bacteriology. | 23. Agrobiology. |
| 8. Soil Bacteriology. | 24. Agrobiology in reference to ensilage operations. |
| 9. Biochemistry. | 25. Training in the manufacture of Fungicides and Insecticides. |
| 10. Plant Physiology (Trace elements study). | 26. Plant Ecology. |
| 11. Soil Chemistry (General). | 27. Economy Botany. |
| 12. Soil Chemistry (Organic). | 28. Plant Physiology. |
| 13. Soil Chemistry (Inorganic). | 29. Directors of Commodity Stations. |
| 14. Plant Pathology. | 30. Professors Central Agricultural College. |
| 15. Virus Pathology. | |

Horticulture

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| 1. Horticulture (Fruits). | 4. Horticultural Entomology. |
| 2. Horticulture (Vegetables). | 5. Horticultural Pathology. |
| 3. Horticultural (Vegetables seed production). | 6. Technology (preservation and canning of fruits and vegetables). |

Veterinary

1. Physiology (General).
2. Physiology (Trace elements study).
3. Physiology (Nutrition and Respiratory Calorimetry).
4. Physiology (Endocrinology and Reproduction).
5. Physiological Hygiene.
6. Pathology (Nutrition).
7. Pathology (Virus diseases).
8. Bacteriology.
9. Protozoology.
10. Veterinary Entomology.
11. Helminthology.
12. Applied Genetics (Small Animals).
13. Applied Genetics (Large Animals).
14. Animal Husbandry Physics.
15. Artificial insemination.
16. Blood Grouping.
17. Sheep Husbandry.
18. Wool Technology. (Biological Research).
19. Wool Technology (Textile Research).
20. Hides and Skins (Biological Technology).
21. Hides and Skins (Processing).
22. Poultry Husbandry.
23. Poultry Genetics.
24. Poultry Technology (Egg canning and drying).
25. Manufacture of food products of animal origin.
26. Statistics of Genetics.

Dairying

1. Dairy Organization (field advisory service, etc.).
2. Dairy Organization—
 - (a) Procurement, marketing and control.
 - (b) Specialization in milk supply of large dairying.
 - (c) Specialization in co-operative dairying.
 - (d) Specialization in field organization and procurement of milk.
 - (e) Establishment and management.
3. Dairy Husbandry.
4. Dairy Chemistry.
5. Dairy Biochemistry.
6. Dairy Bacteriology (Milk and Milk Products).
7. Dairy Technology—
 - (a) Market milk and its handling.
 - (b) Manufacture of major products of milk.
 - (c) Manufacture of byproducts of milk.
8. Dairy Engineering—
 - (a) Dairy farm.
 - (b) Dairy factories and creameries.
 - (c) Dairy refrigeration and Cold stores.
 - (d) Dairy machinery and equipment.
 - (e) Designing and layout of farms creamery buildings and laboratories.

Fisheries

1. Biology—Freshwater.
2. Biology—Estuarine.
3. Biology—Marine.
4. Ecology—Inland waters.
5. Ichthyology.
6. Ecology—Marine.
7. Planktology.
8. Algology.
9. Carcinology.
10. Embryology of fish and crustaceans.
11. Protozoology.
12. Helminthology.
13. Fish Pathology and diseases.
14. Meteorology.
15. Fisheries Technology (Boats and Engines).
16. Fisheries Technology (Nets and Gear).
17. Fisheries Technology (Processing).
18. Fisheries Technology (Canning).
19. Fisheries Technology (Harbours and cognate activities).
20. Fisheries Technology (preservation of boats and nets, etc.).
21. Fisheries Technology (fish farm engineering).
22. Navigation.

Zoology (including Anthropology)

1. Zoology (Systematics of various groups, vertebrates and invertebrates of the Animal Kingdom).
2. Anthropology—
 - (a) Physical.
 - (b) Cultural.

Botany

1. Botany (systematics of plants).

Soil Conservation

1. Engineering.
2. Agronomy.
3. Forestry.

Propaganda

1. General.
2. Films.

*Co-operation**Marketing*

MUSLIN CLOTH QUOTA FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT GOVERNMENT STORES,
NEW DELHI

98. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quota of muslin cloth which can be purchased by Government servants at the Government Stores, New Delhi, on one date?

(b) Is the quota fixed alike for all communities?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that muslin is the only cloth which is suitable for turbans which forms an essential part of dress for Sikhs?

(d) Does he propose to consider the question of increasing this quota for Sikhs from the existing limit to 15 yards?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 5 yards.

(b) Yes.

(c) Muslin is one of the types of cloth which are used for turbans.

(d) No. The present supply position of Muslin cloth to Government Shops is such that not every card-holder is able to purchase 5 yards now fixed. I am, however, prepared to examine the possibility of allowing a larger yardage to those who must wear turbans.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I wish to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the list of questions. There are 12 Noon. 75 questions and even if two minutes on the average are allowed for each question which is not too much, there will not be sufficient time to answer more than 30 questions. In order that Honourable Members may be in a position to give notice of their questions under different heads—starred and unstarred—they may refer to the notice board which shows the number of questions put down for a particular day. That should give them opportunity of finding out whether they ought to put further questions to be answered verbally on a particular date.

I may state also that many of the questions do not require any verbal answer. Not only the cost of printing but also much time of the House would be saved if Honourable Members observed more discrimination in marking questions starred or unstarred.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ERECTION OF WALL ROUND A MOSQUE IN KAROL BAGH, DELHI

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Mr. Ghani to adjourn the House in order to censure the action of Government in ordering the erection of a wall round a Mosque near the Government Quarters in Karolbagh area in Delhi so as to stop any access to it and thereby interfering with the religious right of the Mussalmans to offer prayers in the said Mosque.

Is this one of the ruined mosques that had been the subject of a Resolution?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are people still saying their prayers there?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes.

Mr. H. C. Prior (Secretary, Labour Department): I must object to this. I understand that there has been some local dispute going on from July of last year in regard to the matter and it is essentially a local matter. Also, the Honourable the Labour Member had this incident brought to his notice only yesterday and he has issued orders that the erection of this wall should be stopped pending further enquiries. In the circumstances, I do not think it is a matter of urgency.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not quite follow.

Mr. H. C. Prior: The erection of the wall has been stopped for the moment.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I brought this to notice yesterday. In the afternoon we were told that it is the concern of the Chief Commissioner and the C. P. W. D. is only executing the work. Therefore, it becomes a matter of great importance, if a wall is erected all round the Mosque and there is no access.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand it has been stopped.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the erection of the wall has been stopped and nothing is done until an opportunity is given to this House to say something, we have no objection that the motion may remain pending.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): We must get some assurance from Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the attitude of the Government? If the Mosque is in use, it becomes a question of great public importance whether a wall can be erected all round it closing access to it.

Mr. H. O. Prior: I can give an assurance that before any further action is taken I will bring it to the notice of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan and Mr. Abdul Ghani.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): No; to the notice of the House!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House may not be sitting then.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Supposing the Government are able to give us the information while the Assembly is still in Session, and if we are dissatisfied with the attitude of Government, I hope you, Sir, will admit an adjournment motion and that it will not be stated against us that, as this matter happened so many days ago now it cannot be discussed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When deciding whether a particular motion is in order or not, the Chair has to take into consideration the circumstances at the time.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Defence Consultative Committee: Sir F. E. James, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Sardar Mangal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion on the Finance Bill.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittcor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I was on the San Francisco Conference yesterday.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): What happened?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It has been declared by all nations that it will be a momentous conference and that momentous decisions will be taken therein. It is intended for the future of world peace and in the words of some of the leaders to put an end to war. That is the importance of the conference. In that Conference therefore they might set up a police organisation to police all the countries of the world. That might involve India also contributing towards the expenses of maintaining a portion of that organisation. It means the Indian Army will have to be trebled over its pre-war level. Will we be in a position to bear all that? And for what purpose? To keep peace in Eastern Asia and under the command of a British Officer in all probability.

Let us assume that we are prepared to accept the liability of all this burden. What is our possible representation in this Assembly and in the Executive Council? In the Assembly which may consist of a number of big and small States, we may be given three representatives and in the Executive Council we won't be represented at all. We know what took place so far as the League of Nations was concerned. Though we were one of the first Members to sign the

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declaration and enter the League of Nations, we have not been given a permanent seat in the executive council. I am not aware of a single Indian sitting in the executive council at all. That will happen again. Therefore we will have to bear all the burden but we will not be given a voice in the voting. The same thing happened when the Honourable the Finance Member attended a conference recently in America. To this San Francisco Conference the biggest men are being sent from countries big and small. England will be represented by Eden, Africa will have General Smuts, Mackenzie King represent Canada, and there will be others from other places. You will understand the importance of this Conference from the words of General Smuts himself. The report is dated Cape Town, March 20, and it reads as follows:

"Field-Marshal Smuts, who will represent South Africa at the San Francisco Conference, told the South African Assembly today that he believed this may be the last world war.

"Knowing what is going on and the methods of destruction already in operation as well as far greater methods in contemplation, and of which scientists have already discovered the secrets, I feel confident that this opportunity at San Francisco is a vital moment in the history of the whole human race."—(And mark these words)—"Small nations cannot defend themselves any more. Even the greatest military power in the world is succumbing to these new methods of war. Unless some way out is found which renders war obsolete, which will eliminate it from the course of human progress, the future is dark beyond measure."

I heartily endorse this hope that war should be ended to the 8000th degree. There is one nation in the world which has been sticking to this attitude of not entering into an aggressive war and it is India, and the emblem of our peace is Mahatma Gandhi, the villager, who resides at Wardhaganj. Sir, he concludes the statement by saying:

"I therefore take the gravest view of the San Francisco Conference and what may emerge from it. I hope that not only the great powers but all the small countries will watch this Conference with the deepest interest and the most sincere wishes for its success."

This Assembly is called a Parliament and the street itself is called Parliament Street but this Assembly is not cared for by this Government. This Assembly is not taken into confidence by this Government and from South Africa General Smuts cries out to the entire world, to all the nations big and small that they should watch with keen interest what is going to happen at this conference. Are we not to be trusted by this Government?

As regards these two members who are chosen, I am afraid they will be back-benchers there. As back-benchers here we are not easily able to catch your eye except through the Marshal sometimes. They will be relegated to the back benches there. They may not have an opportunity to place our case before the Conference. Their leader will tell them that their turn has not yet come and even if they should stand up at the conference they may not be able to catch the eye of the President there. They will spend their time in the night clubs somewhere and when they come back here, they will say, "we pleaded and pleaded and did solid substantial work, in the committee rooms." That is what they are going to say. When anybody should ask them, "Why have you not taken any part in the proceedings", they would say "You do not know how much time we have spent in the committees". Do you think they in the conference will care for these two people there? I would therefore ask that the tallest among men in India should be sent. Are we wanting in tall men? Is not Mahatma Gandhi the greatest man living, fit to be even President of that Conference? So that peace may reign supreme in the world. He is the prophet of peace. Then there is Mr. Jinnah, the President of the Muslim League. Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah they are our tallest men. Why are these people ignored? Declare India independent immediately today and I am sure both Mr. Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi will go and adorn that peace and they will take the lead. Then we will, every man, woman and child here, enlist ourselves in any future war to defend this country and every other country in the world against any aggressive power. Let Germany increase her power by leaps and bounds, jump into the sky if she wants, we will in less than a year put her down, I am sure. Today we are 400 million strong. What is the strength of Russia? 160 millions. What is the strength of the United States? 120

millions. What is the strength of all the white races in the world including the British Commonwealth? 62 millions. England contains 42 millions and the rest of the Empire contains 20 millions. All the white races do not equal in population one single country, India. And therefore I can assure them that if we are armed to the teeth, we will be able to defend not only this country against aggression but every other country in the world. Why do you put us in the back benches, with these people who will not be able to assert themselves? If you are not prepared to do that, release Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and send him to the Conference. Can anybody say that he is not an international figure? I am sure in this Conference a personality like his, will command the confidence of all the nations of the world. Though we are a slave country Jawaharlal Nehru, I am sure, will command the respect and admiration of all the peoples of the world. He is a democrat among democrats. Long before England ever took the step of entering into the war against Germany against Fascism, Jawaharlal was the first to run to Spain to support the cause of the Republicans there. When he was returning, in Italy, it is said that Mussolini offered his hand of fellowship. Mussolini invited him to meet him but Jawaharlal Nehru discarded him. Sir, it is not an ordinary matter. Mussolini was supreme at that time, when every country in the world was trying to dally with him, including England. A gentleman from our country goes there and even when he is invited he refuses to shake hands with Mussolini, whose hands, according to Jawaharlal Nehru, was stained with the blood of the Abyssinians. Can you find another man equal to him? If he is not to represent my country, let these two people withdraw from the San Francisco Conference. Let them admit their inability to represent us properly and squarely before the Conference. I am not attributing anything to these two gentlemen, but all men are not of the same rank. All cannot become Mahatmas. All cannot become Nehrus. There is unfortunately difference between man and man. Nehru has attained such a reputation in the world and why should we sacrifice our future? Therefore let not these people be sent for this purpose. I can only say that if Nehru cannot be sent, let his uterine sister be asked to represent India at the Conference. The expense on passage, etc. need not be given to her. She is already in America, and she is doing very well. Let her represent India at the Conference.

This is not the first time the Government have chosen wrong men. They have done the same thing in connection with other conferences also. They are sending one Singhanian, against whom there was a criminal case. He is going to be sent in a deputation of industrialists to England. He continues to be one of the members of the Textile Control Board. These are the persons they are choosing. Whomsoever the country discards, he is the best man for the Government. They make him a Sir, a Knight or C.I.E. Clothe him a *saree* or turban (I am sorry, Sir, I withdraw the word *saree*) and make him a big man. What do the other countries know about India? Any man from this country, to them, is a great man. Who is there to say that he is not our representative? We are not given passages but others can easily run up and down. That is the position in which we are.

Let me come to one other delegation, the Bhatnagar delegation. I am assured and I know that Sir S. Bhatnagar is a very important gentleman. He is a great scientist, a scientist of reputation. But why was not Sir C. V. Raman sent? Is not Sir C. V. Raman a scientist who is respected and was he not the recipient of the Nobel Prize? Is he not a man of international reputation? Merely because he has become big elsewhere, is he to be ignored by our Government? Government does not want to send our biggest men, lest we should become big too in others' eye. They want to keep us always under their thumb and make us look inferior in the eyes of the world.

Therefore, I appeal to those two gentlemen. Let them go if they like. I cannot prevent them. Let them by all means go but let them not commit themselves to any course of action. Let them take time to consider, whatever pressure may be brought upon them. Let them say "We are not masters of our soil. Let us go back and until the decisions are ratified by the Assembly we will not be parties to this". At least let them do that. It is not necessary for

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me to pursue this as many other persons of greater knowledge of the San Francisco Conference might talk on the subject. I refrain from pursuing this matter further.

I come back to the Finance Bill. Some portion of the money is said to be used for the purposes of fighting against Japan with respect to Burma. The Japanese have receded and gone back. My friend Sir F. E. James the other day eulogised the 14th Army. I am not behind him in giving a fitting eulogy for the services they have rendered. They have rendered yeoman service to our cause. I am proud of the Indians that took part. But I tell my friend Sir F. E. James—he is my neighbour, we belong to the same presidency—I have got the right to tell him that if mercenaries are able to fight the Japanese and the Germans, infuse patriotism into them and they would do better. I am not accusing them for want of patriotism, but it is hunger that is driving them. If they really can fight in a patriotic spirit, they would fight hundred times better. A single half-inch gun may develop immediately into a hundred-inch gun. That is exactly what I say. Let him not misunderstand me. Let him not go about saying that your representative in the Assembly has called you rice-eaters and so on. But we are rice-eaters, there is no harm in it, I am not ashamed of it. Men in Bengal, Malabar and other places were starved, otherwise would they have rushed to join the Army? In this country young men are prepared to sacrifice themselves for mere jobs. I would ask my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, if his Party did not bring forward a resolution asking for exemption from conscription of his class. Can he say that my people who have sold themselves are more patriotic than he? The planters in India wanted exemption, as the civilians in this country are exempted from conscription. I read a resolution from the Planter community in Nilgiris or Ootacamund where they said, 'Why do you apply conscription only to planters? The mercantile community here

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): May I interrupt my Honourable friend? I think he is misinformed. Actually the European community is the only community in India to which conscription has been applied, and it was at their own request.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Am I assured that no member of the European community wanted exemption?

Sir F. E. James: None except those who had conscientious objection. I think he must do justice to the position, which is this. The community asked for and obtained the application of conscription to all males of military age, and the only exemptions from that were in respect of persons who were practising a religious profession, or those who had conscientious objection, and they had to establish their case before a tribunal. In this respect the position in this country is the same as in England.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We should accept the *bona fide* of conscientious objectors, certainly, it is open to people not to take part in war. I am glad for the information my friend has given. I take it as correct. But what about all those evacuees from Burma? These gentlemen who have come from Burma have secured employment not only for themselves but also for their wives in W. A. C. (I.). Now their children may also be employed. I do not grudge them that. Poor evacuees have to be provided for, but I am surprised that many of them are not taking part in this war.

This is their war, but yet I ask if there was no conscription in their country, how many of their children would come? I have read a number of articles describing how mothers and fathers in England wept at children going to the front. It is a natural tendency, and without conscription their own children will not go to the front. But here without conscription you say 2½ millions have been enlisted. Is it out of love of war? Are their mothers so disgusted with them that they would sacrifice them to the lord of death? "What is this? instead of dying at home from starvation let them die hit by a bullet"—this is

what they say. This is the position today. You have reduced us to this position. It is a wonder I have come here, I am old, otherwise I would also have enlisted. We people are prepared to spill our blood, but we would have spilt much more for the cause of humanity which we love. We have love even for the smallest life, we believe every human being is an incarnation of God Himself. Government incarcerated us, and put our leaders in jail, but Europeans were going about freely; was a single European shot? Is it not because of the absolute non-violent spirit that has got into our marrow?

Why do you want once again to make our children shed their blood, if not in the continent of Europe, in the continent of Asia? You have committed a crime against your children, you are shedding your children's blood, why do you do so? Why do you not be peaceful?

I do not ask you not to be here. Let us share the gruel. You wear four dresses, I wear only a loin cloth; you want sugar for your tea, I want a little salt for my *conjee*. Let us share. I understand your standard of life is a little higher than ours, and we will give you a little more, but let us both live. I appeal to you in the name of humanity that this misrule should end. Give us our national Government to which we are entitled. Let us progress.

I have digressed too far from the economic and financial aspects of this Bill. As regards the economic aspect I will say a few words. I do not intend hurting any one, much less an Honourable colleague in this Assembly. I have heard with pleasure what Members on this side and on all sides have said: we have a good man, a gentleman in the person of the Honourable Finance Member. But I do not know if he has not miscalculated or if he has not been advised properly. War began in 1939. As regards food he has neither followed the policy of England nor initiated a new policy in this country. Even before the war, we were importing large quantities of rice from Burma and sometimes wheat from other countries. So far as cloth was concerned, our mills only produced 50 per cent. of the cloth required, 25 per cent. was produced by handlooms, and the rest 25 per cent. came either from Japan or from England. Thus, in the necessities of life we were deficient, and even after 150 years of your rule we have not been able to stand on our own legs. Finance Member is not a mere tax-gatherer, he must understand whether the country is in a position to bear the load he seeks to place on it, whether we are growing prosperous, and on what items he can impose taxes. Should he not have taken steps immediately to start rationing? Should he not have taken steps to fix prices? Should he not have taken steps to fix wages? He should have known that there would be war needs, production of munitions and profits. If 40 per cent. is the currency already and 60 per cent. more may have to be introduced for war purposes should he not have taken steps to withdraw this currency by fixing rations, by fixing prices? When did he introduce rationing? Even today there is only partial rationing. When the war is ending we are starting rationing, we are starting to fix prices, when war is normally coming to an end, we are starting war measures. In this country we copy other countries, but we copy the machinery which is rotten in other countries. Institutions which have even been forgotten in western countries—we start with those institutions in this country long afterwards.

I have to say one or two words with respect to the food problem. Even now it is not too late. I am so optimistic that it is never too late. Our men have not been taken away; the water in the rivers has not been taken away; the land is there and there is so much of labour; it is an annual crop and it is only a question of turning our labour into capital. Any day we can become prosperous; but I ask my Honourable friend whether he is here merely to gather taxes. In 200 B. C. Kulidasa, our greatest poet, wrote about the kings of that time and said:

*"Prajanam Vinayadhanat rakshanat bharanadapi
Sapita pitarastasam kewalam janma hetarah."*

The king was the real parent, for what purpose? To educate the children, to protect them from foreign aggression and also to maintain them and give them food. But it may be asked what was the function of the parents? They merely had to adorn the bedroom and bring them into existence—their function

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was to bring into existence beautiful children and the rest was taken care of by the state. Are you following that principle? I will not tire the House with more than one more sloka. Kalidasa again says:

*"Prajanameva bhootyartham satabhyo balimayraheet,
Sahasra gunamuterasthu madattehi rasam ravihi."*

He refers to the Finance Member here and says that a Finance Member should act like this; he must collect taxes for the purpose, for the sole benefit of the people from whom the tax is gathered. How? *Prajanameva*—Does not the sun gather water in driblets from ponds and pools for the purpose of showering it a thousand times more on areas where water is needed? Does my Honourable friend the Finance Member keep these considerations before him? How much has been contributed to the nation-building services of this country? If he can show me that he has done so, I shall be grateful to him. I am not fond of the Japanese. Jawahar Lal Nehru is not fond of the Japanese: he is not a fascist we assure you; we do not want to change this domination for another domination. We want freedom and we will thank you if that freedom comes with your help. After you go there, will you use your good offices for the purpose of getting freedom for this country? We will thank you doubly; if necessary we will erect a statue for you. It will be gross ingratitude if I do not require, if I do not acknowledge the services of beneficent Europeans who come into this country. I am conscious that the first Congress was started by a European in this country and we are always obliged to him. We thank him and therefore it is not as if all the Europeans are against us; there are many good men among them, well-meaning and really well disposed and doing their best; and if they are unable to do anything we are conscious of the limitations under which they labour.

I shall finish in five minutes more. What I am asking you to do is to devote some more money for food and raiment of the people. Any how you are taking and borrowing and spending so much: why do you not spend something for feeding and clothing the people? The Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies said there is so much of cloth but there is nobody to purchase. In Bengal men, women and children are going naked: girls sold themselves during the famine some time back for purchasing food: they sold all their belongings and all their jewels and whatever they had: how do you expect them now to have money both for food and clothing? Therefore they have no clothing. I know of a case where there were two sisters, both of them educated: a friend went to their house to see them both and saw one sister and asked where the other sister was: the other sister was naked and so the first sister had to go back into the house, exchange her cloth with the other sister so that she could present herself before this gentleman; and with this single cloth between both of them, the other sister came back and saw the guest. Should this calamity occur in a country where cotton is produced and cotton has been exported for over 30 crores a year? In 1800 A.D. cotton was unknown to England; the first man who came to this country said "There is some thing which grows on the tops of trees". In England it was said that there is a kind of wool growing in India on the tops of trees, instead of on the backs of goats and sheep. But now we have to depend on Manchester cloth. It is ridiculous. How has it come about? Owing to the good offices of you gentlemen sitting there. Let us now at least make *prayaschitta*, let us perform penance for our misdeeds. Open shops. Follow the institution of lend lease; lend freely to all men and women who have no cloth from the cloth you have in stock. I was surprised that the member from Bengal should say "I have provided cloth but I am unable to sell them". Why not? Charity is there: for the Muslim, *zakat* is there: do you follow that mandate? There is *danam* in Hinduism: if you are a Hindu, come along and give; if you are a Muslim give by way of *zakat*: in any other case, if you are an Englishman, and a merchant, lend. Do not therefore say 'it is too late'. Please clothe the naked humanity in Bengal: for heaven's sake please do it.

One other suggestion I would make—and this is in keeping with what the learned Finance Member said he was going to leave by way of suggestion to his successor: he said that for further increase of revenues in this country the industry have to be nationalised. There is already a flutter in the dove-cotes of the European Members and they are rising up and asking the Finance Member to divert his attention to agriculture and say 'let that be nationalised'. I say, accept both the suggestions. I would like to nationalise both agriculture and industry. I am perfectly willing. Make a beginning. Take control of the mills. I know of a case where a mill in Bombay was not doing its business properly and the Government took over that mill. I say, take over all the mills in Ahmedabad and other places; fix the prices; but do not fix the prices on the peak prices—with a reduction from the peak of 1943. Reduce the prices. In the case of persons who are unable to pay any price, give them free or with a liability to return the money after a stipulated time. I want to remind you that in this matter of prices you are always proceeding in a vicious circle. You allow the industry to increase the prices and to charge anything they like and then you gather it back by way of excess profits; but it is the people who purchase who have to pay this excess profit: they have to purchase. Why do you not do it by way of subsidy? In the same way, you can also open grain shops: you can ask your deputy tahsildars and revenue inspectors to open Government grain shops. Lease-lend is now being used for major purposes in the matter of armaments. I say, use it for smaller purposes also.

I do not want to minimise the efforts of His Excellency the Viceroy. According to my and your information he removed the unseeable picture of the destitutes from Calcutta. But today's paper says that 17 persons died of starvation in Calcutta and 19 were removed to hospital. Therefore, it is not as if the starvation problem has gone. It has been removed from the slums of Calcutta—not by feeding these people who live there but by removing their carcasses and the lingering people into the countryside. Where are the statistics? Have you clothed or fed them? Where are the persons who have done this?

I believe you are all gentlemen—those that are sitting over there: I suppose all of you believe in a kind of place to which we are going and that you are aware also of the counterpart of it—hell. Why do you want to go downward and not upward? Now, therefore let us start that socialistic work immediately. It is also social work. Open grain depots; open cloth depots; take charge of all the cloth that is produced; take charge of all the grain that is available. Your ministers may help but they are not the persons who really help. I am not talking of the gentlemen sitting behind you; but they are not the real representatives of the country. I learnt that one Sind Minister said "I have got 4 crores of rupees by selling grain". I say, it is a disgrace that a Sind Minister cannot live except on this distress money, making 4 crores by selling grain to the hungry mouths in Bengal, if he should chuckle over it and say "I have discharged the barrage debt".

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Hang him, if you can.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not want to hang him. I believe in *karma*. . . .

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We are non-violent.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not believe anybody can hinder or harm anybody else: I believe in my own *karma*—my evil deeds will certainly follow me; I look only to God and the retribution he metes out; but I honestly believe that no retribution ought to come even of an enemy. Let us convert him. Therefore let us work as a body and let us open more grain shops.

Lastly, I have got one word to say about the financial aspect of the Bill. Unless I purge myself of it, I may not get sleep. I want to refer to this tax on betel nut. In taxing this commodity, you have not shown yourself as

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a friend of the poor. There is a proverb in our side of the country which says: How much fire can you gather by burning the hair on your head? This is exactly what is happening about your tax on the betel nut. How much does this add to your revenues? Only one crore of rupees. (*An Honourable Member*: "Has the Honourable Member tried this proverb on himself?") I can tell my Honourable friend I have tried it and there is nothing there. You have not allowed sufficient hair to grow on my head. So far as the betel-nut is concerned, one crore is all the income that you get. In the coming year, I have not found that you get very much larger than this. So far as the tobacco is concerned, it is a luxury. Excessive use of tobacco wastes the lungs. So, that tax may continue. But so far as the betel-nut is concerned, before you go, I beg of you to remove the tax and create a precedent and prove that at least once in his life the Finance Member was amenable to the vote of the House and to the request of the House and I ask you to delete this one crore. I have worked out the percentage of this revenue to the total and it works out at only 1/4th or 1/5th per cent. Why don't you remove it.

Then take salt. The consumption per head works out to only 12 pounds per head. We are underfed in salt. In Norway and Sweden it works out to 17 pounds. In jails we get 16 pounds per head but outside the jail we get only 12 pounds. This is the poor man's salt. I would request you to do one thing. Don't remove it altogether. It is one of the principles of taxation to be found in text books that even on an essential commodity you can impose a tax, if the burden is light and it is distributed over a large number of persons and the amount it brings in is large. Hitherto the tax was Rs. 1/4 per maund with a surcharge of 25 per cent., which raised it to Rs. 1/9. I believe the tax itself was raised to Rs. 1/9 last year. I would be glad to be corrected if I am wrong. May I know if the surcharge continues or not.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman (Finance Member): No, it does not.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: To that extent, you are conforming to old practice. Glad that there is no surcharge, but then would you lighten the burden by a small extent.

Now, I am going to make a personal request. I am the father of a number of children.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for over 50 minutes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I shall finish soon. The Honourable Member wanted to copy western methods, in differentiating between earned income and unearned income. Why has he forgotten the difference between bachelors and married men? Let him introduce this wholesome principle also.

Lastly, Sir, however much I may persuade myself about the goodness of the Honourable the Finance Member and the goodness of my friends who are overflowing with milk and honey so far as I am concerned and the Members of this House are concerned, they are all wheels of a huge machine which is working from England. Therefore I am obliged to vote against this Bill, so that he can go and tell people in England 'We have been together for 30 long years. We know the people. These are their aspirations. We have had heart to heart conversation with them. Sir, however much we may like England, it should not be at our own cost. Let us work as equal partners. Instead of purchasing from some other country, we shall purchase from England. There are persons who have studied with me who say 'If British Government goes, what will happen to my Shakespeare'. They have forgotten Kalidasa, Raghuvarsa and all Sanskrit literature. They have taken to English as a second language and particularly in my part of the country even children can speak English fluently and I am myself speaking at the extreme speed of 300 words a minute. I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member, when he goes back to his country, to tell the people there the true state of affairs here. During the last few years I had not been here. Otherwise I would have known him more intimately. I really admire his patience. I would appeal to him

to go and tell the people in England about the strong desire for a national Government in this country. Let us be free men and work as equal partners. Let us pull together in a common endeavour. Let us not exploit one another, even if it be a child. Let not a worm be trodden. Sir, I have concluded. I oppose the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): I propose to touch on one or two points only. The first is a misapprehension which seems to have been created by some remarks of my Honourable friend the Finance Member on the Budget in connection with the Planning and Development Department. To me those remarks appear to admit of no misapprehension. Nevertheless I have heard from many quarters and even seen in some papers that the intention was to throw cold water on the planning and development schemes. I am perfectly certain that it was far from being the case. What the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out was that when the war was going on and when the whole economy of the country was engaged in the prosecution of the war it would not be possible to spend large sums of money in executing important schemes of development but he added that money would be forthcoming for all the necessary preparatory measures.

That is exactly the position with which we are in agreement. In the first place even if the money was forthcoming it takes some time to prepare the schemes and in the meantime there is no particular necessity to spend large sums of money. The whole position has been made very clear by the Honourable the Finance Member in paragraph 37 of his speech. Over and above the one crore of rupees which have been allotted in the budget for this department, additional sums are allotted to the various departments and the Finance Member has been careful to add:

"Should these amounts prove to be less than can usefully be spent the House will be moved to vote such supplementary grants as may be required."

That, I think, ought to set all these misapprehensions on this matter at rest. The provinces have also large surpluses, unlike the Central Government which has a heavy deficit, and important work in connection with the preparatory task of planning is going on in the provinces. They have enlarged their establishment, appointed special staff, they are expanding or have in many cases already expanded educational and technical institutions and their training personnel. Both in the Provinces, as well as in the Centre, the difficult point is the training of adequate personnel in proper time and it was in this context that I mentioned that it is not finance that is going to prove the bottle neck, but personnel. That did not imply as my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson seems to have understood that I paid no attention to the subject of finance or that we were in any way embarking upon a 'rake's progress. Mr. Tyson referred to the important question of conversion from war to peace. That subject has been very seriously engaging the attention of Government. In the Supply Department a special staff is going to be appointed to look into the matter of the conversion from war to peace of a number of industries with which that Department is dealing. The Disposal Board is also considering that subject together with various Provincial Governments. I agree with Mr. Tyson regarding the importance of maintaining a proper price level in the post-war period. It is not possible to maintain prices at the extraordinarily high level at which they stand at the present moment. The objective would be to maintain as high a price level as is possible, but greater emphasis would be laid on the stability of the price level than upon the actual height of it. Mr. Tyson complained that these matters had not been adequately dealt with in the second report on Reconstruction Planning, but the second report is after all a summary of various matters which were engaging the attention of the Government, and he cannot expect all these important financial and other matters to be dealt with in great detail in what is meant to be a summary for the information of the Government as well as of the public. Given a stable, fairly high price level, full production and taxation equal to the present level, although not the same in kind, I do not believe that money is going to prove any very serious handicap to planning and the whole essence of successful planning is

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that the wealth which will be created in one stage of planning would be employed for creating further wealth in the succeeding stage.

Before I pass from this subject, I should like to add my tribute to the numerous tributes that have already been paid to my Honourable friend the Finance Member. Although I have had the honour of being his colleague for a short time only, I have watched his work in a non-official capacity for many years and I have no hesitation in saying that no Finance Member no matter to what race or creed he belonged would have worked so wholeheartedly in the interest of the country that he has served as the present Finance Member has done. Those of us who are in a position to understand and appreciate what he has done will long remember his services to the country.

Now, Sir, I come to another subject on which it is somewhat distasteful for me to talk, but I think it is very necessary to dispel the suspicion, prejudice and misunderstanding that seems to exist in the minds of some of the Honourable Members of the Muslim League Party opposite as well as some of the organs of public opinion with regard to the activities of this Department and, myself. It might be that that is due to my being one of the authors of the Bombay plan and therefore of being branded as a capitalist. It has been said that the Bombay plan is intended to make the rich, richer. I submit, Sir, that even a cursory glance at the plan will show that it is meant to do nothing of the kind. Its object is to raise the standard of living, to get rid of the evil of dire poverty from our country and to the extent to which it succeeds in doing so, it can only benefit the backward classes at the expense of the more privileged classes. If there had been any doubt about the intentions of the authors of the Bombay plan in that respect, they should have been set at rest by the issue of the second part of the plan. I would invite your attention, Sir, to paragraph 4 of the plan, second part:

"The primary object of the plan of economic development outlined in the previous memorandum is to improve the standard of living of the masses now. In fact an increased production will be meaningless unless it is directed towards the eradication of poverty. Then, again, concentration of the means of production in the hands of a small group of people has been considered as one of the patent causes of inequalities of income which prevails in the world at present as this is also to some extent, incidentally the result of such inequality."

Then, the authors go on to suggest various means of remedying these inequalities, such as imposition of death duties reform of the system of land tenure, small scale and cottage industries, regional distribution of industries, control by the State, accompanied in proper cases by state ownership or management and so on. May I ask, what there is in this programme with which either the Muslim League or anybody else would differ from? I have not come here to implement the Bombay plan in all its details. As a matter of fact, the authors of the Bombay plan have themselves been very careful to point out that they have not put forward any detailed blue print at all. All that they have put forward is a mere sketch of the objectives and the targets aimed at and the rough methods of achieving those objectives, but not a detailed plan. What I have said is that we agree with the objectives of Bombay plan. But then my Honourable friend Mr. Piracha himself has stated in his speech last November that he too agreed with the objectives of the Bombay plan. The principles underlying the objectives, as just now mentioned by me, are more or less the same as the principles we have laid down in the second report of the Reconstruction Committee of the Council. I will not weary the House by going into details over these but I would particularly invite the attention of my Honourable friends to the first three pages and the ninth page of the second report.

Then, there is the constitutional issue. On the constitutional issue, I made my position very clear in my last speech that the work of planning and development is absolutely without any prejudice to the constitutional issue. Whatever shape that future constitution may take the work that we are now doing is not likely in any way to prejudice that, on the contrary it will only benefit

the various parts of the country to which it is extended. If for instance, there are irrigation works in the Punjab, how is it going to injure the Punjab or any future constitution that the Punjab may have? If free primary education is extended to Bengal, how is it going to hurt Bengal or its future constitution? It can only help those provinces and not hinder them in any way. Apart from that, it has been found by historical experience that even Provinces and States which enjoy the utmost measure of autonomy have had to come together in the interests of economic development. That has been the experience of the U. S. A. that has been the experience of Australia, and in many other places. Various methods have been devised for bringing about such economic co-ordination. One of these is the method of regional authorities which was first tried in the Tennessee valley and is now being adopted in other parts of the world.

Now, Sir, I come to some specific allegations which Mr. Piracha has made against me in the November Session in this House and repeated in this Session. It has been particularly painful for me to have to listen to these allegations because I have always had the utmost sympathy for the struggles and aspirations of the Muslim and the backward communities. I realise the handicaps from which they suffer, and I am also very well conscious of the fact that a mere policy of fair-field-and-no-favour is not going to do any particular good to the backward communities. They have got to be brought to the level of the more advanced communities, and for that purpose special measures are necessary. Mr. Piracha stated that it was in 1934 that Government realised the existence of the Muslims as a separate community and allowed them a separate ratio. But, Sir, it was in 1930 that as Municipal Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Bombay Municipality that I issued a circular providing for special treatment for the Muslims and backward classes in the Bombay Municipality.

Then it has been stated that true to the Tata traditions I have been unfair to the Muslims. Sir, I am proud of the Tata traditions. I do not believe that there is a single concern in the whole of India, Indian or European, which has nobler traditions than the house of Tata's and I am particularly proud of those traditions. The method by which the house of Tata functions has not been properly understood by the majority of people. It is presumed that every individual member of the house of Tata is a multi-millionaire. As a matter of fact an overwhelming proportion of the profits which accrue to the house of Tata goes to charities; over 90 p. c. of the profits which are made by the house of Tata's go to the proprietors of two trusts, Sir D. J. Tata Trust and Sir R. J. Tata Trust, and that money is entirely disbursed in charity, and charity which is of an entirely cosmopolitan character, not only not confined to any caste or creed or community, not even confined to India, but world-wide charity and a charity under which among other communities the Muslim community has also benefited. That is in connection with the allegation that the traditions of the house of Tata's are hostile to the Muslims; I submit that it is nothing of the kind.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): They do not want charities, they want their rights.

The Honourable Sir Ardesthir Dalal: I entirely agree, and I am fully in sympathy with the claims that Muslims might legitimately make for their rights. What I am trying to point out is that the traditions of the house of Tata's are not hostile in any way to the Muslim community.

Then, Sir, another allegation is that the Tata Iron and Steel Company has been particularly hostile to the interests of Muslims. In the Tata Iron and Steel Company, so far as the lower ranks are concerned, Muslims are adequately represented. In the higher technical ranks their proportion is not what it should be, but that is not due to any fault on the part of the management but because the necessary technical experience has not already been obtained by the members of the Muslim community. The remedy for that is to promote further technical training and that is what we should try to do. There is a Technical Institute connected with the Tata Iron and Steel Company

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in which instructions have been issued to admit Muslim students as far as possible. But out of about 200 applications every year barely two or three come from Muslims. But every time special care is taken to see that Muslims, in so far as their qualifications permit, are admitted to that Technical Institute. I do not deny that in an institution of that character, since the Muslims in the higher ranks are in a minority, some cases of injustice might take place. But wherever such cases have come to my notice in the past adequate action has been taken, and the management has been asked every time to see that, because they are in a minority, Muslim interests should not suffer.

Then I come to the allegations made by Mr. Piracha regarding my own department. In his first speech he stated that Sir Ardeshir Dalal had taken good care to exclude Muslims from positions of responsibility. The communal ratio has been completely observed in making all appointments in my department; the Home Department circular has been fully carried out. In the case of such posts as Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, and so on, the communal ratio does not apply because they have already been selected on the basis of that communal ratio. Nevertheless, my first appointment was notified in June though I did not actually take charge until August. But from June onwards I tried to get a Muslim Deputy Secretary for my department, as one post was vacant. I literally begged the other departments of Government to spare me a Muslim Deputy Secretary and even attempted to take over one man who was Assistant Secretary and promote him to Deputy Secretary; but I could not succeed. However, after four months a Muslim officer wrote to me from Bombay, and the Supply Member, under whose charge he was, agreed to spare him. That will illustrate the efforts made by me to secure Muslims for the superior posts in my department. Similarly in the case of the Adviser's department, they are posts of a technical and special kind and therefore the Home Department's circular does not apply. Nevertheless two out of ten superior posts in the Industrial Branch belong to the Muslim community. In the case of the Industrial Adviser himself, which is one of the most important posts in my department, Mr. Piracha stated that when it fell vacant by accident a Muslim was not appointed. Now, Sir, I submit that it is not reasonable on the part of any community to say that any particular post, no matter of what importance, must be and should be allotted to any particular community. As a matter of fact that post did not fall vacant by accident and perhaps Mr. Piracha is unaware of it. It was held by a Parsee officer of very high attainments, and it will show how communally minded I am when I say that that Parsee officer no longer holds that post in spite of his very high attainments, but another officer, a retired I.C.S., an officer who was formerly Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, has now been appointed to the post. But even in connection with that post there is a Muslim officer—not an I.C.S.—who, to my mind, was suitable for the post, but three or four attempts of mine to get that gentleman for that or any other post in my department has been turned down by the department to which he belongs. If Mr. Piracha desires I shall mention his name to him. Except in the case of comparatively small appointments like P. A.'s and stenographers, the proportion has been fully observed, and in many cases I have gone out of my way to get recruits from the Muslim community for jobs. In the case of stenographers I am informed that they are as rare as Birds of Paradise in India and it is extremely difficult to get Muslim stenographers. Nevertheless we have written to the Delhi branch of the League to spare us a Muslim stenographer if they can.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mhata (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why did you go out of your way like that?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It is not going out of my way, because it is very necessary, if we are to proceed in a friendly spirit, that these absolutely unfounded misapprehensions should be corrected. And I am only doing so in a very friendly spirit; and in that very friendly spirit I would lay

down a challenge to Mr. Piracha or anybody to prove on the floor of this House or to the satisfaction of any impartial authority that any injustice whatsoever has been done to the Muslim community.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Will he keep the interests of other small communities in view, or will he require a reminder like that of Mr. Piracha?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I can assure my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, that I require no reminders because I began making these attempts the moment I took over charge, and what I say about the Muslim community naturally also applies to the other minority communities.

Regarding the Panels, I have made it perfectly clear that these panels are not going to be representative of any caste or creed or community. These panels are composed of people possessed of technical and industrial experience. Because the panels are composed of members of certain firms, of members of certain communities, it does not mean that those firms or those communities are going to be favoured in the industries that are to be established. Their business is to recommend the establishment of an industry on an all-India basis. Besides, their recommendations are entirely advisory. When they come to us, the Government will decide—and the Standing Committee of this House will have a voice in the matter—what industries are to be promoted, how they are to be promoted, whether any particular industries are to be nationalized, how regionalization is to be carried out, how the interests of backward areas are to be met, and so on. Therefore my Honourable friend need not be in a hurry with his dynamite stick to blow up those factories when they come to be established.

Sir, I submit that a proper line to take in this matter for the Muslim community is to devote special attention to the technical training of their men and it is in that connection that in the scheme of technical training we have already written to the Provincial Governments and we ourselves are paying special attention to the interests of the backward classes. I have myself sent up a list of a number of graduates from the Aligarh University for the information of the Education Department and I am also in touch with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on that subject.

Another line open to the Muslim community is to start industries. The Muslim community possesses the necessary enterprise and I am also sure the necessary means for the purpose of starting these industries. I have already stated to a particular Muslim friend of mine that if they started a company with a capital of five crores of rupees in order to undertake industries in the country, he would receive my co-operation and support. No proposal of that kind has been forthcoming but that is the line on which to proceed instead of making these allegations which I hope I have succeeded in showing are entirely groundless.

I apologize for going into all these details; I thought it was necessary to do so. I hope I have said enough to show what foundation there is for this charge that I am unmindful of the interests of Muslims or any other backward community. I have no intention whatever to injure the interests of the Muslim community or any community whatever. My intention is to try to the best of my humble abilities to promote the advancement of the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Muhammad Yamin. The Honourable Member can begin his speech after Lunch.

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

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

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is the only opportunity when we discuss the Finance Bill that we can speak of many grievances to which we cannot refer on any other occasion. I would like to bring those grievances to notice as far as the different departments are concerned.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

I will take up first a case in which my Honourable friend, the Home Member, may be greatly interested as well as other Members too. I have been in my capacity as the Secretary of my Party receiving numerous complaints. It is very difficult for me to deal with all of them in the time at my disposal. Sometimes I get 300 to 440 pages of typed complaints in one day from all over India. These complaints come not only from Muslims only. I sometimes receive complaints from the Sikh community. They say "you are a person belonging to the minority community; so look to our interests also". Sometimes I receive complaints from the Scheduled classes. Sometimes I get complaints from the Hindus also. They say "we entrust you with our case. Please look into the matter".

One particular thing to which I have been drawing the attention of this House is that you cannot give security to your subordinate staff unless you can assure them that their cases are properly heard. If they are badly treated these subordinates must have their full say and their case must be heard by a person who is not their superior. Otherwise a fetish is made of ideas of prestige and discipline and justice is not done. Whenever I receive a complaint I go through the whole file and send it with my note to the Honourable Member or Secretary in Charge. But in many cases I find that when I send it to the Honourable Member, he sends it to the Secretary, who in turn sends it to the officer against whom the complaint is, with the result that the same report comes back after a period of about two months.

I have with me some typical cases. I have gone through them and I have marked them for the guidance of the Honourable Member. This one case contains 48 typed pages about a man who was very badly treated in his office and if any gentleman had the time to go through this file he would see that a very good, efficient and hard-working person was being sacrificed in the department simply because somebody got offended with him. There is another case which I sent to the Honourable the War Transport Member but I got back the same report. This shows that justice can never be done to the subordinate staff unless an impartial tribunal is there to go into their cases. We have got the Public Services Commission which gazetted officers can approach if they feel justice is not done. But where your subordinates are concerned it is not so.

I shall now give you one or two cases that are most illustrative of my contention. There was a man named Mr. Akhtar Mir, B.A., LL.B. He was recruited through an upper division competitive examination as a Court Clerk to the Political Agent, Simla. He began to get very good remarks up till 1943. Major Alban, who was the Political Agent, gave him a very good recommendation and wanted him to be promoted on account of his hard work and ability. A very unusual thing for an LL.B. and practitioner—he was a good stenographer too. He did that work also. In 1944 unfortunately for this man, the Muslim League and the Congress in the Assembly worked hand in hand and this gave great offence to some of the eccentric officers in the country.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Was this gentleman also a member of the Muslim League or the Congress?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: He was a clerk. He was not a member of either organisation. But the charge against him was that he was an undesirable Muslim Leaguer and he was made to give a reply within three-quarters of an hour, and degraded. Then his stipend as a stenographer was taken away. Again he was not allowed to draw his salary for six months because they said that his case was under consideration. On the 18th May he was charged for not drawing his salary. When he proved that he wanted his salary all these months and this charge failed, he was next accused for delaying fifteen cases. He then showed the orders of the Political Agent that these cases should be delayed. This was also done. When he showed this order, then he was degraded for indiscipline to a lower job, for which he was

not recruited. Then on the 22nd May he filed an appeal and took one day's leave on the 23rd. On account of all this he got such a shock that he fell ill and sent an application for two days' leave supported by a medical practitioner at Simla.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What Department was he employed in?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Political Department of the Government of India. On the 23rd May when he sent this certificate the leave was refused and he was asked to produce the Civil Surgeon's certificate. A man getting Rs. 174 is asked to produce the Civil Surgeon's certificate for two days' leave which was due to him. He had to his credit many days leave but he was not allowed. Then when he appeared on the 25th May he was given three quarters of an hour to give an explanation as to why he did not appear before the Civil Surgeon. He said that he received no information. They said "Your mother was served with the notice and she refused to receive it". The man replied that he was not responsible for his mother not receiving any letter which was given to her and that he was asked by the medical practitioner to remain outside in the country since his house was a very small one. Then insulting words were used about his mother and the officer said, "She told lies at your instigation. You are suspended". Because he could not give an explanation in three quarters of an hour he was degraded as a lower division clerk. He wanted to prefer an appeal but it was not sent to the Political Resident.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: On a point of order, Sir. I do not wish to make any remarks as to the merits of the case but it appears from the Honourable Member's remarks that this officer is employed under the Crown Representative and not under the Governor General in Council. I do not know that the Honourable Member is in order in bringing this case to our notice. We are the Governor General in Council.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It may be. The Budget is presented here and it may be a non-voted budget.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I do not think we have time enough to go into such minute details.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I apologised in the beginning saying that I have got numerous cases and that I would give illustrations to show how badly subordinates are being treated. I am giving only an example. I have picked out one or two cases just to convince Honourable Members that there is a great necessity for some impartial man to judge them. I am showing how the unscrupulousness of an officer can injure his subordinates.

On the same day he was charge-sheeted and asked as to why he should not be discharged because "You are an undesirable Muslim Leaguer". On this he was summarily suspended. He wanted to file an appeal and that was withheld. Then he applied to the Political Resident who appointed a committee. The committee absolves him of all the charges, finds him innocent and says that all the charges are absolutely incorrect. Still the question of prestige comes in. They say, on account of prestige, this man should remain in the lower job, though his suspension is removed. What remedy can you give to a man like this. I have got many other cases like this.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Have you finished this case?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This case is finished. He wants to file an appeal to the Political Secretary and the appeal is not allowed to go to the Political Secretary.

There are other cases. I am holding here a case relating to one Usman. He was for over 25 years a very good officer. He has got the best certificates and he has put in 25 years service. Then all of a sudden Mr. Towers...

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What was he?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: He was a telegraph engineer in the railway somewhere in Ajmer. One of his officers wanted him to purchase his snit.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

(The man has produced the original letters) "You purchase my old suit and my table for Rs. 100." And this man refused to purchase, because he could not afford nor were they any use to him. On this a quarrel starts and then the career of the man is ruined. Ultimately he is shunted from one place to the extreme end on the other side. When you read all these things, what protection can you give to a man like this. You send it to the General Manager and the latter will make an enquiry and the same officer comes before them to give evidence.

There is another case of a clerk, which also refers to the railway and I would have referred to it at great length if Sir Edward Benthall had been here. I sent this file to the Honourable the Transport Member and he very kindly sent it to the Railway Board to make an enquiry. After ten days I received a reply from one official in the Railway Board saying that they had also received a copy of this, that the General Manager had made an enquiry into this and he found that there was some misunderstanding about this man.

These three typical cases are out of about one thousand cases which I have got in my file. Something must be done to your subordinates to get protection against their officers who have got personal grudge or some personal animosity against some of their subordinates. After all they are the servants of the Crown, not of an individual or an officer. Some protection must be guaranteed. In the name of discipline people should not be hit, simply because one man is in authority to hit and the other person in a position to receive the hit. There is therefore necessity for a small tribunal to which all matters should be referred.

Another class of grievances which I get is that when a man is just about the time to go into a higher service he begins to get bad remarks. If an assistant is likely to become a superintendent, a year before that he begins to get the remark that his work is bad. Formerly very good, then satisfactory or fair and now not as good as before. Then, when he gets the chance of officiating as a superintendent it is said, 'he was very good as an assistant, but he cannot control the section'. How on earth can you say this? If one man has been very good all through, how does he become bad under one man? He should be put under another, and if his remarks are good, then the officer who gave a bad remark should be chucked out. For his remark was not on merits, it was on something which I would not call disinterested. Then and then alone you will create a kind of terror for these people, and they will be very careful in making remarks in the service book. This terrorism will save many innocent people. You send a murderer to the gallows only to save others.

These are the grievances to which I thought I would draw the attention of the Honourable the Home Member so that he might issue directions in this matter.

Now another thing to which I would draw the attention of the Honourable Members of Government is this. We find lately that ordinances have been taking the place of law. If the Legislature is not sitting, and if there is an immediate necessity, then an ordinance may be passed for the purpose of maintaining security in the country, but this power to issue ordinances has been misused by the Departments. They take shelter behind these because the Governor General has got the power to issue ordinances, and nobody has the right to criticise the Governor General. I do not here criticise the Governor General, but criticise the Departments who advise the Governor General to issue these ordinances. For, the Governor General himself cannot know the conditions which are prevailing, nor is he in a position to draft any ordinance nor has he the time for it. Many of your ordinances come from the Departments, and the Governor General is used by them for giving them power which they think they cannot get from the Legislature. I think this is a great encroachment on the rights of the Legislature. If there are in-

existence the Assembly and the Council of State, and they are to meet: within a few days later on, then there is no necessity for issuing an ordinance. I know, Sir, that His Excellency the late Lord Willingdon once passed an ordinance—that was in 1931, I think—but he was very careful to place that ordinance before the Assembly as soon as the Assembly was called, and the Assembly passed it into law just as he had issued it. Why is it not done now?

My attention was drawn by the landlords of Delhi to an ordinance which was issued on 3rd June 1944 soon after the Assembly had gone and the next Session was near. Still that ordinance was passed which did not take into consideration any equitable principles. I wanted to bring in a Bill to repeal that ordinance, but I was refused sanction which I had to obtain from the Governor General before doing so. Now this means that the country is not ruled by the Governor General, but is ruled by the Deputy Secretary who frames the ordinance and sends it to the Governor General and gets his sanction through his Member. Now, if this is the condition, what is the good of my giving my vote to the Finance Bill as the Honourable the Finance Member asks? Why not issue an ordinance that this Bill is passed? Now under this ordinance which I was referring to, they can take away from me my property. All Government officers are asking for increments in their salaries as conditions are not the same as before. But the property owner is asked to take the same rent which he charged on 1st January 1939—not even the rent which he charged in 1943 or 1944. And what happens? Government officials who have got into their houses cannot be turned out, and there are many of them who have sublet part of the houses at very high rents, and still you cannot chuck them out. When this inequitable ordinance was sought to be repealed, the permission was not granted on the recommendation most probably of the Department concerned, because it would expose those people who had this kind of favour, and who had been doing many things which are really against all equity. You want more salary, but you ask the landlord to remain content with the income he used to get before. Several people from Delhi came to me. Their expenses have gone up four times, but still they are not allowed either to chuck their tenant out or increase the rent. This is the law. You want their help, you want to tax them more, you have your new Income-tax Bill, but they should not get any benefit at all. Government servants have got increments. A man who was Deputy Secretary four years ago is probably over the head of the Secretary now. I have seen many people rising from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 in four or five years.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know many people who draw this salary. Can he give five names, he said many people.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: The Honourable Member will not be content with four. What was the position which His Excellency the Governor of Sind holding here in 1939? To what was his salary increased when he was appointed to the Supply Department, against which there was a hue and cry here? Instead of being made a Secretary he was given Rs. 5,000 a month. Shall I go on narrating? Who were there in his own Department in 1939, what posts were they holding then, and what are the posts they are holding now?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member said that he knew many people who have risen from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. All I say is that I do not even know many people under the Government of India who draw a salary of Rs. 5,000 belonging to the class he mentioned.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Rs. 5000 is the salary which was granted as a special case: some jobs were created for these people on Rs. 5,000. Of course the Honourable Members have made sacrifices, I do not deny: they have cut down their salary from Rs. 6,666-10-8 per month to Rs. 5,500. That is a different thing. There was also a cry about General Wood's salary. . . .

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkhund and Kumaon Division: Muhammadan Rural): Will the Honourable Member tell us what he was getting?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He has never been in receipt of Rs. 5,000.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I can give a good many examples where the salaries have gone up very high: you have given them some benefit; but what benefit are you giving to these poor widows who are getting Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 as annual income and they are not allowed to increase their rent by a single penny, and you want to tax them more every year? That is where the inequity comes in, and if the Honourable Member likes, I can present him a list of many Government servants who have got in their houses subtenants and they are making a profit out of them: they are not living alone, and a house is allotted to them on the specific condition that they will live there and still they are keeping boarders and making some money out of them—they do not say they charge as rent but in the shape of boarding and lodging combined; they become a sort of semi-hotel keepers. This is the thing which strikes the public attention—the public whose help you want every day. They notice the favour you are showing to one class and how badly you are treating other classes.

The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech replying to the Budget debate said in conclusion:

"I want the House to select the Standing Finance Committee of such persons who can come and scrutinise the budget properly, who should be the people to whom you can entrust this work and there was no necessity of any further committee of the House to be appointed specially for this purpose."

May I know what precaution the Government has taken on their part to send those people of that class and with those qualifications—how did they exercise their votes in this case? Can they tell me that in the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, they gave their vote for this kind of people? Have they received information from the Financial Commissioner as to who are the people who understand the work of the Railway Standing Finance Committee and did the Government give any vote to those people? Or do they simply choose their own people on political ground and say that they should send those whose votes they get? After setting a bad example, they come and preach to us on this side, and ask us to do something which they are not willing to do themselves. Has the Honourable Member given any kind of instructions to his whip to see that only those persons should go into the Standing Finance Committee who are the best financiers in this House, who can understand and scrutinise? Were not people thrown away who had been given a vote for many many years for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways by the Government? I hear a great protest has been lodged by a Member who was a late member of the Standing Finance Committee because he was not given votes by the Government; he was not given a vote last year because he voted against the Government on one issue. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi is not here—he was not given a vote last year and this year and he has lodged a protest against the Government this time. He understands this business. Whom have you sent in his place? Have you asked for a report from the Financial Commissioner for Railways as to who are the people who have been taking an interest in this matter? You have not done that; then what is the use of preaching to this House and saying that we should be careful and should send only people of that class who can scrutinise the expenditure? You do not send such people yourself. I say that if the Government comes and tells us that they are going to have retrenchment or exercise control over the expenditure, the best thing they can do is to use their own 42 votes in the interests of the House and the country generally and not on party lines. The Government do not have to please these people any more whom they have nominated. They have nominated them as members and is that not a sufficient reward that you have given? What more do you want to give?

I am sorry my friend the Commerce Member is not here. I wanted to tell him that I have received several complaints—I have no time to read the whole letter but I can show it to the Honourable Member as well as other letters—that the Muslims are not getting cloth for burying their dead in Nasik. The cloth required to wrap the dead body is not available in Nasik and they have been refused and when the Muslim League members went to the Collector of

Nasik district, he was very unsympathetic and told them "These are the shops which are under my orders: you better go there". Their orders are not to give more than 10 yards, and as you know, you require 25 yards to wrap a dead body for burial purposes. There are many dead bodies which have been lying and which have been buried without a proper ceremony performed on them. That is the greatest insult which can be given to a dead man. My friend the Commerce Member may say "This is not my work: this is done by the Local Government; this distribution work is entrusted to them". But who has entrusted it to them? Why do you entrust it to them? I say, bring it to the notice of the Local Government of those provinces that they should not treat these people badly.

I have received a similar complaint from Aligarh, my own constituency; and the Body of *suth* and cloth dealers in Aligarh allege the same complaint; they say they are not getting proper cloth for selling even to those people who require urgently for such kind of work for religious purposes. . . .

Sir Cawasjee Jahangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Do you want any special kind of cloth?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No; ordinary cloth—long cloth. That is usually used for the shroud, but it is not available for the dead body: ten yards to a man in so much time—and because he is dead, he is no longer a man and therefore he cannot get it. Think of this: because he is dead, he ceases to be called a man and therefore he cannot claim anything.

Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Army Secretary—fortunately he is sitting here—is concerned with the army; and to show him I have got in my hand from the sufferers these letters and they tell me what kind of treatment these Indian officers are getting in the Army. There is a long list of grievances and this is the view of many of these officers. This officer says "I am bringing this to your notice, so that you may place it". First of all, you give to an Indian Lieutenant a marriage allowance, consolidated, of Rs. 50. To a British officer a marriage allowance, if he has got a wife and a child you give Rs. 120, while in the case of an Indian Lieutenant, you give him only Rs. 50.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Not for the purpose of marriage?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: To maintain his wife—but not a penny more. As soon as he has a wife . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Only one wife?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If there are others, they are not recognised. For every additional child British officer gets Rs. 40 and as long as he goes on producing children there is no burden on him. Mr. Ayyangar pleaded that as he has so many children he should be given exemption but here he would have to be careful. I ask why this invidious distinction? These Indian officers are laying down their lives for you, as much as the British officers. I do not say that the British officer should not be given but I say, for goodness' sake give the same thing to the Indian officer. Your policy seems to me that the British officer should have children and others should not. This is a great injustice and causes great heartburning. Wherever a man lives, he has got the same expense. If he lives and dines in the mess, he has to pay all the expenses but there is lot of difference in the graded salaries. In 1934 all of us joined and voted against the Army Bill. The President was also with us. We lost the motion by two or three votes. We did not agree to any invidious distinction between an Indian officer and an English officer. It was said that the English officer comes from Home, he has got more expense and that the Indian officer can manage more cheaply. Those days are gone. In 1945 the Indian officer has to spend the same amount as an English officer. The Indian officer cannot make any saving. Therefore, remove this distinction, specially in the case of junior officers such as lieutenants, captains and majors. It is in these grades that the distinction is mostly felt. And then you blame us and say that you cannot get the proper type of people from amongst Indians. How

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do you expect them to come to the army where they cannot make any savings at all. In the professions or in business, they make some savings. Because of these invidious distinctions that you are making, you do not get the right type of people to join the army. There should be a bond of brotherhood among the officers and the army must be kept contented and you cannot do that unless you remove all these invidious distinctions.

Then I have received a number of complaints about the way you have gone about recruiting for the posts of Civilian Gazetted Officers. You have been taking men from all kinds of offices, from clerks and other persons, while people who are unemployed are rotting outside. They do not get any share. Then I am told that you have employed only 40 Mussalmans out of 500? How is that? This seems to me to be ignoring the instructions which have been issued by the Home Department.

Then, Sir, I have got a grievance and I think many other Honourable Members of this House are also concerned in this. I do not know how it is that our letters are censored.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yours also?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, since I began to vote with you.

An Honourable Member: In spite of the fact that you are a Knight?

Sir F. E. James: My letters too.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am glad to hear it. (*Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches*: "Our letters also".) Then, Sir, I condemn the practice. When the Honourable Members of Government are suspects and treated as untrustworthy and it is suspected that they will communicate some valuable information, it may possibly be right but why should we be treated like this? Let the censor treat you as he likes but I can assure you that my correspondence will be above board. You will find nothing in my letters, which is of a suspicious nature. I give you an example of how the censor works. A letter was sent to me posted at Lahore. When I opened it at Meerut, I found it contained a receipt for a big consignment of cotton cloth purported to be sent to Ferozepur. I thought it should be a valuable thing to get this consignment of cloth in these days when cloth is such a rare thing. I found that the receipt was issued from the Meerut City Booking office. I sent this to the man to make an inquiry as to how this receipt came to be sent to me. The clerk said: 'The receipt was issued to such and such a man living in such and such a place. Please give it back. We will send it to the man concerned'. What happened was that the letters in these cases were placed in the wrong envelopes by the censor. I wondered how it had happened, because the receipt was intended to go from Meerut, whereas this letter came to me from Lahore. This man was taken by surprise and he could not explain how the receipt had come to me. He sent the receipt again to the man in Ferozepur and my letter which had gone to the man in Ferozepur was sent back to me. The man after receiving letter wrote from Ferozepore: 'My dear respected Nawab Sahib. I think my letter to you was exchanged by the Censor Department. The railway receipt was sent to you while your letter reached me. The railway receipt was received by me and I am also returning your letter'.

This is a funny thing. After five days I get a letter which was intended for me and possibly this poor fellow had to pay some demurrage for not taking delivery of his parcel in time.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Was the censor a man or a woman?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not know who it was. I have seen many of my letters do not reach me in time. Sometimes there is a delay of ten days, sometimes the delay is as much as one month. I knew that in Simla, there was censoring of letters. I do not mind if all letters are opened and mine also along with them. Why should my letters alone be picked out for censoring? Here comes a letter from Mr. Jinnah. Nobody can mistake that letter and its author. It is put in a big envelope. It comes from Bombay to Meerut. It cannot contain any suspicious matter. It simply contains some details about a

complaint which he received and which he wants me to dispose of. What is the idea in censoring Mr. Jinnah's letter. This letter was posted under a certificate of posting. This was handed over to the post office. Mr. Jinnah had taken a receipt for this and still it was opened.

An Honourable Member: Sent from Bombay?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It bears the stamp of Malabar Hill.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Yours was at least openly opened; ours is clandestinely opened.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Many other letters have been opened. I think these are matters of every day occurrence. I do not know why this money is wasted on censors. Why should your censors read private letters? If the army people appoint these censors, then why do you want my sanction for this Finance Bill to pay for these censors? Is it the idea that I should say that this money is well spent and that I should give you my vote to spend this money?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have ceased to hope for that, but I did not think of the censor.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I have taken much more time of the House than I had intended. I should like to draw the attention of the House to one more point and that is with regard to the speech delivered by my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin the other day. He paid compliments to himself and to the people of his brotherhood who went with him. He was praising the great service done by himself and others to the cause of India. I say they have done no service, but they did the greatest disservice to India while they made that tour. I interrupted him at that time and I wanted to bring back to his memory the debate that took place in this House. He would have been wise if he had read the report published at page 84 of the Assembly Debates Vol. I of 1944. He would know what questions I put. I gave an extract of the Press report to the Honourable the Leader of the House and he admitted that these things appeared there. What did Mr. Bhole say? What did Mr. Ghiasuddin say? How did they misrepresent this country? This appears in the Assembly proceedings, page 84:

"Answering to the questions about the vote of censure passed in the Central Legislature against the despatch of Lecturers to Britain and United States, Mr. Bhole said that the Assembly had ceased to be representative. It was elected eight years ago."

Well, Sir, whatever may be the nature of this Assembly, whatever may be his opinion, whether we are true representatives or not, one fact remains and that is, it was the height of folly on the part of Mr. Bhole to claim that he represented India. He was only *bhole*. Further on he said.

"Both the major parties were against the war effort. . . ."

Well, Sir, I took great exception to this, that both the major parties were against the war effort. Further he goes on:

"and it was not surprising that they should join together in the motion of adjournment."

He misrepresented this country in the eyes of the world and he also tried to show that the two major parties representing a great majority of Indian people in this country were opposed to the war efforts. Now, Sir, instead of doing this propaganda that India was doing great service during the war, he tried to create the impression that a majority of Indians were opposed to war efforts. It was absolutely wrong and untrue, it was a complete misrepresentation that anybody deputed by the Government of India could indulge in. Further:

"Asked if the war effort would not be mightier under a National Government, Mr. Ghiasuddin replied 'it might and it might not'. It would depend upon what type of National Government we had."

While this side of the House and the whole country was saying that your efforts will be ten times more if National Government is formed, while the majority parties were willing to take up the entire responsibility for war effort on themselves if a National Government was formed, this gentleman deputed by the Government of India and belonging to this House goes to Europe and says that a National Government might or might not bring mightier war efforts. I say he has misrepresented this country. If he had not paid so much compliment to himself, I would have taken no notice of his speech. He did not

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deserve any notice to be taken of by me. Especially after the whole thing was exposed by the questions put by me in the Assembly, one cannot understand how he can pay compliments to himself. I thought it was the greatest injury he wanted to cause to India in other parts of the world that whatever he had done was the right thing. But this side of the House says that whatever he did was the greatest harm to the country. He greatly misrepresented the country and he misrepresented us. These are some of the grievances which I wanted to narrate at present, and unless these grievances are removed, I think the Honourable Member should not expect me to vote for the Finance Bill.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary War Department): Sir, in the course of the debate on the Finance Bill, several Honourable Members referred to matters affecting defence services. I welcome this because it is very essential that there should be an informed opinion on defence matters. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson asked for a review of the military necessity for the black out in Calcutta. I am glad to be able to inform the House that a review is already in progress and an appreciation of the extent of air threat to North East India will shortly be sent to the Defence Department. It will then be for the Defence Department and the Provincial Government, that is, in this particular context, the Bengal Government to consider whether the existing black out regulations should be relaxed or abolished. I was sorry to learn from my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson that military vehicles were not observing black out regulations in Calcutta. The regulations apply to all vehicles, whether civil or military and I have asked the military authorities at the General Headquarters to address the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command on the subject.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau: Indian commerce): Are American vehicles also included under military vehicles?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir. My Honourable friend also urged that claims for compensation arising out of accidents by military vehicles should be settled promptly. I fully agree with him that these schemes should be dealt with most expeditiously. I must frankly admit that the position in this respect was not very satisfactory in the past. We have now set up a Claims Commission, and its main duty is to settle these claims with the greatest possible speed. There is already a marked improvement in the pace with which claims are now dealt with and settled. As regards the particular case of Mrs. Robson, the Claims Commission settled the matter on Saturday last with her. Mrs. Robson has agreed to accept Rs. 3,000, and the amount will shortly be paid to her.

My Honourable friend Sir F. E. James paid a glowing and well-deserved tribute to the armed forces of India. I am sure this tribute will be greatly appreciated. The magnificent part played by our forces in this war is well known to this House, and no words of mine can adequately describe the deep debt of gratitude which the United Nations owe to our navy, our army and our air force. I was pleased to hear my Honourable friend saying that the Royal Indian Navy is no longer regarded as the Cinderella of the services. He thus confirmed my statement to that effect in my speech on the Finance Bill last year. He asked me what progress had been made in the matter of improving the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers, of allowing the chief petty officer to travel by a higher class than at present and the grant of extra pay to junior ratings for doing the work of senior ratings. These questions are, I am afraid, such as to necessitate consultation with the other services, and discussions between the Royal Indian Navy, the Royal Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army are still proceeding. The cases have not reached a stage of finality and have not therefore come before the War Department. I shall do my best to hasten these processes and to see that a decision is expedited as soon as we receive the final proposals from Naval Headquarters.

My Honourable friend complained of the iniquity of charging rent to the executive officers of the Royal Indian Navy for the cabins they occupy when afloat. The pay of Royal Indian Navy officers—I think my Honourable friend is aware of this—includes an element of lodging allowance; and the case of an officer having to pay rent for his cabin is analogous to that of an Army officer living in a tent in a forward area and not being eligible for lodging allowance on the ground that accommodation is provided by the State. I am sorry, therefore that I am unable to promise that the present practice will be reversed. But it will be some comfort to my Honourable friend to know that whereas formerly an officer was charged 5 per cent of his pay for rent of his cabin, the rent has now been reduced to 55 per cent of 5 per cent, that is, by about half.

Finally, my Honourable friend pleaded for increase in the pay of Indian airmen. Questions of pay are extremely complicated. All I can say is this that in our judgment the existing pay of Indian airmen is in balance with the pay of the other services and that the rates of pay of Indian airmen must be based on Indian conditions and not on the pay of airmen in the Royal Air Force. At the same time we are always willing to make minor adjustments from time to time, and have in fact done so last year, not only for the Royal Indian Air Force but for the Royal Indian Navy. I shall be happy to discuss this matter in detail with my Honourable friend if he so wishes.

My Honourable and gallant friend Lt. Col. Dr. Chatterjee suggested that the civil posts reserved for candidates with war service should be distributed among the communities not according to the accepted proportions for communal representation but according to the numbers contributed by each community to the armed forces of India. This is a matter which falls to be dealt with by the Honourable the Home Member, though I myself see grave difficulty in adopting that suggestion. My Honourable friend stressed the need for a strong defence force after the war. I fully agree with him and I think it is a truism to say that whatever may be the form of Government that India will have in future, she will need a highly efficient, well-disciplined and well-equipped armed force. I also agree that our aim should be to have a truly national armed force and that recruitment should be on the widest possible basis. My Honourable friend referred to the University Training Corps and complained that the military authorities did not take them seriously in the past. Whatever justification there may have been for this complaint—and I admit that the complaint was not without justification in the past—I can assure him, and I believe he knows it too, that it is not so at present. We do regard the University Training Corps very seriously; as my Honourable friend is aware, we have reorganised several University Training Corps. We now call it the University Officers' Training Corps. We have introduced certificate A and B examinations. I cannot agree that students who are members of the University Officers' Training Corps should be selected as cadets straightaway without going through the selection boards. We do not, however, require such students to go to the provincial selection boards in the first instance. They now go straight to the G.H.Q. Officer's selection boards. Moreover, those who have passed certificate A or certificate B examination are not required to go through the full pre-officers' training school training, and there is a provision for exempting them from that part of the training. The Army Reorganisation Committee is fully alive to the importance of the Officers' Training Corps as a source for potential officers for the armed forces, and I have no doubt that it will make suitable recommendations designed to improve the Officers' Training Corps still further. Our difficulty at present in going ahead with all the improvements which we should like to make is the shortage of both officers and equipment.

My Honourable friend Mr. Basith Chaudhury in a speech full of eloquence referred to the inconvenience caused by the requisitioning of buildings in

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Assam. I fully recognise this inconvenience. It will be our endeavour to de-requisition these buildings as soon as the military necessity for continuance of requisitioning disappears. My Honourable friend also referred to certain questions he had put to me regarding wages and general conditions of service of the employees of the steamer companies plying in inland waterways in Bengal and Assam. My Honourable friend was not satisfied with the answer that I gave, namely, that these are matters for the Provincial Government. That is the constitutional position, and all I can do, if my Honourable friend so wishes, is to send copies of his question and my answer both to the Bengal and the Assam Governments.

I now come to the speech of my Honourable, gallant and learned friend Lt.-Colonel Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmed. I acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of the Aligarh University in the war effort, and I hope my Honourable friend will agree that our gratitude has not stopped with words but has been translated into financial and other assistance to the University. He referred to the poor success of passed candidates of the Training Corps in selection by the G.H.Q. Officers' selection boards. I venture to suggest that the blame, if anybody is to be blamed for it, is not to be laid at the door of the selection board. We now propose to extend the duration of the course in the Air Training Corps, and will do our best to develop during the course the qualities of leadership and initiative which are so essential for officers of the armed forces. This we hope will give better results at selection boards.

My Honourable friend next asked why we were not offering permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy to emergency commissioned officers now in service while continuing the recruitment of outsiders for training in England with a view to granting permanent commissions. The latter scheme is mainly a continuation of the pre-war practice. The vacancies offered are very few. We have now under consideration a proposal for granting permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy to those holding emergency commissions and considered suitable for permanent commissions. A register of those wishing to be considered for permanent commissions has also been opened, not only for the Royal Indian Navy but also for the Indian army and the Royal Indian Air Force.

My Honourable friend wound up his speech by describing me as the First Lord of the Indian Admiralty, and asking at the same time for my help in securing materials for a hall which is being constructed in the University. I am not at all certain that he was right in describing me as the First Lord of the Indian Admiralty; in fact, I am quite certain that he was quite wrong. Nevertheless I appreciate the compliment and I can assure him that I will do what I can to help him in this matter of securing building materials when the papers reach me, although the best I can do may not be very much.

I now come to the speech of my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, who spoke last. He referred to the disparity in the pay of the Indian officer and the British officer in the Indian army. We are well aware of that and, as I said the other day, I hope shortly to be able to make an announcement on the subject. I am afraid I cannot say anything more on that at present, except that when an announcement is made I am sure it will be found satisfactory.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I hope there will be no difference after this.

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Let him wait and see.

My Honourable friend next referred to the civilian gazetted officers, and I think he said that out of about five hundred civilian gazetted officers appointed only forty were Muslims. I am sorry I have not got the exact figures with me, but I am almost certain that my Honourable friend's figure of forty is quite wrong.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: What is the correct figure?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I think it is either 1/3rd or 25 per cent. of the total number of Civilian Gazetted Officers.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How can the Honourable Member say that I am wrong when he himself is not sure about their number?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am quite certain that your figure of 40 is wrong.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How can you be certain when you don't know the figure yourself?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: All I can say is that we are observing communal proportions.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That is no argument.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am saying that your figure of 40 is wrong and it is something like either 1/3rd or 25 per cent.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: 'Either' and 'or' shows your uncertainty.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I have nothing more to say.

Lala Sham Lal (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. Even as I have been doing this in the past. The matters urged by me on previous occasions may well be considered in relation to the present Finance Bill also. Sir, I am not going in details from department to department quoting figures; I am not to repeat anything what has already been said by so many Honourable friends on the floor of this House. My opposition to this Bill will be in a general manner based upon deductions arising out of the cumulative effect of circumstances all round.

Sir, the present Bill is the outcome of the Indian Budget placed before this House by the Honourable the Finance Member, the sixth war budget. This Budget shows a deficit of some 156 crores of rupees. Out of that deficit, this present Finance Bill proposes to bring in some six crores of rupees, while the rest of the deficit, amounting to about a huge sum of 150 crores of rupees, has to be raised through loans.

It is said in some quarters that India has got off lightly this year. But I say it is not so. No doubt the taxes that are going to be imposed this year are not so drastic as they used to be in previous years, but if anything the deficit is there, the deficit of 156 crores that has to be met whether by taxation or by loan. The loan after all has to fall upon the shoulders of India, the loan after all has to be repaid sooner or later. In that test, either the taxes that have been imposed so far as a temporary measure during the war shall have to be continued or fresh taxes shall have to be imposed in order to make good the deficit, in order to make repayments of those loans. Therefore to say that India has got off lightly is not a correct proposition.

Then, Sir, I think that the taxes that are proposed to be imposed this year are somewhat in keeping with the words of the Honourable the Finance Member expressed by him in his Budget speech last year. He stated then that already signs of distinct overstrain and possibly even of breakdown are appearing. Still last year he imposed taxes, still this year he is imposing further taxes. Thus the taxes that are going to be imposed are in a way in keeping with the words of the Honourable the Finance Member as he expressed in his Budget speech last year. But at any rate the deficit of 156 crores is there.

Then, Sir, let me point out before this Honourable House that during the last six years taxes have been rising in leaps and bounds notwithstanding the bewailings and crying of the people of this country. All these things have been fully expressed by the Honourable Members of this House on previous occasions, but still the taxes were imposed and are being imposed still. In a way the deficit has been coming every year, the deficit has been made good every year by fresh taxation. When one has been digested and then another deficit every year is coming. In this way, burden of taxation has been put on the Indian people which they cannot bear. That is the state of affairs under which this present Finance Bill is coming before this House.

Sir, it was expressed by a great Prime Minister of England Lord Salisbury some years ago that India has to be bled: the lancet has to be applied where

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the blood is congested, and we see that during so many years this policy of Great Britain, laid down by the Prime Minister of England, has been systematically adhered to. Every year the Government of India has been placing budgets with deficits and the lancets have been applied to the people of this country. Sir, I would not have grumbled much if the lancet had been applied to places where the blood is congested, but I now see that encroachments are being made not only in the places where blood is congested, as laid down, but also in places where there is no blood and the people are languishing and dying. What is this tobacco tax? What is this salt tax? Taxation upon the poorer people who cannot bear in any way, who cannot even find the necessities of life, and still taxes are being imposed upon them. This is not a tax upon people where the blood is congested.

I need not go into details as to how the extravagant and indiscriminate expenditure of the Government of India in its various departments has been rising during the last six years. I know it has been rising in leaps and bounds as has been so nicely pointed out by the various Members; I will not repeat all that. But I may point out here that the present deficit as well as the present taxation, that is required to be imposed on this country, are mainly on the grounds of war measures and post-war planning and development. Now, Sir, expenditure is rising every year on account of the war and in the name of war. I see that in every department expenditure has been rising, but I can say that all this is on account of war, because all the material of India is being exploited, is being monopolized, is being sent to Allied countries, is being utilized for war purposes both in India and abroad, and therefore the prices have gone high and therefore the salaries and all other expenditure in other departments have gone high. I can say that the excess of expenditure in all other departments are also due to war conditions. It is a self-evident fact that India is made to bear the brunt of the war expenditure, not only India but outside too. Whether this involving of India into the war was with her consent or not—I need not repeat it again because it has been stated so many times on the floor of this House—I shall take it that India now stands involved in the war. But at the same time I must say that India is made to bear the brunt of the expenditure on account of this war, be it for the international war or for the war on the Indo-Burma front. But let me point out here that the war on the Indo-Burma front is dominantly financed by Indian resources. Indian men, money and material are utilised for this war on the Indo-Burma front. The two provinces of India—East Bengal and Assam—are now the theatres of war preparations to take the aggression against Burma. These Provinces are practically in the grip of military.

Now let me ask Honourable friends of this House for what is all this about? I do not grumble if they are going to take the aggression against Burma. I do not grumble if they are going to conquer Burma. I am glad they are going to re-occupy Burma. But there must be some aim for which all this should be done. Now, have they ever asked the British Government or His Majesty's Government in England as to what will be the relations between India and Burma after Burma has been reconquered and re-occupied? Have they cared ever to ask what will be the position of Burma in relation to India in the matter of trade, and acquiring property? Nothing of the sort has so far been declared by the British Government. Yet, here are friends who are very eager to fight for Burma, to recapture Burma, to reoccupy Burma. The other day a friend of mine, sitting just on my left side was prepared to take arms to conquer Burma at the age of 76 provided he was well fed. That seems to be the end of his aspirations when he was prepared even at the age of 76 to take arms. He never cared to think out the future consequences of his so doing. Then there is another friend of mine, whom I always call as my master—the High Commissioner of India for Burma. Capable though he is, but has he ever cared to know what will be the relations after the reconquest of Burma

with respect to India and what will be the consequences thereof? That is the position to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Members.

Let me review the history of Burma with respect to India. Burma was conquered by Indian resources, men and money and materials in 1886. Burma used to be a province of India under the Government of India and His Excellency the Viceroy. Burma used to send representatives to this House and also used to send representatives to the All-India Congress Committee, the only national organisation of the country fighting for the freedom of this country. What took place later? Burma was at that time aspiring for freedom equally as India was, being a province of India. Where India wanted freedom, so did Burma. Burma having been a province of India and sending representatives to this House, presupposes that the British Government was committed to the fact that whatever rights India may get in the end Burma will also get. But what do we find later? In 1935 Burma was separated from India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: In the interests of Britain.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: And Dr. Banerjee?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: And against the wishes of the Burmese people.

Lala Sham Lal: So that in case India became independent, Burma may not.

In 1935, Burma instead of being under the Indian Government was placed under His Majesty's Government in England. The fruit of the victory in 1886 which was due to the resources of Indian men, money and material, was thus destroyed. This was the first act of dishonesty on the part of the British nation with respect to India.

Then, Sir, this was not the only thing. We find later that after the separation of Burma from India another act of dishonesty, complete in itself, was committed and that was the Indo-Burma pact whereby egress from and ingress to India was shut out, trade limitations were placed, and in every way Burma was separated from India and Indians were forbidden to hold property there. That was the Indo-Burma pact against which the late Mr. Satyamurti fought so hard. That was the reason for which the stalwart Honourable friend of mine, sitting on my left, proudly stated that Burma was conquered by the Andhras. I know the Andhra people had property there to a great extent. After the occupation of Burma by the Japanese all that property was lost. Now where is the declaration that if Burma is reoccupied all that property which has been lost shall be restored to previous owners? Is there any guarantee for it? Nothing. It was in this way that Burma which was conquered was eventually lost to India in every respect.

India is now fighting to recapture Burma. What for? Indian resources are being used to reconquer Burma. What for? Unless and until assurance as regards the position of India with respect to Burma is not made clear, I think this war expenditure which is being incurred on the Indo-Burma front is needlessly a burden on India and the Honourable Members should not be a party to an expenditure of this nature.

Let me cite in this respect another fact of history. You know that the United States of America used to be in bondage under Great Britain before 1783. In that year, or a little earlier, Britain wanted to tax the United States of America. The people rose in revolt and the war of American Independence was the result. That war came to a close in favour of the U. S. A. and that

country declared its independence in 1783. After 1783 the U. S. A. 4 P.M. though coming out successful in the war for American independence, though they declared their independence, they could not have peace for a long time. Britain sitting in Canada went on intriguing, making all sorts of machinations and plots still to hold the U. S. A. in bondage and as a result of those intrigues, as a result of those tactics and machinations employed by Britain sitting in Canada, a severe type of civil war broke out in the U. S. A. Emerging successful in that civil war also and coupled with the

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fact that Canada also became free, the United States of America could heave a sigh of relief and thereafter began the time of peace and prosperity for the U. S. A. If the U. S. A. is a powerful country, rich and healthy, it is the result of some 70 or 80 years only since 1867. Why I ask my Honourable friends to consider that history is that if India has to get independence, whether by the grace of Britain or otherwise, after the war or before the war, can it not be possible that these British sitting in Burma will still go on intriguing and plotting to keep India in bondage even as they did with U. S. A., History tends to repeat itself. Fighting without any definite demarcation of policy on the part of the British nation with regard to India and Burma will be a great mistake and you will be sowing the seeds of your own misfortune in the way of the coming independence. That is the point which I want to impress upon Members of this House in all earnestness. I do not in any way say that Burma should not be freed from the clutches of Japan or that Burma should not be reoccupied but, at any rate, Burma is as much entitled to freedom even as India is. Without a policy having been declared on that point by Britain it will be a sheer mistake on the part of this House or the Indian people to contribute anything to the war, simply to get Burma reconquered or reoccupied and handed over to England as a slave country for your own misfortune. That is the point which I wish to emphasise with respect to this present Finance Bill, with reference to the present deficit and with respect to this war.

I want to tell this House what will be result of all this. The Finance Bill on previous occasions has been thrown out by this House and they were made into law by H. E. the Viceroy with the power of veto hanging over the head of the people like the sword of Damocles. That will be the situation I know even at the present time, even if this House throws out the present Bill. But long will that go on? The discontent is being driven deep into the hearts of the people though no doubt the people of this country have lost the vitality to resist taxation. The people of the United States of America had the power to resist taxation but the people of India have not got that power to resist taxation. At any rate, this is a fact which cannot be denied that as a result of what is being done by the Government of India these days by taxing the people a sort of discontent is being driven deep into the minds of the people. This discontent will generate a force, which force after the limit is passed will remove the present Government for ever, I doubt not. It is a clear law that every night is followed by day and every hollow crests the wave. That being the case, if the helmsmen of the Government of India do not take care to appease the sentiments, the aspirations of the Indian people, a time will come when the limits will be passed and they will be no more here, leaving behind a bad name in the history to be recorded hereafter.

It is said that money is required for post-war planning and development. I said a lot about this post-war reconstruction in my budget speech and the speech on the Finance Bill last year. I ask again what does post-war planning and reconstruction mean? The war has not come to a close. The war is yet going on; though it is believed that they are nearing victory, I doubt this very much. May be that victory is possible in Europe but so long as the people of India are discontented, I am very much afraid that the war will not close unless and until the circumstances arise from which peace can come about. The war is not yet over. It is not yet known what will be the situation of India at the time when the war ends. As to how India shall be rebuilt after the war no definite programme has been laid down and can be laid down. Then what is the meaning of raising funds today? What is the meaning of post-war development and post-war reconstruction today? Funds should be raised today and tomorrow God knows what may happen with respect to India and with respect to all other countries in Asia. Nobody knows what may be the circumstances of the war as regards Asia tomorrow. The War in Europe may be finished or it may not be, I cannot say, but the war is not going

to be finished so far as Asia is concerned, unless circumstances come in whereby freedom and peace can come to the downtrodden Asiatic countries. Therefore this post-war reconstruction or post-war planning is premature. If the time for post-war planning and reconstruction comes and if India can contribute to it, when the occasion arises she will be able to contribute in the manner required or that may be found necessary. With these words, Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, in speaking on the Finance Bill it is my desire to draw attention to certain matters vitally affecting the health and welfare of the common people of this land, and in particular to emphasize the conditions of women and children. Honourable Members of this House are well aware that I am here on a mandate from the true representatives of the women of this country, and when I speak, I claim to do so on their behalf and on behalf of an organisation of women which has the national interests of the country at heart but which does not belong to any particular party or bear a party appellation. For the All-India Women's Conference is common plank for all women of whatever community, class or party. But in saying this, I should also say that women in this country are not narrow suffragists and it is one of the distinct contributions of India and perhaps of the East that the women's movement in this country has not brought sex-war. Only the other day, the generous support, the unanimous support, which this House gave to a resolution which was brought at the request of women's organisations in this country, shows how men and women who want the welfare of the country work in unity. There were only two women in this House, but the unanimous support that we have got is an eloquent proof of the fact that men and women are working together for the welfare of the country. The cleavages that rent the country have no part in the relations between men and women. Where women work separately in their own organisations, it is not in order to create further disunity, but it is only in order to see that women develop and get the opportunity to become responsible citizens and able to work shoulder to shoulder with men, in common service to their country.

Sir, the policy of non-intervention on the part of the Government in matters of social reform, which I may add has in effect extended to the health and education of people, has had disastrous effects on the nation. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar in his speech pointed out quite truly that it is the State which must take responsibility for the common people of the land: nation building is its primary duty. From time to time in the past social reform has crept in due to the efforts of valiant champions and pioneers, but the struggle has been a difficult and an unequal one as the State stood aside unconcerned with the welfare of the people. When one country was at its lowest ebb, when degradation brought subjection, the social customs and laws came to reflect the out-look of the time. When today, we are awake again, pulsating with new energy and new hope, is it possible that we should allow the customs which crept in during the days of our degradation to stand in our way and bar our progress? Let me express my gratitude to the Honourable the Law Member and to his predecessor the Leader of the House, who have taken a step in the right direction at last. Of course the results are yet to be seen. May be it is a halting and a slow step; but I sincerely hope that it heralds the dawn of a new era, of social reform in the country.

When we look to the basic needs of the people of this country, food, health and enlightenment, we find that it is the same indifference, the same apathy, that has influenced the attitude of the Government. There have been sporadic and limited attempts no doubt, largely the attempts of private and voluntary effort, but thereby it was not possible for these to reach even the fringe of the problem, that confronts us. In England today the Beveridge Plan with all its implications has been accepted, but in India our people today are left to fend for themselves with the consequent result that they remain undernourished, ill-clad and uneducated. It would be a truism to say that the situation in the

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country is one almost without parallel in the world in regard to the condition of the poor and the middle-class poor of this country.

The food problem in this country has been discussed many times, and I do not want to take up the time of the House by going into details and I should only like to point out that constructive proposals which have been made have not yet been given effect to in all their aspects and though I do not deny that efforts are being made, it cannot by any means be said that all that should be done, is being done. We must judge by results. I can only point out, Sir, that even the economy that existed before the war has not been restored and the plight of the villager is too terrible to describe in words.

There is one point with regard to the food problem to which I want to draw the special attention of this House. It is not only the quantity of food that matters, it is also the quality. In this country we do not even have the semblance of a nutritive diet or a well-balanced diet, and this is seriously affecting the health and welfare of thousands and thousands of women and children. Here I will quote from an authority eminently fitted to speak on this subject due to long years of research, Dr. Akroyd. He says:—

"It is clear that well-balanced diet is far beyond the means of a large section of the populace. It is impossible to estimate accurately, the percentage of the population which suffers from actual hunger but certainly it is a large one. . . . Over 70 per cent. diet surveys of groups of families both rural and urban in about 30 per cent. daily caloric intake per consumption unit was below 2,300, i.e., below any reasonable Standard of requirements."

Again he says:

"There can be no possible doubt that millions in India never get enough food to eat and this fact is, of fundamental importance in connection with agriculture."

To say the least, this condition is much worse today and that leads me to the question of the milk famine. This matter has been discussed in the House again and again, many suggestions have been made, but the supply of milk is becoming less and less. It affects children who are the future generation of the country, and I feel it is my duty to call the attention of Government to it once more, and I hope that the Members of this House will forgive me for taking their time in doing so. While children die or remain on as human skeletons and physical wreck, due to lack of milk, which nursing mothers and babies are deprived of, we find that so far the slaughter of cattle has not been banned, we find that rationing of milk with priority rights for nursing mothers and children has not yet been brought in. We also find that large subsidies on a widespread scale for the breeding of cattle and for encouraging production of milk has not yet been introduced into this country though some localised efforts are discernible here and there. We find, Sir, it is not only a question of quantity but also of quality which is of great concern. I do not bring up these points with any idea of destructive criticism. I point these out to Government with the hope that even more effective action may be taken because it is matter so vital to the welfare of our country. It is so necessary that the State which is ultimately responsible for the children of this country should take up this milk problem and see that the production and distribution of milk in this country is carried out in such a manner that our children are not deprived of one of the essential requirements to build up healthy bodies.

Turning from the question of health to the question of education, what do we find? We find that the figures of literacy today, which stares us in the face, is for men 15 per cent.; and so far as women are concerned, I think it is still somewhere about 8 per cent. These figures speak for themselves. I am not against post-war planning or post-war reconstruction, provided it is carried out with the real interests of the people of this country and provided their plans and schemes which will be relegated to the background to adorn the shelves of Government offices, like this book before me—the Royal Commission on

Labour's report—which if it had been put into operation, the conditions of labour in this country would have been vastly changed by now but to return to the question of education, I should like to draw the attention of Government to the report of the Central Advisory Board on Education. This plan has been before the country and the Government since January, 1944. This plan is not a part of the post-war plans, when post-war plans became the fashion. It is the result of much labour and effort for some years past. It has the contribution of many of our most eminent educationists some of whom may not be signatories to the report in its final shape. The Board has taken into consideration the views of all educationists in this country as well as in educationally progressive countries. The report is before us and I do not understand any reason, any justification, to put off the introduction of this report for the post-war period. We have long been asking for free compulsory primary education. This report incorporates it, it incorporates the Wardha scheme of basic education which today has come to be recognised as the best system of education even by educationists in other countries.

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

For the correlation of craft and activity and with the physical and mental environment of the child must be given due emphasis in the educational system. This too has been incorporated in the report. In every stage of education, equal opportunity and equal talent and capacity has been brought in. Provision has been made whereby the backward communities, or I should say, the educationally backward communities should be given chances so that they should not be left behind. It is a minimum plan for education for all, irrespective of any differences; and I would like to call the attention of the Government that it is essential to put this plan into operation immediately and not wait for any post-war period. The plan has also laid a great deal of emphasis on the training of the teacher, for that naturally is the most important and the most fundamental point; for unless those who are to train the citizens of the future are trained themselves, how is it possible that any plan can come into operation with any measure of success? The only legitimate criticism that has been brought against this plan is on the ground that it will take long years before it comes into final operation, and the delay is due to the delay in training of the personnel. I think I can say with assurance that no one will be so pleased as the members of this Board of Education if this can be done more swiftly; and this is a second and additional reason why this plan should be brought into operation immediately, without waiting for the future. And if the Government is unwilling to put the whole of the plan into operation at once, at least they should bring in on a wide scale that portion of it which relates to the training of the teacher. The majority of provinces and of states have given their consent to this plan; they are drawing up plans on a similar basis; and I cannot understand any reason why the Government of India should relegate for a post-war period, education which is the very basis on which the future of the country depends.

I will now turn to the department of the Honourable the Labour Member. He is not here, but I should like him to know that this is without any rancour, without any political intent and with every realisation of the fact that he has inherited the worst legacy inasmuch as he has to look after the interests of a class of people whose mere existence seems to have been forgotten for long years. My Honourable friend Mr. N. M. Joshi, who has drawn attention to these conditions, is far more eminently qualified to speak on it and I do not want to go into the details. I only want to draw attention to two classes of labour where women are employed in large numbers and which to my mind are examples, glaring examples of exploitation, even in a country like India. I will first speak of tea plantation labour. In going through the report of the Controller of Immigrant Labour in Assam, I find that so many thousand 'souls'—not men and women; but so many thousand 'souls'—have gone to the Assam Tea gardens. It struck me immediately as typical of the attitude

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towards the unfortunate 'souls', they certainly have souls like ours and a right to the same consideration as all these made in the image of God; but this is the general attitude towards these tea gardens labourers.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what has happened to the murder case—that a manager has been charged with the murder of 800 labourers in an Assam tea garden owing to a house collapse—any information about it?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): She does not know about it.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I am afraid I do not know. I am not going into great details about tea garden labour; it is not my practice, nor the practice of members of the Women's Conference to speak on subjects about which they have no detailed knowledge and personal experience. But I shall only bring certain factors to the notice of this House and to the notice of the Government. First of all, we know that these labourers who go to the tea gardens are recruited by the garden *sirdars*. These garden *sirdars* take them there under contract and in the majority of gardens on arrival they are given a bonus; and when they are given this bonus of a few rupees their thumb impression is taken; these exploited people are under the impression that that means that they are under contract for a long period of years. Of course legally they are taken there under contract for three years with right of repatriation at the expense of the employee. But I have heard from people who are qualified to speak on the subject, that in actual fact in the case of a large number of plantations, once taken there, the labourer remains and has little chance to get away.

There are chowkidars employed in the gardens, to see that tea garden labourers do not leave and they are never or seldom allowed to leave the tea gardens. There is no public thoroughfare and people from outside are discouraged to go to the gardens and so they have no contact with the world outside. Then there are rules made by these employers by which tea garden labour cannot migrate from one tea garden to another; and today when wages in other industries are higher, if a tea garden labourer wants to go out and if by any manner or means they are able to overcome all the restrictions and evade the chowkidars and get out, they are known as absconders. All this reminds us of mediaeval days, and can we deny that it is a kin to serfdom? I will not dwell any longer on this subject, as I have said already; but I will now go on with diffidence to speak of another class of labour and that is mining labour.

An Honourable Member of this House told me the other day that I had a bee in my bonnet on this subject. Sir, when you know that a great wrong has been done, is it possible to measure the effort that is taken in righting it? Sir, the entire House, without division, has accepted the motion on the re-imposition of the ban on women working underground in coal mines and yet we hear from the Honourable the Labour Member the very next day that it was not possible to reimpose the ban, because evidently 16,000 women working underground in coal mines is the only way of overcoming the shortage of coal production and of helping the war effort. Sir, no one denies that, at a time when coal is needed in ever increasing quantity, the fact that there is shortage in the country is a matter for great alarm and one which the State must take action upon but, Sir, are not other fundamental causes being overlooked? Is it not a fact that coal mining is a very wasting asset, that the coal owner does not find it lucrative to produce beyond a certain level, that due to shortage and due to the Excess Profits Act the coal mine owner finds that it is better to keep productions as it is. Have these factors been taken into account by the Government and what action is being taken?—I should like to know. I am sorry that the Honourable Member is not present. (An Honourable Member: "Neither his Secretary nor the Supply Member".) And, Sir, not only this. We find that this employment of women underground has been considered to be the only way of

overcoming labour shortage. I do not deny labour shortage but is there no way of overcoming labour shortage? After all it is obvious to each one of us that coal mining is a dangerous and unclean occupation and instead of the conditions of labour and wages being such as override these considerations they are an additional deterrent. The result is that there is and will be shortage of labour unless the miners' wage makes a reasonable approach to the wages in the neighbouring industries. Many arguments are brought forward as excuses. The main argument of the mine owner is that if you pay higher wages to labour, the result will be that the output per head will go down as these miners are terribly lazy. I take exception to that statement. These miners, whatever they are, are living under conditions which are bad as a consequence of which their physique is bad. They work under conditions which are recognised as injurious to health. Is it possible for them to increase their output unless other amenities are first provided to improve their physique. Whether it increases output per head or not or even if it decreases output per head, there is no doubt that if higher wages are paid in the coal mines, there will be more labour attracted to that area. This indirect subsidy that is being paid to the coal mine owner, by employing women underground will no longer be necessary. Sir, there are many other arguments that are brought forward, the same arguments that were brought forward before the elimination of women labour underground was first brought in. It was said that women were not forced to go underground, that it was voluntary, that husbands were jealous if women did not go and that women themselves preferred such employment. I would like to ask, when economic necessity drives how many of us, similarly placed, could have withstood its implications? In any case these arguments were controverted long ago at the time when the Royal Commission on Labour drew up their report and investigated conditions. Some of those who interviewed the miners asked them questions and the reply invariably was that if they earned a minimum wage themselves, a family wage, they would not allow their women to go underground. They would not even allow them to work on the surface. They would prefer surface employment for them and it was only because it will mean breaking up of family life and leaving the women back in the villages that they agreed to women working underground. Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member made a reference to a committee of investigation sent by the All-India Women's Conference to mining areas when this subject was a live issue before the ban was first imposed. This Committee was appointed because the All-India Women's Conference had been hearing these arguments that it was wrong to deprive women of occupations. They wanted to know facts for themselves and that is why the Committee went down. It impartially surveyed all sides of the question and came to the definite conclusion that women should not go down to work underground under any circumstances. They also made certain conditions in regard to surface labour for women. They suggested that an adequate minimum living wage be paid to the miner. Had these recommendations been acted upon, then I would not have bothered the Government, nor would the women whom I represent, in regard to the lifting of the ban, as its withdrawal could not have sent such huge number of women underground.

I should like to congratulate the Honourable the Labour Member on having introduced the Miners' Benefit Fund, by which certain amenities will be provided for labour. But I think he is aware as well as every one else that this will not solve the question of a minimum living wage. It has been seriously suggested that as the Government is unwilling to reimpose that ban, it would be better if we try to get certain amenities for women miners who are working underground, such amenities as maternity benefits, such amenities as not allowing pregnant women to go down. Sir, it is not only pregnant women but even potential mothers who should not work underground in mines and this would be but a half measure.

Sir, there is another argument which I should like to counteract before I stop speaking on this subject. It has been said that Indian mines have higher

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galeries than British mines and therefore it does not matter if women work underground. It may be that Indian mines have higher galleries but they are much more all ventilated and all lighted. The smell of the explosive and the kerosene lamp is very bad and in conditions underground, there is no sanitation whatever.

Sir, I had noticed that it is the convention of this House when speaking on the Finance Bill to say a few words about the Honourable the Finance Member, who, I observe, is not in the House. He is leaving shortly. It is not for me to render either praise or blame in regard to his portfolio. In any case I think these can only be judged by a future generation, when the dust and the heat of present day controversies is over. I should only like to point out one point about which I think all Members of this House will agree with me, that the Honourable the Finance Member has certainly set an example to many of us in the unfailing courtesy that he has shown. During the period I have been in this House, I have observed that, no matter what the provocation, he has always had a smiling face and never been rude to any one. He certainly believes in the truth of the statement that a soft answer turneth away wrath and I think it can be said of him that he has the unfailing courtesy which is the hallmark of nature's true gentleman.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, after a long number of years of interval, I have the good fortune or the misfortune to speak on the Finance Bill. The Honourable the Finance Member has introduced this Bill in order to give effects to the financial proposals of the Government of India. While talking on the Finance Bill, it is the right of every Member to review the whole financial position and the administration of the country. While reviewing the administration of the country, all the Government activities have to be criticised. Before coming to the activities of the Government, we have to see how the Government Members work in this very House. Sir, last year, I was in jail and I read in the newspaper that while there was a discussion raised in this House regarding the deadlock in the country, the Honourable the Home Member pooh-pooched the idea. He asked where is the deadlock. He had no capacity to see whether the deadlock was in existence or not. He simply saw that the King's Government was going on, that he was getting enough material for the prosecution of the war, he was getting both men and money. So in his mind, there was no deadlock. According to us there is no responsible government as envisaged in the Government of India Act, 1935. In six of the major provinces, there is no responsible government, only Czars are ruling in those Provinces. Is that not a deadlock? Is no capacity left in the minds of the members of the Executive Council to see that there is deadlock. Sir, the other day when the Honourable the Supply Member was speaking, referring to this question of deadlock, he had not the same boldness as the Home Member to say that there was no deadlock in the country, but he was saying in a manner that in his opinion too there was no deadlock in the country. Sir, the Government submit proposals, they submit Bills they submit the Budget. With what idea? They want our vote thereon. But with what result? Whenever there is Division, the Government are defeated. In the Voting on Demands for Grants, on each Cut Motion, the Government were defeated. In one day, they were defeated four times. Is that not deadlock? Not only that. Look round the country? Is there any enthusiasm for war? Is that not a deadlock? Then, in England also the *Times* of London and many good people, all admit there is deadlock in this country which has got to be removed.

The other day, I put some questions to the War Secretary and the question related to military pensions of the military personnel in the country. He said that the question of pension was not a matter of legislation. He further said that this was a matter of royal prerogative. He added further that pensions were all gifts and bounties. I think in this matter he did not represent

the views of the people of this country. I do not think that it will be any encouragement to anybody in this country to enlist in the army. Sir, for the information of the War Secretary, I may quote from the Government of India Act, 1885, Seventh Schedule, Item 9:

"Federal pensions, that is to say, pensions payable by the Federation or out of Federal revenues."

From this it is clear that federal pension is a matter of legislation by the federal legislature. Yet the War Secretary says on the floor of the House that it is not a matter for the legislature. He said it was a matter of gift or bounty. For his further information, I may also read from the Government of India Act, section 311. It says:

" 'Pension' in relation to persons in or formerly in the service of the Crown in India, Burma, or Aden, means a pension, whether contributory or not, of any kind whatsoever payable to or in respect of any such person, and includes retired pay so payable, a gratuity so payable and any sum or sums so payable by way of the return, with or without interest, thereon or any other addition thereto, of subscriptions to a provident fund."

Sir, emphasis must be laid on the word 'payable'; it is not a matter of gift or bounty. I think this House should take note of this question. So far as the law is concerned, pension is the inherent right of any person who does work under Government. For the service a man renders to Government, he is entitled to pension. When he completes some period of service, say, 10 years or 15 years and so on, he is entitled to pension. So, I lodge an emphatic protest against the statement of the War Secretary that military pension is a matter of gift or bounty. Besides, Sir, under the British Army Act it is a fact that the Secretary of State issues Regulations but the Regulations must not go beyond the provisions of the Act. And there the question of forfeiture or stoppage of pensions is decided by the Courts Martial and not by the arbitrary order of any military officer. It is laid down in section 180 of the said Army Act that that Act also applies to the Indian military personnel serving in the army, of course with some modifications. Here under section 13 of the Indian Army Act the Commander-in-Chief can dismiss even non-commissioned officers appointed by the Viceroy. But the Government of India Act lays down that no subordinate authority can dismiss any person appointed by a higher authority. This anomaly has to be remedied. In many cases it has even been found that such and such person has been dismissed by order of the Commander-in-Chief. According to section 13 of the Indian Army Act the Commander-in-Chief can dismiss, whether it is in keeping with the Government of India Act or not, but he cannot delegate his power to any one to dismiss a person. But when it is said that a man has been dismissed by order of the Commander-in-Chief it means that some one has done it according to his order. I have dealt with this point twice before and I am referring to it again. The War Department should see that justice is done to the Indian personnel in the army.

So far with regard to the Government Members who are here in this House. When we look outside this House and see how Government activities are carried on in the country we see nothing but prosecution and persecution on every side. The national savings drive has been so criticised in this House that it is needless to deal with it any more. But I must refer to the speech of the Finance Member where he says that a national habit has to be created in this country to save something and contribute to Government. But the Finance Member does not know that in this country 90 p. c. of the people do not know what it is to have two meals a day. And this gentleman who had been taxing anybody and everybody, and collecting money for this Government, does not know that the people are so poor that they cannot contribute anything to Government; and he says that a national habit has to be created. Sir, so far as taxation regulated by the Finance Bill is concerned, I wonder how this taxation is carried on. According to all sound principles of taxation the necessities of the common people must not be taxed. There is the salt tax; what is the principle involved there? By imposing the salt tax this Government is taxing

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

every morsel of the beggar's food. Is it Government's duty to do that? This attitude of Government reminds me of a proverb;

"Andher nagari, chauhat Raja, take ser bhaji taka ser khaia."

"Chaotic town, idiot King; two pice per seer vegetables two pice per seer sweat."

Everything is at the same rate. Tax the food of the people, tax the luxury of the people. In this way when we look at the activities of Government, we find nothing but chaos in every department.

Sir, whenever we put any questions regarding our province, they are dismissed as provincial concerns, without having anything to do with the Government of India. But now everybody knows that the Provincial Governments, specially those where Governors are ruling, they are ruling under the direct supervision of the Governor General in Council. And every one knows that circulars are issued and instructions are sent as to how to deal with the people in the provinces. But so far as I am concerned, I belong to an area which is called "partially excluded area"; and such area is a matter for the Central Government, and according to the Government of India Act the Governor is only an agent of the Viceroy. And therefore questions relating to the excluded areas people may very well be dealt with here. Sir, I have said with regret that at present in the country it appears that there is no law and anarchy prevails everywhere. Only recently I had a piece of news which will shock everybody. The news has come from Daltangunj, the headquarters of Palamu district, that seven boys were brought to the bungalow of the District Magistrate. They were made almost naked and were ordered to lie down on a raised platform and by the order of the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police flogged each boy on his buttock. Sir, this was nothing but a miniature Jullianwala Bagh. The boys went to the Sub-Divisional Officer of Daltangunj, Palamu District, and lodged a complaint against the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and one other officer, but the Sub-Divisional Officer—poor fellow, what could he do, he had not the courage to entertain such a complaint against the District Magistrate, who was his superior officer—dismissed the case.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now 5 o'clock. The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945.