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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
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(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 26th March, 1945

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

WRITTEN ANSWERS

RACE HORSES IMPORTED

1310. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the number and the total value of race horses imported into India after the outbreak of the war?

(b) What is the amount of duty collected on their import?

(c) Is there a system of import licences in connection with race horses?

(d) If so, how many licences were issued and to whom?

(e) Was a request received from His Majesty's Government that the import of race horses into India from the U.K. should be helped by the Government of India, and what steps did Government take to help such import?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have no information on this point. The number and value of horses of all kinds including race horses imported during the period from October 1939 to November 1944 are:

Numbers—2,470, Value—Rs. 18,55,870.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes.

(d) No licences have been issued for import of race horses from the United Kingdom and Australia after July, 1942, when control was first imposed. No definite information, however, is available regarding import of race horses in particular from other sources.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not arise.

TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA

1311. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether any agreement between England and India on trade issues is in operation now?

(b) Is the Agreement of 1932, which was condemned by this House, still valid, or, has it been cancelled and, if so, by what process and at what time?

(c) What has happened to the Mody/Lees Pact?

(d) For how long was it in operation?

(e) When was it dropped?

(f) Has any approach been made by British commercial and industrial interests in the United Kingdom to the Government of India for any understanding, settlement or agreement?

(g) Did anything transpire during the visit of any of the Members of the Executive Council to the United Kingdom?

(h) Were there any informal talks on this subject?

(i) Has action been taken under any of the Ordinances issued by His Excellency the Viceroy since the beginning of the war in favour of British trade and industrial interests, and, if so, in which direction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The trade relations between India and the United Kingdom are governed by the United Kingdom-India Trade Agreement, 1939.

†The question hour of today having been eliminated, the answers to starred questions were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House.—Ed. of D.

(b) The Agreement of 1932 is no longer valid. It has been replaced by the present Agreement with effect from the 15th August, 1939.

(c), (d) and (e). The Mody-Lees Pact has expired. It was in operation from 1st May, 1934 to 25th June, 1936:

(f), (g), (h) and (i). No. Sir.

AGREEMENT ABOUT JUTE PRICES WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

1312. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what the agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal with regard to the maximum and minimum prices of (i) raw jute, and (ii) hessian is?

(b) Has any consultation taken place with any non-official commercial associations or bodies with regard to these prices for the period for which they are fixed?

(c) What has been the total amount of production of raw jute and the total manufacture of hessian during 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(d) Has there been a diminution or increase as compared with the years 1938 and 1939?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Note issued in this connection by the Government of Bengal on the 15th February, 1945, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). A statement furnishing the relevant figures is laid on the table.

Statement showing production of raw jute and hessian in (i) 1938 and 1939 and in (ii) 1943-44 & 1944-45 (April—December 1944).

*Production of raw jute in thousands of bales of 400 lbs. each.**

1943-44	7,004	
1944-45	5,493	(estimated for the year on the basis of information available upto December, 1944).
1938	6,844	
1939	9,750	

Production of hessians in thousands of tons.

1943-44	411	
1944-45		
(Up to the 31st December, 1944)	322	(provisional).
1938	541	
1939	494	

*Includes figures for Nepal.

TEA GARDEN LABOURERS SENT ON ASSAM PROJECTS

1313. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether he is aware that a large number of persons have been sent by the Managers of Tea Gardens to projects in Assam as labourers?

(b) Is the Honourable Member also aware that no compensation has yet been granted to the dependents of many labourers who have lost their lives while engaged in project work?

(c) Is it a fact that in those cases where compensation has been granted to the dependents of the deceased project workers, the amount paid is Rs. 200 to Rs. 300? Is this amount considered adequate?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that the dependents of these unfortunate labourers are experiencing great difficulties in receiving payments of the compensation money?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of paying adequate compensation to the dependents of all labourers who have lost their lives in the project?

(f) Does he also propose to consider the desirability of paying the compensation money through the Sub-Divisional Office instead of through the Tea Garden Office?

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

(b) The information is not correct. The Government of India in the War Department have directed payment of compensation to all labourers recruited by the Indian Tea Association (besides some other categories of labourers who have either lost their lives or have been injured as a result of their employment in the War projects in Assam. The Controller of Emigrant Labour has been appointed Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation for the settlement of these claims. He has paid compensation in over 4,000 cases within the last two years. The number of applications for compensation received by him on behalf of the labourers of the Indian Tea Association alone up to 28th February, 1945 is 2,612. Of these payments have been made in 2,309 cases. 217 cases have been rejected and 86 cases are under enquiry.

(c) Compensation is paid according to the rates under the Workmen's Compensation Act in all cases coming under the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act and in other cases *Ex-Gratia* payments of Rs. 900 for death and Rs. 1,200 for total disablement are paid. A preliminary payment up to Rs. 300 is paid in the first instance. The Honourable Member is apparently referring to this preliminary payment.

(d) The amounts of compensation ordered to be paid in lump sums are paid through the Deputy Commissioner or the Managers of Tea Estates if the dependants live in Tea Estates. In the case of minors and persons incapable of taking care of large amounts, the amounts are invested in the Post Office by the Commissioner of Labour, Assam, and remitted to them in periodical instalments by Postal Money Order. There has been some delay in the investment and remittance in the early stages as the Postal Department were unable to deal with the large number of investments but remittances are now issued systematically.

(e) As stated in reply to part (c) the rates of compensation paid in cases coming under Workmen's Compensation Act are those laid down in the schedule of the Act. In the other cases the amounts of Rs. 900 for death and Rs. 1,200 for permanent total disability have been based on the rates admissible under the Act to a labourer receiving similar cash emoluments. These rates of compensation are considered adequate.

(f) In most of the cases the dependants are minors or persons incapable of taking care of large amounts. The amount invested in these cases are paid in instalments through Postal Money Order. Only preliminary payments and lump sum payments are made through the Deputy Commissioners and Managers of Tea Estates. The amounts are sent to the Managers of Tea Estates only in cases in which the dependants live in tea Estates. It is found expedient to do so because the Managers will be in a position to identify the dependants, effect the payment promptly and forward the acquittance to the Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation. This system has worked satisfactorily so far.

BAD HEALTH OF LABOURERS RETURNED FROM ASSAM PROJECTS

1314. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that several hundred labourers returned from the project works in Assam in a very bad state of health?

(b) Is he also aware that a large number of them are still suffering from various diseases?

(c) Is it a fact that no proper arrangements have been made for their treatment?

(d) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, does he propose to consider the desirability of representing the difficulties of these unfortunate labourers to the authorities concerned?

(e) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) be in the negative, does he propose to enquire and lay the result of the enquiry on the table of the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Virulent forms of malaria and some other diseases are incidental to the work in the unhealthy jungle tracts of Assam where the war operations have been in progress; therefore some labourers returned from the projects in a bad state of health. The *Ex-Gratia* payments of compensation for deaths by diseases have therefore been specially ordered to be paid by the Government of India as there is no provision for payment of compensation in such cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Compensation is paid also to labourers who on returning from projects die of diseases contacted in the projects.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The labourers returning to Tea Gardens are treated in the Garden Hospitals as in the case of other Tea Estates labourers and those returning to villages may avail of the treatment in the local hospitals. No other medical arrangements are practicable in the case of labourers who return individually to their gardens and villages.

(d) The question does not arise in view of the answers to (a), (b) and (c).

(e) The facts ascertained have been stated above.

GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1315. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted memorials on the 20th December, 1944, and 24th January, 1945;

(b) the nature of the grievances mentioned therein; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government?

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

(b) The employees asked for (1) increase in basic wage and fixation of a minimum wage of Rs. 10 p.m., (2) grant of enhanced dearness allowance, (3) concessional rates of grain supply, (4) reduction in working hours, (5) extension of casual leave to pieceworkers, (6) abolition of the piece system, and (7) abolition of the system of classifying employees as superior and inferior and the grant to inferior employees of the privileges allowed to superior employees.

(c) Items at (2), (3), (5) and (7) referred to in part (b) are under consideration. It is not possible to consider the other items during the present emergency.

HOURS OF WORK FOR EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1316. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the total number of hours of work per week for the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta;

(b) whether the Bengal Government have reduced the hours of work of the Bengal Government Presses to forty hours per week with a bonus; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the hours in their Presses; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 48.

(b) The hours have been reduced to 40 per week but no bonus has been granted.

(c) No reduction can be contemplated during the present emergency.

REVISION OF SCALE OF PAY OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1317. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

● (a) whether the dearness allowance granted to the Press employees corresponds to the abnormal rise in the cost of living;

(b) when the last revision of pay of the Press employees of Calcutta took place:

(c) whether the Government Press employees in Calcutta have to pay more for rationed and non-rationed articles than the Railway and other employees; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the scale of pay; and, if not, why?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The existing rates of dearness allowance were fixed with due regard to the rise in prices and a revision thereof is under consideration.

(b) In 1924. The revised rates of pay for new entrants were introduced in 1933 and 1934.

(c) Yes. They have to pay more as compared with Railway employees but the concessions admissible to them are the same as for all other employees of the Central Government.

(d) Government do not propose to undertake any general revision of pay during the present emergency.

LEAVE BENEFIT TO PIECE WORKERS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1318. *Mr. Abdul Qalyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the Piece workers in the Calcutta Central Government Press are entitled to the same leave benefit as the salaried employees;

(b) whether the salaried employees in Delhi and Calcutta are entitled to the same casual leave; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to equalize the conditions in Delhi and Calcutta?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Salaried employees in all the Government of India Presses have been granted casual leave up to 15 days in a calendar year. Government of India have, in view of the climatic and other conditions raised the limits of casual leave to 20 days per year for all Central Government servants in Delhi including the New Delhi Press employees. The higher limit of casual leave is not admissible to Central Government servants in Calcutta and it cannot be extended only to the Calcutta Press employees.

DESIRABILITY OF GIVING CERTAIN BENEFITS TO INFERIOR SERVANTS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1319. *Mr. Abdul Qalyum: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is not a fact that the inferior servants of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are not entitled to get any benefits enjoyed by the superior servants, such as General Provident Fund, permanent service, house allowance, Medical leave, etc.?

(b) If so, do Government propose to sanction all the privileges to the inferior staff as are enjoyed by the superior staff?

(c) Is it not a fact that employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, appointed after 1928, are not allowed the compensation leave in lieu of attending on holidays?

(d) Is it not a fact that only 25 per cent. allowance is granted to the employees for attending on closed holidays and that no payment is made for attending on non-closed holidays?

(e) If so, under what circumstances have the employees appointed after 1928 been deprived of the benefit of compensation leave?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No. They are entitled to medical leave. Permanent inferior servants are also entitled to the benefits of permanent service, e.g., pension, leave on average pay or earned leave and extraordinary leave. The question of granting them house rent and other privileges is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) In lieu of compensatory leave they are paid overtime for working on closed holidays at 25 per cent. above their normal rates.

(e) For administrative reasons.

SCHEMES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ABROAD

1320. *Dewan Abdul Basith Ohoudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether there are two different schemes before Government for sending students abroad for higher technical education? If so, what are the main features of the two schemes?

(b) Is the training scheme sponsored by the Labour Department different from the scheme of the Education, Health and Lands Department?

(c) Is the proposed scheme akin to the Bevin training scheme?

(d) What are the technical subjects which Government contemplate to provide for the students abroad? And what will be the duration of training on each subject?

(e) What type of jobs do Government contemplate to offer to the successful candidates after they return from abroad?

(f) Are Government selecting the students on a fixed quota basis from each of the Provinces and maintaining the proportion of different communities? If so, how many students will be sent from Bengal and Assam?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). There are two distinct schemes. The first is for sending students abroad for higher studies in technical and scientific subjects; the second is for sending abroad technicians already employed in industry for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience. The former scheme is dealt with by the Education Health and Lands Department and the latter by Labour Department.

(c) The proposed scheme is in a way an extension of the Bevin Training Scheme. The object is to provide higher technical training for the more important supervisory post in industry.

(d) The types of training contemplated under the Labour Department scheme are:—Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Radio Manufacture, Ship-building, Aeronautical Engineering, Marine Engineering, Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, Metallurgy, Generation of Electricity, Locomotive Construction, Chemical Engineering, Fertilisers Plastics, Glass, Steel Manufacture.

This list is not exhaustive and other types of training will be considered, if required.

Normally the period of training will be one year, but may be extended to two years in individual cases.

(e) The question does not arise as the Candidates will, normally return to their original employers.

(f) No quotas have been allotted. Provincial Governments have been asked to make their own nominations for which they will bear the cost. Private employers are also making their own nominations. Government of India will make a final selection from these nominations.

SCHEMES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ABROAD

1321. *Dewan Abdul Basith Ohoudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state when Government propose to advertise inviting applications from candidates to be sent abroad for higher technical education on Government stipend?

(b) Are Government contemplating to give facilities to students for higher training in textile manufacture including yarn manufacture and allied machineries?

(c) On what basis will the candidates be given stipends by Government? Will the stipends be given to a particular number of students from each of the Provinces?

(d) When do Government propose to send the first batch of students abroad, and how many years will a candidate require to complete the full course of the subject for which he will be sent?

(e) From where can a candidate expect to get application forms? Will the students be required to pay for the same?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The advertisement inviting applications from candidates was published in some newspapers on March 15, 1945, and in others on subsequent dates.

(b) Yes.

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

(d) It is hoped to send the first batch of students abroad in the early autumn of this year, and the training will normally be for a period of two years.

(e) A brochure regarding "Information for students desiring to proceed Overseas for Advanced Studies (1945)" which contains the prescribed applications form is available on sale with the Manager of Publications, Delhi on payment of Annas Three (Cash or in stamps) as already advertised.

PAPER QUOTA FOR PRINTING PANCHANGS.

1322. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the amount of quota of printing paper allotted by him for the printing of the Hindu calendar, called *Panchang*; and

(b) the number of copies that he expects to be printed on the amount of paper allotted and the average number of such calendars that were annually issued in the land before?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) About 102 tons of printing paper has been allowed to be used for the printing of *Panchangs*.

(b) About 21 lakhs copies are expected to be printed from the quantity of paper allotted. Information regarding the number of copies of *Panchangs* printed in past years is not available.

WEEKLY RATIONING IN NEW DELHI

1323. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state:

(a) if it is a fact that rations can be purchased in New Delhi for a week at a time and if any person takes it for a lesser period he loses his right to buy rations again during that particular week;

(b) if he is aware that this entails great hardship on daily wage earners who find it difficult to purchase rations for a whole week at a time; and

(c) what arrangements have been made for this class of the population, and for beggars and others who have no settled places of residence?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No. Every ration card holder can draw his ration twice a week.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Daily wage earners, as well as beggars and other homeless people have been issued individual ration cards, and buy their rations twice a week.

EQUAL RATIONS OF WHEAT AND RICE TO VEGETARIANS AND NON-VEGETARIANS

1324. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the amount of rations of wheat and rice allotted to vegetarians and non-vegetarians is equal;

(b) if there is no rationing of meat; and

(c) if he proposes to consider the desirability of increasing the quantity of wheat and rice for those who are vegetarians?

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

(b) Meat is not rationed.

(c) No, Sir.

SCARCITY OF FOODGRAINS IN HAZARIBAGH

1325. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Ram Narain Singh, a member of this Assembly, made an allegation in his speech during the discussion on the General Budget that in his constituency (Hazaribagh) people are eating roots and leaves;

(b) whether Government propose to supply them with subsidised grains; if it is due to economic difficulties and if it is due to non-availability of grains, whether Government propose to take adequate steps to supply them with necessary grains; and

(c) in how many places in the country people are obliged to eat roots and leaves from jungles?

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

(b) and (c). Wherever I am satisfied that supplies of grain are inadequate I shall endeavour to remedy the deficiency. In the case of Bihar the supply position is reported by the Provincial Government to be satisfactory. As I have already informed the House an inter departmental committee is actively examining the whole question of the subsidisation of food.

RATION OF GRAINS PER HEAD PER DAY

1326. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the ration of grains per individual per day allowed in the various Provinces;

(b) whether it varies from Province to Province; if so; why;

(c) in how many Provinces a ration of more than 1 lb. per head per day is allowed; and

(d) whether in fixing the ration, they have considered the fact that labourers, especially those working on land, require more of grains?

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

(b) Yes. The scales of ration in different areas vary according to the supply position, and also depend on whether separate provision is made for supplementary rations for heavy manual workers.

(c) Seven.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Statement showing the size of ration in foodgrains per adult per day in lbs. in various areas

Provinces	Maximum	Minimum
1. Assam	1.14 lbs.	..
2. Bengal	1.19 "	1.14 lbs.
3. Bombay	1.0 "	0.79 "
4. U. P.	1.0 "	..
5. C. P.	1.0 "	..
6. N. W. F. P.	1.14 "	..
7. Punjab	1.0 "	..
8. Sind	1.14 "	..
9. Bihar9 "	..
10. Orissa (Cuttack)	1.3 "	..
11. Madras	1.13 "	0.78 lbs.
12. Delhi	1.13 "	..
13. Ajmer-Merwara	1.0 "	..
14. Baluchistan	1.0 "	..

WORKERS IN MICA MINES OF GUDUR DIVISION

1327. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of workers—men and women—employed for underground and surface work in the mica mines of the Gudur Division;

(b) their average daily wage and dearness allowance;

(c) if it is a fact that they are engaged mostly through contractors who take a percentage of the wages; and, if so, the reasons for permitting this system; and

(d) if Government propose to hold an inquiry about the conditions in these mines and report to this House? If so, when?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The number of male and female workers employed in Mica Mines in the Gudur area is approximately 7,000 and 4,000 respectively. No women are employed underground.

(b) Average daily wage is -/12/- for men and -/7/- for women. As wages were raised recently, no dearness allowance is paid.

(c) As far as is known labour is engaged and paid direct by the mine-owners, and not through contractors.

(d) No; the second part does not arise.

APPLYING FACTORIES ACT, ETC., TO MICA SPLITTING FACTORIES IN GUDUR DIVISION

1328. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact—(i) that the Factories Act is not applied to the Mica Splitting Factories in the Gudur Division, (ii) that the large majority of workers employed here are women and that they receive no advantage of the Maternity Benefits Acts, (iii) that there are no arrangements for the care of infants and children of the women workers, and (iv) that the premises are in an insanitary condition without sufficient ventilation; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to apply the Factories and Maternity Benefits Acts to these factories, improve labour conditions and provide adequate facilities for the care of infants and children of the women workers and report to this House about this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The administration of the Factories Act and of the Madras Maternity Benefits Act is the responsibility of the Provincial Government. As regards a survey of the working conditions of labour in the Mica Splitting Factories in Gudur Division, the Labour Investigation Committee is engaged on the work. Government will consider in due course proposals which will be made by the Planning Committee for labour which Government hope to set up after the Labour Investigation Committees' work is over.

EXTENSION OF WORK OF IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

1329. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the work of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, on what subjects, and from when; and

(c) whether any arrangements are being made to broadcast in the Indian languages the results of their researches to the areas concerned?

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

(b) Proposals are under consideration for extending the work of the Council to include (i) the application of the results of research to every day practice, (ii) the administration and development of the existing central research institutes for Agriculture, (including Animal Husbandry), (iii) the constitution of Central Agricultural services, (iv) the co-ordination of the work of existing and future Central Commodity Committees to deal with the improvement and development of important agricultural commodities, and (v) the establishment of Central Colleges for agriculture.

(c) Yes. The re-organisation proposals include the dissemination of the results of research in vernacular languages.

RULE ON APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED COPYHOLDERS AND REVISERS AS JUNIOR READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

1330. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether Government have recently received any memorials

from the employees of any Government of India Presses regarding their hardships created by the anomalies which exist in the present rule governing the appointment of qualified Copyholders and Revisers in the Junior Readers' post?

(b) Is it a fact that in May, 1940, the Government of India Press Workers' Union, New Delhi, sent a representation to the Secretary, Labour Department, fully approved by Mr. Asaf Ali, M.L.A. (Central), who was the President of the Union, for amending the rule so that earlier passed candidates might get preference over subsequent qualified men?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of amending the existing rule in the light of these memorials?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Memorials have been received from three copyholders of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, but there is no allegation of hardship or anomaly in the present rules governing appointment to readers posts.

(b) Yes.

(c) The memorials will be considered on their merits.

CERTAIN FAILED STUDENTS REJOINING SCHOOLS IN DELHI.

1331. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) the number of students who failed in the High School Examination 1943 and the number who rejoined schools in Delhi;

(b) students (i) who failed in the High School Examination of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi, in 1944, and joined the X class of the XI year course, (ii) who did not join any of the recognised schools in Delhi, (iii) who rejoined the X Class of the old course in High Schools in Delhi;

(c) if he is aware that the decrease, if any, in the number of students re-joining schools in Delhi was mostly due to the Board having failed to make ample provision for starting X class of the old course in time in Higher Secondary Schools in 1944; and

(d) the approximate loss of revenue, if any, to the Board on this account?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) 544. The information asked for in the second part is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(b) (i) 526. The information asked for in the second part of part (i) and in parts (ii) and (iii) is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(c) and (d). Government have no information.

REQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL AND HIGHER SECONDARY DEPARTMENT TEACHER IN A SCHOOL IN DELHI

1332. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) the requisite qualifications of (i) Principal, (ii) Higher Secondary Department teacher in a school in Delhi;

(b) the number of Principals and teachers permitted to teach Higher Secondary Classes who do not possess these qualifications; and the reason for giving any such exemptions; and

(c) why no exemption has been granted in the case of some of the experienced and trained graduate teachers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) As I have already stated in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 562 asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall on the 28th February 1945, exemptions are granted by the Board of Higher Secondary Education Delhi at their discretion.

NON-ADULTS AGE LIMITS FOR RATIONING PURPOSES IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1333. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that for purposes of rationing, statutory or otherwise, a non-adult is one below twelve and above two years of age, in the Madras

Presidency; whereas in the Bombay Presidency he is one below six years entitled to half a unit of foodgrains;

(b) the central policy on the point;

(c) how and from where the children below two years are to get food; and

(d) if Government are prepared to lay down a consistent policy with regard to the point raised herein?

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

(b), (c) and (d). The policy of the Government of India has been embodied in a resolution adopted at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, namely "in all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of eight". All Provincial and State Governments are being asked to implement this resolution.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR IN DHARWAR

1334. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar that is distributed in the town of Dharwar;

(b) the system and basis for distribution of sugar to (i) hotel-keepers, (ii) restaurant-keepers, and (iii) householders;

(c) if it is a fact that restaurant-keepers are not getting enough sugar even to serve tea since two months; and

(d) if it is a fact that since one month no sugar is being given to restaurants in Dharwar; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Sugar ration in Dharwar is one lb. per adult and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per child per fortnight.

(b) (i) and (ii). Hotel-keepers, and restaurant-keepers are supplied with sugar on permits based on estimated consumption.

(iii) Householders receive supplies on *per capita* basis as in (a) above.

(c) Owing to a reduction in the Provincial sugar quota, the quantities allowed to the establishments, mainly sweetmeat sellers and to a lesser extent to the tea-shops, were reduced in February 1945. Some tea-shops, which used up their quota early, had to go without sugar in the second fortnight of February.

(d) No, Sir.

DISTRIBUTION OF CLOTH IN DHARWAR

1335. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that in Dharwar Town cloth is being distributed only to doctors, vakils and income-tax assesseees? If so, what is the policy underlying this arrangement and who is responsible for it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The internal distribution of cloth within a Province is the concern of the Provincial Governments. I have, however, ascertained the facts and the position is that all cloth, except fine *Dhoties*, is sold to all persons in the district of Dharwar through approved dealers. Owing to limited supplies of fine *Dhoties*, it was considered necessary to introduce a permit system until more stocks were received. It was therefore decided by the district authorities to issue permits for not more than one pair each to persons accustomed to wear fine *dhoties*. The District Committee, which is mostly unofficial, is aware of this arrangement.

INADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF PAPER IN DHARWAR AND BELGAUM DISTRICTS

1336. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the distribution of paper to the press, publishers and to students in the district of Dharwar and Belgaum is very inadequate;

(b) whether it is a fact that this area is cut off from the supply from Mysore State;

(c) if it is true that Deccan Paper Mills are the only suppliers to this area and that their production is very inadequate to meet the demand and that it hardly reaches the aforesaid districts;

(d) whether it is not true that the schools in that area are going to be opened in June and that paper for printing of text books and exercise books is not yet made available; and

(e) if Government propose to take immediate steps to see that the said area is adequately supplied with paper stocks?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The allocation of paper made for the Bombay Presidency was increased substantially in the last quarterly programme, and is considered adequate for its requirements. Certain local shortages have, however, occurred on account of transport difficulties from the Deccan Paper Mills to the districts. Steps to relieve these shortages have been and are being taken.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is true that the Deccan Paper Mills are the suppliers fixed for this area. Their production is considered more than adequate for the essential requirements of the areas which they are required to serve. The difficulty, as already stated, has been due to lack of transport.

(d) and (e). Government have no information as to the date on which schools open in the Dharwar and Belgaum districts. Steps have, however, been taken already by the Paper Controller, India, and by the Provincial authorities to ensure that paper moves to the districts as early as possible. However, so long as transport is limited and is required for more urgent needs, no assurance that local and temporary shortages will be completely avoided can be given.

RATION PER ADULT LABOURER IN CERTAIN AREAS

1337. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the ration per adult labourer in, (i) coffee, tea, and rubber, betelnut and paddy estates in Coorg, (ii) coffee, tea and betelnut estates and paddy fields in Malabar, (iii) betelnut gardens, cardamom estate and paddy fields in South Kanara, (iv) paddy fields and betelnut estates in North Kanara, and (v) coffee and tea estates in Nilgiris;

(b) whether it is not a fact that estate owners are permitted to purchase and stock foodgrains for their labourers in Coorg and Nilgiris;

(c) whether it is true that no such permission is given to betelnut gardeners and cardamom estate owners in the district of South Kanara;

(d) if Government are aware that on account of these restrictions the betelnut gardeners and cardamom estate owners in South Kanara are unable to keep their labourers and that their cultivation is suffering; and that their labourers are migrating to Coorg; and

(e) if Government propose to lay down a common policy with regard to all matters contained herein?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) There is no statutory rationing in Coorg.

(ii) In Malabar Coffee and Tea Estates labour get one lb. rice and 0.27 lb. wheat per adult per day. Landholders and permanent farm servants on betelnut estates and paddy fields get one lb. of rice per adult per day.

(iii) In South Canara betelnut gardens, cardamom estate and paddy fields labour get one lb. of foodgrains per adult per day.

(iv) There is no statutory rationing in the rural areas in North Canara.

(v) Coffee and tea estates labour in Nilgiris are allowed 1.06 lbs. rice and .63 lb. wheat.

(b) Yes, Sir; but in the case of Nilgiris, quotas based on the number of employees are given to the estate owners for distribution to labourers through the employers shops. In the absence of such shops, the labourers take rations from the nearest retail shop.

(c) Arecanut growers, who applied have been allowed the concession referred to in (b). Information regarding cardamom estate owners is being collected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The aim is to provide a basic ration of one lb. in staple foodgrains and an extra 50 per cent. for heavy manual workers but the actual ration in each area depends on local conditions and supplies. Extra rations to labourers are allowed when supplies are available, and employers of estates who are producers of foodgrains are allowed to retain their produce for distribution to their labourers through their grain shops.

CLOTH FAMINE

1338. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware that there is a famine of cloth throughout the country, particularly in the Province of Bihar?

(b) Is he aware of the fact that the marriage season is on, and therefore, there will be great demand for cloth in the coming month by the rich and poor alike?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state the steps, if any, Government have taken or are going to take to tackle the situation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's questions Nos. 850 and 855 asked on the 8th March 1945.

(b) Yes.

MEASURES FOR ERADICATION OF BLACK MARKET IN DELHI

1339. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures prescribed for the eradication of the black market in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I lay on the table a statement on the subject.

Statement

With a view to eradicating blackmarkets generally, various Orders have been issued under the Defence of India Rules for the control and distribution of a number of commodities and these have been supplemented by the blanket provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943. To enforce the Provisions of the Ordinance and the various Orders, the Delhi Administration have set up an organisation consisting of one Gazetted Officer, two Senior Inspectors, seven Inspectors and thirteen Sub-Inspectors. In addition to these, a considerable staff is maintained for work in connection with planning and provisioning under the Director of Civil Supplies. There are also stationed in Delhi two Inspectors and three Assistant Inspectors of the Controller General of Civil Supplies, whose duty it is also to keep a watch over the activities of dealers generally.

STAFF FOR THE WORKING OF ORDINANCE NO. XXXV OF 1943

1340. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the strength of the staff (gazetted and non-gazetted separately) employed in Delhi Province for the working of Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943;

(b) the pay of that staff (gazetted and non-gazetted respectively) for 1944-45;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the working of that ordinance;

(d) the results achieved by that staff in the working of that ordinance; and

(e) whether Government contemplate any economy in that staff; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). There is no separate staff for the enforcement of Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943, but I lay on the table a statement showing the staff and the nature of their duties and the other information required.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the working of the Ordinance is not recorded separately and consequently it is not possible to furnish this information.

(d) 199 cases have been sent for trial in Delhi under the Ordinance out of which 99 have been decided. In 80 of these cases convictions were obtained. It is not possible, however, to evaluate the work done by this staff in terms of the number of cases actually sent up for trial, as its existence is really meant to prevent recourse to malpractices by dealers and others.

(e) Government do not contemplate any reduction in the staff as the emergency for which the staff was employed, still exists. On the other hand, there is room for expansion.

Statement showing the staff employed by the Delhi Administration to look after the enforcement of the Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943 as well as the various Control Orders issued under the Defence of India Rules regulating the control and distribution of foodstuffs and other commodities.

Designation	Number
Enforcement Officer (Gazetted)	1
Prosecuting Police Inspector (non-gazetted)	1
Chief Investigating Inspector (non-gazetted)	1
Inspectors (non-gazetted)	7
Sub-Inspectors (non-gazetted)	7
Stenographer (non-gazetted)	1
Senior Clerks (non-gazetted)	2
Junior Clerks (non-gazetted)	2
Peons (non-gazetted)	12

The anticipated expenditure on the above staff during 1944-45 is as follows :

Gazetted staff	Rs. 4,941
Non-gazetted staff	Rs. 19,153

STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, CIVIL SUPPLIES, DELHI

1341. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the strength of the office of the Director, Civil Supplies, Delhi, in each category on the 15th March, 1945; and

(b) the expenditure on that strength on that date?

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

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

Designation	Number
Director	1
Assistant Directors	4
Enforcement Officer	1
Permit Officer	1
Inspectors	26
Sub-Inspectors	36
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	6
Superintendents	4
Accountant	1
Assistants	16
Clerks	25
Qanungos	3
Peons	56

The expenditure on account of this staff for the year 1944-45 up to 15th March 1945, amounted to Rs. 1,53,788.

MUNICIPALITIES IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS PAYING DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO STAFF

1342. *Raj Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state:

(a) the names of municipalities in the centrally administered areas following the scheme of the Central Government for payment of dearness allowance to their low paid staff;

- (b) the names of municipalities receiving grants from the Central Government for dearness allowance;
- (c) the percentage of the dearness allowance granted by the Central Government; and
- (d) if it is a fact that other Provincial Governments are paying grants to all municipalities for payment of dearness allowances irrespective of their financial position?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Municipalities of Delhi, New Delhi, Sahahdra, Quetta, Ajmer and Beawar.

(b) No Municipality is receiving grants from the Central Government on account of dearness allowance paid by it to its staff.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) I have no information.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO AJMER MUNICIPALITY FOR PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO STAFF

1943. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if Government are aware that the Ajmer Municipality are paying dearness allowance to their staff in accordance with the Government of India's Scheme;

(b) if it is a fact that no contribution is paid by Government towards the payment of dearness allowance to this municipality;

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning any contribution for dearness allowance to Ajmer Municipality; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the advisability of giving Ajmer Municipality adequate grants-in-aid for dearness allowance in view of the difficult budgetary position in the present conditions?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have not sanctioned a contribution to any Municipality on account of dearness allowance paid by them to their staff and I know of no reason for making an exception in favour of the Ajmer Municipality.

YARN AVAILABLE FOR HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

1944. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the total quantity of yarn available for handloom Industries in 1935-36, i.e., sales of yarn by Mills for handloom purposes and also such portion of imported yarn that was consumed by handlooms giving the quantity in pounds?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Statements given on pages 56 and 286-87 of the Fact Finding Committee's Report, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

YARDAGE PRODUCTION OF HANDLOOMS

1945. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the production of handlooms in 1935-36, and in 1938-39 in yardage; and

(b) the production of handlooms in 1944, and if the figures are not available for 1944, the figures for 1943-44 in yardage?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to tables XIX and XX given on pages 56 and 57 respectively of the Fact Finding Committee's Report a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Exact production figures of handloom cloth in calendar year 1944 are not available. Estimated production of handloom cloth based on yarn actually believed to have been available to handlooms is about 1600 million yards.

FOUNDER'S DAY AT THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE

1346. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether it has been decided not to observe the Founder's Day at the Lady Hardinge Medical College this year? If so, what are the reasons for abandoning the celebrations this year? Is it usually celebrated about the 17th March every year?

(b) Did the students submit an application to the Principal making any demands in this connection? If so, what are their demands?

(c) Is it a fact that recently there was a strike in the College by the students, as reported in the *Hindustan Times* (Evening Edition) of the 8rd March, 1945? If so, for what reasons was the strike resorted to?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, because the students intimated to the Principal that they were not willing to attend. The Founders' Day is celebrated on the 17th of March each year.

(b) Yes, a copy of the letter sent by the President of the Students' Union to the Principal is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes. It is understood that students went on strike as they were under the impression that the College authorities would compel them to attend the Founder's Day celebrations. When, however the Principal informed them that there was no question of any coercion in the matter, the strike, which lasted for two hours, was called off.

Copy of letter written to P. M. C.

(For your information.)

Lady Hardinge Medical College,
New Delhi, 23-2-1945.

To

The Principal,
Lady Hardinge Medical College,
New Delhi.

Dear Dr. Mitton:

I wish to thank you very much for meeting the students on the 21st evening and for hearing some of their grievances and also thank you for your letter No. B/301, dated the 22nd February, 1945.

2. The student body wishes to thank you for the personal interest you are taking in their affairs, in particular for your suggestion to interview them monthly. While appreciating this, the student body is none the less convinced, that the Executive Committee and the President are the best medium for voicing their opinion and grievances, both those which have arisen in the past and such as may arise in the future; also the general feeling is that though these grievances have been officially and adequately represented, they have not been given due consideration by the authorities.

3. In your last interview with the student body the only complaint that was clearly represented was about the passes both in limitation of their number and the difficulty in obtaining even those. We appreciate the sacrifice on the part of the Vice-Principal in devoting so much time to a purely hostel affair, but we cannot help feeling, that this change will not necessarily affect the main issue, viz., the limitation of number of passes.

4. We hereby forward for your kind consideration the grievances of the student body, some of these being of far greater consequence than the question of passes. Although some may seem petty, and may be things of the past, we beg to draw your attention to them, so as to receive a writing assurance that such things will not recur. Included amongst them are certain unpopular rules, which we sincerely beg of you to amend or abolish:—

I. *Leave on adequate grounds.*—To go out of station. Marriage, illness or any domestic emergencies.

(a) Leave was not granted on what seemed to us perfectly adequate grounds—

(1) Miss Sagarya—illness of her brother.

(2) Miss L. Mirchandani—sisters marriage.

(3) Miss S. Chopra—Brother's marriage.

(4) Miss K. Kanta—sister's marriage.

(5) Miss Surgit Kaur—brother's marriage.

(6) S. Chandra—on her brother's return from overseas.

In one of these cases, the student had to suffer severe penalties, due to the action following the refusal. Difficulties in travelling in these cases are negligible as the cases are few and far between.

(b) Leave for absence on week-ends.

(1) It should not be necessary to apply for a week-end pass ten days beforehand.

(2) The number of week ends has been reduced.

(3) Leave to stay away till 10 P.M. number of these passes has been cut down.

(4) Leave for the 4th years, after examination (final) has not been granted.

II. Academic.

(a) Clinical work—we are made to repeat 15 days of a post when we miss 8 days.

(b) We are not allowed to appear on 80 per cent. of hospital attendances although this is permitted by the Punjab University.

(c) Referred students are obliged to repeat their postings when not required, by the Punjab University, e.g., the last batch of super finals.

(d) Students should be allowed to make up for their lost hospital days during Christmas and Easter holidays, if they wish to do so.

III. Coercive Treatment to the Students.

(a) New rules are being made under the pain of expulsion regardless of the magnitude of their offences.

(b) Library being suspended.

(c) Written replies to the student's points are not sent.

(d) Unwritten rules are enforced.

(e) Gating for minor offences.

IV. Hostel Life.

(a) Insubordination and inefficiency of the servants and no satisfaction received from the authorities regarding these.

(b) Repairs—not undertaken promptly, if at all.

(c) Hot water—only two boilers for the whole college.

(d) Diet—no supervision by the authorities and no arrangements for fresh milk and vegetables.

(e) Thefts—either uninvestigated or investigated with great inconvenience to the students concerned.

(f) Sick students not promptly attended.

(g) Students visitors should be allowed to be taken round the campus.

(h) House surgeons quarters have been put out of bounds even in the case of application for a late pass.

We sincerely hope that you will kindly consider the grievances favourably and thanking you in anticipation of an early reply.

Yours obediently,

L. PANDIT,

President, Students Union.

RESERVING FISHING AT CERTAIN GROYNES AT OKHLA FOR EUROPEAN PUBLIC

1347. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether any complaint has come to the notice of his Department that fishing at certain groynes at Okhla is being sought to be reserved exclusively for the European public under orders of the Executive Engineer-in-Charge? If so, has any enquiry been made into this matter, and will he please state the result of such an enquiry?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes. The complaint is being investigated by the authorities concerned.

INTERPRETATION OF "GRAM" IN THE SCHEDULE OF FOODGRAINS (FUTURE AND OPTION'S PROHIBITION) ORDER

1348. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the commodity described as "gram" in the schedule annexed to the Foodgrains (future and option's prohibition) Order, 1942, has given rise to doubts and whether it has cleared any departmental circulars; and

(b) whether the word 'gram' was intended to apply to horse "gram" and whether the order has been applied to horse gram?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I have received no such complaint in connection with the working of the Foodgrains (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order 1942. Gram is generally understood by the trade to mean 'Bengal gram' of which the botanical name is *cicer arietinum*. Horse gram, commonly known as Kulti is a species of pulses and is quite distinct from ordinary gram.

In connection with their Foodgrains Procurement Scheme, the Food Department issued a circular letter in June, 1943, explaining that by 'gram' was meant 'Bengal gram' and not 'green gram', 'black gram' or 'horse gram', which are really varieties of pulses.

LICENSED SALT DEALERS, ETC., IN BIHAR

1349. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his replies to my starred question No. 952 of the 18th March, 1945, and starred question No. 710 of the 30th March, 1944, and state whether he has received replies of the starred question No. 710 asked on the 30th March, 1944? If so, what it is? If not, whether he has issued any reminder to get replies?

(b) With reference to replies to part (b) of starred question No. 958 of the 18th March, 1945, in which the Honourable Member stated that one more wholesale sugar dealer was going to be added in the Hajipur sub-division of the Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, does the Honourable the Food Member propose to ask the Bihar Government to consider the claims of the said Barkat Mian of the same sub-division as he happened to be on the approved list of wholesale dealers of sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes. According to the information received from the Bihar Government there were 1,489 Muslim licensed salt dealers in Bihar on the 30th March, 1944, and 2,047 on the 10th March 1945, out of a total of 19,522. The information is, however, still not complete.

As regards part (b) of starred question No. 952 the information is that there has been an increase in the number of Muslim salt dealers since 1944 in the Tirhut Division.

(b) The matter is entirely within the discretion of the Provincial Government, but I am prepared to send them copies of the questions and answers for their consideration.

CERTAIN INSPECTORS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES IN BIHAR

1350. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please refer to his reply to part (d) of starred question No. 957 of the 18th March, 1945, and state the period during which one Assistant Inspector and each of the two Inspectors have detected 41 and 56 cases respectively in Bihar?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please refer to his reply to part (e) of starred question No. 957 of the 18th March and state whether any Inspector or Assistant Inspector of Civil Supplies has ever been partly entrusted with distribution work in Bihar? If so, who is that officer and where is he located?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of entrusting the distribution work to some of their officers in Bihar?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to give an idea as to how Civil Supplies Department will make arrangements for distribution work in Bihar and the organisation of new schemes for the expansion of distribution work in the Provinces?

(e) What is the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors to be appointed for distribution work in various Provinces?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) About one year up to the end of 1944.

(b) The staff mentioned in reply to part (e) of starred question No. 957 answered on 18th March 1945 attends to the distribution work of the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Assam jointly, arising out of the working of the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order. Each can, therefore, be said to be partly entrusted with the work of distribution in Bihar. This staff works at 213, Circular Road, Calcutta.

(c) Presumably reference is to the Enforcement Staff mentioned in reply to (d) of starred question No. 957 answered on the 18th March 1945. If so, the reply is in the negative, as it will not be possible for that staff to attend to the work of distribution under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order in addition to their duties in regard to the enforcement of the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance.

(d) Internal distribution is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial or State Government concerned.

(e) Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Civil Supplies entrusted with distribution work under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order are appointed region-wise. So far no such staff has been appointed specifically for any one Province. It cannot be stated what the final number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors will be as the number to be appointed will vary from time to time.

IRREGULAR APPOINTMENTS IN CERTAIN BRANCHES OF C. P. W. D.

1351. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether under the rules about communal representation in the services, an appointment made against those rules should be cancelled?

(b) Is it a fact that it was found that an irregular appointment of a Sikh was made in the Horticulture Department of the Central Public Works Department?

(c) Is it a fact that the appointment was not cancelled, but the Muslim, who should have been appointed to that vacancy, was assigned his correct position in the seniority list?

(d) Is it a fact that some irregular appointments were also made in the cadre of Electrical Engineers?

(e) Is it a fact that it was decided not to cancel those appointments but to assign the Muslims their correct position in the seniority list?

(f) Is it a fact that subsequently the orders about seniority were also cancelled and seniority was fixed according to the dates of the irregular appointments of non-Muslims? If so, why?

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

(b) No.

(c) Two vacancies in the grade of Horticulture Subordinate arose simultaneously, of which the first was reserved for a Muslim and the other was unreserved. A Muslim was selected against the Muslim vacancy and a Sikh against the unreserved vacancy. The Sikh joined his appointment earlier than the Muslim, as the latter was employed elsewhere and could not be released in time by the office where he was employed. As the first of the two appointments was earmarked for the Muslim he was placed higher than the Sikh in the seniority list.

(d), (e) and (f). Certain officiating appointments in the grade of Electrical Engineer were made without observing the strict order of communal rotation laid down in the orders regarding representation of minority communities in the public service. These appointments had to be made at very short notice in connection with urgent war works in Eastern India and it was administratively impracticable to follow the prescribed communal rotation in making these appointments. The appointments were not, therefore, cancelled, and the seniority of the officers concerned was fixed in accordance with their respective dates of appointment. No orders fixing the seniority of any Muslim officer in the grade of Electrical Engineer were passed and cancelled later.

AUTHORITY CONTROLLING MOVEMENTS OF FOODGRAINS AND GUR IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

1352. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the local authority which controls the movements of foodgrain and gur in the districts of Hazaribagh, Gaya and Ranchi;

(b) the authority which has prohibited the movement of gur from Chatra in Hazaribagh district to Loherdago in Ranchi district; and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that unnecessary interferences with the free inter-district movements of foodgrains and gur has been causing great difficulties and inconveniences both to the producers and consumers of foodgrains and gur in the districts mentioned in (a) and (b); and if he proposes to advise the local authority concerned not to do so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Regional Officer, Ranchi in Hazari Bagh and Ranchi Districts, and the Regional Officer, Gaya in Gaya District.

(b) The Local Government, on the advice of the Government of India, in order to prevent excessive movement of *gur* to the districts on the borders of the province, whence smuggling out of the province is easy.

(c) I have heard of no special inconvenience.

PENDING APPEALS BEFORE THE INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

1353. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

(a) the total number of appeals pending in January, 1944, and in January, 1945, with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, and the number according to Provinces and how many of them are over one year old;

(b) the average duration of an appeal before the Tribunal and the number filed and disposed of each year, since the establishment of the Tribunal;

(c) whether it is a fact that heavy arrears in Madras Province necessitated two Benches from Bombay and one Bench from Patna to camp at Madras to help the Madras Bench to clear Madras arrears;

(d) the number of appeals that were pending with the Madras Bench at the beginning of February, 1944, and in February, 1945;

(e) whether it is a fact that the period of the Bench at Madras has been extended till the end of March, 1945, and whether this period is sufficient to dispose of all the pending arrears;

(f) whether Government are aware that the non-establishment of a permanent Bench at Madras is causing great expense, delay and hardship to all litigants in the matter of disposal of appeals; and

(g) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of permanently locating a Bench at Madras?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) to (g). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 1051, asked on the 16th March, 1945.

Statement

(a) I. Appeals and Reference applications pending at the end of January, 1944: II. Appeals and Reference applications pending at the end of January, 1945.

	Total	Number over one year old	Total	Number over one year old	
Bombay	212	121 excluding Reference applications (figures for each Province not readily available).	362	47	
C. P. & Berar	108		202		
Sind	79		98		
Baluchistan	29		27		
Ajmer-Merwara	3		13		
Bengal	52		144		4
Madras	541		294		10
Assam	1		2		..
Bihar	119		100		1
Orissa	23		96		6
Coelhi	48	93	..		
Punjab	248	450	46		
U. P.	142	248	21		
N. W. F. P.	57	59	29		
Civil & Military Station Bangalore	1	..		
Total	1662	121	2187	164	

(b) The average duration of an appeal is six months
Number filed and disposed of each year:

year	Number filed	Number disposed of
1941-42	1835	908
1942-43	1858	1660
1943-44	2590	2202
1944-45 upto 1st February 1945	2779	2390

WAR RISKS INSURANCE MONEY

1354. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

- (a) the total amount of money which Government have received on War Risk Insurance;
- (b) how much they have paid to persons who have insured on account of losses incurred;
- (c) the net profit to Government in this matter up to date; and
- (d) how these amounts are utilised or proposed to be utilised by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to my replies on the 21st February, 1945, to the unstarred question No. 410 by the Honourable Mr. Manu Subedar and the supplementaries.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the notifications of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce Nos. 6-WRI(G)/44-D, and 7-W.R.I.(G)/44-D both dated the 6th January, 1945.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 19 of the Honourable the Finance Member's last Budget speech wherein the House was informed that a portion of the funds is being transferred to General Revenues for meeting the expenditure involved in paying compensation for damages resulting from the Bombay Explosion. As regards the balance the Honourable Member's attention is invited to section 7(3) of the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance and section 9(3) of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance.

HYDARI MISSION

1355. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- (a) when the Hydari Mission is expected to arrive back in India;
- (b) the object of their Mission; and
- (c) how far they have succeeded in the Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Mission is expected to arrive back shortly.

(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 16th February, 1945.

(c) After receipt of the report of the Mission, Government will consider the question of acquainting the House with the broad results achieved.

STEPS FOR PROTECTION OF COTTON GROWERS

1356. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) in view of the decision of the U. S. A. to dump their stocks of cotton on other countries, what active steps have been taken by the Government to protect cotton growers in this country;

(b) whether the Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter, and whether they have given any suggestions; and

(c) if so, what steps they propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Opportunity is being taken to present India's point of view on this subject in an adequate manner at the International Cotton Advisory Committee to meet to-day in Washington. India will be represented by the Trade Commissioner in New York and by Mr. Chard, the Controller of Raw Materials and Stores in the Textile Commissioner's Office.

(b) No; the Cotton Committee of the Textile Control Board has however been consulted.

(c) The question does not arise.

REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND FERTILIZERS

1357. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary, Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether the price of food crops was fixed on the basis that agriculturists will get their agricultural implements and fertilizers at controlled rates;

(b) whether Government have calculated the quantity of agricultural implements required for the country per year and the quantity produced in the country and made available to agriculturists; and

(c) whether Government have made similar calculations regarding fertilizers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a)-No, maximum prices have been fixed for some food-grains after taking into consideration various factors including the prices at which agriculturists can obtain their requirements.

(b) Most of the agricultural implements required in the country are made by village blacksmiths and in small foundries. An approximate estimate of the requirements of such implements was made and on this basis it was worked out that at least 100,000 tons of iron and steel should be made available for the purpose every year. In addition another 12,000 tons are needed each year for the manufacture of implements by organized implements manufacturers. Efforts are being made to supply these requirements. The allotment for the first half of 1945 for agricultural implements, consumer goods and unlicensed sales is about 95,000 tons of iron and steel, which will be distributed through Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers acting in consultation with Provincial Governments. In addition iron and steel will be supplied direct by the Civil Steel Licensing Authority to organized implements manufacturers.

(c) Before the war, India used only 100,000 tons of chemical fertilizers in a year; some 20,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate were produced in India in addition to a small quantity of Superphosphate the rest being imported. In 1944 some 58,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate were imported and in the first half of 1945 another 30,000 tons are expected. Comparatively small quantities of other chemical fertilizers have also been received. Indents have been placed for importing 171,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate in 1945-46 in addition to other fertilizers. The imports are distributed through Provincial Governments.

AFFORDING CERTAIN MATERNITY BENEFITS TO WOMEN MINE WORKERS

1358. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) in pursuance of his answer to starred question No. 437, asked on the 21st February, 1945, whether Government have examined the matter of extending the time when women before and after delivery should not be allowed to go within the mines;

(b) whether Government have considered the matter of every mine being provided with creches for children of mothers working in mines; and

(c) whether, in view of the fact that statements have been made in the House by Members with personal experience that these creches are not functioning regularly, Government have taken or are taking steps to see that these are properly functioning?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) The necessary Legislation is already before the House.

(b) and (c). The whole question of the compulsory provision of creches in mines is under consideration.

SCHEME FOR TRAINING IN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES ABROAD

1359. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) apart from the training given in universities to students, as mentioned in the press communique of the Education, Health and Lands Department, whether Government have any scheme to depute and train men in technical industries; so that they can be used in the starting of industries in the post-war period;

(b) whether the Government of India have negotiated with the Government or industrialists of the U. K. or the U. S. A. to get such men trained; and

(c) if so, in what industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Labour Department letter No. TRC-II-1140, dated the 12th December, 1944, a copy of which was placed on the table of the House on the 14th February, 1945 in reply to his question No. 198.

(b) With the Governments.

(c) Negotiations on general lines and not confined to specific industries have taken place.

APPOINTING SCHEDULED CASTE MEMBER ON FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1360. *Mr. Piaré Lal Kuresl: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheduled caste person has ever been appointed on the Federal Public Service Commission; if not, why not; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a scheduled caste person on the Federal Public Service Commission if and when a vacancy occurs in future?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No person belonging to the scheduled castes has hitherto been appointed as a Member of the Federal Public Service Commission. The Chairman and other Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor-General in his discretion under section 265 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from March 8, 1945)

ANGLING AT OKHLA

820. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the conditions on which fishing is allowed to anglers at Okhla in the Province of Delhi? Who are the authorities who control the same?

(b) Who is the authority for issuing licences for angling at Okhla? What position do the Delhi Anglers' Association occupy in this matter? What conditions have the individual anglers, who may not apply through the Delhi Anglers' Association, to satisfy for the purpose of getting a licence?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state the number of annual fishing licences at Okhla granted for the fishing years 1943-44, and 1944-45, separately, mentioning how many of them were granted to members of the Delhi Anglers' Association, or persons applying through the said Association, and how many to those who had applied independently of the Association? Is it a fact that annual licences have been granted on a restricted scale in 1944-45 as compared with the previous year? If so, under whose orders has this restriction been effected? Have any restrictions in the matter of issuing of licences been placed by the Canal authorities, or the Chief Commissioner of Delhi in his capacity as the administrator of the Delhi Province? If any restrictions have been so placed, what are those restrictions, and why have they been placed?

(d) Have any complaints been received by the authorities concerned regarding the rejection of applications for licences? If so, what is the substance of such complaints, and what enquiries have been made into them and with what result? Is it a fact that, while licences have been granted to peons and domestic servants in the year 1944-45, they have been refused in several instances to landlords, income-tax-payers and non-gazetted officers of Government? If so, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Fishing at Okhla is regulated by a set of rules issued under section 75 of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act 1873. A copy of the rules is placed on the table of the House. The rules are administered by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

(b) The Executive Engineer, Upper Division, Agra Canal, is the licensing authority. He consults the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi or the Delhi Anglers'

Association in doubtful cases. In the case of anglers applying otherwise than through the Delhi Anglers' Association, the Chief Commissioner has to satisfy himself that they are *bona fide* amateur anglers of known status and not likely to employ methods which might cause wholesale destruction of fish.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

The number of licences granted in 1944-45 is lower than in the previous year as a result of instructions given by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, in consultation with the Superintending Engineer of the Canal. The Chief Commissioner considered that the scrutiny of applications had become somewhat lax and he decided to tighten up the administration of the rules in order to safeguard the position regarding fish breeding at Okhla.

(d) Yes, complaints are received from time to time from persons who have failed to secure licences, but there is no reason whatever to think that the rules are enforced otherwise than in a proper and reasonable way. No licences have been issued to private servants or peons except in one case where permission was given to enable the peon of an Indian Business man to hold the master's fishing rod while the latter was angling.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI
NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 11th December 1934

No. B-95/34-Industries.—Under the provisions of section 75 of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873, the Chief Commissioner, Delhi is pleased to make the following rules which are hereby published for general information.

Rules.

1. No person shall without the permission in writing of the Divisional Canal Officer, kill, catch or angle for fish in that portion of the Jumna river between the Hindan Escape above Okhla weir to Groyne No. 8 below it and in those portions of the Agra, the Hindan and the Eastern Jumna Canals lying within the boundaries of the Delhi Province.

2. The Divisional Canal Officer may attach to a permit to fish any conditions necessary and may also levy the following fees:

(i) Rs. 10 for an annual permit commencing from October 1, in one year to September 30, in the following year.

(ii) Re. 1 for a permit for one day commencing 6 A.M. and ending at 8 P.M. of the same day.

NOTE.—Soldiers in uniform will be charged only 0-8-0 (eight annas only) for daily permits.

3. No annual permit holder or daily permit holder shall be permitted to fish between 8 P.M. and 6 A.M.

4. Any breach of these rules will be punishable under section 70 (12) of the Act by a fine not exceeding Rs. 50 or to imprisonment not exceeding one month or both.

5. The Chief Commissioner's Notification No. 7617-Industries, dated the 3rd September, 1929 is hereby cancelled.

L. N. G. JOHNSON.

Statement

	1943-1944	1944-1945
(i) Licences granted to persons recommended by the Delhi Angler's Association.	88	21
(ii) Licences granted to persons applying independently of the Delhi Anglers Association.	122	82
Total	160	78

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

TONNAGE ON WHICH SOFT COKE CESS HAS BEEN REALISED.

104. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the tonnage on which the Soft Coke Cess Committee realised its cess on despatch on Soft Coke during 1941 to 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The information is as follows:

1941	957,558 tons	1943	354,835 tons
1942	481,858 tons	1944	445,721 tons

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 22nd March, 1945, agreed without any amendment to the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 10th November, 1944."

THE INDIAN ARMY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, may I with your permission, move the motions standing in the name of Mr. Ram Chandra, because he has been detained?

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

Sir George Spence: Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911."

The motion was adopted.

Sir George Spence: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Air Force Act, 1932.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Air Force Act, 1932."

The motion was adopted.

Sir George Spence: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Finance Bill. Sir Henry Richardson.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, this morning we raise the curtain on the last act of this annual Finance Bill drama. It is not my intention to take much time of the House for, after many days of debate, in which I believe over 40 speakers have taken part, a very wide range of subjects has already been dealt with.

Before I start upon the main remarks which I propose to make, I must touch very briefly upon the rather picturesque speech with which Mr. Anthony regaled us last Friday. I do not consider that Mr. Beverley Nichols' book "Verdict on India" merits the wasting of five minutes of the time of this House—much less the 30 minutes that Mr. Anthony devoted to it. I would no more consider seriously Mr. Nichols' strictures upon the Anglo-Indian community than I would the equally stupid remarks that he makes about my own community. To make such a publication the basis for a long dissertation upon racial inequalities not only indicates a complete lack of a sense of proportion but also a certain lack of justifiable pride in his community, which might well incline Mr. Anthony to disregard such ignorant vapourings. By his speech Mr. Anthony gave the book an importance which it in no way merits; as one "polygenetic mongrel" to another I would strongly advise him to ignore such remarks against the background of the fine achievements of his community both in the past and in the present.

Now, Sir, I wish for a moment to refer to the visit to England now being made by His Excellency the Viceroy. I have no knowledge of the intentions underlying this visit other than those announced in the Press which are known to every Member of this House, but coming, as it does, at this juncture the event cannot but help to react on the mind of political India and to stir the

[Sir Henry Richardson.]

hopes, which we all have, that something may now be achieved to secure the end of the present political impasse. The weakness in the present position in this Assembly is apparent to all and although the continued defeats inflicted on the Government of today may please a certain section of the Opposition, I venture to submit that there can be no real satisfaction over the confusion to which legislative procedure is thus reduced. As I have said, Sir, I am quite unaware of what fresh moves in the political field may be impending as a result of H. E.'s visit. We have been warned not to expect too much and, indeed, if I am to follow the line taken by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in his speech of last Friday we should expect nothing at all. But this is a line of thought which I greatly deplore. If we make up our minds that nothing satisfactory is going to happen we may be quite certain that nothing satisfactory will, in fact, happen, and I suggest that it is premature to anticipate that good will not result from the Viceroy's visit. I feel that I must also point out that we have in this visit still further evidence of the sincerity of the intentions both of His Majesty's Government and of the Viceroy himself. I wish to raise no controversy but in justice to His Excellency and to the Home Government I am bound to say that their efforts in the direction of a settlement might fittingly find a responsive echo in certain quarters opposite. In spite of the gloomy prognostications of the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party I sincerely hope that they will make their contribution to the efforts which are now obviously being attempted. As I have said previously, I have no inside knowledge, but this House will realise fully the heavy responsibility which rests on the shoulders of the leaders of the two great parties opposite me, and I sincerely trust that they may be guided in the direction of a right judgment which will produce something constructive in this most difficult interim period.

I intend no reflection upon the many able men who have interested themselves in the public affairs of this country when I say that the post-war period will make demands upon this country's leaders to an extent which has never before been realised. It is not merely in the art of government that we lack experience but in all the many departures that post-war planning contemplates, the services of experienced men of high calibre will be greatly needed. Moreover the India of the future will have to deal as equals with countries whose experience in such matters has been long and more detailed, and there will be a great need for all the help that the country can produce. It is for this reason that I listened with pleasure to the remarks which fell from Mr. Ayyangar when he advocated a policy of mutual assistance between Great Britain and India in the future. In making this contribution he did no more than reiterate the policy of his leader. Mr. Gandhi and perhaps I may be permitted to quote a short extract from a speech which he made at the first Round Table Conference: He said:

"If we are intent upon complete independence, it is not from any sense of arrogance, it is not because we want to parade before the universe that we have now severed all connection with the British people. Nothing of the kind. On the contrary you find in this mandate itself that the Congress contemplates a partnership—the Congress contemplates a connection with the British people—but that connection to be such as can exist between two absolute equals."

Sir, we realise fully the responsibility which will devolve on those who will lead this country in the future but we would be rather less than generous if we did not now acknowledge the services of those who have in the interim guided this country through the stormy seas of the last five years. In criticising the present Government, a large number of speakers have been at pains to point out that their remarks had no personal bearing on the present Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and whatever accusations those Members may have had to face now or which may be proved hereafter, and whatever their shortcomings may be. I think we owe it to them as individuals to acknowledge the plain, simple and inescapable fact that they accepted office well knowing that, however much or little they might choose to do, they could never hope to tread the easy-going flower-strewn paths of the days of peace. The responsibilities which are involved in war time administration must in any country

constitute a heavy and nerve-racking experience but it is that very experience which enables Members of Government to shoulder such burdens and to project their endeavours into the post-war period. I will always regret that the valuable experience to which I have referred has not been shared fully by those who in the future will have to carry these burdens.

The Viceroy's Executive Council—and I refer particularly to the Indian Members—took office at a time of great danger. When they did so, they realised fully that there would be opposition from popular political parties and they realised also that the promises made by His Majesty's Government would render their tenure of office no more than temporary. I have heard it said that the life of the present Assembly is drawing peacefully towards its close and it may be that we shall see considerable alterations in the seating arrangements before we meet again. I therefore pay the tribute of my Group to those Members on my left for the courageous and patriotic manner in which they have carried on the task of Government in circumstances of unprecedented difficulty. I feel that the attacks made by the Opposition are based more upon political and constitutional grounds than upon shortcomings in administration. Indeed, Sir, votes of censure have on occasions been passed without in fact discussing the merits of the censure at all; it was merely suggested that the constitution of Government was such that they were not politically competent to handle the matter. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has answered this particular form of criticism. The backing of political parties would certainly have been of infinite value to a Government in the past five years, but if this was not possible the duty to continue to govern the country still remained. As the Commerce Member has rightly said, the present Government, whatever their shortcomings, have demonstrated their ability to steer the ship of State through most difficult waters and I for one will ever be grateful to them for accepting a thankless responsibility for reasons of the greatest patriotism. I sincerely hope that their valuable experience and their great individual gift will not be lost to the country by any political changes which may take place.

Sir, there is one other aspect which I think His Excellency's present visit to England brings into prominence and this calls for some reflection. It was, in fact, referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, when he mentioned the importance of India's representation on international organisations and as to the necessity of educating public opinion on international affairs. I entirely agree with him, for I can see nothing but good arising out of ever increasing contacts between India's representatives and those of other countries. And, Sir, it is not only in the field of politics that such contacts are productive of good, it is also such contacts as are made by businessmen, by scientists, by educationists, and last but not least, by those young ambassadors of this country— inadequately termed as Bevin Boys—it is these contacts which I believe are of untold value in the affairs of this country. It is unfortunate that owing to India's pre-occupations with internal political problems and with Indo-British relations, there has been a tendency to ignore, the growing importance of India's relationships with other countries. I do not want to enter into the field of controversy which has been raised in regard to India's representatives at the San Francisco Conference. I would merely state that it would be most unfortunate and a great deal of harm would be done if the present agitation should undermine the position of India's representatives in the eyes of other countries who will be present at that important conference. As I have said, I do not wish to enter that field of controversy. My point is that the appointment of representatives abroad marks an important stage in the development of India's status and I feel the House should pay a tribute to those who now represent India in other countries of the commonwealth and in the United States of America. Mr. Aney in Ceylon and Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai in the United States have been much respected Members of this Legislature, and the same remarks which I have already made in regard to the personal part played by the Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council equally apply in the cases of those Indians.

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who deserve all possible encouragement in a task which has been rendered all the more difficult and delicate by the political *impasse* in this country and the widespread suspicion, sedulously propagated by certain organs of the press. We should, Sir, pay a tribute to their integrity of purpose and their loyalty to their country. I am sure that in later years it will be found that these men have served India well and have helped the countries in which they have worked, to appreciate more fully India's real status and her outstanding contribution not only to the war effort but also the development of better international relationship which is so vital a factor for the future peace of the world.

It is perhaps not sufficiently realised in this country that public attacks upon our representatives abroad by no means enhance our reputation in foreign countries. Whatever heat may be engendered in the discussion of political issues we should always bear in mind the fact that our dirty linen should be washed in private and not exported. I have followed carefully the statements made by such prominent men as Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan when they have visited countries abroad and I have found in none of their utterances the smallest indication of anything which might be construed as under-estimating this country and of the great future that lies before it. I would invite those who oppose them politically to observe the same wise limitations, and to be careful to ensure that their public utterances do not lead the outside world to suppose that this is merely a country of internal dissension and strife.

Finally, Sir, it falls to me to refer on behalf of the European Group to the impending departure of the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir Jeremy Baisman.

I shall respect his modesty and not indulge in a lengthy dissertation upon his many virtues. I merely offer to him the tribute of our great admiration for the courage and patience, the devotion and the skill which he has applied to his onerous duties. History will, I have no doubt, accord him his due place in the scrolls of fame. Any one less skilful less zealous and less gifted would have been unequal to the heavy burden he has carried throughout these long and anxious years of war, but on this occasion, Sir, I am thinking of him primarily as one of ourselves, an Honourable and distinguished Member of this House. He has always expounded the necessarily intricate and difficult problems of his high office with charm and lucidity. He has listened to us for long hours with infinite patience and unflinching courtesy, even though often he could not agree with us. We shall miss him when he has gone, but we wish him the full enjoyment of the leisure he has earned so well.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, about two weeks ago I discussed at some length the question of Defence expenditure. Today I wish to discuss very briefly the expenditure on the Civil side of the administration and then pass on to a brief discussion of some of the important points which were raised by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in the course of his Budget Speech. But before I do so, I wish to say a word about the observations made by my Honourable friend the Finance Member in the course of his reply to the General Debate on the Budget.

My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, after paying some compliments to me, for which I feel thankful to him, observed:

"I find it difficult to see exactly how Dr. Banerjee would have handled these problems. He would not increase taxation, he would not increase borrowing and, above all, of course, as I know, he would not resort to inflation, so that I am not clear how these figures work out."

Sir, I did not pose any dilemma nor did I suggest any conundrum: I made my position perfectly clear. The Honourable the Finance Member is generally a very careful listener to the speeches which are made in this House but perhaps on that particular occasion his attention was diverted from the

discussion to some other point perhaps by some Member sitting by his side. If it had not been so, my Honourable friend would have spared himself the trouble of delivering a somewhat long lecture on the benefits of borrowing and the evils of inflation.

I referred to a modification of the Financial Settlement of 1940 as the remedy for the present state of things. With regard to this my Honourable friend said:

"Prof. Banerjee desires a modification of the Settlement but I am very doubtful whether he would be well advised."

Sir, he doubted whether I would be well advised; in other words there is a lurking fear in his mind that if we raise the question of the modification of the Financial Settlement of 1940, the final decision may go against us. But I do not think that that fear is well founded, because what we want is that the Financial Settlement should be placed on a fair, just and equitable basis. Can there be any objection to that? If the British Government refuse to place the Financial Settlement on a fair, just and equitable basis, they will place themselves open to the charge that they are taking undue advantage of the position of subjection in which India exists at the present moment. Therefore, Sir, I entertain no such fear. I made it clear the other day that India is prepared to make a further contribution to the war effort of the British and the Allied Nations after all the other contributions which have been made during the last six years, and I suggested that the amount of such contribution should be Rs. 250 crores, that is to say, an amount which will be available from the Indian Exchequer without unbalancing the budget of the Government of India any further. Sir, it is well-known to every Member of this House that year after year the budget of the Government of India has been unbalanced, and I think everybody will agree that it is not desirable to unbalance this budget once again.

Sir, is the amount which I propose, the amount of Rs. 250 crores, for the coming year, a small amount? It may be small in comparison with the huge expenditure on war effort made by the United States of America and the United Kingdom, but, when we compare the accumulated wealth of India and the *per capita* national income of India with the accumulated wealth and the *per capita* national income of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, it will appear to every fair-minded person that India's contribution for the coming year is a pretty large sum. Sir, what is the accumulated wealth of the United States and the United Kingdom? It is many thousand times greater than that of India. And the *per capita* national income of those countries is more than hundred times the *per capita* national income of India. Therefore, Sir, I plead for justice, I plead for fair play, and it is not my intention to bring about any diminution in the war effort of the Allied Nations.

Sir, coming to civil expenditure we find that in 1937-38 it amounted to less than Rs. 10½ crores, but in the budget for the coming year a sum of over Rs. 27½ crores has been provided. Is this not a very large increase? As for Civil Administration I find that while in 1937-38 the amount was Rs. 1,67,00,000 it is Rs. 4,85,00,000 in the budget of the coming year. Now what is the cause of this enormous increase in expenditure in the Civil Departments of Government. I can understand a large increase in Defence Expenditure in war time, but no arguments and no facts and figures have been supplied by the Finance Member for this enormous increase in civil expenditure.

Sir, this expenditure requires retrenchment. I am glad that my Honourable friends of the European Group also suggested economy and retrenchment, but I am sorry to find that Mr. N. M. Joshi suggested only economy and not retrenchment. Perhaps he was afraid that retrenchment would hit hard the poorer classes of the people, the peasants and the workers. He perhaps also had in mind the unfortunate experience of the activities of the two Retrenchment Committees which were appointed during the last twenty-five years. It is true that these Retrenchment Committees retrenched expenditure which was necessary for the development of nation-building services, but that does

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not mean that, if attempts are made to cut down expenditure in the future the same unfortunate results will follow. I suggested in this connection last year that a Committee on National Expenditure on the lines of a similar body which has been appointed in England, should be appointed in this country to control both civil and military expenditure. As regards military expenditure, my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, pointed out the other day the unsatisfactory nature of several items of expenditure under the head Defence. Therefore, there is a need, an immediate need, for the appointment of a Committee which will do good work, as much good work as has been done by the Committee on National Expenditure in the United Kingdom.

My Honourable friend's reply was that the functions of the Standing Finance Committee might be expanded. I agree with him there. I have myself on many occasions urged expansion of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance, and I will welcome such an expansion in the immediate present; but I am afraid that it will not be possible for the Standing Committee on Finance, even with an expansion in its functions, to go into the whole question of the military and civil expenditure of Government. An *ad hoc* Committee will have to be appointed, which will go into the question, sitting day after day, and arrive at conclusions at the end of the year.

Sir, I will now deal with some of the other points which were raised by the Honourable Finance Member in the course of his budget speech. In the second sentence of his speech, my Honourable friend observed "that the last twelve months was a period of relative consolidation and stability". This statement came to me as a surprise as it emanated from a person of the knowledge, experience and information of the Honourable Finance Member. Is it not absurd to speak even of relative stability and consolidation when the general index number is something between 240 and 250, the cotton goods index number is over 280, and the rice index number is over 330? Sir, it seems to me that the Honourable Finance Member was quite ill-advised in regarding this period as a period of relative stability and consolidation.

Now, Sir, what have been the causes of this great rise in prices?— The rise in prices, in my opinion, has been due to three factors: first, increase of demand for consumer goods; second, diminution in supply of consumer goods; and third, issue of vast quantities of paper money.

As regards the first, it is well known that the population of India has greatly increased owing to the war activities of the Allied Nations. As for the second, it is well known that the diminution in production of goods for the civilian population has been caused in the interests of the war effort of the Government. Thirdly, we know that paper money has been vastly increased. In September 1939 the amount of paper money was only worth Rs. 172½ crores; but what does it amount to at present? It is now 1,068 crores; and what is the backing for this paper money? 44½ crores in gold bullion and coin, and the whole of the rest in sterling securities. In other words, India's paper money has a backing to the extent of only 4 per cent. in gold and the remaining 96 per cent. in paper. I need hardly tell the House that Sterling securities are also paper securities. Is this a desirable state of things? It may be pointed out further that the increase in paper money is still going on. The quantity of paper money in February, 1945 was larger than in January, 1945, and today it is larger than it was in February. Is this justifiable? One feels inclined to ask, how far will the increase of paper money be pushed. The Government may evade their own responsibility in the matter by saying that the paper money is issued not by them but by the Reserve Bank of India. It appears to me that the Reserve Bank is completely under the thumb of the Government of India, which is itself under the absolute control of the British Government. It is a pity that the Reserve Bank of India has played a subordinate and an inferior part in this matter. It was expected when the Reserve Bank of India was founded that it would function as a national bank, but what do we find now? It is functioning as an anti-national bank, because it is helping to create misery in the country.

I have dealt with the causes of the rise in prices but what have been its effects? The first and foremost effect of this vast increase in prices has been the great famine in Bengal and its after-math, which between them carried off no less than four to five millions of people. This phenomenal increase in prices has also resulted in great suffering throughout the country.

This brings me to the question of food, because the prices of food-grains have risen enormously in every part of India and has caused great suffering to the whole of the Indian population. This suffering has been the greatest in Bengal. Even at the present moment, if we look at the Calcutta Gazette, we find that the prices of rice range very high. The prices of rice range from Rs. 11 a maund to Rs. 20; and in many places these amounts are beyond the capacity of the poor people to pay. The result is that there is starvation and malnutrition. Speaking of starvation, I desire it to be made clear that, although the famine has ceased to exist, deaths from starvation still continue. Anybody who cares to read the morning newspapers of Bengal will find that the destitutes of Calcutta die in hospitals every day, but no record is kept of the deaths of destitutes in the countryside. It may be taken for granted that large numbers of people are dying every day from starvation in the countryside of Bengal. I should like to emphasise one thing about the food situation. While people are starving we find large stocks of food deteriorating in front of these people. Only a few days ago, we read in the newspapers—and a reference was made to this in the other House—that a large quantity of rice deteriorated at Munshiganj and that a large quantity of *Atta* was found to have become rotten at Dacca. Now whose responsibility is it to guard against such deterioration? The Government of India may say that it is the primary responsibility of the Government of Bengal. I admit that that is so. But if there is a great deal of criminal negligence, inefficiency and corruption in the Government of Bengal, it is the duty of the Government of India to check this state of things in the province.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): But there is inefficiency and corruption in the Government of India also.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: There is inefficiency and corruption in the Government of India also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Not in the Food Department.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Therefore, it is necessary for the Food Department to be more active, more energetic, more assertive and more vigilant in the future. I am not one of those who think that the Food Department of the Government of India is a useless department. It has done a great deal for alleviating distress in Bengal, although it came rather late. I should like it to continue but with greater efficiency and with a greater sense of duty.

Sir, contrast the state of things which exists in this country with the way in which the food situation has been handled in the United Kingdom. In that country, as soon as the war broke out a Food Ministry was created and a Food Department was established which was working on a scientific basis. A food policy was adopted and nutritional standards were laid down. Large subsidies were given to the cultivators and regular imports of food from abroad were arranged for. The result is that the health of the poor people in Britain has greatly improved since the commencement of the war. But what has happened in India? Not only have so many millions of people died but the rest of the population lives in a state of semi-starvation and malnutrition. Look upon that picture and look upon this! Is it not time now that the Government of India took a leaf out of the book of the British Government and followed the example which has been set by that Government? In this connection I should like to make a concrete suggestion. A friend of mine, Rai Bahadur Chunilal Roy, who was in the service of the Government for many years has prepared a scheme for the storage of food in banks. He suggests the creation of a Central Reserve Food Bank and branch banks in the district headquarters and the villages. A similar suggestion was made about 40 years ago by a patriotic landholder of

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Bengal known as 'Dharmagolas', but the Government did not pay heed to that suggestion, and it was not given a fair trial. I hope the Food Member will consider the present scheme.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have considered it already and brought it to the attention of the Bengal Government.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But you yourself should take it up and apply it to the whole of India. It is not for the benefit of Bengal alone but for the benefit of the whole of India.

Connected with this question is a matter which my friend Mr. Krishnamachari raised in this House a few days ago. He referred to the arrangement made with the Government of Bengal in regard to the payment of a subsidy in respect of the loss incurred by the Bengal Government by the sale of stocks of paddy and rice at prices considerably below the cost of acquisition. He also referred to the conditions imposed by the Government of India under which the subsidy was to be given, which in his opinion seemed to be rather stiff. Now it is desirable that the Government of India should depute an officer of their own so that he may make arrangements which will result in a proper settlement of the whole question.

Sir, I now pass on to the cloth position in the country. In this regard, it is known that cloth scarcity prevails throughout the length and breadth of India. But it is most acute in Bengal. It is so acute in Bengal that a cloth crisis day was observed in Calcutta, cloth raids took place in that city and 'today's papers report that at Munshigunj large groups assembled before the house of the Sub-Divisional Officer demanding cloth. These people were in a half naked condition. It has been said before that women committed suicide for want of cloth. The situation is so serious that a man like Sir T. B. Sapru, the veteran statesman of India, and Sir Jagadish Prasad, a former Member of the Executive Council of the Government of India, have issued a statement in which they say that it is no consolation to the poor woman who is going naked to know that there are constitutional difficulties in the way of the Central Government intervening in this matter, and they urge that the situation must be faced boldly and that a satisfactory solution must be immediately arrived at. Now, in regard to the cloth situation, my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque pointed out the other day that Bengal's quota had been fixed at 10 yards per head. Why was it so fixed, while the quotas of other provinces were fixed at higher figures? In regard to this question, he observed that it was believed that the consumption of cloth in Bengal in the pre-war year 1938-39 was only of this amount. How was it believed? By whom was it believed? And what was the basis for fixing this quota? I think it is a wholly wrong thing to say that Bengal's consumption is less than that of the other provinces. In future I hope this notion will be discarded and the quota supplied to Bengal will be placed on a basis equal to that of the other provinces.

My Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque said further that Bengal had been supplied with an amount which was greater than the quota. Now, that has been vehemently denied by the Honourable Mr. Suhrawardy the Minister of Civil Supplies in Bengal. He regards the statement of the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque as a fallacious one; he did not use the word 'false' because it was un-Parliamentary. One reason of the shortage of cloth in Bengal is that no yarn has been supplied to the handloom weavers, 80 per cent. of whom are idle. If handloom weavers had been supplied with yarn the situation might have improved to a considerable extent. Besides, no encouragement has been given to hand spinning. The other day a question was asked in the other House in reply to which the Secretary of the Commerce Department admitted that no financial assistance has been given but he observed that no steps had been taken to stop hand spinning. In other words, the Commerce Department did not cut off the fingers of the hand spinners and weavers as had been done in the early years of the Company's rule in this country. For this act of mercy we should feel thankful to Sir Azizul Huque.

12 Noon.

I now pass on to the future of the food situation. My Honourable friend Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava said the other day that as regards the future of the Food supply, there should not be over-optimism and he further observed that it was not true that there was not an over-all deficiency in respect of food production. Food production can be increased almost indefinitely as has been pointed out by Sir Phiroze Kharegat. Sir Phiroze Kharegat says that in the course of five years, the food production of the country can be increased by 50 per cent. and in the course of 15 years by 100 per cent., provided the necessary facilities are afforded. Now, Sir, we strongly insist that proper facilities be afforded.

Sir, I have dealt with some of the worst features of inflation. Now, the question is: How to fight this demon of inflation. My Honourable friend the Finance Member has three remedies in hand. First of all, taxation; second, borrowing and third, the Hydari Mission. As regards the first, we all know that he has overreached the limit of his ingenuity. As regards the second, although he does not agree with us, we think that the limit has been reached and further borrowing will cause great hardship to the poorer people of future generations. In this connection, I may point out that the loans to which reference has been made by several speakers on this side of this House have a definite inflationary, and not anti-inflationary, effect. Therefore, no further resort should be made to borrowing. But how shall we fill the inflationary gap? My Honourable friend says: We have sent the Hydari Mission to import consumer goods into this country in large quantities.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I did not say that.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Honourable Member referred only to consumer goods.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg the Honourable Member's pardon. If he would refer to my budget speech, he would find that the primary object of the Hydari Mission was to endeavour to obtain some reduction of the load which is being put on India in the matter of war production.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I stand corrected. But as regards importation of goods, he can bestow his attention only on consumer goods and not on capital goods. I do not know what instructions have been given to the Hydari Mission. Now my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, pointed out that India could with great benefit to herself import five times the amount of £ 60 million worth of consumer goods into this country. It is believed that Hydari Mission has arranged for the importation of £ 60 million worth of consumer goods.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That I may say is entirely unfounded.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I am glad to know that that is unfounded and I hope the Honourable Member will agree with me also that the importation of five times this quantity of consumer goods would be detrimental to the economic interests of this country.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It would be impossible to get them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That is another matter. But this is wholly a wrong view. We should remember in this connection that as soon as the war ends, there will appear a deflationary tendency in this country and unless this deflation is regulated and checked, it will inflict great hardship not only on industry and trade, but on large sections of the population; it will create widespread unemployment. Therefore, Sir, it is undesirable to import consumer goods in very large quantities. The best remedy is to increase production within the borders of this country and to import capital goods and such consumer goods as are not produced in this country at all or are produced only in insufficient quantities. If that is done, the inflationary gap will cease to exist.

That brings me, Sir, to the question of industrial development of the country. The industrial possibilities of the country are very great. But industrial development should proceed on lines which will secure the interests of India as a whole, firstly, secondly and lastly. It is very unfortunate that this has not been the case in the past. But we should be on our guard that such provision should be made in the future.

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There is another matter which should be considered in this connection, namely, the question of self-sufficiency. Sir, I am not a believer in absolute self-sufficiency. But I think it is desirable to make the country self-sufficient in respect of such goods as are of an essential character both in war and in peace time. In this regard, we should consider the interest of the key industries. But as regards articles of luxury and artistic goods, the whole world should be regarded as one market and India should have no hesitation in importing such goods from other countries.

Sir, I will say a few words now on the urgent needs of the present hour. First and foremost, the need of the present hour is the extension and improvement of agriculture. Next in importance is the development of cottage industries. In this connection I refer Government to the forty crore scheme which has been advocated by Sir M. Visweswarayya who hopes that the giving of effect to such a scheme will not only revive the cottage industries of the country but will prove a boon to the whole population.

Then we should consider the question of motive power. In this regard I wish to observe that the coal position in the country at the present moment is a very serious one. And coal is needed not only for industrial purposes but also for household purposes; and both industry and the householder have been very seriously affected by the present difficulties in regard to coal. Now what is the way out of this difficulty? I am a believer in the nationalisation of the coal industry, but that will be possible only when there is a national Government in the country. Until then we will have to adopt other remedies, in the meantime we should rationalise the coal industry. In other words, we should take steps to prevent any waste, to raise the largest quantity with the minimum effort and to make the best use of the output. That is what I mean by rationalisation. State control should be exercised in such a manner that all these objects may be attained. Unfortunately, Government have so far bungled—and bungled very seriously—in this matter.

Allied to this question is the question of development of minerals. My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy the other day wanted to discuss this question fully, but the time at his disposal did not permit him to do so. He, therefore, handed over to the Honourable Labour Member his notes on this subject, I hope these notes which had been very carefully prepared will receive the attention which they are entitled to.

Another urgent need of the hour is the development of industries based on minerals. The genius of a Bengali scientist and the enterprise of a Parsee industrialist laid the foundations of the steel industry in India, and the protection given to that industry by the Government of India has resulted in a phenomenal development of this industry. In future, in the post-war period, there will be a further development of this industry and it will be able to stand on its own legs and will not require protection any longer. But there are certain industries based on the non-ferrous metals which require the attention of the House and of Government. These industries have not been developed; nor has a proper investigation into the condition of non-ferrous metals yet taken place. It is believed that India abounds in large quantities of non-ferrous minerals, and if they are properly developed and properly utilised there will be a large non-ferrous industry in this country.

Lastly, Sir, I wish to refer to ship-building which is also one of the most urgent needs of the country. Ship-building has not been taken up in earnest by the Government of India. But the development of this industry is important not only in the interests of the trade and commerce of the country but also in the interests of the building up of a navy. This matter was emphasised by no less a person than Vice-Admiral Godfrey the other day when he observed that a large mercantile marine was the true foundation for the establishment of a navy. Sir, during the last fifteen years very little has been done in this direction, and the recommendations of the Post-War Development Committee do not

go far enough in this respect. What the country wants is that a definite shipping policy should be laid down with the object of first reserving the whole of the coastal trade of India to Indian shipping; secondly, of acquiring a predominant share of shipping facilities in the Indian Ocean for Indian ships, and lastly, of ensuring a substantial share in international shipping. These are objects which I hope will be kept in view by the different departments of Government and by the Honourable Member in charge of the Planning Department.

Sir, this brings me to the question of planning. In my opinion the main task which faces this department is that of converting war industries to peace industries. If this task, which is a huge one and which will employ the whole intelligence, information and energy of the department over which my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal presides, can be fulfilled in the proper manner, the Honourable Member will deserve the thanks of the whole country. As for post-war reconstruction the main purpose of this department should be of an exploratory and preparatory character. This department can do a great deal in the way of collecting material regarding the existing resources of the country, both material and human, regarding the available capital in the country, regarding the water-power resources, regarding the schemes which have been adumbrated in various parts of the country. But it will not be the business of this department to consider large questions of policy, principle or practice, such as capitalism, socialism, communism, free enterprise and things of that kind. These may be left to the future Government of the country. If they are able to prepare the ground for the future industrial and economic development of the country, my friends in this department will deserve well of us.

The time at my disposal will not enable me to discuss the other questions raised by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member. He raised such questions as sterling credits, the dollar pool, the future of Indian taxation, the Estate Duty Bill, and so on. These questions have been dealt with by other Members and I shall have an opportunity of discussing in full the Estate Duty Bill towards the end of this Session.

I shall before I conclude, say a few words about the political situation. The Viceroy of India has now proceeded to the United Kingdom. I do not know what the object of the visit is, but it is believed in many parts of the country that it has something to do with the future constitution of the country. Another event of importance is the San Francisco Conference, the object of which is to lay down principles and policy with regard to the security of the world in future. Sir, these are questions which will demand the attention of this House; but they are not questions of immediate importance, and therefore I will not deal with them at the present moment. I will say only this that the war will perhaps come to an end very soon, and the war will be won by the courage, the resourcefulness, the dogged determination of the Allied Nations. But these are qualities which will not be sufficient for dealing with the question of peace. The Allies will win the war, but will they be able to win the peace? That will depend on whether there will be a moral change in their outlook, and whether they will be able to cast away the notions of imperialism and racial discrimination which has governed their attitude for so long. The great test of the sincerity of the professions of British and American politicians regarding democracy and the well-being of the world will be their attitude towards India. Is a stable peace with India in bondage possible? Will the world be secure against future wars with four-hundred millions of people kept in subjection? I believe that a wider vision will dawn on the politicians and statesmen of the world and they will see that unless India is free there will be no world security.

The Finance Bill, if it had stood by itself, would have received my full support, because it does not impose any taxation which will affect the poor people of the country. But it is not unconnected with other matters. It is intimately connected with borrowing which will inflict a great suffering on the future generation; it is intimately connected with inflation which has been causing great havoc in this country; it is also connected, though indirectly, with the question of India's freedom. Therefore, Sir, I feel it my duty to oppose this Bill.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. President, the policy of the Muslim League with regard to the Finance Bill has been consistently uniform since 1941. We have always opposed the measure on the ground that so long as we have no real share in the power and authority of the Government, we cannot take the responsibility of placing funds at their disposal to be spent in any way that they may like. Some people seem to be under the impression that the Muslim League has changed its policy with regard to this matter only since the presence of the Congress Party in this House. It is not so. The number of votes or the result of division is not the consideration with the Muslim League. If we believe in a principle, we stand by it irrespective of the fact whether the votes are a dozen or whether they are one hundred.

Sir, I am sorry that in spite of my request, made through my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait to the Whip of the Government, the Honourable Dr. Khare has not chosen to be present in the House.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Censure him in *absentia*.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am sorry about it, because there is nothing I hate more than to say anything about the speech of an Honourable Member when he is not present. But as time and tide wait for no one, I am afraid on account of the short time which I have at my disposal I shall have to say whatever I have in this connection.

The Honourable Dr. Khare complained that he heard a whispering campaign that the reduction of the Demand for Immigration (External) was due to some personal reasons and not on merit. The Honourable Member flatters himself too much if he thinks that we on this side of the House give our decisions on account of our personal likes or dislikes of any individual Member of the Government. There were, Mr. President, during the last Budget Session three Demands that were rejected in full by this House apart from the Demand for Executive Council, one of these was Immigration (External). We rejected that demand because we found that it was the only way in which we could show our strong resentment against the policy of the Government in ignoring the unanimous opinion of the peoples of India with regard to the recall of the Agent to the Governor General in South Africa.

Now, Sir, as regards planning, it is not that we dislike our friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal more than we dislike anybody else, or that we like him less than we like other Members of the Executive Council. But it is because we felt that the future planning of the country could only be done satisfactorily by a Government which had the backing of the peoples of that country. The second consideration with us was that the Honourable Member had also refused to accept the decision of this Honourable House wherein it was resolved that a Committee of this House should be appointed to examine all the plans that may be prepared with regard to future planning.

Now, Sir, the third demand which was rejected *in toto* was with regard to the Department of Information and Broadcasting. There also it was not on personal grounds. It was because in spite of the decision of this House that the Department of the National War Front should be abolished, the Government had decided to continue with the same nefarious activities under a different name.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare, whom I am glad to see in the House, was not right when he said that we had chosen certain individuals to show our particular resentment against them. As a matter of fact, we were very particular that it may not be considered that the members of any particular community were selected. We had a Muslim, we had a Hindu and a member of the minority community.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare was annoyed because on the last occasion I had quoted some of his remarks which he had made to a press representative and which were published in all the papers wherein he had stated that he accepted the office in the Executive Council because he wanted a job. I am sorry, Mr. President, for having made the mistake of giving Dr. Khare credit for his believing in what he says. I apologise to the Honourable Member.

It is indeed my fault. I should have remembered the wise saying of a sage: "Don't readily believe a fool, you cannot be sure if he is not a knave." Sir, the Honourable Member suggested in his speech that the stock of the Muslim League has gone down and that is why we in this House have adopted a particular attitude. Let me assure him and the Honourable Members of the House that the stock of the Muslim League is higher if anything to-day than what it was before. We do not care whether we have a ministry or not. That is not our aim and object. When we find that the name of the Muslim League is being exploited by certain interested persons, then we do not hesitate to take the strongest action which is provided in our constitution against that person. It does not weigh with us whether our standing by our principles would make us lose the label of Muslim League Ministry in a certain province. The Honourable Dr. Khare stated that the Premier of the Punjab had even refused to see the General Secretary of the All-India Muslim League, and he said that it was evident from the articles in *Dawn* which were published last summer. Sir, I am not surprised that the Honourable Member is ignorant of what is happening in the country when he is completely ignorant of what happens in his own Department. Here I have, Mr. President, a letter written by the Honourable Member's Secretary, in reply to the one which was sent by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on behalf of the Muslim League Party and addressed to the Honourable Member himself. But the other day during question time it was made clear by the replies of the Honourable Member himself that he was not aware of the contents of this letter. Now, though this letter has been written on behalf of the Honourable Member and at his desire, still the contents of this letter are not known to him.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): There is nothing surprising in it!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Nothing as far as you are concerned! I have stated that. It is signed by R. N. Banerji. The letter reads like this:

"Dear Sir Muhammad

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 5th March, 1945, addressed to the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare and to say that"

Now, I would like to know by whom was this gentleman desired? Was he desired by one of the peons of Dr. Khare or by the Honourable Member himself? So, Sir, I am not really surprised that the Honourable Member is totally unaware of what is happening in the country. Some secretary or steno-typist must have said: "Sir, you are having a written speech: just put this in also". The Honourable Member did not take the trouble of finding out what the facts were. Perhaps it is too much to expect intellectual honesty in the Honourable Member. But there is, Mr. President, such a thing as parliamentary honesty that when a Member of this House makes a statement on the floor of this House he should be sure of his facts.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare has related a cock-and-bull story of some alleged secret agreement between myself and the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, and he also gave details of that agreement. Mr. President; I should like to say most emphatically that it is an absolute fabrication. It is absurd on the face of it. There cannot be any agreement between two individuals who are not political orphans like the Honourable Indian Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council but who are members of the two most powerful all-India organisations in this country. If there is to be any agreement with regard to the Hindu-Muslim problem or the constitutional question, it can only be between the Congress and the Muslim League.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Has any agreement been made?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend will go and find out in a dictionary the meaning of the words "absolute fabrication".

Sir, the Honourable Member said that we on this side of the House have make-believe unity. The Honourable Member is absolutely wrong. We are

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not so ignorant of the position as the Honourable Member would imagine us to be. We know that the differences between the Congress and the Muslim League still exist but it does not mean that because of our differences we should go into different lobbies in this House, even with regard to those matters which are for the benefit of the peoples of India as a whole. Differences should not mean that we should not take into consideration those measures, those proposals which are designed for the benefit of the country at large. We are not here to be exploited by the Congress nor is the Congress here to be exploited by us. We are both here to serve the peoples of India. We are here to do whatever we can under the present constitution for the benefit of the country at large and if we happen to be in the same lobby, that is the only consideration with us, and there is no other consideration.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is there consideration of any future Government to be formed in this country?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by "consideration of any future Government being formed in this country". That, I think, the Honourable Member should go and ask the Secretary of State for India. If I were in a position to say that such and such a Government shall be formed, only then the Honourable Member could have asked me that question.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Are you trying to form a Government?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: If he will say in what way I am trying to form a government, then I will be able to answer it. But, as I said, some of the Honourable Members have read some news somewhere, by some mischief-mongers, and they take it as gospel truth without trying to find the truth about it. It has always been the policy of the Muslim League and it shall continue to be the policy of the Muslim League to support any measure irrespective of from what quarter it comes, which is for the good of the peoples of India as a whole. This has been our policy throughout and this shall continue to be our policy irrespective of any other consideration.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare related at great length the achievements of his Department. That reminds me of a story. A traveller with his family arrived at a village when he found that his son was not well. So he went to the village physician and before he could bring him to examine his son, he asked the physician "Are you a good physician?" This physician ordered his bullock-tonga, sat in it, asked the traveller to sit by his side and he drove out of the village till they reached a plot of land. He asked the visitor to get down and the latter found that it was a plot of land full of graves. The physician turned round to him and said, "yeh tumhare bap ne abad kiya hai".

The Honourable Dr. Khare mentioned the lot of the Indians in South Africa. We all know what the condition is there. He has mentioned his wonderful achievements with regard to the last Haj pilgrimage. I would advise him to read the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang.

Then he talked about the great things that he had done for the evacuees.

An Honourable Member: Nothing.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says "nothing" but I will refer to something about which everybody knows. The administration in these evacuee camps was so "perfect" under the Honourable Member's Department, that in one camp alone there has been discovered (I am giving you official figures, Mr. President) an embezzlement to the extent of 73 lakhs. So these are the achievements of the Department under the Honourable Member's charge for which he wants this House to thank him.

Sir, the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, while speaking in the debate on the cut motion in connection with the Executive Council, stated that by "sticking to our jobs we have advanced the cause of India's freedom". I do not know how the Honourable Member says that they have advanced the cause of India's freedom. I think the Honourable Members are in fact deceiving

themselves, if they think that all the assistance that India has given in this war is due to the fact that the Honourable Members are sitting on the Treasury Bench. It is not so. It is not a fact. The two million soldiers who have gone to the army have not gone through the efforts of any one of those Members. The funds that have been subscribed to the war funds have not been subscribed because of the efforts of these Honourable Members. They have been subscribed through the efforts of the Patwari and the Naib Tahsildar, who should really claim it as their achievement in the cause of India's freedom and not the Honourable Members opposite. Statements like this would indeed be on a par with the statement of those chaprassies who are standing round this chamber, if they were to say that by our presence in this House we have advanced the cause of Parliamentary Government in India. Why make these claims when they have no truth about them? Do not think that you have advanced the cause of freedom of India? There is no truth in that. You may say that, according to your light, you have done what you thought was your duty, but do not be under the delusion that by your presence on those benches, the cause of freedom of India has in any way been advanced.

I will give one instance; perhaps Honourable Members did not attach much importance to it. The other day the Honourable Secretary for War stated that it was the opinion of the military authorities that right type of Indians were not coming forward for officers' posts in the Army for all the Services generally, but particularly for the Air Force. Mr. President, I ask, do Honourable Members of this House realise the significance of this statement? Does it not mean that preparation is being made by the British to deprive India of its freedom?

India cannot be free unless it has its own national army, whether it is one India or whether it is two Indias. We cannot be free unless we have armies of our own, and if there are no officers to command, how can we have an army which can be called national in any sense of the word. Mr. President, three years after the war began, in 1942, Sir Stafford Cripps came out to India and made proposals which are quoted by my European friends as having conceded the freedom of India. The proposals which he made were that India was to frame its own constitution and that India was to have complete freedom. In other words, the British in 1942 realised that there was enough material in the country to officer the Indian Army. But to day, after the great efforts of the Honourable Indian Members of the Executive Council, we are told that the right type of Indians are not available to officer the Indian Army. Either they are in the country, or they are not. If they are in the country, then the influence of these Honourable Members is next to nothing, because in spite of there being present in the country, right type of Indians have not come forward to offer their services.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raismair, is going to retire shortly, and I would like to say a few words about him. He has been in charge of the finances of the country at a most critical time. He has been complimented for his achievements, he has also been criticised, and the criticism perhaps has been harsh in certain respects. But I would request him to look at it from this point of view. He should think, thank God, it has not been worse, because a man in his position, whoever it might have been, would, in these days, never have been able to satisfy India, even if India was a free country, and when India is not a free country, then suspicion is natural, and I do not think the Honourable Member can blame us that in spite of his efforts, he has not been able to satisfy us. I would only say this: do not care about criticism or praise. If you believe you have done your duty honestly, if your conscience is clear, well, I think that satisfaction of your own conscience should be a sufficient reward for the services you have rendered.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Does not that apply to Indian Members?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. President, my Honourable friend, Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava asks, "Does it not apply to Indian Mem-

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bers. When the present Indian Members of the Executive Council are politically and administratively dead, I shall deliver the funeral oration.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a long time yet.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman said that people take a detached view of the war. He made this statement on the 7th March, 1945, and I would really request him to examine this statement of his. Is it that we take a detached view of the war, or is it that you do not allow us to take an attached view of it? As far as the Muslim League is concerned—and I want to repeat it once again, because I find that in spite of the policy of the Muslim League having been made very clear, from time to time, there are still people who seem to be ignorant about it—from the very beginning it realised the seriousness of the war before you realised it. In 1940, when still the British Government in this country was very complacent, it was the Muslim League that drew the attention of the Government of India and His Majesty's Government that the resources of India should be mobilised for the defence of this country, because we realised at that time that these flames of war would not be confined only to Europe, but were bound to spread all over the world. I want to make this perfectly clear to these Honourable gentlemen, because they have got into the habit of beating the Congress and the Muslim League with the same stick; be honest, I do not mind it, say we do not want your co-operation, but why confuse the issue; everywhere when any Member of Government makes a speech he says that the main parties refused to co-operate.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Did not the late Punjab Premier resign from the National Defence Council at the instance of Mr. Jinnah?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Quite right. We realised then, as we realise today, that to be a member of the National Defence Council, to be your recruiting sergeant and, your broker for collecting money, was not enough to mobilise the resources of India for this war, and we said we are not going to be deceived in this manner, and it has been amply shown that the attitude that we took up was perfectly right.

Mr. President, I was only saying that I beseech the Honourable Members on the other side of the House not to confuse the position of the Muslim League. We have at no stage stated that we would non-co-operate with the war effort. All that we have said and which we say even today, is that it is not possible for the Muslim League organisation which represents one hundred millions of Muslims in this country, to take up the responsibility of asking the Muslims and the peoples of this country to make sacrifices unless they had the right to share in the authority and power of Government. People come to me now—although I do not ask them, they come to me,—a number of Indian officers who have joined the Army—and pour out their tale of woe: how they are being treated, how they are being dealt with. I am helpless, I cannot do anything, but I feel that is not my responsibility. Therefore, it has been the position of the Muslim League throughout that we are not against the war effort. It is not because you are winning the war now that we are saying this, even in your darkest hour the policy of the Muslim League was the same. Sir, I would ask you, when you talk of the parties and peoples of this country, kindly to make a distinction. For whatever one party may have done, do not blame the rest of India and try to get away with it. If you have not been able to secure the honourable co-operation of the Muslim League and such other parties in the country that wanted to co-operate with you, the responsibility is entirely yours, and you cannot today come forward and tell me that the people take a very detached view of the war. You have not made it possible for us to do anything more.

There is just one point with regard to the financial position: expenditure in this country is going up by leaps and bounds, specially the defence expenditure. We all realise that at a time of war the expenditure must rise. But the people are very restive, because we are not given any

information: and therefore I would request the Honourable Member to consider this carefully, if it is not possible for him and for his successor to take at least the Leaders of Parties in this House into confidence with regard to the expenditure. Surely you could not expect the peoples of India to take it as gospel truth that whatever you say about the allocation of expenditure and so on is all right. We can realise, we can understand that it may not be in the public interest to place all the proposals openly before this House; but you must satisfy the peoples of this country, on whom you are putting the burden to bear.

My Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson referred to the San Francisco Conference. He said that nothing should be done or said which would undermine the position of India's representatives at the conference. It is indeed very unfortunate that the Government were not able to allot an official day for the discussion of this important matter. I must say that they were more accommodating in the other House—an official day was allotted.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Because they have a majority in the other House.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: for the discussion of a non-official resolution. But whatever the reasons may be—and the reasons are obvious—as reference has been made to the delegation to this conference, I should like to say a few words. When this matter was being discussed in the other place, the Honourable Sir Olaf Caroe opposed that resolution which wanted that non-official Indians should be in the delegation, and he opposed it on two grounds. One was—and I suppose he was meaning the Congress—that those who have not helped in the war effort have no business to take part in the establishment of peace after the war. But what about those who had not been opposed to the war effort? Surely the whole of India has not been opposed to the war effort. Surely there have been other people who have not been opposed to the war effort. Then the Honourable Member said—and there I think he was referring to the Muslim League—that if any representatives of the Muslim League went, will they talk of one India or of two Indias? I want to ask my Honourable friend a question—of what India will these two gentlemen talk at the San Francisco Conference? Sir Olaf Caroe recognised that in this country there are two opinions, one is for one united India, and the other is for two Indias, or more as the case may be. He says that these parties cannot be represented at this conference, because of these differences. I was not sure before I heard this speech that these united nations are collecting at San Francisco to frame the future constitution of India—I was not aware of that fact. I only thought that this conference was being held to devise ways and means of keeping peace in the future. Whether there is one India or whether there are two Indias everybody will be interested in maintaining peace in the future. So I do not know how that remark of the Honourable Member was relevant. I want to know, as I said just now, which India are these two gentlemen going to represent at this conference. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: One India.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Member for Food says "One India". Which India? He has not replied to my question— which India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The India which exists today.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That India, is not being represented at this conference. The India which is being represented at this conference is the India which is kept under subjection with the help of British bayonets in this country. Why do you not say that? What is the use of talking of the India that exists and of one India and all that? You know it very well. This Government is there not as a representative of the peoples of India. This Government is there of an India which is kept under subjection with the help of British bayonets and the delegation is representative of that India. So, what contribution will they make at this conference? They will only make a contribution which an India like that, which is kept under subjection with the help of

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British bayonets, can make; and yet Sir Henry Richardson says that we should not say anything which would prejudice their representative character at this conference. Let me tell him that the world today is wiser than what it was a few years ago. These gentlemen might have been passed off as India's representatives a few years ago. But today everybody knows—and when I say that I am not lowering their prestige or their position—but I do want the world at large to know that the agreement which may or may not be signed or any arrangement which may be arrived at by these two representatives is not an agreement which India is going to accept, unless it is an agreement which is approved of and accepted by the peoples of India. Therefore, I want the Honourable Members to be quite clear as to the representation of India at this conference. The Honourable the Food Member who, as a rule, is very silent, is today full of beans.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Did you say beans?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes; beans: you are in charge of the Food Department.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: French beans!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know which beans you like. The Honourable the Food Member, when Dr. Banerjea was saying that inefficiency and corruption exist in all the departments, said "Not so in the Food Department". It is a claim which is not based on facts. There is corruption and nepotism in the Honourable Member's department. There is discrimination where the servants in his department are concerned. When a question was asked of the Honourable Member if he would be good enough to give the number of contractors in his department and as to how many of them belong to one community and how many to the other, he refused to disclose that information. And now, let me give him the information. He knows nothing about his department.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Come and be the Food Member then.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There are 500 contractors in the Honourable Member's department and only 11 out of them are Mussalmans. There are a number of contractors who are directly connected with some of the officials in your department. What is the use of coming here and saying that there is no corruption and favouritism?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I deny that.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I challenge the Honourable Member to deny that my information is not correct. I challenge the Honourable Member to appoint an impartial committee of this House. Is he prepared to accept my challenge? It is no use his merely saying that this is not correct and that is not correct. If we have been quiet all this time, he should not get away with this idea that all is well in his department. If we have not chosen to attack his department particularly, it is because we know that the same state of affairs obtains in every department. When Dr. Banerjea referred to corruption in all departments, my Honourable friend got up and said that it is not true in regard to his department. He did not say that it was not true of other departments also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It was not at the expense of other departments that I referred to the Food Department.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He said that corruption did not exist in the Food Department, thereby meaning that it may be in other departments.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chattopadhaya made an appeal to the House and to us particularly. He said 'Why do you say you want Pakistan. Why don't you say you want freedom'. Sir, if my Honourable friend had carefully studied some of the latest speeches that were made by the President of the

All-India Muslim League as well as by my humble self he would have realised that Pakistan means freedom. Pakistan does not mean foreign domination in this country. Pakistan means freedom both for Hindus and for Mussalmans.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Question.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh says 'question'. It is easy to question a proposition but it is difficult for the Honourable Member to establish the validity of his question.

Sardar Sant Singh: This is not the place to establish it.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I have only two minutes left.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: When are you going to deal with the Finance Bill?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am explaining my attitude to the Finance Bill. Sir, it is difficult to deal with a problem like this in two minutes. I say, Sir, that the Muslim League stands for the undiluted freedom of India. We believe that peace and prosperity in this country can be established only if the two major communities at least, the Hindus and Mussalmans, are given equal opportunities of sharing the benefits and the fruits of this country.

Sardar Sant Singh: We agree there.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That position cannot be achieved unless we have separate States for the Hindus and Mussalmans.

Sardar Sant Singh: There we differ.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: We want separate States, so that each of these communities may develop in accordance with its own culture, its own ideology and ideals. Let me tell you that Pakistan is not a demand for the slavery of India. It is a demand for the freedom of India. It is a demand for the freedom of Hindus, Mussalmans, Sikhs and every one else. That is the proposition which we have put forward as the solution of the Indian constitutional problem. Some of my Honourable friends may not agree but I assure them, and I am saying this with all the sincerity at my command, that it is not out of sheer cussedness that we have put forward this demand. We want freedom for every one in this country and it is because we want freedom for all that we have put forward this proposition. We feel that this is the only way in which you can achieve freedom for this country at the earliest possible moment. We believe that this is the only way in which the future prosperity and peace of this country can be maintained. And therefore when I talk of Pakistan, I am indeed talking of freedom for India. Therefore, Mr. President, I do hope that the day will come, sooner than most people expect, when India shall be free and both Hindus and Mussalmans will live in peace. Sir, I oppose the motion before the House.

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

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

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Dessai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, it is now my duty towards the far end of a long drawn out debate on this Finance Bill to say a few words to make known to this House, and not merely to this House but to the rest of the world, even though I do not belong to the All-India Radio, what our position is in the matter of impending questions now, both internationally and nationally. So many issues have been debated in the course of this debate that perhaps it would be right to select topics of matters, on what is called sometimes sky-high policy, so as to be able to say a few words on behalf of those for whom I can speak and have the right to do so. Ever since we came to this House, it has been our invariable duty and it has also been invariably our luck that notwithstanding the present constitution, no Finance Bill has yet been passed in this House. There have been an infinite variety of reasons for that purpose

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and the most outstanding reason has always been that those of us who are called upon to provide the wherewithal willingly for the running of the Government by the gentlemen opposite, we certainly will not be willing parties. Whatever may be the point of view of the other side, every taxation as a taxation is an extortion, as happened in occupied countries all over Europe recently. For indeed, it is not an uncommon phrase known here, known even to English Members that India still has an army of occupation and it is an occupied country, by whatever name you can call it. There are those who pretend that we are part of a Commonwealth; let them say so, if they like, it is a commonwealth of a very extraordinary paradoxical type, their wealth is their own, my wealth is theirs and therefore we become a commonwealth. Therefore, a new name has been given to a gentleman who is sitting on the other side of the House. I have no desire to enter into this controversy, or enter into any personal recriminations of any kind whatsoever. If I happen to have displeased anybody by any public criticism, it has been in the performance of a duty which I could not help performing. If, therefore, I happen to say a few words here and there, stray words, which any of my Honourable friends may or may not like, I hope they will understand that it is not just in a spirit of reciprocity but in a spirit of performing one's own duty.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will enjoy them.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The fact remains that even that invitation from the gentleman opposite cannot be noticed too often, so that I must continue, whatever I wish to do, notwithstanding the invitation offered to me. In fact, there are many people who love to be notorious in the world only because some better man happens to mention them and hence it is that the gentleman on the other side cited the supposed certificate from Mahatma Gandhi for the work he has done, but after all you cannot live on other's praises.

The position before the House today is that this Finance Bill has been brought under circumstances of immense strain. The world is no doubt in a turmoil and I have no doubt that we shall soon be called upon to face problems probably greater and graver than the mere task of mutual suicide that is going on. Some time the world will have to come to a state of sanity, and some time the world will have then to begin to think how to feed, to clothe and house and educate and thereby alleviate the fate of mankind and ultimately raise the future status of manhood, in spite of the state of bestiality which is now the common fate of the world. It is with that background that I propose to say what I wish to say on this occasion. The first and the foremost thing is the question that has been raised by some of my Honourable friends and it refers to the task very nobly performed by the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches. Each of them is giving himself a certificate of achievements that he had made. One of them actually said, "don't you know what I have done in many ports for our sailors". That is the last of the great performances that I heard. But if this is the sort of legacy that you are handing over, then let me tell my Honourable friends that whether the Estate Duty Bill is passed or not, we are not those who would wish to inherit this legacy. If we cannot manufacture our own capital, I think they may keep their legacy to themselves, so that this idle-pretence to say, "we are doing something which you are going to continue and well, therefore, why don't you congratulate us on our achievements", this is an unction which they lay usually to flatter themselves, but that is something which this side of the House cannot possibly accept.

Therefore, Sir, I come back to the two main topics which I wish to deal with, because we have voluntarily limited the time of our speeches to day. The first and the foremost topic is one which the Honourable the Leader of the European Group broached this morning. In fact, he probably broached it in a somewhat indirect way. The first thing he said was, it is a paternal advice, which unfortunately, I am not old enough or young enough to accept,—the first

thing he said was this, please see that you say nothing so as to undermine the position of the representatives of the India Government at the San Francisco conference. I do not know what he meant. Perhaps he did not realise, except for the reasons which I shall presently give, that the gentlemen who are going there are not representatives of the people of India. They have no prestige of any kind or sort, they are jackdaws and there is therefore nothing to detract from them. Therefore, there is no question of undermining a thing which does not exist, because if the real people of India went, that is where you ought to say, do not undermine their position. Contrast what is going to happen. They will go there as my Honourable friend Sir Olaf Caroe displayed, typical of the arrogance of the Government which is running the administration and what Sir Olaf Caroe told us in the House is extraordinarily typical example of arrogance combined with ignorance. He says that the Government of India will give them brief and they will take a page from that brief and speak in the name of the country. Sir, it is very much better that this country went unrepresented rather than that people of this type should go and talk in the name of the country, and if I can do anything to repudiate that right to speak in the name of my country, then it will be my duty, it will be my endeavour to do so until they go and come back. So that there is no question of softening in this matter at all, notwithstanding the paternal advice, very well meant, but I am too old to be young enough to accept advice of this character.

This brings me to a few words which I may tell my Honourable friends of the European Group because I intended to say that irrespective of the occasion which has now been created by reason of this advice. They have supported, in good weather and bad, a bureaucratic and tyrannical Government in this country by invariably casting their votes with them, whether they are right or whether they are wrong. It has given me great pain to watch during the last few years that I have been here that not once have they thought that we were right and Government was wrong. We cannot surely always be so universally bad as that, and I therefore feel that rather than become friends of our enemies at least we might become friends of ourselves.

Sir, the issue on which I ask for a vote on this occasion is the issue of India's freedom, and if they fail us they fail us at their peril. Because, it is no use pretending that the war has got to be run and therefore this Bill has got to be passed. We are fully aware that whether the House passes this Bill or not they will find this money, by exaction or extortion or by any means they can. Therefore let us have no pretence about this. I here and now ask that if they are going to remain in this country, where we are going to come into our own, they should remain as our friends and their lot is with us and not with our dominators. And they must remember that if they fail to do that they will be serving their constituents very ill indeed. For, hear what Colonel Oliver Stanley said only two days ago:

"After the war we have got to depend as never before on our export trade,—that comfortable cushion on which we sat so long, like our fathers and grandfathers before us. We are sitting now on bare boards. We have got to export in future not to be comfortable but to live."

I hope my Honourable friends who have lived on that cushion in this country will not find themselves on bare boards, for no fault of ours. For it is time that their support of this bureaucratic Government, through good report or evil, whether they are right or whether they are wrong, is a matter of which we cannot fail to take notice. If they represent any interest that is anything like India their place is with us and not against us; and I am glad that the Honourable Leader of the European Group gave me an occasion to tell them what I have been long wanting to tell them. It is good to tell it publicly, not good to bear a private grudge of any kind.

The next thing he said was this: "I am not in the know of what is happening. Lord Wavell has gone and may be, there is something or may be, there is nothing". And he has written what struck me as a very good obituary notice

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of the departed or departing deity, of course, in a political sense. And indeed he gave his praises all round, nobody was left out; a sweet for every child, and at the end of it all he said, "After all is said and done, while you are, there you are our friends". Sir, a benevolent attitude of that kind does not serve any useful purpose. We have got to judge our future as never before. The comfortable cushion is gone, the bare boards are there for the world to live on. The world is bleeding, the world is sore, and on that we have got to build our future. And if we have to build our future on that let us see that we build our future on a proper basis.

That reminds me of what the proper representatives of India if they went to the San Francisco Conference would say. The first and foremost thing they would say is, "Do we stand here as free people or is it like what happened at the time of the inception of that great dead institution at Geneva?" We were taken there after having signed a peace treaty, and on the second day after the peace treaty was signed by the then supposed representatives of the Indian people, a proclamation came from London that of the questions that would be brought before the Geneva meeting the only questions would be between two independent States and not between independent States and dependencies. So we were taken there on a fool's errand's, made to sign a treaty as if we were independent. That is the language which the Secretary for External Affairs used. He said, "You have assisted us in the war, and therefore you go as a separate people". I suppose he knows English and therefore he knows what it means, in any language that conveys the constitutional sense. The position is that if there is to be any delegation, I will tell here and now, notwithstanding the desultory discussion that took place in the other House, that none of us is degraded enough to go as an appendage of these people; not as advisers of those who will represent others with opposite views. We will go on our own, or we will not go; and we will go on our own only when we are a real proper sovereign free State. And therefore it is that we will not allow any man to go and masquerade in others' feathers; I call them jackdaws, because I believe them to be so. They cannot go and say that they speak in the name of India. Of course they can speak in the name of themselves, with all the patriotism that they have and which they try to impress on the House time and again. But it is not a place for giving individual views, it is a place for representing countries and for representing the interests of countries. And nobody has the right to go and tell any other country or any public assembly in the world that he represents India. Therefore it is that I should be the last person to see anybody go on behalf of India. Of course we may be told, as Sir Olaf Caroe said, "Well, you have not participated in the war; you cannot be our partners". All right; do not take us as partners, and we shall see what happens to you. We do not want to be partners; we wish to be partners if you have the sense to be partners. But having decided not to be partners tell us in good time that you do not want to become partners. If we are going to be a dominion with right of secession, I think Sir Olaf Caroe understands that that kind of challenge will only end in cleavage; and I hope and trust that those who employ him understand that he has very little sense of his own responsibility when he talks like that in this House. He may afford to do so under the aegis of a constitution of this character but he cannot afford that very long. As I said, the world is out of joint and it will take a long time to put the joints together, if we are to connect the joints in the manner we desire.

Sir, that conference at San Francisco reminds me of what happened with reference to us in the country in which it is going to be held. I very much appreciate the spirit in which the Honourable the Home Member keyed or attuned his speech; not being a musician I cannot use the exact expression. But there is sufficient suavity in all that he says there is in it. He first gave us the arithmetic. He said, "You vilify the Government of this country by saying that it is a concentration camp. Here are Indians going out in this country and here

is my Honourable friend the Leader of the House who wants to say, 'In the interest of truth, gentlemen, we as the only truthful people will go out in the world and whenever you make any incorrect statement we will correct it.' That is the business of Government! That is the business of spending my money and that is what he supposes to be his duty! If that is what he conceives to be his duty I think he should quit his place and go out into the world as a critic proper and use his own money for the purpose of telling the truth if he wishes to. And I think it is good to quit when the going is good. The place will become muddy and will be a little more muddy and boggy and probably your feet will stick into it before you go. Therefore it is good to go when the going is good, as they say. But what I was told was that only 1500 prisoners were there, and you have the temerity to go into outside countries and call this country a concentration camp. Sir, I hope my Honourable friends who spoke that language understand English language very well and more than English, understand English patriotism, and more than English patriotism, the English idea of freedom. And if they think that the mere fact that a few people are locked in a jail makes a place a concentration camp, I believe they do not understand the true significance of the words 'concentration camp'. Compared to the forty crores of the population of this country, what does it matter, according to him, if there are 1500 political prisoners? I suppose, if he went, as he must have gone, to many of these matches that are played in England—football matches—and if two or three people died, and I suppose if his mathematics was correct, he would perhaps say 'there were lakhs of people who attended the play, two people died and if you take the proportion, you will find that nobody was scratched and therefore nobody died.' That is his mathematical logic by which he asks me to judge those who are in prison now—the truest democrats of this country. He keeps them in prison and if it had happened in his country, he would call it Nazi methods, but I prefer saying that this is a concentration camp. And then they say 'who is this woman going about this world maligning us, saying that India is a concentration Camp?' Has India any freedom? Crores and crores of rupees have been spent for the prosecution of the war notwithstanding the fact that the budget is thrown out—it is certified by the Viceroy—and is it not spent against my will?, and then he calls it freedom and he prevents me calling it a concentration camp. I dare say, there is complacency that beats me. Of course it is a concentration camp. There are no barbed wires, but it is a concentration camp in so far as that this country has no real, genuine freedom. What is the definition of a concentration camp? Has there got to be a physical change under which you people will go—some day you might, we don't know—but you mean to tell me that it is a physical change that makes a concentration camp? There is no such thing as human freedom, and therefore it is that if any friend of ours, any genuine representative went to that Conference, the first and foremost thing that he will do there will be this: He will first demand that he will not remain there unless and until Indian was recognized and declared by Britain by her own free will as an independent country, otherwise his duty will be to walk back.

I am told that great issues will be decided in that Conference, but now let us analyse the issues. I have turned over them in my mind so that I may plainly tell our views on the two great topics so that all the world may know. The world may know that there is nothing to be lost so long as our true representatives as free people are in that place. It is going to be a world security conference,—Mr. Eden illustrated what he called the objects of that Conference, world security. Mr. Churchill's Victory Message, which was published day-before-yesterday, runs as follows:

"Once the river line is pierced and the crust of German resistance is broken, decisive victory in Europe will be near. May God prosper our arms in the whole adventure after our long struggle for King and country, for dear life and for freedom of mankind."

For freedom of mankind indeed! Could he ever have said that with his hand on his conscience if he had known, as he knows, too well, that we have

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been made to fight and we have been asked to fight in the name of the freedom of mankind and yet unless we are recognized as men I suppose there is no freedom for us? That is the fight for freedom of mankind. We have got to fight the war with our men, money and resources, whose war, and for whose benefit? For the freedom of mankind. Then I am a man, I proclaim myself and I proclaim my country, and I want any one of those gentlemen there to get up and say that I am not a man that we are not-men and we do not deserve freedom. Let us have no shibboleths. Let us be true. I hope the Honourable the Leader of the House will flash a message outside this country that what Mr. Churchill is stating is untrue because this is not a fight for the freedom of mankind. Supposing we went and asked the Conference 'for whose security are you going to make the world peaceful?' If you are going to make the world peaceful in order that England and America and Russia and perhaps China—I am very doubtful about that—are going to be free countries, and it is for that you have fought and bled and still ask us to gloat over the victories, we cannot do so; we are honest men, we do not want false compliments. Having made us fight for our freedom, they cannot at the end of it say that it is not a war in which we can get our freedom.

Sir, I make no apology whatever, apologies there are many. I would have fought the war. Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan has stated the terms on which he offered to co-operate. I wish to remind you of the terms on which we offered to fight—and this was only a few months after the war was declared—and I shall repeat it again. We said that the war aims should be declared. And what was the object? The object was to find out whether at the end of the Second War we are going to be exactly in the same place of subjection as we were in at the end of the First War, which was also fought for the freedom of smaller nations. We had that experience before and indeed we were cautious enough to find out where we stood. If you want to fight the war, get money from your own country and fight it, but don't exact it from me and expect me to be proud about it. How could you? That is the position, and therefore it is that if this Victory Message is the victory for your freedom and my subjection, it is a Victory Message in which, as men, you could not be proud, you could not accept it. Tear out your 'V' from your car and from your caps.

The fact remains that the position today is this, that if we went to the San Francisco Conference, we shall only go there as free men, because then our share in fashioning of the world security would be rich. China has come in. You are trying to save China from Japan, and it is a friendly power. You want to fight Japan in order to free China, and when we want to fight you to free ourselves, that is wrong that question does not arise. Is not this hypocrisy? They shall not go, except for our voice and it will reach there—whatever censorship you may exercise on our speeches it will reach the world—that no representative of this country will go except on the undertaking of absolute equality and as a member of the free nation. They alone then will be able to take part in a genuine conference for the security of the world peace.

Allow me to say this while the war has yet to end that if you think or imagine that they will keep India in bondage and fight Japan to free China, and don't fight their own selfishness to free us, you have not solved the problem. You have not made your task easy. If you want to continue the hypocrisy of this type of Government, then I dare say that it is better that nobody should go. Where is the question of undermining the prestige or position of anybody? It never existed and we shall proclaim to the world that it does not exist. It will be our duty to say that it does not exist. Therefore it is that we are opposed to sending anybody. China is of course a friend. But where do we come in? With our civilization, with our resources, with all the blood that we shed, with all the money that you exacted from us, where do we come in? Do you think that in this world India is any less than China if it came to the question of getting big nations in order that they may collect together for the security of

the world? India has more to contribute than any other country at this Conference. Not merely with men, money and resources, but with that civilization that still pleads for the goodwill of mankind.

I assure you that not all those king's horses and king's men and not even all the Churchill Tanks will keep the peace of the world very long. If the three powers combine together in order that they may join an army and then keep down anybody else, are we expected to hitch our wagon to that star? No, Sir. Our star is bright and rising and we shall go up the steep ascent and come down. Therefore it is that so far as the San Francisco Conference is concerned, it is dead as mutton. You may keep it. They may maintain the peace of the world but they will do so at their peril. Look at Asia—the subject part of it, from Teheran eastwards. I hope some day you will look at your geography. It is not a free place. It is a spoil of the western countries. Until Asia is free and India is the pivot of that freedom, and until we find that our houses are our own and that our neighbours have their own houses—Jaya and Sumatra, Indo-China and the Malay States—however long the fight for freedom may be delayed, we shall proclaim the freedom of the world for all the fellow-sufferers like ourselves. Therefore our message is not a petty thing. Let them have a few planes and a few dinners and sit in their hotels. What have they to tell the world? Nothing. All they say is what their Governor General in Council has given to them. "Yes, yes," they say, "we want peace. You keep it and I remain subject! That is very good." Extraordinary. It is a delusion which requires to be torn up, every inch of and every ounce of it in order that I may make you see. Your eyes have scales, gentlemen, if you cannot see such a thing to tell us, "Oh, yes, go to the San Francisco Conference. Why not two of you go as advisers". But whose advisers? Who are they to ask us to be advisers? And therefore, it is, Sir, that on the most momentous issue before the House and before the world today I wish to proclaim, I wish to tell what exactly the position of India is so that there may be no doubt as to where we stand because our future depends on that. Our future does not depend when the Conference is over. Our future depends on the actual position of India before the Conference meets, i.e., unless we are free people before that Conference meets. As a matter of fact that Conference is a sham. It is very much like the same farce that was enacted at Geneva. The same thing: "Oh yes, we and our dependencies is a domestic issue. The only issue is the issue between us and the independent States". Well, all right, we have been subject races for 150 years and odd. May be, we may remain subject a little longer notwithstanding everything that is happening contrary to our faith. But one thing is certain that we shall not be a subject race very long. Supposing you attempted to do so. The only result will be that there will be another world war in which you will not be there to be anybody's master at all. But you cannot go on fighting. There is such a thing as Nemesis in the history of mankind. Those who attempt to enslave others very soon drag themselves to the position of slaves. Let there be no mistake. As long as Asia and Africa remain the divided property of the white people, there shall not be peace in this world and therefore it is that when the San Francisco Conference is held, it should be plainly understood that if our freedom issue is not there—and that is the first and foremost issue—we go back home. And if you don't say, that we will compel Great Britain to recognise your freedom and we shall insist on making the world secure, peaceful and honest and not hypocritical, that is not what we shall be a party to. Hence it is necessary that those who now govern should know that going to this Conference and not going to that Conference, and the question of omission or defalcation, and our case going by default, are excuses too childish and puerile. Who is going to judge? Where are rules of justice? Who is there to call in question my right of freedom? I like any gentleman over there to get up and say that. If there is none, then his proper place is to go away from that place. It is not for him to advise me to accept this and pay a tax for the subjugation of my own people.

3 P. M.

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

Then we come to the next; a smaller issue raised by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the European Group. He said Lord Wavell has gone. I do not know what he has gone there for. And then he said, and I think he meant it that there will be a change in the seating arrangements—whatever that may mean and that each one of those who will be unseated there deserves some appreciation, I would like to believe it to be prophetic!

He said Mr. Abdul Qaiyum did not sound a very hopeful note. Well, if we are not very hopeful, it is not our fault. We have been promised times out of number and we have been asked to rely on the sincerity of words and promises but it has just stopped there. It is time now there was a little more sincerity of action. Hence if we doubt a little, it is not with a view to cast any despair. We have no desire to say or prophesy that whatever is offered is not genuine, that it will not be accepted. Why? My Honourable friend Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan told you and I am here to say it that if we had been entrusted with the Government of this country and asked to defend our country and also defend those parts of the world in which our country has a stake we would have given that help in no unmeasured terms. My language may not be Nawabzada's but my language is equally clear and has no doubt about it. Anyone can read the speech I delivered in this House when the war budget came up in 1939. That is the time we wanted to test the opinion of this country. There was no need to call a second war budget in the month of October. It was done in the belief that they would persuade the world that India at least was now with them in this war. At that time I made it clear,—and I make it plain again even when the war is going on—that if you make it our job as free people to defend ourselves and to defend those of our brothers in arms who are with us, we still make the same offer. Of course we will not do so as your henchmen. We will not do so in order that we may be subject again. We will not do so in order that some of our friends on the other side may enter into some commitments on our behalf. That we will not do. It may be that in all human affairs things do not right themselves quickly. But I do think myself and I am entitled to think so. What has the war given to this country, notwithstanding the apparent comfort of this House? There is a famine in this country. There is a pestilence in this country. There is nakedness in this country. There is a load of debt in this country. There is a sterilization of commodities in this country on account of every means adopted by which this country could be drained. Notwithstanding this sorry state of affairs we are expected to pass this. There is one thing that I will say that in the midst of all that gloom, I do not forsake hope at all and I will say this, and even to say that, because I believe it, with the poet:

“Father touch the East

Unlight the light

When hope was born.”

And when that is fulfilled, then alone shall we vote. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This is at least the sixth occasion on which I have had to answer to a long-drawn out debate on the Finance Bill and have found myself at the end of periods varying from four to eight days, having to answer on the last day speeches which touched very little, if at all, on finance.

My Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, asked us on these Benches to refrain from using the same stick to beat the Party on his right and his own Party. It seems to me that the position is that the one matter on which my Honourable friends opposite are agreed is that they shall use the same stick to beat us with. I find it very difficult, I must admit, to understand exactly how the double grip comes on to this stick but the fact remains that what they are agreed about is that there is a stick and that that is the stick to be used.

I remember, when replying to the debate last year, I asked in all sincerity whether my Honourable friends opposite had agreed on anything further than

the voting down of the Finance Bill and I still find myself in the position of wondering whether we may hope that this state of deadlock or frustration will give way to something more satisfactory from the point of view of everybody in this country. Speaking as an official who has spent most of his life in this country, I must admit that it is no pleasure, it is not a congenial task to have to carry out one's duties in the atmosphere which now exists: and whatever may be said about my Honourable colleagues on this side, I for one am conscious that without their courage and their self-sacrifice in coming forward, the business of Government which, after all, must be carried out for four hundred million people, could not have been possible. I do not know what at this moment would take the place of the Government which is now being carried on. I realise, Sir—I am prepared to agree—that self-government is better than good government: but I think there is an even prior axiom to that and that is that government is better than no government. I am no politician, I have always spoken as an administrator, which is what I am trained and brought up to be: but the simple fact which I cannot get away from is that at no time have I been able to see in these last few years, these critical years, that there has been an option other than the one between no Government and Government. If I am wrong, then I apologise to those who know better but that seems to me to be the issue most of the time, that the Government of this country had to be carried on and had to be carried on in circumstances of a world crisis, in circumstances of most tremendous difficulty. I think that this country, whatever may happen, whatever may happen in the next few weeks or months or in the next few years—this country will have cause to be grateful to those who undertook the burden and, in many ways, the thankless task of carrying on the Government.

I am afraid that it is not possible for me to continue the debate on the high level to which it was taken by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot deal with the question of San Francisco nor yet can I say anything useful about the immediate political future of the country. I do not know whether at the end of a week of so-called discussion on the Finance Bill the House wishes to concern itself at this late hour with matters dealing with expenditure and the contents of that Bill and all that it implies. But many things have been said in the course of a week's debate which as Finance Member and not merely as the last spokesman on behalf of the Government—many things which, as Finance Member, I shall have to say something about.

First of course comes the old question of Defence expenditure and the Financial Settlement. It is in no spirit of logic-chopping or sophistication that I said the last time I spoke that it is difficult if not impossible to talk on this matter, when you have so little common ground as I have with some of the speakers on the other side. But the fact remains that their approach to the whole question of the war and of India's participation in the war is so entirely different from that of the Government of a belligerent country that every argument and every statement takes on a novel complexion according to whether one stands on one or the other side of this particular issue. From my point of view, a speech such as that of Mr. Manu Subedar's can only be a series of distortions, of misrepresentations, a continuous travesty of the whole financial conduct of the war. War is a chaotic and confused thing. It is a very difficult thing at any time and in any country to evolve an ordered set of accounts out of the huddled and chaotic transactions of war. It is very difficult thing for accountants, however well qualified, and for a system of financial administration however efficient to catch up on all these manifold transactions and to evolve some sort of order out of the confusion and to present it in a way in which the man in the street will be able to understand what has happened. That difficulty is the same in all countries. I do not believe for a moment that the ordinary Englishman has any clearer idea of the financing of the war in England than people in this country have of the financing of the war in India. It simply cannot be made so plain and so clear as to appeal to the intelligence

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

of the ordinary man. It is intrinsically a very difficult and complicated thing. When, in addition, you have certain sections in the country, when you have people like some of the speakers whose whole object is to discredit the Government, and to attempt by insinuation and innuendo to convey the impression that everything is fraudulent and *mala fide*, then I must admit there is no answer to it. It all depends on where you stand in relation to the main issue. However long I took up the time of this House, I could not catch up with the tissue of misrepresentations that fell from the lips of such a speaker as Mr. Manu Subedar. I do not wish to harp on that particular speaker, but he presents himself as the essence of that particular attitude, the attitude of distortion, travesty and misrepresentation, against which it is my duty to defend this Government.

The same thing, Sir, arises in connection with the issue of inflation. Inflation is an inevitable accompaniment of war. There are means of counteracting inflation, but it is very hard and difficult task. Inflation can only be combated by a people who grit their teeth and accept certain extremely unpleasant, but inevitable sacrifices during a period of war. It is possible, it has been proved possible, for Governments to explain to some extent to the people of their countries how inflation may be mitigated, if not avoided. It is very difficult thing, but it has proved possible. It has proved possible to say to the people in war time—"There are few things to buy, but there will be much money going out, you will be paid more, you will be busier, but yet there will be fewer things for you; if you will put aside the money, if you will submit to taxation, if you will lend the money, then the worst evils of inflation can be avoided". Now, if Government can succeed in getting that message across to the people, it may avoid inflation to a large extent. That has been done in a country like England: to some extent it has been done in the United States of America; but it cannot be done, Sir, in a country in which there are a large number of people going about saying, "You must not co-operate with Government, you must resist any attempt on their part to enlist your co-operation, you must not lend them your money, you must not submit to controls which they consider necessary". So long as that happens, Sir, it is impossible to prevent inflation in time of war.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is inflation in England half as much as it is in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly not, there is not the same degree of inflation in England as there is in India. I have explained why it is so. It is idle to pretend that you can separate the economic issues from the political issues. You cannot get away from the fact that in the circumstances of this country, unless you could somehow abstract this country entirely from the belligerent world, it was impossible to prevent inflation. Unless my Honourable friends opposite, unless all my Honourable friends opposite, came to a frame of mind in which they were prepared to co-operate whole-heartedly with Government or participate in the Government for the conduct of war.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: That is better.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will put it in the way you like. I am now trying to put the matter objectively. What I say is this. From whatever causes it might arise, I will not even presume to judge on the merits of these causes, but from whatever causes it might arise, because of the fact that there were large elements in this country who were disposed not to co-operate with Government, who would not assist people to recognise what was necessary in order to prevent inflation, you could not prevent a certain degree of inflation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why spend on account of U. S. A. and England? If you do not do so, then there will be much less inflation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am grateful to my Honourable friend. He says: do not spend on account of U. S. A. and England. In other

words, as I said a little while ago, take this country off this planet, take it for the time being to a planet where America and Britain are not fighting this war, for after all the essence of the situation is that a war is being waged, and that America and Britain are fighting the Japanese in countries contiguous to India and in India. Therefore the expenditure was bound to happen in India unless my Honourable friend was prepared to give his services or products entirely free, but if he was not prepared to do that, then that expenditure was bound to happen in this country. Or does he also suggest that the whole of this country could have been kept in a state of depression or in the doldrums when the rest of the world was engaged at the highest level of economic activity of the last century? Does he think that was possible in the alternative?

Well, Sir, I do not wish to labour the point, I have spoken on it many times, nobody could have regretted more than I that during the period of my office this degree of inflation with the miseries attendant on inflation, should have been inflicted on the people of this country. But if I were to appear at any time before a tribunal of competent and critical judges, and if they were to ask me what I had to say in my defence, I would have told them something of what I said in the last few minutes, and in addition I should have said to them: "You must read the debates in the Legislative Assembly that took place during the period of my office, and not least those that took place towards the end. I must remind you, My Lords, that at this stage I was subjected to a vote of censure in this House because in the course of the savings drive it was suggested that some of the methods used amounted to compulsion. You must remember that, My Lords. You must also remember, My Lords, that in spite of my efforts at taxation, my Finance Bill was thrown out". This would be my reply to the Tribunal sitting in judgment upon me for having inflicted inflation on this country. I would tell them: Oh, Ye Economists and Experts, I know that your prescription for preventing inflation is taxation and borrowing. This is what happened to my taxation, and that is what happened to my borrowing. So I now ask you to judge and decide what the verdict should be, and what should be the sentence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Six years simple imprisonment.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Perhaps it will be no worse than that. But to what will they sentence you, a Professor of Economics? You told the people not to pay taxes, you told them not to lend money to Government, and yet you knew that unless they did that they were bound to suffer from inflation. You sinned against the light.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We showed you light, but you would not see.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must go on. I wish to deal now with certain points of a less general character, which were dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogi. But, first of all, I must traverse certain remarks in regard to the position of the Auditor General and the Financial Settlement. As the House has frequently been informed, the Auditor General of India is entrusted with the responsibility for seeing that the allocation of Defence expenditure between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government is in accordance with the settlement. In thus acting as an arbiter in matters of allocation of expenditure, the Auditor General must, like any other arbitrator, be guided by facts. Such, for instance, as the strengths of the forces certified by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary for India's local defence. It is not possible for the Auditor General to attempt to go behind that military judgment any more than it is possible for me. My Honourable friend, Mr. Neogi, suggested that I had become an Honourable Member for Arithmetic and not for Finance; but I would like him to show me any country at war in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer dictates to the War Minister what the size of the army shall be.

This does not, however, as Mr. Neogi suggests, reduce the Auditor General to complete impotence in the matter of allocation of expenditure. All new measures are scrutinised most carefully by the Auditor General's representative

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in conjunction with senior officials of the Military Finance Department, to ensure that the cost of such measures is properly allocated and that the orders sanctioning them contain correct directions regarding the incidence of cost. There is no question of the Auditor General or his representative being faced with a *fait accompli*, for even if expenditure on any particular measure had been incurred before its incidence was thus examined, the ultimate adjustment of the expenditure in the accounts would be in accordance with the decision reached at that examination. I hope I have made that point clear. There is no question of finally debiting expenditure to particular revenues before this examination. In important cases in which doubts arise in regard to the correct allocation of expenditure on any particular measure, and in all cases of disputed incidence, the advice of the Auditor General is formally sought, and so far has been invariably acted upon. Should the Government of India feel compelled to disregard such advice, a most unlikely contingency which has never occurred, the Auditor General would bring the matter to notice in his Audit Report. I hope that has made the position clear.

In regard to the expenditure on the two air fields, referred to in para. 29 of the Audit Report of 1944, I would repeat that the Auditor General was consulted before the matter of allocation was finally settled, and it was with his express concurrence, given after considering a very full statement of all the relevant circumstances, and not a bare assertion, that the air fields were for India's local defense, with his full concurrence given after such consideration, that the expenditure on these air fields was charged to India. I have stated those words in very careful language because the position of the Auditor General is one which must be maintained both for the sake of this House as well as for the sake of all canons of public expenditure; and it is not the case that in this or in any other arrangement the Auditor General could accept a position in which he was considered to have discharged his function without actually himself applying his mind to the merits of the matter. It is this same Auditor General, I must point out, who has censured various transactions which have been quoted with great approbation by Honourable Members opposite. It is this same Auditor General who has certified that as far as he could find out the allocation of the defence expenditure was in accordance with the financial settlement. Now, I myself have very little to do, as I have often stated, with that allocation. I am anything but an expert on the multifarious transactions which take place before the accounts are finally made up. But I am quite prepared to answer on my own behalf and on behalf of those who work under my orders, to any committee or tribunal which wishes to question us on these matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot; Non-Muhammadian Rural): May I point out that we do not object so much over the allocation of items, as to the financial settlement itself?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There are two issues. - I am glad my Honourable friend said that. The whole tenor of the speech of the Honourable Member who sits beside him, Mr. Manu Subedar, was that this was a very cunning series of slim financial transactions, that somehow or other—I do not know how he contrived to throw mud and ink all round the place—but he gave the impression that what was being done was something which was exceedingly, well, *mala fide* to say the least of it; and it is that part of the criticism or-attack which I am answering now. Mr. Subedar adopted a more conciliatory note and he did not use the same offensive expressions which he had used in his first speech: but actually the tenor of his speech in my opinion was at least equally offensive; and I would rather—if he wants to call me a cheat and a liar and a fraud—that he would use those words, and not say that he is casting no doubts whatsoever on my integrity or my *bona fides* but that I have lent myself to a series of transactions which amount to a complete fraud on the Indian taxpayer: I would much rather that he used direct language so that we knew exactly where we stood.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, says the point is another one altogether. As I understand his point, his objection is to the financial settlement itself, not that it has been fraudulently administered, but that the settlement itself is wrong. In regard to that, all I can say is that extreme discontent with it has also been expressed on the other side; that if I am to be called to account before any tribunal over the financial settlement, I would like at least to have the advantage of being subjected to a single trial at one time and that my accusers from both sides should come together. I do not see how it is possible to answer both sets of charges unless one is dealing with them at the same time. My Honourable friends here suggest that the financial settlement is an act of extortion and gross injustice to the Indian taxpayer; there are a lot of very voluble critics on the other side who say that it is a monstrous imposition on the British taxpayer; and I find myself in the difficult position of balancing on a knife edge.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: On which side are you?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I hope that I am on the side of truth and justice, at any rate.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You are really very dispassionate in this matter: we expect you to be very much attached to the Indian side.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My affections are very heavily engaged with the country in which I have spent so large a part of my life. At the same time I am now answering charges coming from two directions; and if I said to my Honourable friend that I had favoured him in this matter, I should give away his case to the critics on the other side.

I am glad that my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, used the words which he did this morning. My own position is—and I have no desire to be smug or self-satisfied—my position is that in my own conscience I am satisfied: I am prepared to meet any committee which may be set up at any time on this matter and I am prepared to answer all questions which may be asked from me. I shall answer any summons whenever I am called. My conscience is perfectly clear and in that I am happy. And that is why, as he rightly says, the very harsh criticisms which have been made—though they may have tried my patience—have not upset my fundamental equilibrium.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Except once.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It may be. After all we are all made of human flesh and blood and nerves.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): I thought you were made of straw and sand!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: and when we sit day after day listening to criticism it may be that we do not always maintain that perfect calm which more angelic creatures would do; if I have fallen short of the high standard which Honourable Members opposite expected in that matter, then I can only express my regret.

There is one other specific matter which I should like to mention because I think it was used to imply that I had been less than frank in putting forward the figures. I was reminded that I had not given to the House the share of His Majesty's Government of the total defence expenditure booked in India. I must apologise for not having done that, as it is a matter of interest to the House although strictly speaking it is not part of the Government of India's budget. But I will now make good that omission. The figures in the Revised estimates for 1944-45 are 439.53 crores and the figures in the Budget for 1945-46 are 488.8 crores.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): May we have the accounts of last year too?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I had intended to give my Honourable friend the figures he had asked for when I replied to the general debate on the budget but it slipped my mind. I have them here now. In the accounts

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for 1943-44, the total defence expenditure was 774 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share was 378 crores and I have given the revised estimates for 1944-45. The total figure is 896 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share was 439 and our forecast for the budget for 1945-46 is 901 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share is 489. Altogether my impression is that taking the last six years India's share of the total defence expenditure has been a little less than half.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is all that money spent in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is the expenditure in India that I am now talking about. Of course His Majesty's Government's expenditure outside India, including expenditure for operations in India, that is to say, supply of munitions and so on, is very much larger. The expenditure that I am talking about is actual rupees put out in India, and the way in which they are debited is shown by the figures that I have just mentioned.

My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy dealt at some length with the question of lend-lease and I do not know whether the House would like me to go into details on that matter. I have actually prepared a summary on the matter and I will, if the House desires, take them through it once again. I would remind the House that India was declared by the U. S. Government eligible for lend-lease, in conformity with the Lend-Lease Act of Congress of the 11th November 1941. Lend-lease began to reach India in substantial quantities from 1942 onwards. As the House knows, lend-lease is not a gift. There is a consideration attached to it. The nature of the consideration which America expects to receive is indicated in what is known as the Mutual Aid Agreement of the 23rd February 1942 entered into between His Majesty's Government and the United States of America, a copy of which I am placing in the Library of the House. This agreement does not apply directly to either the Dominions or to India and none of the Dominions or India has, in fact, signed it. It contains in Article 2 an obligation to render reciprocal aid and in article 7 an acceptance of the principle of the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce and of the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is the Honourable Member referring to the Lend-Lease Agreement? The reciprocal agreement has been signed by two of the Dominions.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am referring to the Mutual Aid Agreement, the Master Agreement. I was going on to say that as American forces began to go to overseas theatres in increasing numbers in 1942, the United States Government raised the question of their local supplies being obtained on reciprocal aid as adumbrated in this Mutual Aid Agreement. Later, on the 3rd September 1942 the United Kingdom entered into a reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America agreeing to provide certain types of assistance to the United States or to its armed forces. Shortly after, both Australia and New Zealand signed a similar agreement, somewhat more restricted in scope, with the United States of America and in these agreements the Mutual Aid Agreement of February 23rd, 1942, was specifically referred to and these principles, including those of Article 7 were specifically accepted. So that although New Zealand and Australia have not signed a separate lend-lease agreement with the United States of America they have formally accepted the principles and conditions of lend-lease. I have placed copies of these agreements in the Library of the House. South Africa has not entered into either a lend-lease or a reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America nor has Canada. The latter country, Canada, I believe, deals with the United States of America on a cash basis. Now, the question of India signing a similar reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America, confined at that time to the needs of the U. S. Forces in India was discussed by the Government of India direct with the U. S. Government in January 1942. I think I mentioned at that time in reply to questions in this House that those discussions were going on. As in the case of Australia and New Zealand

this would have involved our accepting the lend-lease agreement with its Article 7. This is a somewhat delicate matter but the fact is that the Government of India did make an endeavour to detach the question of a signed agreement with the United States of America from certain implications of Article 7 of the main agreement. It was not possible to secure that, for reasons not specifically connected with India but because that article had already been subscribed to by other countries and because of the effect which it might have on certain other signatories who had already accepted the implications of Article 7 of the main lease-lend agreement.

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

Now, Sir, I want to make it clear that it was not that the Government of India wished to pursue a policy of extreme isolationism or anything of that kind. They were broadly in sympathy with the general objects of international economic co-operation which are expressed in this document. But they feared that the use of certain phrases in relation to tariffs might give rise to misunderstandings. My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has pointed out that although Great Britain signed that agreement, they did not consider themselves as being automatically precluded from, say, the continuance of imperial preferential tariffs thereby. That is true. They have made it clear that that is their view of the matter. But the Government of India found it difficult to obtain sufficient categorical indication of what the position would be. Therefore they decided that it was better, since they did not think it absolutely essential to execute a formal agreement in order to secure what each side desired in the matter of reciprocal aid, they came to the not unnatural conclusion that it was better to keep clear of any phraseology which might afterwards be thrown up against India in connection with post-war fiscal policies. Now, Sir, I do not see why the Honourable Member has come to the conclusion that that was in any way disadvantageous to India. I do not think it had any effect on the actual transactions. I think it was entirely to India's advantage to make her position clear in the matter. After all, India has always put forward the argument in regard to infant industries and the peculiar position of backward countries. It might well be that a formula which appeared to be harmless to other countries would have been embarrassing, if it had been subscribed to by the Government of India.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Were any notes exchanged with U.S.A. Government on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Actually notes were not exchanged because it would have been impossible to do that in any non-public manner and the same disadvantages would have arisen as would have arisen from a public contracting-out of some of the implications of Article 7 of the Lease-Lend agreement. When we came to the case of Canada, then at a certain stage the Government of Canada realised what our difficulties were in regard to that matter and they so re-worded the comparable article that we found no difficulty in signing the agreement with Canada.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: If my Honourable friend would not mind my interruption, do I take it then that the economic clauses of the Atlantic Charter constitute the economic policy of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir. I did not put it like that. All that I said was that the Government of India were broadly in sympathy with the aims of general international economic co-operation which were expressed in some of these documents, but at the same time, their attitude towards them was a little more than critical than that of some of the other participants and therefore they came to the conclusion that they had better not subscribe to them in so many words. I want to make it clear that the Government of India in declining to accept the implications of those words was not sticking to a policy of extreme isolationism, because, I think it is realised by everybody that although the interests of India must be safeguarded, India will not be able to live in an economic or geographical vacuum. She will have to maintain relations with the rest of the world and in those relations, there are certain fundamental principles which have to be accepted. However the Government of

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India, I think, in this matter, has done the most it can to preserve the utmost liberty of action for its successors, and I do not see that in that matter, they are susceptible to criticism. We continued to receive lend-lease supplies, continued to grant reciprocal aid without any formal agreement with U.S.A. Government and that is the position today. As far as I am aware, many other countries are in the same position. They came to the conclusion that whereas reciprocal aid was a sensible arrangement in war time it was not absolutely inevitable that it should bring in its train, that it should be tied up with, certain undertakings in regard to the future. So, without signing any document, they merely entered into a mutual aid arrangement. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend appeared to me to be critical of the gradual extension of the scope of reciprocal aid granted by India. He wished to know what were the reasons for the expansion of the scope of that aid. It is quite true that whereas in relation to our defence expenditure generally the criterion of the local defence of India is applied, it is not applied now in regard to reciprocal aid to America. I cannot go into the history of this matter in any detail, it is hardly possible to state in public the exchanges that have passed between the Government of India and the Government of U.S.A. on this subject. I am sure my Honourable friend will recognise that in a matter of this kind, if the desire of the other side is for certain facilities and if the facilities which we are to receive are ultimately dependent on our meeting the desire of the other side, then we are in a difficult position. Indeed, India was very badly in need of certain supplies which could only be obtained on lend-lease. My Honourable friend will perhaps remember that when certain supplies were put on the lend-lease list, they were no longer obtainable for cash. There was a time in which certain articles could only be obtained on lend-lease terms and could not be bought or obtained by gold or in any other way. The position was that the U.S.A. said "these things are essential to the conduct of the war, and therefore, if we are to supply them at all, we supply them because we recognise that they are necessary for the conduct of war, and we supply them on lend-lease terms and they cannot be supplied to anybody else". Now India required certain things and had to get them. There were two parties to the arrangement and it was not possible to maintain the position that India was bound in all circumstances to be a net beneficiary. It is quite possible that India in the last resort will be a net beneficiary and it is quite clear to the Government of India that in no circumstances will the reverse position be allowed to occur. But, short of that, I do not see, what ceiling, in the circumstances, the Government of India could place on this reciprocal aid. I must make it quite clear that nothing is supplied which the country cannot afford to supply, that is to say, our own decision is necessary to the provision of any type of supply and naturally nothing is supplied unless India can afford, can spare those particular supplies, but subject to that over-riding criterion, the Government of India was more or less bound to reciprocate. Acceptance of certain essential supplies through the lend-lease arrangement meant that you were in principle bound to reciprocate. It is true that one might have hoped that so much would not have been called for from this country. And undoubtedly at earlier stages of the war it seemed improbable that the demands on this country would be at all comparable with the benefits which this country could expect to receive from lend-lease. But all that I can say is that in the event that expectation has not been fulfilled and is not being fulfilled to the extent which appeared probable. I would not like my Honourable friend to go away with the impression that the Government of India complied with every request that was made of them. They did not, but the present situation is the result of what they felt they had to agree to.

4 P.M.

Now, my Honourable friend asked for certain figures, and I have some figures here with me which I could give to the House. These figures are very difficult to compile. Lend-lease transactions originally, as far as we understood, were meant to be transactions from which the dollar sign and of course the pound or the rupee sign had been excluded. In other words we did not

embark on the business of valuing each consignment; so that later on when we found ourselves under the necessity of preparing some kind of accounts it was a matter of considerable difficulty. And that is the reason why when my Honourable friend said that it is extremely difficult for Members to find out what is happening or to follow the financial magnitudes of these things, I reminded him that that is a difficulty which is not confined only to Honourable Members opposite; we ourselves have at different times found ourselves in great difficulties over these matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What was the object of removing the dollar values on those shipments? It could only be to hide the actual cost of those shipments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would remind my Honourable friend that lend-lease was a new conception in international co-operation during war time. The idea no longer was that you lend to your allies something which can be valued in terms of money and which forms a war debt but that you freely contribute. Therefore it seemed, at that stage at any rate, that there was no need for the recipient ally to keep any accounts of it. I hope my Honourable friend has understood the point.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have understood the point but I am not convinced of the fairness of the arrangement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It was not my arrangement; I am explaining how lend-lease was first conceived. Undoubtedly it has undergone certain modifications and developments as the war developed. Originally, of course, lend-lease was provided at a stage when America was not participating in the war to the same extent as she is now. And naturally as American participation in the war in other ways expanded, the people of America felt that the conception of lend-lease should be adjusted to the altered circumstance. Thence arose the request for something in return, for reciprocal aid and the present conception of mutual aid. If the House would like me to read out some of these figures I will do so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, the House does not seem to be much interested in all these details, but if my Honourable friend will kindly make an attempt to have an exhaustive note prepared before he leaves this country and have it published, that would be a great favour to some of us who take some interest in this question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I agree with my Honourable friend that the House possibly would not wish to follow the details. I was merely anxious to absolve myself of the charge of having been less than willing to provide my Honourable friend with such information as we have. But I agree that the course which he suggests is probably more suitable.

There is one other topic with which I should like to deal before I sit down and that is the question which was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson regarding the post-war price level. I say it was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson but actually the theme was suggested to him by myself, because I was surprised to find during the debate in this House on the cut motion by the European Group that nearly everybody was talking in terms which I found difficult to distinguish from the old-fashioned retrenchment notions which followed the last war. It has been generally recognised that the retrenchment idea of the early twenties which was pursued in many countries set in motion deflationary and contractionist tendencies which eventually led to the unprecedented economic depression of 1929 and onwards. And I was surprised to find that in a House so well-informed as this and on the motion of no less a person than my Honourable friend the discussion was entirely of the old type, of an exe-wielding character. I had no time then to develop the theme; but I said to myself, "Can it really be that this House, after all that has been said and written since the crisis and depression of the early thirties, is thinking merely in crude terms of retrenchment of contraction and of deflation?"

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have forgotten whether my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga spoke on the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I spoke and I made it clear that we do not want any retrenchments on the development of social services and departments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Thank you. It was for that reason that I threw out the question which, I was glad to see, resulted in the speech which my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson made the other day. At the same time I cannot say that he has done very much more than pass the baby back to me. After all, who started the discussion? He said, "I want expenditure to be cut down". I said to him, "Are you aware that expenditure is going to come down with a bang? And does that suggest nothing to you?" And he said to me, "What do you propose to do when expenditure comes down with a bang?"

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend said that he proposes to hand the baby on to his successor.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Whatever I may say today, a real live baby will have to be handed on to my successor or rather to our successors. It is not merely a matter for the Finance Member.

I must point out that the Government of India as a whole are acutely aware of the whole complex of problems that underlie this question of the post-war price level. To talk of the post-war price level, I suggest is somewhat to oversimplify the issue. The level of prices at any particular time is the resultant of a large number of factors and I do not think that there would be much hope in attempting to operate directly on the price level. You have got to think of all the factors at work which go to make that result and to see to what extent you can intervene and help.

I was saying that after the last war we had a crisis brought about by contractionist and deflationary methods. The idea was to cut down costs, to reduce wages, to discharge superfluous labour and somehow or other to bring about a state of affairs in which private enterprise felt that it could operate profitably again and float the ship of the economy off the rocks on to which it had got. As far as I can make out, in the world today there is one thing which almost everybody is agreed upon and that is that the post-war problem however it is tackled, should not be tackled in that particular way, that whatever may be right that method is wrong—the method of merely cutting down, of attempting to balance the budget at the lowest level to which you can get. The way it was actually put to me, rather graphically, by no less a person than Prof. D. H. Robertson, Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge, in the course of an informal chat, was this. He said, "It seems to me that you can either obtain a balance—not merely of the Government Budget but the whole national economy—at the highest possible level, or you can obtain a balance at the minimum level". And he said, what happened last time was that everybody tried to get down to the barest possible economy and at that stage they found eventually a balance but it was only after inflicting the most terrific suffering and misery on very large sections of mankind. It seems to be generally agreed that whatever you do this time you will not do it that way. And so the expansionist philosophy now holds the field and it is held by some very distinguished thinkers—by men like Lord Keynes and Sir William Beveridge—it is the philosophy which was being put into practice in the course of the New Deal in America by President Roosevelt and his advisers, and it is the philosophy which may be said to underlie the British White Paper on employment which is one of the most remarkable State documents which was ever produced. I must make it clear that it has never yet, as far as I am aware, been demonstrated that a balance can be achieved at the highest level. It involves something of an act of faith. It has not been actually historically carried out. But the economists have pursued a line of thought which leads them to think that there is more hope at any rate in that direction than in the other, and as I say it has been pretty generally agreed that it is that direction in which the world

should move and that Governments should not follow the course which they pursued after the last war, which eventually led to the crisis of the early thirties. The Government of India does not live in a vacuum although many people seem to think so; the Government of India is very conscious of these currents in the realm of economic thought and its own thinking is following those lines. At the same time, I must make it clear that it is extremely improbable that any Government in the world will be able to protect its economy entirely from the effects of the jolt which will come when the war ceases. That tremendous transference of activity—the reduction of various forms of wasteful production—all those tremendous changes must have an effect and it is quite impossible for any Government, however constituted, to make such plans as to counteract every one of those effects. Therefore it is difficult to prophesy what the world post-war price-level will be. It is almost certain that, no matter what is done, it will probably be a good deal lower than it is now, certainly in India. India suffers from the disadvantage that a good deal of the expenditure in this country happens to it; it is not expenditure which is consciously incurred by the Government of this country, but it merely results from the developments of the war and from the fact that this country or rather countries contiguous to it happen to become theatres of war. That determines the total volume of rupee expenditure and therefore tends to determine the total volume of economic activity in this country and the price level.

But there is another thing. As I was saying earlier in the course of my speech, we have had inflation in this country. We still are in the position that we have not entirely succeeded in raising by taxation and borrowing all the rupees necessary for the present level of rupee outgo, and therefore there is an inflationary element in our present set-up. It obviously is undesirable—as soon as that matter can be brought completely under control as it could be when Allied expenditure in this country ceased—it is obviously undesirable that that inflationary gap should be allowed to continue. To the extent that the price level in India at the present time has been determined by the existence and the continuance of an inflationary gap, to that extent it is neither possible nor desirable to maintain the price level at its existing height, so that in my opinion there would have to be a certain subsidence on the cessation of Allied war expenditure. But it would be possible for the scale of expenditure of the Government of India to continue. That does not mean, as I pointed out the other day, that forms of waste or extravagance should continue, but what I mean is that it would be possible for the Government of India to concentrate on maintaining, as far as it can, a pretty high level of useful expenditure.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Expenditure on nation-building services.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: Yes.

Then, again we must assume that with the conditions obtaining at the end of the war economic activity on private initiative will occupy a much larger part in the picture than it does at present. After all, at present practically the whole economy is being geared to the requirements of war. When the requirements of war cease, obviously there will be enormously more scope for private enterprise to enter into fields which will not be so closely controlled by the Government. If the expansion of private economic activity is on a sufficient scale then it is possible that it may completely neutralise the effects of the cessation of Government expenditure. I hope, and I believe, that that will happen to a very great extent. Besides that, of course, we shall have export markets open to us which at the present moment are either not open or the difficult of access. That again will tend to fill the vacuum which is left by the cessation of war expenditure.

I do not wish to be thought as subscribing to all the implications of what is called the expansionist theory. I believe that it is based to a somewhat excessive extent on a somewhat optimistic estimate of the mobility of labour and of the possibility of adjusting various other sources of friction in the general economy. It is based on a certain degree of optimism about the extent to

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which the levers which are in the hands of Government can actually operate the whole economy. That may be true to a much greater extent in highly integrated countries like Great Britain and the United States of America. But in a country with an economy which is more primitive such as that of India, you cannot produce the same effects merely by moving the familiar handles of the bank rate and the volume of credit. There is a good deal of slack in the various joints of the Indian economy and the mere adoption of the expansionist theory and the pursuit of an expansionist policy by the Government would not in itself in the conditions of India suffice to neutralise the effects of the cessation of large scale war expenditure. Nevertheless, there are certain remedies which can be applied to mitigate the disadvantages of a post-war reaction, I will not say 'collapse' because I hope and believe that there need not be a collapse. I think that even as far as our present thinking has gone we would be in a position to prevent a collapse. After all it may even be better than having a collapse to go on maintaining an army of two million or providing them with uniforms. It may be better to take the extreme instance, to go on producing munitions which you never intend to use. That is a *reductio ad absurdum*. What it does show is that you are not entirely helpless in the face of these things. You can to some extent control, the rate at which the reaction takes place. Actually I do conceive that certainly in the matter of the demobilization of troops, it will be necessary for the Government to pursue a cautious policy in the matter of demobilization. I do not think any Government nowadays will merely turn away hundreds of thousands of men and say "we do not want you any more" without any conception of what they are going to do. That obviously would be asking for trouble of the most serious kind. So one of the policies which it is possible to pursue is to regulate the pace at which you unwind your war economy, to regulate the demobilization both of men and materials and of industry generally. Then again, although I threw some cold water on it a moment ago, the policy of cheap money has been pursued with considerable success during the war and it undoubtedly creates conditions and helps to maintain conditions favourable to a high level of economic activity. So long as that is so I have no doubt that the Government of India would continue the cheap money policy. Similarly, the control of capital issues seems to me to be a measure which will be as necessary for the health of the country in peace as it is in war. It will be just as necessary immediately after the war to ensure that the capital resources of this country are directed into the most beneficial and fruitful channels as it is now and that is one of the levers which is ready to our hands and which I hope will remain so.

Then again the Government of India hope to be able to facilitate the import of capital goods which will assist to increase the whole level of production of this country. That is one of the principal concerns of my Honourable friend, the Planning and Development Member. Obviously if we can secure imports of capital goods, then that enables us to maintain a high level of economic activity to replace the results of the cessation of war. So again with industrial rehabilitation generally.

Another policy which has been indicated in our pamphlets on reconstruction is the policy of pushing on with public works and rehabilitation of railways and so on. These are plans which have been and still are being worked out and they are capable of employing large numbers of men and also of keeping industry moving.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can you explain how the control of capital issues after the war will help industrial rehabilitation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: After the war it will help because any kind of chaos or uncontrolled speculation would obstruct planned economic activity and would therefore militate against bringing economic activity to the highest level. It is not a man suffering with 105 degrees of fever who is the

most energetic person, although he may seem to be. Similarly it would not be if every bucket shop were active and if people could float new issues every day regardless of their merit that the tempo of economic life in India would reach its optimum point.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What guarantee is there that this control would be wisely and carefully exercised?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend touches on the whole problem of planned economy. What guarantee is there? It is assumed nowadays, and it is part of the expansionist philosophy that the giving of thought to these matters produces better results than chaotic *laissez faire*. If it should prove to be otherwise, then in twenty years' time someone standing in my place may be propounding a return of the conditions of the 30's. They may come to the conclusion that even a depression of that magnitude is better than the results of economic planning. But I do not think so. The best thought of the world today is looking to a planning of this kind and control by Governments in this way as the solution of this type of problem. They are so certain that the contractionist course is bad that they are prepared to commit an act of faith and move in the opposite direction this time.

There are certain other measures which are possible. Mr. Tyson said that he thought that this Government would have to depend on a great extension of physical controls.

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal; European): I said that you would have to depend on reinforcing your money policy with the existing physical controls. I would not advocate a great extension of them.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I quite agree with my Honourable friend that the answer cannot be produced by what he called 'money magic' or mere monetary manipulation. I quite agree with that and some measures of intervention and control are necessary. Of course the existing controls are directed rather to preventing the price level from going too high. There are controls, which provide maxima at the present time. That is one thing. But if you are faced with a contractionary, with a deflationary crisis, when you have to consider the opposite type of action, namely, providing floors, not ceilings, and that is a different type of control altogether. It involves such action as going into the markets and buying up stocks when they are redundant and are depressing the price level, when prices fall below what is considered to be a desirable minimum. That type of action of course is possible and we have even resorted to it to a certain extent during this war. I must warn the House that this has very far-reaching financial implications. It is a kind of action which should not be lightly entered upon. At the same time, I conceive that the Government of this country after the war will have to maintain a sympathetic attitude towards the problem of guaranteeing a minimum return to the cultivator. It will not be in a position

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So at last the cultivator comes into the picture!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not last. As far as I am concerned he is first and last. I think that is one of the important elements in the problem. If you are to prevent a disastrous drop in the whole price structure, then one of the main things which will and which must engage your attention is the problem of maintaining minimum prices for primary products. It is a very difficult problem and it has very far-reaching implications and it certainly would not be consistent with the old-fashioned attitude towards balanced budgets or with anything in the nature of a retrenchment or economy drive. It might easily land the Government into much larger sums than anything which they have yet embarked upon and if it were not very skilfully pursued or fortunately and successfully pursued, it might land the country in a degree of inflation which would be much more difficult to control than the inflation which has resulted from the war. At the same time, it is a type of remedy which must be kept in mind, because the degree of hardship and misery which could result from

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a completely *laissez faire* attitude towards agricultural prices is too colossal to contemplate.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: For how long after the war will this artificial price props be necessary?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say: I would not venture to prophesy about a thing like that. I said some time ago that there would inevitably be some reduction in the price level and that will apply very definitely to agricultural products. For instance, I make no secret of the fact that I do not consider that the present price of wheat in the Punjab could possibly be maintained at anything like the existing level, nor do I think that it would be to the advantage of the country that it should be so maintained. It is cocked up high above the general average of the price level. (Interruption.) Other articles too. But the fact remains that it is in a highly artificial position due to special reasons. I merely alluded to it as one element in the situation. What will happen, in my opinion, will be a certain subsidence in prices and it may be necessary and it may be possible for a Government to intervene to prevent that fall from degenerating into collapse.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Regulate the process of deflation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: To prevent it from going too far it may be necessary, probably, will be necessary. Even if your object is to attain ultimately a lower level it may be necessary for you to support prices at intermediate stages in order to prevent a collapse, because a situation of collapse will be one in which it will be far more difficult for you to intervene and to apply remedies. Therefore you will have to keep in close touch with the situation and attempt to adjust it from week to week and to prevent it getting beyond your control. Those are such ideas as I have to offer at the present time on what is undoubtedly a very important question. I cannot pretend in this short period to have dealt with it comprehensively. I merely indicated some of the channels of thought and some of the policies which the Government of India already have in mind for dealing with the very serious problem which Mr. Tyson mentioned.

Before I sit down I would like to express my intense appreciation of the kind words which have been uttered regarding me from various quarters of this House. I think that some of them were considerably more than I would claim as my desert. I have endeavoured in a period of difficulty to carry out my duties. I think I have been very ably assisted in that matter by the officials in my Department. I have endeavoured to follow the policies which I thought would be most advantageous to the country and I am very grateful that most Members in this House who have worked with me have, at any rate, recognised that that was my single purpose. I realise that many unhappy things have occurred during the period of my stewardship. I could have wished it had been otherwise. I believe that I did my utmost to mitigate them.

There is one other thing that I would like to say and that is in relation to my colleagues and particularly in relation to my Indian colleagues. I have worked with them now for several years and we have tackled some of the most difficult problems which could ever face any Government. I cannot imagine that any Government in this country will ever deal with problems of that character with a more concentrated and genuine intention to do the best for this country than has been exhibited by my Honourable colleagues. I have found them to be a body of sincere, devoted, and distinguished men, and I am proud to have been associated with them.

I am glad that at this stage of India's development I was privileged to play so intimate a part, and I feel that I shall carry away with me some very vivid and extremely happy memories.

Finally, I would like to say, in response to Sir Frederick James, that I agree with him that my memories of this House will not all be painful ones. "I

must admit that there have been times, while I was sitting on this bench, which seemed incredibly trying, and when I returned home I wondered why anybody would want to adopt this particular form of activity for his livelihood. There have been times when it seemed to be a way of life which provided extremely few compensations. At the same time I have no doubt that when I have left this scene, the usual nostalgic effect, the kindly influence of memory, will assert itself, and that things will fall into a proportion in which the sunny aspects will stand out, and I shall be conscious of the very pleasant human relations which I have had with so many Members of this House.

That reminds me that I am quite an old Member of this House now. I have been used to regard myself as so much a parvenu in this House that I had almost forgotten that it was so long ago as 1933 that I first appeared in this House. I do not know if I can claim that in comparison with some of the real old giants such as my Honourable friend, Mr. N. M. Joshi, who is no doubt a patriarch of this institution

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I also came in 1921.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I apologise to my friend if I have omitted to accord him equal honour. As I said, I have been here for 12 years, and 12 years is a bit of a slice in one's line, and when one comes to look back on these years, it is not easy to ignore the associations of that long time. I feel that I have made many friends in this House, and I have no doubt that I shall remember these associations and many of the interesting happenings in this House with a good deal of pleasure.

Now, Sir, in this mood I find myself tempted almost to appeal to the other side not to throw out the Finance Bill, but I think that would not be fair on my part. I realise that they have to be as inflexibly committed to the course which they have announced, as we on these Benches have to do our duty in relation to our responsibility in connection with the war. It might even cause some embarrassment if at this late stage my Honourable friends were to allow this Bill to pass through to the stage of consideration of clauses. It might be difficult to arrange the time-table so that the Bill will go through all the stages which will be necessary before the end of this financial year. I am grateful to my Honourable friends that they had this thought in mind in arranging the debate on this stage of the Bill. I cannot say I feel like King Charles walking to the block. I feel that the procedure of voting down the Finance Bill will shortly become a time honoured institution like some of the most ancient customs of Parliament. However, if that is our fate to be, we must reconcile ourselves to it. My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has assured the members of the European Group that it is unnecessary to attach undue significance to this action, and he appears to entertain a lively expectation that the actual financial administration for the ensuing year will not be affected. After all we cannot entirely anticipate the actions of exalted individuals, I do not know what he would say if that expectation were not realised. I must say that I would almost feel he had let me down. He would have led me up the garden path to a position which I should find extremely embarrassing for myself and for my successor. Perhaps it is unnecessary to contemplate these improbable eventualities.

I thank the House for the patient hearing which for the last time they have given to my reply to the debate on the Finance Bill.

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

5 P. M.

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

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardesahir.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Gwillt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 Inakip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
 James, Sir F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
 Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnapoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Piere Lall Kureel, Mr.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Ram Chandra, Mr.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
 Muhammad.
 Sheehy, Sir John.
 Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. G. W.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—58.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthassyanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bamerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelum.
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Esak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
 Habibar Rahman, Dr.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
 Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
 Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
 Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
 Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
 Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
 Sham Lal, Lala.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
 Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 27th March, 1945.